

Memory Mountain 7-Day Photography Tour Itinerary



Immerse Yourself in our Spectacular Outback

Day 1 – Wednesday, 17 June - Welcome to the Red Centre

Sunset: 5:55 pm Last Light 6:20 pm

Arrive in Alice Springs, Northern Territory, where you'll be met at the airport by the Ken Duncan team.

We'll gather for a relaxed group lunch at Stumps Café, giving you time to meet your fellow photographers, and ease into the rhythm of the journey ahead.

This afternoon, you will visit the **Aboriginal Fabric Gallery**, showcasing vibrant Central Desert art, crafts and textiles. Then you will have some time to explore Alice Springs or rest, before having dinner at a great local restaurant.

Overnight: Diplomat Motel, Alice Springs

Day 2 – Thursday, 18 June - West MacDonnell Ranges to Haasts Bluff

Sacred Gorges & Desert Light

First Light: 6:50 am Sunrise: 7:15 am Sunset: 5:55 pm Last Light: 6:20 pm
Moon Rise: 10:08 am Moon Set: 9:23 pm

Early morning – sunrise shoot near Alice Springs, then back to town for breakfast at Stumps Café.

Check out of the motel mid-morning and drive to spectacular **Standley Chasm**, to photograph the dramatic rock walls and shifting light. With our packed lunch, we'll head on to **Ormiston Gorge** for dedicated photography time in one of the most iconic locations in the West MacDonnell Ranges.

From here, we journey deeper into Central Australia, for sunset photography at either the **Sleeping Camel** or **Finke River**. Then you will transfer to **Haasts Bluff**, where dinner will be waiting for you when you arrive at the Walk a While Creative Technologies Centre (**CTC**), your home for the coming days. Over dinner, you will receive a cultural briefing so you are aware of the local customs and expectations when staying in a remote Indigenous community.

Day 3 – Friday, 19 June – Art & Desert Landscapes

Art and Epic Landscapes

First Light: 6:50 am Sunrise: 7:15 am Sunset: 5:56 pm Last Light: 6:20 pm
Moon Rise: 10:51 am Moon Set: 10:26 pm

At dawn, those who wish to can head out for **sunrise photography** at another stunning local location. Breakfast will be served back at the CTC.

Mid-morning, we visit **Ikuntji Art Centre**, one of Australia's most respected Indigenous art centres. You'll meet local artists, view works in progress, and have time to browse artworks and crafts from this culturally rich region.

In the afternoon, we head to **Papunya**, beginning with a visit to **Tjupi Arts Centre**, where you'll encounter extraordinary works by artists from this renowned community.

You'll then explore Papunya community, before heading out to the **Papunya Ranges** for expansive landscape photography.

Sunset this evening remains flexible, allowing us to choose the best location based on light and conditions.

Dinner awaits back at the CTC.

Day 4 – Saturday, 20 June - Bush Tucker & Cultural Encounters

Living Culture & Stories of Country

First Light: 6:51 am Sunrise: 7:15 am Sunset: 5:56 pm Last Light: 6:20 pm
Moon Rise: 11:28 am Moon Set: 11:25 pm

This morning you can shoot **sunrise at a local location**, then return to the CTC for breakfast.

After breakfast, you will join some local Indigenous ladies as they **forage for bush tucker** - witchetty grubs, honey ants and possibly more. As you walk on Country, you'll learn about native plants, their traditional uses, and the stories embedded in the land - with ample photographic opportunities along the way.

Following a wholesome lunch, you'll enjoy a **boomerang carving demonstration**, and see how the local ladies **cook kangaroo tails** and witchetty grubs in their traditional ways. You'll have the chance to sample this bush tucker and, of course, photograph the experience.

Sunset photography this evening will be at another outstanding location.

And dinner becomes something truly special, as we are joined by **Ikuntji Elders**, the Traditional Owners of this land. This is a rare and intimate opportunity to listen, learn, and engage in open conversation.

Day 5 – Sunday, 21 June – New Landscapes & Memory Mountain Vistas

Gorges, Art & Epic Landscapes

First Light: 6:51 am Sunrise: 7:16 am Sunset: 5:56 pm Last Light: 6:21 pm
Moon Rise: 12:02 pm Moon Set: No Set

As has become your new normal, there will once again be the **option for sunrise photography** for those keen to chase first light. You will return to the CTC for breakfast.

The morning is deliberately unhurried — allowing time to **rest, download and process images**, and take part in an informal discussion session with Ken. This is a valuable opportunity to reflect on your work, refine edits, and talk through techniques and composition.

After lunch, we will head further afield for photography opportunities in the **West MacDonnell Ranges**, visiting some exciting new locations.

As the day draws to a close, we make our way back to Memory Mountain. If you choose the steep walk to the summit, you will be rewarded with 360-degree views of the surrounding desert landscape - a quintessential Central Australian scene and a fitting photographic highlight.

Dinner will be served back at the CTC — by now a familiar and much-anticipated ritual.

