

OUTBACK TOUR

Royal Geographical Society of S.A.



The
John McDouall
Stuart Expedition 1862

The Society proposes to undertake a 7 day 6 night Outback Tour in October 2019. This tour will include the state geological treasure, the Gawler Ranges with its jutting rhyolite pillars and hills topped in large, rounded granite domes. Visit Port Augusta, gateway to the Outback and the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens.



Arid Lands Recovery Unit near Roxby Downs

Explore the Outback interpretive centre, Wadlata.

While at the Gawler Ranges we will reflect on Charles Darke's exploratory work in 1844 on the Eyre Peninsula and travel along the Eyre Highway, named after E J Eyre who broadly trekked this area in 1840. The tour will also visit

Woomera, internationally known by scientists and outer space reconnoiters of

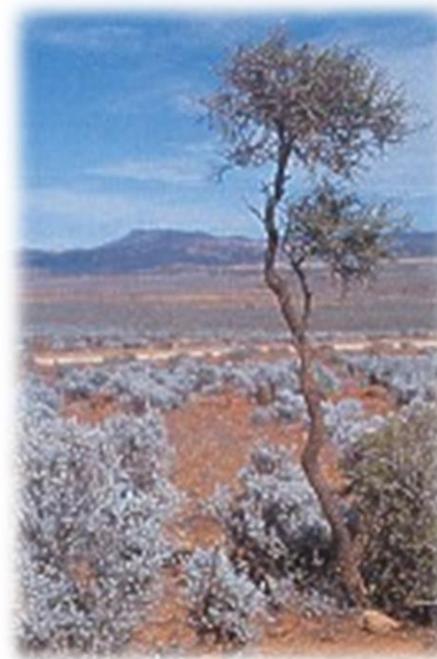
the 50s and 60s, and one of our newest towns, Roxby Downs, with a surface tour of Olympic Dam mine one of the world's richest deposits of copper, gold and uranium. Whilst at Roxby Downs the special 123 km² Arid Lands recovery project will be visited, at night, so experiences are obtained of the special and unique fauna of our Outback including the burrowing bettong, greater sticknest rat, western barred bandicoot and the greater bilby.

Weather permitting view our southern constellations by telescope, from Woomera.

Then revel in that special effect along the Oodnadatta Track to Marree. This area was known to many Australian explorers such as John McDouall Stuart 1860, William Christie Gosse 1873, Ernest Giles 1875, John Ross 1868 and Henry Vere Barclay 1904. At Marree visit the home of Tom Kruse the Outback Mailman 1936- 1963 and see Australia's first mosque. The remnants of one of Australia's oldest inland railways dating from the 1880s are also located

in this town and the start of the Birdsville Track heading north. Time permitting flights to Marree Man or Lake Eyre will be available from \$280 - \$430pp.

Finally the last night will be spent at Leigh Creek, with an Aboriginal Dreaming Stories session. The tour will go back to Adelaide via parts of another State geological treasure, the Flinders Ranges.



Flinders Ranges

Accommodation will be motel style each night and include all meals except lunch on the first day and dinner back in Adelaide on return.

OUTBACK TOUR

Members Cost per person \$1,780
(Non members \$1,875)

Members Tag along Cost per person \$530
(Non members Tag along \$625)

Deposit 15% to be paid by 30/7/2019

Balance to be fully paid by 18/9/ 2019

We expect *tag along* members to participate in the communal lunch and dinner, knowing that they will be responsible for their own accommodation.

- You may pay the Society's Office in instalments, if you wish.
- No refunds after 30/9/2019 except with a medical certificate.

Weather

Generally the average temperatures in the Gawler Ranges/Eyre Peninsula are 24°C and along the Oodnadatta Track 30°C.

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What To Bring

Clothing that you can peel off and on to last 6 nights. Take at least one pair of long pants.

Hat, Sunscreen and insect repellent

Binoculars and camera

Comfortable enclosed shoes (some areas we visit will have uneven terrain - you should be reasonably fit)

Medication if used for 6 nights.

Place all clothing in plastic bags in a case.

ATMs are at Port Augusta, Roxby Downs, Marree and Leigh Creek.

What to advise the Society

If you have a medical condition that may require special monitoring.

If you have any dietary requirements.

Telephones

Mobile phone coverage after Port Augusta, in the Gawler Ranges, and Outback Areas is spasmodic. In an emergency family members may contact the tour through a satellite phone.

Fixed line phones are available at Marree, Woomera and Leigh Creek. Mobile coverage at Port Augusta and Roxby Downs.

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OUTBACK TOUR

October 2019

20/10/19 to 26/10/19

visiting:-

- Port Augusta - Gateway to the Outback
- Gawler Ranges - National Park
- Woomera - the Cold War Arsenal Museum
- Roxby Downs - Arid Lands Recovery Unit and Olympic Dam Mine
- Oodnadatta Track and Marree
- Leigh Creek and the Southern Flinders Ranges

Travel in an air-conditioned off road bus. Tag along members are welcome