

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE
TUESDAY 18TH - THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2023

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA INDIGENOUS IMMERSION

MACDONNELL RANGES, ULURU & KINGS CANYON



“

Our students will connect and learn from the custodians of the oldest surviving culture in the world.

They will give their time & passion, and bring back a rich understanding of Indigenous Australia.”

For the first time, MacKillop Catholic College is giving students the chance to travel to the remote Indigenous homelands of Central Australia.

Students will have the rare opportunity to make real connections with Indigenous Australians living on their own land who have maintained a deep connection to their culture and history. They will learn from Elders and Traditional Owners, and play with young Indigenous children eager for a window to the outside world.

The group will stay in safe areas on privately held Aboriginal land, not accessible outside of this setting. They will learn, make, gather, eat, give, grow and connect with Traditional Owners and Indigenous Australia.



ITINERARY

Please note that this is an initial itinerary and may change due to the customary obligations and availability of our Indigenous partners.

Day 1 - Yulara (Uluru)

- 🌀 Early morning flight to Yulara
- 🌀 Set up camp
- 🌀 Mala walk at Uluru with a Traditional Owner before taking in the sunset

Days 2-4 - Sandy Bore Homeland

- 🌀 Welcome to Country Ceremony
- 🌀 Time to forage for bush tucker like honey ants and witchetty grubs
- 🌀 Cut down the branches of the mulga tree and make your own clap sticks!
- 🌀 Yarn with Elders about their family history and stories of the land
- 🌀 Learn about bush medicines like irrmangka irrmangka, an ancient healing balm
- 🌀 Traditional painting and jewellery making workshop
- 🌀 Cook for and eat with community
- 🌀 Nightly reflections on the immersion

Days 5-7 - Ampwerre Homeland

- 🌀 Welcome to Country Ceremony
- 🌀 Receive your own skin name and learn to abide by ancient cultural laws with your skin group
- 🌀 Learn some local Arrernte language
- 🌀 Time to make your own bush medicines!
- 🌀 Hunt for and try witchetty grubs
- 🌀 Contribute to a community project
- 🌀 Visit dreaming sites with Elders

Day 8 - Kings Canyon

- 🌀 4WD bus to Kings Canyon
- 🌀 Guided tour of the spectacular "Rim Walk"

Day 9 - Yulara

- 🌀 Travel South back to Yulara
- 🌀 Explore the "Valley of the Winds" trail
- 🌀 Final reflection and debrief

Day 10 - Return Home

- 🌀 Fly home in the afternoon



How do Elders and Traditional Owners feel about people coming onto their land? Will we be intruding?

We are an organisation driven by our Indigenous partners in the homelands of remote Australia. Our mission is to give Indigenous people the help they need if they wish to welcome and open the hearts of young Australians to their country, culture, and way of life. We only make our resources available if we're asked to help. Traditional Owners are the ones that decide if and when people should come onto their land, not us.

What amenities are available? Will there be showers and bathrooms?

There are flushing or drop toilets everywhere we go. Most of our partner homelands have shower facilities but you may have to go a few nights without, particularly in the winter. The amenities will be basic, but this is definitely not a bush survival camp so we will make sure you feel comfortable and safe.

What food will be available?

While there will be opportunities for the group to forage bush foods, there will be three fresh food deliveries throughout the immersion with a focus on big healthy meals. We cater for every kind of dietary requirement and expect students and staff to participate in the preparation of food.

Are there community projects during the immersion?

An important part of Red Earth's mission is to help create sustainable homelands so that Traditional Owners can live on their ancestral land. Elders tell us their vision for their homeland and the type of projects they would like help with, and students then fundraise for and sometimes physically work on those projects with their host communities.

What is the pre-departure program like?

Red Earth takes its responsibility to ensure that each person attending an immersion gives, grows and leads very seriously. We design a pre-departure program tailored for your specific region and itinerary, and will meet with the group twice in the lead up to departure to ensure everyone is prepared for the journey ahead.

Will we be safe?

We take safety very seriously, and it informs every aspect of an immersion. You can read more about our approach to safety on our website at <https://www.redearth.edu.au/safety/>

Could there be variations to our itinerary?

Changes to your proposed itinerary and activities are likely and part of travelling to remote Indigenous communities. The availability of our partner homelands may change for practical or cultural reasons, but conversations and personal connection with Traditional Owners and their families are at the heart of all Red Earth immersions. Our strong network of partner homelands means we can guarantee an authentic experience with deep connections regardless of where your group travels to.