



# The Greatest Escape!

14 DAYS

THE DIG TREE | BIRDSVILLE | BULLO RIVER STATION  
KIMBERLEY COAST | PILBARA | THE PAINTED DESERT

Thoroughly explore this final frontier from air, land and sea with fourteen days filled with adventure.

Experience the sheer beauty of the rugged and isolated Kimberley coastline and enjoy deserted beaches in the sun. Stay on a 500,000 acre cattle station made famous by the novels of Sara Henderson, explore cave paintings that pre-date the Pyramids. Marvel at a myriad of northern Australia's wildlife and best of all, share these memories with only a handful of others.

Expertly accompanied every step of the way, by a highly experienced and attentive crew, this journey is the combination of over 50 years experience in flying and sailing the Kimberley and Top-End region of Australia.

AirAdventure



*Spend less time on the road and more time exploring remote Australia and Africa*

# The Greatest Escape!

**Just some of your tour highlights...**

Explore the breathtakingly beautiful, iron rich **gorges and ranges of the Karijini National Park**

**Experience life on an enormous, authentic cattle station in the Top-End.** Bullo River was made famous by the novels of Sara Henderson, and it's all yours.

Gain access to a truly spectacular Restricted Area, the **Painted Desert on Anna Creek Station** in remote South Australia

Cruise a stunning section of the Kimberley coast on board the luxury **MV Great Escape** – showing you the places that **those in large ships never see** and equipped with a full-time on board helicopter



## *Itinerary*

### **Day 1: Melbourne, Essendon - The Dig Tree, Cooper Creek - Birdsville, Simpson Desert**

Board the *Outback Jet* in Melbourne bound for the outback and beyond. The sheer speed of this prop-jet aircraft will have you landing beside Cooper Creek and Camp 65 in time for a picnic lunch. This is the most significant camp site from the tragic Burke & Wills Expedition. Learn more about their expedition while walking around the infamous Dig Tree.

Following lunch, continue north flying out across the Coongie Lakes arriving in the iconic frontier town of Birdsville. A local guide will take you out to Big Red - the largest dune in the Simpson Desert for sundowners before returning to the Birdsville Hotel for a dinner in this colourful outback pub.

Accommodation for the night is at the iconic **Birdsville Hotel**

*Flight time 3hrs 20mins total (3 flights).*

### **Day 2: Birdsville, Simpson Desert - Yuendumu, Tanami Desert - Bullo River Station, Top-End NT**

Today we will fly you across some of the most remote country in Australia. Stop in at the extremely remote community of Yuendumu. The Warlukurlangu Artists have a solid global reputation for producing some of the most sought after desert art, or 'dot paintings' in the world. Here is a great opportunity to walk around the workshop, potentially meet some of the artists and purchase direct. Here the airstrip is literally a stone's throw from the Homestead. Settle in to your accommodation and enjoy some time to relax.

Accommodation is at the **Bullo River Station Guesthouse**. Recently, Bullo River underwent a major upgrade, early settler styling and only catering to a handful of people at one time, this place is a perfect blend of luxury and authenticity.

*Flight time 4hrs 15mins total (2 flights).*

### **Day 3: Bullo River Station**

A full day of adventure awaits. 500,000 acres of NT wilderness is your to explore. Across your time at this iconic cattle station we will utilise helicopters, ATV's, boats and horses (optional) to make sure you experience the gorges, fishing spots, aboriginal rock art, massive boab trees and all that this authentic cattle station has to offer. All of this is included.

*No flight today.*

### **Day 4: Bullo River Station - The Great Escape, Southern Kimberley Coastline**

Following breakfast, it is time to commence your Kimberley Coastal cruising adventure! Fly in your luxury aircraft to the Mitchell Plateau, board a helicopter and land on the ships helipad.

Your Great Escape cruise crew will welcome you aboard and provide a light brunch before we set off for the Hunter River, an incredibly scenic waterway rich with fat barramundi, succulent mud crabs and castaway island beaches. We can either stay here and have a fire on the beach for sunset drinks or cruise over to historic Careening Bay. Your Air Adventure aircraft and crew will reposition to Broome and look forward to hearing all about your cruising adventures.

