

## 15 Day | Outback NSW Tour ... The Darling River Run

Tuesday 26 April – Tuesday 10 May 2022

# 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 explore and set out on a great adventure! 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.

**15 days - Twin / Double \$TBA**  
**Single \$TBA**  
**Deposit \$TBA**

### DAY 1: (D) SUNSHINE COAST TO GOONDIWINDI

Tue 26 Apr 2022

Set off with anticipation to discover the remote outback towns of NSW dotted along the Darling River. 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 | 07 4671 4560  
Dinner at motel | morning tea and lunch

**DAY 2: (BD) GOONDIWINDI TO LIGHTNING RIDGE****Wed 27 Apr 2022**

Back on the open road this morning we begin to edge closer to NSW. In **Thallon**, see the incredible art painted on town's towering grain silos. Created by Joel Fergie and Travis Vinson's "The Watering Hole" is a striking image and we'll take a moment to absorb it all in. From here it's 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**, is the only place in Australia (and one of the few places in the world) where the precious and highly prized Black Opal is found. The black opal has carbon and iron oxide trace elements in it, producing a very dark stone with hints of blue green and red.

**2 nights | Lightning Ridge Outback Resort | 02 6829 0304**

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch

**DAY 3: (BD) THERE'S NOWHERE QUITE LIKE LIGHTNING RIDGE****Thu 28 Apr 2022**

Today we see the best there is to see of **The Ridge**. Highlights will be a guided underground tour at the **Walk-in Mine**, historical miners' camp **Gemseekers Paradise**, an opal cutting demonstration and commentary & colourful stories from our 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.

Breakfast at motel | dinner on tour

**DAY 4: (BLD) LIGHTNING RIDGE TO BOURKE****Fri 29 Apr 2022**

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. Here we meet a **local** who will enlighten us to the intriguing past and present day of this town. Thanking our guide, we then travel onto **Brewarrina** to visit the **Brewarrina Fish Traps** that are estimated to be over 40,000 years old and one of the oldest manmade structures on earth. The elaborate network of rock weirs and pools stretch for around half a kilometre along the riverbed and were built by ancient tribes to catch fish. We experience a Dreamtime story told by Aboriginal elders, watch how traditional methods of fish catching are still used today and engage with the history with our local guide. We express to **Bourke** where we'll settle into our motel before dinner.

**2 nights | Darling River Motel, Bourke | 02 6872 2288**

Breakfast at motel | packed lunch included | dinner at Bourke Bowling Club

**DAY 5: (BD) A DAY IN BOURKE****Sat 30 Apr 2022**

Once a major nineteenth century river port and trading post, **Bourke** is an inviting outback town set on the Darling River. This morning we hear more stories as a guide joins us for a **town tour** before heading to the **Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre** to discover the stories of early exploration, farmers to Afghan cameleers and more. This afternoon we board the **PV Jandra**. We cruise along the peaceful waters taking in the serenity, as we recapture the romance of the old-river steamer.

Breakfast at motel | lunch at own expense | dinner at Bourke Bowling Club

**DAY 6: (BLD) BOURKE TO TRILBY STATION****Sun 1 May 2022**

After a leisurely breakfast, we make our way to the **Back O' Bourke Gallery**, the commercial gallery of renowned outback artist Jenny Greentree. Inspired by the rich outback scenery, Jenny together with her husband Steve, the gallery offers the highest quality original Australian art and digital fine art reproductions. We travel to nearby **Louth**. Once a bustling river port, the town we stop for lunch at **Shindy's Inn**. Located on the banks of the Darling River, the traditional outback pub is just an impressive one on the inside with artefacts on the walls, photos and memorabilia lining the dining room and bar. We continue to **Trilby Station**, our home for the next two nights. With a unique history and wildlife, fall in love with the amazing landscape and good old country hospitality from our incredible hosts, Liz and Gary Murray.

**2 nights | Trilby Station | 02 6874 7420**

Breakfast at motel | lunch at Shindy's Inn | dinner at Trilby Station

**DAY 7: (BLD) STATION TOURING****Mon 2 May 2022**

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. After morning tea here, we return to Trilby Station for a delicious lunch, a guided tour and afternoon smoko.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner at Trilby Station

**DAY 8: (BLD) TRILBY STATION TO WHITE CLIFFS****Tue 3 May 2022**

Thanking our hosts, 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 | 08 8091 6677**

Breakfast and dinner at motel | packed lunch included

**DAY 9: (BLD) WHITE CLIFFS TO BROKEN HILL****Wed 4 May 2022**

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 and rare 'pineapple' opal are found. 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 before perusing the **Red Earth 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 Motel, Broken Hill | 08 8087 2218**

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at Red Earth Opal

**DAY 10: (BLD) BROKEN HILL****Thu 5 May 2022**

Meeting a **local guide** this morning we will then be enlighten 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 11: (BLD) SILVERTON AND MORE****Fri 6 May 2022**

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 on 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 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 12: (BLD) BROKEN HILL TO COBAR****Sat 7 May 2022**

Packing our bags this morning we begin to retrace our steps. After stopping for our packed lunch, 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 | Cobar Town and Country Motor Inn | 02 6836 1244**

Breakfast and dinner at motel | packed lunch included

**DAY 13: (BD) COBAR TO DUBBO****Sun 8 May 2022**

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 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 re-join later for dinner.

**1 night | Golden West Motor Inn, Dubbo | 02 6882 2822**

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at own expense

**DAY 14: (BLD) DUBBO TO MOREE****Mon 9 May 2022**

Today we head to the complex known as **Barkala Farm**, which also incorporates **Pilliga Pottery** and the **Blue Wren Café** where we enjoy lunch. The beautiful woodlands of the Pilliga surrounding the farm provide inspiration for the work done here, ranging from garden pottery to beautifully designed kitchenware and decorative pottery of every shape and size. Using a local source of clay, they make their own cream earthenware and traditional terracotta clays to form into lovely shapes on the potter's wheel and then decorate using their own unique and distinctive methods. Whist here we are given a demonstration and shown the showroom where the final product is displayed. After our fantastic visit, we travel 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 our hotel.

**1 nights | Artesian Spa Motor Inn, Moree | 02 6752 2466**

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at Blue Wren Café

**DAY 15: (B) HOMEWARD BOUND****Tue 10 May 2022**

Today marks our last day on tour. We stop for convenience breaks before arriving 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 | Morning tea and lunch arranged by CT Travel



*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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