

PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

WILLANDRA LAKES WORLD HERITAGE & MUTAWINTJI EXPEDITION IN BARKANDJI, MUTTHI MUTTHI AND NGIYAMPAA COUNTRY



Willandra Lakes



Mungo National Park

Immerse yourself in song lines and stories of the land in this special cultural journey through some of Australia's most iconic landscapes. This 5-day/4-night cultural expedition is designed exclusively for ICOMOS delegates to enable firsthand experiences of Aboriginal people's connection to their country and how they partner with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect and celebrate the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage values in this remote part of Australia.

This tour starts in Broken Hill Heritage City and concludes in Mildura.

Hosted by: NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Supported by:

- Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area

Day One – Friday 25 August 2023 (D)

Please book your own rail journey or flights to arrive at Broken Hill by 1530hrs.

Suggested flight:

Regional Express Airlines (REX) ZL6852, departing Sydney at 0700, arriving Broken Hill 0945hrs

Regional Express Airlines (REX) ZL6866, departing Sydney at 1325, arriving Broken Hill 1525hrs

Qantas QF2017, departing Sydney at 1100, arriving Broken Hill 1310 hrs

Upon arrival at Broken Hill, you will be met at the reception of your accommodation the Ibis Styles Broken Hill.



Broken Hill is Australia's First Heritage-Listed City

This exclusive outback heritage expedition will begin in Broken Hill. Known as the 'city in the desert', Broken Hill has been recognised as Australia's first heritage listed city, having been added to the National Heritage list alongside many other significant places including, the Australian War Memorial, the Sydney Opera House and the Great Barrier Reef. It is significant for its unique mix of architecture and mining infrastructure, set within a vast arid landscape. The City of Broken Hill is of outstanding heritage value to Australia for its significant role in the development of Australia as a modern and prosperous country.

1600hrs Meet your expedition leader in the lobby of the Ibis Hotel and will travel to a local restaurant for an authentic outback dinner experience

Accommodation: Ibis Styles Broken Hill Hotel x 2 nights (3 star)
120 Argent Street
Broken Hill NSW 2880
Phone: +61 (0)8 8088 4044

Day Two – Saturday 26 August 2023 (B, L, D)

0630hrs Buffet breakfast is included in your hotel stay

0800hrs Please be waiting in the hotel foyer.

0830hrs Depart the hotel for a full day of touring including Mutawintji National Park, Historic Site and Nature Reserve

After breakfast in Broken Hill, travel by coach to Mutawintji National Park. The Mutawintji lands are owned by the Wiimpatja people and managed jointly with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The lands are held in inalienable Aboriginal freehold title on behalf of the Aboriginal Traditional Owners by the Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council. This was the first national park in NSW to be handed back to Aboriginal Owners under Part 4A of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

Mutawintji is important in relation to ongoing themes of Aboriginal culture. It is one of the most culturally significant places in the far west of New South Wales. Mutawintji is a place for ceremonial business where in the past, large gatherings were held at which Aboriginal people would celebrate and renew their obligations to the land, traded items, settled disputes, formed alliances, and "trained/mentored" the younger people through the various stages of gaining knowledge, responsibility and wisdom. Mutawintji means "place of green grass and water holes" and as such was an important source of food and water for Aboriginal people.

NPWS has curated a tour for ICOMOS to be delivered in collaboration with Mutawintji Heritage Tours, an Aboriginal owned and operated company. You will be taken on a journey by local Aboriginal guides through significant cultural sites set within the ruggedly beautiful desert region of the Outback, seeing superb ochre hand stencils and



rock engravings, and hearing ancient stories of the land. A catered lunch will be provided to enjoy onsite.

Once the tour concludes, travel by coach back to Broken Hill for another group dining experience followed by a well-earned rest.

Day Three – Sunday 27 August 2023 (B, L, D)

0630hrs Continental breakfast is included in your hotel stay

Please settle any incidentals on your room account and check out of your hotel.

0800hrs Please be waiting in the hotel foyer.

0830hrs Depart the hotel and travel to the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage property

After breakfast travel via coach through ancient landscapes formed by wind and water to the Willandra Lakes Region, World Heritage property. The journey (approximately 5 hours) has its destination at Mungo Lodge, an authentic Australian style accommodation at the very edge of Mungo National Park, where you will be accommodated for the night.

