

heysen trail and the flinders ranges



trip highlights

- Soak up the beauty and grandeur of the scenic Wilpena Pound
- Visit Alligator Gorge, one of the Flinders Ranges most spectacular natural attractions
- Animal spotting for yellow-footed rock wallaby, euro and emu plus much more local wildlife
- Relax each evening at unique, comfortable outback accommodation with all scrumptious meals provided



Trip Duration	6 days	Trip Code: HFG
Grade	Introductory to Moderate	
Activities	Day walks	
Summary	6 day trip, 6 days walking, 5 nights accommodation	

welcome to World Expeditions

Thank you for your interest in our Heysen Trail and the Flinders Ranges trip. At World Expeditions we are passionate about our off the beaten track experiences as they provide our travellers with the thrill of coming face to face with untouched cultures as well as wilderness regions of great natural beauty. We are committed to ensuring that our unique itineraries are well researched, affordable and tailored for the enjoyment of small groups or individuals - philosophies that have been at our core since 1975 when we began operating adventure holidays. Our itineraries will give you the very best travel experience, designed by people with incredible local knowledge who share our vision of authentic exchange and real exploration with a responsible tourism approach. Whether you like your adventures to include trekking, touring, cycling, mountaineering, kayaking or cruising World Expeditions can make it happen for you. We hope you will join us for a life changing experience!!

why travel with World Expeditions?

World Expeditions Australian Treks have been in continuous operation for more than 30 years, offering economical, reliable, environmentally friendly small group fully inclusive adventure holidays to some of the most beautiful pristine parts of Australia. Our trips cater for people from many walks of life, age groups and motivations. World Expeditions offers more than 30 tailored Australian itineraries that incorporate trekking, walking, rafting, cycling and climbing throughout Australia.



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For Competitive airfares to Adelaide and stopover ideas, contact our expert staff today to receive a detailed quote.

the trip

The North Flinders Ranges offers some of the most stunning scenery in Australia as well as some of the most attractive outback properties. This newly accommodated trek includes selected walks on our favourite sections of the Heysen Trail. The Flinders Ranges offer a rolling range of majestic peaks and rugged ridges, deep gorges and endemic plants and animals.

The world class trails combine exceptional views and achievable challenges to create unforgettable walking experiences. The forests of cypress pines create an almost alpine ambiance in these semi-arid ranges with the dry climate creating ideal conditions for walking. This trip is fully supported so you can enjoy walking with just a day pack. Each evening we stay at comfortable accommodation offering both stunning scenery and the best of outback hospitality.

at a glance

OUR TEAM WILL CALL YOU THE DAY BEFORE YOUR TOUR COMMENCES TO CONFIRM EXACT PICK UP TIME AND LOCATIONS. IF YOU ARE TRAVELLING FROM OVERSEAS PLEASE ENSURE THE WORLD EXPEDITIONS OFFICE HAS YOUR AUSTRALIAN CONTACT DETAILS.

DAY 1	TRANSFER FROM ADELAIDE TO WILLOW SPRINGS/RAWNSLEY PARK VIA QUORN
DAY 2	TREK BLACK GAP TO WILPENA POUND
DAY 3	TANDERRA SADDLE WALK
DAY 4	TREK AROONA HUT TO PARACHILNA GORGE
DAY 5	ALLIGATOR GORGE CIRCUIT WALK, TRANSFER TO MELROSE
DAY 6	MOUNT REMARKABLE SUMMIT, TRANSFER TO ADELAIDE

what's included

- 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners
- Snacks and hot drinks
- Professional wilderness guide and support staff
- 5 nights accommodation as per itinerary, usually in twin or multi share rooms in multi room cabins/cottages with shared bathroom facilities. Most bathroom facilities are separate to your cabin/cottage.
- All entrance and national park fees
- Emergency communications and group first aid kit
- Transport during the trip

what's not included

- Airfares
- Accommodation in Adelaide prior and post trip
- Items of personal nature such as laundry and postage
- Backpacks
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance
- Face masks and hand sanitiser

detailed itinerary

This tour commences with a hotel pick-up between 7-7:30am (from the Adelaide CBD only). Your guide will contact you the day before to confirm exact pick-up time and location. Once the whole group is together your guides will conduct a trip briefing which includes an overview of the trip, introductions, and a chance for you to ask any questions you may have.

