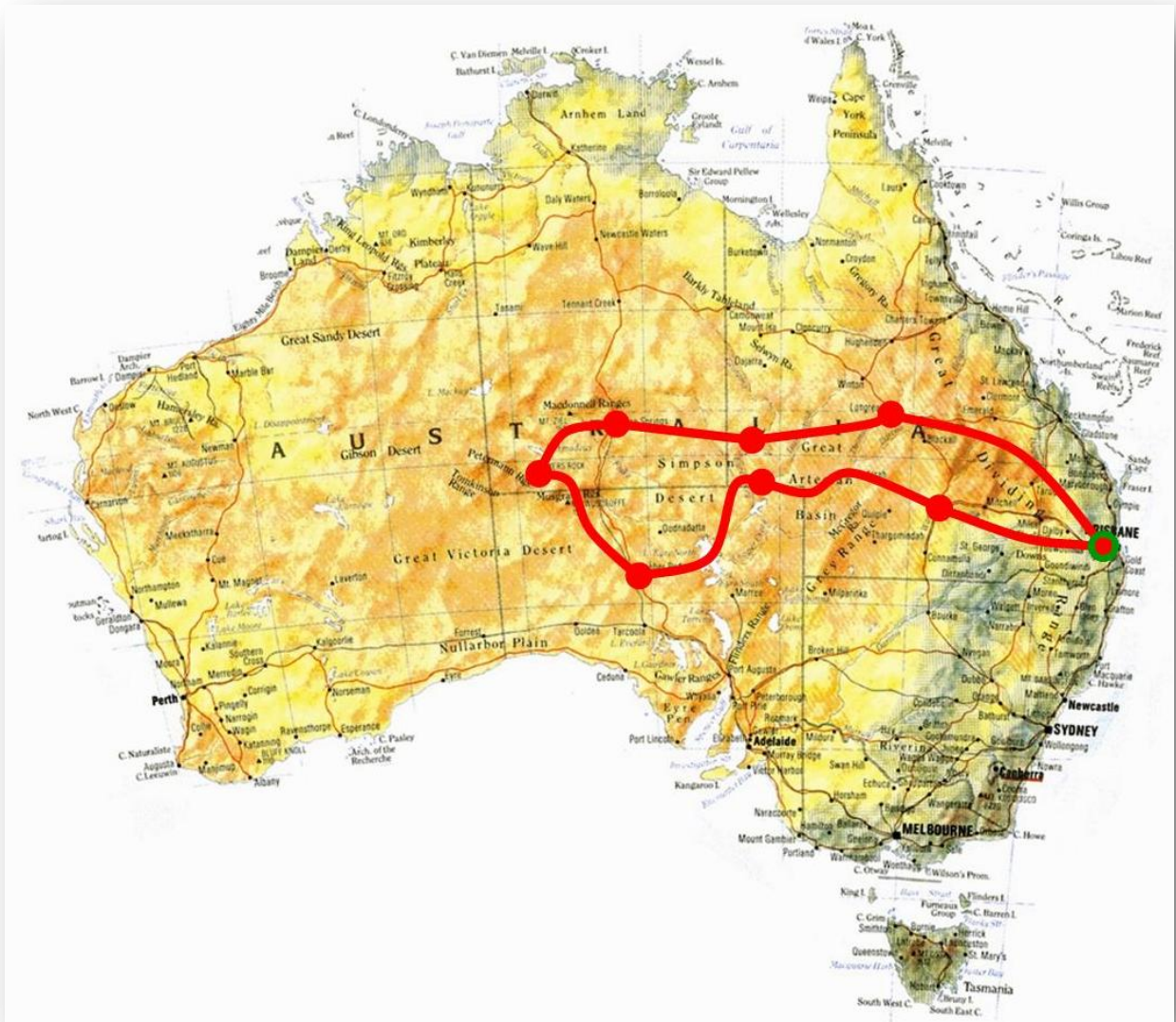


Red Centre – Itinerary




Highlights - 17 days, 37 hrs, 3600 nm

This in-depth Outback experience goes to the heart of the continent. Highlights include iconic Uluru, Alice Springs, stops in small country towns with rich histories, Carnarvon Gorge, amazing pubs, an underground hotel, outstanding museums such as the Stockman's Hall of Fame and QANTAS Founders, an evening cruise and dinner under the stars in the desert. With its incredible variety, the Outback always surprises and delights!

