

LONGREACH & OUTBACK QUEENSLAND SPECTACULAR

CAIRNS - BRISBANE

SAMPLE ITINERARY

This is a sample itinerary and may be subject to change. We may need to alter or amend itineraries, excursions, accommodation, or sightseeing arrangements from those published, with little or no notice. This may be due to road conditions, weather, cultural considerations, safety factors and other operational considerations or government regulations. Final itineraries are sent to passengers approximately 2-3 weeks before travel.

DAY 1 – Cairns

Today you will be met and greeted by our friendly and professional Tour Directors before checking in to the Shangri-La The Marina. Enjoy marina-view rooms in this perfectly positioned hotel along the Esplanade.

Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant and meet your fellow adventurers. (D)

DAY 2 – Cairns - Millaa Millaa Falls - Undara

This morning we depart Cairns and trek towards the Undara Volcanic National Park. On the way we pass through the scenic Atherton Tablelands and visit the stunning Millaa Millaa Falls. Located on the eastern edge of the ruggedly beautiful Gulf Savannah, the park protects the longest lava tube cave system in the world.

We arrive at the Undara Experience late this afternoon and check in to our unique accommodation consisting of restored railway carriages and pioneer huts, all with private ensuite facilities.

Tonight, enjoy dinner in the outdoor style restaurant as an outback sunset fades away into a clear starlit night. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 – Lava Tubes - Cobbold Gorge

This morning a local Savannah Guide takes us on a tour through part of the lava tube cave system.

Created when the Undara Volcano erupted over 190,000 years ago, the lava that poured out was enough to fill Sydney Harbour three times over. The lava flows lasted a long time, which allowed the outer edge to cool while the interior kept flowing, creating the tubes seen today.

We depart Undara and head west to Cobbold Gorge, a geological wonderland is set on Robin Hood Station. This station is a massive 1,300 square kilometre property that's home to around 10,000 head of Brahman cattle.

Later this afternoon we take part in a 2-hour river cruise on Cobbold Gorge. The gorge stretches for approximately 6 kilometres and consists of a series of waterholes bound by spectacular rocky cliffs.

Tonight, we overnight at Cobbold Village in modern cabins with ensuite bathroom facilities. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 – Cobbold Gorge - Karumba

This morning we depart Cobbold Gorge and make our way north to Normanton and continue to Karumba.

This afternoon we enjoy a special Sand Island sunset dinner cruise in the Gulf. Dine on local seafood while watching a sensational gulf sunset. (Includes wine and beer. Alternative meals are available).

Located on the banks of the Norman River, Karumba came to importance in the 1930's when it became a stop-over point for flying boats on the run from London to Australia. Here we spend the next two nights at the End of the Road Motel. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 – Gulflander - Barramundi Centre

This morning we join one of the last great characters of rail travel - The Gulflander. This historic little train takes us on a journey from Normanton to Critters Camp.

From here we head back to Karumba and discover the amazing secrets of the mighty barramundi at The Les Wilson Barramundi Discovery Centre, the only hatchery in the world to breed the Southern Gulf strain of this iconic fish!

The brand new interactive and state-of-the-art Interpretive Centre provides the history, stories, lifecycle, and habits of these sought-after fish.

This evening we enjoy our second night at the End of the Road Motel. (B,L,D)

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DAY 6 – Karumba - Cloncurry

Our journey today takes us due south along the Burke Development Road towards Cloncurry with a visit to the Burke & Wills Roadhouse.

For years, the Burke & Wills Roadhouse has become a strategic stop for travellers. Located on Lot 51 Burke Developmental Road Four Ways Queensland, this roadhouse is just halfway between Cloncurry and the Gulf of Carpentaria. Due to the vast remoteness, Burke & Wills Roadhouse becomes an essential stop for locals and travellers to break up any journey or for fuel and food. We learn of the expedition in 1860/61 before heading further south towards Cloncurry.

This afternoon we check into the Gidgee Inn Motel and enjoy some true Aussie outback hospitality. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 – Cloncurry - Mt. Isa

This morning we visit the John Flynn Museum, which in 1928 Flynn established the Aerial Medical Service in Cloncurry which took his caring service to remote homesteads and communities. The display includes some interesting personal memorabilia and explanations of how the whole Flying Doctor system worked in the early days.

Flynn's story is the triumph of an unceasing commitment against huge odds. The museum also records the remarkable work of Alfred Traeger, the man who invented the push pedal radio.

The Cloncurry River was named by the explorer Robert O'Hara Burke after his cousin, Lady Elizabeth Cloncurry from County Galway in Ireland, and when the town was surveyed it took the name of the river.

The first-ever flight of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia took place from Cloncurry on 15 May 1928, using a de Havilland DH.50 aircraft hired from the then small airline, Qantas.

