

LONGREACH & OUTBACK
QUEENSLAND
featuring
Spirit of the Outback
RAIL JOURNEY



10 days
Friday 22 to Sunday 31
May 2020

Port Macquarie Travel

Hosted by

Holiday Coast Tours Pty Ltd
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Spectacular Tour to Outback Queensland

DAY 1: PORT MACQUARIE TO BRISBANE (D) **Friday 22 May 2020**

We depart the Port Macquarie Coach Terminal at 8.00am and from here we travel to Brisbane for our first night together before catching the **Spirit of the Outback train** tomorrow.

(Lunch at own expense, dinner in hotel)

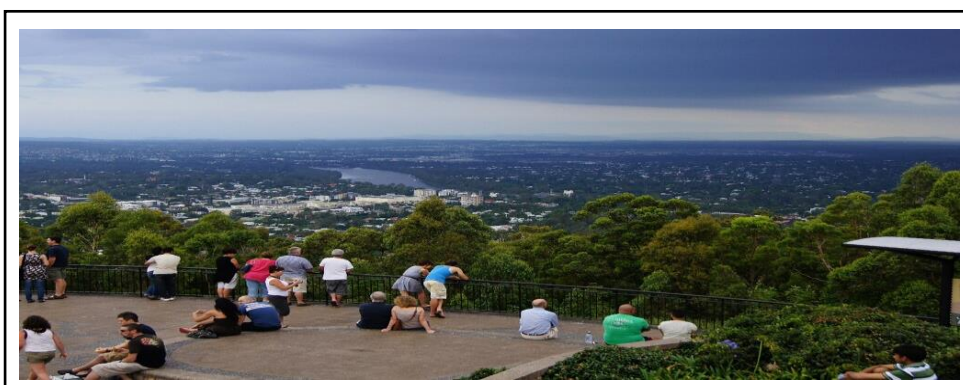
Brisbane Riverview Hotel (07 3862 1800)

DAY 2: SPIRIT OF THE OUTBACK (B,D) **Saturday 23 May 2020**

We discover Brisbane and take a drive to the highest hill in the city - **Mt Cootha Lookout** where we can take in the brilliant views. Late morning, we arrive in Brisbane and have some free time to purchase lunch before heading to the Roma Street Station. Here we board the **Spirit of the Outback** and begin our outback *Queensland adventure!* From the comfort of our seat, watch as the scenery morphs into rugged terrain as the train takes us on the 1,300 km journey to Longreach. The train offers a unique insight into the history and culture of early Australia, combined with interesting commentary, a social atmosphere and an authentic dining experience. Back in our cabins, fall asleep listening to the gentle clickety-clack as the train travels through the night.

(Breakfast in hotel, lunch own expense, dinner on Spirit of the Outback)

Spirit of the Outback, Queensland Rail (PH. 1300 735 307)



DAY 3: ARRIVE LONGREACH

(B,L,D)

Sunday 24 May 2020

Early morning the train leaves the coast and travels via **Blackwater**, **Emerald** and **Anakie**. The daylight journey will allow us to enjoy the magical colours and landscape of Outback Queensland as the train snakes its way across the top of the **Drummond Range**. In **Barcardine** we have a short break to look at the **Tree of Knowledge** before the last leg of the journey into **Longreach**. On arrival in Longreach our coach will meet us and from here we have a short transfer to our hotel where we settle into our rooms before dinner together.

(Breakfast & lunch on Spirit of the Outback / dinner in hotel)

Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (1800 026370)



DAY 4: LONGREACH

(B,L,D)

Monday 25 May 2020

Today we uncover some national treasures, as we will be visiting the **QANTAS Founders Museum**. The Museum tells the story of Qantas from the early days in Outback Queensland to present day. Displays focus on the founding figures of Qantas, life in Outback Queensland in the 1920s and the advancement and impact of aviation in Australia and the world.

