

# Outback Australia

Grand Outback Photography Tour  
2017/2018

Come and see the real Australia in the most exclusive journey you'll ever experience. An epic adventure through The Outback that traverses the southern states on the way to the Red Centre, Uluru, Kakadu, Tiwi Islands and The Kimberley.

A photographic adventure designed by photographers, for photographers. Maximum group size of 8.

PHOTOGRAPHY  
by Ewen Bell



# The Itinerary

## Day 1: Coober Pedy

Our adventure begins in Melbourne with an early check-in and briefing with the pilot, tour leader and instructing photographer. We will be taking off from the wintery conditions in Melbourne and making our way deep into the outback and the town of Coober Pedy. This town is the heart of Opal mining in Australia, and we spend the night in a typical lodging deep underground. We aim to be here for sunset to watch the changing colours across the Breakaways and explore some of the film locations featured in the original Mad Max movies.

## Days 2-3: Kings Canyon

We fly onwards to the dusty red airstrip at Kings Creek Station where we stay on the ground for two nights. Our accommodation is remote but luxurious with a tented camp in the midst of the desert. It's a great location for capturing still life of the flora, and sometimes the wildlife as well. Kings Creek is famous for its pure strains of wild camels, and we'll get a chance to taste them for dinner as well. The highlight of this stop will be the early morning rim-walk at Kings Canyon, a deeply spiritual site for the indigenous people of the area as well as offering unique geological beauty for the camera.

## Days 4-5: Mary River Wetlands

A big travel day sees us flying over the varied terrain of Kakadu National park and swapping the dry air of the Red Centre for the steamy warmth of the Top End. That afternoon we arrive at our exclusive lodgings at Point Stuart, a wildlife lodge located along the Mary River Wetlands, to the west 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, and regardless of whether we catch anything ourselves the chef at Point Stuart will have plenty available in the kitchen each evening. We hope to catch some of the local tree-frogs as well so you can practice macro photography on these gorgeous little creatures, plus there's a chance to see wallabies coming into the lodge lawns around dusk.

## 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. We spend a day with local guides and explore in depth what makes the Tiwi culture unique and inspiring. The local artists are a big part of the experience when visiting the Tiwis and often we have a chance to visit them at work. They make beautiful subjects for the camera when deep in concentration on their paintings. There are no suitable accommodation options on the Tiwis so for this night we land in Darwin and enjoy a glimpse of city life in the Top End until bumping out again early the next day.



# The Itinerary

## Day 7-8: Faraway Bay

The flight path heading west takes us over the Kimberley coastline and extensive mudflats, arriving in the stunningly remote jewel of Faraway Bay. This is a different kind of luxury where we enjoy very special hospitality from our hosts and can watch the sun go down across the ancient sandstone of the Kimberleys. 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.

This location is usually a good place for practising photography of the Milky Way at night, with the help of a tripod and a fast wide lens, and we can practise our night skills before hitting the Boabs of Kununurra later in the schedule.

## 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.

There are many reasons to include Home Valley on the itinerary, one of the most compelling are some unique and remote stands of Boab trees that can be found in the nearby bushland. We make a special journey by 4WD to access a "community" of Boabs that we will shoot in the late afternoon light, and stay on to capture them after sunset and photograph star trails. This is one of the most unique photographic events you can hope to experience, combining the outback and the night sky into one moment.

## Day 11: Bungle Bungles

We fly inland for aerial views of Lake Argyle, arriving at the Bungle Bungles in time to explore some of the landscape with the afternoon light. It's a big park and it's filled with intense waves of grevillia flowers and some unique geological formations that offer wonderful variety to our photography. We plan our visit around a very early shoot to capture the sunrise as it greets the karst domes in Picaninny Creek. The early light gives a warm tone to the beehive shaped domes, making it the best time of day for us to capture the moment.

## Day 12: Uluru

We head south in our private plane to arrive at Uluru, formerly called Ayers Rock. There is no more iconic symbol of Australia's Outback than this and we want to ensure that you get really beautiful images before you leave. We have two dedicated shoot times for our visit, so in the event of cloudy skies on the first night we have a second opportunity to capture the rock the following morning.

Ewen has photographed here many times and knows several wonderful locations for us to photograph depending on the time of day and light conditions. This is also one of Ewen's favourite places to visit even without a camera, a place that holds a powerful energy that is reflected in the deep sacred value placed on Uluru by the local indigenous communities.

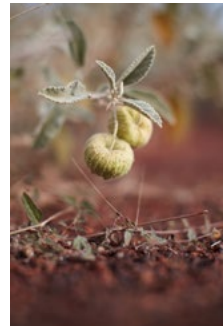
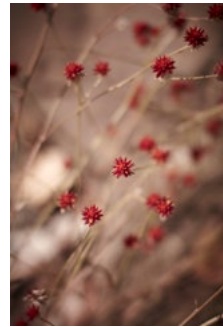
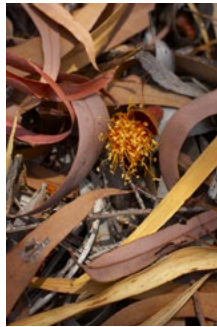
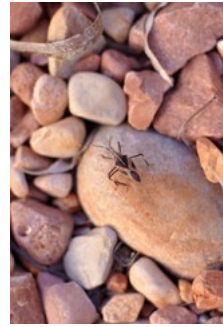
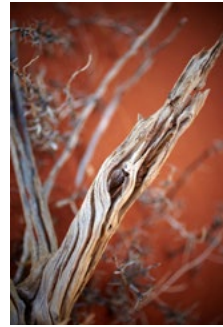
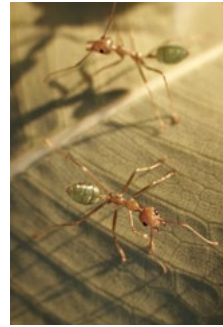
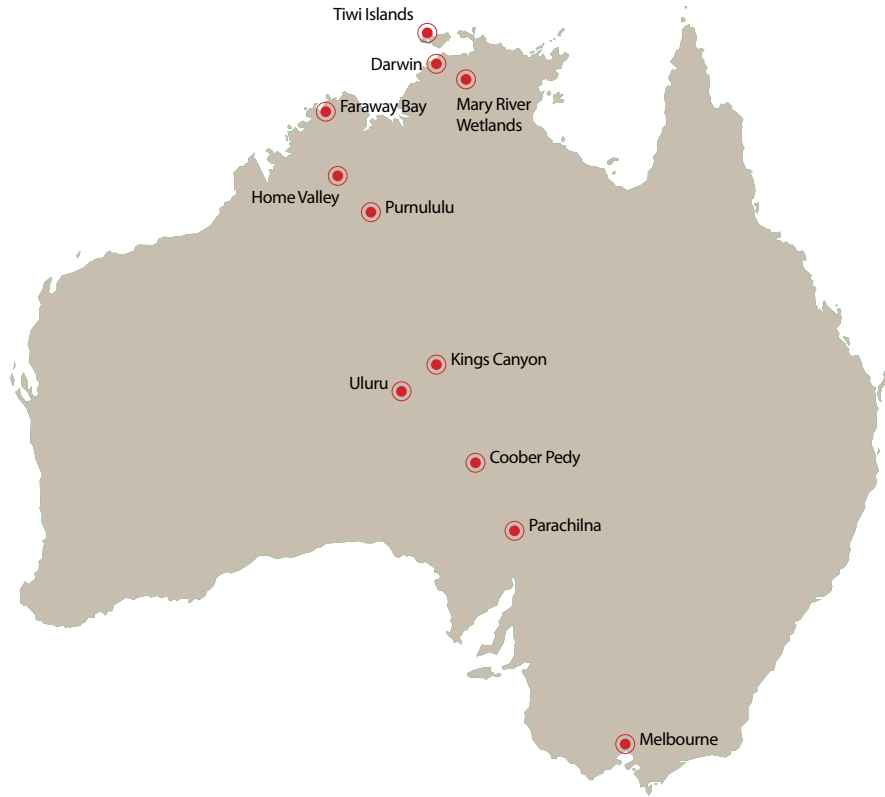
## Day 13-14: Parachilna

Once we depart Uluru our next stop will be further south on the edges of the Flinders Ranges. Parachilna will provide our stylish accommodation for the final evening together, as well as one of the most unhindered views of sunset you'll find in Australia. Facing west across Lake Torrens, a massive salt lake, the locals enjoy intense pink and orange skies on a regular basis.

We make one more early start to venture into the gorges of the Flinders and capture the river gums, plus chase a few of the very rare Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby. We make the most of excellent wine list and hearty kitchen at Parachilna for lunch. The final flight of the trip sets a course over Wilpena Pound for stunning aerial views, before heading all the way back to Melbourne.











# Learn and Explore

If you love your photography, you'll love this tour.

Skills and experience is not a prerequisite. Enthusiam is essential. There is ample one on one time so that your questions can be answered, your photos can be reviewed and your expression can be encouraged. With such a small group size we can ensure everybody gets the encouragement and guidance they desire.

If you're a confident photographer or already work at a professional level, then this journey will simply assist with getting great shots. We encourage everyone on tour to share ideas, to discuss their experiences and learn from each other as well.

Partners are also welcome on these photo tours, but they may need to exercise a little patience with the desires of photographers to make the most of special moments. My photography tours put the photographers first :)





# Your Escort

For the duration of the tour your photographic instructor and escort will be Ewen Bell. His work is published all over the world in travel brochures, the travel media and photography magazines. Ewen's depth of experience with photography tours is impressive, with over 25 journeys completed in recent years across Asia, Australia and Antarctica.

"Few people are fortunate enough to see this much of Australia, let alone in the space of just 2 weeks. One of the most remarkable journeys for anyone who loves photography and wants to immerse themselves in the wide open spaces of the Outback and beyond."

It wouldn't be a great photo tour without a great photographer. But don't take our word for it, visit his websites and see for yourself.

[www.ewenbell.com](http://www.ewenbell.com)

[www.photographyfortravellers.com](http://www.photographyfortravellers.com)











# Photographic Tuition

Not only are these tours designed to deliver exceptional photographic opportunities, but you get the professional photographer included too. Ewen Bell has been running these tours since 2005, working hard to make them even better with each year of experience.

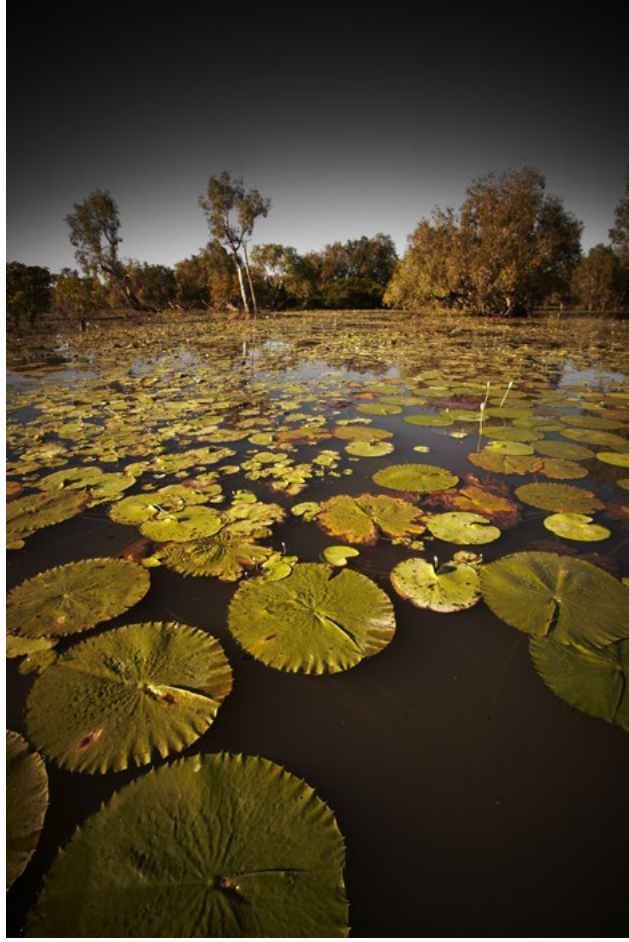
Because the tours are limited to very small groups of just 8 people, Ewen has time to help you with one-on-one advice. For two weeks you have a personal expert to offer ideas and answer questions. Even better, you're travelling in a group of like-minded people, resulting in a total photographic immersion.

Every detail of the craft is open to discussion. Ewen's style is to emphasise the creative potential of photography without getting mired in the technical. He will push you to be in control of the camera, to make the images your own, but for the sake of creativity and expression.

These tours are designed to help you learn to take better photos, and go home with some incredible experiences. Ewen will be there every step of the way to offer support as you need it.











# Star Trails

Every year we make a dedicated effort to chase star trails on this tour. It's a unique and special feature of this itinerary that takes advantage of the dry skies in the outback and the depth of photographic instruction offered by Ewen.

You don't have to spend your evenings chasing the stars to enjoy this tour, but if this has been a life goal for you then you won't find a better opportunity. Ewen can help you pack the right gear when you chat with him over email, but the main ingredients to a great star trail are a sturdy tripod, a cable release and a nice wide lens.

Have a read on Ewen's advice website (Photography for Travellers) for a primer on how to shoot really lovely star trails and galaxy maps.

[www.photographyfortravellers.com/stars](http://www.photographyfortravellers.com/stars)





# Camera Gear

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. We will have access to power for recharging batteries on every evening of the trip, but it's never a bad idea to have a couple of spare batteries for your camera body.

We also recommend that you carry a wide angle lens for general use and landscape opportunities, as we emphasize techniques for portraits and landscapes. A good telephoto lens will help you get the most of our wildlife opportunities on the Mary River wetlands as well.

A tripod is not required for this trip, but is essential for shooting star trails if you're willing to trade a little slumber for that sake of photography. We have to pack light for the aircraft restrictions so make sure it's a light tripod :)

Finally, we do encourage you bring a laptop. We'll have lots of opportunity to share and review images during the journey, plus your laptop can serve as a valuable backup or storage device to make room for more photographs each day. Affordable and light Netbooks or the Mac Air are powerful enough to edit RAW files, review your work and record important details from the journey.

[We encourage all participants to chat with Ewen over email to get precise advice on what they should carry for this trip.](#)













# Art and Creativity

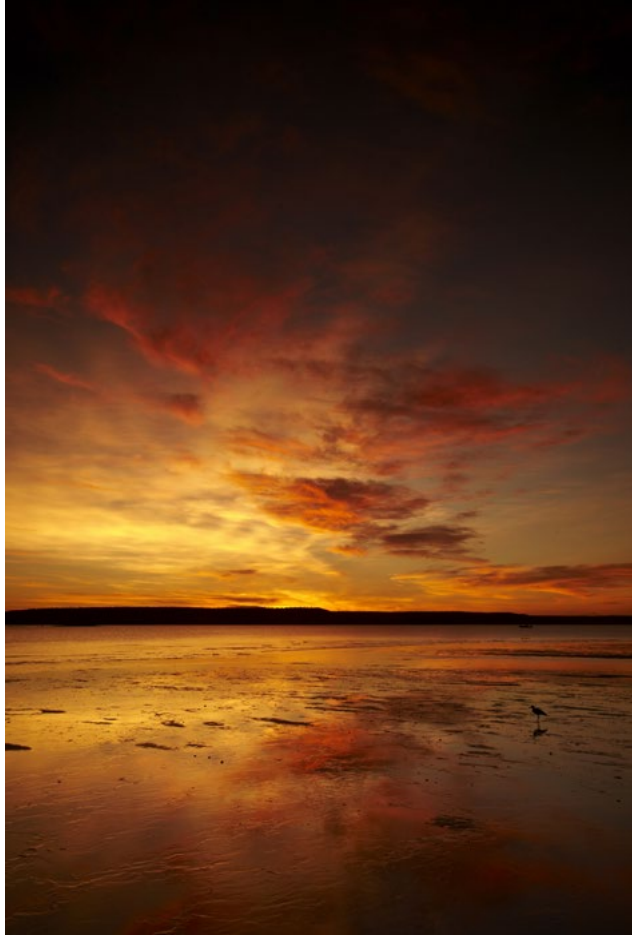
The camera is like a paintbrush, and in the hands of different people it will produce very different images.

Ewen Bell specialises in teaching people about the creative potential of photography, to go beyond the technical issues of a camera and start taking creative control. Expression is at the heart of great photography, sharing your perspective, your view, your experience. Travelling with a photo tour like this one will offer lots of inspiration, but travelling with an instructor like Ewen will give you new ways to express your experience.

A few basic principles underpin the art of travel photography. Go Slow. Get Closer. Look for the Light. Join Ewen for two weeks of photographic adventure and find out for yourself how much inspiration can flow from three very simple ideas.











## 8 is Great!

Ewen Bell restricts all of his photographic tours to just 8 people. With good reason.

"I never want to run a photography tour with more than 8 people, let alone 12 or 16. Smaller groups mean less drama, more fun and are infinitely more rewarding. My first responsibility is to ensure every person on my tour gets plenty of my time and advice, plus to ensure we don't ruin a lovely location by dragging a horde of photographers about. Small isn't just good, it's great!"





# 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 to 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 with like minded people.

You can read feedback from Ewen's past travellers on photography tours by visiting [www.ewenbell.com](http://www.ewenbell.com)











# The Fine Print

## Dates

2017: June 9 - 22

2018: June 8 - 21

## Price

AU\$17,990

## Group Size

Maximum of 8 people

The itinerary information may vary slightly for your specific departure, as we continuously research and develop each trip. Inclement weather or other factors outside our control may also necessitate minor alterations.

## Accommodation

A mix of luxury hotels, tented camps and remote lodges. All accommodation is on a twin-share basis unless you select to pay the single supplement.

## Difficulty Rating

Airtime is by private plane with short hops of 2 hours or less. Some days require two hops to reach the destination. There are no demanding treks on this tour, anyone in good health can travel with us.

## Inclusions

The instructing photographer and tour guide, plus local guides and transfers, are included for this journey. All meals are included, along with wine with dinner and bottled water along the journey. Boat excursions and sightseeing activities are all included.

## Not included

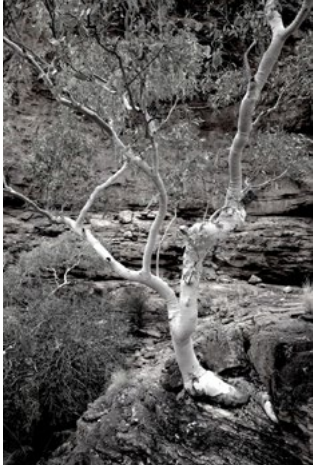
- Gratuities and items of personal nature
- Beverages, Laundry, Phone and Internet Charges
- Your Camera!











# Make A Booking

## How to Book

Simply visit the website for Air Adventure Australia and complete the online booking form to reserve a place, or fill out the printed booking form and mail it to Air Adventure Australia. Once payment of the deposit has been received your place on the trip is confirmed.

[www.airadventure.com.au](http://www.airadventure.com.au)

## Australian Office

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