**A WINTER GET-AWAY**

**Our ten-day trip to Alice Springs, partly on the glorified Ghan**





**Where camels ran the silk route, steered by an ambitious Afghan!**

**The 1.2 km stretch of carriages snakes its way slow and steady**

**To enjoy an endless view of scenic landscape and service on the ready**

**A dawn stop around campfires at Marla to catch the rising sun**





**That finally peaked out later, as brekkie was cooked & done!**

**With flexibility to do what you want, just sticking to timings set**

**One is able to experience safe travel, that’s as good as it can get**

**Our group of 55 strong, with seniors numbering high**





**Was out to make the most, of holidaying under sunny sky**

**And so we did at every stop, game for anything fun and cool**

**Not to mention a morning mishap of one man, landing in the pool!**

**Music, laughter, card games, bingo, sharing treats and a yarn or two**

**We took in the sights of Alice Springs, with much more than a view!**





**Flying Doctor’s Headquarters, the founder John Flynn’s grave**

**A wonderful legacy of compassion, to reach-out, serve & save**

**Rides on mini trains at the Railway Museum- not to miss for a thrill**



**More scenic spectacles – Ochre Pits, Standley Chasm, Simpsons Gap – our wonder to fulfil!**

**Crazy camel rides and camel burgers too for those daring to try**



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**Can’t go wrong in a carefree group where there’s no need to be shy!**

**After a 3-night luxury stay at the Hilton’s Double Tree**

**It was through to Erldunda for more camp like majesty!**







**Nearer the tour’s main highlight of Uluru or Ayers Rock**

**The excitement had us waking up, well before the alarm clock!**



**No words can describe the magnificence of this sacred treasure**





**As stories take you back & beyond, where time has no measure**

**There are notices to respect and not climb the rock – an invitation to understand**

**Tracks detailed with scripted tales of the First People, on how they value this land**

**Aboriginal Cultural Centre, the Olgas – kata Tjuta, Ayers Rock Resort – visits that did impress**

**But for the uplifting Uluru where the soul gets a soft caress!**



**Next on the agenda, near the border of South Australia, was the town of Coober Pedy**

**The Aboriginal name for ‘white man’s burrows’ – mine digging for the opal greedy!**

**The full town tour took all of two hours – quaint and most fascinating**

**Beside mines, there’s developed housing underground – cheaper and worth contemplating!**

**A personal attraction was indeed, the beautiful underground Catholic Church**



**The Parish of Saints Peter & Paul–a divine find after a long day’s search!**



**Attending Mass later that evening, many of our group joined in**

**Taking a spiritual initiative, to even sing a Communion hymn!**

**Blessed & refreshed, some had dinner at Australia’s 5th best Pizza place**

**Then for footy time-watching St Kilda stunning Geelong in the face!**



**A hearty breakfast and early start for the long ride to Adelaide**

**With Heidi our bus driver managing solo, well in control she stayed!**

**Bonding together we journeyed on and as the tour neared its end**

**A general sense of both satisfaction and sadness, quietly did descend**

**Resting the night at Adelaide’s Granada motel, we agreed on another early rise**

**And then it was home to Melbourne – freezing weather for shocking surprise!**



**All said & done the get-away was GREAT and so, a big THANK YOU**

**To Rodney, Heidi and fellow travellers – stay HAPPY in all you do!**