

Presents a 14-day outback Queensland tour

“DAYS OF THE STOCKMEN”

18 – 31 March 2018



Day 1 (D) VICTOR HARBOR TO BROKEN HILL:

Sunday 18 March 2018

Welcome to our fabulous outback adventure. Bags and akubras packed we have an early start as we have quite a way to go today. Heading north we go as far as **Burra** which will be our chance to purchase lunch in the main street. Our afternoon is spent expressing to our first overnight stop, which is in Broken Hill. *(Lunch own expense, Dinner in the motel)*

Silver Haven Motor Inn, Broken Hill (08 8087 2218)

Day 2 (BLD) BROKEN HILL TO BOURKE:

Monday 19 March 2018

After enjoying a cooked breakfast we head off for another day travelling further into the outback of Australia. The fascinating town of **White Cliffs** is where opals were discovered in the late 1880s. Residents here live mainly underground to escape the heat. It's 98 km from Wilcannia and set in a bizarre moonscape-like landscape comprising thousands of hillocks of earth - dug and discarded - in the quest for opals. We enjoy a locally **guided tour** of White Cliffs and **lunch** at the **Red Earth Opal Café** making this an interesting place to visit. Late afternoon we arrive in Bourke where we check into our motel. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel, lunch Red Earth Café)*

Back O Bourke motel, Bourke (02 6872 4448)

Day 3: (BLD): BOURKE TO CHARLEVILLE:

Tuesday 20 March 2018

Armed with a **picnic lunch** we continue north, making stops throughout the day. We arrive in **Charleville** with time to settle into our motel before venturing out late this afternoon to Charleville's best known attraction, the **Cosmos Centre**. The centre is an audio-visual extravaganza featuring hi-tech interactive displays that take you on an astronomical journey through the ages, unravelling many mysteries of our night sky. We enjoy some nibbles and drinks before the open-air observatory and viewing of the outback night sky. We then return to the motel for a two-course dinner. *(Breakfast and dinner at the motel, picnic lunch)*



Waltzing Matilda Motel, Charleville (07 4654 1720)

Day 4: (BLD): CHARLEVILLE TO LONGREACH:

Wednesday 21 March 2018

We wake up ready to hit the road again making our first stop in **Blackall**. This was home of the legendary gun shearer Jack Howe. In 1892 he shored a total of 321 sheep at Alice Downs Station in 7 hours and 40 minutes, a record for hand shearing that still stands and was only broken by a shearer using a machine driven handpiece in 1950. A bronze statue stands as a monument to the man and his achievement. Our **lunch** venue today is at the massive **Wool Scour**, housed in the Visitor Information Centre. This is the only steam driven wool scour (wool washing facility) remaining of the 52 once operating across the country. A bit further on in **Barcaldine** we visit the **Worker's Heritage Centre**, the only national attraction dedicated to celebrating the lives and proud heritage of ordinary working people. The displays tell the stories of the railway workers and blacksmiths, the farmers, nurses and teachers who shaped our nation. From here we travel onto **Longreach** – just over 100kms to the east, where we drop our 'swags' for the next three nights.



There is plenty to see in Longreach but tonight we just settle into our rooms. The slab huts have been constructed using traditional pioneer techniques and feature many local crafts and quirky features that help tell the outback story. This is a unique accommodation experience. Tonight we enjoy a sunset dinner on the banks of the **Thomson River** - a timeless waterhole. There will be an open fire and bush poetry. It will be a fantastic night. *(Breakfast at the motel, lunch Blackall Wool Scour, dinner cruise)*

Outback Pioneer Slab Huts, Longreach (1300 819 968)

DAY 5 (BD): EXPLORING LONGREACH:**Thursday 22 March 2018**

On today's adventures we will uncover some national treasures, well worth spending quite a bit of time at. Firstly we pay a visit to the **Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame**. This is where we spend time wandering through the Centre's five themed galleries proudly displaying the history behind some of Australia's greatest and bravest explorers, stock workers, pastoralists and Aborigines. The

displays allow us to interpret the outback story in a unique way. Make sure we head outside by 11am for the **Outback Stockmans Show**. The show encompasses the modern day aspects of being a stockman, as well as telling the tales of what it used to be like in the past. The afternoon is free to relax or spend extra time at the museum. We return to the Stockmans Hall of Fame for the night show before enjoying a wonderful country style dinner. *(Breakfast in the motel, lunch own expense, Stockmans Hall of Fame dinner)*

