



## **15 Day Sydney to Adelaide 'Taste of the Outback' 4wd Self drive Adventure**

The vastness of the Australian outback beckons as you explore the rugged and beautiful Mootwingie and Sturt National Parks of Outback NSW. You past Cameron's Corner the junction of the 3 states, through the Strzelecki Desert to Innamincka and spend time reliving the ill-fated Burke and Wills Tragedy and exploring the expansive waterholes. Crossing the gibber-strewn plains, you experience the outback hospitality of Birdsville before journeying to edge of the Simpson Desert. Tackle the infamous Birdsville Track through Sturt's Stony Desert and the Tirari Desert before a visit to Lake Eyre and Flinders Ranges and you round off a fantastic desert adventure.

### **Suggested Itinerary**

#### **Day 1 Sydney to Dubbo**

Heading west from Sydney, cross the Blue Mountains with appropriate Tourist stops at Katoomba and other lookouts. Make your way through Lithgow and on to Bathurst for lunch, a stately old Inland City with wonderful old buildings to explore. Travel through Orange and on to Dubbo for your overnight accommodation. Greatly recommended is a stop at Dubbo Inland Plains Zoo, where you can explore the animals in an Open Range setting.

**Overnight camping, Dubbo. (Full facilities- shower, washing machine and toilet).** (440km (5 & ½ hours driving) 1 hour walking.)

#### **Day 2 Dubbo to Wilcannia**

Travel the Mitchell Highway between Narromine to Trangie and on to Nyngan. After a stop, make your way to Cobar, an old copper mining town for lunch. This afternoon, make your way to the Darling River and

**Your overnight camping at Wilcannia. (Shower and toilet).** (557 (6 hours) driving.)

#### **Day 3 Wilcannia to Mootwingie**

Continue west along the Barrier Highway and after about 100km, turn right to Mootwingie National Park. This park is renowned for its Aboriginal Art and rugged gorges and can be explored in the afternoon.

**Overnight camping, Mootwingie National Park. (Toilet facilities)** (200 km (3 hours) driving, 3 hours walking.)

#### **Day 4 Mootwingie to Tibooburra**

Make your way north-west to the Silver City Highway and up to Packsaddle Roadhouse for a morning stop. Head north to Milparinka and out to Depot Glen, scene of forced camp of Sturt's Party as they made their way towards the Centre of Australia. Continue north to Tibooburra. This evening can be spent in town at a caravan Park or you can set up your

**Overnight campsite in Sturt National Park. (Toilet facilities)** (290km (4 hours) driving, 2 hours walking.)

#### **Day 5 Tibooburra to Cooper Creek**

Continue west into the Sturt National Park and make a stop at Fort Grey to walk to the Explorer Tree. Continue through to the Roadhouse at Cameron Corner, the border of 3 states. Continue over the roller-coaster sand dunes and on to the Strzelecki Track at the Merty Merty Station turn-off. While it is possible to take the old Strzelecki Track, it is poorly signposted. Continue straight ahead up the better track through Moomba Gasfield before making your way to the small town of Innamincka. After a stop at the store for provisions and fuel, visit the Ranger Station to get a Camping Permit, the restored Elizabeth Symond Nursing Home and make your way down to set up your

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**Overnight camp on the Cooper Creek. (No facilities)** Perhaps walk up this evening and have a few beers at the pub. (251km (5 hours driving, 1 hour walking))

### Day 6 Innamincka

The area is steeped in history and the drama of the Burke and Wills exploration saga. Retrace your step to the turn-off to Wills Grave. Visit Wills Grave this morning and also detour to Kings Marker. Heading out east from Innamincka, you travel past the curious rock formation known as the Rams Head. Deviate to the left to Burke's grave, site of the filming of the Burke and Wills Film. Return to the track and on over the border into Queensland. Ford the Cooper and spend some time at the dig tree, site of Burke and Will's party's depot that they tragically abandoned hours before the explorers returned from the North coast. Retrace your tracks to the turn-off to Cullyamurra waterhole and view Howitt's marker. The energetic can take a walk upstream from the top of the waterhole to the expanse of Aboriginal carvings before setting up camp on one of Central Australia's finest waterholes- Cullyamurra.

**Overnight bush camping Cullyamurra Waterhole. (No facilities) Extra time could be spent in the area visiting the beautiful Coongie lakes if desired.** (123km (3 hours) driving)

### Day 7 Innamincka to Cadelga (Bush Camp)

Heading back to Innamincka, cross the Cooper and head north up to Cordillo Downs. This station has some wonderful outback architecture and Australia's largest Woolshed. Continue north to Cadelga, where it is possible to

**Bush camp overnight. (No facilities)** (262km (5 hours) driving)

### Day 8 Cadelga to Birdsville

Continue north to the Birdsville Developmental road and turn left. Make your way into Birdsville for drink at the pub; one of the Outback's most famous.

