8 Days South West Queensland & Lightning Ridge Rover

Day-by-Day Itinerary

We leave Lightning Ridge for Moree in the Gwydir Valley, where a local guide takes us on a cotton farm tour. We learn about cotton farming from planting to harvesting, view crops (if in season), and see the irrigation systems and cotton gin. We then travel on to Goondiwindi.1 Night Stay: Best Wes...

DURATION	FROM PRICE	TOUR TYPE	TOUR CODE
8 Days	**$4,250**	**Coach Tours**	**FO50**

Overview

Explore the best of South West Queensland and its rich history. Enjoy lunch and a tour of the historic Hotel Corones, visit the Bilby Centre and experience a Big Sky Twilight tour at the Cosmos Centre. Visit the Artesian Time Tunnel, discover the history of St George, a tour and three course lunch with wine tasting at Riversands Wines. Discover Lightning Ridge and visit the Australian Opal Centre, housing the world's greatest public collection of the Australian Opal. Enjoy a cotton tour of Goondiwindi before your final lunch at Albert River Wines. Depart on our opulent 'Diamond Class' or 'Gold Class' coach from Brisbane Coach Terminal on Roma Street, and travel responsibly knowing all coach emissions are 100% offset. We travel through the Lockyer Valley and onto Toowoomba where we have morning tea at Picnic Point. A perfect opportunity for a photo of the Lockyer Valley below. We continue through Dalby and onto Chinchilla for lunch. Continuing west along the Warrego Highway through Miles finishing our day at Roma. 1 Night Stay: Roma Explorers Inn

Itinerary

1 Brisbane to Roma

Stay: Roma Explorers Inn • Meals: Morning Tea, Lunch, Two Course Dinner

Depart on our opulent 'Diamond Class' or 'Gold Class' coach from Brisbane Coach Terminal on Roma Street, and travel responsibly knowing all coach emissions are 100% offset. We travel through the Lockyer Valley and onto Toowoomba where we have morning tea at Picnic Point. A perfect opportunity for a photo of the Lockyer Valley below. We continue through Dalby and onto Chinchilla for lunch. Continuing west along the Warrego Highway through Miles finishing our day at Roma. 1 Night Stay: Roma Explorers Inn

2 Roma to Charleville

Stay: Mulga Country Motor Inn, or Charleville Waltzing Matilda Motor Inn • Meals: Full Breakfast, Lunch, Two Course Dinner

We start our day at Roma's Cattle Saleyards, the largest cattle yard in Australia. We browse the new state-of-the-art interpretive centre telling the story of the cattle industry. Leaving Roma we take a stop at Morven, then continue to Charleville for lunch and a guided tour at the historic Hotel Corones. Built in stages, the hotel was completed in 1929 during Charleville's wool industry boom. Next, we make our way to the Bilby Experience. We tour the nocturnal house and learn about the plight of the endangered bilby and the successful breeding and release program. Tonight we enjoy the Big Sky Observatory Outback Stargazing Tour at The Cosmos Centre. See an amazing night sky brought into focus with the help of powerful Meade telescopes and listen to captivating stories from an experienced sky guide. 1 Night Stay: Mulga Country Motor Inn, or Charleville Waltzing Matilda Motor Inn

3 Charleville, Cunnamulla, St George

Stay: Merino Motor Inn, St George • Meals: Full Breakfast, Lunch, Two Course Dinner

Arriving in Cunnamulla we break at the famous Cunnamulla Fella statue, a larger than-life statue tribute to the Aussie larrikin stockman. Enjoy a visit to The Artesian Time Tunnel, stepping inside a mock opal mine lift and taking a journey through time. We go back 100 million years, deep into the middle of ancient sandstone rocks that form part of the Artesian Basin. Further down the road we break in Bollon and take a Nullawokka First Nations Cultural Tour, enjoying a bush tucker-inspired lunch and a tour with Bill, a Gwamu/Kooma elder from the area. A visit to the Nullawokka Art Gallery in the historic post office reveals thoughtfully curated Indigenous artworks and an insight into local places of significance for the First Nations people. We finish our day travelling on to St George. 2 Night Stay: Merino Motor Inn, St George

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St George

Meals: Full Breakfast, Lunch, Two Course Dinner

This morning we are joined by a knowledgeable local guide for a Heritage tour of St George. This includes a visit to Anchorage Homestead to discover the history of one of the oldest homesteads in the shire, heritage listed and built in 1903. We leave the homestead and make our way to the well-respected makers of Riversands Wines for a tour of the vineyard followed by wine tasting and a three-course winery lunch. After returning to our accommodation, enjoy the afternoon at leisure before meeting up again for dinner.

