



CT TRAVEL
Coolum Tours & Travel

7- Day Tour Lightning Ridge July 21 > 27 2021



There is nowhere in Australia quite like Lightning Ridge. Try your luck at finding Opal, as we visit the only place in Australia, and one of the few places in the world, where the highly prized black opal is found. Visiting, Miles, Roma, St George, Narrabri, Glen Innes + **3 Nights in Lightning Ridge** - full day visit to the **Grawin, Glengarry & Sheeppard Opal fields**. -- plus, lots of exciting attractions along the way.

Twin Share / Double pp \$2220
Single \$2495
Deposit \$200

Tour Highlights

- Visiting Jimbour House
- Roma Town Tour
- Sunset River Cruise .. St George
- Local Cotton Farm Tour at St George
- Wine tasting and Lunch at Riversands Winery St George
- Tour of Lightning Ridge Attractions inc Lunatic Hill open cut, Amigo's Castle & Artesian Bore Baths
- Full Day Tour to the Grawin, Glengarry & Sheeppard Opal fields
- "Sunset & Stars" evening show on the gem fields
- Home via Narrabri - Glen Innes - Warwick

Inclusions

- 6 x Cooked Breakfasts
- 6 x Dinners
- 5 x Lunch
- 2 x m/tea
- All entry fees to attractions visited
- 1-night Swagsman Motor Inn Miles
- 1-night Riverland Motor Inn St George
- 3- nights Wallangulla Motel Lightning Ridge
- 1 Night New England Motor Lodge Glen Innes

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Itinerary

Day 1 Sunshine Coast to Miles

Leaving from Noosa/Tewantin at 7.00am we travel to the Brisbane Transit Centre picking up passengers along the way. After departing the BTC at approximately 9.00am we stop for morning tea on the western outskirts of Brisbane. We continue through the Lockyer Valley and climb the Toowoomba Range via the new "2nd Range Crossing." By-passing Toowoomba we arrive in Dalby where we will stop for lunch. Leaving Dalby, we take a short detour and visit Jimbour House overlooking the Jimbour Plains. We can take a stroll around this magnificent home at our leisure before continuing to Miles for our overnight stay at the Swagsman Motor Inn.

Day 2 Miles to St George

After a hearty breakfast we depart Miles for Roma - Here, we will be met by a local guide and through told and untold stories of early settlers, cattle duffers and merchants you will discover Roma's past. Uncover how the town transformed, the industries it supports and find our hidden treasures like Heroes Avenue, naturally illuminated stained glass windows, our Biggest Bottle Tree and the Roma Bush Gardens. This is a personalised tour led by a local interpretive guide. Stopping at various spots within the town you will realise the multicultural heritage, find out why Roma became a town, learn about Lake Neverfill's secrets, as well as being inspired by local sporting heroes and seeing where Harry Redford was trialled.

After enjoying a hearty lunch, we continue on our journey ... stopping in Surat to visit the Museum, Art Gallery and the Cobb & Co Changing Station. Moving on, we arrive in St George where we will then enjoy a Sunset Cruise on the Bollon River. We will then settle into the Riverland Motor Inn where we are staying overnight.

Day 3 St George to Lightning Ridge

This morning a prominent local cotton/grain farmer will host us on a visit to their farm, where you will learn about cotton planting, growing, irrigation, harvesting and marketing. You can ask anything about cotton/grain production and water management!

On the second part of the morning tour we make a visit to Riversands Vineyards who will take you through a journey on table and wine grape growing. This will cover vineyard pruning, shoot thinning, irrigation, nutrition, and grape picking.

Afterward, we will enjoy full wine tasting including wine appreciation and tips on how they make their wines! You will be well fed with cheese platters or pumpkin soup for entree, gourmet sandwiches for mains and slice for dessert. You can purchase wine packs during the lunch break.

Then We keep travelling .. stopping for a short break in Dirranbandi - then on to **Lightning Ridge** staying at the Wallangulla Motel for 3 nights.

Day 4 Lightning Ridge

After breakfast we are joined by a local guide and embark on an epic journey to the **Grawn, Glengarry & Sheeppyard Opal Fields** plus visits to **3 bush pubs**. Enjoy freshly made scones and jam for morning tea and then lunch at the "**Glengarry Hilton**" Enough said ... you will have to be there to find out more!!

Day 5 Lightning Ridge

Today we stay in Lightning Ridge and see the best there is to see of **THE RIDGE**. ... Highlights will be a guided underground tour at the **WALK-IN MINE**, famous **AMIGO'S CASTLE**, historical miners' camp **GEMSEEKERS PARADISE**, an **opal cutting demonstration**, purchase local opal, commentary & colourful stories on our coach with a local guide

After some "free time" to explore the "Town Centre" **art galleries** and have a bite of lunch, we go underground to the "**Chambers of the Blackhand**" mine ...forty feet underground to see images carved and painted in the sandstone walls and pillars.

Tonight .. we have something special .. a **HIDDEN GEM – EVENING TOUR** hosted by award-winning Mel & Susie. Visiting an off-grid art-camp on the opal fields, enjoying outback hospitality with a show, dinner & relaxing around the campfire under the stars.

Day 6 Lightning Ridge to Glen Innes

Farewelling "The Ridge" we make our way down the Castlereagh Highway visiting Walgett as we travel through fertile farming land to arrive in Narrabri for lunch.

Moving on, we head for Glen Innes for our final night, staying at The New England Motor Lodge.

Day 7 Glen Innes to Home

Homewood bound ... we travel the New England Highway, passing through Tenterfield, Stanthorpe (perhaps a winery visit, time permitting) to Warwick for our lunch break.

We enjoy our last afternoon reminiscing about the special time we have had together during this true "Outback Adventure" - arriving in Brisbane at approximately 3.00pm – we then continue on to the Sunshine Coast.