



IAC21 & BIOCRUST4
CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN TOUR 17–23 AUGUST 2019

Tour organiser: Wendy Williams, enquiries to Wendy at iac21@uq.edu.au or biocrust4@uq.edu.au
Tour operators: Outback Tour Services <https://www.outbacktourservices.com.au/>
Bookings via conference websites:
<https://agriculture.uq.edu.au/event/iac21> or <https://agriculture.uq.edu.au/event/biocrust4>

DAY 1

Saturday 17th August 2019

- Arrive Ayers Rock (Uluru) Airport and private transfer to private permanent campsite
- Enjoy a picnic lunch at the campsite
- After lunch, drive into the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park and head to Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) for a guided walk to Walpa Gorge
- Return to Uluru to watch the awe-inspiring sunset over Uluru
- Return to campsite for dinner
- Overnight Ayers Rock Private Campsite (twin share accommodation)
- Meals provided: Lunch and Dinner

DAY 2

Sunday 18th August 2019

- Early rise for breakfast before returning to the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park to watch the sun rise above the horizon and see Uluru come alive
- Enjoy a drive around the base of Uluru with guided walks to the Mutitjulu Waterhole and Mala Walk
- Visit the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park Cultural Centre
- Depart Uluru and head to Kings Canyon
- Lunch stop en route (own expense)
- On arrival at Kings Canyon, Karrke Aboriginal Cultural Tour
- Dinner included at campsite
- Overnight Kings Canyon Private Campsite (twin share accommodation)
- Meals provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 3

Monday 19th August 2019

- After breakfast, enjoy a guided walk of Kings Canyon Rim Walk, South Wall Walk or Creek Walk (exact walk to be determined)
- Lunch at Kings Canyon (own expense) before departing for Glen Helen
- Visit Mt Sonder Lookout
- Enjoy a walk to Glen Helen Gorge
- Dinner at the Campsite
- Overnight Glen Helen Private Campsite
- Meals provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 4

Tuesday 20th August 2019

- After breakfast, optional helicopter trip (own expense)
- Day walk and/or scientific session
- Picnic lunch at Glen Helen
- Dinner at the Campsite
- Overnight Glen Helen Private Campsite
- Meals provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 5

Wednesday 21st August 2019

- After breakfast, enjoy a drive through the West MacDonnell Ranges with guided walks to:
 - Ormiston Gorge
 - Ochre Pits
 - Ellery Creek Bighole
 - Standley Chasm (with lunch provided)
 - Simpsons Gap
 - Rev John Flynn's Grave
- Arrive at Alice Springs Accommodation mid-afternoon (hotel accommodation, group booking, individual payment on day)
- Meals provided: Breakfast and Lunch

DAY 6

Thursday 22nd August 2019

- Breakfast at your hotel (own arrangements)
- 9:00am - Private transfer from your Hotel to the Alice Springs Desert Park
- Time at leisure to wander through the Park
- 1:00pm - Return private transfer from the Alice Springs Desert Park back to your hotel
- Lunch at leisure (own expense)
- Dinner: Heavitree Quarry <http://www.tailormadetours.com.au/bush-bbq/info/>
- Overnight at Alice Springs Accommodation (group booking, pay on day) *see costs below

DAY 7

Friday 23rd August 2019

- Breakfast at your hotel (own arrangements)
- 8:00am – Depart hotel and commence private Alice Springs Town Tour
 - Enjoy the 360-degree panoramic view from the top of Anzac Hill
 - Visit School of the Air
 - Visit Overland Telegraph Station (early lunch provided)
 - Visit Royal Flying Doctor Service
 - Visit a choice of the one of the following venues (Brisbane travellers):
 - Alice Springs Reptile Centre
 - National Pioneer Women’s Hall of Fame and Old Gaol
 - Aboriginal Art Gallery
 - Olive Pink Botanic Gardens
- Drop off at the Alice Springs Airport (12.30 pm for departure to Cairns only at 1:45pm or own arrangements for Brisbane next day) – Meal provided: lunch

TOUR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT VIA CONFERENCE WEBSITES BY 15 JULY 2019