After some afternoon tea, you will undertake a series of activities organised together with the Aboriginal Advisory Group of the Willandra Lakes Region, including a Smoking Ceremony at Mungo Visitor Centre and then a walk of the Walls of China (Mungo Lunette) with NPWS Aboriginal Discovery Guides and Park Rangers.

Accommodation: Mungo Lodge x 1 night
10142 Arumpo Road, Arumpo, MUNGO NSW 2715
Phone: +61 (0)3 5029 7297

Day Four – Monday 28 August 2023 (B, L, D)

0630hrs Continental breakfast is included in your hotel stay

Please settle any incidentals on your room account and check out of your hotel.

0800hrs Please be waiting in the hotel foyer.

0830hrs Depart the hotel for a full day of touring of Mungo National Park.

The day starts early as you are guided through Mungo National Park. The subtle landscape of Mungo and the Willandra Lakes Region is a precious window where people can look into the deep past of ancient Australia. Buried here in thick layers of sand and clay are the signs of how the climate, waters and landforms have changed over the last 100,000 years, which for at least 50,000 years humans have shared.



The ancient Willandra people who thrived with the abundance of the lakes, were then required to adapt to drier and more harsh times brought about by the last ice age and through to present day. Their story can be discovered in the folds of the land that hold evidence of their fireplaces, burial sites, middens and tools. Today, Mungo provides one of the most significant places in Australia to study the past its environment and its people.

Experience the Mungo Aboriginal Tour guided by members from the three tribal groups of the Willandra Lakes Region. Learn by walking in the footsteps of the Ngyiampaa, Mutthi Mutthi and Barkindji Aboriginal people who have lived here for millennia. Share this ancient place and stand at the history-making sites where the world's oldest human cremation was unearthed, and 20,000-year-old human footprints and trackways have been uncovered.

On leaving Mungo, travel by coach to Mildura for dinner and the last night of accommodation.

1800hrs Approximate return to the hotel.

Remainder of the evening at leisure

Accommodation: Mercure Hotel Mildura x 1 night (4 star)
120 Eighth Street, Mildura Victoria 3500
Phone: +61 (0)3 5051 2500

Day Five— Tuesday 29 August 2023

0630hrs Continental Breakfast is not included in your hotel stay

Please settle any incidentals on your room account and check out of your hotel.

The expedition comes to a close this morning. Transfer to the Mildura Airport for a flight or extend your stay within this unique and captivating region.

End of arrangements

Tour Cost:

\$2,500.00 per person for single occupancy in the entire tour – 11 spots available

\$2,370.00 per person for double occupancy in Mungo Lodge only – 10 spots available

\$2,170.00 per person for double occupancy in the entire tour – 10 spots available

Note: The total number of participants for this tour is 21. However, only 11 spots are available as single occupancy. The remaining 10 spots will share in twin rooms either in Mungo Lodge only or in the entire trip. Even pairs are required for both double occupancy options.

**Tour Inclusions:**

- Accommodation as specified (where possible)
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary
- English speaking commentary
- Breakfast daily and other meals as specified (Breakfast = B, Lunch = L, Dinner = D)
- Airport transfer in Mildura at conclusion of tour

Not Included

- Airfares to/from destination
- Airport transfer on arrival in Broken Hill
- Meals other than specified
- Personal expenses
- Beverages & anything not specifically mentioned

Airfares

Domestic airfares to pre and post tour destinations are not included in the ground cost of the tour. Please advise the ICOMOS GA2023 Managers of your flight details so that they are aware of your travel arrangements. You may still register on the pre and post tours if you have not finalised your travel arrangements. On completion of the registration form, you will be issued with an access key, which you need to record as this key allows you to access and update your booking and registration details at a later date.

Restrictions/Accessibility: Not suitable for wheelchairs or persons with limited mobility

Fitness level: Gentle / Moderate (some hikes)

Minimum number of participants: 11 (Minimum capacity needs to be reached 30 days prior to departure for the tour to go ahead)

Maximum number of participants: 21

Is French speaking commentary available: No

Cancellation note:

During heavy rainfall events, roads providing access to the relevant National Parks are closed. If the La Niña weather phenomenon extends to mid-2023 and rainfall persists in the area, then the tour may need to be cancelled.