

14 Day | Outback NSW Tour ... The Darling River Run

06 May – 19 May 2021

OPEN PLAINS AND PRECIOUS STONES

Travel to the outback and meet the locals that call this place home



CT TRAVEL
Coolum Tours & Travel

Grab a fellow explorer and set out on a great adventure! Come with us as we journey across open plains and be mesmerised by the seamlessly endless landscapes that trace along the horizons. Spend your days uncovering strong pioneering history, rich opal lands and the industrious communities of the remarkable outback.

14 days - Twin / Double \$4945
Single \$5717
Deposit \$500.00

DAY 1: (LD) SUNSHINE COAST TO GOONDIWINDI

Thu, 06 May 2021

Set off with anticipation to discover the remote outback towns of NSW. Enjoying the chance to get know our fellow explorers with nice cuppa over morning tea, we then head to **Toowoomba**. Spending time here for lunch, we then continue to **Goondiwindi**, an attractive Darling Downs town. We'll now settle into our first night on tour with dinner and a good night's rest.

1 night | Jolly Swagman Motor Inn, Goondiwindi
Morning tea and lunch | dinner at motel

DAY 2: (BLD) GOONDIWINDI TO LIGHTNING RIDGE**Fri, 07 May 2021**

Back on the open road this morning we begin to edge closer to NSW. From here its just a hop, skip and a jump to **Dirranbandi**, small country town that comes alive through the cotton harvest months. After our lunch break, we head across the border into NSW. **Lightning Ridge**, a must-see town while travelling the Darling River Run, will be your home for the next two nights.

2 night | Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge
Breakfast and dinner at motel | Lunch

DAY 3: (BD) THERE'S NOWHERE QUITE LIKE LIGHTNING RIDGE**Sat, 08 May 2021**

Today we 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**." mined forty feet underground, you'll 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.

Breakfast at motel | lunch not included | dinner on tour

DAY 4: (BLD) LIGHTNING RIDGE TO BOURKE**Sun, 09 May 2021**

We have a little time this morning to enjoy the more of the Lightning Ridge's charms before travelling to **Walgett**. Found near the junction of the Namoi River and Barwon River, this outback town is full of history, tranquillity and adventure. We'll enjoy lunch in town before meeting a **local** who will enlighten us to the intriguing past and present day of this town. Thanking our guide, we then travel onto **Bourke**, where we'll settle into our motel before a spectacular evening out under the cover of night. At **Kidman's Camp*** relax beneath a Coolabah Tree beneath the starlit sky, with a campfire of Gidgee coals, all the while sharing a scrumptious meal and experiencing some exceptional Australian poetry, local stories and music!

2 nights | Darling River Motel, Bourke
Breakfast at motel | lunch Walgett RSL Memorial Club | dinner at Campfire Sessions - Kidman's Camp

DAY 5: (BLD) A DAY IN BOURKE**Mon, 10 May 2021**

Once a major nineteenth century river port and trading post, **Bourke** is an inviting outback town set on the banks of the Darling River. And on board the **PV Jandra** we cruise along its peaceful waters taking in the serenity, as the banks of the river drift by. Back on dry land and feeling relaxed we hear more stories as a guide joins us for a **town tour**. After lunch we head to the **Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre** to discover the stories of early exploration, farmers to Afghan cameleers and more. When we are ready, we'll return to our motel and refresh before dinner.

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at the Port of Burke Hotel

DAY 6: (BLD) BOURKE TO COBAR**Tue, 11 May 2021**

This morning we set off to visit the historic **Dunlop Station**, where the sheds were on the forefront of technology. Enjoy a warm welcome before uncovering the hardships and inspiring moments of this station. Just down the track we arrive at **Trilby Station** for the night. With a unique history and wildlife, we'll fall in love with the amazing landscape and the good old country hospitality.

1 night | Trilby Station, Trilby
Breakfast and dinner at motel | Morning tea and lunch at Dunlop Station

DAY 7: (BLD) TRILBY STATION TO WHITE CLIFFS**Wed, 12 May 2021**

Thanking our host, we journey onwards. Enjoying a picnic lunch along the way, you'll then begin to notice that the landscape becomes noticeably barren as we head to the unusual opal town of **White Cliffs**. You won't see many buildings when you arrive as residents here live mainly underground to escape the heat and our hotel is no different! It will be a unique experience that is distinctly different from other accommodation!

1 night | Underground Motel, White Cliffs

Breakfast and dinner at motel | packed lunch included

DAY 8: (BLD) WHITE CLIFFS TO BROKEN HILL**Thu, 13 May 2021**

People have been drawn to White Cliffs since the late eighteenth century in search of opals and it's one of just a few places in the world where white opal is found along with the most famously rare 'pineapple' opal. Joined by our **local guide**, we are taken on a fascinating tour of this unique place, discovering the hardy souls and tough early days to the now opal mining industry. Enjoy lunch at the **Red Earth Opal Cafe** and peruse the opal showroom where, if you wish, purchases can be made of this stunning Australian stone! Now it's off to experience the adventure of going underground to learn all about the day in the life of a miner. This afternoon, we continue on to **Broken Hill** - "beyond the Darling River, on the edge of the sundown." This will be home for the next three nights.