**Overnight camp at the Caravan Park, near the Diamantina River. (Full facilities)** (155km (2 & 1/2 hours) driving)

### Day 9 Birdsville

Explore the cemetery and the Burke and Wills Camp to soak in some of the pioneering ambience. Take a trip out this afternoon to the edge of the Simpson Desert to 'Big Red', one of the Simpson's largest sand dunes before returning to your

**Camp at the Caravan Park. (Full facilities)** (75km (2 hours) driving)

### Day 10 Birdsville to Mungerannie

Head south down the Birdsville track towards Pandie Pandie Station. Note the memorial on the way to the Page family, who died in 1963 when their car broke down and they tried to walk to safety. Continue down this famous driving route until you reach your

**Overnight camping at Mungerannie Roadhouse. (Shower and toilet facilities)** (315km (5 hours) driving)

### Day 11 Mungerannie to Muloorina

Continuing south, you cross the Cooper Creek, usually dry here as it only rarely makes its way on to Lake Eyre. Pass Etadunna and Dulkaninna Stations before passing through the dog fence. Continue past Lake Harry, with its date palms as a reminder of the Afghan driving days, and explore Marree before setting out north to Muloorina Station. Continue through to

Lake Eyre on Madigan Gulf and explore on foot Australia's largest lake, often a dry salt lake. Return to Muloorina Station for your

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**Overnight camp near an expansive waterhole. (Toilet and shower facilities)** (300km (5 hours) driving, 2 hours walking)

### Day 12 Muloorina to Brachina Gorge

Return to Marree and continue down the Oodnadatta track through the ruins of Farina, once thought to be viable for growing wheat! The town of Lyndhurst is the junction of the Strzelecki Track, another important early droving route. Continue south past the Leigh Creek coalfields to the mining town of Leigh Creek. A few kilometres further south; a detour to Beltana is worthwhile to explore the restored historic buildings. Turn left at Parachilna and travel through Parachilna Gorge to Blinman. Turn right here and head through Gum Creek Homestead. Turn right to Brachina Gorge and find a delightful stop to Bush camp. Another option is to the north at Aroona Valley.

**Overnight bush camping Brachina Gorge (No facilities)** (425km (6 & 1/2 hours) driving)

### Day 13 Brachina Gorge to Wilpena Pound

Travel south through Bunyerroo Gorge through the Flinders Ranges National Park. You emerge on the main road and turn right to Wilpena Pound for your overnight camp and walks through the pound. St Mary's peak is energetic but rewarding. Another day could happily be spent in the area if desired.

**Overnight camping, Wilpena Pound. (Full facilities).** (42km (1 & 1/2 hours) driving, 4 hours walking)

### Day 14 Wilpena Pound to Burra

There are a number of 4wd Scenic Treks available in the area if you want to further explore the Ranges. Head south to Hawker and on through the small towns of Craddock and Carrieton to Orroroo. Continue through to Peterborough, where lunch may be had. As you are crossing the railway line, observe the 6 tracks denoting three different gauges used by 3 different states in their railway lines.

Head south along the Barrier Highway to Burra and spend the rest of the afternoon exploring this early copper mining town with its fascinating old buildings.

**Overnight camping, Burra. (Full facilities)** (251km (3 & 1/2 hours) driving)

### Day 15 Burra to Adelaide

Travel south to Hanson and deviate to the right to Clare, a fertile agricultural area also renowned for its wine. There are numerous wineries that can be visited, but be careful of drink driving. There are other wine areas that can also be visited in the region. Continue south to Gawler and on to Adelaide at the end of a wonderful trip in the footsteps of the explorers Burke and Wills. An extension of 2-3 days can also be taken down to Kangaroo Island. (220km (3 hours) driving)

### Recommended References

The above itineraries are not intended as the sole guide to the details of your route. Four Wheel Drive Hire Service recommends the following referenced be consulted or purchased prior to departure.

### Map

Hema Maps – The Flinders Ranges, Great Desert Tracks of Australia SE

### Guide Book

*The Flinders Ranges- An Adventurers Guide* by Ron and Viv Moon  
*Discover Australia by 4WD* by Ron and Viv Moon.

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### Background Reading

*The Explorers* by Tim Flannery

*The Dig Tree* by Sarah P Murgatroyd

*The Flinders Ranges and Beyond* by Ronald Coudrey and Richard Land

### Websites

Moon Guidebooks- [www.guidebooks.com.au](http://www.guidebooks.com.au)

Hema Maps for an idea of the range of maps and information on suppliers -

[www.hemamaps.com.au](http://www.hemamaps.com.au)

NRMA Outback Tracks information

[www.mynrma.com.au/travel/go/outback\\_tracks/index.shtml](http://www.mynrma.com.au/travel/go/outback_tracks/index.shtml)

NSW National Parks- [www.npws.nsw.gov/parks/index.html](http://www.npws.nsw.gov/parks/index.html)

Dubbo Zoo- [www.zoo.gov.au/parks/index.html](http://www.zoo.gov.au/parks/index.html)

SA Desert Parks- [www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks)