

# 12 DAY QUEENSLAND OUTBACK TO COAST



July 30 > August 10

Unearth the Queensland Outback and rediscover the Whitsundays!



**CT TRAVEL**  
*Coolum Tours & Travel*

Explore the heart of Queensland and discover the region that attracted bush poets like Banjo Patterson. Witness the awesome bulk of the Texas Longhorns and enjoy traditional stockman's camp-fire dinner. Uncover the laid-back village atmosphere of Airlie Beach and indulge in crystal clear waters as you cruise the Whitsundays. This holiday has it all, so come along and experience Queensland from outback to coast!

***12 days - Twin / Double \$4996.00 p/p***  
***Single \$5811.00 p/p***  
***Deposit \$750.00***

**DAY 1: (D) SUNSHINE COAST TO ROMA**

**Thursday 30 July 2020**

Welcome to our 12 day tour to the Central West and Coastal Queensland. Sit back and relax as we begin our journey through to the state's outback. We have a travel day today as we cover the distance through to Roma. It is vast out here, away from the coast – big sky country as they call it. Outback towns; night skies; Bilbies; Stations and Longhorns – there is certainly plenty to see! We continue through Chinchilla to Roma for our first overnight stay. We have time to freshen up before dinner at the motel.

**1 night Roma Explorers Inn | 07 4620 1400**  
Dinner at the motel | Lunch

**DAY 2: (BLD) ROMA TO CHARLEVILLE****Friday 31 July 2020**

Heading out this morning we discover the first settlement in the area, the heritage listed **Mt Abundance Homestead**. Be greeted warmly by the owners before being led on an intriguing tour. Discover the first Post Office in the Roma district and visit the underground cellar lined with locally hand-made bricks as well as an early grave site. After pleasant morning tea out on the verandah, we thank our hosts and head to the **Big Rig** for a self-guided tour of the **Big Rig Oil Patch**. This outdoor museum tells the story of the gas in coal reserves, its first discovery in Roma and the progression of the industry. Enjoy lunch here before travelling to **Charleville**, the centre of a rich pastoral district. Did you know that Ross and Keith Smith landed here with engine trouble on their first flight from London to Sydney in 1919? After settling in to our motel we head out to visit **Charleville's Cosmos Centre**. The centre is an audio-visual extravaganza featuring hi-tech interactive displays that will take us on an astronomical journey through the ages, unravelling the many mysteries of our night sky.

**2 nights Mulga Country Motor Inn | 07 4654 3255**

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | morning tea Mt Abundance Homestead | lunch at Roma Big Rig

**DAY 3: (BD) CHARLEVILLE****Saturday 1 July 2020**

Our interesting day begins with a **local guided tour** of the town, who will unravel the mystery surrounding the Charleville airport and how it came to be a top-secret site during World War II. Next is the **Bilby Experience**. Listening to our guide reveal the bilby and Australia's native animal extinction crisis, we discover their breeding program with a chance to possibly see these unique little critters. This afternoon we embark on a **sun viewing and astronomy by day tour** where we discover the truth about falling stars and how the solar system formed. Our guide will enlighten us to the life story of our Sun and how small it is compared to the big stars above. We then return to our motel for dinner.

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | lunch at own arrangements and cost

**DAY 4: (BD) CHARLEVILLE TO LONGREACH****Sunday 2 August 2020**

This morning we stop at **Tambo** to visit **Tambo Teddies**. Stitched with love, we uncover that these teddy bears were originally created by 3 local women wanting to overcome low wool prices and drought. Embark on a tour through the workshop as well as discovering the oldest town in the central west. Continuing on, we head to **Barcaldine**, a town steeped in the history of early pioneer struggles and the evolution of Australia as a nation. We'll stop to see the **Tree of Knowledge**, an iconic ghost gum which earned its claim to fame as the founding site of the political movement we now know as the Australian Labor Party. Arriving into **Longreach**, we settle in for the next 3 nights.

**3 nights Longreach Motor Inn | 07 4658 2322**

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | morning tea at Tambo Teddies | lunch at own arrangements and cost

**DAY 5: (BD) LONGREACH****Monday 3 August 2020**

Our first visit for the day is to the **School of Distance Education** - a classroom more than twice the size of Victoria, where the playground is as vast as the outback and the partnership between home and school is legendary. Then at the **Qantas Founders Outback Museum**, pour over the historic memorabilia and multi-media displays that tell the inspirational stories of overcoming the long-distances of the outback. Witness the impressive Boeing 747-200 while our guide gives us with an appreciation for the achievements of the Qantas Founders. Visit the **Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame**. Spending time here to wander the centre's five themed galleries proudly displaying the history behind some of Australia's greatest and bravest. Our day complete we return to our motel.

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | lunch at own arrangements and cost

**DAY 6: (BLD) OUTBACK STATIONS AND PIONEERING PAST****Tuesday 4 August 2020**

What an exceptional day planned! Firstly, we get an insight to the area through the eyes of local graziers and pioneer families. Greeting the owners of **Strathmore Station**, we discover what it takes to meet the challenges of the land. Then we must hold on to our hats as we travel in back in time within a beautifully restored **stagecoach**! Hearing the pounding hooves of the magnificent horses on the outback road, there is no mistaking that we are now part of the pioneering past. Enjoy this exhilarating and entertaining experience along with a Billy-Can lunch. This afternoon we take a gentle sunset cruise down the majestic **Thomson River** before going ashore for a **traditional stockman's camp-fire dinner**. A real outback experience with inspiring and humorous traditional entertainment. Next, the bush is illuminated by the **Starlight's Spectacular Sound & Light Picture Show**, a unique big-screen presentation featuring the amazing adventures of the notorious cattle thief known as 'Captain Starlight'. Finally, in the atmospheric surroundings of the bush at night, we enjoy the timeless favourite, billy tea and damper, before heading back to our motel.

Breakfast at motel | morning tea at Strathmore Station | lunch at Cobb & Co Stage Coach | dinner on tour

**DAY 7: (BLD) LONGREACH TO WINTON****Wednesday 5 August 2020**

Leaving Longreach, we head 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 towers above the surrounding plains. Here we discover that this area was once home to dinosaurs at the **Australian Age of Dinosaurs**. Be guided through the largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils and uncover the largest fossil preparation laboratory in the southern hemisphere. Now in **Winton** visit the newly re-built **Waltzing Matilda Centre**, a world class museum and art gallery. We'll undertake lunch here followed by a self-guided tour. Enjoy time exploring the main street, before heading to our hotel, The North Gregory. This historical building stands to have an impressive past, from the first public performance of Waltzing Matilda to the clandestine meetings that saw the launch of a little airline named QANTAS.

**1 night North Gregory Hotel | 07 4657 0647**

Breakfast and dinner at the hotel | morning tea Australian Age of Dinosaurs | lunch at the Waltzing Matilda Centre

**DAY 8: (BLD) WINTON TO CHARTERS TOWERS****Thursday 6 August 2020**

This morning we watch the horizon stream by as we head to the cattle and sheep grazing lands of **Hughenden**. We have our picnic lunches before continuing on to **Charters Towers**, an old gold mining city that is big on history and character. We'll settle into our hotel and freshen up for dinner.

**1 night Park Motel | 07 4787 1022**

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | picnic lunch supplied

**DAY 9: (BLD) CHARTERS TOWERS TO AIRLIE BEACH****Friday 7 August 2020**

Have your cowboy hats and boots ready as you taken to the legendary **Texas Longhorns**! Enjoy a camp oven cooked damper and billie tea served from the genuine cowboy chuck wagon before touring the custom saddle shop. Uncover the history of this iconic and magnificent breed of cattle whilst spinning yarns with your hosts and friends. After a special morning of discovery, it is now time to hang up our boots, as we express **Airlie Beach** in the Whitsundays.

