

RANGES TO RIVER SELF DRIVE

GREAT WALKS THROUGH SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S
FLINDERS RANGES & MURRAY RIVER

Everything you need to know to make your
journey a magical experience





RANGES TO RIVER EXPERIENCE -SELF DRIVE ITINERARY

DAY 1	Adelaide to Arkaba (Flinders Ranges)
DAY 2	Arkaba Homestead to Black's Gap Camp (13km walking)
DAY 3	Black's Gap to Elder Camp (15km walking)
DAY 4	Elder Camp to Arkaba Homestead (14-15km walking)
DAY 5	Flinders Rangers to Renmark in the Riverland
DAY 6	Renmark to Headings Cliffs (12km walking, 12km river cruising)
DAY 7	Headings Cliffs to Chowilla Creek (14km walking, 10km river cruising)
DAY 8	Chowilla Creek to Bunyip Reach Cliffs (10km walking, 18km cruising)
DAY 9	Bunyip Reach Cliffs to Adelaide (2km walking, 23km river cruising)



DAY ONE - ADELAIDE TO ARKABA

Arrive Arkaba Homestead from 2pm and enjoy a Wild Bush Luxury welcome orientation in good time ahead of your guided safari experience taking you deep into Arkaba's conservancy.

You'll explore high ranges, rolling hill country, gorges and valleys revealing a huge variety of habitat providing the opportunity to immerse yourself in the story of the bush - its ancient geology and all of its glorious diversity. Your guided lay of the land safari experience is usually capped off with a sundowner drink on top of the ranges with the scale and grandeur of outback South Australia laid out for miles around.

Dinner is hosted by one of Arkaba's field guides and is shared with fellow guests providing an atmosphere more akin to staying with friends in the country, or a private safari lodge than a typical luxury hotel.



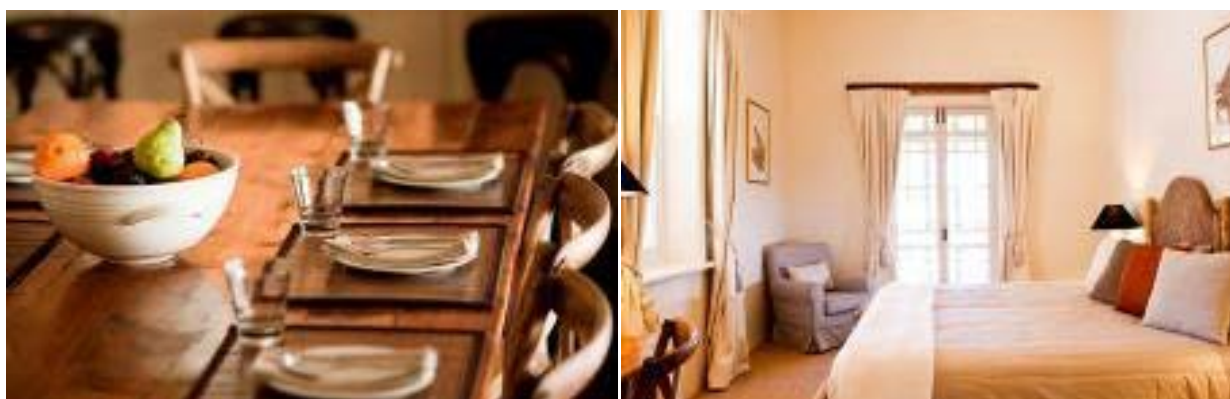


THE ARKABA HOMESTEAD

Your first and fourth evening is spent in the comfort of Arkaba's restored homestead, member of Luxury Lodges of Australia, and an exclusive outback Australian experience. As the layout of the original homestead has been retained, each of the five homestead guestrooms has a character of its own and has been named after early settlers, explorers or property owners.

Each has a private bathroom and opens out on a shaded verandah with views of the surrounding ranges. The decor has been hand-fashioned by wildlife artist, Rosie Woodford-Granf. Bedheads are from recycled fence posts and fleeces, curtains tied back by gumnut tassels, lights are perched on explorers' tripod theodolites. The Arkaba Homestead retains a real sense of history and place.

We unapologetically spare your room from noisy televisions and internet connections. We'd much rather share expansive views, ever-growing species checklists and binoculars so you won't miss a thing.





