

Original artwork by Joanne Knott



SPARK TRAVEL



| 3 Day

AUSTRALASIAN BOTANIC GARDEN GUIDES 18TH CONFERENCE

PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR
THE MID NORTH & LOWER FLINDERS RANGES

| **Thursday 16 October 2025**

(08) 8876 5121

travel@sparktravel.com.au

www.sparktravel.com.au

Suite 1, Ground Floor

29 King William Street

Adelaide, SA 5000

Fully Escorted From Adelaide

Kay Duncan's Heritage Garden at Sevenhill

Gleeson Wetlands at Clare

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden

Pichi Richi Railway

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- **2 nights' accommodation in Port Augusta at the Standpipe Golf Motor Inn including dinner and buffet breakfast.**
- **Kay Duncan's Heritage Garden at Sevenhill including morning tea.**
- **Tour the Gleeson Wetlands at Clare and enjoy a winetasting and light lunch at Knapstein Winery.**
- **Ian Roberts' Medika Gallery at Blyth, and view the amazing Wirrabara Silo Art.**
- **Visit the John Pirie Secondary School for a tour of the Urumbula native plant garden presented by Indigenous students of the school.**
- **Guided tour of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG) in Port Augusta and explore the fascinating Wadlata Centre and 'Tunnel of Time.'**
- **Ride the historic Pichi Richi Railway 'Afghan Express' steam train from Port Augusta to Quorn.**
- **Visit the Pithi Kawi Bush Food Garden at Quorn.**
- ***Optional:* Early morning bird watching and box breakfast.**

ABOUT YOUR ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodation for 2 nights will be at the Standpipe Golf Motor Inn, Port Augusta. All rooms have own ensuite, air conditioning, digital flat screen TV, complimentary high speed WiFi and coffee facilities and bar fridge. Dinner and breakfast will be taken in the dining room of the Homestead and dinners will feature either modern Australian or Northern Indian cuisine. Dinners will be 2 course main and dessert, and breakfasts will be buffet style. All drinks for own account.

The Motor Inn has a rich and fascinating history from its origins as an outback hotel back in 1883. At that time camels were used to transport travellers across the desert and Afghan cameleers would stop to water their camels at the hotel before continuing on their journey into the dusty north.



NOTES:

**Health and Fitness: To assist us when booking, please advise your Spark Travel consultant if you have any special needs such as mobility, dietary etc.

You will need to be able to walk up a flight of stairs and manage coach steps unaided and you must inform us before the commencement of the tour of any medical condition which may affect your ability to participate in the tour. If you are unable to manage on your own, it will be necessary to be accompanied by another person who is fit and able to assist you in day to day tasks and capable of providing the assistance required. Dietary requests must be accompanied by the appropriate dietary information in writing.

**It should be noted that to be fair to all passengers, specific coach seats cannot be reserved.

ITINERARY:

DAY 01 - THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER: ADELAIDE/PORT AUGUSTA - HERITAGE GARDEN, GLEESON WETLANDS, KNAPPSTEIN WINERY, MEDIKA GALLERY, WIRRABARA SILO ART

06.30am Coach will pick up at the **Adelaide Central Bus Station, 85 Franklin Street** and the **2nd pickup will be at 07.00am on North Terrace outside the Adelaide Convention Centre.** We then head directly to **Sevenhill** and the lovely **Heritage Garden** of Kay Duncan. On arrival at the garden, enjoy **morning tea**, followed by a tour of the heritage garden with Kay. Our route then takes us on to **Clare** and a visit to the **Gleeson Wetlands**, followed by a **wine tasting and share platter lunch at Knapppstein Wines.** We then head off to **Blyth** and **Ian Roberts' Medika Gallery** with its many nursery and indoor plants which complement the fabulous art works. We then pass through the immaculately maintained little town of **Laura**, then on to **Wirrabara** to view the **28m Wirrabara Silo Art** painted by renowned Australian artist Sam Bates, also known as 'Smug.' We then travel via Melrose with **refreshments** en route and a short stop to view the **Goyder's Line Plaque** – this is "the line of demarcation between the portion of the state where rainfall has extended and where drought prevails" – a rule of thumb for land use, then via Horrocks Pass to **Port Augusta.**

OVERNIGHT: STANDPIPE GOLF MOTOR INN, PORT AUGUSTA. (M,L,R,D)