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Day	Itinerary	Hotel
1	<p>BRISBANE TO TOOWOOMBA</p> <p>Welcome to Australia and the beginning of your adventure!</p> <p>After gathering in Brisbane, we are driven a short distance west to the country town of Toowoomba, home of the Darling Downs Aero Club [DDAC] and our aviation base for the trip. En route we will pass rich agricultural land before a steep climb to the top of the dividing range where the town sits.</p> <p>We will arrive with sufficient time for you to get settled into your room before we have welcome drinks and dinner with our Lead Pilot. At this time you will be given all the charts and documents you will need for the trip</p>	<p><u>Burke & Wills</u> <u>Hotel</u></p>
2	<p>TOOWOOMBA</p> <p>Today we will be busy with check rides and briefings. Passengers are encouraged to attend but other options are available in town if you prefer. Your Tour Director will be able to provide suggestions.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>While at the aerodrome, you will be able to visit a private vintage aircraft collection and, subject to time and aircraft availability, take an optional joy ride in one or more of these aircraft. Please let us know ahead of time, if possible, if this might be of interest to you.</p> <p>Our evening dinner will be at a select local restaurant.</p>	

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3	<p>TOOWOOMBA TO CHARLEVILLE</p> <p>Our first flying day! After departing you will witness the transformation of the landscape as we travel inland to Charleville, a traditional country town on the edge of the Outback. After our arrival, we will have a short tour of this farming community, including a visit to the Coronas Hotel, once one of the finest hotels in the country. In the evening we will do some star gazing into the southern sky at the Cosmos Centre.</p> <p>Dinner will be at our hotel.</p>	<p><u>Mulga Country Inn</u></p>
4	<p>CHARLEVILLE TO BIRDSVILLE</p> <p>Our second flying day takes us to Birdsville, a classic desert town with an iconic pub. Once you step inside – about 100 paces from where we park the aircraft – you will know that you have truly arrived in the Outback. There are no paved roads into town for hundreds of kilometres and the locals like it that way! The town has a truly unique atmosphere.</p> <p>After arriving you will be able to settle in and spend a bit of time at the pub, if you wish, before we travel a short distance out of town to enjoy a desert sunset from the top of Big Red, the tallest dune in the Simpson Desert. This is a favourite event. Drinks and canapes will be available!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Dinner will be at the Birdsville Hotel.</p>	<p><u>Birdsville Hotel</u></p>

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5	<p>BIRDSVILLE</p>  <p>During the day today there is a pre-arranged tour at the “John Menzies Working Museum”, which is worth the trip just to meet John. While there you will see his wide collection of artefacts from the Outback’s pioneer days. There are also a number of walks you can take. They include the historical local cemetery, the Birdsville Racetrack, where the Birdsville Races are held annually, and the billabong. Other suggestions are also available from the Tour Director – or you can just relax and take in the atmosphere. Dinner will be at the Birdsville Hotel.</p>	<p><u>Birdsville Hotel</u></p>
6	<p>BIRDSVILLE TO COOBER PEDY</p> <p>En route to Coober Pedy we fly over the Simpson Desert and you will clearly see why it is designated Remote Country. In spite of the desolate terrain, there are small herds of wild horses and camels – so keep your eyes open! En route we stop at the William Creek Pub for lunch. With a permanent population of 4 people, it is the smallest town will we visit. On approach, you may find the airstrip and the main road hard to differentiate. The locals would prefer that you land on the runway and not the main street! The pub where we eat is worth a photo or two, so bring your camera with you. After lunch, as we approach Coober Pedy, you will see thousands of holes surrounding the town; the result of the opal mining for which the town is famous. After arrival at our underground hotel, we suggest a visit to the underground display gallery or a walk through town. Dinner is at the Desert Cave Hotel.</p>	<p><u>Desert Cave Hotel</u> (underground rooms)</p>

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7	<p>COOBER PEDY</p> <p>Coober Pedy calls itself the Opal Capital of the world. It has a unique culture and still has the feeling of a “gold rush” town.</p> <p>We will have a half-day tour which includes an introduction to opals, town highlights, an underground church, the “Dog Fence”, the beautiful Breakaways scenic lookout and a visit to the Opal fields.</p> <p>After the tour, in the afternoon, we suggest you spend some time in the town’s opal shops. For selection and price, this is the best place on the trip to buy your opals jewellery.</p> <p>Our evening dinner will be at a local restaurant.</p>	<p><u>Desert Cave Hotel</u> (underground rooms)</p>
8	<p>COOBER PEDY TO AYERS ROCK / ULURU</p> <p>Today we depart for Ayers Rock. En route we will pass an impressive mesa called Mt. Conner. Feel free to do a low level orbit. From Mt. Conner we will clearly see Uluru, an Australian icon, in the distance. This spectacular monolith rises abruptly from the surrounding flat ground. And even further out we will be able to see the Olgas, also known as Kata Tjuta.</p> <p>In the evening we will watch the sun set on Uluru and then have dinner under the stars, in the desert. This award winning event is always one of the most popular events on the tour.</p>	<p><u>Sails in the Desert</u></p>




