



LYN TAYLOR'S ADVENTURE TRAVEL
Nepal... Africa... Where ever !!!

Self-Guided Flinders Ranges Walk

A 7-day Pack-Free walk

The Flinders Ranges rugged landscape is 800 million years in the making, with an epic geological story that attracts Geologists from around the globe. The Earth's earliest life forms emerged here, the evidence of which continues to be uncovered today. For the next 7 days, you will be able to immerse yourself in this spectacular environment, enjoying many of the renowned walking trails in the Ranges and some of the lesser-known ones as well. You will walk along sections of the iconic Heysen Trail and climb summits offering the most spectacular views, as well as crossing the natural amphitheater of Wilpena Pound.

Outback towns beckon to be explored, as does the history of the people who have called this region home; firstly the Adnyamathanha People ("of the hills"), traditional Custodians of this Country, and also the early settlers who tried to tame this harsh environment for grazing, farming and mining. With an abundance of wildlife and striking landscapes that boast a plethora of flora, the Flinders Ranges is a photographer's paradise, set in the Australian outback.

WALK FEATURES:



packfree
carry only a day pack



walkingapp
exclusive to lifesanadventure



local
accommodation



trailnotes
and detailed maps



privatetransfers
from Port Augusta



allmeals
6 dinners, 6 bkfts and 6 lunches



onlinechat
pre-walk with a guide



emergency
beacon (EPIRB)

Pack Free Self-Guided Walk

Carry as little as your water, camera, and lunch

Our self-guided walks are Pack-Free. We take care of all your transfers to the trail as well as the transport of your luggage between accommodation each day, allowing you to walk with just a day pack.

Personal Emergency Beacon

For extra safety

Our guests have the option of hiring an emergency personal locator beacon to take with you when walking. This extra safety feature will be a peace of mind.

Pre-departure On-line meeting

with one of our experienced guides

We offer the service of an online pre-departure meeting with one of the company's experienced guides to discuss in detail each day's walk. They can discuss the trail in detail, easy options and chat about the forecasted weather.

Private transfers

To the trail

Our self-guided walks include the option of private transfers from Port Augusta. Alternatively, guests are welcome to drive to Flinders Ranges with transfers provided back to your car on the final day of the walk. Our walks include transfers to the trail each day and transport of overnight luggage to your ongoing accommodation.

Flexibility and Freedom

Discover on your own

Self-guided walking holidays offer flexibility and freedom. Customers can discover places at their own pace. They walk independently but follow detailed walk notes, knowing that the notes have been compiled by one of our experienced guides. The beauty of this is our guides know these tracks inside out. They know the best lookouts, scenic lunch stops, and where to get great photos. During your walk, you also have the choice of taking shorter walking days to suit your preference.

INCLUSIONS

- Pack Free walk – carry as little as your water, lunch, and camera each day.
- A walking App with GPS coordinates on your walk
- Detailed maps and trail notes
- Transfers to/from the trail each day as required

- 6 x dinners
- 6 x packed walker's lunches
- 6 x breakfasts
- 6 nights' Accommodation including Rawnsley Park Station & Wilpena Pound
- Return private transfers to Port Augusta or drive yourself
- Transfers to the trail where required
- Transport of overnight luggage between accommodation
- National Park Pass
- No Credit Card Fees

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Arrive Quorn - Walk Warren Gorge



ITINERARY: Arrive in the Flinders Ranges. Your walking adventure begins at the quaint outback town of Quorn, which was a stop-over for The Ghan when travelling between Adelaide and Alice Springs up until the 1950s. It is also famous for providing the backdrop for Australian and international movies, as well as being considered the home of the 'Quandong' – a traditional native bushfood, now harvested for use in pies and preserves.

Your first walk is at Warren Gorge, known for its stunning rugged orange rocks and gorges, and viewpoints that offer broad vistas across this beautiful region. This is a nice induction into your Flinders Ranges walking experience, and you will see native vegetation including Northern Cypress Pine, Spinifex, and Red Gums. You may also be lucky enough to see the "vulnerable" Yellow Footed Wallabies, which are sometimes witnessed in late afternoons. After your walk arrive at your accommodation in Quorn and put your feet up while dinner is prepared for your enjoyment.

