

# THE DESERT CHOIR

with Tony Backhouse

16 - 23 June - 2012



## THE DESERT CHOIR - 2012

The Macdonnell Ranges rise from the Central Australian desert like an ancient twisting serpent. Winding along its ridges, waterholes, gorges & ancient rocks, the Larapinta Trail takes you into a landscape of incomparable beauty and power. The Desert Choir will explore the primal connection between song and nature as you walk this classic trail. Sing in desert gorges, on desert peaks and around the fire at night under the guidance of Tony Backhouse. Interactions with the Arrente desert people, contemplative personal time, glorious daily walks along selected sections of the trail will allow you to absorb the desert beauty in a profound way. Formal and informal singing workshops will arise along the trail.

**TONY BACKHOUSE** is a legendary singer, composer, vocal arranger, musical director, workshop leader and author. Tony is one of the leaders in the Sydney *a cappella* movement. He has directed the Café of the Gate of Salvation gospel choir and male trio the Heavenly Lights. Tony's CV is far too long to mention here. So to find out more about the man leading THE DESERT CHOIR go to [www.tonybackhouse.com.au](http://www.tonybackhouse.com.au)



- Sat Assemble at 2pm in foyer of the Alice Springs Resort - visit Araluen Arts Centre - final briefing in the evening. Dine at the Alice Springs Resort.
- Sun Introduction to desert walking along first part of Section 1 of the Larapinta Trail and the magnificent Euro Ridge and Wallaby Gap. Transfer to our private desert camp at Davenport Creek in the foothills of Mt Sonder. [4-5 hours easy/medium grade walking]
- Mon Walk the mesmerizing Ormiston Gorge. [4-5 hours easy/medium grade walking]
- Tues Break camp and walk to the beautiful Red Bank Gorge for lunch. Travel to Ipolera via Tyler's Pass with a view of the extraordinary Tnorala [Gosses Bluff]. We will be met by our hosts, Traditional Owner Herman Malbunka and Custodian Mavis Malbunka.. [3-4 hours easy grade walking]
- Wed Enjoy a day on country. Walk the Tjilpa Valley with young Arrente guides and spend some quiet time in this beautiful place. Evening meal with the Malbunka family. [3 hours easy grade walking]
- Thur Break camp and travel to Palm Valley for a short walk with Arrente guides. Return to the township of Hermannsburg, a place steeped in the history and drama of the Central Australian story. We will camp in the old Mission Cultural Precinct and spend the evening performing with and for local people. [2-3 hours easy/medium grade walking]
- Fri Break camp and wind our way back to Alice Springs via a magic walk through Simpsons Gap, a twisting maze of gorges and inspiration. Participate in a celebratory evening meal at the Resort. [
- Sat Breakfast at the Resort. Personal time before departure.

### TOTAL COST OF \$2990 INCLUDES

- 2 nights accommodation at the ALICE SPRINGS RESORT - twin share - [single upgrade \$150 per night] - includes cooked breakfasts.
- 4 nights desert camp under the stars with all camping equipment provided... 1 night accommodation in Hermannsburg Cultural Precinct.
- Comprehensive and powerful indigenous interactions.
- Formal & on-track singing workshops with facilitator, Tony Backhouse.
- Licensed guided Larapinta & Ilpurla Trail Walk with lead guide, support vehicle & camp manager.
- All cooked breakfasts, morning & afternoon teas, lunches, dinners, snacks on the track.
- Araluen Arts Centre & the Namajira Galley on first Saturday.
- Private camps and indigenous interactions.
- First aid, satellite phones, all National Park fees etc.
- Surprises that you will just have to take my word for.

#### EXCLUSIONS:

- airfares - flight options can be viewed on the website
- evening meals in the Alice Springs Resort
- alcohol

A non-refundable deposit of \$600 will secure your your place.  
All details and trip notes available at from Into the Blue Creative Walks  
[www.intotheblue.com.au](http://www.intotheblue.com.au) - 0414 929768