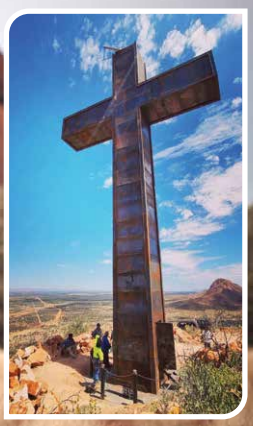
Red Centre Pilgrimage

Alice Springs to Uluru



LIMITED PLACES!

Photo by James Fisher/Tourism Australia

FEATURING THE CROSS AT MEMORY MOUNTAIN

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Something deep and mystical calls all Australians to journey to the heart of our nation to honour its symbols, stories and beauty in a prayerful spirit of awe and thanksgiving. Set out on this blessed pilgrimage to the physical and spiritual centre of the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit, to open ourselves to the presence of God in a way that is ancient and new. Be among the first pilgrims to witness the remarkable 20 metre Cross rising high on Memory Mountain.

FULLY ESCORTED

With Chaplain:
Fr Darryl Mackie

Plus
Professional Driver/Guide

9 DAYS

Departs Alice Springs
Thursday 10 June 2027

Returns Uluru
Friday 18 June 2027

***Tour Code**: RC2701*

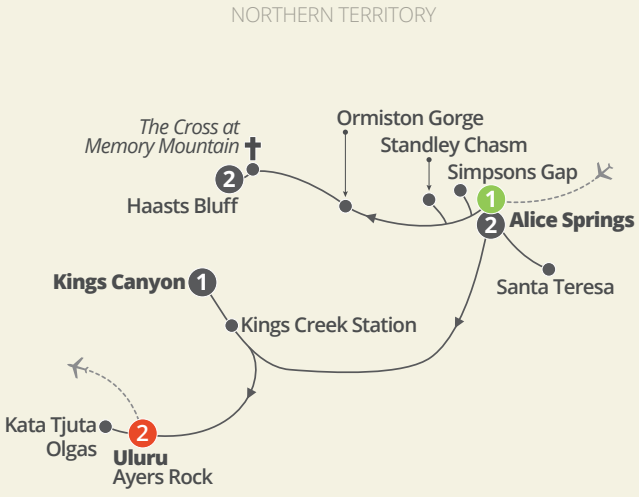
TOUR COST

$6790 *Per person Twin or Dbl*

+ Domestic Airfares
Price based on min 25 group size.

SINGLE ROOM: $1580 *Supplement*

PREPAID TIPPING: $135 *Per Person*



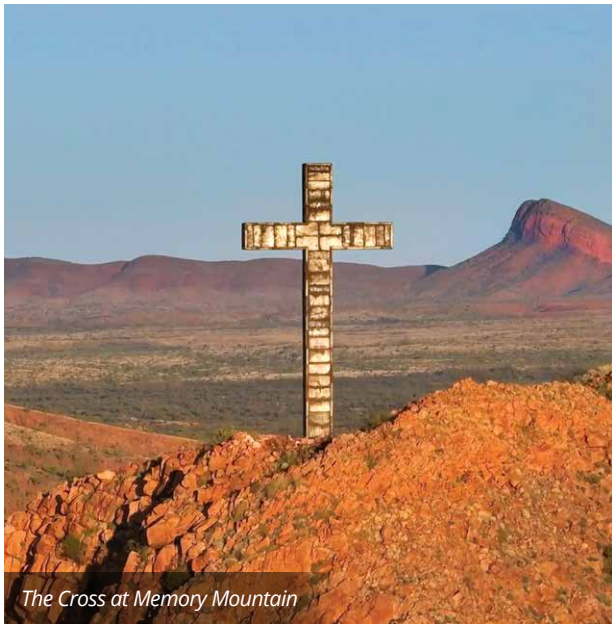
HIGHLIGHTS: *Alice Springs (1) • Ormiston Gorge • Haasts Bluff (2) • The Cross at Memory Mountain • Standley Chasm • Simpsons Gap • Alice Springs (2) • Santa Teresa • Kings Canyon (1) • Karrke Aboriginal cultural experience • Kings Creek Station • Uluru – Ayers Rock Resort (2) • Mala Walk • Kata Tjuta National Park – The Olgas • Fields of Light Dinner experience*

DAILY COMMUNITY MASSES Celebrating Eucharist with the locals	**MEET COLOURFUL CHARACTERS** Hear their inspiring stories	**WITH AMAZING CHAPLAINS** Giving spiritual blessings & guidance
NATURE & BEAUTY ENCOUNTERS Enlivening each destination	**PILGRIM WALK MOMENTS** Reflective time-out opportunities	**LIKE-HEARTED FELLOWSHIP** Travelling together with purpose