DAY TWO - WILPENA POUND TO BLACK'S GAP CAMP

Breakfast will ensure you are sufficiently fueled and ready to explore before our short 35 minute drive to the starting point. The distance to is approximately 13km through the flat interior of Wilpena Pound and a gradual 1.5km ascent to the rim of the Pound, climbing 200 metres ahead of a steeper descent of about 1km into Arkaba wilderness and Black's Gap Signature Swag Camp.

Expect to walk into camp at around 5.30pm in time to settle in; take a hot bush shower (with a view!) and enjoy a drink and canapes service as the sun sinks behind the ancient ramparts of Wilpena Pound.

Our signature camp is located between Bunbinyana Range and Wilpena Pound, on a site previously occupied by a shepherd in the late 1850s. His stone chimney still exists and we camp overlooking the creek where he used to take his water. Our field guide and camp assistant will prepare a three-course evening feast, taken al fresco under the evening sky and accompanied by local South Australian wine. Enjoy some interesting tales around our bush TV, the good old camp fire, and retire to your swag bed for an unforgettable night under a canopy of stars.

Day 2 is approximately 13km, 5-6 hours





ARKABA WALK'S SIGNATURE CAMPS

Each signature camp has five permanent swag decks. The low timber decks are slightly elevated, and each have a ½ metre corrugated iron screen around three sides, to give privacy – the fourth side is left open to the views over the countryside, while above you is the night sky and a canopy of stars. There is also a sheltered section of your swag deck, in the event of wind or rain. Your bed is a ‘swag’ – the bedding of choice for generations of Australian pioneers, a canvas envelope that is comfortable and waterproof, protecting you from the elements. Inside each swag will be an all season’s sleeping bag with liner.

Each camp site has two waterless composting toilets – each in their own little ‘dunny’ shed and strategically located to enjoy the best of the views. Each camp has two bush showers – essentially buckets that are filled with water warmed on the fire, and equipped with taps to regulate the flow. Some special Wild Bush Luxury touches ensure these showers will be a feature of your trip!





DAY THREE - BLACK'S GAP CAMP TO ELDER CAMP

Today is arguably the most scenic, as we move out from Black's Gap into the rolling hills more suited to the sheep farming activities previously carried out across the property. The first 2km will follow the famous Heysen Trail through Black's Gap itself revealing a fascinating insight into the pastoral history of the region, pausing at old shepherds' camps and mustering yards, with Red and Grey Kangaroos and Emus all regular sightings. The last leg of the day will take us slightly west into rolling hills culminating in a sharp 1km climb of about 100m in elevation to the summit of the Red Range where we'll be rewarded with panoramic views of the Ikara-Flinders Ranges before moving on to the foot of Elder Range passing through beautiful stands of native Cypress trees.

Your luggage and swags will have been transported by vehicle to your next signature swag camp, our Elder Camp. A hot bush shower, dinner and another special night under the great Australian sky awaits.

Day 3 is approximately 14-15km, 6-7 hours





DAY FOUR - ELDER CAMP TO ARKABA HOMESTEAD

Wake to the glorious morning light on our very own Elder Range. As we move south east the first few kilometres will be amongst hill country at the foot of the Elder Range. Walking through Mallee and native pine forests, we cross Slaty Creek which can hold precious water well into the dry season, sometimes even offering the opportunity to drink from clear, ice cold springs. Ascending the Red Range and down to the banks of the Arkaba Creek, shady and picturesque and lined with time-honored and rejuvenating River Red Gums, with plenty of opportunities to spot birds that commune in the canopy, including galahs, parrots and honeyeater species.

We pass reliable water points providing year-round life support for kangaroos, parrots and emus. The pace is unhurried with time to stop and breathe in the outback, view wildlife and take photographs. Arrive at Arkaba Homestead mid afternoon and relax or perhaps partake in a massage or a scenic flight over the ancient ramparts of Wilpena Pound. This evening enjoy a hosted feast and guided viewing of the Southern Hemisphere's clearest skies silhouetted against mountains, half a billion years in the making.

Day 4 is approximately 14-15km, 6-7 hours





DAY FIVE - DEPART ARKABA FOR RENMARK

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the Arkaba Homestead and a few options to make the most of your morning. You might like to recline by the stone fireplace with a book or enjoy a self-guided stroll along Arkaba Creek to our historic Arkaba woolshed might pique your interest. Or you might retreat into nature from Arkaba's hide. Not only a place to see, but to watch wildlife and all the fascinating interactions that occur between species.

