

PHOTOGRAPHY
by Ewen Bell



Air
Adventure
Australia

AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

PRE-TRIP DOSSIER 2012/2014



The greatest way to see Australia, flying by light-aircraft into remote and remarkable regions of The Outback. A photography adventure designed by photographers, for photographers. Advance your skills while travelling through Australia's Outback on a 14 day adventure. Open to beginners and advanced photographers alike. You get two leaders, one plane, a maximum group size of eight and the experience of a lifetime.



ITINERARY

14 days across Australia by private aircraft accompanied by professional photographer Ewen Bell - All meals, accommodation, activities and fees are included.

Day 1: Coober Pedy

Our adventure begins in Melbourne, departing by light aircraft for the moonscapes of Coober Pedy. This town is the heart of Opal mining in Australia, and we spend the night in a typical lodging deep underground.

Days 2-3: Kings Canyon

Early morning we take a tour to explore the Breakaways, one of the locations for the filming of Mad Max. We fly onwards to Kings Creek Station to spend two nights in the Red Centre. This is a working cattle station complete with camels, stockmen and landscape scenes at the gorge.

Days 4-5: Mary River Wetlands

A big travel day that sees us flying over the varied terrain of Kakadu National park. That afternoon we arrive at our exclusive lodgings at Point Stuart, a wildlife bonanza along the Mary River Wetlands, to the east of Kakadu.

We have two days of wetlands tours, sunset cruises and opportunities to photograph saltwater crocodiles, Jabiru, Brolga and more. Barramundi fishing on the Mary River can also be accommodated in the schedule.

Day 6: Tiwi Islands

We fly north to Bathurst Island to meet some of the locals and get face to face with indigenous culture in Australia. The Tiwi Islanders are famous for their unique crafts, artwork and friendly faces.

Day 7-8: Faraway Bay

The flight path heading west takes us over the Kimberley coastline, arriving in the remote jewel of Faraway Bay. During our stay we'll make a day trip to the King George Falls, explore Australia's oldest known collections of rock art and get familiar with traditional bush tucker.



Day 9-10: Home Valley Station

We fly further into the wilderness to reach Home Valley, one of the major locations for the filming of "Australia". For two days we'll be treated to photographic inspiration with cattle, cowboys, horses and boabs - plus dramatic views of the Cockburn Range.

Day 11: Bungle Bungles

We fly inland for aerial views of Lake Argyle, arriving at the Bungle Bungles in time to shoot the domes at sunset - when colours are at their best.

Day 12: Uluru

We head south in our aircraft to arrive at Uluru, formerly called Ayers Rock. We'll have the afternoon light on the first day, and then morning light on the next. There is no more iconic symbol of Australia's Outback than this.

Day 13-14: Parachilna

We catch the sunrise upon Uluru, drive a little further out to shoot the Olgas and then head back to the plane for the last stopover. Parachilna is a dusty town where The Outback meets the Flinders Ranges. We have a final night together to enjoy the hospitality at the Prairie Hotel, and enjoy the sunset, saddles and shiraz.

The final day of the trip sets a course over Wilpena Pound for stunning aerial views, before heading all the way back to Melbourne.



THIS ADVENTURE

A unique journey through an ancient land. Our goal is to provide an unparalleled opportunity to practise photography in Australia's most remote and epic landscapes. We help you to get the right sunset, to access the most idyllic wilderness, to meet the real people of The Outback and to make sure you have the time to explore your craft in the process. You won't be worried about travel, meals or accommodation - it's taken care of for you.

Secondly we present a series of photographic themes which introduce key concepts and techniques which will help you improve your photography. Each session will discuss a topic and outline associated techniques. A set of technical notes are provided to accompany these sessions. Your travel itinerary has been developed in conjunction with the session themes, so you can immediately practise the skills you learn.

We will also encourage people to share their work during the trip. Review is very important and can greatly assist the development of your own personal style. Throughout the trip you will be free to consult with your photographic guide as well. You are not confined to the sessions to talk about your work and ideas! This will be a 14 day photographic immersion with like minded people, a tour designed by photographers for photographers.

TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

The photographic themes designed into this trip are aimed at people with a fundamental knowledge of their camera, but who want to learn more. A basic knowledge of aperture, focal length, depth of field and exposure is useful, but not essential. We will even help you learn the technical use of your camera, if that's what you need.

For more experienced photographers the itinerary alone will be an inspiration for your artistic output, plus the chance to share stories with an award winning travel journalist.

