

SOUTH AUSTRALIA - FLINDERS RANGES & WILPENA POUND

5-days / 4-nights small group guided walking with quality homestead accommodation



The Flinders Ranges offer one of the most accessible outback destinations in Australia. Just a 5 hour drive from Adelaide (an hour from the airport at Port Augusta), the road is sealed tarmac all the way through, so a 4WD vehicle is not necessary unless preferred. This tour offers the unique blend of walking through wild bush landscapes each day and then spending your nights in the comfort of quality, historic lodge accommodation, situated on the southern edge of Wilpena Pound and the Flinders Ranges National Park.

Exploring the Flinders Ranges of South Australia this guided walk redefines the classic Aussie 'bush walk', adding luxury touches to a four-day hike within 60,000 acres of private wildlife conservancy. Set against the backdrop of the Elder Range and Wilpena Pound, this is an opportunity to experience the sights and sounds, the scale and the space of outback Australia. Here in this ancient landscape moulded by millions of years of geological activity, the Flinders Ranges showcases a wondrous variety of bird and wildlife and offers some of South Australia's most spectacular outback scenery.

Cost from: \$2770 per person, twin-share Single supplement on request

Walks operate subject to a minimum of 2 and maximum of 10 walkers. Prices are based on twin share accommodation. Single travellers may share with another single traveller at no extra cost.

Departs: Fortnightly Sunday departures from 4th April – 21st November 2021

Includes: 4 nights in a historic outback homestead room with private bathroom; all meals including trail snacks; drinks including local South Australian wine; support vehicle luggage transfers; hydration backpack; sock protectors, fly net; basic toiletries; expert knowledgeable guides with a satellite phone, and navigation aid, first aid kit, flora and fauna identification guides; National Park entry fees; Conservation Levy.

We also offer the walk from and back to Adelaide. Ask us for transfer details by either road or air.

Accommodation is in a tastefully restored 150-year old traditional homestead, an oasis of comfort and style amidst a harsh and rugged landscape. In true bush luxury style, the homestead pays homage to its rich pastoral and exploration heritage in a manner that is both rustically chic and utterly exclusive. Each of the five rooms are named after early settlers, explorers or property owners, have their own private bathroom and open out on an individual shaded verandah with views of the surrounding ranges. The homestead features a comfortable library with deep leather armchairs, a large stone fireplace, a swimming pool and a terrace where we enjoy dinner whilst overlooking the ranges. Your hosts ensure a friendly and personal level of attention that is typically 'down to earth' but doesn't lose sight of attention to the finer details. Enjoy a taste of luxury at the homestead: a beautifully prepared meal and some excellent South Australian wines in a quintessentially Australian outback setting.

Grade: Moderate to challenging with 10 to 15km per day over steep, hilly terrain with some mountain scrambling following thick vegetation and on rocky surfaces. Walking up to 7 hours per day with plenty of ascents and descents and across uneven ground. A good level of fitness is required, best acquired by regular hill walking.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 – Arrive at the homestead, Welcome & Safari

Optional walking

Arrive at the homestead between 2 – 3pm. Enjoy a bush welcome, meet your guide and settle into your room and your new oasis home. Afterwards, take a guided land safari experience, deep into the private nature conservancy. Explore high ranges, rolling hill country, gorges and valleys revealing a huge variety of habitat and immerse yourself in the story of the bush - its ancient geology and all of its glorious diversity. Cap off the afternoon with a sundowner drink on top of the ranges, the scale and grandeur of outback South Australia laid out for miles around. Dinner is hosted by one of your field guides and is shared with fellow guests providing an atmosphere more akin to staying with friends in the country or a private safari lodge.

Day 2 - Homestead to Arkaba Creek

Walking time @ 5-6 hours – distance @ 13-15km

Enjoy breakfast and an informative briefing of what to expect over the coming days and nights. There is time to arrange your provided backpack with the daily essentials and hydration pack before heading out to the nearby Arkaba Creek. The creek is shady and picturesque - lined with River Red Gums and thriving with birdlife including parrots, galahs and honeyeater species. We cross the diverse acacia flats and ancient alluvial soils, edging closer to Elder Range and along the open ridge top with spectacular views of the surrounding ranges. Spot emus, kangaroos and raptors while enjoying afternoon tea with a dramatic backdrop before finishing the day with a 3km hill climb, ascending 100 vertical metres before descending back down to the comfort of the homestead.

