

Aussie Fly-Aways



TROPIC OF CAPRICORN ADVENTURE EAST COAST TO WEST COAST

April 27th to 9th MAY 2008

Itinerary

The Tropic of Capricorn at the latitude of 23deg 26.3minutes circles the globe and marks the lowest path of the sun over the globe at 12 noon. This imaginary line has been romanticised over the years and is marked with pride by those towns in Australia on that line. We at Aussie FlyAways have put together a flying adventure in April/May 2008 along the Tropic of Capricorn from Australia's east coast to the west coast taking in historic towns and discovering more of the outback. Meeting point will be at the Queensland Resort of Great Keppel Island. We will take in a day of relaxation here before tracking west along the Tropic of Capricorn, stopping off at many interesting places along this line of latitude, crossing vast areas of pastoral country, the northern fringe of the Simpson Desert, and the heart of the Gibson and Little Sandy Deserts, and finally finishing at Coral Bay on the west coast of Western Australia. Slight deviations along the track will be made in order for us to refuel and take the opportunity to visit places somewhat off this track. The itinerary is as follows:

Day 1 Sunday April 27th

Arrive **Great Keppel Island**

Overnight Great Keppel Island

Ringed by 28 kilometres of beaches and bays, the 1454 hectare Island is also a sanctuary to extensive native flora and fauna including more than 100 species of bird life including kookaburras, rainbow lorikeets, drongos and a diverse range of seabirds.

The resort capitalises on the island's 7 accessible beaches and the magnificent crystal blue clarity of the surrounding waters by offering sporting and leisure activities. Water sports include sea kayaking, catamaran sailing, snorkelling as well as beach sports such as volleyball. There are 5 swimming pools, a golf course, 2 full-sized tennis courts, badminton, bocce, basketball and gymnasium.



Day 2 Monday April 28th

Free day on **Great Keppel Island**

Day 3 Tuesday April 29th

Depart Great Keppel Island

Arrive **Longreach**



Time is free to visit the **Qantas Founders Museum** or **The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame**.

Evening - Sunset cruise on Thompson River on board the Thompson Belle paddle wheeler incl campfire dinner under the stars, billy tea & damper desert, bush poetry and a live sing along show.

Overnight **Longreach**

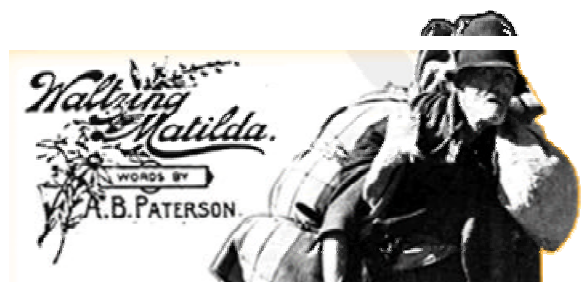
Day 4 Wednesday April 30th

Time to visit **Qantas museum** before departing Longreach.

Arrive **Winton**

Winton has a rich history with links to the Great Shearers' Strike, Waltzing Matilda and Qantas.

Afternoon - A visit of the **Waltzing Matilda Centre** which incorporates the innovative 'Home of the Legend' Exhibition Hall and Billabong Courtyard, the Outback Regional Art Gallery,



Qantilda Museum and its vast collection of pioneering memorabilia.

Evening – A nostalgic picture show at one of the few remaining open air picture theatres still operating in Australia with original projection equipment and canvas seats.

Overnight **Winton**

Day 5 Thursday May 1st

Depart Winton

Arrive **Boulia**, the home of the mysterious MIN MIN lights The town's fame largely rests with its association to the **Min Min Light**, a strange spectral light that can appear, hover, disappear and reappear with an eerie will of its own. Most often described as a hovering luminescent ball, the light has teased travellers, never approaching close enough to be clearly examined. Scientists are baffled to explain this phenomenon.