TRANSFERS: There are several options to get to this walk. Choose to drive to Quorn in the Flinders Ranges walk or fly to Port Augusta and enjoy private transfers to Quorn (30 minute drive).

WALK GRADE: 5.3km circuit; 2 -3 hours with breaks; easy grade.

TERRAIN: Well-maintained trail, with one gentle incline.

Day 2: Walk Dutchman's Stern



WALK ITINERARY: After breakfast, your driver will transfer you to the start of your walk. Today's walk takes us to Dutchman's Stern which was named by Matthew Flinders when he spotted the high point from the Spencer Gulf in 1802, as he thought its shape resembled that of a Dutch sailing ship. This trail offers an insight into our geological history, referencing significant points along the journey.

The climb to the summit is consistent but gentle, and your efforts are rewarded with spectacular views of the surrounding landscape, north toward the more central Flinders Ranges and west to Spencer Gulf. You will see Native Cranberry, Ruby Saltbush, and Porcupine Grass (spinifex), and again, may be fortunate in spotting some of the local Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby colony. After your walk, meet your driver for your transfer back to your accommodation.

TRANSFER TIMES: Morning: your driver will transfer you to the start of the walk (15 minutes).
Afternoon: Your driver will meet you for the transfer to your accommodation.

WALK GRADE: 10.6 km circuit; 4.5-5.5 hours with breaks. Grade: easy-medium.

TERRAIN: Well-maintained trail; a consistent but mostly gentle incline for almost 50% of the hike. Optional extra 600m return walk can be added to your walk.

FLEXIBLE WALKING: Shorter walking options available today.

Day 3: Walk Rawnsley Bluff



ITINERARY: After breakfast, your driver will transport you to the start of the trail. Today's walk explores traverses Rawnsley Park Station, before making its way to Flinders Ranges National Park. Reaching Wilpena Lookout you'll be able to see a spectacular overview of the interior aspect of Wilpena Pound. Be rewarded with stunning uninterrupted views of the surrounding ancient landscape as you climb the imposing Rawnsley Bluff.

Ironically, the dry-stone cairn at the summit is a trigonometrical survey marker honoring H.C. Rawnsley, who falsely presented as a surveyor to the SA Governor in 1850 and was soon discharged due to incompetency. Afterwards make your way to your new accommodation for the evening at Rawnsley Park Station. Tonight, enjoy dinner in the charming Woolshed Restaurant.

TRANSFERS: Morning transfer to the trail (1 hour 15 mins). Afternoon: Walk directly back to your accommodation from the trailhead.

WALK GRADE: 17km return (14km Rawnsley Bluff Hike + 3km trailhead to accommodation); 6.5-7.5 hours with breaks. Grade: medium-hard grade.

TERRAIN: Mostly compact surfaces, with a consistent but mostly gentle incline to the top, levelling off in parts but has some steep sections that require rock-scrambling. Other than the two steep climbs, most of the route is gentle in terms of gradient changes.

FLEXIBLE WALKING: Shorter walking options available today.

Day 4: Walk Bridle Gap



ITINERARY: After your breakfast, your driver will transfer you to the start of the trail. Today's walk, which is part of the Heysen Trail, takes you through the heart of Wilpena Pound, crossing its floor, and then climbing a section of the interior wall to Bridle Gap. Wilpena translates traditionally to 'meeting place' and is significant in the Creation stories of the Traditional Custodians. The track follows the picturesque Wilpena Creek to Hills Homestead, then crosses the Pound floor which boasts an array of diverse vegetation and usually the company of some wildlife.

As you ascend the interior wall of the Pound to Bridle Gap, the track becomes loose and rocky underfoot, and you need to be mindful for the markers to keep you on track, as the vegetation becomes denser. Your arrival at Bridle Gap marks the boundary of the National Park and is heralded by expansive views of the ancient mountain landscape to the south; the Gap was used by stockmen to shift livestock in and out of the Pound. Afterwards walk directly into your accommodation for tonight at Wilpena Pound Resort, whilst you have been walking your luggage has been delivered. Tonight, enjoy a relaxing dinner in the Resort's restaurant.

