

Tour Information 2010 *...follow the Songline*

Contents

CONTACTING DESERT TRACKS	2
TRAVELLING WITH DESERT TRACKS	3
Permit conditions	
Photography	
Your Team	
Your Vehicle	
Your Meals	
Camping & Facilities	
What to Bring	
Luggage Restriction	
Communications	
Get Involved	
ITINERARY VARIATIONS	5
CANCELLATION POLICY	5
INSURANCE	5
MONEY	5
SAFETY	5
DESTINATION INFORMATION	6
About the Northern Territory	
About the Anangu Pitjantjatjara (AP) Lands	
About Ayers Rock Resort	
Distances	
Climate/Weather	
TRIP LIST	9

Contacting Desert Tracks

Desert Tracks works cooperatively with SEIT Outback Tours Australia and is based at Ayers Rock Resort in Yulara, Northern Territory.
All enquiries can be directed to:

Reservations, Administration and Accounts

Attn: Reservations
Desert Tracks
PO Box 25
Yulara, NT 0872
Australia
Ph: +61 0439 400 419
Email: bookings@deserttracks.com.au
Accounts: accounts@seitoutbackaustralia.com.au

Travelling with Desert Tracks

Permit conditions

Entry to this special part of the country is restricted under the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act (SA) 1981. Anangu Pitjantjatjara, the Aboriginal land holding body has granted Desert Tracks permits to bring groups into the area. The Pitjantjatjara Lands are an alcohol free area. No alcoholic beverages are permitted whilst the tour is on the Pitjantjatjara Freehold Title Lands.

Photography

Some Anangu can feel very uncomfortable being photographed and some ancestral sites we visit are prohibited from any form of photography. As a general rule, no photography is permissible unless our Anangu guide has given us direct permission that it is OK. Out of respect for our Anangu hosts, we ask that you please follow their photography guidelines. Failure to do so may lead to confiscation of film or erasure of digital images.

Your Team

The Anangu guides are Aboriginal elders and traditional owners. With this combination you will gain an experience of a lifetime. Your aboriginal guides are supported by team leaders who are experienced guides with a wealth of local knowledge and experience working with Anangu.

Your Vehicle

4 wheel drive vehicles are used – seating either maximum 6 or maximum 15 passengers. All vehicles are air conditioned and comfortable. The dirt roads can be rough but this is part of traveling in remote destinations. No smoking is allowed on the vehicles

Your Meals

All meals are provided as per the brochure inclusions and any special dietary requirements are catered for with advance notice (Please advise us of any special dietary requirements well in advance of your tour).

Camping and Facilities

All Desert Tracks tours are camping tours. All equipment is provided. Camping out involves sleeping in comfortable swags under the stars around the campfire. If you are unfamiliar with an Australian “swag”, it is a fully enclosed canvas bedroll including mattress, pillow, sleeping bag and pair of sheets.

There are no hotels, shops or luxurious items available in the Pitjantjatjara Lands. This is a remote destination with very little infrastructure. Depending on your itinerary and destination, will determine what facilities and infrastructure are available.

Desert Tracks utilizes three base camps with the following facilities:

1. *Angatja*—pit toilets, showers, kitchen and shelter area.
2. *Ngarutjara (Mt Woodroffe)*—pit toilets, showers, kitchen and shelter area.
3. *Walyinynga (Cave Hill)*—pit toilets and showers.

What to bring

A detailed Trip List is included at on the last page of this document. Please refer to this as a guide as to what to pack for your tour

Luggage Restriction

One soft sided sports bag is preferable (not a suitcase), as there is very limited baggage space. One-day pack should also be taken. Extra baggage can be left at Ayers Rock Resort at your Hotel for your return.

Communications

There is no phone, email or internet reception—just you and the desert! However, a satellite phone is carried at all times that can be used for EMERGENCY USE ONLY. Contact from the tour group in the Pitjantjatjara Lands will be made with our office each day, so a message may be passed on by our office. Contact our reservations office on 0439 500 419.

Get Involved...

A Desert Track experience will present opportunities to you that are incredibly rare and Anangu teachers welcome you to participate fully in each and every activity—to experience true cross cultural immersement!! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to interact with one of the worlds oldest cultures.

All “students” (as the Anangu teachers call you) or visitors with Desert Tracks, are encouraged to participate as much as is possible. Amongst the activities, you will be invited to dig, hunt and cook bush foods, fashion wooden artifacts, sing and dance ancestral songline stories, simply sit around an evening campfire and exchange thoughts and conversation with our Anangu hosts and possibly participate in Inma (ancestral ceremony).

Itinerary Variations

The central Australian desert region is a place of dramatic climate changes. Hot days followed by cold nights under cloudless skies. Long dry months suddenly broken by torrential rains. The people of this region have adjusted their hunting and gathering to follow the ever-changing pattern of plant and animal foods available.

Our Itinerary will need to change to suit the weather and seasonal bush tucker. Our Aboriginal hosts will determine the daily itinerary whilst we are guests in their country.

Occasionally, due to extreme weather conditions or the ceremonial obligations of our Anangu guides, we may need to change homeland destinations at short notice.

Alternative itineraries of similar excellence will be provided.

Cancellation Policy

If you cancel 30 days prior to departure, the deposit is refundable, 14 to 29 days prior 75% refund of full payment, 8 to 14 days prior 50% refund, 0 to 7 days prior no refund unless due to medical conditions. All circumstances such as sickness and arrival delays will be taken into consideration when allocating cancellation fees.

