



CT TRAVEL
Coolum Tours & Travel

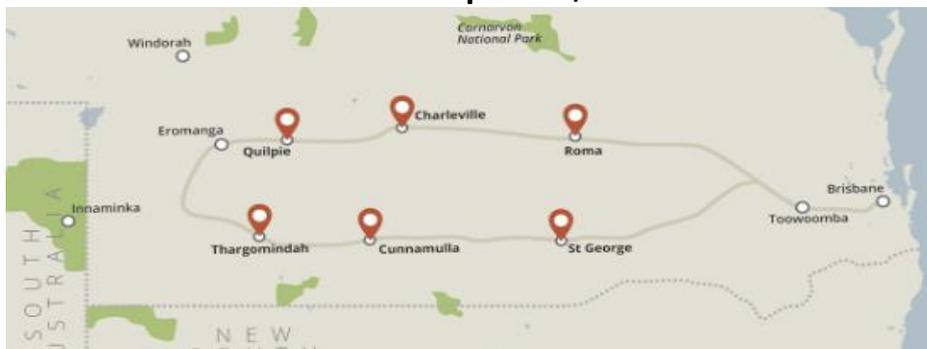


Journey into the South West Queensland Outback and meet the locals that call this place home

Be mesmerised by the seamlessly endless landscapes. Uncover strong pioneering history, fossil rich lands and the industrious communities that call this remarkable place home!

17th to 27th August 2020

11 days - Twin / Double \$3975.00 p/p
Single \$4665.00
Deposit \$200.00



DAY 1: (L, D) COOLUM > BRISBANE > ROMA**Monday 17th August 2020**

Eager to be back on the road again we farewell the Sunshine Coast travelling south to Brisbane then heading north-west along the Warrego Highway. After stopping for morning tea along the way we continue via Queensland's Garden City, **Toowoomba** nestled on top of The Great Dividing Range. Continuing along the Adventure Way to we pass through Dalby, **Chinchilla**, and **Miles**, arriving in **Roma**, the heart of beef country late afternoon with time to check-in and refresh before dinner.

Stay 2 nights in Roma. (Roma Explorers Inn)

DAY 2: ROMA (B,L,D)**Tuesday 18th August 2020**

Feel the energy and excitement of a real cattle auction at Australia's biggest cattle selling facility, *Roma Saleyards*. This is where it all happens. On any given day up to 7,000 head of cattle are brought for sale. We will be joined by a retired grazier for an insiders view of the saleyards and entry to the new multi-media Interpretive Centre. We will then share a few hours with a local guide from *Boobook Ecotours* for an insight into the colourful history and characters of Roma. Hear how the town began and the industries it supports; discover Heroes Avenue, the Biggest Bottle Tree and the Roma Bush Gardens. After lunch we will experience authentic country hospitality at *Mount Hope*, a 34,000 acre working cattle station. A family host will board our coach at the station entrance for a guided tour of this Droughtmaster cattle property. Enjoy sunset nibbles and drinks followed by a delicious two-course camp oven dinner under the stars.

DAY 3: (B,L,D) ROMA > CHARLEVILLE**Wednesday 19th August 2020**

After a scrumptious breakfast we travel further west towards **Charleville** arriving mid-morning. We head into downtown Charleville and arrive at the famous *Hotel Coronas* – built in stages, the hotel was completed in 1929 during Charleville's wool industry boom. We join a guided one-hour tour with exclusive access to normally restricted areas of the hotel and hear the rags to riches story of local character Harry Coronas, followed by lunch in the hotel dining room. We have time for a visit the Historic House Museum and discover treasured items dating back to the 1800s before travelling to the RFDS Charleville Visitor Centre and learn the rich history of the *Royal Flying Doctor Service*. After checking in to our Motel we visit the Cosmos Centre for the *Big Sky Twilight Tour*. See an amazing night sky brought into focus with the help of powerful Meade telescopes and listen to captivating stories from their experienced sky guide.

Stay 2 nights in Charleville (Mulga Country Inn)

DAY 4: (B, D) CHARLEVILLE**Thursday 20th August 2020**

Today we tour one of the largest classrooms in the world at *Charleville School of Distance Education*. View the facilities and watch a class delivered in real time between one of the dedicated teaches and 'on-air-students.' An experienced guide will board our coach at the *Cosmos Centre* for a tour of the *USAAF Top Secret sites*. We will find out why Charleville was selected for this top secret site in WWII, visiting intriguing historical sites and learn about the highly classified computerised bomb aimer. Next is the *Bilby Experience* and hear first-hand what the Save the Bilby Fund is doing to protect this environmental engineering marvel. Tour the nocturnal house where you will meet these beautiful bilbies.

