

Adelaide to the Alice

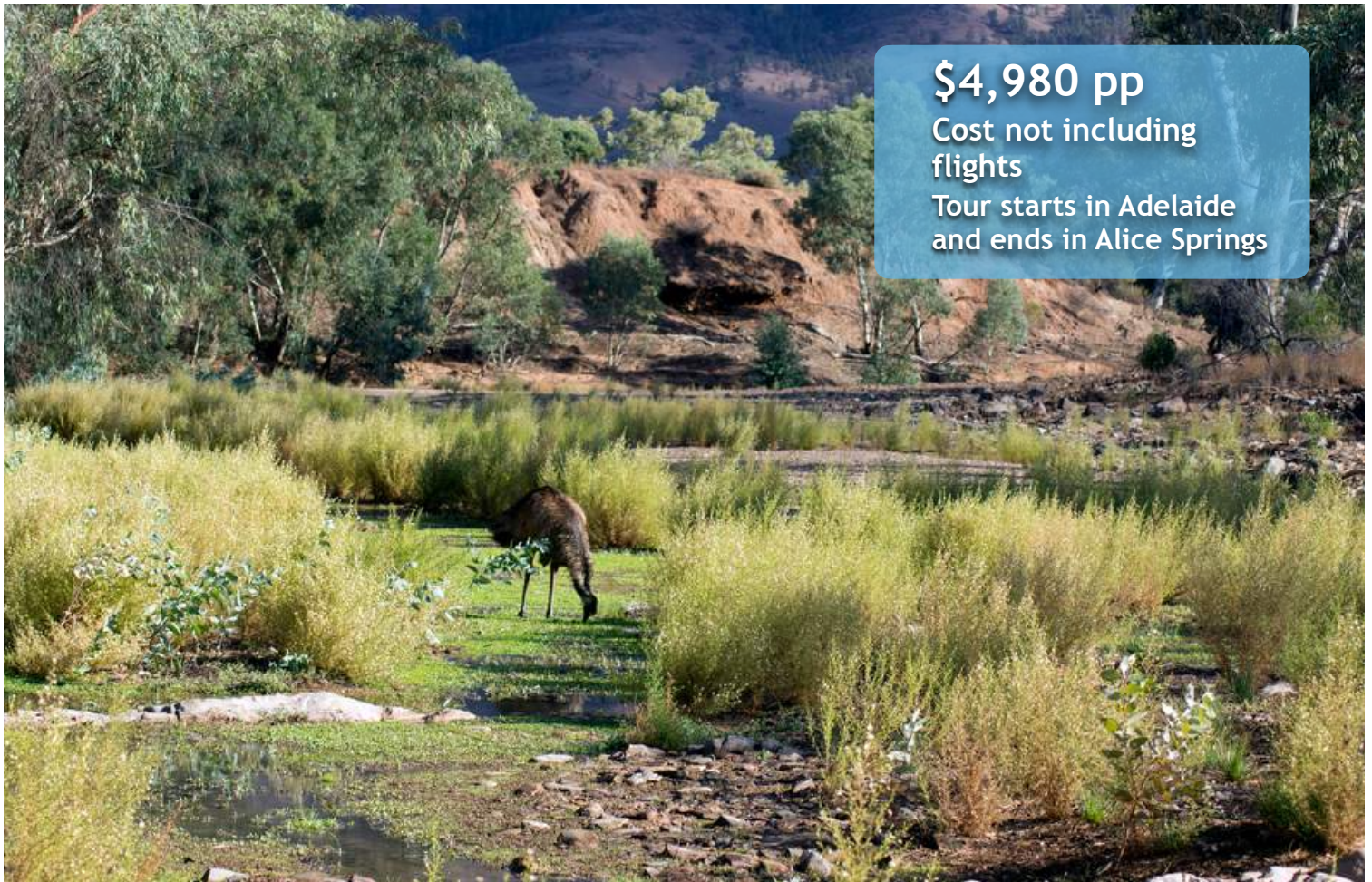
Land Cruiser supported
camping adventure
across the Simpson Desert

Departing 27th April 2022

Blue Dot Travel

Go somewhere different





\$4,980 pp

Cost not including flights

Tour starts in Adelaide and ends in Alice Springs

ADELAIDE TO THE ALICE LAND CRUISER SUPPORTED CAMPING ADVENTURE

The deserts of the Lake Eyre basin are unlike any other in Australia. The sediments that flow down the great river systems of the Diamantina and Cooper are raised by the wind and dumped into vast longitudinal sand dunes. They hold less vegetation than the Western Deserts, interspersed with its salt lakes, clay pans and spinifex. In places there are gidgee groves in the interdunal corridors, gnarled like ancient olive trees. Amid all this beauty is one of the toughest four-wheel drive challenges on the planet. But this expedition is far more than just the Simpson Desert.

We travel the historic Birdsville Tracks, rich in Aboriginal and European heritage. We explore lesser-known gorges in the Flinders Ranges, and we trek north from Dalhousie to historic Old Andado Station.

This is a supported camping expedition like no other. You'll travel in modern Toyota Land Cruisers, you'll eat good quality food all the way - much of it cooked over an open fire and there's Coonawarra wine to be enjoyed! Most of your gear is provided including off-ground beds and swags. Age is no barrier – but you must have an open mind and a sense of adventure.

