



Wings Over the Outback

A unique escorted itinerary departing 10th October 2026
8 days roundtrip from Essendon, Melbourne

This tour brings together aviation, remote destinations, and unique experiences. You'll explore Australia's most spectacular and hard-to-reach locations, from iconic outback towns to ancient fossil sites, all while travelling by private Pilatus PC12 aircraft. You'll discover how vital aviation is to outback Australia and connect with the land, with history, and with your fellow travellers.

Includes

Royal Flying Doctor Service Broken Hill, Fossil Sites at Ediacara, Brachina & Parachilna Gorges, Angorichina Station's outback airstrip, Wrights Air William Creek, Painted Hills scenic flight & landing, Big Red sand dune sunset tour at Birdsville, Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, Qantas Founders Museum with Platinum Pass & wing walk, Ross Smiths private collection, Hunter Warbirds at Scone, HARS Aviation Museum Parkes, Parkes Observatory & Temora Aviation Museum including sim experience..



Let us take you

Tour Itinerary –

Day 1 – Sat 10th October Broken Hill and Ediacara Hills (L,D)

Your Wings adventure begins bright and early at 7am as you meet your fellow travellers and Tour Leader at Essendon Airport. With anticipation in the air, we take off at 8:00am, leaving the city behind and soaring towards the outback. Our first stop is Broken Hill, where we stretch our legs over morning tea before visiting the iconic **Royal Flying Doctor Service**. A short, guided tour offers a fascinating glimpse into the incredible work of this life-saving organisation, followed by free time to explore the centre at your own pace.

Back on board our private aircraft, we continue northwards to **Parachilna**, touching down on its **newly opened airstrip**, the gateway to the Flinders Ranges. This tiny town — little more than a railway siding on the edge of the Flinders Ranges — is the kind of place most people only ever read about, but for the next two nights it's your base. This afternoon we delve deep into deep time itself, with a guided tour of the **Ediacara Hills**, home to the world's earliest known complex life forms. Standing among ancient fossil beds that tell a story hundreds of millions of years old.

As the day winds down, we return to the legendary **Prairie Hotel**. With its blend of rustic charm and contemporary comfort, the Prairie is an outback icon renowned for its character and cuisine. Enjoy a relaxed **sundowner drink**, before gathering for a memorable dinner featuring the Prairie's celebrated menu — an artful showcase of local produce and outback flavours.

Hotel: Prairie Hotel (2 nights)

Day 2 – Sun 11th October Western Flinders Ranges (B,L,D)

After breakfast at the Prairie, we set out with our expert local guide to explore the **western Flinders Ranges**. The day takes us through the historic town of **Blinman**, as we wind through the spectacular landscapes of **Brachina Gorge** and **Parachilna Gorge**. These rugged corridors reveal layers of geological history and are home to iconic wildlife — from soaring **wedge-tailed eagles** to the rare **yellow-footed rock wallaby**.

We'll also visit **Angorichina Station's outback airstrip**, a reminder of the remoteness and resilience of life in this country. By late afternoon we return to the **Prairie Hotel**, set on the wide plains with the Flinders as a dramatic backdrop. Dinner tonight is once again at the Prairie, where every meal is an experience in itself — from outback produce to the famous "feral food" the pub is known for.

Staying at: Prairie Hotel

Day 3 – Mon 12th October William Creek and Birdsville (B,L,D)

This morning, we farewell the Prairie and board our aircraft for a short flight to **William Creek**, Australia's smallest town. Here we enjoy a **behind-the-scenes tour of Wrights Air**, meeting the team who make flying in these remote regions possible.

Next is a highlight — a **2-hour Painted Hills and Landing tour**. These vibrant, otherworldly formations rise out of the desert like a hidden masterpiece, and landing among them offers a rare chance to experience their scale and colour up close.

Back in town, we refuel with lunch at the **William Creek Pub**, an outback institution filled with character and stories. In the afternoon we continue our journey to **Birdsville**, perched on the edge of the Simpson Desert. On arrival, we take a short **tour of the town**, before heading out to the towering **Big Red sand dune**. Here we'll enjoy a classic outback **sundowner** drink and nibbles, watching the colours shift across the desert as the sun sets. The evening wraps up back at the iconic **Birdsville Hotel**, where dinner and a true outback welcome await.

