



FMC Travel Club

A subsidiary of Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Inc.)

www.fmc.org.nz

Club Convenor : John Dobbs

Travel Smart Napier

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*** South Australia and Outback ***

19th May to 6th June 2012, 19 days

\$3795 ex Adelaide. Leader : John Dobbs

Based on a minimum of 7 people and subject to currency fluctuations

*** Larapinta Trail ***

6th to 16th June 2012, 11 days

\$3195 ex Alice Springs. Leader : John Dobbs

Based on a minimum of 7 people and subject to currency fluctuations

SAVE! Register for both trips by 31st August and save \$100 off the final trip price!

Any payments by visa or mastercard adds \$50 to each trip

PRICE INCLUDES :

- Accommodation – hotels, hostels, light station houses (on Kangaroo Island) cabins and camping
- Transport – hired minibus and trailer in South Australia, 4WD for the Larapinta Trail, local buses, return ferry
- Most meals as shown in the itinerary (B. L. D.), including some restaurant dinners
- Airport transfers, national parks pass, other inclusions and entries as shown in the itinerary
- Experienced leader and fully supported Larapinta Trail arrangements (food drops etc)

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE :

- Flights to/from Adelaide or to/from Alice Springs
- Travel insurance (essential)
- Personal spending outside the itinerary (some meals, internet, scenic flights, souvenirs, etc)

Overview of South Australia and Outback

Beginning and ending in **Adelaide** the state capital, a beautiful city of parklands and gracious buildings, with direct flight connections from Auckland. We have time for a look around the city and an excellent walk through bush to Mt Lofty Lookout for awesome views.

After picking up our minivan and luggage trailer, we head south to the Fleurieu Peninsula and do a warm up tramp in a conservation park that looks out across the strait towards **Kangaroo Island**, our destination for the next few days. Here we have a full and interesting programme that covers the whole island and staying in various places. One highlight of this may be staying in historic lighthouse cottages. KI contains numerous conservation and wildlife reserves and the Flinders Chase National Park. Our tramping and walking programme will reveal the best bits and encounters with wildlife will also be interesting. Other aspects to life here will also be included.

Back on the mainland, a night is spent at the lovely beachside of Adelaide, before we head north again and begin our tramping programme in the **Flinders Ranges**, initially enjoying a pleasant overnight bush tramp in the **Mt. Remarkable National Park**. Not far away we pass through **Port Augusta**. Here, the Wadlata Outback Centre and Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden are worth visiting and will give us an excellent overview of the history natural features of the greater Flinders Ranges region we are exploring.

On the way to **Wilpena Pound**, the magnificent feature of the **Flinders Ranges National Park**, we will check out the interesting feature called Dutchman's Stern. From our base at **Rawnsley Park**, (a working station and accommodation centre), we have various tramps available, including the overnight tramp into the Pound itself. Rawnsley Park has all the services so our stay here should be pleasant. Other features of this wonderful region we get to by driving and although roads are unsealed, they are in good condition and safe for standard 2 WD vehicles.

Just for a change, we experience life in a real outback pub when we overnight at **Parachilna**.

Heading south again now, we can climb **Mt Remarkable** before enjoying a slow route back to Adelaide through the lovely **Clare Valley** premium wine growing region.

Some of the tracks and routes we take are part of one of the world's great long distance walks, **the Heysen Trail**. This extends for over 1200km from Cape Jervis at the tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula to Parachilna Gorge in the Flinders Ranges. It is named in honour of Sir Hans Heysen, South Australia's best known landscape artist – whose favourite subjects were the Australia gum tree and the rural landscapes of the Mt Lofty and Flinders Ranges.

We aim to be as independent as possible with our hired minivan and trailer for gear. This allows greater freedom than might otherwise be the case with joining any existing tour operators. On driving days, the distances we cover are not too great, with plenty of time to explore, and some down time. We are mostly independent with meals and make our own breakfasts, some dinners, and sometimes stop for a picnic lunch. We will also enjoy the variety of some restaurant dinners and take every opportunity to meet locals and learn as much as we can about the regions we travel through. You will need to allow spending money for some meals and any alcoholic beverages.

The following list is the planned tramping and walking programme, which gives a really good representation of the South Australia we are travelling through. Tramps are not 'compulsory' and it should be possible to take time out if wanted.