Included in our visit is a tour of the **Boeing 747, 707** and **DC-3** aircraft showing you features such as the Lavatory Service Hatch, Traffic Collision Avoidance System, Flight Recorders (the Black Box) and many other systems, all explained in layman's term. Next, we step back in time at the **Outback Pioneers Station Store** and experience the **Harry Redford Old Time Tent Show** with our Billy Can lunch. Based on the traditional outback travelling shows, it's hard not to be charmed by the simple delights of bush theatre. The Harry Redford Old Time Tent Show tells a fictional story set in the time of Harry Redford (Captain Starlight) and refers to his infamous adventures. Take some time to look through the local shops before we return to our hotel. Tonight, we enjoy a sunset cruise and dinner on the banks of the **Thomson River**. Relax on the top deck of the **Longreach Explorer** and take in 360-degree views of the Thomson River. Enjoy entertaining and informative commentary detailing river and cultural stories. Unwind with complimentary nibbles platters and purchase drinks from the licensed onboard cash bar. As the sunset fades into starlight, we dock at **Smithy's Outback Dinner & Show** for a night of great food and live entertainment under the stars. It will be a fantastic night.

(Breakfast in the motel, Billy Can Lunch, Smithy's Outback Dinner & Show)

Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (1800 026370)



DAY 5: OUTBACK LOCALS

(B,L,D)

Tuesday 26 May 2020

Today we are going to have a special experience as we get an insight to the area through the eyes of local graziers and pioneer families. We meet the owners of a local station called **Strathmore** and learn about their operations and the challenges of operating on the land, as well as enjoy a home-made morning tea. Returning to town we arrive at the iconic **Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame** to experience the **Outback Stockman's Show**. It encompasses the modern-day aspects of being a stockman, as well as telling the tales of what it used to be like in the past. We can enjoy lunch straight after the Stockman's Show and then are free to look through the museum at our own pace and return to the hotel for some free time before dinner.

(Breakfast & dinner in hotel / lunch at Stockman's Hall of Fame) Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (1800 026370)

DAY 6: WINTON TOURING
Wednesday 27 May 2020

(B,L,D)

We will see some dramatic and ever-changing scenery as we make our way to **Winton**. The area was once home to dinosaurs and is full of ground-breaking scientific discoveries and archaeological digs. Today we will have the opportunity to learn about this prehistoric phenomenon.



The Australian Age of Dinosaurs is located on top of the “jump up” – a rugged mesa plateau formation that stands 75 meters above the surrounding plains. The centre hosts the largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils and the largest fossil preparation laboratory in the southern hemisphere. It was in the Winton area that Banjo Paterson wrote his famous poem about the swagman and the jolly jumbuck and **Waltzing Matilda**”. It was first heard in the **North Gregory Hotel!** On arrival in town we head straight to the **Waltzing Matilda Centre** for lunch and time to look through the museum. Tragically, it was burnt to the ground in 2015 and luckily for us, it has re-opened and is now a world class museum and art gallery with displays focusing on the Australian landscape, channel country, the women of the homesteads and livestock/wool industries of the outback. We return to Longreach late afternoon following a great day sightseeing in Winton.

(Breakfast & dinner in hotel / lunch at Waltzing Matilda Centre)
Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (1800 026370)

DAY 7: LONGREACH—CHARLEVILLE
Thursday 28 May 2020

(B,D)

We farewell Longreach this morning and turn south to begin our journey to **Charleville**. We travel through **Isisford**, a charming little settlement which has not changed significantly since the turn of the century. We break in **Blackall**, where the legendary gun shearer Jackie Howe set the almost unbelievable record of shearing 321 sheep with blade shears in a day. A bronze statue now stands as a monument to the man and the achievement. Late this afternoon, we arrive in Charleville and take an interesting tour of the town. We then uncover the Charleville mystery with a **Top-Secret World War II Tour**. With the help of our guide, we unlock the stories of the United States military base and how they lived when 3,500 personnel arrived in town. We enjoy dinner at our motel before a visit to the **Cosmos Centre**.

There is nothing quite like travelling thousands of light years into space. The guides will build our knowledge on the formation of the stars and galaxies, reveal the beauty and meaning of coloured stars and the fascination of the planets and our moon. We will enjoy nibbles and drinks before the open-air observatory viewing of the outback night sky.



