

DESERT WRITERS

stories from the earth

with Jan Cornall

23 - 30 June - 2012



as featured on Radio National Book Show

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DESERT WRITERS 2012

“Desert Writers combines the two spiritual traditions of contemplation and pilgrimage into a unique writing and walking journey. Daily walks along selected sections of the magnificent Larapinta Trail in the West MacDonnell Ranges near Alice Springs and the newly opened Ilpurla Trail thru Aboriginal homeland, will be used as inspiration for exploring the essential elements of writing. Using the senses to capture the experience of being in the desert environment, you will learn how to transform that powerful experience into powerful writing. Taking part in morning and evening writing workshops and daily writing/walking activities, you will have an opportunity to use this unique journey for your current writing project, or for beginning a new work.” - Jan Cornall



Jan Cornall is a highly regarded, published writer, performer and facilitator who runs popular writing workshops and retreats in Australia and the Asia Pacific. Combining practical, theoretical and experiential knowledge gained in over 25 years in the Australian theatre and film industry, and 20 year's experience in meditation, Jan has developed a

technique called **Meditative Writing**. Visit www.writersjourney.com.au for more information.

- 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 Enjoy a gentle walk from camp. 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 Arrentre 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 Arrentre 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 with 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 Standley Chasm, a twisting maze of gorges and inspiration. Participate in a celebratory evening meal at the Resort. [2 hours medium/hard grade walking-easy option available]
- Sat Breakfast at the Resort and then personal time in Alice Springs before shuttle return to airport.

TOTAL COST OF \$2990 INCLUDES

- 2 nights accommodation at the ALICE SPRINGS RESORT - twin share - [single upgrade \$150 per night] - includes cooked breakfasts.
- 5 nights desert camp under the stars with including 1 night in Hermannsburg Cultural Precinct.
- Comprehensive and powerful indigenous interactions.
- Formal & on-track workshops with Jlan Cornal.
- Private camps
- All cooked breakfasts, morning & afternoon teas, lunches, dinners, snacks on the track.
- Araluen Arts Centre & the Namajira Galley on first Saturday.
- First aid, satellite phones, all National Park fees etc.
- Licensed guided Larapinta & Ilpurla Trail walk with lead guide, support vehicle & camp manager.
- 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 - 0414 929768

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OVERALL

Into the Blue designs your itinerary around the capacity and objectives of the group. The itinerary seeks to blend elements such as indigenous culture, gentle stretching, meditation and interpretative guiding within the context of a walking journey. Please note that the itinerary may change due to weather, aboriginal cultural imperatives or simply to better suit the objectives of the group.

WORKSHOP

Jan Cornall has made the DESERT WRITERS her own. Each season sees the program delve further into the drama, emotional story, tragedy and beauty that is the Central Australian story. You will have plenty of time for private and group based writing.

ABORIGINAL

The aboriginal interactions are a feature of the Desert Writers program. Meaningful and personal interaction with one of Central Australia's most articulate and passionate indigenous advocates is a profound highlight of the trip.

FITNESS & TRAINING

The walking component of the DESERT WRITERS allows you to feel the landscape around you. Each day on the track involves between 2 and 6 hours walking. The adventure is graded easy/moderate, requiring a fair level of aerobic fitness. Please contact Into the Blue to discuss any fitness issues. You will carry a simple day pack that includes water, jacket, lunch, camera etc.

CAMP LIFE

Our nights under the stars will be a highlight of the trip. Whilst the facilities are basic there will be a composting toilet & washing facilities. Sleeping will be in comfortable swags and tents. It is warm, safe and comfortable. All camping gear is supplied. You will be expected to share some tasks around the camp such as rolling your sleeping bag etc.



CLIMATE

Expect cool nights and warm, clear days. This is generally a magnificent time of the year in the Australian desert with everything that crawls soundly asleep and no or few flies.

WHAT TO BRING

A printable equipment and clothing list is provided on the website under the Desert Writers journey.

FLIGHTS & ACCOMMODATION

All accommodation is at the Alice Springs Resort. If walkers are intending to arrive earlier in Alice or to stay longer they can book their own accommodation at the Alice Springs Resort at the Into the Blue corporate rate. When booking quote the Into the Blue Trip Name. CONTACT - 08 89514545

ALCOHOL

There is no alcohol permitted when we are on aboriginal country. Alcohol can be bought in Alice Springs before departure.

UPON BOOKING

A representative of the Into the Blue shall call you upon booking. Final payment is due one month before your departure. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions you might have.