Hotel: Birdsville Hotel (1 night)

Day 4 – Tues 13th October **Longreach and Stockmans Hall of Fame** **(B,L,D)**

After breakfast we take to the skies once more, flying east to the heart of Queensland's outback — **Longreach**. On arrival we head straight to the **Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame** to explore this iconic centre that celebrates the history and heritage of rural Australia.

We enjoy **lunch at the Hall of Fame café**, before heading out on a **1-hour Longreach town tour** to gain a sense of the community and its pioneering past.

This evening we check into the **Stables at Saltbush Retreat**, where rustic style meets modern comfort.

Dinner tonight is at a **local restaurant**, offering a relaxed end to the day before settling in for the night in Longreach.

Hotel: Saltbush Retreat (1 night)

Day 5 – Weds 14th October **Qantas Founders Museum and Ross Smith's Collection** **(B,L,D)**

After breakfast we check out of **Saltbush Retreat** and take a short stroll across the road to the **Qantas Founders Museum**. With a **Platinum Pass**, we enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at the museum's extensive collection of aircraft and aviation history, topped off with the unforgettable **wing walk experience** — a hands-on chance to feel the thrill of aviation in the place where it all began for one of the world's major airlines.

Lunch is served at the museum café, giving time to reflect on the incredible stories of pioneering pilots and early Qantas adventures.

In the early afternoon we fly to **Rolleston**, a remote outback town with deep aviation connections. On arrival, we have the rare opportunity to **meet Ross Smith himself** and tour his **private aircraft collection**, hearing firsthand the stories behind each plane. Proud owner Ross shared that his passion for aviation was inspired by his father, who served in the Royal Air Force. After his first flight at 16, he said he never looked back — a lifelong love of flying that is palpable as he recounts his experiences and shows us around his collection that includes a **Lockheed Electra Jr.**

We check in for the night at the **Rolleston Motel**. The evening continues with **dinner at the pub**, joined by stories and insights from Ross himself. Facilities here are **basic**, offering a genuine frontier outback experience — a place to relax, enjoy a cold drink, and soak in the remote landscape.

Hotel: Rolleston Motel, QLD (1 night)

Day 6 – Thurs 15th October **Hunter Warbirds** **(B,L,D)**

After breakfast, we board our aircraft for a morning flight to **Scone**. On arrival, we head straight to **Hunter Warbirds** for a **private Premium Tour** with either Paul Bennett or Ross Pay. Over the course of an hour, you'll get an insider's look at these meticulously restored aircraft, learning the history, mechanics, and stories behind each plane.

Following the guided tour, there's **free time** to explore the collection at your own pace, take photos, or chat further with the team. **Lunch** is served in the onsite café before the afternoon brings optional experiences for those seeking extra adrenaline — **simulator sessions or joy flights** (available at additional cost) offer a taste of aviation thrills in the skies above the Hunter Valley.

Optional joy flight experiences available - North American Harvard from AUD 695 or Winjeel A85-426 from AUD 545

The rest of the afternoon is at **leisure**, giving you a chance to relax and enjoy the surroundings. Dinner is at a **local restaurant**, where you can reflect on the journey so far and share stories with fellow travellers.

Hotel: Airlie House Motor Inn, Scone (1 night)

Day 7 – Friday 16th October **HARS Parkes Aviation Museum and Parkes Observatory** **(B,L,D)**

After breakfast in Scone, we take a **short morning flight to Parkes**, arriving in time to explore some of the town's key attractions. First, we visit the **HARS Aviation Museum, Parkes**, spending time discovering the collection and learning about the aircraft and their histories. Aircraft on display include Lockheed AP3-C Orion, Neptune, Electra Junior 12a, Huey Cobra helicopter gunship, Bell Sioux, Wessex, Convair 340, Iskra and Macchi jet trainers, Caribou, de Havilland Heron, Grumman Tracker.

Next, we head to the **Parkes Observatory**, where we will have an introductory talk followed by the 3D theatre presentation. You will then have time to explore this iconic facility at your own pace. Lunch is provided at the Observatory café, giving a chance to relax and enjoy the surroundings.

In the afternoon, we check in to the **Station Motel**, conveniently located near the **Henry Parkes Centre** complex incorporating 4 museums and the Parkes Visitor Information Centre. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore this centre or town itself.

Dinner is served at the **hotel restaurant**, a relaxed evening in preparation for the final two days of aviation adventures!

