

Explore Central Australia

Watercolour Workshop with Cheryl Bruce



Explore Alice Springs and the Tjoritja / East and West MacDonnell Ranges taking the time to sit and paint, absorb the environment, beauty and birdlife rather than rushing to see all of the sites like we often do on a 'normal' holiday.

Itinerary – 13 – 21 May 2023

We will base ourselves in Alice Springs in 4 star self-contained accommodation, in a mix of one bedroom studio, and two bedroom apartments. 9 days, 8 nights.

Day 1 – Saturday 13th May 2023

Arrival and check into our accommodation in Alice Springs. Transfers from Alice Springs airport are included. Afternoon walking tour of Alice Springs township, and a Woolworths run for breakfast and picnic lunch supplies. Welcome dinner – Venue TBA

Day 2 – Sunday 14th May 2023

Visit the beautiful Yeperenye/Emily Gap and Jessie Gaps Nature Park, in the East MacDonnell Ranges where we will commence our painting journey. Explore the colours of the rock formations and reflections (if there is water). Here in this magical place we will begin our journey of painting onsite, developing the art of listening, observing and recording what we see and feel.

If access allows (little water), view the traditional rock art of the Arrernte people at Emily Gap which tell the caterpillar dreaming story.

Bring a packed lunch to enjoy a picnic onsite.

On our return we will stop at the Araluen Art Centre to visit the art on exhibit and Albert Namatjira works on display at the art gallery.

Day 3 – Monday 15th May 2023

Heading over to the West MacDonnell ranges we will spend a half day painting at Rungutjirpa/Simpson's Gap. Here we will experience the permanent waterhole, large stands of Mulga trees and Ghost Gums in the wide dry river bed.

BYO packed lunch

On our return to Mparntwe (pronounced m'barn-twa) / Alice Springs we may visit the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens.

Day 4 – Tuesday 16th May 2023

Enjoy a slower start to the morning and then head out to Angkerle Atwartye / Standley Chasm and experience the 80 metre high gorge and the walk through the native trees, abundant palms, grasses and plants. We will have early lunch on the verandah of the kiosk café on site (included) and then a guided walk and talk with a local Aboriginal guide. After the tour we will paint and sketch near the chasm.

Tonight's dinner is included in Alice Springs – what better way to celebrate Cheryl's birthday than with a like-minded bunch of artists. Restaurant TBA.

Day 5 – Wednesday 17th May 2023

Free day – relax, swim, catch up on your paintings, or go exploring, it is up to you.

We can do a minibus drop off and pick up at set times to the Alice Springs Desert Park for those who want to go along and enjoy the nature shows and learn more about the desert plants, wildlife. Entry fees not included - \$37 pp or \$30 seniors. No painting tuition at that location but you would be able to continue your sketching and painting there.

Woolworths top up grocery shop expedition.

Day 6 – Thursday 18th May 2023

Let's head out to Kwartatuma/Ormiston Gorge with a possible stop to view the Ochre Pits. Lunch is available from the café on site (not included), or you can bring a picnic lunch.

In the afternoon we will make a concertina book in preparation for our sketch walk across the top of Trepina Gorge.

Day 7 – Friday 19th May 2023

Sit and paint and watch the people come and go from Udepata/Ellery Creek Big Hole, while we absorb the spirit of the place in more depth. Swimming is allowed at this waterhole if you feel the desire (though it will be chilly that seems part of the excitement.) The towering red cliffs surround the waterhole, and the rich green reflections on the water are quite magnificent in this large body of water. The finches were prolific in this location as well as Emily and Jessie Gaps and they may come quite close to your painting set up. BYO packed lunch.

Afternoon show and tell of our week's work back at the ranch.

Watch the sun set from Anzac Hill before choosing a spot for dinner in town (not included).

