



**Above** Kings Canyon (p56)

# WELCOME TO OUTBACK AUSTRALIA

**The outback, the Top End, the Red Centre.** Whatever you call it, outback Australia has an elemental feel to it. It's here that so many Aussie landmarks of international repute reside, from Uluru, Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) and Kings Canyon in the centre, Katherine and Darwin to the north, Coober Pedy to the south and Lake Mungo in outback New South Wales.

As you'd expect from a predominantly outback region, the roads here can be empty, the distances are immense, and some northern trails may be impassable in the Big Wet (November to March). But the rewards are simply extraordinary, primary among them some of the best opportunities to experience this ancient land alongside its original inhabitants. Stock up on supplies and hit the road.