DAY 5: (B,L,D) CHARLEVILLE > QUILPIE**Friday 21st August 2020**

Today you will visit one of the smallest towns in Australia to retain its own postcode. We will drop into **Cooladdi** - taking its name from an Aboriginal term for 'black duck', was once home to 270 residents. On arrival in **Quilpie** we make our first stop at the Visitor Information Centre, Museum and Gallery where their local guide will board our coach for a town tour. Discover the history and unique landscapes of Quilpie town, Baldy Top Lookout, St Finbarrs' Opal Altar and Quilpie Airport mini museum. Our tour includes lunch at the *Quilpie Heritage Inn* (aka The Brick) which has been carefully restored to its original splendour. This afternoon we join celebrated artist Lyn Barnes at her *boutique art gallery for sunset, wine and cheese*. View her latest work and discover her unique creative connection to the Outback. Tonight, enjoy *dinner under the stars at The Lake*.

Overnight Quilpie (Quilpie Motor Inn)

DAY 6: (B,L,D) QUILPIE > EROMANGA**Saturday 22nd August 2020**

This morning, we will take a drive out to **Moble Homestead**, home of the Rutledge family, proud wool producers and keen environmentalists and join them on a tour of their property which has remained in the family for five generations. Returning to the homestead for a tour of the beautiful country gardens we will then enjoy a delicious two-course lunch in this delightful garden setting overlooking their tranquil waterhole. Continue our journey we travel to **Eromanga** and visit the Natural History Museum where their experienced guide will take us on a one hour tour of the workshop laboratory and collection centre. You'll meet titanosaur sauropods Cooper and George, the largest dinosaurs to have ever been found in Australia. The guides will demonstrate how to prepare fossilised bone and you'll see the incredible Eulo megafauna fossils. Tonight, enjoy a themed dinner at the Eromanga Natural History Museum.

Overnight Eromanga (Cooper's Country Lodge + Eromanga Motel)

DAY 7: (B,L,D) EROMANGA > THARGOMINDAH**Sunday 23rd August 2020**

Driving along the Cooper Developmental Road as it skirts the edge of Queensland's Southern Outback, we then take the turnoff for the historic **Noccundra Hotel** for morning tea. Look closely at the sandstone walls of this 1882 construction. The sandstone was quarried in New South Wales and transported by Camel Train to its present location. You have to ponder the logistics of this! Continuing on to **Thargomindah** (on the banks of the Bulloo River) we will arrive in time for lunch. It was the first town in Australia, and third in the world to produce hydro-electric power for street lighting. A 'smart cookie' came up with the idea to use the water pressure from the Artesian Basin. After an early check-in at our motel we join a local guide for a tour and demonstration of the *Artesian Hydro Power Plant* - we then step out on the viewing deck for a spectacular outback sunset (with nibbles & drinks). Arriving back at our motel we continue the outdoor experience with a *Slow Cook and Damper Dinner* under the stars.

Overnight Thargomindah (Oasis Motel)

DAY 8: (B,L,D) THARGOMINDAH > CUNNAMULLA**Monday 24th August 2020**

This morning, our local guide will board our coach at the *Thargomindah Visitor Information Centre* for a town tour with great local stories and insights. Relive moments of yesteryear at the *Old Jail* and *Old Thargomindah Hospital* courtesy of life-size holographics and interactive experiences. We say goodbye to “Thargo” -- heading east along the Adventure Way we arrive in **Eulo**, often described as the ‘Montville of the Outback.’ Relax with a hearty pub lunch in the famous *Eulo Queen Hotel* before sampling the town shop. Check out the opals and art at the *Telegraph House Gallery*, pick up handcrafted leather goods or purchase some locally made honey. While in town we will visit the *Artesian Mud Springs*; built up over centuries these mud springs were the original release valves for the Great Artesian Basin. Take a selfie with *Kenny the life-size Diprotodon* (giant Megafauna) found in the Eulo Area. Back on the road we travel on to **Cunnamulla** and the *Cunnamulla Fella Visitor Information Centre*. Join a self-guided tour of the *Artesian Time Tunnel*, meet ‘Doug the Rigger’, view engaging audio-visual displays and find out how the Great Artesian Basin was formed

Overnight Cunnamulla (Warrego Hotel-Motel)