Hotel: Station Motel, Parks (1 night)

Day 8 – Sat 17th October Temora Aviation Museum (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we board our aircraft for the flight to **Temora**, where we explore the displays of military aircraft with historical significance to Australia.

The lineup includes Australia's only two **flying Spitfires**, and the oldest Tiger Moth still flying in the country.

The museum's Wirraway was the first ex-military aircraft permitted to fly on the Civil Aircraft Register, while its World War II Hudson is the only one still flying in the world.

'Halestorm' is the only flying Gloster Meteor F.8 in the world, while the museum is also home to the only flying Canberra in Australia and the only Australian built Vampire flying in Australia. Lunch will be at the Guardhouse Café.

An exciting addition to the aviation museum is their full motion **Warbird Simulators**. The simulators will allow you to feel what it was like to pilot the iconic Supermarine Spitfire MkXVI, The mighty P-51 Mustang, or the reliable P-40 Kittyhawk aircraft. A 30-minute sim experience is included for you.

Later this afternoon, we board our aircraft for the journey home to Essendon arriving around 6pm, reflecting on a remarkable trip filled with discovery, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments.

We hope you have had a **wonderful time away**, and that the spirit of the outback and the thrill of flight stay with you long after the final landing.

Tour Costs

Tour begins 10th Oct at Essendon Airport Melbourne, ends 17th October, also at Essendon.

The 8-day tour Includes:

Private charter flights on board the immaculate Air Adventure Outback Jet (Pilatus PC-12).

Route - Essendon > Broken Hill > Parachilna > William Creek > Birdsville > Longreach > Rolleston > Scone > Parkes > Temora > Essendon

Crewed by a highly experienced Commercial Captain

All accommodation (deluxe through to basic but comfortable)

All meals (except breakfast day one and dinner on final day)

All trips, tours, entries, transfers outlined in itinerary

Tour escort & qualified local guides along the way

Wine with dinner each night. Australian GST

Transfers to/from Melbourne International airport if staying at Hyatt Place, Essendon, pre and post tour.

The 8-Day Fully Inclusive Tour, priced in NZD

Note: subject to exchange rates the at time of payment.

\$15570 per person, double/twin share

\$16285 per person guaranteed own room

Pre and post tour arrangements will be quoted as required

We will quote pre and post tour accommodation at Hyatt Place Hotel, Essendon which includes airport transfers.

Flights are additional from your hometown to/from Melbourne.

Tour escort will be flying Auckland to Melbourne on 9th October.

A 20% deposit is due at the time of booking and the balance 90 days from travel.

[BOOK ONLINE NOW!](#)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Fitness - A reasonable level of fitness is required to make the most of the museums and sightseeing. Due to the nature of some of our hotels you may be expected to manage a set of stairs; however, we will help manage your luggage on these occasions. Some hotels have showers over the bath.

Reservations and Payment - Your reservation will be confirmed on receipt of a non-refundable deposit of 20% (refundable if the tour does not meet the required numbers).

Final balance is due by 10th July or immediately, if booked after 10th July.

Changes to Tour Costs - Tour costs are based on exchange rates as of Feb 2026 and are subject to change. Once full payment has been received, no surcharge will be made in respect of currency or fuel surcharges. However, changes imposed by governments, or their agencies, are not covered by this guarantee.

Changes to Itinerary - If improvements can be made to the itinerary or circumstances beyond our control make it necessary to make changes, we reserve the right to do so.

Cancellation refunds and flight changes - Notice of cancellation must be in writing. Changes to flights once ticketed will incur charges. After the final balance has been paid, the following scale of charges will apply.

Cancellation period	Fees as a percentage of tour price
Up to 10 th July	Loss of deposit
11 th July to 10 th Oct	100%

Insurance - For cancellations, we regret that we cannot make refunds against any unused part of the tour. It is therefore essential that you have sufficient insurance to cover your loss. We strongly recommend a complete and comprehensive travel insurance policy. We accept no responsibility for any loss caused by insufficient or lack of insurance cover. A quote will be provided on booking.

Optional Dates – You may adjust your dates and arrangements pre and post tour to extend your trip.

Passports and Visas - A current passport with 6 months validity is essential. NZ & Australian passport holders do not require visas.

Travel Managers
12 Furl Close, Pyes Pa
Tauranga 3112
021 076 8308
www.aviationtoursnz.com