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trip dates

2022 17 Apr - 22 Apr **H**
01 May- 06 May **H**
08 May- 13 May
29 May- 03 Jun
05 Jun - 10 Jun **H**
26 Jun - 01 Jul **H**
03 Jul - 08 Jul **H**
24 Jul - 29 Jul **H**
31 Jul - 05 Aug **H**
28 Aug - 02 Sep

2023 30 Apr - 05 May **HS**
07 May- 12 May
28 May- 02 Jun
04 Jun - 09 Jun **H**
25 Jun - 30 Jun **H**
02 Jul - 07 Jul **H**
23 Jul - 28 Jul **H**
30 Jul - 04 Aug **H**
20 Aug - 25 Aug
27 Aug - 01 Sep

important notes

H - High Season

HS - Holiday Season

Note: - High season supplement applies from 1 June to 15 August, and for any trips that overlap with a public holiday.

fast facts

Countries Visited:

Australia

Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip*

Singles:

A single supplement is not available for this trip

Leader:

Expert local leader

Advice for people with limited mobility

This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

DAY 1 Transfer from Adelaide to Willow Springs/Rawnsley Park via Quorn

We pick you up from your accommodation in Adelaide between 7-7:30am and drive north through South Australia's agricultural districts to the small township of Quorn. We'll have lunch in Quorn and then travel closer to the Flinders Ranges National Park via a short walk to an Aboriginal gallery at Arkaroo Rock. We enjoy a scrumptious dinner prepared by our guides, and hear a briefing about the exciting adventures on the itinerary for tomorrow. Tonight we will stay at either the at the caravan park in Rawnsley Park Station or at the historic Willow Springs Station.

Walking Distances: Arkaroo Rock 3km | Driving Time: 4-5.5 hours
meals: L,D

DAY 2 Trek Black Gap to Wilpena Pound

Today we walk section 57 of the famous, 1200km Heysen Trail. Beginning at scenic Black Gap Lookout, the trail takes us north-east to Bridle Gap. From here we have views across the expansive Wilpena Pound, and back towards the Elder Range. We descend into the Pound itself and follow the trail straight through the middle – an unforgettable walking experience.

A variety of mallee, native pine and heath habitats within the Pound provide excellent opportunities to observe interesting local birds including wrens, robins, parrots and raptors. We meet our bus at the Wilpena Visitors Centre and transfer to our accommodation at Rawnsley Park or Willow Springs accommodation.

Walking Distance: 14km | Walking Time: 5-6 hours
meals: B,L,D

DAY 3 Tanderra Saddle Walk

The Tanderra Saddle Walk begins on the outer edges of Wilpena Pound through Sheoaks and Grass Trees. Starting from Wilpena, we trek along the 'Outside Trail' which skirts around the foothills of Wilpena Pound's northern edge. As we ascend to the top of the saddle, our reward awaits us: utterly unbeatable views in all directions of the Central Flinders Ranges, Aroona Valley, and the salt plains to the west. The Tanderra Saddle Walk is a shorter but equally rewarding section of the St Mary's Peak walk. The Adnyamathanha people of the Flinders Ranges would prefer visitors not to climb to the summi, as it is important to the Adnyamathanha creation story.

A picnic lunch on the Saddle gives us time to kick back and take it all in before we begin the descent, retracing our steps to Wilpena.

We return to our accommodation at the Rawnsley Park Station or Willow Springs Sheep Station and celebrate our walk with another scrumptious evening meal together.

