

Memory Mountain 7-Day Cultural Tour Itinerary



Full Immersion in our Spectacular Outback

Day 1

- You will be greeted at Alice Springs airport by a Memory Mountain Guide who will pack your luggage into the vehicle, then take you into town for lunch (own cost).
- Departing Alice Springs, you will head towards Haasts Bluff, driving through the stunning West MacDonnell Ranges. You'll have a quick rest stop and photo opportunity at Ormiston Gorge, then a little further on another photo opportunity of the Sitting Camel, with Mt Sonder in the background.
- Three to four hours after leaving Alice Springs you will arrive in Haasts Bluff. Your accommodation is in the Creative Technologies Centre (CTC) which features air-conditioning, separate bedrooms, shared bathroom, complimentary Wi-Fi and comfortable living area.
- This evening, you will enjoy dinner with the group and a short presentation on Walk a While's projects. There will be plenty of time for questions and informal discussion around what's in store for you over the next 6 days.

Day 2

- Today starts early with an essential tea or coffee, before visiting Memory Mountain for a trek to the summit, where you will experience a glorious sunrise. There are many amazing photo opportunities on and around Memory Mountain.
- Then you will return to the Creative Technologies Centre for breakfast.
- Mid-morning, you will have a chance to visit at least one of the local Arts Centres, where you can chat with the artists and see painting demonstrations. Some of the most famous Indigenous painters in our nation come from this region, so you will be given time to browse among the artworks and local crafts.
- After lunch (back at the CTC) there will be a demonstration of boomerang carving by a couple of talented local artisans. You may even be able to have a go at making your own boomerang.
- This evening you will be treated to a community BBQ dinner where you will meet the greater Haasts Bluff community while enjoying a scrumptious meal.
- After dinner, you will get to experience an Indigenous Sing Along under the stars, then it's back to the Creative Technologies Centre to retire for the night.

Day 3

- After your morning cuppa, you will drive to nearby Atji's Creek to watch the sun rise and bring the desert to life. You may be lucky enough to see brumbies, camels and other animals. And you will almost certainly be treated to a vast array of native birdlife.
- You will return to the CTC for breakfast. If you have been taking photos, there will be time to download your images and re-charge your batteries – digital and physical. There will be time for you to wander around the community if you like – maybe go to the local shop and check out the outrageous prices the locals have to pay.
- After lunch in the CTC, you will take off on an adventure with a local Indigenous Guide who will show you this beautiful country, share some special places and stories with you, and gladly answer any questions you have. On the way back you will watch the sun setting over the Far West MacDonnell Ranges.
- Dinner this evening will be back in the CTC with some of the local Elders and Traditional Owners. They will tell you what Walk a While and Memory Mountain projects mean to them and what a difference they are making in their community.

Day 4

- After breakfast, you will take off on a full day adventure into the surrounding countryside, accompanied by a local Indigenous Elder. You will visit Red Bank Gorge, with time for you to explore the gorge, then will drive on to Glen Helen Gorge where you will have lunch. You will have time to explore there before and after lunch.
- Mid-afternoon, you will head back towards Haasts Bluff, stopping at Memory Mountain for stories and a cuppa around a campfire as you watch the sunset.
- After dinner at the CTC, you will be able to have an early night if you wish.

Day 5

- After a leisurely breakfast, you will go out with some of the local ladies who will show you how – and where - they forage for bush tucker. They will also tell you about the local bush medicines and how they are used.
- Your lunch will be waiting for you when you return to the CTC and you will be joined by some senior community members and possibly Traditional Owners of Haasts Bluff and Directors of Memory Mountain Limited.
- After lunch you will sit around a campfire with local ladies as they show you how they start a fire and get the coals nice and hot, then how they prepare and cook kangaroo tail in the traditional way. While the kangaroo tail is cooking you will hear more stories about their land. Then you will sample the amazing taste of this important Indigenous protein.
- Your afternoon will finish with a guided sunset trek to the summit of Memory Mountain.
- Dinner tonight will be back at the CTC and you can relax for the rest of the evening.

Day 6

- This morning after breakfast, you will take a relaxed drive to spectacular Ormiston Gorge with some of the local children for a picnic lunch. You can take a swim if you like, or just enjoy the spectacular scenery. You might even like to take a wander to explore the Gorge.
- Photo opportunities will abound today of the landscape and also of the children.
- As the sun sets over the surrounding ranges, you will make your way back to the CTC where dinner will be served, and you will be allowed an early night.

Day 7

- After an early breakfast, you will pack up for your trip back to Alice Springs.
- Along the way, you will stop at spectacular Ellery Creek Big Hole, and enjoy your final views of the West MacDonnell Ranges as you head into town.
- Arriving in Alice Springs, you will be dropped off at the airport for your departing flight.

Tour Price of \$3,199 per person includes:

- All on-ground travel in air-conditioned 4WD vehicles
- All accommodation and most meals
- Memory Mountain Entry Fees & guided walks

What's Not Included:

- Travel to and from Alice Springs
- Lunch on Day 1
- Tips & items of a personal nature

Please note: Your itinerary is subject to change according to weather and other local conditions.

The next page contains important information about your stay.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO MEMORY MOUNTAIN & THE RED CENTRE

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

If you have booked a multi-day tour, you will be staying at the Creative Technologies Centre, operated by Walk a While Foundation, The CTC features 5 bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, spacious living area, free 5G Wi-Fi internet, a shared bathroom and secure parking. Fresh linen and towels will be provided for you.

Due to the remote location, Walk a While recommends you do not drink the local water. It is safe for washing hands and showering, however we will provide spring water for you to drink during your stay.

YOUR TRANSPORT

All your on-ground transport will be in air-conditioned 4WD vehicles. All vehicles carry recovery equipment, satellite phone, fridge, roof top photography platform and tools, and have been fully modified 4WD driving in outback conditions.

YOUR MEALS

Most of your meals will be provided during your stay (please refer to detailed itinerary for exceptions). Fresh fruit and snacks will also be available throughout the day and plenty of water to keep you hydrated.

Please advise if you have any dietary requirements.

MOBILE COVERAGE

Due to the remote location, there is limited mobile phone coverage in Haasts Bluff, although parts of Papunya have Telstra coverage. The Creative Technologies Centre has a land line, and the free 5G Wi-Fi connection allows Wi-Fi data calling on your mobile phone.

WEATHER

The semi-arid climate of the western desert region makes for warm travelling conditions. Sunny days and cooler nights may be expected for much of the year, while the hot summer often sees dramatic storms with rains which turn the Red Centre foliage a lush green. Daytime temperatures usually range from 35 to 38°C in summer (April to October) and 20 to 24°C in winter (June to September). Sometimes summer temperatures in December and January can climb to over 40°C.

CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

Although there is no specific dress code for your stay, we recommend modest, comfortable, casual clothing. You will need sturdy enclosed walking shoes or boots for your trek up the mountain and for bush walking. Sandals are fine for wearing indoors and in the evenings.

WHAT TO BRING

Sturdy, enclosed walking / hiking shoes or boots
Insect Repellent
Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen and swimsuit
A refillable drink bottle
Chargers for all your electronic devices
Head Torch (available at camping supply stores)
Jacket or Jumper for cold mornings and evenings
Personal toiletries, medications, etc
Some cash for purchases at the local store
Camera / video camera with spare batteries & storage cards

CONTACT DETAILS

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For more information, please email tours@walkawhile.org.au.