(breakfast and dinner in hotel / lunch at own expense)

*Waltzing Matilda Motel,
Charleville (PH. 07 4654 1720)*



DAY 8: CHARLEVILLE TO ST. GEORGE
Friday 29 May 2020

(B,D)

From Charleville we head east and arrive late morning into Roma for an early lunch stop at passengers' own expense and then we continue to **St George** and have a look at the **Cotton Mural** and the **Transport Mural**

painted by well-known artist Kevin Taylor. This afternoon we join **Sandytown River Cruises** for an enjoyable cruise on the Balonne River, taking in the beautiful river gums, landscaping and birdlife. We check into the Australian Hotel Motel that overlooks the Balonne River for our overnight accommodation and dinner.

(breakfast and dinner in hotel / lunch at own expense)

The Australian Hotel & Motel, St George (02 6736 1066)

DAY 9: ST GEORGE TO TENTERFIELD
Saturday 30 May 2020

(B,L,D)

Leaving St George, we pass by Nindigully and it may be a little early for a drink, but we will have a look at the **Nindigully Pub**, that is known as Queensland's oldest pub. In Goondiwindi we stop for an early lunch at the Victoria Hotel, then this afternoon we arrive into little town of **Texas**. It's a small town of less than 1000 people located just 2 kms north of the NSW Border. On arrival we visit the **Texas Rabbit Works**, this was a thriving industry when rabbits were in plague proportions throughout the district. Like many communities in the southern parts of Australia, the Texas community survived the great depression by trapping and selling rabbits for export to America and England. Officially opened in May 2017, The Texas Rabbit Works continues to record the history of the rabbit industry both locally and nationally. This is largely an intact example of the struggle to control the rabbit plague and the industry that developed. From Texas we head to Tenterfield for our final night of the tour.

(breakfast and dinner n hotel/lunch at Victoria Hotel)

Best Western Henry Parkes Motor Inn, Tenterfield (02 67361066)

DAY 10: HEADING HOME
Sunday 31 May 2020

(B)

Our tour has come to an end and we head home today. Stopping in Grafton we can enjoy lunch at the Grafton District Services Club and then we set our sights for home, arriving back in Port later in the afternoon

(breakfast in hotel/lunch at Grafton Services Club)

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc

COST: \$3370.00 per person
(based on twin/double share accommodation)
Single Supplement: \$600.00

A deposit of \$500.00 per person is required upon booking
with final payment due 2 April 2020

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Air conditioned coach travel
- 8 nights hotel accommodation (as per confirmation)
- One-way Spirit of the Outback Rail Journey (Twin/Single Sleeper) – Brisbane to Longreach
- 9 cooked/buffet breakfasts
- 9 dinners (2 course or buffet)
- Lunch served onboard Spirit of the Outback
- Entry and 747 Tour at Qantas Founders Museum, Longreach
- Billy Can Lunch and entry to Harry Redford Old Time Tent Show
- Sunset Cruise on the Thompson River aboard the Longreach Explorer and Smithy's Outback Dinner Show (coach transport provided)
- Strathmore Station Tour and Morning Tea (coach transport provided)
- Entry, lunch and Stockman's Show at the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame
- Entry to The Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, including visit to Fossil Laboratory and Collection Room
- Lunch and self-guided tour of the Waltzing Matilda Museum, Winton
- Entry to the Cosmos Centre, Charleville
- 2-hour sunset cruise on the Sandytown River, St George
- Lunch at Victoria Hotel, Goondiwindi
- Entry and guided tour of Texas Rabbit Works
- Lunch at the Grafton District Services Club

The itinerary may be subject to change without notice. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary as provided, Holiday Coast Tours 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 the alterations do not adversely effect the operation of the tour. Holiday Coast Tours will not be held responsible for weather-based cancellations or those closures made at the venue's discretion.

Passengers are strongly recommended to take out travel insurance in case of cancellation or curtailment expenses, loss of luggage or illness etc.

Cancellations and amendments:

Cancellation fees will be levied relative to the amount of notice given:

42 days or more—loss of deposit

29-41 days: 50% of fare plus deposit

30 days before and Day of departure: 100% of fare.

In case of concert or sporting tours, where admission tickets are purchased in advance, a minimum cancellation fee equivalent to the cost of admission tickets will apply.

Some accommodation require prepayment and refund will be subject to their own conditions.

Please note: Passenger baggage to be a maximum of 20kg. per person

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

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PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

PH: 6583 1422

or

Camden Haven Travel

PH: 6559 9048

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