INCLUSIONS: *Accommodation at superior standard 3 - 4 star hotels with breakfast and dinner daily • Lunches as per the itinerary • Deluxe Air-Conditioned Touring Coach • Professional Driver / Guide throughout the program • Complimentary Airport Arrival Transfer (as applicable) • Accompanied by a Harvest Tour Director • All sightseeing and entrance fees as listed • Quality Harvest pilgrim pack including Harvest backpack, Pilgrim Journal and Travel Wallet.*

Australian Sacred Journeys

harvest journeys



The Cross at Memory Mountain

Santa Teresa Church, NT

ITINERARY

MEAL CODES: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner

DAY 1: THURSDAY 10 JUNE 2027 - BEGIN ALICE SPRINGS

Theme: New Beginnings

Meet the group at our hotel before boarding our coach to enjoy panoramic views from **Anzac Hill** overlooking the rugged **West MacDonnell Ranges.** Join the local faith community of **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs** for prayer to experience something of the way the people live their faith and worship in this unique community.

We return to our hotel to share our first group dinner and get to know your fellow travellers.

Alice Springs Overnight (D)

DAY 2: FRIDAY 11 JUNE - MACDONNELL RANGES

Theme: Springs in Dry Places

After breakfast we board our coach and travel to Our Lady of The Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Alice Springs for our privately booked liturgy.

We begin our journey, to **Simpsons Gap**, a stunning gorge carved out of the West MacDonnell Ranges by Roe Creek, where water flows through a small gap in the mountain range.

Visit **Ormiston Gorge** one of the most popular and photographed places in the Red Centre, where we will **enjoy a lunch stop** and opportunity to **swim in the waterhole**.

Travel on to **Haasts Bluff** for our two-night stay. This is a unique opportunity to stay in a closed Aboriginal community in central Australia. There are no hotels, and we will be staying in basic, simple, but comfortable accommodation. This is a rare occasion for an up-close-and-personal encounter as we are welcomed into an Indigenous community.

This afternoon we will visit the **Ikuntji Artists Centre** where many Indigenous artists are becoming world renowned for their inspired artwork and handicrafts.

Haasts Bluff overnight (BLD)

DAY 3: SATURDAY 12 JUNE - THE FORGIVENESS CROSS AT MEMORY MOUNTAIN

Theme: Healing and Restoration

This morning enjoy some time in Haasts Bluff. Take the opportunity to meet some of the locals and learn something of their local traditions and practices.

After lunch board our coach and travel to the nearby **Forgiveness Cross at Memory Mountain.**

Memory Mountain at **Haasts Bluff** is where a 20-metre Cross stands atop a sacred mountain where faith, culture and social enterprise combine to draw the faithful to a deep encounter with God and nature. Enjoy a pilgrim-trek, prayer, song, and indigenous cultural awareness gathered around this amazing new Australian icon of unity and hope. Take time for prayer here in this unique outdoor location.

Watch the cross illuminate as the sun sets and the ocean of stars in the night-sky take centre stage. Enjoy a meal under the night sky and then join with the locals for a sing-along by campfire before returning by coach to Haasts Bluff.

Haasts Bluff overnight (BLD)

DAY 4: SUNDAY 13 JUNE - DAWN AT THE FORGIVENESS CROSS AT MEMORY MOUNTAIN

Theme: God's Provision

Optional pre-dawn departure from Haasts Bluff to experience the dawn and make a sunrise climb to The Forgiveness Cross. Return to Haasts Bluff for breakfast.

After the celebration of our Sunday Mass or Service, bid farewell to Haasts Bluff and travel by coach to **Standley Chasm**, known traditionally as **Angkerle Atwatye**, meaning "Gap of Water". Standley Chasm is a 3-metre-wide, 80-metre-high gorge and is a unique Aboriginal Owned and Operated enterprise, the local Community members being direct descendants of the **Arrernte Aboriginal People** who have lived in this area for tens of thousands of years. The walking trail to the Chasm and those in its surrounds offer chance encounters with a variety of inhabitants, including diverse bird species, lizards, wallabies, as well as native flowering plants and ancient cycad palms.

On the way back to Alice Springs drive into **Blatherskite Park (Alice Springs Showgrounds)**, where in 1986 Pope John Paul II gave his famous speech to a crowd of thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, that still has great resonance today.