Day 3 – Private Conservancy

Walking time @ 5-6 hours – distance @ 13-15km

Today's walk covers a magnificent 13 to 15km of distance beginning with the historic shearing shed where, still to this day, we find names of shearers etched on the walls, dating right back to the late 1800s. Cross plains dotted with acacia, bullock bush and she-oak groves whilst learning about the local conservation programs and how the native recovery in the South Australia's Flinders Ranges. Spot wedge-tailed eagles in full flight high above you as well as native pigeons, thornbills and parrots all utilising the most reliable permanent water points in the property that provide year-round life support. Red and Grey Kangaroos and emus are also regulars and reliant on the water supply.

Return to the homestead for a bush inspired late lunch and spend your afternoon at leisure in the spectator setting. Perhaps take a scenic flight over the ancient ramparts of Wilpena Pound (optional at extra cost, pre-booking recommended), indulge in a massage or simply relax by the pool or the wood fire place (season dependent), with a book. This evening enjoy a hosted feast and guided viewing of the Southern Hemispheres clearest skies silhouetted against the surrounding mountains that are half a billion years in the making.

Day 4 – Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park

Walking time @ 4-5 hours - distance @ 10-12km

After an early breakfast we drive into the breathtaking ranges and valleys of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park passing the natural amphitheatre of Wilpena Pound, the jewel in the crown of the Flinders Ranges. Begin the walk along Wilcolo track at Bunyerroo Valley through some remote parts of the National Park with Wilpena Pound, the ABC and Heysen Ranges as the backdrop. Learn about the millennia of history in the shale and sedimentary rock bands. A steady ascent leads you up onto the ABC range with the surrounding vistas and peaks being the inspiration for many artists, including the famous Hans Heysen. Spot wildlife such as the Grey-fronted Honeyeater, Black Kites, shinglebacks, and arguably one of Australia's most beautiful kangaroo species, the Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby which is bouncing back from the brink of extinction.

Day 4 – Tour ends at the homestead

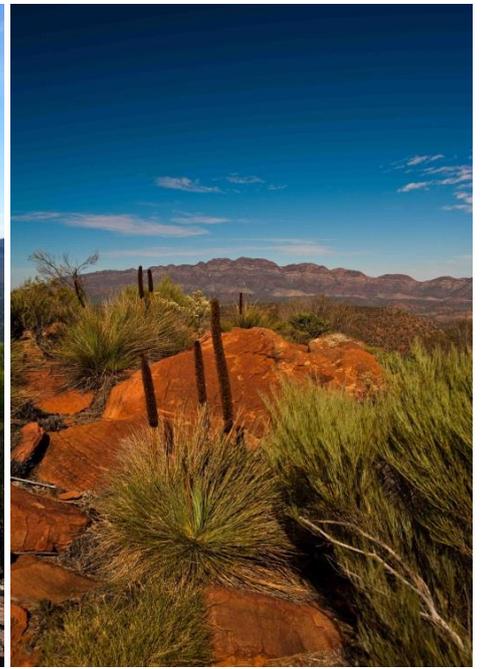
Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the homestead before check out at 11.00am. There is time to relax by the pool or take a drive, a scenic flight or you might like to retreat into nature with a self-guided walk.

Outdoor Travel offer a wide range of guided walking experiences in Australia and New Zealand including the **Great Ocean Walk** in Victoria, the **Freycinet Walk** in Tasmania and the rugged and remote **Kimberley** region of North Western Australia. In New Zealand try the **Milford Sound Track** guided walk, **Routeburn Walk**, **Grand Traverse**, **Abel Tasman Walk** or **Sea-Kayak**, **Akaroa Walk** or **Queen Charlotte Walk**.

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Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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