

12 Day | Queensland Outback to Coast

29 July – 9 August 2021

COUNTRY TALES & TROPICAL VISIONS

Witness the best of both worlds and trace your way through the arid landscapes to the tropical Whitsundays!

Explore the heart of Queensland and discover the region that attracted bush poets like Banjo Patterson. 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



CT TRAVEL
Coolum Tours & Travel

12 days - Twin / Double pp \$5129.00
Single \$5984.00
Deposit \$200.00
Plus -- Airfare or Rail - Townsville > Brisbane

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DAY 1: (DL) SUNSHINE COAST TO ROMA

Thu, 29 Jul 2021

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, Roma
Dinner at the motel | lunch

DAY 2: (BLD) ROMA TO CHARLEVILLE**Fri, 30 Jul 2021**

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 into 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, Charleville

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

DAY 3: (BD) CHARLEVILLE**Sat, 31 Jul 2021**

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: (BLD) CHARLEVILLE TO LONGREACH**Sun, 01 Aug 2021**

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, Longreach

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

DAY 5: (BD) LONGREACH**Mon, 02 Aug 2021**

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**Tue, 03 Aug 2021**

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**Wed, 04 Aug 2021**

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, Winton

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**Thu, 05 Aug 2021**

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 | Cattleman's Rest Motor Inn , Charter Towers

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | picnic lunch supplied

DAY 9: (BLD) CHARTERS TOWERS TO AIRLIE BEACH**Fri, 06 Aug 2021**

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, Airlie Beach

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | picnic lunch supplied

DAY 10: (BLD) WHITSUNDAYS**Sat, 07 Aug 2021**

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. 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.

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | lunch at Marina Tavern

DAY 11: (BLD) LOCAL TOURING**Sun, 08 Aug 2021**

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 riverbanks. 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, salt pans and melaleuca forests. After a fascinating day we return to the motel.

Breakfast and dinner at the motel | lunch on tour

DAY 12: (B) HOMEWARDBOUND**Mon, 09 Aug 2021**

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



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.



Tour Inclusions

- 11 night's motel accommodation
- 11 cooked motel breakfasts
- 11 dinners
- 8 included lunches –
 - Mt Abundance Homestead morning tea and guided tour
 - Roma Big Rig entry to Oil Patch and light lunch
 - Charleville Cosmos Centre & Visitors Centre Twilight Session only
 - Charleville Cosmos Centre & Visitors Centre town & World War II Top Secret tour
 - Charleville Cosmos Centre & Visitors Centre Bilby Experience – incl. video and talk
 - Charleville Cosmos Centre & Visitors Centre Sun viewing and Astronomy by Day
 - Tambo Teddies morning tea and tour of workshop
 - Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame Stockman's Night Out - live show and dinner
 - School of Distance Education entry
 - Qantas Founders Outback Museum entry and 747 / Super Constellation Tour
 - Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame entry
 - Outback Aussie Tours Group Strathmore Station Smoko Tour
 - Outback Pioneer - Kinnon & Co Cobb & Co Stagecoach Experience
 - Welcome Home Cafe light lunch
 - Outback Pioneer - Kinnon & Co Starlight's Cruise Experience.
 - Australian Age of Dinosaurs full tour and morning tea - cake, tea or coffee
 - Waltzing Matilda Centre group self-guided tour inc. audio tour set and lunch
 - North Gregory Hotel packed lunch
 - Cattleman's Rest Motor Inn packed lunch
 - Texas Longhorn Tours Wagon tour, smoko, saddle shop tour and yard/shack tour
 - Hamilton Island and Whitehaven Beach cruise with lunch at the Marina Tavern
 - Whitsunday Crocodile Safari tour incl. cruise, wetland train, Aussie BBQ lunch

Accommodation

- Roma | Roma Explorers Inn
- Charleville | Mulga Country Motor Inn
- Longreach | Longreach Motor Inn
- Winton | North Gregory Hotel
- Charters Towers | Cattleman's Rest Motor Inn
- Whitsundays | Colonial Palms Motor Inn

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