



WOMEN'S OWN DESERT TREK - THE LARAPINTA

NORTHERN TERRITORY – 7 DAYS (6 NIGHTS) COMMENCING 12TH AUGUST 2012

DETAILED ITINERARY

With spectacular sunrises and sunsets you will find the beauty and grandeur of the Larapinta Trail truly inspirational. Immerse yourself in the rugged beauty of the Red Centre, trekking parts of the Larapinta Trail, one of the most popular walks in Australia. We will trek 12 to 23 kms per day on rough terrain, taking in amazing scenery with plenty of time to relax and enjoy the Australian outback. Discover the magic and mysteries concealed within this ancient environment and be swept away by dreamtime legends of the area.

Spot black footed rock wallabies at Ormiston Gorge, wander through eerie nooks and crannies at Glen Helen Gorge, float over icy cold water at Redbank Gorge and scale the Red Centre's highest peak of Mount Sonder at sunrise.



DAY 1 - SUNDAY 12TH AUGUST ALICE SPRINGS - (ARRIVAL DAY)

Arrival times will vary today. You will meet your tour leader and fellow travellers at 6pm for a Welcome Meeting at your Hotel (Chifley Resort). If you arrive early in the day you can enjoy the sights and sounds of the bustling heart of the Red Centre before leaving it behind for the outback. Browse aboriginal artworks at central Australia's best art galleries, or take in a twilight didgeridoo performance. Visit the National Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame at the Old Alice Springs Gaol, which is dedicated to preserving the place of women in history for their special contribution to Australia's heritage.

Accommodation: Alice Springs at the Chifley Resort (twin share)



DAY 2 - MONDAY 13TH AUGUST

LARAPINTA TRAIL TO SIMPSONS GAP

This morning you depart Alice Springs bright and early.

The majestic and serene West MacDonnell Ranges are rich in natural wonders and traditional culture and are considered the best there is in Australia. Our first walk is a 21km “leg stretch” commencing from where Alice Springs all began – the Old Telegraph Station. Some beautiful views can be seen, particularly at Euro Ridge. Our walk is taken casually, a fitting way to relax and immerse in the wonder of the region and to ponder the coming 4 days.

Our Ground Support Vehicle will meet us at the picturesque Simpsons Gap and transfer us to our remote camping location. Let the true experience begin as we rest in a region synonymous in the dreamtime (Alcheringa) of the Western Arrernte Aboriginal people.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Camping.

DAY 3 - TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST

SERPENTINE GORGE TO SERPENTINE CHALET DAM

Today we head to the spectacular western half of the Larapinta Trail and onto a 13.4km section of the Trail that is only suitable for well-prepared walkers with a good level of fitness.

It offers exhilarating views of the high quartzite ridgelines that typify the West MacDonnell Ranges, including Haasts Bluff and Mt Zeil (the highest point in the Northern Territory).

Enjoy the evening around the campfire with your fellow walkers for another night of friendly banter and a hearty meal.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Camping



DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY 15TH AUGUST

ORMISTON GORGE TO GLEN HELEN

Today we traverse the low lying regions surrounding Ormiston Gorge gradually working our way upward into the back reaches of the Finke River. This area is steeped in traditional folklore with several important sites being viewed including 'Yapulpa', which is part of the Carpet Snake Dreaming legend as well as the Emu and Kangaroo Man Dreaming. Tonight our campsite is shadowed by Mount Sonder (The Pregnant Lady) and the imagery of the Yeperenye Hills (Caterpillar Dreaming). Relax at the campsite on the banks of the mighty Finke River as the sun sets and the colours of the night desert erupt into million star accommodation.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Camping.

DAY 5 - THURSDAY 16TH AUGUST

MOUNT SONDER

An early rise is an understatement as we challenge the 8km climb to the Peak of Mount Sonder (the complete return walk is 16km). The vision of sunrise and the 360 degree view will leave you speechless – a truly unforgettable achievement.

Spend your last nightcamping under the stars.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Camping.

DAY 6 - FRIDAY 17TH AUGUST

ORMISTON POUND WALK

Regarded by many as the best small walk of the Larapinta Trail, the Ormiston Pound Walk is full of wildlife, flora and beautiful scenery. A location inspirational to Albert Namatjira, it offers sensational views of the Chewing's Range and Mount Giles, the entry into the Gorge will leave you amazed. After another healthy lunch, we will pack and break camp for regrettably the last time and return to normality (hot shower and life as you know it awaits). Tonight we will reminisce the past 6 days and share some banter over a refreshing ale or cool drink at one of Alice's finest restaurants (own expense).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Alice Springs at the Chifley Resort (twin share)

DAY 7 - SATURDAY 18TH AUGUST

DEPART ALICE SPRINGS - (DEPARTURE DAY)

The tour ends after breakfast. You have the day free to explore Alice Springs on your own if you have time before departing. Transport to the Airport / Railway Station can be arranged at the Hotel Reception.

Meals: Breakfast





INCLUDED WITH THIS TRIP

- The 7 day itinerary includes both arrival and departure days (Days 1 & 7)
- Hotel Accommodation, Chifley Hotel in Alice Springs Twin Share on Days 1 & 6
- Camping at Basic Camps, 4 nights (Days 2, 3, 4, 5)
- Expert Trek Guide
- Provision of ground transport including 4WD support vehicle
- All Bedding, Camping & Safety Equipment to cater the needs of the Tour
(You will be provided with swags and/or single person tents, including sleeping bag and pillows).
- Park entrance and trek fees
- Meals as follows:
Breakfast 6 days (days 2 to 7)
Lunch 5 Days (days 2 to 6)
Dinner 4 Days (2 to 5)
Includes supply of snacks, fruit & refreshments (days 2 to 6)



NOT INCLUDED WITH THIS TRIP

Flights, airport departure taxes, departure transfers, visa, insurance, any optional tours and activities during free time, tips or gratuities and items of a personal nature.

- Airport pick-up is NOT included, there is an excellent Shuttle Bus service at the airport which will take you to the hotel at a cost of \$20 per person.



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