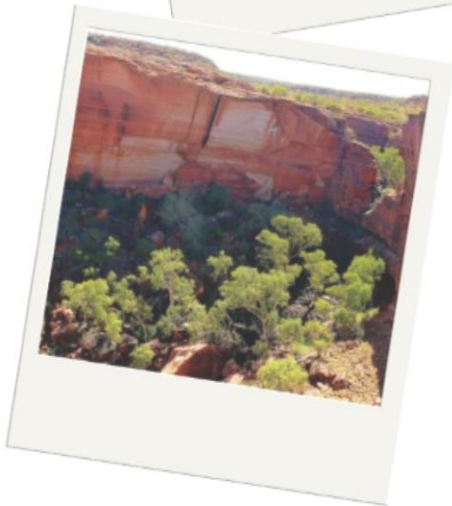
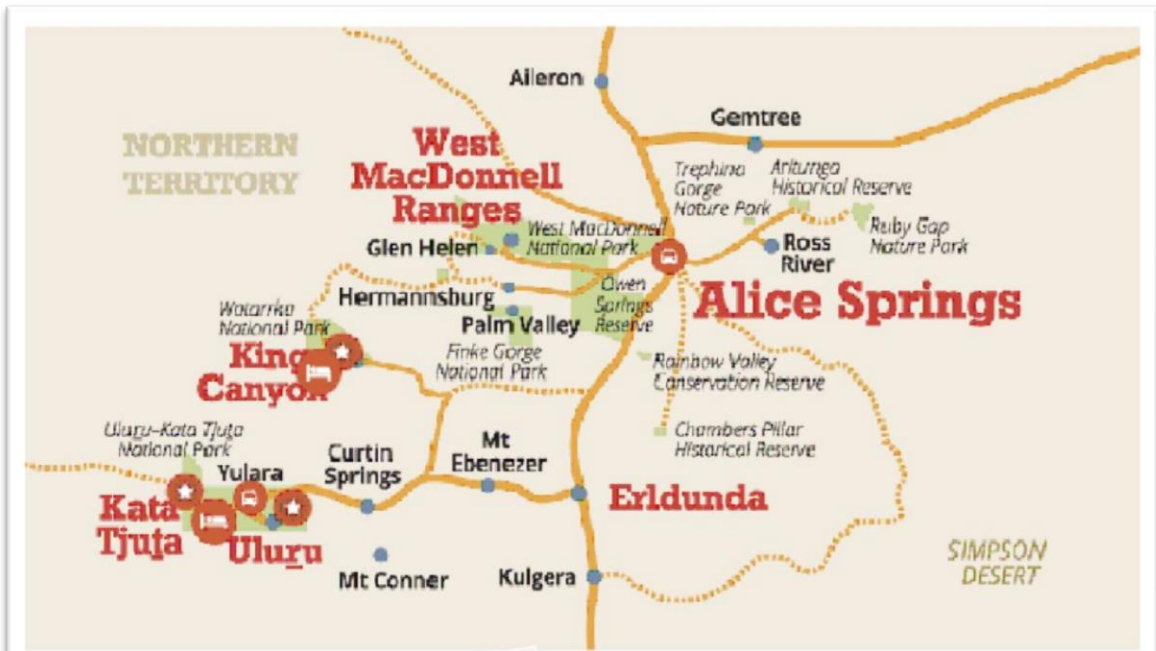
IMPORTANT: You must book your own flights! Flights to Uluru can be booked from Brisbane (most are via Sydney) with Qantas and Virgin Australia (see additional details at end of this document). Flight from Alice Springs to Cairns or Brisbane at the end of the tour should be booked. If you are not sure which flight to book, please ask!

Reef tour: A full day reef tour snorkelling and/or diving will be organised on Saturday 24th August once numbers are confirmed (see additional notes at the end of this document). For those wanting to add on a reef tour further details will be provided once bookings are finalised. If you are attending BIOCRUST4 you need to plan to arrive back in Brisbane Sunday mid-afternoon.

Tour Cost Summary (AU dollars) * This price is subject to alteration dependent on final numbers

Details	Cost (12-20 people)	Cost (30+ people)
Tour (bus and transfers)	335	244
Uluru NP entry fee	25	25
4 nights camping	200	200
Meals (4 x B,L,D)	190	190
KC tour	65	65
Desert park	32	32
Transfers	25	25
Alice tour	35	35
Entry fees Alice tour	68	68
Dinner	145	145
Total tour cost*	\$1120	\$1029

*Tour cost **does not include flights** to and from Uluru and Alice Springs or hotel cost (Day 6).



TOUR OPERATOR NOTES

Please visit <https://www.outbacktourservices.com.au/> to see an overview of the tour, the locations, permanent camp site accommodation and transportation in comfortable airconditioned all terrain buses. Families and children are welcome. People with special requirements please enquire directly as we aim to be inclusive of everyone where possible.

