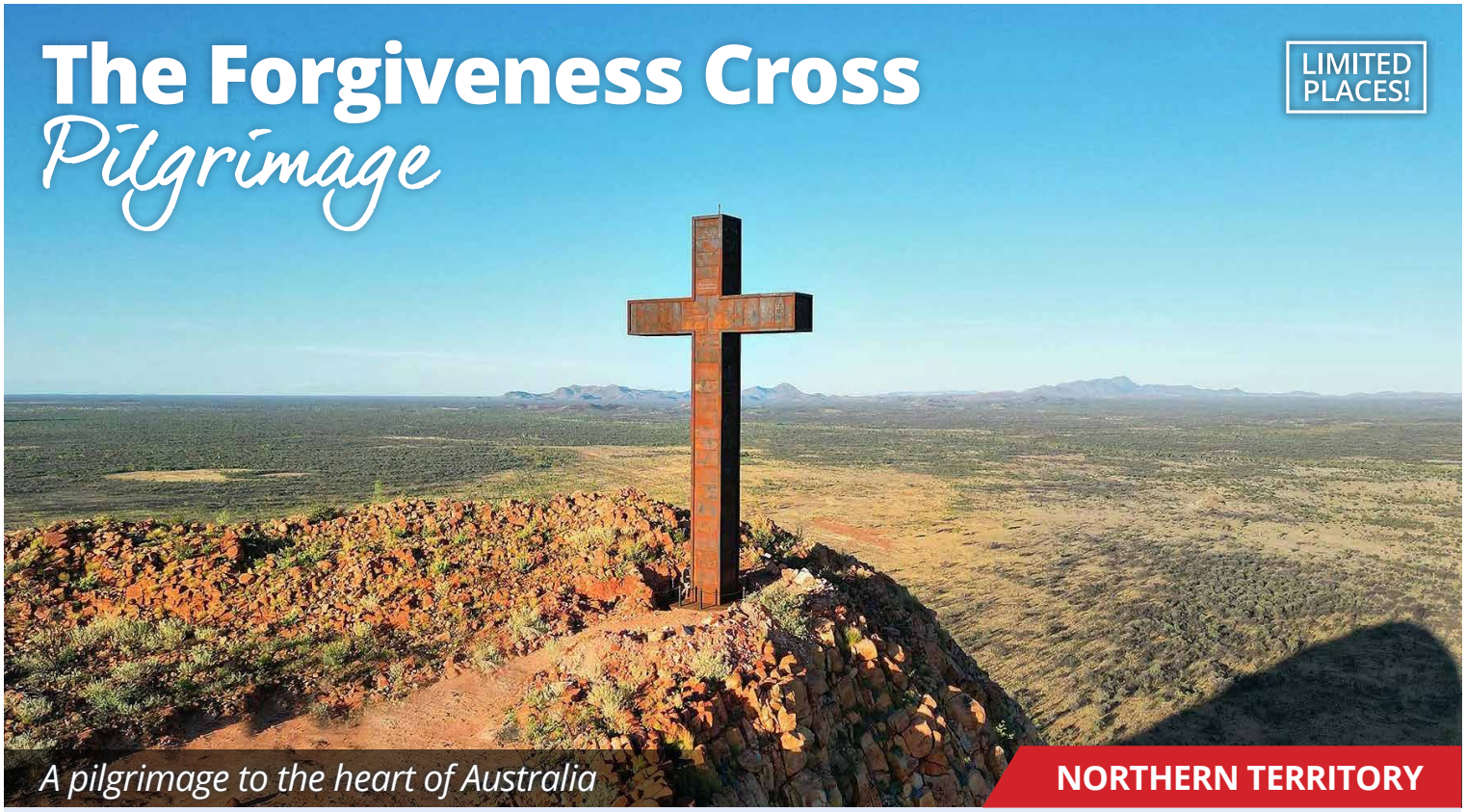
The Forgiveness Cross Pilgrimage

LIMITED PLACES!



A pilgrimage to the heart of Australia

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Forgiveness Cross rises in beauty and simplicity in the red heartland of the outback, as a symbol of Jesus' death and resurrection for all. Experience the land and people who have given this gift to the world and immerse yourself in a unique experience of Aboriginal culture and Christian faith. Be among the first pilgrims to take the journey to the heart, to witness the remarkable 20 metre Cross rising high on Memory Mountain.