People of many different skill levels and ambition will be gathered for the journey, so expect to be in the company of diversity. This tour will appeal to anyone who wants to immerse themselves in the process of cultivating skills and exploring cultures.

You will have a chance to discuss techniques and principles, then immediately go out and practise. This will not give you a qualification, but hopefully will give you confidence and direction to take better photos





WHY SHOOT DIGITAL

For the purpose of this journey a digital camera is the most suitable equipment to carry. We will save the debate about film vs digital for the journey, there will be plenty of time to discuss opinions! Our trip is a chance to develop new skills and the immediate feedback offered by digital cameras is invaluable. The quality, manual control and practicality of modern Digital SLRs make them perfect for travel photography.

Your instructor will also be carrying a laptop computer for the journey, so there will be ample opportunity to review your photographs and study your image in detail.



WILDLIFE

This tour is not designed as a wildlife photography trip, but you will get a chance to photograph birds, crocodiles and marsupials of the outback. Our itinerary includes special excursions to get up close with the wetlands creatures.

You are advised to bring a 300mm telephoto lens or greater if you wish to get good wildlife images on these excursions.





WHO TRAVELS WITH US

Our photographic journeys appeal to both the young and old, the experienced and novice. Most tours are made up of people aged 25-65, and occasionally older or younger still. It doesn't matter what your skills and interest in photography are, you will enjoy sharing a creative and immersive experience in the Australian Outback.

You can read feedback from our past travellers by visiting www.ewenbell.com





ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

We recommend the use of Digital SLR cameras for this journey, but you are not restricted from using any type of camera you may have, including conventional film SLRs and compact cameras. Digital SLR cameras offer excellent manual controls and give us the ability to review our work at the end of each day - a valuable part of this experience. A minimum of 16Gig of memory cards should accompany your camera, plus an additional 60Gig or greater of external storage (hard drive or laptop).

We also recommend that you carry a wide angle lens to make the most of the landscape photography, and a telephoto lens to shoot wildlife. Birds and reptiles will be the most common wildlife to shoot, so the longer the lens the better. A tripod may be useful for people who are dedicated to landscape photography, dusk and dawn images or using neutral density filters.

A good quality day pack will be an essential part of the packing list. Crumpler and Lowe make excellent packs that are designed for camera equipment. Ideally your pack should be comfortable, spacious, and practical. The traditional type of 'over-the-shoulder' camera bag is not very suitable for travel photography, a day-pack is better.

Finally, full travel insurance and coverage for your 'additional items' is absolutely necessary. Standard travel insurance is generally inadequate to cover the value of your equipment unless you stipulate your equipment when buying insurance. It costs very little, so don't be caught short. Please check very carefully that you are fully covered and have completed all necessary details to qualify for suitable coverage.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

At all times during our journey we need to be mindful of how our presence can impact on the cultures we wish to observe. Travel photography carries an even greater burden to ensure that you respect cultural beliefs and personal privacy. We never take photos of people without their express consent; instead we will learn techniques to enable you to gain more intimate connections.





YOUR GUIDES

You will enjoy the company of two leaders for this journey. One is there to assist your journey into the culture, the other to help your journey into photography.

John Dyer is a travel addict and genuine fan of the Australian landscape, its people and natural history. John's father started Air Adventure Australia and for six years John has been leading tours full time across the Outback. He unashamedly says he has the best job in the world, "Since I was small the vast contrasts that exist within this country has fascinated me. The characters that I have met along the way only accentuate the fact that this is such a special place."

Ewen Bell is a travel junkie and recognises the unique charms that Australia has in comparison to the rest of the world. Travel photography is his calling but Ewen has also been practising commercial photography since 1990 with experience in wildlife, travel, commercial and portraiture. Ewen's work is published in many travel brochures each year and appears in regular travel publications including syndicated newspapers across Australia, Australian Geographic Outdoor, Vacations & Travel and Backpacker Essentials.

Ewen's awards include the ASTW Travel Photographer of the Year, twice M.I.L.K Prize Winner and Best Australian Image. In 2011 Ewen became 'Editor at Large' for the Australian edition of Digital Photography Magazine.

Philosophy and Photography

When not travelling on photo tours or filing stories and pictures to the travel media, Ewen Bell publishes a website that offers free advice, information and inspiration to photographers. Visit the website and see for yourself. There's more to photography than the camera, so get a better idea of Ewen's philosophy for how changing your perspective can change your photography.

www.photographyfortravellers.com