The Arkaba team will bid you farewell as you depart Arkaba by 11am check-out today before your drive to Renmark via the Clare Valley. Drive through the historic towns of Quorn, Wilmington, Mount Remarkable, and Melrose, all famous for their nature filled valleys. Head from Melrose into the Clare Valley, a region famous for its wines. Take your pick of wineries for lunch. From the Clare Valley head east through Robertson and Morgan before arriving to your chosen accommodation in Renmark. (Lunch and accommodation at your expense).





YOUR HOUSEBOAT ON THE MURRAY RIVER

The houseboat is your lodge-based accommodation on the Murray River Walk. The scenery from your houseboat and your bedroom window is always spectacular. In the evenings, relax in the houseboat lounge and share stories with your fellow travellers, or venture up to the top deck where a hot spa provides a perfect end to the day's activities.

Your houseboat sleeps up to 10 people in 5 rooms (each room sleeps 2 people, queen bed or 2 singles), and each boat has 2 bathrooms with hot showers, a spacious lounge and modern kitchen. The houseboat will be moored each day at your daily destination, you only need to unpack once as you keep the same room for the entire journey.





DAY SIX - RENMARK TO HEADINGS CLIFFS

Meet your guides and fellow walkers at 7.30 am at the Renmark Community Hotel for a pre-walk briefing before we board the pontoon “cruiser” boat for a 12 km cruise along the Murray River to the start of the walking route.

Discover the lagoons that are havens for waterbirds, learn about the site of a World War II Japanese internment camp and cross creeks that feed the red gum forests and box woodlands.

A gentle climb through the cliffs reveals a magnificent view of the vast Murray River floodplain that will surround you over the next 3 days. A short transfer across the river in the cruiser and you have arrived at your destination.

Your “Boat Guide” will welcome you aboard and settle you in with a cool foot dip in the river or a hot spa followed by a 3-course dinner paired with local wines.

Day 6 is approximately 12km walking, 12km cruising





DAY SEVEN - HEADINGS CLIFFS TO CHOWILLA CREEK

Arise before the sun and walk a gentle slope to the rim of the Murray River valley for a spectacular sunrise. Enjoy a warm drink as you listen to the bird song of morning.

Learn about at the geological layers in the cliffs formed by wind, ocean, freshwater lakes and the river over millions of years.

Return to the houseboat for a cooked breakfast, then load your day packs and depart for a wonderful day discovering Aboriginal canoe trees, dense red gum forests and small islands along leafy Amazon Creek.

Kangaroos and emus will interrupt you along the way as you finish in an old growth Box Forest where you'll forage some saltbush leaves to flavour tomorrow's breakfast.

Cruise to your evening destination upstream of the historic Chowilla shearing shed.

Enjoy a local tasting plate as you dip your feet in the cool waters of the Murray River.

Day 7 is approximately 14km walking, 10km cruising





DAY EIGHT - CHOWILLA CREEK TO BUNYIP REACH CLIFFS

Awake to the mists on the water and enjoy a great coffee, local navel oranges and tasty breakfast followed by a briefing on the Murray Darling Basin and the management of its network of rivers which drain 14% of Australia. Today we cruise to the Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator to learn about environmental watering and new stewardship for the river, before setting off on our walk.

You'll walk along Chowilla Creek, restored wetlands and visit the proposed site of the 1960's Chowilla Dam.

Restored wetlands and waterbirds will inspire you and after lunch we traverse Bunyip Reach Cliffs and capture the beauty of this landscape on route to Queens Bend Cliffs.

In the afternoon we celebrate completing our walking journey from Queens Bend Cliffs before cruising to the houseboat as the late afternoon sun illuminates the red cliffs.

Day 8 is approximately 10km walking, 18km cruising





DAY NINE - BUNYIP REACH CLIFFS TO ADELAIDE

Following a delicious cooked breakfast featuring native saltbush, take a leisurely self-guided short walk along the riverbank.

After walking approx 2km, you will be collected by your guide in the cruiser who will take you in the cruiser through Lock 6. See how the lock operates to allow boats pass up and down the river.

Departing Lock 6 we'll rejoin the houseboat and slowly cruise downstream on the houseboat, enjoying fresh coffee and cake for morning tea. It's time to reflect on our experience, marvelling at the riverscapes we've just walked along, before arriving at historic Wilkadene Woolshed and its innovative micro-brewery.