TRANSFERS: Morning; your driver will transfer you to the start of the trail (30 minutes).
Afternoon: walk directly to your accommodation.

WALK GRADE: 18.8km return; 6.5-7.5 hrs. with breaks; easy-medium grade.

TERRAIN: Mostly flat compact surfaces, with a short, steady incline on a loose, rocky trail to take you up to the half-way point on the wall of the Pound.

FLEXIBLE WALKING: Shorter walking options available today.

Day 5: Walk Tanderra Saddle



ITINERARY: Enjoy breakfast in the restaurant before setting out on your walking adventure. Today you tackle a section of the external wall of Wilpena Pound, aiming for Tanderra Saddle which sits just below St Mary Peak, the highest point of the ranges. One of the most iconic walks in the Flinders Ranges, you will begin by skirting the base of the more northerly aspect of Wilpena Pound before climbing steadily on less-compact surfaces to reach the escarpment of this massive natural Amphitheatre.

Spectacular vistas emerge to the north as you gain elevation, and upon reaching the Saddle, at 944m above sea-level, you are rewarded with more views both into and beyond the Pound walls. St Mary Peak is particularly significant to the Creation stories of the Adnyamathanha People (the traditional Custodians of this Country), and as such, you are discouraged from climbing to the summit. After your walk return to your accommodation at Wilpena Pound Resort with dinner served in the restaurant.

TRANSFERS: None. Walk directly to/from your accommodation to the trailhead.

WALK GRADE: 12km return; 5.5-6.5 hours with breaks. Grade: medium-hard grade.

TERRAIN: Compact surfaces with gentle undulations to half-way, shifting to consistent climbing with some steeper terrain that requires some rock-scrambling.

FLEXIBLE WALKING: Shorter walking options available today.

Day 6: Walk Blinman Pools



ITINERARY: After breakfast in the restaurant your driver will transfer you to the start of your walk in Blinman. Following a short 4WD experience on the privately-owned Alpana Station, you will begin your walk at the “Second Pool” and follow the majestic Blinman Creek downstream. The “First Pool” and the creek itself, are spring fed, which attracts native wildlife and birds, regardless of the season. Stunningly rugged cliffs tower above creating a spectacular backdrop as you meander along the creek.

Afterwards meet your driver for the transfer to your new accommodation in Blinman. On your arrival in Blinman, you will have time to explore this tiny “township” that boasts as the highest township in South Australia and is named after a one-legged shepherd who was the first to discover copper in the area. Tonight, enjoy a relaxing dinner before retiring for the night.

TRANSFERS: Morning: Your driver will transfer you to the start of the trail (1 hour). Afternoon: After your walk your driver will transfer you to your accommodation in Blinman (30 mins)

WALK GRADE: 6km one-way; 3-4 hours with breaks. Grade: medium grade on an informal route which follows the creek-bed and is guided by regular trail markers; the surface varies from loose and rocky underfoot, to sandy, to traversing large boulders, with occasional significant but short variations in gradient. Some rock-hopping and rock scrambling required.

Day 7: Departure Day



ITINERARY: Your tour finishes after breakfast. The end of a remarkable experience.

TRANSFERS: For those that started the journey in Port Augusta your driver will return you to Port Augusta to meet your flight home. For those that drove to the Flinders Ranges, our driver will return you to your vehicle in Quorn.

Outback Accommodation

Close to the trail

We have carefully chosen comfortable accommodation in a variety of locations to best support convenient access to your walks as well as the opportunity to experience the many different facets of the Flinders Ranges.

Basing in the hamlets of Quorn and Blinman, the award-winning Rawsley Park Station, and at Wilpena Pound Resort, your immersion into this region will be enhanced by your experiences of each. Enjoy en-suited rooms with choice of king/queen beds or twin beds.

See images below:



