

8 NIGHT RANGES TO RIVER GREAT WALKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA EX ADELAIDE 2022



THE ARKABA WALK
Wild Bush Luxury





RANGES TO RIVER: GREAT WALKS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA EXPERIENCE
AT A GLANCE

DAY 1	ADELAIDE TO ARKABA
DAY 2	ARKABA HOMESTEAD TO BLACK’S GAP CAMP 13KM
DAY 3	BLACK’S GAP TO ELDER CAMP 15KM
DAY 4	ELDER CAMP TO ARKABA HOMESTEAD 14-15KM
DAY 5	FLINDERS RANGES TO RENMARK
DAY 6	RENMARK TO HEADINGS CLIFFS 12KM
DAY 7	HEADINGS CLIFFS TO CHOWILLA CREEK 14KM
DAY 8	CHOWILLA CREEK TO BUNYIP REACH CLIFFS 12KM
DAY 9	BUNYIP REACH CLIFFS TO ADELAIDE

A photograph of three emus standing in a dry, grassy field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The text "DAY ONE" and "ADELAIDE TO ARKABA" is overlaid in white capital letters.

DAY ONE ADELAIDE TO ARKABA

A guide will greet you in the arrivals hall at Adelaide domestic airport at 9:30 am sharp. If you have stayed in Adelaide, you will be met in the lobby of your city located hotel between 9:50 and 10 am before hitting the open road to Arkaba. Heading north from Adelaide, you will bypass the small country towns of Virginia, Two Wells and Dublin. Keep an eye out for the imaginative collection of large sculptures along the highway, made by protesting the development of a waste facility in the small town. Next, stop for lunch on the banks of Bumbunga Lake. Following a quick break, your journey will take you past the infamous Snowtown, Redhill, Port Pirie and Port Germein before another shortstop in the historic railway town of Quorn. Arkaba is about an hour away from here, and you will arrive at Arkaba Homestead by 5 pm in time to freshen up before your guided lay of the land experience and a three-course meal hosted by one of Arkaba's field guides.





THE ARKABA HOMESTEAD IS YOUR OASIS OF COMFORT AT THE FOOT OF THE ELDER RANGE

Your first and fourth evening will be spent in the comfort of Arkaba's restored homestead, a member of Luxury Lodges of Australia, and an exclusive outback Australian experience. The layout of the original homestead has been retained; each of the five homestead guestrooms has a character of its own and is 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 décor has been hand-fashioned by wildlife artist Rosie Woodford-Ganf. 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 today 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 5:30 pm in time to settle in, take a hot bush shower (with a view!) and enjoy a pre-dinner drink and canapes service as the sun sinks behind the ancient ramparts of Wilpena Pound. Our signature camp is between Bunbinyana Range and Wilpena Pound, previously occupied by a shepherd in the late 1850s. His stone chimney place 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, accompanied by local South Australian wine. Enjoy some tales around our bush TV, the good old campfire, and retire to your swag bed for an unforgettable night under a canopy of stars.

Day 2 is approximately 13km, 5 – 6 hours





SLEEP AND DINE UNDER THE STARS AT ARKABA'S SIGNATURE SWAG CAMPS

Each signature walking camp has five permanent swag decks. The low timber decks are slightly elevated. Each has a ½ metre corrugated iron screen around three sides to give privacy – the fourth side 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 campsite has two waterless composting toilets – each in their own little 'dunny' shed and strategically located to enjoy the best of the views. In addition, each camp has two bush showers – essentially buckets filled with water warmed on the fire and equipped with taps to regulate the flow. Some unique Wild Bush Luxury touches ensure these bush showers will be a feature of your trip!





DAY THREE BLACKS 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 region's pastoral history, 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. Again, you'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 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 await.

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



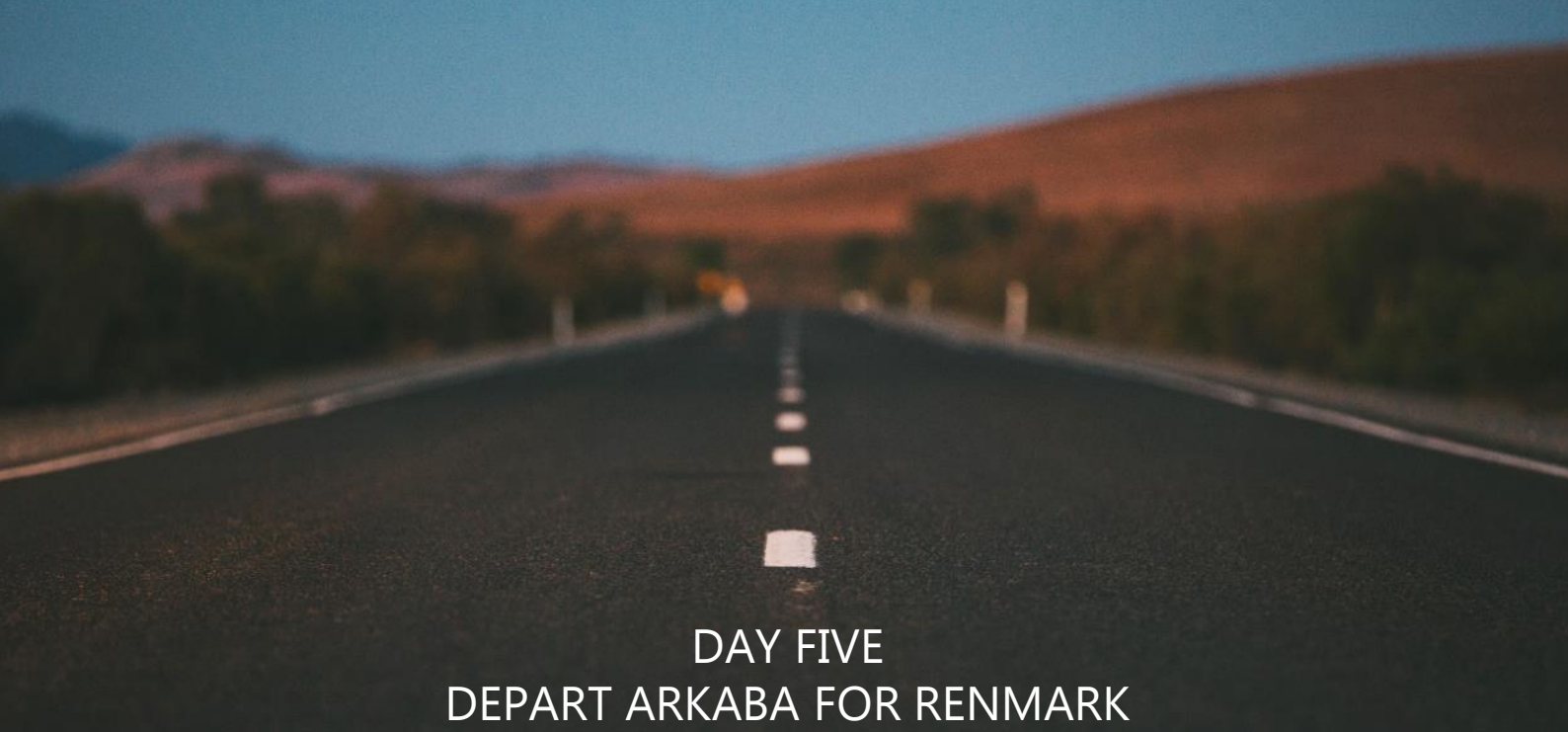


DAY FOUR ELDER CAMP TO ARKABA HERITAGE HOMESTEAD

Wake to glorious morning light creeping up 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, holding 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 onto the banks of the Arkaba Creek, shady and picturesque and lined with time-honoured 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 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

Depart Arkaba Homestead after breakfast for a scenic road transfer through gorgeous outback towns with wine tasting and lunch in the Clare Valley wine country. The Wild Bush Luxury team will bid farewell. You will meet your Murray River Walk driver, continuing your transfer east through Robertson and Morgan before arriving at the Renmark Hotel with dinner at the Nanya Bistro included this evening.

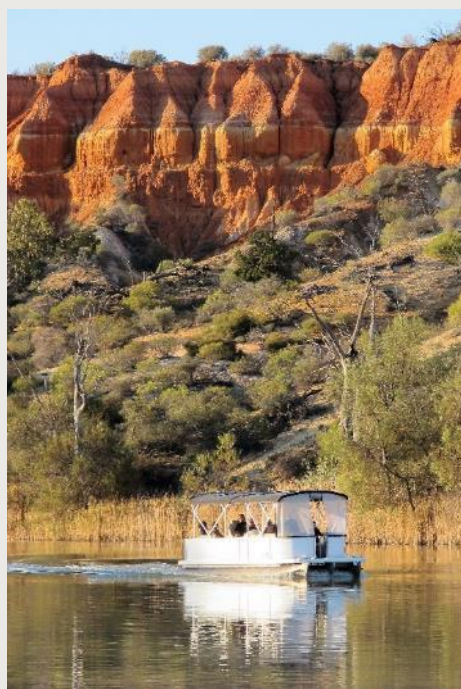




YOUR FLOATING OASIS ON THE MURRAY RIVER

The house-boat is your lodge-based accommodation on the Murray River Walk. The scenery from your houseboat and your bedroom windows is always spectacular. In the evenings, relax in the houseboat lounge and share stories with your fellow travelers, 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 8 am at the Renmark Community Hotel for a pre-walk briefing before we board the pontoon “cruiser” boat for a 14 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 – before 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

Rise 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 the morning. Learn about 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, giant 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





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 approximately 2 km, you will be collected by your guide before cruising in the pontoon boat through Lock 6. See how the lock operates to allow boats pass up and down the river. Departing Lock 6 we'll re-join the houseboat and slowly cruise downstream, 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 before saying your farewells. You will depart for Renmark by bus before continuing on to Adelaide to arrive Adelaide airport by 5 pm in time for connecting evening flights. Alternatively, if you are staying on in Adelaide we are happy to arrange to drop you at your city located hotel.

Day 9 optional 2km walking, 23km cruising





PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Expert field guides

Two nights Arkaba Homestead

Two nights Arkaba walking swag camps

One night Renmark Hotel

Three nights Houseboat accommodation on the Murray River

Road transfers from Adelaide throughout

Guided lay of the land safari experience at Arkaba

All meals & beverages including trail snacks

Backpack with hydration reservoir & plenty of room for personal items

Support vehicle taking your main luggage between camps at Arkaba

Toiletries

Arkaba Conservation Levy

YOUR GUIDE WILL CARRY

Satellite phone and navigation aid for emergency use

Hand held UHF radio for communication

First Aid kit

Flora and fauna identification guides



WHAT TO BRING

- ☐ Hiking boots offering good ankle support and are well worn in
- ☐ Light long pants – eg zip-off leg types or shorts
- ☐ Light wicking shirts (with SPF recommended) or light cotton shirts, preferably long-sleeved
- ☐ Camera and spare batteries (no charging facility available until you reach Arkaba Homestead on day four)
- ☐ Wide brimmed hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- ☐ Small personal first aid kit including blister protection and insect repellent
- ☐ Casual attire for evenings
- ☐ Warm clothing including a hat, thermals, scarf, gloves and fleece
- ☐ Wind cheater / waterproof jacket
- ☐ Binoculars optional for wildlife and bird viewing
- ☐ Swimming costume for houseboat hot tub!

Take comfort in knowing we undertake robust cleaning practices after each walk. We encourage you to bring your own gear - water bottle, back pack, walking poles & gaiters - if you are not comfortable using ours.



RESERVATIONS

RATES

\$5,685 per person twin-share.

\$8,250 single occupancy.

RESERVATIONS, SALES & MARKETING

Tel: +61 2 9571 6399 Toll free: 1300 790 561 Email: arkabawalk@wildbushluxury.com.

HOW TO PAY

Settling your account is easy at arkabawalk.com/pay.

GROUP SIZE

Our Ranges to River Great Walks of South Australia experience ex Adelaide operates with a minimum of four and a maximum of 10 people.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We recommend all guests obtain travel insurance, including cancellation and emergency medical care.

CANCELLATION POLICY

If you cancel outside of 30 days, your deposit will be refunded, less a \$50 administration fee. If you cancel within 30 days, all monies will be forfeited. If we do not meet the minimum numbers for your walk departure to operate, we will be in touch at least 35 days before your scheduled departure to work through possible alternatives. We care about your holiday and value your decision to travel with us. Thoughtful consideration will be taken to give you the option of an inspirational Wild Bush Luxury alternative. A full refund on monies received will be issued on rare occasions when a suitable choice is unavailable.