

Memory Mountain 8-Day Photography Tour Itinerary



Immerse Yourself 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 west through the stunning West MacDonnell Ranges, to Glen Helen Gorge on the Finke River.
- Your accommodation for the next 3 nights will be at Discovery Park - Glen Helen.
- Sunset photography this evening will be at Ormiston Gorge, before returning to Glen Helen for dinner and an early night.

Day 2

- This morning you will rise early and take a short walk to shoot Glen Helen Gorge at sunrise. Then you'll return for breakfast in the restaurant.
- Mid-morning, you will drive to Red Bank Gorge for loads of photographic opportunities, finishing with a picnic lunch.
- In the afternoon, you will have the option of a helicopter flight over the surrounding ranges, which are spectacular from the air.
- Your sunset photography location today will be the Sitting Camel, with Mt Sonder in the background.
- After dinner back at Glen Helen, you can have a fairly early night. If you have plenty of energy, there will be the option of doing some Astro photography around Glen Helen.

Day 3

- You will have another early start this morning to photograph sunrise at Ellery Creak, then Ellery Creek Big Hole.
- Your breakfast will be waiting when you return to Glen Helen.
- After breakfast you will have time to rest a little, then download your images and receive feedback from your instructor.
- Locations for afternoon and sunset photo opportunities today will be determined according to local weather and other conditions.

Day 4

- After breakfast at Glen Helen, you will pack up and move on.
- First stop will be Palm Valley, then on to Hermannsburg for lunch. After photographing both locations, its back on board for the drive to Haasts Bluff, with sunset photos somewhere along the way.
- Before dinner, you'll have the chance to settle into the Creative Technologies Centre (CTC). There will be time to freshen up, download images and recharge your batteries.
- Your accommodation for the next 4 nights is in the Creative Technologies Centre 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 5 days.

Day 5

- The pace for today will be a little slower so you don't get too worn out. You can sleep in a little, then after breakfast in the CTC, there will be time for you to receive feedback on the shots you've taken so far.
- Mid-morning, you will visit at least one of the local Arts Centres, meet some of the artists and possibly see demonstrations of Indigenous painting. Some of the most famous Indigenous artists in our nation come from this region, so you will be given time to browse among the artworks and local crafts.
- After lunch and a short rest, you will join local Indigenous ladies around a campfire as they demonstrate how they cook kangaroo tail in the traditional way.
- In the late afternoon you will head out to shoot sunset over Haasts Bluff.
- For dinner this evening (in the CTC) you will be joined by some of the local Elders and Traditional Owners of the land you're staying on as they tell you what Walk a While's various projects mean to them and their communities.
- After dinner, there will be the option of doing some Astro photography if you want to.

Day 6

- You will rise early today to visit Memory Mountain and trek to the summit, where you will be able to shoot a glorious sunrise.
- Then you'll head back to the CTC for a well-earned breakfast.
- Mid-morning you will set off to Ormiston Gorge with a group of local children for landscape and portrait photo opportunities. The children love to swim and play in the cool water and are quite willing to have their photos taken. You will enjoy a picnic lunch at Ormiston Gorge with time to explore the Gorge and have a swim yourself if you like.
- You will be able to shoot sunset on your way back to Haasts Bluff.
- 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.

Day 7

- You will be up early this morning to photograph sunrise at Atji's creek as you watch the surrounding desert awaken. 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.
- Your breakfast will be ready when you return to the CTC.
- Mid-morning you will go off on an adventure with a local Indigenous guide who will show you some special locations and tell you about the local bush tucker and bush medicines.
- To finish your tour on a high note, your final sunset shoot will be in yet another outstanding location in the Far West MacDonnell Ranges.
- Back at the CTC, you will have dinner and a relaxing evening. You will have time to download images, clean your gear and maybe get some last feedback on your photos.

Day 8

- After breakfast, you will say farewell to Haasts Bluff as you head back into town.
- Arriving in Alice Springs, you will be dropped off at the airport for your departing flight, unless you have decided to stay for an extra few days to do some shopping or explore other great locations such as Uluru – Kata-Tjuta National Park, or Kings Canyon.

Tour Price of \$5,999 per person includes:

- All on-ground travel in air-conditioned 4WD vehicles
- All accommodation and most meals
- Memory Mountain Entry Fees
- A professional photographer to lead you, help you and give you feedback on your images.

What's Not Included:

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

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

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

Address: Memory Mountain Tours
Creative Technologies Centre
Lot 75 Kantawarra Street, Haasts Bluff NT 0872
Email: tours@walkawhile.org.au
Phone: +61 8 8964 8020

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