Overnight stay at **Wirrilyerna**, a working sheep/cattle station



Day 6 Friday May 2nd

Depart **Wirrilyerna Station**



Arrive **Alice Springs**. Free Day to do as much or as little as you wish. Places of interest include: **Adelaide House**, designed by John Flynn it was Alice Springs first hospital and was used as the only medical centre for the region until 1939. The air conditioning system is quite unique.

Alice Springs Memorial Cemetery, here you'll find many of our great pioneers like Albert Namatjira and Olive Pink. You'll find the early Afghan camelers resting facing Mecca.

Central Australian Aviation Museum, located in the original Connellan Airways

Hanger on the site of Alice Springs first landing ground. See early planes used by the Flying Doctor, a restored DC3, other historical aircraft and aviation memorabilia.

Day 7 Saturday May 3rd

Depart Alice Springs

Fly the pattern around the **Olgas and Ayers Rock** to give you the most spectacular view of the rock possible.

Arrive **Giles**

Overnight **Warakurna Roadhouse**

Day 8 Sunday May 4th

After breakfast we visit the **Giles Weather Station**, fully operational Bureau of Meteorology observation station. Radar tracking of weather balloons and the only staffed weather station for 2.5 million sq km.

Depart Giles

Arrive **Newman** for overnight.



Day 9 Monday May 5th

In the morning visit the **BHP Billiton Iron Ore Mount Whaleback mine**, the largest open cut iron ore mine in the world. From a purpose built lookout, see first hand the mining process on an enormous mining scale. View large machinery, haul trucks, shovels and some of the longest trains to be seen in this area.

Depart Newman

Arrive **Karajini National Park**

This would have to be the highlight of this tour – a true adventure, this region offers the most spectacular scenery in Australia. Explore the serpentine tunnels of marbled rock, clamber over boulders and squeeze through narrow tunnels, inch your way along ledges, paddle through subterranean waterways and descend deep into chasms which have been eroded into the landscape over two billion years. Familiarise yourselves with natural and cultural history of the area at the Karajini Visitors Centre before being transferred to our accommodation at Karajini Eco Retreat. After lunch learn about the flora and fauna from a resident tour guide and enjoy the beauty of Joffre Falls.



Overnight Karijini Eco Lodge.

Day 10 Tuesday May 6th

A full day tour of this spectacular region. In the morning Dales Gorge and optional walk to scenic Circular Pool, Fortescue Falls & Fern Pool, a nice place for a safe, cool swim. After lunch, drive to Weano Gorge with an optional walk into Weano & Hancock Gorges, to Oxer Lookout, possibly the most stunning lookout in Australia, where the junction of 4 mighty gorges. Red, Weano, Joffre and Hancock gorges can be seen. Stop to enjoy the sunset at a scenic bush location on the return trip to the Retreat.

Day 11 Wednesday May 7th

Transfer to airstrip.

Depart Karijini National Park

Arrive **Coral Bay**



This is the ideal location to explore the **Ningaloo Reef**, one of the largest fringing reefs in the world and unlike many others, you can get to it just by stepping off the beach at Coral Bay. Here, the reef spans two kilometres from the shore, it is a snorkellers paradise, with calm, protected waters and hundreds of fish and coral species Overnight Coral Bay.

Day 12 Thursday May 8th

Free day. If you wish, explore the shores of the reef by four wheel bike tour. Scuba diving trips are available and fishing safaris head out to sea regularly. You'll be pulling in red emperor, northwest snapper and coral trout by the bucket load. And it's one of the few places in the world where famous species such as black marlin, blue marlin, mahi mahi, Spanish mackerel and sailfish are hooked regularly.

The Ningaloo marine park is home to the world's biggest species of fish - whale sharks. Despite their size (up to 18m long) the whale shark is as harmless as it is majestic. An optional tour offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to swim with these gentle giants.



In the evening gather for an outdoor barbecue and a farewell drink with your fellow Capricorn adventures.

Overnight Coral Bay

Day 13 Friday May 9th

Tour ends!

Notes:

All dates and times are correct at the time of publication however Aussie Fly-Aways Pty Ltd reserves the right to change any dates, activities, tours, accommodation depending on availability and any unforeseen circumstances.