



PROGRAM DETAILS

Location

Sydney, Australia
Northern Territory

Arrival Airport Code
SYD

Max Group Size **28**

Program Dates
July 3 - July 23, 2010

Duration

21 days
Saturday to Friday

Tuition

\$4,595
(includes domestic flights)

Connects to

Vietnam: Stories of the Hill Tribes

Overview

When you think of Australia images of spectacular, untouched lands, exotic wildlife, indigenous populations and beautiful oceans filled with the greatest reef in the world come to mind. This Global Leadership Adventures program will take you up close and personal with all of these images. You will not merely skim the surface, but rather dive in deep while working side by side with aboriginal communities, visiting their sacred sites, and exploring the beauty and complexity of Sydney and the Outback.

After arriving in Sydney and seeing the city, we'll fly to the Northern Territory where the real outback awaits you. Over the next few weeks we'll travel across the vast rural outback camping, hiking and learning from the aboriginal people who live there. We'll stop along the way to do some community service projects that will allow you to interact with the local people. You'll also have fun learning to play the didgeridoo, throw a boomerang, hike through magnificent landscapes and explore national parks.

Community Service

Service is an important part of the program; you will have the rare opportunity of volunteering with indigenous aboriginal communities whose exposure to foreigners has been extremely limited. We'll do some community service projects at some national parks along the way, but we will also stop in two communities for a few days where we will volunteer at an aboriginal school. The students here have traditionally been very isolated from the rest of the world and the school has asked us not to do manual labor, but instead to do activities with the local students and engage in cultural exchange. You'll work directly with the children, doing educational games, sports and forming friendships. You will also work side by side with locals on conservation projects to conserve their natural resources and habitat. **Students will receive 20 hours of community service credit.**

Learning

The Outback is like no place on earth, and your entire experience will resemble a living classroom. The aboriginal people are indigenous to Australia and have a unique and beautiful culture. We will learn about the issues they are facing in contemporary Australia as well as about their medicine, music and art. You'll go on hikes to identify medicinal plants that are used by the aboriginal people, have a workshop on aboriginal spirituality, and even learn to do the unique form of dot painting practiced in the outback.

Excursions

The entire journey is an excursion full of adventure and breathtaking scenery. We'll visit a crocodile park, take a wilderness river cruise, explore remote deserts, hike through massive canyons and visit the famous Ayers Rock, a place of great importance to the aboriginal people. You'll also spend a couple of days in the cosmopolitan city of Sydney and its surrounding beaches.

Lodging

While we are in Sydney we will stay at a local hostel. However, as we travel through the heart of the outback we will be camping in two-person tents. We'll provide the tents and mattresses and you bring your sleeping bag. You'll be well taken care of by our camp crew including a professional cook, porter, and driver and of course your GLA program leaders. This will be an experience you'll never forget!





Actual activities may vary from this schedule

Note: The Outback section of the schedule below is for the July 3rd session; the July 24th session will go in reverse. The July 3rd session goes from Alice Springs and ends in Darwin. The July 24th session starts in Darwin and ends in Alice Springs.

Day 1: Saturday > Arrival & Welcome

Students will arrive at Sydney International Airport and be picked up by GLA staff. The group will then be taken on a brief city sights tour of downtown Sydney and the historic Rocks area where the first fleet arrived in 1788. We will check into our hostel and have the remainder of the day to get to know one another and explore.

Day 2: Sunday > Exploring Sydney

After a good nights rest to recover from jet lag, students will go on a walking tour of the Rocks, Opera House and nearby Darling Harbour - travelling by rail, bus ferry and monorail to experience the different faces of this cosmopolitan city. We will explore the stunning beaches for which Australia is often famed and relax before preparing to head into the Outback.

