



Romantic desert escape for royals

MATTHEW BENNS



The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will spend one night of their Australian tour away from baby son Prince George —

“glamping” under the stars in the Outback.

William and Kate are expected to spend a romantic night in a luxury tent at the exclusive \$1100-per-person Longitude 131

resort at Uluru. Longitude 131 is completely booked out on that date. Owner James Baillie would not comment on the royal visit.

The stunningly located retreat will offer the royals an intimate break from their three-week tour of Australia and New Zealand and parenting duties to their nine-month-old son.

Prince George will stay with his new Spanish “super-nanny” at Governor-General Peter Cosgrove’s official residence — Yarralumla in Canberra.

The luxury resort will offer the royals a rare

moment of seclusion, with just 15 canvas-topped “tents” spaced around the red dunes at the entrance to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

They can wake at sunrise to watch the changing light on one of Australia’s most famous landmarks.

Karena Noble, PR manager for Voyages Indigenous Tourism, which owns Uluru’s only other resort, said arrangements for the couple’s stay could not be discussed because of royal security reasons.

But she said: “Staying overnight is an amazing experience, watching the

sunrise and sunset as the light changes on the rock is so beautiful. It is a really amazing place. “William and Kate are showcasing the spiritual heart of Australia to the world.”

NT Chief Minister Adam Giles said: “It’s a huge opportunity for us to market the Red Centre as an international destination, particularly in the UK which is currently the territory’s largest international tourism market.”

The couple arrive in Sydney from New Zealand on Wednesday, April 16th,

and head straight to the Opera House for an official reception.

For the duration of their stay they will be based just across the Harbour at Admiralty House, Kirribilli.

Their packed Sydney itinerary includes trips to the Royal Easter Show, Bear Cottage in Manly, a Nippers’ display on Manly Beach and time with bushfire victims in the Blue Mountains.

Girl Guides from Winmalee will be among the many Australians meeting the royal couple.

“It is great that the Prince

and Princess are coming to Winmalee. It is something exciting for our community after the sadness of the bushfires,” said nine-year-old Emma Toohey.

Royal tours are funded by Australian taxpayers and, as in the case of the Queen’s visit to Melbourne in 2011, are estimated to cost \$100,000 an hour.

Australian Republican Movement national director David Morris said: “It’s like a state visit in recognition of a representative of a friendly

nation so it is right that we host them. The only issue is that Australia does not have a head of state to send back to Britain to represent us there and be paid for by British taxpayers.”

He said the royals were viewed with fondness by Australians.

“The point is we have affection for Britain but not allegiance. When he is an adult Prince George will stand side-by-side with the head of an Australian republic and all those old colonial values will be put aside.”

Tourism Australia

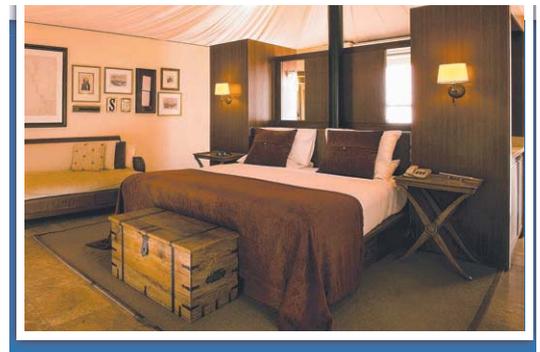
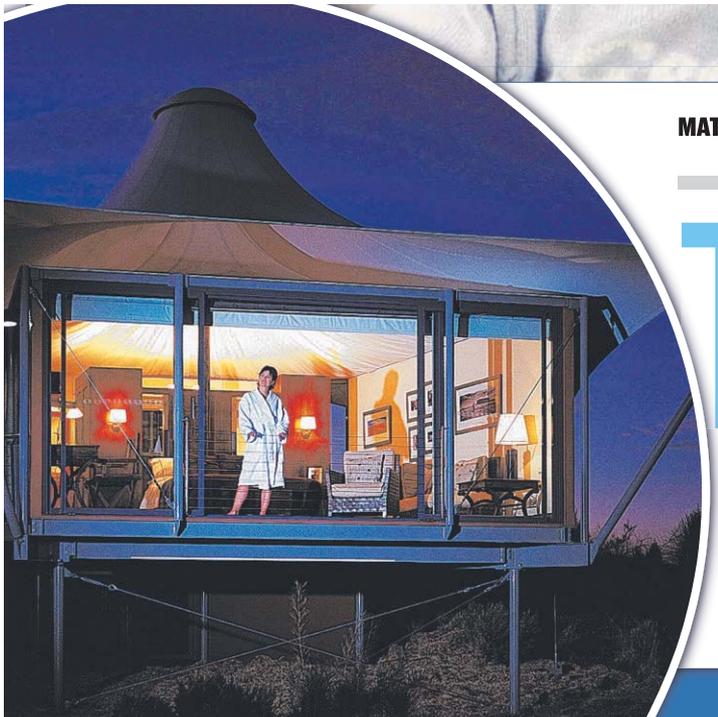
managing director John O’Sullivan said the visit would provide a boost for Australian tourism.

