



ACADEMY
TRAVEL

TAILORED
SMALL GROUP
JOURNEYS

ADELAIDE & THE FLINDERS RANGES

An Outback Adventure

Overview

From the comfort of Adelaide to the expanses of the Outback, our itinerary traces sections of the legendary trail named in honour of the artist Sir Hans Heysen, whose paintings bear witness to the region's stunning landscapes, history and heritage.

This active, adventurous small group tour (capped at just 14) commences in Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills. There we'll survey the art inspired by the Flinders Ranges, including a visit to 'The Cedars,' the home and studio of Heysen and occasionally his daughter Nora, war artist and first female winner of the Archibald Prize.

Next we stop in the Barossa Valley to explore South Australia's German immigrant heritage and enjoy the region's historic wineries. We'll stay on a historic working sheep station before travelling on to the true Outback at Arkaroola and Wilpena Pound. Here we'll see sandstone gorges, visit ancient indigenous sites and walk through early European settlements, observing the distinctive flora and fauna and learning about the rich cultural history of the region.

Tour leader

Dr. Chris Carter is an Indigenous and historical archaeologist with over 20 years' experience leading tours in Australia, Central and South America, Spain and Ireland. He has a BA(Hons), MA and PhD from the Australian National University. When not leading tours, Chris works as an archaeological consultant and heritage advisor.

Essential information

Tour dates: April 4-15, 2022

Price per person: \$7,460

Supplement for sole use of double room: \$1,690

Maximum number in group: 14

Start: 3.00pm, April 4, Adelaide airport

Finish: After breakfast, April 15, Crown Plaza Hotel, Adelaide

Group size: 14

Fitness level

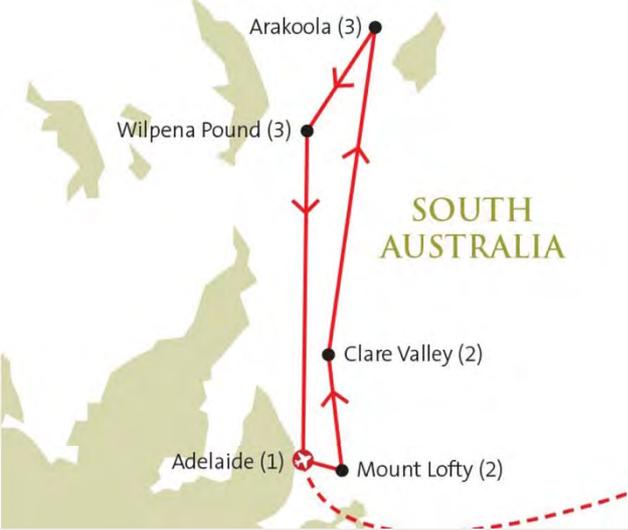
★★★ Physically demanding - excellent overall fitness required

Itinerary

Mt Lofty (2 nights), Clare Valley (2 nights), Arkaroola (3 nights), Wilpena Pound (3 nights), Adelaide (1 night),

Further information and bookings

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Highlights

Hans Heysen's Landscapes

Experience the evocative landscapes of the Flinders Ranges through this famous artist's depictions. Admire his outstanding draughtsmanship, fine water-colours, etchings and oils, all highlighting his love of the Outback's natural beauty.

Australian Heritage

Discover the legacy of South Australia's earliest settlers. Spend two nights at Mt Lofty House, a 19th-c British-style country manor, then stay at Bungaree Station, a working sheep farm that goes back five generations.

Indigenous Culture

Witness the history and culture of the Adnyamanthanha people, traditional owners of the Flinders Ranges. Learn about their deep connections to the land through music and dreamtime stories told around the campfire and discover art and other important sites with experienced Indigenous rangers.

Discover Timeless Lands

Walk through 800 million years of geological history via the sedimentary layers of the Flinders Ranges. In Wilpena Pound, see where Reg Spriggs discovered ancient fossils.

Detailed itinerary

Included meals are shown with the symbols B, L and D.