Our desert partner has been operating expeditions to the Simpson Desert and Lake Eyre Basin for over 30 years. With this experience, we have designed what we think is the best Simpson desert expedition available.



Day 1, Wednesday 27th April
ARRIVAL

Arrive Adelaide and make your way to the Ibis Hotel, 122 Grenfell St, Adelaide. There is no activity planned today so you can arrive at any time. In the evening we'll meet for a group welcome dinner (at own cost).



Day 2, Thursday
28th April
Adelaide —
Parachilna

We depart Adelaide at 7:00am and travel north to Port Augusta. We'll enter the Flinders Ranges

at Pichi Richi Gorge, and shortly leave the beaten track to follow station tracks along the back roads through spectacular scenery to the famous Prairie Hotel at Parachilna. We travel on to our first nights camp in Parachilna Gorge. *B/L/D*

Day 3, Friday 29th April
Parachilna — Blinman

Your first morning in the outback. Awake to birdsong and a hearty breakfast before we break

camp and head to Brachina Gorge. We follow the award winning self interpretive geological trail tracing 200 million years of geological history as we wind beneath the native pines and red quartzite ridges. Our next stop is the highest town in South Australia - Blinman. Winding our way through the ranges we arrive at our camp at Chambers Gorge. There is the option of climbing to the summit for some awe inspiring views, or wandering down the gorge amongst spectacular river red gums. If you want, do both. *B/L/D*

Day 4, Saturday 30th April
Blinman — Gammon Ranges

We cross the Balcanoona Plain to Italowie Gorge and enter the Gammon Ranges National Park. We travel on private station roads. Tonight we camp on private property near a little known Aboriginal art site displaying thousands of stone carvings on the red walls of a spectacular gorge. *B/L/D*





**Day 5, Sunday
1st May
Gammon Ranges —
Etadunna Station**

We depart the Flinders Ranges at Copley and head north onto the plains.

We will also visit the Leigh Creek Coal Fields and the ghost town of Farina before arriving at Marree. We have time to look at the town and its history. Marree was a “Ghan” town, home to the Afghan Cameleers, and we look at some of the historic houses, including that of the famous Bejah Dervish. From Marree there is also the option to take an unforgettable flight over Lake Eyre (at additional cost). We commence our journey up the fabled Birdsville Track past the ruins of the Lake Harry Date Plantation. After a two hour drive through Dulkaninna and Clayton stations we arrive at Etadunna Station and travel to our camp on the floodplain of the mighty Cooper beneath box coolabah trees. *B/L/D*



**Day 6, Monday 2nd May
Etadunna Station — Clifton Hills Station**

By arrangement with the owners of Etadunna we drive on station tracks out to the lonely ruins of the Bethesda Lutheran Mission on the banks of Coopers Creek. Here we will look at one of the most extraordinary stories of European/Aboriginal contact amid the sandhills of the Tirari Desert. We continue up the Birdsville Track to Mungerannie Station. Northward we visit the lonely grave of the Page family who tragically lost their lives when their vehicle broke down in the summer of 1962. We camp on Clifton Hills Station, the largest on the Birdsville Track. *B/L/D*



**Days 7-10,
Tuesday 3rd
May - Friday 6th
May
Birdsville —
Simpson Desert**

We arrive in Birdsville marking our completion of

the Birdsville Track. There is plenty to do here, and after checking out the city sights and visiting the Dingo Caves and Acacia Peuce reserve, we depart civilisation and head west. We commence our crossing of the fabled Simpson Desert, the world's largest sand dune desert, an experience of epic proportions. Our first challenge is to cross the 40 metre Nappaneric Dune, otherwise known as Big Red. Once over, we are firmly in the dunefield, and for the next three days we follow abandoned oil exploration tracks and seismic tracks through this extraordinary landscape. There are plenty of

interesting stops along the way including Eyre Creek, the tri state border at Poeppels Corner, the flour gypsum outcrops known as the Approdinna Attora knolls, the numerous salt lakes of Pirra Pirra Poorlwanna, and native wells known as Mikiri, where the original Wangkangurru inhabited until they walked out of the desert in 1901. On our final day travelling through the desert we arrive at Dalhousie Springs, where the desert dust can be washed off with a swim in delightful warm artesian water. We camp at Mt Dare homestead. *B/L/D*

**Day 11, Saturday 7th May
Mt Dare Homestead
— Rodinna Range**

We cross the Finke River, reputed to be the oldest river in the world, and continue on to the heritage listed Old Andado Station, once home to outback legends Mac and Mollie Clarke. We also visit the Mac Clarke acacia peuce reserve and continue north to our camp near the Rodinna Range. *B/L/D*



**Day 12, Sunday 8th May
Rodinna Range — Alice Springs**

We travel north past Santa Theresa Mission, arriving in Alice Springs late morning, and the end of an extraordinary expedition. Check in to the Aurora Alice Springs, located at 11 Leichhardt Terrace, before our farewell dinner where we'll reminisce about the amazing experience we've just had. *B/L/D*

**Day 13, Monday 9th May
Home**

Fly back to your city of origin or on to your next destination. *B*



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.