3 nights | Silver Haven Motor Inn, Broken Hill

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at Red Earth Opal Cafe

DAY 9: (BLD) BROKEN HILL**Fri, 14 May 2021**

Meeting a **local guide** this morning we will then be enlightened to the town's mining prosperity of yesteryear that blends seamlessly with a rising modern art scene. At the **Palace Hotel**, famous for its starring role in the hit movie, 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert', we admire the colourful mural by indigenous artist Gordon Wave as we are led through the historic hotel. You'll enjoy lunch here also before having time to explore at one's own pace. To finish our day, we'll honour the legendary 'Brushmen of the Bush' by visiting **Jack Absalom** and **Pro Hart** galleries.

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at the Palace Hotel

DAY 10: (BLD) SILVERTON AND MORE**Sat, 15 May 2021**

We are at the **Royal Flying Doctor Service** this morning for a guided tour of the base before travelling to **Silverton**. A picturesque ghost town displaying a number of historical buildings, we contemplate its heyday at a **guided** town tour before lunch at the **Silverton Pub**. Next uncover the tales of the **Silverton Gaol and Historical Museum**, once cobbled together from timber and iron. Back in Broken Hill now you'll visit the **Silver City Mint and Art Centre** for a **guided tour** including the **Big Picture**. This large painting will draw you into the huge skies and ancient river beds, leading out into the distant Flinders Ranges. Then just before the sun sets, we delight our visual senses and experience the **International Sculpture Symposium***. It goes without saying that this is the best time to visit the sculptures, especially with a glass of bubbles. Find a peaceful place and just let yourself be completely immersed in the elongating shadows that spread across the earth while the colours of the sculptures transform from browns to reds. Such a memorable experience to finish our stay in Broken Hill.

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at Silverton Pub | drinks provided by C T Travel

DAY 11: (BLD) BROKEN HILL TO COBAR**Sun, 16 May 2021**

Packing our bags this morning we begin to retrace our steps. Stopping in **Wilcannia** for lunch, we enjoy a change of pace as we sit down for a lovely Chinese banquet. Continuing on, we gaze upon different landscapes as we head to **Cobar**, a fascinating town steeped in mining heritage. The richness of these mines is matched by the richness of Cobar's history, all of which can be explored at the **Great Cobar Heritage Centre**. You'll have time to wander around the displays before making our way to our motel for the evening.

1 night | Town and Country Motor Inn, Cobar

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at Wilcannia Golf Club

DAY 12: (BLD) COBAR TO DUBBO**Mon, 17 May 2021**

This morning we witness for ourselves the region's mineral abundance at **Fort Bourke Hill Lookout**. Gaze into the immense open pit mine and see the Cobar mineral belt that is clearly visible in a straight line from North to South. Then back on the open road we arrive into Dubbo, where we enjoy lunch and a visit at **Dundullimal Homestead**. With our guide leading the way, we are introduced to this historic homestead, where the remaining slab house and stone stables, bear testimony to the hardships and conditions of colonial life. We'll enjoy a free afternoon where some of us may like to explore the town at their own pace or relax at the motel. We will rejoin later for dinner.

1 nights | Golden West Inn, Dubbo

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at Dundullimal Homestead

DAY 13: (BLD) DUBBO TO MOREE**Tue, 18 May 2021**

Today we head out to visit **Murrungundy Pistachios**. Meeting Richard at the gate we are taken to the farm sheds where we hear about the history, production and cultivation of the Pistachios. Thanking Richard, we continue on to **Narrabri** situated near the spectacular wilderness of Mount Kaputar and the beautiful Namoi Valley. Here you'll enjoy lunch before travelling to **Moree**. The town is well known for its artesian bore baths that are used far and wide to relieve rheumatic and other muscular complaints. We have a chance to relax and enjoy these remedial properties at the **Moree Artesian Aquatic Centre** before heading to our hotel.

1 nights | Artesian Spa Motor Inn, Moree

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch

DAY 14: (B) HOMEWARD BOUND**Wed, 19 May 2021**

Today marks our last day on tour. Heading to **Texas**, devoted to growing tobacco, raising sheep and cattle, we stop to have a look around and stretch our legs before heading to **Warwick** for lunch. This afternoon you'll arrive home eager to tell your friends and family of open plains and welcoming outback towns, filled with precious stones, bush art and intriguing stories.

Breakfast at motel | lunch



The itinerary may be subject to change without notice. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary as provided, CT Travel reserves the right to alter the touring and attractions as dictated by circumstances and conditions outside the company's control. Alterations may be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Every attempt will be made to ensure alterations do not adversely affect the operation of the tour. CT Travel will not be held responsible for weather-based cancellations or those closures made at a venue's discretion.

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