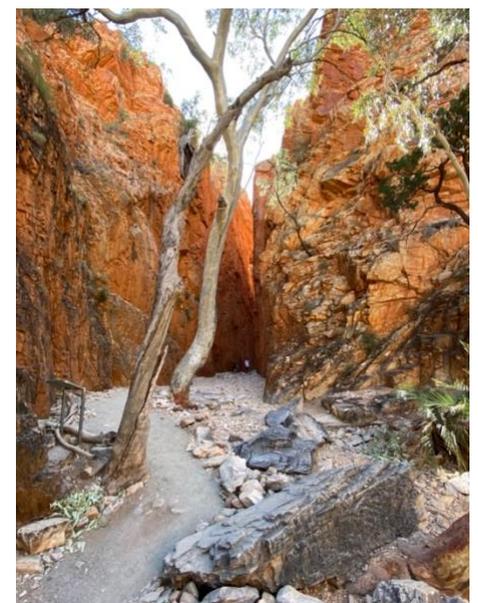
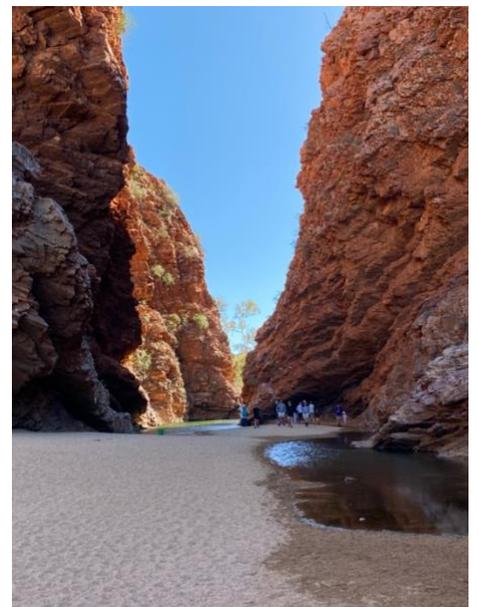
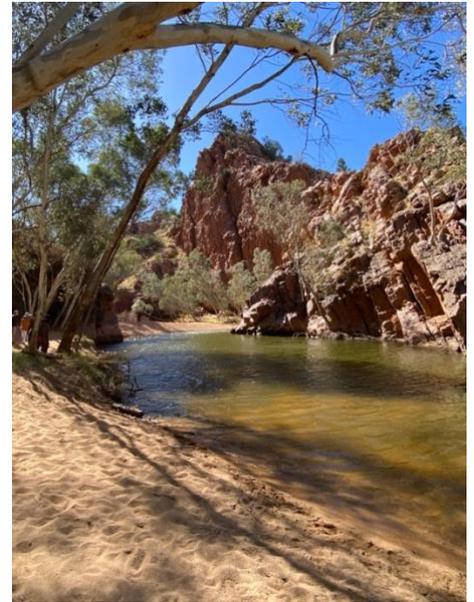
Day 8 – Saturday 20th May 2023

Walk the top of Trepina Gorge, taking only our lightest sketching gear and our handmade concertina book, sketchwalking and journaling the landscape, flora and fauna along the way.

Visit the Ghost Gum that is thought to be over 300 years old and measures 33 metres tall. This is a 2km loop that is rated moderate along the rim of the Gorge with scenic views. The track descends into the Gorge and follows the red gum lined creek back.

Please bring a packed lunch so that we can optimise our time here.

Farewell dinner this evening – Venue TBA





Day 9 – Sunday 21st May 2023

Departure day today.

You may be heading back home, in which case we will transfer you to the airport, or you might be off to Uluru or another fabulous local site. There are many great places close by that we won't have seen, and you may decide to stay extend your trip and see Kings Canyon, Rainbow Valley, Glen Helen, or of course Uluru. There are many companies who do short tours that might be of interest to you.

Please note – specific days and locations may change or be swapped due to weather or guide availability.

INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights accommodation at Alice on Todd.
- Transfers to and from Alice Springs airport on 13th May and 21st May. If you fly in or out on different days transfers are not included.
- 3 dinners - welcome and farewell dinner – venues to be advised, dinner out in Alice Springs township on Tuesday evening
- 1 lunch included at Standley Chasm
- Entry fees and guided tour fees for listed areas/tours – Alice Springs Walking Tour, Standley Chasm Cultural Guided Walk, Araluen Art Centre
- Mini-bus transport to painting and sightseeing excursions is included.
- Materials to make concertina sketchbook.
- 6 days painting tuition and guidance from Cheryl Bruce in a small group plein air workshop setting.
- Relaxed BBQ dinner one night by the pool at our accommodation.