FULLY ESCORTED

With Chaplain:
Fr Darryl Mackie

Plus
Professional Driver/Guide

6 DAYS

Departs Alice Springs
Thursday, 10 June 2027

Returns Alice Springs
Tuesday, 15 June 2027

***Tour Code**: FC2701*

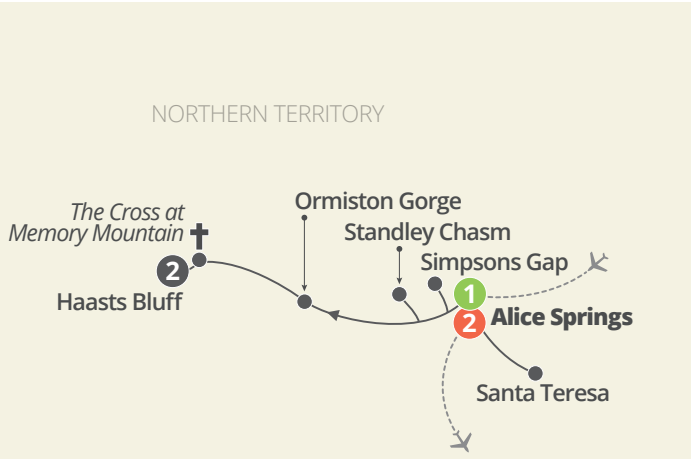
TOUR COST

$3890 *Per person Twin or Dbl*

+ Domestic Airfares
Price based on min 25 group size.

SINGLE ROOM: $670 *Supplement*

PREPAID TIPPING: $90 *Per Person*



Australian Sacred Journeys

harvest journeys

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.

After Mass 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.

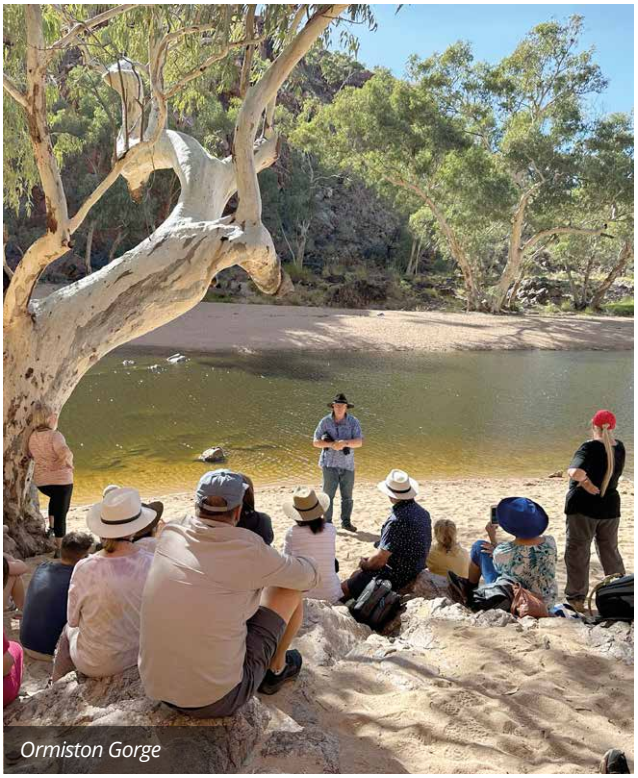
Alice Springs overnight (BD)

DAY 5 - Monday, 14 June - Santa Teresa Community Experience

Theme: Abundance of Blessings

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

Santa Teresa Community 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.



Ormiston Gorge

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 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 - Depart Alice Springs

Theme: Food for the Journey

After breakfast we depart for Alice Springs Airport.

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. *(B)*

HIGHLIGHTS: *Alice Springs (1) • Ormiston Gorge • Haasts Bluff (2)* • The Cross at Memory Mountain • Standley Chasm • Simpsons Gap • Alice Springs (2) • Santa Teresa*

Optional Kings Canyon-Uluru extension available (3 nights).

**** Please note:*** *Accommodation at Haasts Bluff will be in a closed Aboriginal Community. Visitors need permission to enter and there are no hotels. We will be staying in simple but comfortable accommodation. As part of the pilgrimage we are paying the local community to accommodate us and be our hosts and guides while we are at Haasts Bluff and Memory Mountain.*

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: *Superior standard accommodation in Alice Springs • Local community housing in Haasts Bluff • Meals as per the itinerary • Deluxe Air-Conditioned Touring Coach • Professional Driver / Guide throughout the program • 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.*

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

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NZ Free-Call: 0800 819 156

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