Insurance

You are advised to take out travel insurance prior to the tour. This should include loss of deposit, cancellation charges, personal money and baggage, personal accident and personal liability

Money

Credit cards are accepted within Ayers Rock Resort. Whilst travelling in the Pitjantjatjara Lands, there will be little need for cash. However, there may be opportunities to purchase art or artefacts directly from our Aboriginal hosts which will require cash. On itineraries that include visits to Aboriginal Community Art Centres, these Centres will accept credit cards.

At Ayers Rock Resort, there is only one commercial bank—an Australia New Zealand (ANZ) Bank. An automatic teller machine (ATM) is also available there

Safety

All guides hold current level 2 first aid certificates and have direct contact with Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Yulara Medical Centre. We strongly advise all participants to have their own ambulance cover or insurance that covers ambulance services

Destination Information

About the Northern Territory

The Northern Territory is the most barren of all areas in the whole of Australia. It covers about one sixth of the Australian continent with an area of 1.35 million km² which is equal to the combined areas of France, Spain and Italy. However, just 182,000 or 1% of Australia's population lives here. Aboriginal land trusts hold title to about 40 per cent of the Territory.

About three fourths of the Northern Territory population lives in the Darwin and Alice Springs metropolitan areas. Australian Aborigines represent nearly one fourth of the Northern Territory's population and own the land with a total area of 243,460 sq km (94,000 sq miles)

About the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankuntjatjara (APY) Lands

The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankuntjatjara (APY) Lands are in the far north-west of South Australia, the border of which is located approximately 100 km south of Ayers Rock Resort (which is in the Northern Territory). Returned to the traditional owners under Freehold Title in 1981, the Lands are home to Pitjantjatjara and Yankuntjatjara people (Anangu). The region has ten major communities—with populations ranging from 100–350 people—and many family homelands.

APY Lands encompass the majestic Musgrave Ranges (which include SA's highest peak), the towering monoliths of the Everards, idyllic woodlands and beautiful red-sand country. This is a region that resonates with tjukurpa, with creation stories: the same stories that underpin the world's oldest surviving culture. Casual access to the Lands without a permit is not allowed.



About Ayers Rock Resort

Ayers Rock Resort is located within the township of Yulara, 450km from Alice Springs. Ayers Rock Resort is managed by Voyages Hotels and Resorts. For a full Fact Sheet on all facilities at Ayers Rock Resort, follow the following link: www.ayersrockresort.com.au

The Resort is serviced by six accommodation outlets.

- *Longitude 131*
- *Sails in the Desert Hotel*
- *Desert Gardens Hotel*
- *Emu Walk Apartments*
- *Outback Pioneer Hotel*
- *Campground*

Facilities at Ayers Rock Resort include:

- *Australia New Zealand Bank (ANZ) and automatic teller facility*
- *Mobil fuel station*
- *Hairdresser*
- *Newsagent*
- *Photographic supplies*
- *Retail clothing and souvenir shops*
- *Various restaurants*
- *Mechanical repairs*
- *Fire station*
- *Primary school*
- *Medical Centre and ambulance*

Distances

By Air:

Travellers can fly direct to Ayers Rock Resort from the following cities: Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Cairns or Alice Springs. Ayers Rock Resort is about three hours' flight from Sydney, Melbourne and Cairns.

Alice Springs has flights direct from most capital cities and is approximately a 30 minute flight from Ayers Rock Resort.

By Road:

- *Uluru to Alice Springs—465 km or 4 hours driving on sealed road.*
- *Uluru to Kings Canyon—306km or about 3 hours drive from either Ayers Rock Resort or Alice Springs.*

Climate / Weather

Desert climate, average temperatures range from approximately 22 degrees Celsius (72 degrees Fahrenheit) in winter to 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) in summer. However, daytime temperatures during summer (Oct to March) can exceed 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

Guests should ensure they pack sunscreen and a hat.

Nights and mornings during winter are cold and guests should pack appropriate warm clothing.

Average Monthly Maximum Temperatures

MONTH	C°	F°
January	36	97
February	35	91
March	33	91
April	28	82
May	24	75
June	20	68
July	19	66
August	23	73
September	27	81
October	31	88
November	34	93
December	35	95

Trip List

Extended Tours

There may be no opportunity to visit any store to purchase supplies etc once we have left for our destination in the Pitjantjatjara Lands. The following list will provide you with a guide as to what is suitable to take:

As Desert Tracks does not conduct any extended tours during the hot summer months (November to March), the following list is suitable for the cooler winter months (April to October).

During these cooler months it is best to have layered clothing so they can be taken off as the day warms up. Inevitably you will get dirty so older or bush clothes are best

Clothes:

- *Strong walking shoes*
- *Sun hat and warm beanie*
- *1 x waterproof jacket*
- *1 x warm jacket*
- *1 x jumper*
- *1 x Long sleeved shirt*
- *2 x T-shirts*
- *1 x shorts (no brief shorts as this may offend our Anangu hosts) or skirts*
- *2 x long pants or trousers*
- *Thick socks*
- *Underwear*

Personal Kit

- *Day pack*
- *small torch*
- *sunscreen 15+*
- *sunglasses*
- *insect repellent*
- *water bottle or hydration pack or similar*
- *towel*
- *toiletries*
- *Camera (However photography is not allowed in some areas—always ask your guide if photography is allowable)*
- *Spare batteries*

Day Tours

Desert Tracks also conducts a one day tour into the Pitjantjatjara Lands to Cave Hill. For this tour the following items are all that is required:

- *Daypack*
- *sunhat*
- *sunscreen 15+*
- *sunglasses*
- *insect repellent*
- *water bottle or hydration pack or similar*