EXCLUSIONS

- Airfares to and from Alice Springs
- Travel insurance - we strongly recommend travel insurance to cover yourself for cancellation, medical and hospital expenses, and other unforeseen expenses.
- Breakfasts and lunches
- Dinners where they aren't mentioned specifically on the itinerary. We will take the mini bus into town each night and we can dine as a group or you can dine separately. Please have some cash for these nights out to manage split bills.
- Art materials.
- Alcoholic drinks unless specified.

We have been intentional in our accommodation selection to keep our workshop affordable in order the people can have a solo room or bedroom on their own, and to simplify meals. All rooms have a kitchen/kitchenette to manage their own dietary requirements and preferences for breakfast and a packed lunch for our longer days out sketching. Some of the areas have kiosks like Ormiston gorge – I had a delicious, toasted focaccia there. Aside from minimising costs this also allows us to paint longer in areas where there are no cafe options on site. Some days we have 1-1.5 hrs travel each way to the painting location.

If you prefer to have a higher end style accommodation you are welcome to book your accommodation separately and pricing will be adjusted accordingly (please discuss prior to booking). If this is the case, please be aware that you may need your own transport for evenings. We have chosen accommodation that is close to town and easy access to restaurants, and supermarkets. We may pick up from one other hotel location for our day excursions, but in the evenings and on the free day you would need to make your own way to restaurants or attractions.

PRICING

- Option 1 - Solo Painter – Studio Apartment with kitchenette on own - \$3500 p/p
Option 2 - Couple Both Painters – Studio Apartment with kitchenette - \$5760 p/couple
Option 3 – Solo Painter – Twin Share – own bedroom in 2 bedroom apartment with kitchen and shared bathroom - \$3300 p/p
Option 4 – Solo Painters - Triple Share – in 2 bedroom apartment - \$3100 (queen bedroom) & 2800 each (twin room)

Early bird discount – Book and pay a 50% deposit prior to 31 December 2022 and receive 10% discount.

Option 1&2 can upgrade to a One Bedroom Deluxe Apartment with full kitchen, living room, courtyard or balcony for \$360 (per room).

For options 3&4 when booking please advise if you are travelling with a friend/s who you will share accommodation with. The triple share option will have one bedroom with queen bed and one bedroom with 2 single beds.

The rooms are allocated on a first booked first served basis, so if all of the Studio apartments are already allocated, we will discuss sharing options with you. You would still be able to have a solo bedroom in a 2 bedroom apartment (sharing kitchen, bathroom, living space with another participant).

If you are travelling solo but would like to share a 2 bedroom apartment with another participant and would like me to link you up please indicate that on the booking form, but please also allow the addition cost if there isn't another participant wanting shared accommodation.

Non painting partners are welcome – please contact me in relation to pricing for non-painting partners as it will vary dependant on whether the non-painter is joining us on our daily excursions. We are limited to the size of our minibus. For instance, if you have your own vehicle, the price can be varied further than the Option 1 pricing above.

About the accommodation –

Just 5 minutes' drive from central Alice Springs, Alice on Todd Apartments offers fully self-contained accommodation with security gates on all entrances and free parking at your door. Flat-screen TV's, reverse cycle air conditioning, washing machines and FREE Wi-Fi. Guests have access to the outdoor swimming pool, games room and children's playground.

Studio Apartment -

Room size 35sqm

This motel-style Studio Apartment offers a television, split system air conditioning, kitchenette, lounge, dining setting and private outdoor area. The kitchenette has a microwave, cooktop, bar fridge, toaster, cooking utensils and crockery. The apartment has full laundry facilities including an iron and ironing

board. Pets are allowed in some studio apartments upon request. Please note that no additional beds available for this room type. Free WiFi!

Amenities –

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|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Airconditioning | Dinning Setting | Double Bed | Fridge/Bar Fridge |
| Heating | Linen Provided | Laundry Facilities | Iron/Ironing Board |
| Outdoor Setting | Television | Ceiling Fans | Hairdryer |
| Kitchenette | Microwave | Shower - separate | Tea/coffee Making |
| Toaster | Weekly Room Servicing | | Non Smoking |

Two Bedroom Apartment -

Apartment size: 80sqm

All apartments are upstairs offering a spacious living area and FREE Wi-Fi.