After dinner, if you have the energy, we might try for some astro photography.

Day 6 – Monday, 22 June - Deep Landscapes & Farewell to Country

Panoramas, Reflection & Final Light

First Light: 6:51 am Sunrise: 7:16 am Sunset: 5:56 pm Last Light: 6:21 pm
Moon Set: 12:20 am Moon Rise: 12:33 pm

An early start sees us travel to **Glen Helen Gorge** to photograph sunrise. There you will enjoy your **packed breakfast** in peace and stillness. Then you will head over to **revisit Ormiston Gorge** in the morning light, seeing the landscape with fresh eyes and deeper understanding. With familiarity now on your side, this is often where photographers produce some of their strongest images.

Back at the CTC, enjoy lunch and some time to relax or download and process your images.

Sunset photography this evening could be at a local waterhole, hoping for perfect reflections and some interesting wildlife.

Your **final dinner at the CTC** will be served on your return. Expect a warm mix of celebration and reflection as you share stories, favourite moments, and the quiet realisation of how profoundly this place has left its mark.

Day 7 – Tuesday, 23 June - Ellery Creek & Departure

Final Light in the Red Centre

First Light: 6:51 am Sunrise: 7:16 am

Moon Set: 1:14 am Moon Rise: 1:05 pm

We depart Haasts Bluff early today, bidding farewell to the Ikuntji Community as we travel to our final photographic destination.

You will enjoy sunrise and an early morning snack at **Ellery Creek Big Hole**, then we'll take a **group photo** to mark your outback adventure.

From there, we continue into **Alice Springs** for our final breakfast together. Then you will be delivered to the airport for onward travel, carrying home not only images, but stories, connections, and a deep sense of place.

Tour Price includes:

- All on-ground travel in air-conditioned 4-WD vehicles
- All accommodation and meals during the tour
- Memory Mountain entry fees
- Personal tuition, guidance and feedback from Ken Duncan
- Experienced local Indigenous guides

What's Not Included:

- Travel to and from Alice Springs
- Lunch on Day 7
- Personal purchases and tips
- Travel Insurance (which is highly recommended)

Please note: Your itinerary is subject to change, according to weather and other local conditions.

Please read the attached for additional information.

***** IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO MEMORY MOUNTAIN & THE RED CENTRE**

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

In Haasts Bluff, you will be staying at the Creative Technologies Centre (CTC), operated by Walk a While Foundation, The CTC features a fully equipped kitchen, spacious living area, and free 5G Wi-Fi internet. Fresh linen and towels will be provided for you. We recommend you do not drink the local water, but it is safe for washing hands and showering. We will provide spring water for you to drink during your stay.

YOUR TRANSPORT

All your on-ground transport will be in air-conditioned 4-WD vehicles. All vehicles carry recovery equipment, satellite phone and an esky for cool drinks, and have been fully modified 4-WD driving in outback conditions.

YOUR MEALS

Most of your meals will be provided during your stay (please refer to detailed itinerary for any exceptions). Fresh fruit and snacks will also be available throughout the day and plenty of water to keep you hydrated. ***Please advise if you have any dietary requirements.***

MOBILE COVERAGE

Due to the remote location, there is limited mobile phone coverage in Haasts Bluff, although parts of Papunya have Telstra coverage. The Creative Technologies Centre has a land line, and free 5G Wi-Fi connection which allows Wi-Fi data calling on your mobile phone.

WEATHER

The semi-arid climate of the western desert region makes for warm travelling conditions. Sunny days and cooler nights may be expected for much of the year, while the hot summer often sees dramatic storms with rains which turn the Red Centre foliage a lush green. Daytime temperatures usually range from 35 to 38°C in summer (April to October) and 20 to 24°C in winter (June to September). Sometimes summer temperatures in December and January can climb to over 40°C.

CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

Although there is no specific dress code for your stay, we recommend modest, comfortable, casual clothing. You will need sturdy enclosed walking shoes or boots for your trek up the mountain and for bush walking. Sandals are fine for wearing indoors and in the evenings.

WHAT TO BRING

Camera (digital / film) with lenses and spare batteries
Tripod and Cable release or electronic shutter release
Storage cards – SD / CF cards
Sturdy walking shoes and long pants
Head torch (with spare batteries)
Optional for image processing - Laptop and hard drive for backing up your images.
Sunhat, Sunscreen and Insect repellent
Layered clothing, warm jacket or jumper and a beanie for cold mornings or evenings.
Windproof jacket and possibly thermal undergarments.
Optional - Rain Jacket
Water bottle – so you can refill and take with you.
Personal medications
Ear plugs are recommended (in case of snoring or generator noises)

CONTACT DETAILS:

Diplomat Motel, Alice Springs – Phone: 08 8952 8977.

Walk a While Foundation Creative Technologies Centre, Haasts Bluff – Phone: 08 8964 8020.

For more information, please email events@kenduncan.com