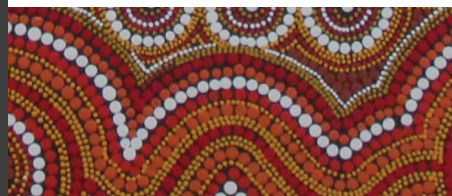


"PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEART"

23RD SEPTEMBER – 4TH OCTOBER, 2017

ESCORTED BY FR MARTIN DIXON



Many of us live on the periphery of Australia and we do not venture to the heart of our nation. As well, many of us live on the periphery of our lives and seldom go to the heart. This Pilgrimage to the Heart combines both these activities. Our first stop is Penola, where we visit the Mary McKillop Centre, recalling how she said "If you see a need, answer it." Through to Alice Springs where we will visit the Aboriginal Spirituality Centre and discover how they make reason in living in this vast land. I invite you to join us on this pilgrimage, where we will see and experience some of the most amazing features of our great country. You will come home a changed person looking at life with a different vision.

DAY 1: Saturday 23 September MELBOURNE – PENOLA

This morning, depart Melbourne and travel to Penola, a fascinating, historic and picturesque country town that is the service centre to the Coonawarra wine region. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

DAY 2: Sunday 24 September PENOLA – ADELAIDE

Penola is a special place, where Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods co-founded the uniquely Australian Sisters of St Joseph in 1866. Visit the Interpretive Centre, which houses the MacKillop and Woods exhibitions, the research room, and the shop. In the Schoolhouse there is an exhibition on Josephite education and displays in the living areas. St Joseph's Church, with its Shrine to Mary, the Old Convent and the early Cameron Home are also on site. The Mary MacKillop Stable School Park is in Penola and the Father Woods Sculpture Park is north of Coonawarra. Afterwards, continue on to Adelaide. (B)

DAY 3: Monday 25 September ADELAIDE – PORT PIRIE

This morning, take in the must-see sights of the beautiful 'City of Churches'. Visit historical North Adelaide, view the world-famous Adelaide Oval, St. Peter's Cathedral, Art Gallery of South Australia and much more. Travel to Port Pirie in time for an afternoon mass. (BD)

DAY 4: Tuesday 26 September PORT PIRIE – COOBER PEDY

Travel to isolated Coober Pedy, Australia's opal capital! Tonight enjoy dinner at Umberto's Restaurant located at your hotel. (BD)

DAY 5: Wednesday 27 September COOBER PEDY – ULURU

Visit an underground church and home with a local guide and view an opal demonstration. Tonight enjoy dinner at your hotel. Cross the border into the Northern Territory and continue to Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park. (BD)

DAY 6: Thursday 28 September FIELD OF LIGHT & ULURU SUNSET

Rise early to travel the short distance to a desert location overlooking Uluru. Your Driver Guide will provide insights and background to the art installation. Under the cover of darkness you're invited to wander through the pathways that encompass the 50,000 spheres of light in the desert, before making your way up the hill to the Dune Top viewing area. Watch the amazing transformation of colours and life as the desert awakens, while enjoying tea, coffee or hot chocolate. Then as the first rays of sunlight creep across the desert sky, gaze in awe as the sun rises in the distance behind Uluru, flooding the landscape, including Kata Tjuta behind you, with light. This afternoon, join your guide on a drive around the base of Uluru. Continue to the Kuniya Walk, from where you'll be escorted to the Mutitjulu Waterhole. View ancient rock art and learn about the Aboriginal and European history of Uluru. You'll head off to the Uluru Sunset Viewing Area. En route, you may see some dromedary camels casually strolling through the park. On arrival at the Sunset Viewing Area, you'll be served from a selection of Australian wines and nibbles while you absorb the enormity and beauty of your surroundings. (BD)