BOOKING FLIGHTS TO AND FROM NOTES

We highly recommend booking all flights early! Flight costs to Uluru (Ayers Rock) and from Alice Springs will vary depending on option selected. I have listed what currently looks to be the best and cheapest flights. Note some airlines call it Ayers Rock and some call it Uluru (locally accepted indigenous name), and this is the same place! Alice Springs is half a day's drive from Uluru, so please don't fly that route on the inbound flight unless you are planning additional sightseeing time. There are tourist buses that operate between these two places.

If you are returning directly to Brisbane, you will need to book an additional hotel night in Alice Springs and catch the Saturday morning flight with Virgin Australia or choose your own itinerary.

Flight	Airline	Date	Depart Time	Arrive Time	Current price*
Brisbane to Ayers Rock	Virgin Australia	Saturday 17 th Aug	8.05 am	1.30 pm	From \$270**
Brisbane to Ayers Rock	Qantas	Saturday 17 th Aug	9.50 am	2.40 pm	From \$330
Brisbane to Sydney	Virgin Australia	Friday 16 th Aug	Multiple options	Multiple options	varied
Sydney to Ayers Rock	Virgin Australia	Saturday 17 th Aug	10.20 am	1.30 pm	From \$279
Alice Springs to Brisbane	Virgin Australia	Saturday 24 th August	9.30 am	4.45 pm	From \$299**
Alice Springs to Cairns	Qantas	Friday 23 rd August	1.45 pm	6.25 pm	From \$480
Cairns to Brisbane	Multiple airlines	Sunday 25 th August	Multiple times	Multiple times	From \$106

*These prices are a guide only and were researched on the internet in December 2018.

**This price was through Flight Centre (<https://secure.flightcentre.com.au>), but we recommend checking other travel agents and direct with the airlines for best price before booking.

The Virgin Australia flights to Ayers Rock (Uluru) are currently at reasonable prices and would rarely be lower but could be higher, so book early as they will change, most likely increasing! Qantas flights from Alice Springs to Cairns fly via Uluru, however this flight is the best option so book early! You need to allow a full day in Cairns to take advantage of the reef or rainforest or both! Return flights to Brisbane from Cairns (or other destinations) are easy to find with a range of airlines but be careful to check what cheaper flights include. Qantas and Virgin Australia normally include 23 kg luggage.

GREAT BARRIER REEF AND RAINFOREST OPTION

At the end of the Central Australian tour you have the option of booking your return flight to Cairns on Friday. There is only one flight option with Qantas (see detailed table above), so must be booked early to avoid expensive prices. This will also mean that Friday afternoon tour activities will not be available to those travelling to Cairns.

Depending on numbers for those travelling to Cairns, there will be a range of different tours to choose from and you should spend time deciding on what you would like to do. For an overview of options please visit Cairns Visitor Centre at <https://www.cairnsvisitorcentre.com/>

Itinerary options could include:

Saturday 24th August: Full day outer reef or islands snorkel or dive tours – see <https://www.cairnsvisitorcentre.com/cairns-tours/great-barrier-reef-tours> and <https://www.cairnsvisitorcentre.com/cairns-tours/great-barrier-reef-island-day-tours> for options **or** half day snorkel/dive, half day rainforest tour.

Other options recommended:

- Cairns Botanical Gardens is a lovely place to see many tropical plants, birds and butterflies. It is close to the airport and could easily be traversed on Sunday morning before a flight back to Brisbane. See <https://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/region/things-to-do/botanic>
- Mossman Gorge is a part of the World Heritage Daintree, a pristine rainforest with crystal clear waterfalls, intriguing natural heritage and needs at least half a day tour either via a tour company or hire car. For further information see <https://www.mossmangorge.com.au/>
- For the adventurous: white water rafting on the Barron River, offered by various companies for example see <https://www.ragingthunder.com.au/>
- Kuranda (rainforest, Skyrail and train) needs a full day! See <https://www.kuranda.org/>

There are many other options not listed here so please browse a few of the places advertised and ask questions if you need any advice. Once people have decided on visiting Cairns, we will survey those who would like to go as a group (e.g. on the reef trip) or self-guided. Any group bookings made will be done through the Cairns Visitors Centre but paid for by you directly. All accommodation will be organised in the same manner, so you decide on what you want to do! The regions around Cairns, the Daintree and Great Barrier Reef are absolutely worth the effort and a big contrast to the 'Red Centre'!

