

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Breaking new ground: Australian Walking Tours to lead four-star journeys into the heart of the South Australian outback**

Starting May 2011, small parties of discriminating travellers will be able to walk deep into some of the oldest landscapes on the planet.

The **Fabulous Flinders Walk** is a six-day, fully-guided experience that combines four-star accommodation, authentic outback hospitality and a walking programme never offered before.

Highlights will include traversing Wilpena Pound and an ascent of St Mary's Peak; a geological 'time-trip' through Brachina Gorge, a cradle of earth's earliest life-forms; and a wildlife-filled walk from Blinman Pools.

The entire trip is fully supported with guide and vehicle. Each day's walking itinerary is designed to ensure guests enjoy popular scenic highlights as well as some space and solace.

When the evenings begin to fill with stars, walkers relax in celebrated four-star accommodation, including the famous Prairie Hotel at Parachilna and Wilpena Pound Resort. (Time to find out why a friendly far-flung bar is so integral to outback life...)

In a nice twist, the drive from Adelaide to Hawker is broken with a cycle through the sublime vales and vineyards of Clare Valley. It's the chance for a civilized Riesling before entering the mighty red ranges.

The Fabulous Flinders Walk will cost \$2850, including all meals, accommodation, transport and guiding.

**Day 1:** Drive from Adelaide to Clare Valley to cycle the Riesling Trail. After lunch and wine at Skillogalee Winery, head to Melrose, the oldest town in the Flinders Ranges. Overnight (and dine) at the excellent North Star Hotel at the foot of Mount Remarkable.

**Day 2:** Transfer from Melrose to Black Gap, outside the western rim of Wilpena Pound. Cross the Pound's extraordinary 'elevated saucer' amongst native grasses and pine forests. Overnight and dinner at Wilpena Pound Resort.

**Day 3:** An early start to trail-walk up to St Mary's Peak (1,171m), the highest peak in the Flinders. Descend into the Pound, return to the resort. Overnight and dinner at Rawnsley Park set beside towering Rawnsley Bluff.

**Day 4:** Enjoy a more relaxed walk (and a wealth of wildlife) through Flinders gorge country, including Brachina, Wilkawillina and Parachilna. Emerge at historic Parachilna for overnight and dinner at the Prairie Hotel, famous for its 'feral food'.

**Day 5:** Hike into the spring-fed Blinman Pools, an oasis of wildlife before following sinuous creeks dotted with peaceful pools and pretty waterfalls. Overnight and dinner at The Prairie.

**DAY 6:** Head to the western edge of the Flinders Ranges and on to the Aroona Dam Sanctuary. Traverse wetlands and roam through rugged rocky outcrops, saltbush flats and redgum-lined creeks. Lunch at the North Star Hotel Melrose before final leg back to Adelaide.

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**For full details or any information relating to Australia Walking Tours, contact Andrew Reynolds (details)**

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