8 Days Gems of the West - Outback Pubs, Bilbies & Opals

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DURATION	FROM PRICE	TOUR TYPE	TOUR CODE
8 Days	**POA**	**Coach Tours**	**GVH**

Overview

Journey through fascinating country towns, uncover stories of pioneering history, marvel at rare black opals, and immerse yourself in the landscapes, wildlife, and culture that make this region so unique. From the historic Jondaryan Woolshed and Mitchell Artesian Spa to stargazing at Charleville's world-class Cosmos Centre, this tour is the perfect blend of discovery, relaxation, and authentic outback adventure. Our journey begins in Brisbane as we head west through Ipswich, Gatton, and Toowoomba, enjoying scenic views of the Darling Downs. Our first stop is at the Jondaryan Woolshed, built in 1859 and one of the oldest and most significant shearing sheds in Queensland. Over morning tea, step back in time and learn about 160 years of pastoral history, including the wool industry's vital role in shaping the outback. We continue to Chinchilla, famous for its melons and rich farming history, where you can purchase lunch (own expense). In the afternoon, we arrive in Roma, a vibrant regional hub known for its cattle industry and iconic outback charm. This evening, we take our seats for the Roma Big Rig Sunset Experience. As the sun dips below the horizon, enjoy a glass of Outback port while a local "Roma Rigger" guide shares fascinating tales of sabotage, drama, and discovery from the early days of oil and gas exploration. A captivating short film under the stars sets the perfect tone for our first night. Accommodation: Best Western Bungil Creek Hotel, Roma

Itinerary

1 Brisbane to Roma (D)

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2 Roma to Charleville via Mitchell (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we visit Mt Abundance Homestead, a heritage-listed property with deep historical significance. Explore the underground cellar built with locally handmade bricks, step inside Roma's very first post office, and enjoy morning tea on the homestead veranda. We continue to Mitchell, where a local guide will join us for a fascinating town tour. Afterwards, enjoy lunch at the Visitor Centre and take some free time to explore or even relax in the soothing waters of the Mitchell Artesi...

3 Charleville: Bilbies, Stars & Wwii History (B,D)

This morning, we visit a local Date Farm just outside Charleville to learn about the cultivation of these desert fruits and sample their delicious produce during morning tea. Back in town, our local guide leads a comprehensive Charleville town tour, sharing stories of devastating fires, floods, and the pioneering families who shaped the region. We also visit the remains of a top-secret WWII US base, established in 1942, offering insight into Charleville's wartime role. After free time to purc...

4 Charleville to St George via Cunnamulla (B,L,D)

Our first stop is the Cunnamulla Fella Museum and Art Gallery, showcasing a changing collection of local artworks and cultural displays. Beneath the town lies the Eromanga Basin, the world's largest underground river system, covering one-fifth of Australia. Explore this natural wonder through the Artesian Time Tunnel, where an old mine lift transports you back 100 million years into the ancient sandstone depths. Enjoy lunch at the historic Club Boutique Hotel before travelling to St George. T...

5

St George to Lightning Ridge (B,L,D)

After breakfast, discover St George's vibrant murals, including the Cotton Mural and Transport Mural, before embarking on a relaxing Balonne River cruise. Spot native birdlife and take in the beauty of the river gums and peaceful waterways. Lunch is at Queensland's oldest continually licensed pub, the iconic Nindigully Hotel, once a Cobb & Co coach changeover station dating back to the late 1800s. We then travel through Dirranbandi and Hebel, arriving in Lightning Ridge, a town with an almost...

6

Lightning Ridge (B,L,D)

This morning, experience the fascinating underground world of opal mining at Opal Mine Adventure, learning about mining techniques and viewing stunning local opals. We then visit the quirky John Murray Art Gallery, home to colourful, lighthearted works by one of Lightning Ridge's most beloved artists. Next, prepare to be amazed at Chambers of the Black Hand, an incredible underground art gallery where local artist Ron Canlin has created intricate carvings and sculptures 11 metres below ground...

7

Lightning Ridge to Stanthorpe via Moree (B,L,D)

Depart Lightning Ridge and head to Moree, where a local guide will join us to share insights into the region's thriving cotton industry and other agricultural enterprises. Continue to Texas, a charming border town known for sheep and cattle grazing. Visit Texas Rabbit Works, a fascinating museum dedicated to the rabbit trapping and export industry that helped communities survive during the Great Depression. Enjoy afternoon tea here before travelling to Stanthorpe, nestled in the Granite Belt ...

8

Gleneden Farm Experience & Return to Brisbane (B)

Travel via Warwick to the Gleneden Family Farm, where you'll experience authentic Australian bush life. Watch a traditional bullock team in action, learn age-old bush skills, and enjoy a morning tea of fresh billy tea and damper. Our final stop is at the historic Dugandan Hotel in Boonah for a relaxed farewell lunch in a charming country pub setting. After lunch, we return to Brisbane, saying farewell to new friends and reflecting on an unforgettable outback adventure. dates & pricing

Inclusions

• Entry & morning tea at the Jondaryan Woolshed • Entry to the Sunset Show at Roma's Big Rig • Guided tour and morning tea at Mount Abundance Homestead • Locally guided tour of Mitchell • Entry and lunch at the Mitchell Artesian Spa & Visitor Centre • Charleville Date Farm Tour & Morning Tea • Guided Town Tour of Charleville including WW2 Sites • Charleville Bilby Experience Tour • Charleville Cosmos Centre, evening tour • Entry to the Cunamulla Fella Museum & Art Gallery • Lunch at the Club Boutique Hotel Cunamulla • Wine Tasting at Riversands Winery • Entry & tour of Texas Rabbit Works • Morning cruise with Sandytown River Cruises • Lunch at the Nindigully Pub • Guided tour of Lightning Ridge and Underground Mine Tour with Down to Earth Opals • Visit to John Murra Art Gallery • Entry to the Chambers of the Black Hand • Entry to the Australian Opal Centre and Talk • Town tour of Moree • Lunch at the Amaroo Tavern Moree • Entry, morning tea & Tour at Gleneden Family Farm • Lunch at the Dugandan Hotel • Coach touring and commentary • Fully hosted • Overnight accommodation is 3.5 star motel style with own ensuite • Included meals are as per Itinerary

Ready to Book?

Contact our travel experts to discuss this tour.

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Mon-Fri 9am-5pm AEST

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We reply within 24 hours

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