Walking Distance: 12km | Walking Time: 5 hours
meals: B,L,D

DAY 4 Trek Aroona Hut to Parachilna Gorge

Today we walk the official final leg of the Heysen Trail – section 61. After breakfast we leave Willow Springs and transfer north through Brachina Gorge to the Aroona

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thoughtful travel

The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence.

World Expeditions were the proud recipients of the inaugural Australian National Travel Industry's Environmental Achievement award for our Responsible Travel Guidebook.

This detailed guide to responsible & sustainable travel is provided to all World Expeditions clients before they travel. Please ask your consultant if you have not received your copy of our award winning book. Alternatively, you may like to download a copy from our website

www.worldexpeditions.com

trip grading Introductory to Moderate

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors.

These include the condition of the walking terrain, altitude and the length of the trek. The Heysen Trail trek is a 6 day trek graded introductory to moderate. This trek involves 6 – 8 hours walking each day over rugged terrain with some steep ascents and descents.

In order to complete this trek we advise that you undertake regular three or four times a week for at least three months prior to your departure. Hill walking with a daypack is recommended.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant of travel agent.

Valley. The bus drops us off in the middle of the wilderness at Aroona Hut and we set off for a full day on the trail, walking along the valley between ABC Range and Heysen Range.

The day's walk is gently undulating, taking us through bird life filled vegetation and past numerous abandoned mine sites. Reaching the trail head at Parachilna Gorge, we board the bus for a short transfer to our Outback accommodation at the Prairie Hotel.

Walking Distance: 17km | Walking Time: 6-7 hours | Driving Time: 2 hours
meals: B,L,D

DAY 5 Alligator Gorge circuit walk, transfer to Melrose

We drive south through Hawker and Quorn entering Mount Remarkable National Park from the north. Our walk today is the Alligator Gorge Ring Route, one of the Flinders' regions best kept secrets and part of the Heysen Trail. This walk takes us along the full length of Alligator Gorge and through The Narrows – a peaceful gorge only a few metres wide that stretches for a couple of hundred metres.

We can see ancient ripple fossils in the rocks of The Terraces, then have the option for a side trip to The Battery for views over Spenser Gulf. Tonight's accommodation is in the delightful town of Melrose.

Walking Distance: 9km | Walking Time: 4 hours | Driving Time: 3 hours
meals: B,L,D

DAY 6 Mount Remarkable summit, transfer to Adelaide

This morning we start our walk from the door of our accommodation. An early start allows us to trek the first part of section 43 of The Heysen Trail and summit Mount Remarkable. Heading out of town we quickly reach the National Park and begin a gradual ascent to the 961m peak. This is a wonderful opportunity to see some of the plethora of wildlife that resides in this park: the beautiful yellow-footed rock wallaby, emu, euros and wedge-tailed eagles to name just a few! From the top we gaze across the entire National Park out to Spencer Gulf – a magnificent finale to the last 6 days of Flinders walking.

Our journey concludes when we drop you at your Adelaide accommodation between 5-6pm.

Walking Distance: 14km | Walking Time: 5 hours | Driving Time: 3 hours
meals: B,L

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

climate

Generally speaking, the weather is fine in the Flinders Ranges and there is plenty of sun. We go in the coolest part of the year as this is the most comfortable time for walking. Daytime temperatures in April - May are mild while June - July can be cool to cold. From August to October the days get progressively warmer and late in the season the occasional hot day may require us to modify the day's trekking to suit the conditions.

Night time temperatures can be cold at any time of year. From late May through to early August, the evenings can be very cold (down to minus 5C/24F°). On rare occasions, rain can force us to alter our schedule. Though rain is unlikely, please be prepared for cold and wet weather at all times of year.

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important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price.

a typical day

The detailed itinerary indicates the walking distances for each section of the trail. Each day, each group, each guide influences itinerary details but the following gives you an idea of daily timing:

Mornings start with a scrumptious breakfast spread put on by your guides. After breakfast we pack up our equipment and set off for the day's walk. The morning walk is usually 3-4 hours with numerous breaks along the way. A leisurely picnic lunch is served on the trail which provides the chance to take off your pack, put your feet up and enjoy the magnificent scenery.