Monday 4 April – Arrive Adelaide

Meet your tour leader at 3pm in the arrivals hall at Adelaide airport and transfer to our accommodation at the historic Mt Lofty House in the Adelaide Hills. After time to settle into your rooms we reconvene this evening for our welcome dinner in the award-winning Hardy's Verandah Restaurant. Overnight Mt Lofty (D)

Tuesday 5 April – The art of Hans Heysen

We travel down from the hills into Adelaide city to the Art Gallery of South Australia for a guided tour, focusing on the works of Hans Heysen. Born in Hamburg in 1877, Heysen emigrated to Australia with his family in 1883. He began art school at the age of 14 and sold his first work at 16. His works were regularly exhibited in Adelaide, and he won the Wynne Prize nine times between 1904 and 1932. Heysen's deep love of the Adelaide Hills led him to purchase 'The Cedars' in Hahndorf where he set up his studio and lived out the rest of his life, making forays into the Flinders Ranges to capture the stunning Outback landscapes of the Australian bush. After studying Heysen's artworks, we'll make our way to 'The Cedars' and take a guided tour of the home, studio and its rambling gardens, which served as the family home and studio for his daughter Nora Heysen, also a lauded artist. Overnight Mt Lofty (B)

Wednesday 6 April – The Barossa

Departing the Adelaide Hills, we make the short journey north into the Barossa Valley winemaking region. Here we'll visit the Seppeltsfield Estate, the original Barossa Valley winery, enjoying a tasting and a walk around the spectacular gardens. We then drive on through Kapunda to visit Anlaby Station for lunch and a tour of the house and gardens. Founded in 1839, Anlaby is one of the oldest stations in SA and remains a working merino sheep property with a heritage-listed garden. We continue to our heritage accommodation at Bungaree Station, a working sheep farm on 80,000 acres of land, which is exclusively ours for the night. We tour the property's heritage buildings before enjoying a BBQ dinner with Clare Valley wines. Overnight Bungaree Station (B, L, D)

Thursday 7 April – Clare Valley

This morning we take the Riesling Trail, riding bikes approximately 4.5 kilometres along the flat pathway by the old railway line to Sevenhill Cellars, the oldest winery

in the Clare Valley. The bus will follow for those who don't wish to cycle. Sevenhill was established by Jesuits who escaped persecution in Europe in 1851. In their new home they produced sacramental wine, a tradition that continues today. We take a walking tour of the winery's significant sites, including the underground cellar, old-vine vineyards, St Ignatius of Loyola Shrine and the crypt and church of St Aloysius. For lunch we head towards the Clare Valley and the heritage town of Mintaro where we take a guided tour of Martindale Hall, a Georgian-style sandstone mansion built in 1879 and featured in the 1975 film *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. There we'll explore some of the locations where Hans Heysen painted. We return to Bungaree for a roast dinner this evening. Overnight Bungaree Station (B, L, D)

Friday 8 April – To Arkaroola

Departing early for our seven-hour drive today, we witness the landscape change from verdant bushland and vineyards to the rocky outcrops and red soil of the Flinders Ranges. We'll take a break along the way to inspect the ruins at Kanyaka Station. Established as a cattle station in 1852, it became one of the largest in the district with 70 families working and living here until massive losses through the effects of drought caused the station to be abandoned, leaving only the stone buildings standing desolate and empty. We stop for lunch at the iconic outback pub, the Parachilna Prairie hotel. We continue to Arkaroola, near the Gammon Ranges National Park, arriving in the early evening and have dinner in the restaurant at the resort. Overnight Arkaroola (B, L, D)

Saturday 9 April – Bararrana Gorge and waterholes

This morning we depart on a seven-kilometre walk to Bararrana Gorge on our first foray into Adnyamathanha Aboriginal lands. Although not too strenuous, the terrain is rocky and involves climbing up hills, along dry creek beds and over some large boulders. The walk is quite varied and allows us to discover the geological story of Arkaroola, rewarding us with magnificent views over the gorge and surrounding area. After free time for lunch at the resort we set out in 4WD vehicles to explore the waterholes along the

Arkaroola Creek system and seek out native birds and other wildlife, including the endangered Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby. Dinner this evening is by the campfire with music provided by the traditional owners. Overnight Arkaroola (B, D)