This large two-bedroom apartment includes a television, split-system air-conditioning in the living room, fully equipped kitchen, two lounges in the living room, a four piece dining setting and an outdoor area situated on a private balcony. The apartment has laundry facilities including an iron and ironing board. Please note that this apartment is not pet friendly.

Amenities –

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Air conditioned | Dining Setting | Heating | Iron/Ironing board |
| Laundry Facilities | Linen Provided | Hairdryer | Shower - Separate |
| Outdoor Setting | Lounge Area | Queen Bed | King / 2 single beds |
| Stairs | Verandah | Balcony | DVD Player & Free In-House Movies |
| Fridge - Fullsize | Kitchen | Oven | Stove top |
| Microwave | Tea/Coffee Making | Toaster | Television |
| Non-Smoking | Ceiling Fans in Bedrooms only | | Weekly Room Service |

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. To book – a deposit of \$1000 is required (via direct deposit) along with the booking form. If the balance due date for the workshop has passed, the full payment is required at the time of booking, or please discuss a payment plan with us. If taking advantage of the early bird offer, 50% deposit is required.
2. The balance of payment is due by 90 days prior to workshop commencement date – 12 Feb 2023.
3. If you are electing twin or triple share accommodation and do not have a travelling companion, please allow for the additional supplement (option 1) if there isn't another guest wanting to share.
4. If all Studio Apartments are reserved prior to your booking, we will discuss sharing options with you prior to confirming that you are happy to go ahead with your workshop booking.
5. Participants must have a reasonable level of fitness and ability to walk into our locations carrying their painting gear. Ground and surfaces will be uneven as is the nature of painting plein air in the bush. Please bring sturdy walking shoes which have been well broken in. All guests must be able to carry their own art supplies to and from painting sites and vehicles.
6. We recommend participants travel as light as possible, limiting the luggage to one checked bag and one carry-on. We do not assume any responsibility for loss or damage to personal property or any charges for excess baggage.
7. Photographs and videos taken by us during the trip may be used in digital and print promotional materials. If you do not wish to have your photograph used, we must be notified in writing no later than the beginning of the workshop.
8. Cheryl Bruce Creativ expressly limits its activity to the delivery of an art retreat with food, lodging, and ground transportation from site to site. Cheryl Bruce Creativ expressly exclude all other guarantees and warranties and is not responsible for any direct or indirect consequential damages or

injury that may result from the trip. The customer is completely responsible for all actions, and agrees to hold harmless Cheryl Bruce Creativ for any accident or injury. We are not responsible for Acts of God or acts of war/terrorism, health epidemics, or pandemics, and the participant agrees to hold harmless Cheryl Bruce Creativ for any accident or injury resulting from the same, or as a result of any force majeure.

9. Please ensure you have travel insurance to cover you if you are unable to travel due to Covid-19, or any other reason.
10. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

- In the highly unlikely event that the workshop or art retreat is forced to postpone the event, Cheryl Bruce Creativ has the right to do so. All participants are highly recommended to have travel insurance which should cover all monies paid should the participant be unable to attend the new dates, or change their prebooked flights.
- Deposits are fully refundable for up to 30 days from your deposited date if prior to the date that the full payment is due.
- After 30 days \$400 of the deposit is non-refundable.
- After the 12th February 2023, 50% of the total amount due is non-refundable.
- After the following specified date, there are no refunds – 12 March 2023. However, 80% will be refunded if another guest can book the space.
- Please ensure you have travel insurance to cover you if you are unable to travel due to Covid-19, or any other reason.
- If the workshop is cancelled for any reason, all workshop payments will be refunded in full.

TIMELINE

Early bird discount of 10% available until 31 December 2022, when booking and paying 50% deposit.

Book your flights.

Balance of payment due – 12 February 2023.

Start packing 10 May.

Remove 1/2 of your suitcase and a 1/3 of your packed art supplies (trust me I always over pack art supplies)

Jump on the plane 13th May and we will see you at the other end!