DAY 7: Friday 29 September ULURU SUNRISE & KATA TJUTA

Rise early this morning to travel to watch the first rays of the sun set the Red Centre alight. Then travel to the mystical domes of Kata Tjuta. On the way enjoy panoramic views of the southern side of Kata Tjuta before arriving at the base of Walpa Gorge. Spend some time exploring the gorge and the unusual conglomerate rock formations. This evening dine under a million stars at the award winning Sounds of Silence Dinner. Enjoy a gourmet buffet of Australian delicacies accompanied by fine Australian wines, then sit back and relax as a star talker takes you on a tour of the night sky (conditions permitting). BD

DAY 8: Saturday 30 September ULURU – ALICE SPRINGS

Travel through desert scenery to Alice Springs. Enjoy comprehensive commentary of your surrounds as you pass through the rugged outback. View majestic Atila (Mt. Conner) along the way. Stop at Mt. Ebenezer Road House where there is the opportunity to purchase afternoon tea (own expense). Enjoy a free afternoon before dinner at your hotel tonight. (BD)

DAY 9: Sunday 1 October ALICE SPRINGS

Stop at the Telegraph Station, established in 1872 to relay messages between Darwin and Adelaide. Next, visit the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which provides a 'mantle of safety' to the people of the outback. Visit the School of the Air, an educational service for children living in remote areas and Alice. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (BD)

DAY 10: Monday 2 October WEST MACDONNELL RANGES

Admire the rich plant and bird life at Angkerle (Standley Chasm). See the amazing geology at Ellery Creek Big Hole. Explore the Ochre Pits then it's on to Ormiston Gorge. Enjoy a Ploughman's lunch at Glen Helen Homestead Lodge with time to visit Glen Helen Gorge. The permanent waterhole here is home to many species of animals, including a variety of water birds and fish. Walk through Simpsons Gap to the waterhole, keeping an eye out for the elusive black-footed rock wallabies hiding among the rocks. Enjoy the late afternoon sun reflecting on the MacDonnell Ranges as you return to Alice Springs. (BLD)

DAY 11: Tuesday 3 October ALICE SPRINGS

Rise early for your transfer to the Alice Springs Desert Park, home to plants and wildlife native to the area. You can really experience the beauty and diversity of this incredible landscape with your included Indigenous Tour. The Arrernte people, Traditional Owners of the park, are on hand to share their local wisdom and knowledge. Enjoy an afternoon at your leisure before dinner at your hotel. (BD)

DAY 12: Wednesday 4 October FAREWELL FROM ALICE SPRINGS

This morning, after breakfast, you'll be transferred to Alice Springs Airport for your return Qantas flight back to Melbourne. (B)



TOTAL PACKAGE PRICES (twin sharing):

Price per person based on 25-29 passengers:	AUD\$4390*
Price per person based on 30-34 passengers:	AUD\$4190*
Price per person based on 35-39 passengers:	AUD\$4090*
Price per person based on 40+ passengers:	AUD\$3990*

Single supplement: AUD\$1195

* Conditions apply. Subject to change



HOTELS TO BE USED(or similar):

Penola	Alexander Cameron Suites (1 night)
Adelaide	Chifley South Terrace (1 night)
Port Pirie	John Pirie Motor Inn (1 night)
Cooper Pedy	Desert Cave Hotel (1 night)
Uluru	Outback Pioneer Hotel (3 nights)
Alice Springs	Lasseters Hotel (4 nights)

PRICE INCLUDES:

- One-way airfare Alice Springs – Melbourne with Qantas
- 11 nights' hotel accommodation including daily buffet breakfasts, some lunches and most dinners (refer to itinerary for meal inclusions denoted by BLD)
- Comprehensive sightseeing tours as outlined in the itinerary with the services of local professional English speaking guide throughout the tour
- Transportation throughout in a luxury air-conditioned coach
- Entrance fees to museums and all sights as mentioned in the itinerary

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Some meals
- Beverages with meals
- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary
- Single supplement
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above

WHAT TO DO NEXT:

1. Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Martin Dixon or the team at Olive Tree Travel
2. To secure your place, a deposit of \$350 per person is required by 18th April 2017 (straight after Easter).
3. Full payment is required by 30th July 2017

WHO TO CONTACT:

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