Sunday 10 April – Mawson walk and Ridgetop Track

Known mainly for his exploration work in Antarctica, Douglas Mawson was a lecturer in mineralogy and petrology at the University of Adelaide. He worked extensively on the geology around the Flinders Ranges, identifying the first major radioactive ore body in Australia. Our walk this morning follows in his footsteps through the Mawson Valley, where one of his students, Reg Spriggs, discovered ancient animal fossils that are over 600 million years old. This afternoon we take the resort's specially designed open-top 4WD vehicles and navigate the steep slopes and rugged terrain to the Ridgetop Track for a 360-degree panorama over the red granite ranges to Lake Frome and the desert beyond. This evening is at leisure or you may wish to join the resort's Astronomy Tour. Overnight Arkaroola (B)

Monday 11 April – Red Gorge to Wilpena Pound

We depart Arkaroola early this morning for Red Gorge, an area with a spectacular array of rock engravings. On the walk to the art sites – approximately four kilometres each way – we are accompanied by one of the traditional owners who will interpret the rock art and offer insights into the culture and history of the Adnyamathanha people. After an alfresco picnic lunch, we continue to Wilpena Pound and our accommodation for the next three nights. Overnight Wilpena Pound (B, L, D)

Tuesday 12 April – Wilpena Pound

The ancient sedimentary rock that makes up Wilpena Pound forms a natural amphitheatre known to the Adnyamathanha people as *Ikara*, meaning 'meeting place'. Today we explore the area around Wilpena Pound with a series of optional walks, including one following the course of Wilpena Creek through red-gum woodland into the Pound (to discover the origin

Hotels

Mt Lofty House, Mt Lofty

(2 nights)

www.mtloftyhouse.com.au

Bungaree Station, Clare Valley

(2 nights) *An historic property with some shared bathrooms*

www.bungareestation.com.au

Arkaroola Wilderness

Sanctuary, Arkaroola (3 nights)

www.arkaroola.com.au

Wilpena Pound Resort,

Wilpena Pound (3 nights)

www.wilpenapound.com.au

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Adelaide

(1 night)

www.adelaide.crowneplaza.com

Weather

The Adelaide Hills, Barossa and Clare Valley regions have a Mediterranean climate, while the Flinders Ranges are hotter. Expect cool nights and warm days with average daytime temperatures for October between 22- 30°C in the regions visited on this tour. There is only a slight chance of rain.

Fitness requirements for this tour

GRADE THREE ★★★

This Grade Three tour is among our most physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 5-8 kilometres at a moderate pace with only short breaks
- stand for a reasonable length of time in galleries and museums
- tolerate varying climatic conditions - humidity & heat
- negotiate walking over uneven ground or dirt & rocky terrain.

of its name). We return to the resort for a break and lunch before following a section of the Heysen trail down to the Homestead and shearing shed. Apart from spectacular scenery we hope to see a number of bird and marsupial species which abound in the park. In the evening (weather permitting) we meet for a sunset tour with views of Wilpena Pound and the Ikara Flinders Ranges with bubbles and nibbles. Overnight Wilpena Pound (B, L, D)

Wednesday 13 April – Brachina Gorge

This morning there is the option to relax at the resort or take an optional flight over Wilpena Pound. Mid-morning, we join an Indigenous ranger for a tour into Brachina Gorge passing through 130 million years of history providing insights into past climate and the evolution of early life forms in the region. The gorge is home to many species of birds and reptiles and is an important refuge for the Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby and was used by the early settlers as a pass for bullock teams transporting their loads across the country. Overnight Wilpena Pound (B)

Thursday 14 April – To Adelaide

After breakfast this morning we embark on the six-hour drive back to Adelaide. Arriving in the late afternoon we check into our comfortable modern city hotel with time to freshen up before gathering for a farewell dinner in one of the city's fine restaurants. Overnight Adelaide (B, D)

Friday 15 April – Departure

The tour concludes after breakfast in the hotel. (B)

A note on the tour style

This tour is quite different from a regular Academy Travel tour. Accommodation and food in the outback can be relatively basic, with shared facilities at some places. In order to fully enjoy the tour, you need to be able to participate in bushwalks of several kilometres and be prepared to travel by sturdy rather than luxury coaches. Please also note that the tour leader Chris Carter is an archaeologist and adventurer, and his style of tour leadership will reflect these interests.

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