Enjoy a tour with the head brewer before sitting down with your guides to a fine barbecue, prepared by your guides before saying our farewells. You will depart for Renmark by bus and arrive at the Renmark Hotel at 2.00 pm.

Day 9 is approximately 2km walking, 23km cruising





RANGES TO RIVER EXPERIENCE INCLUSIONS

WE PROVIDE

- Experienced guides
- Two nights at Arkaba Homestead
- Two nights camping under the stars
- Three nights on a modern houseboat
- Guided lay of the land safari experience at Arkaba
- All meals and beverages including premium SA and Riverland wines
- Support vehicle transporting your main luggage on Arkaba Walk
- A backpack with room for personal items
- All linen and 1 bath towel
- A 1L Water bottle/hydration system
- Walking poles on Murray River Walk
- Arkaba Conservation Levy

YOU PROVIDE

- Hiking boots or hiking shoes
- Long lightweight walking trousers
- Comfortable evening clothing
- Pair of comfortable shoes for evening wear
- Thermal base layers
- Warm fleece jumpers
- T-shirts and long-sleeved shirts for layering
- A waterproof rain jacket for wind (and rain) protection while walking and cruising
- Camera and binoculars
- Head torch or small hand-held torch
- Beanies, scarves and gloves, essential for open boat cruising
- Bathers and towel for pool & spa use
- Sun hat and sunglasses for sunny winter days
- Gaiters for extra leg protection and possible wet weather

ENSURING YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY

We are a COVID-SAFE practicing business and please view COVID 19 Policy on our [website](#).

We take pride in maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness, and we have taken additional measures to ensure we keep our work environment safe.

Whilst we can provide these items, if you'd prefer, please bring your own equipment, including water bottle, backpack and walking poles.

Our guides carry a first aid kit, additional water, UHF Radios and a satellite phone.





IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WALK RATING

The Arkaba Walk is graded 'moderate' and The Murray River Walk 'easy'.

The Arkaba Walk is a moderate walk and a good level of fitness is required with daily distances ranging from 10 to 15km per day. The terrain is steep, on uneven ground and follows some thick vegetation, up hillsides and rocky surfaces. You can be walking up to 7 hours per day with plenty of ascents and descents.

Murray River Walk is an easy to moderate walk with daily distances ranging from 10 km to 14 km on days 1, 2 and 3. On day 4 you have the option for a 2km self-guided walk. The terrain is relatively flat with two gentle cliff climbs up and down a 40 metre rise. Walking poles are available to guests.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AND HEALTH CONCERNS

Please advise us of any dietary requirements before your departure. We are more than happy to cater for special dietary requirements.

Please also make us aware of any health or mobility issues that may affect your walking.

MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE

Mobile phone reception can be poor along sections of the walking routes. Devices can be charged at Arkaba Homestead and on the Houseboat.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

Medium sized suitcases and duffel bags are recommended for easy storing in our cabins. Luggage weighing 15kg or less is appreciated.

THE RIVERLAND IS A FRUIT FLY FREE ZONE

Please do not bring fruit and vegetables into the Riverland. There are quarantine bins on the Sturt Highway. Please dispose of any fruit and vegetables in these bins.



RESERVATION INFORMATION

RATES

AUD\$4,216 per person twin-share. For non-shared rooms, a single supplement applies.

SECURING YOUR PLACE ON THE RANGES TO RIVER EXPERIENCE

To secure your booking, a deposit of 20% is required, due within 14 days of making your booking. The balance is due 90 days prior to your departure. For bookings made within 90 days of departure, full payment must be made within 7 days of booking.

RESERVATIONS

Tel: 0417 533 063

Email: info@murrayrivertrails.com.au

GROUP SIZE

Your Ranges to River experience operates with a minimum 4 and maximum 10 guests. There will be two guides present on the Arkaba section and three guides on the Murray River section.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We suggest you consider an appropriate level of travel insurance to cover any unforeseen costs due to accident, injury or uncontrollable seasonal conditions.

CANCELLATION POLICY

For cancellations outside of 120 days the deposit will be refunded in full.

For cancellations within 120-90 days of arrival, forfeit the deposit.

For cancellations within 89-21 days of arrival fee is 55% of the total price.

For cancellations less than 21 days of arrival, all monies will be forfeited.