Each trek begins and/or ends with a vehicle transfer to/from the trail head – the Flinders Ranges are a huge area and to see the best of them it is necessary to utilise vehicle travel. Time spent travelling in our small bus is always a great opportunity to relax and take in the magnificent scenery.

The afternoon walk is usually shorter than the morning walk, getting us to our accommodation with time for a hot shower, exploring, or just relaxing with a drink and a chat. Over a delicious 3-course dinner your guides will give a briefing on the following day's activities and tell a few stories before heading off for the night's rest.

dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

accommodation on the trip

During the trip we experience a variety of delightful outback properties. These range from simple outback homesteads, to cabins at Rawnsley Park station, and two bedroom unit. All accommodation has been chosen for its location, charm, history and character.

Nights 1-3: Cabins in the caravan park at the Rawnsley Park Station. Cabins are a mix of twin share or multi share. Rawnsley Park has shared bathroom facilities (located outside of the cabins), fire place and outside seating areas.

Night 4: Parachilna's Prairie Hotel. Clean, comfortable and simple accommodation with shared bathroom facilities. The shared bathrooms are located outside of the rooms. Located in a charming historic hotel just off the Heysen Trail.

Night 5: Melrose's Holiday Units. These are self contained two bedroom units at the foot of Mount Remarkable. Rooms are twin share with shared bathroom facilities.

Most groups are made up of a mixture of single participants and couples. If you are travelling alone you will share a room with someone of the same gender, this usually sorts itself out naturally. The guides will prepare all the meals and run the catering, however you will be asked to contribute by assisting around mealtimes. Participation will make for a more enjoyable experience for everybody.

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pre and post tour accommodation

Our Australian adventures do not include accommodation before or after the trip. If you contact World Expeditions we are happy to offer you suggestions on where to stay in Adelaide.

what you carry

The Heysen Trail Trek is a fully supported, accommodated trek. You will need to carry just a day-pack with your water and other items. You should plan on carrying at least 3 litres of water every day.

equipment required

Specialist gear required including walking boots and day pack (a comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking).

info nights

World Expeditions invites you to attend our inspiring adventure travel slide shows. These special evenings are designed to inform and entertain and are hosted by our most experienced and passionate adventure travellers and mountaineers. Ask our staff for a slide show schedule or register on our website - www.worldexpeditions.com. Shows can fill early so it is important to register your attendance so we know to save a seat, or two!

private groups

The adventures featured in our brochures, and on our website, are just a starting point for many of our private group travellers. Working closely with our Groups Department we can organise custom designed itineraries for groups of friends, clubs, charity's, schools or even work colleagues. Our team will assist you with all aspects of your private group adventure from itinerary design to group flights. Contact our team today.

subscribe to our e-newsletter

Subscribe to our e-newsletter! To keep up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter! You can do this online through our website, www.worldexpeditions.com or contact our office.

social networking

Connect with others on your trip using the Community tab through our Facebook page. You can also view photos and grab tips from our community of travellers or be the first to know about deals and special events at Facebook.com/AustralianWalkingHolidays or on Instagram/ Instagram/AusWalkingHolidays or at Twitter.com/AustralianWalks

trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability as we operate strictly small group adventures. Many of our adventures require us to secure services on your behalf; such as permits, hotels and flights to name but a few. The demand for these services is increasing each year making it difficult to join a trip last minute. To ensure we can assist you onto your adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

To book a World Expeditions trip, you will need to complete a booking form which is found at the back of our brochure or can be downloaded from our website www.worldexpeditions.com.



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On completion, fax or post the form to your nearest World Expeditions office along with your non-refundable deposit. Call your nearest World Expeditions office or travel agent for assistance with your travel arrangements including flights, travel insurance and additional accommodation.