DAY 02 - FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER: IN PORT AUGUSTA - PORT PIRIE - JOHN PIRIE SECONDARY SCHOOL & URUMBULA GARDEN, AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN, WADLATA CENTRE

This morning after breakfast we travel to **Port Pirie** and the **John Pirie Secondary School** to view the **Urumbula native plant garden**, containing plants which have traditionally been used for medicine, food and as tools for local Indigenous people. This garden is tended by Indigenous students of the school, assisted by the Aboriginal Education team and local volunteers. Returning to Port Augusta, we head off to the **Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden** located on the shores of Upper Spencer Gulf with spectacular views of the ancient Flinders Ranges. The garden showcases a diverse collection of arid zone plants and habitat in a picturesque setting of over 250 hectares. After a **light lunch** in the café we will explore the gardens with a local guide. Our last stop for the day will be at the unique award-winning **Wadlata Centre.** In your own time, explore **Wadlata's 'Tunnel of Time'** - be transported back to when dinosaurs roamed the land, be introduced to the people who first owned and settled the land and to those who still live there today.

OVERNIGHT: STANDPIPE GOLF MOTOR INN, PORT AUGUSTA. (B,L,D)

DAY 03 - SATURDAY, 18 OCTOBER: PORT AUGUSTA/ADELAIDE VIA QUORN - PICHI RICHI RAILWAY, QUORN & PITHI KAWI BUSH FOOD GARDEN

After breakfast, we check out from the Standpipe Golf Motor Inn and at **10.30am** we join the **'Afghan Express' steam train to Quorn.** Enjoy a superb ride back in time via the **Pichi Richi Pass**, and across the Willochra Plain with views of Devil's Peak. On arrival at **Quorn** enjoy a **light lunch** at the lovely **Quandong Café** and take a guided tour of the **Pithi Kawi Bush Food Garden** which has been transformed into a beautiful natural outdoor space for the local community and visitors to enjoy. The bush food walking trail encourages exploration of the diverse local native plants on show at this garden.

Later we rejoin our coach for the return journey to Adelaide, via Wilmington and Melrose with a stop at **Port Germein**, arriving Adelaide at **7.00pm**, setting down first on **North Terrace** and then the **Adelaide Central Bus Station. (B,L)**

Optional: Early morning birdwatching & box breakfast.

<u>TOUR COST:</u>	Share twin/double:	\$1395.00 per person
	Single supplement:	\$199.00 per person
	*Optional: Bird Watching	\$10.00 per person
	(Pay cash direct to guide on the day, Limited numbers)	

<u>MEAL CODINGS:</u>	(B) – Breakfast	(M) – Morning tea	(L) – Lunch
	(R) – Refreshments	(D) – Dinner	

TOUR INCLUDES:

- All touring and inclusions as per itinerary provided by Spark Travel.
- Airconditioned coach travel.
- Services of an experienced Spark Travel Tour Manager.
- 2 nights' accommodation at the Standpipe Golf Motor Inn, Pt Augusta with private facilities.
- Buffet breakfast each morning, 2 course dinner each evening, 3 lunches, 1 morning tea, 1 refreshments. Other refreshments off the coach will be provided where appropriate.
- The Pichi Richi Railway 'Afghan Express' Port Augusta to Quorn. This may be a diesel engine, depending on the fire risk on the day.
- Goods and Services Tax.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Meals, morning and afternoon teas, drinks other than indicated in the itinerary.
- Portage. Maximum suitcase 20kgs weight + 1 piece hand baggage per passenger.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional Bird Watching. (Pay in cash to guide on the day).

Any wildlife and flora mentioned in the itinerary is nature and therefore cannot be guaranteed.

Arid Lands Botanic Gardens: If the weather is forecast to be 32 degrees or hotter, the guided tour will not run for the safety of the volunteer guides and visitors.

COVID-19:

No responsibility is taken by Spark Travel or the Event Organisers in regard to Covid-19. It is highly recommended that visitors wear a mask on board flights and whilst in enclosed spaces and we also recommend full vaccination against Covid-19.

ENQUIRIES:

Carolyn Edwards, Spark Travel Domestic Tour Manager

Mobile: 0409 868 674

Email: carolyn@sparktravel.com.au

BOOKINGS:

All Pre-Conference tour bookings to be made direct with Spark Travel by email, phone, or personal visit to the office at 29 King William Street, Adelaide, 5000 (Ground Floor).