Outback Pioneer Slab Huts, Longreach (1300 819 968)

DAY 6 (BLD): OUTBACK LONGREACH:**Friday 23 March 2018**

Today we are going to have a special experience as we get a real insight to the area through the eyes of local graziers and pioneer families. We will meet the owners of a local station called **Strathmore** and learn about their operations and the challenges of operating on the land. We then head back into town and really step back in time – at **Kinnon & Co** in the main street. Their Station Store has an amazing range of traditionally made leatherwear and a treasure trove of historic nostalgia. We can experience the Harry Redford Old Time Tent Show "**The Legends Tribute**". Laugh at the antics of Australia's most famous cattle duffer, Harry Redford or "Captain Starlight" – a mix of poetic story and Australian humour to create live theatre, outback style! It will be a lot of fun. There will be a little bit of free time this afternoon for shopping or to take a stagecoach ride through the scrub (own cost). Our afternoon visit is to the **QANTAS Founders**



Museum. Taking a look at the historic photographs, memorabilia and multimedia displays bring alive the inspirational stories of one of the world's pioneering airlines. We have allowed plenty of time to enjoy the museum at leisure before our exclusive dinner right in the museum! *(Breakfast in the motel, light lunch, dinner at QANTAS museum)*

Outback Pioneer Slab Huts, Longreach (1300 819 968)

DAY 7 (BLD): LONGREACH TO WINTON:**Saturday 24 March 2018**

With anticipation of another fun day, this morning we are off to experience the freedom of the vast open plains and Coolibah lined creeks. We will see some dramatic and ever changing scenery around **Winton** including the "jump up" – a rugged mesa plateau formation that stands 75 meters above the surrounding plains. Our first visit is to the **Australian Age of Dinosaurs**. There have



been some ground breaking science discoveries in these parts – an area that was once home to dinosaurs. Here we see the largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils and the largest fossil preparation laboratory in the southern hemisphere. If we are lucky we may even get to touch a dinosaur fossil! After our **lunch** here we arrive in Winton where there will be some free time to wander along the main street – make sure you take a look at the Opal Walk and the historic Royal Open Air Theatre

and Museum. We stay in **Winton** for two nights to continue enjoying the local hospitality. After checking into the **North Gregory Hotel** also known as ‘The Grand Old Lady’ we freshen up for dinner. We gather around the heritage campfire tonight to share stories, eat and listen to live music. There is nothing better than experiencing the outback beneath the stars which is what this ‘**Starry Night**’ themed dinner is all about. *(Breakfast and dinner in the hotel, lunch Age of Dinosaurs)*

North Gregory Hotel, Winton (07 4657 0647)

DAY 8 (BLD): WINTON TOURING:

Sunday 25 March 2018

This morning we make our visits the two best ways to get to know any Aussie community – the pubs and the cemetery. The cemetery is a window into what life was like back when all anyone had to rely on was each other. We also take a look at some of the other pubs in the area where there is always a yarn to be heard. Sunday is the day ‘The Grand Old Lady’ is celebrated with a party. Locals welcome us and enjoy the outback games, music, movies and of course the traditional Sunday roast is always a big hit. Basically we are assured of a fun night! *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel, light lunch included)*

North Gregory Hotel, Winton (07 4657 0647)

DAY 9: (BLD): WINTON TO BOULIA:

Monday 26 March 2018

We say goodbye to our on our next destination of make our way to the **Min** Visitor Information the theatrical 45 minute story of the Min Min Light has many theories is but nothing has ever remains the mystery it was first sighted near the graveyard. Boulia is also *(Breakfast and dinner in provided)*



hosts and set our sights **Boulia**. Upon arrival we **Min Encounter** and Centre where we watch show dedicated to the phenomenon. This light abounding as to what it been proven and so it has always been when it Min Min Hotel our overnight stop. *the motel, picnic lunch*

Australian Hotel, Boulia (07 4746 3144)