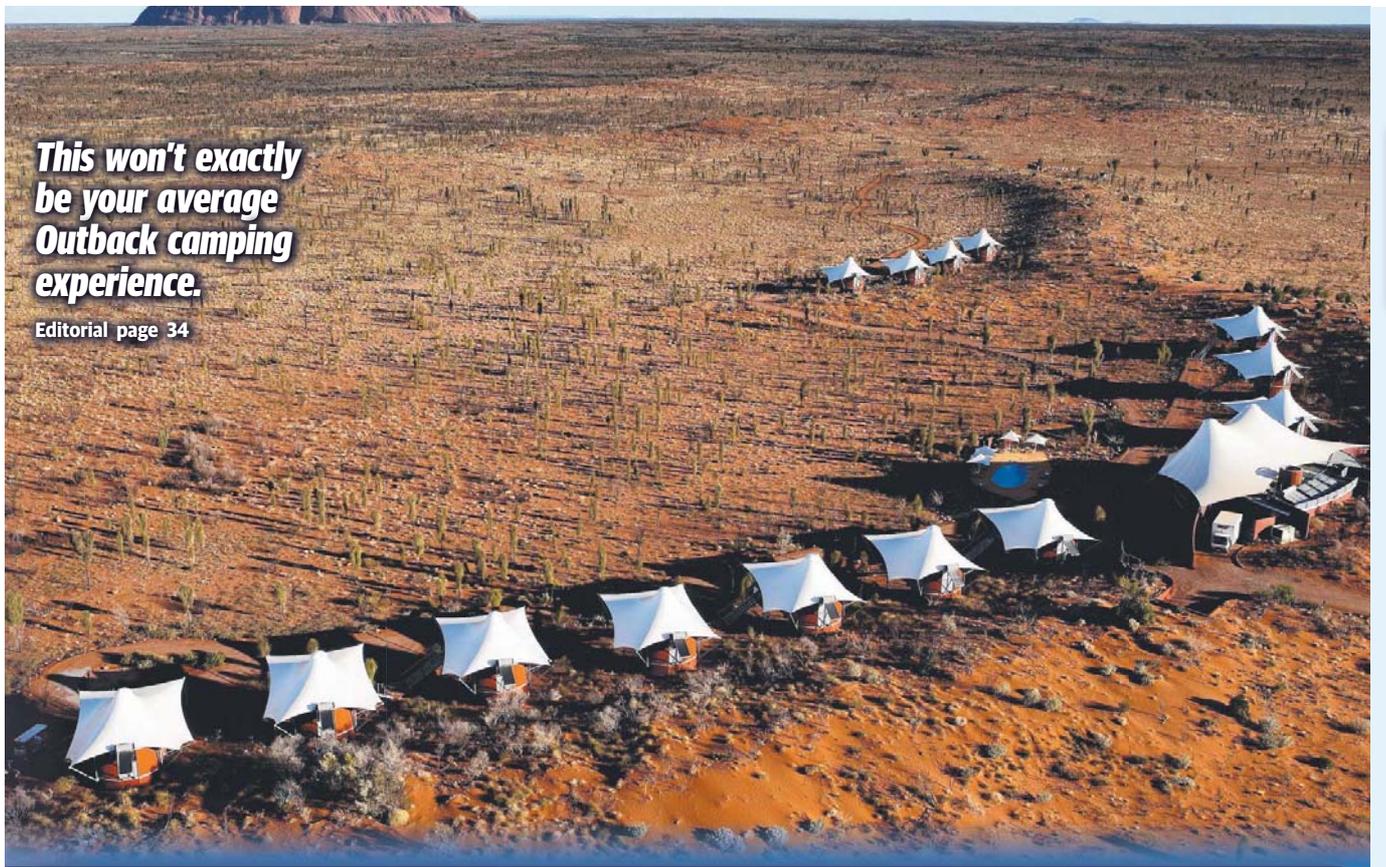
“I’m sure the royal visit will attract huge followings and global media attention, particularly with the young Prince George in tow,” Mr O’Sullivan said.

“The pictures we can expect to see broadcast

across the world, against such stunning backdrops as Uluru and the Blue Mountains, are tourism gold. That kind of free international exposure can’t really be bought and is fantastic for the country.”

Kyah Crim, 8, Claire Rutten, 8, Carissa Askar, 10, Emma Toohey, 9, Zoe Godfrey, 9, and Brianna Dembrok, 9 are Girl Guides from Winmalee in the Blue Mountains
Picture: Adam Taylor





***This won't exactly
be your average
Outback camping
experience.***

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