Phone: (08) 8876 5121

Email: travel@sparktravel.com.au

Priority Bookings: For interstate and overseas delegates (and partners), available until **Friday 27 June**.

All Other Bookings: Open on **Monday 30 June** and **all bookings close on Friday 22 August**.

Expressions of interest may be made prior to 30 June, and will be subject to availability.

Deposit (non-refundable): \$375.00 per person within 5 (five) days of booking.

Balance due: Friday 22 August 2025.

Travel Insurance: Available if required, please ask your Spark Travel Consultant.

Adelaide Hotels: Your Consultant can also suggest suitable hotels located near the conference venue.

TOUR BOOKING CONDITIONS

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Please ask your consultant for details.

Should you have any pre-existing medical conditions, please let your consultant know so they can be listed on the policy.

EVENTS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF SPARK TRAVEL:

Should an event occur which is beyond the control of Spark Travel, ie: delays to ship, aircraft, train, coach thereby incurring extra expenses, these additional costs are borne by the passenger at the time of the event. A travel insurance claim for reimbursement should be submitted to the insurance company upon return home. Please keep any receipts. It should be understood that neither Spark Travel nor any subsidiary company or representative shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage arising from our services.

ITINERARIES:

Itineraries are subject to change and no responsibility can be accepted. Coach operator and size of coach may be changed at the discretion of Spark Travel without notice. No itemisation of tour arrangements can be given and no refund for any portion of a tour not taken. Flora and fauna as described in an itinerary is nature and as such cannot be guaranteed.

ACCOMMODATION:

Spark Travel reserves the right to alter hotel/motel accommodation and to substitute a suitable alternative. Where accommodation is booked on a 'will share basis,' at the time of finalisation if there is nobody suitable to share with, it may be necessary to pay the appropriate single supplement. Spark Travel does not accept any responsibility for the non-compatibility of 'sharing' clients. If by choice a single room is requested and booked a single room surcharge will apply.

HEALTH AND FITNESS:

A minimum level of fitness is required in order to be able to participate. As a minimum you will need to be able to walk up a flight of stairs and manage coach steps unaided. You must inform us before the commencement of the tour of any medical condition which may affect your ability to participate in the tour. Dietary requests must be accompanied by the appropriate dietary information. It is recommended masks be worn on flights and in crowded or inside spaces. To protect yourself and fellow travellers, vaccination against Covid-19 is recommended.

FUEL SURCHARGES AND TAXES:

All bookings may attract additional fuel surcharges and taxes which can be levied up to and including the date of departure even if final payment has been made. Booking is subject to final audit.

SECURITY DEPOSIT:

A non-refundable security deposit of \$375.00 per person (inc GST) is required within five (5 days) of booking.

FINAL PAYMENTS:

The security deposit forms part of the total price, the balance of which is due no later than Friday 22 August 2025, or in the case of bookings made after that date, the final payment is due as soon as the booking is confirmed.

LATE BOOKINGS AND AMENDMENTS:

Bookings made within 7 days inclusive of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$75.00 per person. Late bookings subject to availability. Once a booking has been made a \$75.00 per person amendment fee will apply for any alterations on selected departures only, and if applicable, one (1) change only to that booking. Transfers to other tours not permitted.

CREDIT CARDS:

If paying by credit card, a surcharge applies of 2% for Visa and Mastercard.

CANCELLATION CONDITIONS:

- i) We act as an Agent; and
- ii) That our Terms and Conditions are in addition to the Terms and Conditions of each Travel supplier listed on the quoted itinerary; and
- iii) That it is the Terms and Conditions of the Travel supplier that determine the terms of cancellation and refunds, if any.

BOOKINGS CANCELLED AFTER THE FINAL PAYMENT HAS BEEN MADE:

- (a) Bookings cancelled Friday, 22 August or earlier, full refund less deposit and booking fee and any other non-refundable services or products.
- (b) Bookings cancelled Saturday, 23 August or less prior to departure will incur a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost.
- (c) No refund can be given for any portion of the tour not taken and no refund after the tour has commenced.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is strongly recommended for all travel including domestic.

Travel insurance is available to cover you for cancellation including COVID-19.

Please ask your consultant for a quote.

Accreditation