Week 1: Monday - Friday > Outback, Alice Springs, Deserts, Kings Canyon & Service

Students will begin with a thorough orientation to the Outback and catch a morning flight from Sydney to Alice Springs. We will explore Alice Springs towns and make our way to Desert Park and camp out in Simpson Desert. The park showcases the natural and cultural environment of Australia in three desert habitats: Desert Rivers, sand country and woodlands. We will meet with local Aboriginal families and see how they live. You will meet one family who is working to develop arid farming practices and also learn about the Royal Flying Doctor Service, an essential medical service for those living in the Outback. While in the desert you will also learn about bush tucker, bush medicine, how to throw boomerangs, and how to play the native didgeridoo. You will experience an authentic Aussie BBQ complete with a Kangaroo being cooked traditional style; learn to sing, dance and learn the art of Dreamtime storytelling - all under the brilliant stars of the Outback.

We will then travel to Kings Canyon where will have the opportunity to do a service project assisting in the development of the community's student indigenous bush centre. We will camp in

an isolated bush camp, along the way learning about the role of camels as a lucrative commercial enterprise. We will explore the beauty of Kings Canyon, walk the canyon rim, climb to a point to view the "Lost City," and participate in another service activity with the local aboriginal populations.

Weekend 1: Saturday & Sunday > Uluru / Ayers Rock Sunrise and Exploration

We will journey to Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park and along the way stop for spectacular views of Mount Connor and a vast salt lake system at Lake Kalamurta and Curtin Springs Cattle Station. We will set up camp at Ayers Rock and have the chance to see the sunset on Uluru. We will awaken early on Sunday to view the sunrise on Uluru, which is an incredible sight. Students will visit the Cultural Centre and participate in a Ranger and Aboriginal tribal meeting on Uluru. We will spend the day driving around the base, exploring some of the many sacred sites and check out "The Olgas," an unusual mountain formation before returning to camp at Ayers Rock.

Week 2: Monday - Friday > Devils Marbles, Katherine, Daly River & Service

On Monday morning we will travel back to the Alice, stopping at culturally significant sites along the way. We will enjoy some free time to shop, swim and relax. The week will begin by crossing the Tropic of Capricorn on our journey to Devils Marbles, a place which Aboriginal lore says is the site where the Rainbow Serpent laid her eggs. We will learn about reptile life in the Outback, and also explore a land of rounded boulders, which have eroded and date 1.5 million years. On our way to Katherine, we will stop at a historic gold mining town, Tennant Creek, as well as other unique Outback settlements such as Renner Springs, Elliott and Daly Waters. While at a traditional homestead we will swim in a thermal pool and camp. On our way to Daly River Mission we will meet with indigenous grassroots leaders





who will explain varied service projects which we will complete. At Daly River Mission we will have the opportunity to fish, play Australia football and interact with the local villagers.

Weekend 2: Saturday – Sunday

This weekend we will spend working on service projects at Daly River Mission and really interacting with Aboriginal inhabitants who will share their culture and customs with us.

Week 3: Monday - Thursday > Kakadu and Litchfield National Parks, Community Service, Darwin

This week we will continue our exploration of the Outback and head to Kakadu National Park. We will experience a wildlife cruise on the billabong and see varied types of birds, crocodiles and flora and fauna native to Australia.

We will camp near Humpty Doo and perform an extensive conservation community service project, learn about traditional medicine. In Litchfield National Park, you will swim in spectacular



waterfalls before our departure to Darwin. Darwin is often referred to as “Australia’s Gateway City,” will offer our students the change to learn about the Larrakeyah people, their traditional life and modern perspectives.

Thursday

We will explore Darwin Harbour, the Parliament House, Mindil Beach and have time for last minute shopping. In the afternoon we will fly to Sydney and prepare for our flight home the following day.

Departure day: Friday

After breakfast and final goodbyes, everyone begins the long journey home.

Tuition includes

- » All meals and lodging
- » All ground transportation (including airport pickup)
- » All excursions and entrance fees
- » Veteran trip leaders
- » Supplies for service project
- » Travel medical insurance
- » Laundry

Does not include

- » International airfare
- » Souvenirs
- » Snacks

GLA has been featured in...

The New York Times

The Boston Globe



BALTIMORE TIMES ONLINE



About us

Global Leadership Adventures, established in 2004, is an international community service-learning program for high school students. GLA is unique because of its focus on leadership development and first-hand learning about global issues. Students learn first hand from social pioneers around the world who are creating positive social change in their communities. Students are taught to use their heart, as well as their head, to become agents of positive change across borders.