DAY 10: (BD): BOULIA TO BIRDSVILLE:**Tuesday 27 March 2018**

Setting off right after breakfast this morning is necessary today as we want to get as far as **Birdsville** by late afternoon. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel, lunch own expense)*

Birdsville Hotel, Birdsville (07 4656 3244)

DAY 11: (BLD): BIRDSVILLE TO MARREE:**Wednesday 28 March 2018**

This morning we travel south along the notorious "**Birdsville Track**". This track was once used by drovers following the cattle routes from north-west Queensland to **Marree** in the south. It is desolate but beautiful country with the **Sturt Stony Desert** on our left and the great expanse of the **Simpson Desert** on our right. Our drive today is in two main sections. From Birdsville it's just over 300 kilometers to the **Mungerannie Hotel** on the Derwent River. For part of the morning we will travel alongside the Diamantina River. The Diamantina never really dries up, usually flowing during February and August and sometimes even into April and May depending on the monsoons. After our stop at Mungerannie we have another 200km to **Marree**. For some of the way we will pass through the sandhill country that is the meeting point of the Tirari and Strzelecki Deserts and the lead in point to the Cooper Creek flood plain. Late afternoon after passing through the Dog Fence, we arrive in **Marree**. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel, picnic lunch supplied)*

Marree Hotel Motel, Marree (08 8675 8344)

DAY 12: (BLD): MARREE TOURING:**Thursday 29 March 2018**

This morning we take a look at Marree and learn all about the history, culture and amazing stories of how residents live in this isolated outback community. There are no power lines or mains water in the town, so the entire town is reliant on the water from the **Great Artesian Basin** and power supplied by the main town generator. Did you know the town was home to Australia's first mosque, which was made of mud brick and built by the Afghan cameleers employed at Marree's inception? At one time the town was divided in two, with Europeans on one side and Afghans and Aborigines on the other. We continue our adventure along the **Oodnadatta Track**, passing by **Mutonia Sculpture Park**. Mechanic, turned artist, Robin Cook has created a unique attraction in this isolated area. The park contains the remarkable Plane Henge & the Giant Dingo sculptures and many more. At the old **Curdimurka Railway Siding** we enjoy our *picnic lunches* and have a look at the Old Ghan railway bridge across the Stuart Creek. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel, picnic lunch supplied)*

Marree Hotel Motel, Marree (08 8675 8344)

DAY 13: (BLD): MARREE TO PORT AUGUSTA:**Friday 30 March 2018**

We say goodbye after breakfast and arrive in **Farina** which was one of the towns settled early in the period of the 'opening of the outback' by European settlers. It was surveyed in 1878 and was named "Farina", which means "flour" as it was imagined that the area would become the "granary of the north"! The rains didn't fall and the town thus became the railhead to the pastoral country to the north. The famous Birdsville and Oodnadatta Tracks saw their beginnings as the drovers and cameleers worked northwards from here. Farina was at the end of the first stage of the narrow gauge "Great Northern" railway line which became best known as the "Ghan". Later on in the 1950s a modern standard gauge line



was laid as far as Marree and we can still trace where each line went. We can explore the ruins, many of which have been stabilised and researched and imagine in our mind's eye the life they may have lived and the hardships they endured. Our next stop, which is our lunch venue, is at the iconic **Prairie Hotel** in Parachilna. The hotel has played host to many films, commercials and featured in some of the most well-known television series. This is a great souvenir photo opportunity. The rest of the afternoon is spent travelling to our final overnight destination of **Port Augusta**. We will arrive in time to settle into our rooms and relax for a bit before our farewell dinner at the hotel. *(Breakfast and dinner in the motel, lunch Prairie Hotel)*

Acacia Ridge Motor Inn, Port Augusta (08 8642 3377)

DAY 14 (B): PORT AUGUSTA TO HOME: Saturday 31 March 2018

What a great adventure we have had but it is time to go home. We have approximately 6 hours of travelling to do today, making stops along the way at the most convenient places. Arriving home before it gets dark ends a most wonderful trip to the Outback, where time has stood still in some parts. *(Breakfast in the motel, lunch own expense)*

Departing Sunday 18th – Sat 31st March 2018

All-inclusive cost is \$4550.00pp & \$820.00ss

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times and days of operation of some attractions. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures or inclement weather.