- Cleland Conservation Park, Waterfall Gully bushwalk to Mt Lofty Lookout and return (7.6 kms ,rated moderate)
- Deep Creek Conservation Park, Deep Creek Circuit Tramp (10.5 kms, rated moderate)
- Kangaroo Island : Hanson Bay (18 kms return, rated moderate); Weirs Cove (3 kms moderate); Ravine de Casoars Wilderness (12 kms, rated tough in parts); plus numerous options from 3 kms or less across the island.
- Mt Remarkable National Park, Mt Remarkable Gorges (29 kms overnight trip, rated moderate); Mt Remarkable (12kms return, rated moderate)
- Dutchmans' Stern (10.5 kms circuit rated easy/moderate)
- Flinders Ranges National Park, Wilpena Pound Circuit (31 kms overnight trip, rated moderate); Mt Ohlssen Bagge (6.4 kms steep and rated medium/tough); Yuluna Circuit (8 kms rated medium); Hills Homestead (6.6 kms easy), plus other options to consider.
- Reisling Trail (11 kms rated easy)

Overview of the Larapinta Trail

Those opting to include the trail module will fly from Adelaide to **Alice Springs**. The 'Alice' is the largest town in the centre of Australia and where we begin and end our LT tramp.

Here we meet up with our local operator '**Trek Larapinta**'. They will supply the transportation and infrastructure to enable us to enjoy the best features of the trail. While the full McCoy is over 220 kms long and needs at least two weeks, we will tramp the most interesting sections with nothing vital left out. It also means we are assured of good campsites, full camping support, good food, assured water supplies, 4 WD transportation and the vital oversight of a local leader very experienced in all aspects of tramping the trail. It is logistically difficult to put a full length do it yourself style trip together, as full packs with tents need to be carried for 14 days or more and food water drops need to be arranged along the way. The remoteness and safety aspects are also a concern, hence the use of a good, local, experienced operator. Effectively, this is a selection of highlights along scenic ridges, gorges and mountain peaks, including Mt Sonder, the highest point on the trail.

You only need carry a day pack because main luggage will be taken to the set campsites where you can relax and enjoy a good dinner and wine and yarn around a camp fire. This is very well run setup, with minimal impact practices and a good reputation, with good quality gear provided and emergency communication facilities.

Days are typically 5 to 8 hours of easy – medium – hard walking, depending on the sections and well within the capabilities of the average trumper of all ages.

Trek Larapinta are holding 7 places on this departure and require to know confirmed names and receive a per person non-refundable deposit of AUD\$430 not later than 30th September 2011.

This means only a limited 'window' to gather commitments, before any allocated spaces are made available to others. Please make an early commitment to the Larapinta Trail to enable us to confirm the arrangements, thank you.

The Larapinta Trail extends westward from Alice Springs along the spine of the MacDonnell Ranges (formed 350 million years ago when massive earth movements created a mountain range of quartzite several kilometers high), and is encompassed by the MacDonnell Ranges National Park. This outstanding park protects 1333 sq kms of varied arid habitats. A number of ancient gorges formed over millions of years by periodic rivers are features, along with pockets of vegetation including ancient cycads, particularly near water supplies. Animals and birdlife abound and the trail is now rated as one of the great walks of the world, and certainly among Australia's best, outside of Tasmania.

Alice Springs is the perfect base to explore other fascinating central Australia outback places – Uluru/Ayers Rock, the Olgas and Watarrka/Kings Canyon are obvious ones. If you would like to stay on and see more of the outback, these options could easily be added after the Larapinta Trail concludes. Contact John at Travel Smart Napier if interested.

Itinerary

If you would like additional nights in Adelaide for a fuller look around this gracious and interesting city, you can arrive earlier and we can book extra nights for you at the accommodation – YHA Adelaide Central.

Day 1. 19th May. Adelaide

Fly into Adelaide and transfer to the hostel. Meet up tonight over dinner at a local restaurant. No meals included today.