Accommodation for the next seven nights is on board the **MV Great Escape**, Horizon View Room included in your fare. *Upgrade to Panoramic View subject to availability - please enquire for pricing.*

*Flight time 45mins.*



#### **Day 5: Kimberley Coastal Cruise, Kings Cascade**

After visiting the Mermaid Tree, we'll cruise down through Saint George's Basin to the mouth of the Prince Regent River and the infamous Kings Cascade. This is a stunning cruise that passes both Mount Trafalgar and Mount Waterloo. With luck, the tide will allow us the chance to drop a line for a spot of fishing. If not, we'll cruise straight up to Kings Cascade where everyone will want to explore the amazing natural gardens, as well as the multitude of freshwater pools and falls. Your vessel will then depart for Camp Creek.

#### **Day 6: Kimberley Coastal Cruise, Camp Creek**

We'll spend the morning fishing, or croc-spotting and generally exploring. After lunch, we'll head down Camp Creek for a trek to a beautiful waterfall and swimming hole. Upon returning to the boat, we'll cruise towards Camden Harbour where we'll anchor up for the evening.

#### **Day 7: Kimberley Coastal Cruise, Camden Harbour**

Camden Harbour is steeped in history as the first attempted European settlement in the Kimberley. It failed dismally, and we'll delve into that history as we explore the old settlement. Tide permitting, we'll gather a sumptuous feast of Kimberley rock oysters and then cruise through Kuri Bay – the Kimberley's first pearling settlement. We can then try our hand hunting for reef fish before spending the afternoon cruising down the coast to Langii, an Aboriginal Dreaming site. Here we'll see the mystical 'Petrieved Warriors' and spend time relaxing on the silicon beach, while the evening will be spent cruising to Doubtful Bay.

#### **Days 8 & 9: Kimberley Coastal Cruise, Montgomery Reef**

A true wonder of the Kimberley with a rich cultural history as well as an abundance of marine life including dugong and turtles. Your visit will be timed in with the falling tide so you can witness countless waterfalls appear in all directions.

We'll spend the next two days exploring waterfalls and fishing in such places such as the Sale River and Three Ways, with one evening spent under the magnificent Raft Point. Raising the anchor early, we'll then take a quick cruise to Montgomery Reef, an unusual reef structure that creates spectacular cascading waterfalls in the middle of the ocean. This reef is also home to turtles, crocodiles and all kinds of aquatic life, which we'll search for in the dinghies. Finally, we'll spend the late afternoon cruising into Dugong Bay where we'll anchor for the evening.

#### **Day 10: Kimberley Coastal Cruise, Buccaneer Archipelago**

We'll start the morning with a scenic walk through a rainforest canopy trail to a stunning hidden rock pool for a refreshing dip. Here you'll also have the opportunity to see the Horizontal Falls from the air or via tender if the tides are right. Back on the boat, we'll cruise toward the Buccaneer Archipelago where we can stop over at Crocodile Creek for a swim and a barbecue lunch. In the afternoon we'll cruise past Cape Leveque on our way back to Broome.

#### **Day 11: Kimberley Coastal Cruise - Karijini National Park, Pilbara**

This morning say goodbye to MV Great Escape as you reboard the *Outback Jet* to continue on to one of the Australia's most isolated National Parks, Karijini. Land direct within the park, you will all afternoon to enjoy your first glimpse of the region.

Accommodation for the next two nights is at the **Karijini Eco Retreat** (en suite luxury tents)

*Flight time 1hr 30mins.*

#### **Day 12: Karijini National Park, Pilbara**

Enjoy a full day with a guided exploration through the truly spectacular gorges within Karijini including the Joffre Falls, a picnic lunch and an opportunity to swim at Fern Pool. Make sure you have plenty of memory on your camera, you will need it here!

*No flight today.*

#### **Day 13: Karijini, Pilbara - Newman - Warburton - William Creek, Lake Eyre**

Today you will fly over some of the most remote country in Australia. Stop in for fuel at Newman and Warburton where there is an opportunity to visit the local art gallery, home to some of the Pintubi artworks. Continue from here direct to the tiny outpost of William Creek (population circa 6 people!), landing 50m from the hotel.

Tonights accommodation is at the quaint **William Creek Hotel** with a lot of character (basic but modern and comfortable en suite cabins).

*Flight time 4hrs 45mins total.*

#### **Day 14: William Creek, Lake Eyre - The Painted Desert - Lake Eyre - Melbourne, Essendon**

This morning board a light aircraft for the flight within Anna Creek Station (the worlds largest at 3.8 million acres!), touch down at the seldom visited Painted Desert for a guided walk and picnic lunch. Continue to a recently restored mustering strip right on the shores of Lake Eyre North and be one of the privileged few to ever set foot here. This afternoon your pilot will set course southward for home.