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9,10	<p>AYERS ROCK / ULURU</p> <p>There are a wide range of activities at Ayers Rock from which to chose. Some of the more popular ones include a walk in the Valley of the Winds, the Uluru base-walk, a guided Aboriginal tour, climbing “The Rock” and camel rides. Have a chat with your Tour Director to decide how to make the best use of your time here.</p>  <p>One of the two evening dinners will be at the hotel and the other will offer a change of pace as we do a cook-your-own Aussie-style BBQ in a casual, outdoor, pub-like setting.</p>	<p><u>Sails in the Desert</u></p>
11	<p>AYERS ROCK / ULURU TO ALICE SPRINGS</p> <p>Today’s flight is short, but full of variety and fabulous scenery. After takeoff we do a scenic flight over Uluru and The Olgas. We then head to Alice Springs, flying over Kings Canyon and the Macdonnell Ranges on the way. We also pass over Standley Chasm and finally Simpsons Gap just before landing.</p>  <p>After we have settled in at our hotel, you will have the rest of the afternoon at leisure. It might be a good time to visit the nearby Todd Mall, the outdoor pedestrian mall. “The Alice” is a good place to do some souvenir shopping, particularly for aboriginal art and collectibles.</p> <p>Dinner will be at a traditional steakhouse, which does a great camel steak!</p>	<p><u>Crowne Plaza Hotel</u></p>

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12 13	<p>ALICE SPRINGS</p> <p>Alice Springs is the unofficial capital of the outback and the largest centre on our trip. During our two full days here you will have the opportunity to do some sightseeing, some shopping and to relax. The scheduled tours include the Desert Park (where you will see flora and fauna and gain an appreciation of the desert ecosystems), the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Simpson Gap (from the ground this time) and Standley Chasm. Optional activities include many museums and art galleries, the Reptile Centre, a round of golf, the casino or just enjoying the pool at the hotel. Your Tour Director will provide you with a detailed schedule so that you can plan your time accordingly. One of the evening dinners will include an Outback music and light show at the Sounds of Starlight Theatre. On the other evening you are at leisure to make your own arrangements.</p>	<u>Crowne Plaza Hotel</u>
14	<p>ALICE SPRINGS TO BOULIA</p> <p>On today's flight we cross some rugged, but typical Outback country before arriving at Boulia, a traditional country farming town. After settling in and possibly a walk through town, we will head over to the Australian Hotel, a simple, but classic country pub. Dinner will be at the Australian Hotel.</p>	<u>Desert Sands Motel</u>
15	<p>BOULIA TO LONGREACH</p> <p>Between Boulia and Longreach we will stop at Lark Quarry to see a unique fossil record. The site is quite unusual in that its display of dinosaur tracks captures a riverside scene and story from millions of years ago.</p> <p>From Lark Quarry we proceed to Longreach where, after checking into our hotel, we will head to the Thomson River for a lovely evening cruise and dinner.</p> 	<u>Albert Park Motor Inn</u>
16	<p>LONGREACH</p> <p>Longreach has two excellent museums, and we will see both of them: the Stockman's Hall of Fame and the QANTAS Museum. The former tells the story of the early farming days in the Outback and the latter tells the story of the founding of QANTAS, Australia's airline. In the evening our dinner will be at the hotel.</p>	<u>Albert Park Motor Inn</u>

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17	<p>LONGREACH TO TOOWOOMBA</p> <p>On this, our last flying day, we leave the Outback and approach the Great Dividing Range from the west. The settlements and towns will become increasingly larger and the vegetation more lush. After refuelling at Emerald we track south to fly over Carnarvon Gorge National Park before arriving back at Toowoomba.</p>  <p>After unloading the aircraft and some time to relax at the hotel, we will have our celebration dinner at a local restaurant. This is a good time to exchange email addresses so that you can stay in touch with your new friends!</p>	<p><u>Burke & Wills</u></p>
18	<p>DEPART BRISBANE</p> <p>Today we ride back to our starting point in Brisbane and then say our goodbyes as everyone proceeds to their next destination, with wonderful memories of their Aussie flying vacation.</p>	