DAY 9: (B,L,D) CUNNAMULLA > ST GEORGE**Tuesday 25th August 2020**

This morning a fourth generation local from *Out The Back Australia* will board our coach for a guided tour of Cunnamulla. See the huge natural sand dunes and learn how they came to be. Gain an insight into the region’s first inhabitants, early pioneers and quirky characters. Continuing east along the Balonne Highway we arrive at the turnoff for **Charlotte Plains**. This family owned and operated sheep station was established back in the 1860s. Property owner Robyn Russell will board our coach for a guided tour of the station, home to Merino Sheep and Dohne Rams as well as the more recent Aussie White Sheep. We will see the historic bore, sunk into the Great Artesian Basin to a depth of 561m, tour their historic woolshed and enjoy a relaxed lunch on the old homestead verandah. Back on the coach we travel on to arrive in **St George** early afternoon with time to refresh before joining a leisurely two hour sunset cruise on the Balonne River with *Sandytown River Cruises*. Our experienced guide Brett, will entertain you with interesting stories about the river and native birdlife.

Stay 2 nights in St George (Riverland Motor Inn)

DAY 10: (B,L,D) ST GEORGE**Wednesday 26th August 2020**

This morning we’ll visit the *Unique Egg* where artist Steve Margaritis has been hand carving emu eggs for more than 60 years. His work is truly unique! Once a local guide will hop on our coach for a heritage tour of St George including a visit to *Anchorage Homestead* (with morning tea) to discover the history of one of the oldest homes in the shire – The Anchorage is a heritage-listed homestead built in 1903. We then meet David (the owner) at Riversands Wines for a tour of the vineyard followed by a personal wine tasting and three course winery lunch. This afternoon we’ll be joined by a local cotton farmer on a tour of a fully operational cotton farm to learn how cotton is grown, irrigated and harvested.

DAY 11: (B,L) ST GEORGE > BRISBANE > COOLUM

Thursday 27th August 2020

After an amazing time in Southern Inland Queensland we travel south east along the Carnarvon Highway to Nindigully and call into the famous Nindigully Pub, the longest continually licensed pub in Queensland. Continuing east we stop to check out **Moonie** (first oil wells in Qld) - then travelling through the rich Darling Downs to Toowoomba. From there we will re-join the Warrego Highway back to Brisbane and onto Coolum Beach with everlasting memories of Outback communities, magical scenery, the local Characters we have met and, the friends we have made on the way



Tour Highlights

• Roma

- Guided tour of the Roma Saleyards
- Local guide for tour of Roma
- Tour Mount Hope Station followed by a camp oven dinner

• Charleville

- Enjoy lunch and a guided tour of historic Hotel Coronas in Charleville
- Explore the night skies on the Cosmos Centre Big Sky Twilight Tour
- Visit RFDS
- Visit Charleville School of Distance Education
- Uncover the stories on the Top Secrets WWII Tour with local Guide
- Meet the Bilby at the Bilby Experience

• Quilpie

- Join a guided town tour of Quilpie
- Savour Sunset, Wine & Cheese at Lyn Barns boutique outback gallery
- Dinner under the stars by The Lake
- Visit Moble Homestead and enjoy a tour and garden lunch

• Eromanga

- Join the Australian Dinosaur Giants Tour
- Eromanga Natural History Museum
- Discover the historic Noccundra Hotel

• Thargomindah

- Enjoy Sunset Drinks followed by a Slow Cook & Damper Dinner (alfresco)
- Step back in time with a tour of the Thargomindah Old Jail and Old Hospital
- Discover the history of the Artesian Hydro Power Plant

• Eulo

- See the Artesian Mud Springs in Eulo
- Lunch at the Eulo Queen Hotel
- Visit the Telegraph House Gallery for opals, leather crafts, local honey etc

• Cunnamulla

- Tour Cunnamulla with a fourth generation local
- Tour of the Artesian Time Tunnel
- Visit Charlotte Plains, a working sheep station tour & lunch

• St George

- Cruise the Balonne River at sunset
- Visit historic Anchorage Homestead on a St George Heritage Tour
- Meet the Makers at Riversands Wine with a 3-course winery lunch
- Tour a fully operational cotton farm with a local cotton farmer

Motel Accommodation

Roma --	Roma Explorers Inn --- 2 nights
Charleville ---	Mulga Country Inn --- 2nights
Quilpie ---	Quilpie Motor Inn --- 1 night
Eromanga ---	Cooper's Country Lodge & Eromanga Motel – 1 night
Thargomindah -	Oasis Motel -- 1 night
Cunnamulla --	Warrego Hotel-Motel - 1 night
St George –	Riverland Motor Inn – 2 nights

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