Day 2. 20th May. Adelaide

Finalise details for the trip and take a bus to Cleland Conservation Park. Follow the excellent track through the bush that winds up to Mt Lofty Summit for fantastic views out over Adelaide. Enjoy lunch or an afternoon coffee at the Summit. This is an 8km return walk. The adjacent Cleland Wildlife Park has Tasmanian Devils, wombats and koalas. Lunch is your cost, dinner at a local restaurant tonight. **B. D.**

Day 3. 21st May. Deep Creek Conservation Park

Collect the rental van and complete supermarket supplies, then head south through the McLaren Vale wine growing region onto the Fleurieu Peninsula to Deep Creek Conservation Park. There is a moderately challenging 10.5km circuit tramp here with a variety of flora, a lovely secluded cove and great views out towards Kangaroo Island. Overnight at the adjacent camping ground. **B. L. D.**

Day 4. 22nd May. Kangaroo Island, Kingscote

After breakfast, we drive to Cape Jervis for the ferry trip across to Kangaroo Island. Arriving into the little settlement of Penneshaw, we check out some of the features of this eastern end of the island including the lighthouse at Cape Willoughby. Overnight in the 'capital' Kingscote. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and watch the penguins come ashore. In fact, K.I. offers a rich array of wildlife – expect to see kangaroos of course, goannas, koalas, snakes, seals and sealions at several coastal reserves, plus a good variety of birds and seabirds. **B. L. D.**

Day 5. 23rd May. Kangaroo Island, Cape Borda lighthouse

Continue our explorations of KI and tonight we stay at the Cape Borda lighthouse cottages on the northwest tip of the island. This should be a special experience. **B. L. D.**

Day 6. 24th May and Day 7. 25th May. Kangaroo Island, Western KI Caravan Park

We spend time on the Flinders Chase National Park and various reserves and sights along the south coast. Overnight at the excellent Western KI Caravan park which has a good restaurant/bar and adjacent to the park Visitors Centre. **B. L. D.**

Day 8. 26th May. Adelaide Shores Caravan Resort

Leaving KI, we retrace our steps to Penneshaw and catch the ferry back to Cape Jervis. Then an hour's drive and we are back in the Adelaide area, this time heading for the beautiful beach and great facilities of this prime site. We stay in cabins. A range of eateries are available at nearby Glenelg for dinner tonight. Lunch and dinner are your cost today. **B.**

Day 9. 27th May. Mt. Remarkable Nat. Park

Drive north around 250 kms and check in at park HQ. Then an approx 3 hrs easy valley walk to a nice campsite among river red gums. **B. L. D.**

Day 10. 28th May. Mt. Remarkable Nat. Park

Continue our tramp among the abundance of native pines and river red gums and other trees and wildlife typical of the area. Exposed cliffs, breathtaking gorges feature, along with kangaroos, wallabies, emus, possums, snakes, lizards and goannas! There are several options and circuits as we return to our campsite after an interesting day, so you only need to carry a light pack today. **B. L. D.**

Day 11. 29th May. Quorn

Maybe 2 hrs walking to complete the trip and return to the vehicle. Drive a short distance to Port Augusta at the head of the Gulf St Vincent. Several features are worth visiting – The Wadlata Outback Centre traces the history of Aboriginal and European people in the Flinders, while the Arid Lands Botanic Garden covering 250 ha. will interpret the flora of the area we are entering (entry to both is included). Not far away is Quorn, the friendly little gateway town to the Flinders region, where we overnight in the Quorn YHA. Lunch is your expense today. **B. D.**

Day 12. 30th May. Rawnsley Park

Nearby is the prominent landmark of the Dutchmans Stern. An interesting 10 km loop track provides spectacular views all round and quartzite escarpments. At 95,000 ha, Flinders Ranges National Park is a huge area to explore. We drive approx' 100 kms to Rawnsley Park and stay in cabins - the perfect base for a few days. All the roads into and around the park are unsealed, but of a good standard. The park area features plenty of wildlife – particularly euros (hill kangaroos), red and grey kangaroos, and birds – everything from rosellas, galahs, and budgerigars to emus and wedge-tailed eagles. Another feature is the two types of Aboriginal rock art – engravings and paintings. Bistro dinner tonight. **B. L. D.**

Day 13. 31st May. Rawnsley Park

Today we have a short drive to commence the Wilpena Pound Circuit tramp into the large natural basin of the same name. On the outside of the Pound, the external wall soars almost sheer for 500m, while inside, the basin slopes away

from the encircling ridge top. This is a moderately rated two day circuit, with an optional climb of St Mary Peak (1171m) or side trip to Edowie Gorge. St Mary Peak is of great significance to the Adnyamathana Aboriginal people, who prefer that visitors don't climb it. **B. L. D.**

Day 14. 1st June. Rawnsley Park

It is only a half day tramp to return to the start before a short drive 'home' and enjoy a hot shower and cold beer! Head to the bistro for dinner again tonight. Dinner is your cost tonight. **B. L.**