This brings an epic adventure to a conclusion - your friends won't believe what you have just achieved!

Note: there are no fixed departure times for flights conducted on any day of this tour. Departure times will be determined on a day by day basis by discussion between the pilot, tour guide and participants.





## About Us

*Air Adventure Australia* was created by Rod Dyer (1925-2008). Rod, a pastoralist and bush pilot of over 10,000 hours pioneered 'Ellenbrae' cattle station in the Kimberley back in the 1960s. It was the combination of Rod's knowledge and love of the outback and flying that led him to begin Air Adventure. Since 1977, thousands of travellers have chosen Air Adventure to fly them to the Australia less-travelled. The company is guided by Rod's son, John Dyer who is also a pilot on a mission to enrich people's lives by transforming the way they experience remote Australia.

*The Great Escape Charter Company* is the creation of Chris Tucker and Kylie Bartle. After a colourful 20+ year history in Broome and the Kimberley, commercial barramundi fishing, catching crocs with the late Malcolm Douglas and diving for pearls, it was a natural progression for Chris to begin his own charter company. Chris, Kylie and their team are all extremely passionate about their region and their service. From day one their mission has been to create the best Kimberley cruising package with the highest personalized service.

With such similar core values and goals, it was only a matter of time before these two long standing companies joined forces to offer you the best of the Top-End and Kimberley - The Greatest Escape!

What our past guests are saying about us:

### **Air Adventure Australia**

*"Air Adventure is obviously held in very high regard by all the places we visited & everyone, everywhere made sure we had the best time possible. We didn't want to come home and can't wait to travel again."*

- S. Sutton ACT

### **Great Escape Charter Company**

*"We wanted to write to you the crew and office staff and formally thank you all for a brilliant cruise. It was a trip of a lifetime for myself and my sister Alexandra (Sandra). Every detail was perfect and we both agreed that our experience and memories will only become more rewarding in time. We cannot but thank you."*

- Best wishes, S. Frangos, WA





## Tour Details

### Your aircraft:

Travel is in the privately chartered Air Adventure Outback Jet, Pilatus PC-12. This prop-jet aircraft is a fast, reliable outback machine capable of landing on gravel and remote airfields where others in larger aircraft can't. The Outback Jet is operated by Armada Aviation, which holds an Air Operators Certificate issued by CASA. All pilots are highly experienced and carry a Commercial Pilots License. It's equipped with state-of-the-art avionics and is all weather rated with impressive safety features. The interior is spacious with custom leather seating, climate control and clear windows (every seat is the window seat) making in flight viewing a joy.

### Tour departs

Essendon Airport, Melbourne on 6 August 2021

### Cost

AUD 26,379 per person, double or twin share, truly all inclusive (Horizon View room on Great Escape). Single accommodation please add AUD 12,448 (single accommodation is limited by Great Escape capacity). Room upgrade onboard MV Great Escape subject to availability - please enquire for details.

### Price all inclusive of:

- All private charter flights crewed by a highly experienced Commercial Captain
- All accommodation
- All meals (except breakfast day one & dinner on final day)
- All drinks (bottled water through to alcohol with dinner)
- All entries, permits, admissions, gratuities/tipping
- All trips, tours, transfers and excursions as outlined in itinerary
- Air safari escorted by experienced Air Adventure tour leader
- 'Great Escape' cruise hosted by wonderful team led by their experienced skipper

### Not included:

- Items of a personal nature eg. phone calls, internet, laundry (incl. on boat)

**A deposit of 20% is required to confirm your reservation. Balance is due 60 days prior to departure date. Places are limited.**

### Enquiries

For all enquiries and bookings, please contact the friendly team at Air Adventure Australia. We can also assist with your travel arrangements pre and post tour.

Free phone 1800 033 160 or International +61 3 55 721 371

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Postal PO Box 848, Ocean Grove, Victoria 3226

For New Zealand enquiries contact Susie Williams at Hogan and Associates

Phone 09/ 489 7844

[susie@hoganreps.co.nz](mailto:susie@hoganreps.co.nz)

Unit 24, 6 Airborne Rd, Rosedale, Auckland

Or contact your local travel professional.

For further information on this tour and the companies involved visit:

[airadventure.com.au](http://airadventure.com.au)

[greatestcruises.com.au](http://greatestcruises.com.au)

*On behalf of all skippers, pilots, tour leaders and guides - we warmly invite you to join us.*



EXPERIENCE WHY  
THERE'S NOTHING  
LIKE AUSTRALIA