**3 nights Colonial Palms Motor Inn | 07 4946 7166**

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | picnic lunch supplied

An earlier start to the day has us prepared to board our full day cruise through the beautiful Whitsundays. Our cruise will take us first to **Hamilton Island** with plenty of time to have a look around. You might like to jump on the shuttle bus and discover the islands tropical beauty. Wander the waterfront of Hamilton Island's famous Front Street and Marina Village taking in the sights, visiting the galleries, doing some shopping before enjoying lunch at the Marina Tavern. Cruise to beautiful **Whitehaven Beach** on the uninhabited **Whitsunday Island**. Discovering the glistening pure silica sand of this most unspoilt and spectacular Island, you may also like to take a swim in the crystal-clear blue waters? Back on board we enjoy afternoon tea on our return voyage to Airlie Beach.

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | lunch at Marina Tavern

We have another great day in store, with **Proserpine River Eco Tours**. Heading to their unique venture on a private section of the Proserpine River, our day will be divided into two parts. Firstly, experience the **crocodile safari**, where you take a remote and fascinating cruise along the calm waters at low tide to spot some of the local saltwater crocodile basking on the river banks. After the cruise enjoy a BBQ lunch before a wetlands tour on an **open-air wagon train** to view the abundant wildlife across the Googanga Plains. It's a nationally listed wetland habitat and you'll experience some unique scenery and wildlife as you travel through flood plains, pastures, saltpans and melaleuca forests. After a fascinating day we return to the motel.

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | lunch on tour

After such an amazing time exploring the Queensland from the outback to the coast, however it is now time to farewell this beautiful part of the world and board our flights to Brisbane. While in the air, we will no doubt find ourselves reliving our journey through everlasting memories of Outback communities, dinosaurs' whispers and tropical waters!

Breakfast on board | lunch at own arrangements and cost



## Tour Inclusions

- 11 night's motel accommodation
- 11 cooked motel breakfasts
- 9 motel dinners and 1 included dinner – see below
- 8 included lunches
  - Roma | Mt Abundance Homestead morning tea and guided tour
  - Roma | Roma Big Rig Oil Patch entry and light lunch Incl. tea and coffee
  - Charleville | Cosmos Centre Twilight Session
  - Charleville | Visitors Centre guided town tour & World War II top secret tour.
  - Charleville | Visitors Centre Bilby Experience Inc. video and talk about the breeding program.
  - Charleville | Cosmos Centre Sun viewing and Astronomy by Day
  - Tambo | Tambo Teddies morning tea and tour of workshop
  - Longreach | School of Distance Education entry
  - Longreach | Qantas Founders Outback Museum entry into museum and 747 tour
  - Longreach | Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame entry
  - Longreach | Strathmore Station Smoko Tour incl. transfers
  - Longreach | Kinnon & Co - Outback Pioneer Cobb & Co Stagecoach Experience
  - Longreach | Kinnon & Co - Outback Pioneer billy can lunch
  - Longreach | Kinnon & Co - Outback Pioneer Starlight's Cruise Experience incl. Thomson river sunset cruise (nibbles included, BYO drinks), traditional stockman's dinner (2 courses around campfire), live entertainment, Starlight's spectacular sound & light picture show and transfers
  - Winton | Australian Age of Dinosaurs full tour & morning tea
  - Winton | Waltzing Matilda Centre light lunch Incl. tea and coffee
  - Winton | Waltzing Matilda Centre Senior self-guided tour including audio tour set
  - Winton | North Gregory Hotel packed lunch
  - Charters Towers | Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours & Safaris Incl. Texas Longhorn Safari, Smoko & Cattle Yard Tour
  - Charters Towers | Park Motel packed lunch
  - Whitsundays | Cruise Whitsundays Hamilton Island and Whitehaven Beach cruise incl. lunch at the Marina Tavern
  - Whitsundays | Whitsunday Crocodile Safari Tour Incl. cruise, wetland train, BBQ lunch and transfers
  - Flight .. Proserpine to Brisbane .. coach transfer to Sunshine Coast

## Accommodation

- Roma | Roma Explorers Inn
- Charleville | Mulga Country Motor Inn
- Longreach | Longreach Motor Inn
- Winton | North Gregory Hotel
- Charters Towers | Park Motel
- Whitsundays | Colonial Palms Motor Inn

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