Enjoy some free time this afternoon before dinner at our hotel.

Alice Springs overnight (BD)

DAY 5: MONDAY 14 AUGUST - SANTA TERESA EXPERIENCE

Theme: Abundance of Blessings

After breakfast we will board our coach and travel to Santa Teresa.

Santa Teresa was established as a Catholic Mission in the 1950's by the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte) is today an Indigenous Catholic Community of over 500 residents with a strong Christian faith with the church being a focal point of the community. Celebrate **Mass** at the Santa Teresa Parish Church, with its remarkable Australian spiritual artworks. Visit the **Spirituality Centre** for morning tea where you can view some art and meet the artists. Also visit the

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famous **Keringke Arts Centre.**

As the sun sets journey into the bush for the unique experience of the **Outback Bush BBQ Dinner & Show**, a fun-filled evening of entertainment and outback cuisine in the remote setting of the East MacDonnell Ranges. Underneath a chandelier of stars, hear stories and sing songs that tell of our timeless traditional folk heritage and Australian traditions, while enjoying a meal of local produce and a drink from the Aussie Bush Bar.

Alice Springs Overnight (BD)

DAY 6: TUESDAY 15 JUNE - ALICE SPRINGS TO KINGS CANYON

Theme: Food for the Journey

After breakfast we board our coach for our journey to Kings Canyon.

On the way we make a stop to tour the **Royal Flying Doctor Service**, the largest air medical response team in the world. Alice Springs houses the Central Operations of the service and here there is an opportunity to learn all about the incredible history of the RFDS and how it has shaped life in the outback.

Stop at the **Erldunda Roadhouse**, "the Centre of the Centre", where we will be able to have lunch (own expense), and visit the emu enclosure.

Arrive **Kings Canyon** this afternoon and prepare to immerse ourselves in the beauty of this ancient outback place. Kings Canyon is a majestic destination featuring 300-metre-high sandstone walls, palm-filled crevices, and views that stretch across the desert.

We take some time for prayer at Kings Canyon followed by a beautiful sunset viewing.

Kings Canyon Resort Overnight (BD)

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE - KINGS CANYON TO ULURU

Theme: Wonder of Creation

This morning we walk the **Kings Canyon** – a gentle 2.6-kilometre walk that follows a trail between the two soaring canyon walls. As you arrive at the lookout point, you will be welcomed by spectacular views of the sheer cliff face at the far end of the canyon.

Visit the **Karrke Indigenous Experience** for a one-of-a-kind authentic Aboriginal cultural experience. The tour is a short walk and talk on areas of importance in local cultural knowledge on bush tucker and bush medicines, as used by the **Luritja and Pertame (Southern Aranda) people.**

On our road trip we stop at **Kings Creek Station** – a working cattle station – set amongst majestic desert oaks. Enjoy a lunch stop here with a variety of home cooked meals, snacks and beverages (own expense).

Arrive **Uluru**, considered the spiritual heart of Australia, truly the red centre of our nation. The Uluru region is home to two of Australia's most famous rock formations, a mighty canyon and an ancient Indigenous culture rich in story, dance and art.

Enjoy dinner at our hotel.

Uluru Overnight (BLD)

DAY 8: THURSDAY 17 JUNE - ULURU DISCOVERY

Theme: Gratitude & Peace

Rise early this morning, collect our boxed breakfast from the hotel and board the coach for our **Uluru sunrise experience.**

Enjoy a guided walk at the base of **Uluru (The Mala Walk),** including the caves of the Mala people and the sacred **Kantju Gorge**, a quiet waterhole at the base of a dramatic rock face.

Visit **Kata Tjuta National Park** (also known as the Olgas) recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Area for both its natural and cultural values. To experience the Olgas as you walk through the Walpa Gorge, a natural creek bed that carves its way between the two tallest domes of Kata Tjuta. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

For our final evening, enjoy an unforgettable **Sounds of Silence dinner experience**. Watch the changing colours of Uluru as the sun sinks below the horizon, accompanied by the sounds of the didgeridoo and the tranquillity of the desert. Savour a delicious Australian-inspired dinner and as night falls, discover the wonder of the Southern Hemisphere's star-filled skies with an expert guide. Surrounded by the beauty and stillness of the Australian desert, this is a truly memorable way to experience the majesty of God's creation after dark.

Uluru Overnight (BD)

DAY 9: FRIDAY 18 JUNE - DEPART ULURU

After breakfast, transfer by the hotel shuttle to Uluru Airport for your trip home. *(B)*

Kata Tjuta National Park

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