Day 15. 2nd June. Rawnsley Park

A day off! Chill out or do another day tramp. Perhaps even the 4 hour return trip up Mt. Ohlsson Bagge, which is a good solid climb in parts. Lunch and dinner are your cost today. **B.**

Day 16. 3rd June. Parachilna

We head to the northern part of the park and take an interesting drive through Brachina Gorge Geological Trail, and then tramp the Yuluna Circuit. Overnight at the iconic Prairie Hotel in tiny Parachilna (population 5) where the restaurant serves Australian bush tucker. We should meet some interesting characters here! Accommodation is in dorms adjacent to the hotel itself. Dinner is your expense today. **B. L.**

Day 17. 4th June. Melrose Caravan Park

Heading south again now, we leave the Flinders region and pass through Quorn again, then branch off to little town of Melrose. The backdrop of Mt Remarkable at 970m is too inviting not to take the tramp to the summit! **B. L. D.**

Day 18. 5th June. Adelaide

Approx 150kms south is the Clair Valley premium wine growing region. Some may like the interesting 3 hour Reising Trail walk which connects some of the beautiful vineyards with historic buildings, offering opportunities for a few tastings! An easy drive back into Adelaide. An end of trip celebration dinner out tonight! Lunch is your cost today. **B. D.**

Day 19. 6th June. South Australia ends, fly up to Alice Springs if doing the Larapinta Trail

South Australia concludes after breakfast. For those flying up to Alice Springs, we drop the van off at the airport, with the rest of the day at leisure, lunch and dinner are your cost today. **B.**

Day 20. 7th June. Larapinta Trail

Meet up with our trail leader and head off to begin our trip. All meals are included from breakfast today through to lunch on Day 29. Drive to Wallaby Gap and tramp to Charles Creek. Overnite at Jay Creek campsite, a 10 km walk today.

Day 21. 8th June. Larapinta Trail

One of the most scenic sections today takes us through to Standley Chasm and finally Hugh River bush campsite. 13 kms.

Day 22. 9th June. Larapinta Trail

A short drive west to Ellery Creek and the start of Section 7. Tramping below the Heavitree Range. Overnight at a private campsite on the Ormiston Creek. 14 kms.

Day 24. 10th June. Larapinta Trail

Today we are high on a ridge on Section 8 with rewarding views of the surrounding landscape from Serpentine Gorge through to Old Serpentine Bush Camp. Return to the Ormiston Creek campsite. 15 kms.

Day 25. 11th June. Larapinta Trail

Section 10. and a great day along the low limestone hills and valleys from Ormiston Gorge to the Finke River, one of the oldest watercourses on earth. Should be rich with wildflowers and birdlife too. 11 kms.

Day 26. 12th June. Larapinta Trail

An easy day with a great exploration in Ormiston Pound. 9 kms.

Day 27. 13th June. Larapinta Trail

An excellent tramp meanders along the base of Mount Sonder that goes through some of the best examples of arid-land vegetation that you will see along the Trail. Also visit Redbank Gorge, where the braze can have a plunge in the icy waterhole there!

Day 28. 14th June. Larapinta Trail

The Mount Sonder climb is a 16 kms round trip with a few challenges that's well worth it for the beauty and views.

Day 29. 15th June. Alice Springs

Only a short walk of 4 kms today before packing up and returning to Alice Springs mid afternoon. A farewell dinner at a local restaurant is included tonight.

Day 30. 16th June. Fly home

The trip ends after breakfast and return to Alice Springs Airport.