5

St George, Thallon, Lightning Ridge

Stay: Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge • Meals: Full Breakfast, Lunch, Two Course Dinner

Our first stop today is Thallon's beautiful town park, for a selfie with 'William the Wombat', a giant sculpture of the critically endangered Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat. We join a local guide to learn the stories behind the town's numerous sculptures, and seek out the vibrant Thallon Silo Mural. After lunch, we continue on to Lightning Ridge, once a forested plain near this ancient sea, famed for dazzling opal and as one of Australia's most important dinosaur fossil sites. We meet our local guide from the Australian Opal Centre for an introduction to the fascinating world of opal mining in this rugged outback town. 2 Night Stay: Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge

6

Lightning Ridge

Meals: Full Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch, Two Course Dinner

Today, our local guide shows us many hidden gems in this fascinating town. We visit Fred Bodel's hut, the oldest miner's camp in the area and the Historic Three Mile Flat, the site of the early miners' settlement. We travel back to town for morning tea and an opal cutting demonstration. Later we learn about the historic opal mining techniques at Lunatic Hill Open Cut. Next we see the hand built Amigo's Castle and Bevan's cactus gardens. After lunch we visit 'Chambers of the Black Hand' a national treasure in the making in a 100 year old mine shaft. After a day of sightseeing we take a therapeutic soak in the naturally heated thermal baths.

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Lightning Ridge to Goondiwindi

Stay: Best Western Ascot Lodge Motor Inn • Meals: Full Breakfast, Lunch, Two Course Dinner

We farewell Lightning Ridge and head for Moree in the beautiful Gwydir Valley. We join a local guide for a cotton farm tour. Discover the heart of the town's cotton industry, showcasing the process of cotton farming from planting to harvesting, see the crop (if in season) up close and learn about the irrigation systems, visit the cotton gin to see the processing of cotton bales, and other farming practices used to cultivate the cotton. We finish our day travelling on to Goondiwindi. 1 Night Stay: Best Western Ascot Lodge Motor Inn, Goondiwindi

8

Goondiwindi to Brisbane

Meals: Full Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch, Afternoon Tea, Two Course Dinner

Making our way back to Brisbane, we indulge in a long lunch overlooking the vines at Albert River Wines. The sweeping grounds are home to two historic buildings and sprawling vineyards, we arrive back to the Brisbane Coach Terminal late afternoon. B = Full Breakfast MT = Morning Tea L = Lunch AT = Afternoon Tea D = Two Course Dinner

Inclusions

• Travel carbon neutral on our 100% offset opulent 'Diamond Class' or luxurious 'Gold Class' coach • Fully escorted by experienced Fun Over 50 Holidays tour host and coach captain • Picnic Point Toowoomba; Chinchilla • 1 night Roma • Roma Cattle Saleyards interpretive centre • 1 night Charleville • Guided tour of Hotel Corones • Charleville Bilby Experience • Big Sky Observatory Outback Stargazing at the Cosmos Centre • Artesian Time Tunnel at Cunnamulla • Nullawokka First Nations Cultural Tour • 2 nights St George • St George guided tour; Riversands Wine tour with three-course lunch & wine tasting • Thallon Silo Trail; Australian Opal Centre • 2 nights Lightning Ridge • Locally guided tour of Lightning Ridge including Fred Bodel's Hut • 'Chambers of the Black Hand'; thermal bath • Amigo's Castle; Cactus Gardens • Moree Cotton Farm Tour • 1 night Goondiwindi • Albert River Wines finalé long lunch • 22 meals • 'Diamond Class' beverages served with dinner (includes a capped bar tab for beer, wine & soft drink).

Ready to Book?

Contact our travel experts to discuss this tour.

1300 138 687
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm AEST

info@reefnoutback.com.au
We reply within 24 hours

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