Booking Conditions : FMC Travel Club and Travel Smart Napier

1. The FMC Travel Club (FMC) offers this small group trip in conjunction with Travel Smart Napier (TSN). All travel arrangements are made with TSN. Participants agree to all terms and conditions by signing the Registration Form.
2. FMC and TSN are not responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise from weather, defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or through the acts or default of any person or company engaged in carrying out any of the arrangements of the trip.
3. We reserve the right to cancel the trip if minimum numbers don't eventuate. In such an event, all monies paid will be fully refunded. We also reserve the right to make any modifications that may be essential, or to offer a modified trip to a smaller number of people.
4. The trip includes a payment to FMC and apportioned cost of the leader's travel.
5. Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first comers basis on receipt of the Registration Form. **It is not necessary to pay tour deposits at the time of registration. These will be requested by invoice only when we have secured the numbers to operate.** The deposit is \$500 for South Australia and \$750 for Larapinta Trail. Registrations close by 31st December 2011 and final balance is due by 31st March 2012. All payments may be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, internet, visa or mastercard to the offices of TSN. **All or any payments by visa or mastercard adds a \$50 payment on each trip i.e. \$50 for South Australia and \$50 for Larapinta Trail.** Our preferred payment method is internet banking. Please use : 010585 0151601 00 at ANZ Napier. Heerlen Ltd T/A Travel Smart Napier. **A total discount of \$100 is offered if both trips are booked together and deposited by 31st August 2011.** Please make cheques payable to Travel Smart Napier. **Please note that per person AUD\$430 deposits to Trek Larapinta are non-refundable.**
6. Arrangements are made in Australian Dollars, so subject to currency fluctuation. Events beyond our control such as currency fluctuation or any unforeseen additional costs may affect the overall trip price. We cannot guarantee the price until such times as full payment has been received. Upon full payment, the trip price is guaranteed.
7. Cancellations. If you need to cancel your registration for any reason, you must advise TSN in writing as soon as possible. An email is acceptable, just a phone call is not.
Travel insurance will cover you for unforeseen circumstances but will not cover you for changing your mind after committing to the trip. Fees apply as follows :
 - Cancellations received from 1st December 2011 to 31st March 2012 incur a fee of \$500 on the South Australia trip, and \$750 on the Larapinta Trail trip.
 - Cancellations received from 1st April 2012 onwards incur a fee of \$100% of trip costs.
 - If **you** find a suitable replacement person, the above cancellation fees **may** be waived.
8. **Travel insurance is mandatory.** We recommend QBE Travel Insurance and a brochure/application by email or post is available to all, just ask. You will receive a special FMC discount. **As the AUD\$430 deposit to Trek Larapinta is non-refundable, you should take out travel insurance when you register.**

Registration Form for South Australia and Larapinta Trail 2012 :

Complete and send to John Dobbs at TSN with a passport copy. Registrations close by 31st December 2011, or earlier if the trip fills earlier. Your earliest commitment is appreciated. It is not necessary to send your trip deposits when you register, these will be called for only when we have a viable group registered. All or any payment by visa or mastercard attracts extra costs. Our preferred payment method is internet banking into : 010685 0151601 00 at ANZ Napier. Heerlen Ltd T/A Travel Smart Napier.

Circle which trips you are joining : South Australia Larapinta Trail

Names as shown in passport and circle preferred first name.....

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Mailing address.....

Home phone..... Work phone..... Mobile.....

Email..... Date(s) of birth.....

Specify any dietary requirements, allergies, medical conditions.....

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Tramping club affiliation (if any).....

Contact person in NZ for any emergencies : name, address, contact phone numbers, email and relationship to you. In the event of any emergency, this is the sole person you are authorizing us to liaise with

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Please turn over and answer further questions about tramping experience and gear

I / We have read the full trip dossier and I / We will pay the per person deposit of \$500 for South Australia and Outback and \$750 for Larapinta Trail upon invoice, when trip viability is established. I / We agree to pay the remainder of trip costs by due date, as advised by invoice. I / We understand that the final trip price is subject to securing a minimum of participants to proceed, and to currency fluctuations; therefore the final trip price cannot be guaranteed until such time as full payment has been made.

.....signed and dated by each person registering

Please send to : John Dobbs, FMC Travel Club Convenor
Travel Smart Napier, P O Box 352 Napier 4140.

P : 06 8352222 F : 06 8354211 E : john@tsnapier.co.nz

We aim to find a little more about the abilities of the party and what gear may be available. Write your answers here or email them, thank you.

1. *Specify the tent you COULD supply, whether it is for your own use or to share with somebody e.g. a couple will share together or maybe someone is willing to share their tent with another person of the same gender who may not have access to a tent. Tents are required for 5 nights on South Australia trip and 8 nights for the L. Trail. Please note that swags will be provided on the L. Trail, so there is an option there.*
2. *What cooker and/or billies COULD you supply for yourself or to assist the group?*
3. *Summarise recent tramping experiences, whether NZ or overseas. Are these day trips, weekend or some also longer? Maybe a mix? How frequently?*
4. *Are you happy to tramp and travel in a small group with the levels of tolerance and support needed within such a group?*
5. *Anything else about your tramping or outdoor abilities that would be helpful to know?*