We continue on to Mt. Isa, arriving mid-afternoon. We spend the next two nights at the Red Earth Hotel, a luxurious boutique style hotel in the centre of town. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 – Mt Isa - Mine Tour - Riversleigh Fossil Centre

Mt. Isa began as a mining town following the discovery of substantial deposits of lead in 1923. It is now one of the world's top 10 producers of copper, silver, lead and zinc. This morning we enjoy a town tour before visiting 'Outback at Isa' home to a vast array of tourism attractions.

First, we'll take an underground tour of the Hard Times Mine. Then visit the unique Riversleigh Fossil Centre which interprets the World Heritage Listed fossil sites at Riversleigh. There is also an art gallery, the 'Isa Experience' exhibit and a fish hatchery project.

This afternoon enjoy free time to relax at the hotel or stroll through the CBD of Mt. Isa. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 – Mt. Isa - Winton

Departing Mt Isa this morning we trek towards Cloncurry, before continuing south along the Landsborough Matilda Highway to Winton, passing by the Walkabout Creek Hotel at McKinlay which featured in the legendary film 'Crocodile Dundee'.

On arrival into Winton, we visit the Waltzing Matilda Centre. Rebuilt after the devastating 2015 fire, the centre features a world class museum that tells the story of Waltzing Matilda, along with an art gallery and exhibition space.

We then check in to the Boulder Opal Motor Inn for our overnight stay. (B,L,D)

DAY 10 – Winton - National Heritage Listed Lark Quarry - Longreach

Winton has a rich history with links to the Great Shearer's Strike, Qantas, and Waltzing Matilda. However, in recent years the town is almost as well known for something far more ancient, the Dinosaurs! This morning we visit the Lark Quarry Conservation Reserve, containing the world's only record of a dinosaur stampede.

We arrive at Longreach this afternoon and spend the next two nights at Saltbush Retreat, a boutique outback lodge. (B,L,D)

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DAY 11 – Stockmans Hall of Fame - Qantas Founders Museum

Longreach is named after the 'long reach' of the Thomson River on which it is situated. Regarded as the heart of the outback, it is one of Queensland's most prosperous agricultural regions and one of the founding centres of QANTAS.

This morning we enjoy a tour at the School of Distance Education before visiting the iconic Stockman's Hall of Fame, opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1988.

This afternoon we experience the Qantas Founders Museum which houses a Boeing 747 and the airline's first 707. Enjoy a tour inside both aircraft and wander through this exceptional museum.

This evening we enjoy a cruise on the Thomson River, followed by dinner on the riverbank accompanied by a talented musical entertainer performing live on Smithy's River Stage. (B,L,D)

DAY 12 – Longreach - Emerald

This morning we depart Longreach and head to Emerald.

We travel through Ilfracombe to Barcaldine, which played a significant role in the Australian labour movement and the birth of the Australian Labor Party. In 1891, it was one of the focal points of the 1891 Australian shearers' strike, with the Eureka Flag flying over the strike camp. The landmark Tree of Knowledge, under which the strikers met, stood outside the railway station.

We pass through Jericho and Alpha, the name being derived from the Alpha Pastoral Station, established in 1863. This was a very large station, dominating the area and growing to more than 1,600 square kilometres by the 1890s.

We arrive at the township of Emerald this afternoon, a coal mining town responsible for the export of over 14 million tonnes of coking and thermal coal each year. Emerald is also home to a number of prosperous Gemfields with the industry producing world class sapphires.

We spend the night at Emerald Maraboon Motor Inn. (B,L,D)

DAY 13 – Carnarvon Gorge & National Park

We continue south into the Carnarvon National Park. An oasis in the heart of Queensland, Carnarvon National Park is characterised by towering white sandstone cliffs and pockets of rainforest. It is also known for its incredible abundance of wildlife, being home to over 180 species of birds, 90 reptiles, 22 frog species and five of our six species of gliders. It is also a refuge for Australia's two monotremes, the Platypus and Echidna.

Today, there are numerous guided walks available depending on your level of fitness. Spot an elusive Platypus on a gentle nature trail or, for the more seasonal walkers, head up the gorge to Moss Garden where the water seeping out of the limestone supports a lush carpet of mosses and ferns. Your experienced guides will explain each walk and assist you in choosing the right option.

We depart mid-afternoon and travel to Roma and overnight at the Roma Explorers Inn. (B,L,D)

DAY 14 – Big Rig Oil Patch - Toowoomba

This morning we visit the Big Rig Oil Patch for an informative tour before heading east along the Warrego Highway passing through Miles, Chinchilla and Dalby. Located in the heart of the rich and fertile Darling Downs, the vibrant rural town of Dalby has the largest grain receival depot in Queensland.

This afternoon we arrive in Toowoomba where we enjoy a tour of this strong, regional city, including the Cobb & Co Museum. Toowoomba is the largest non-capital inland city in Australia with a population of approximately 150,000. It is well known for its many beautiful parks and gardens which benefit from the town's rich volcanic soils.

We check into the fully refurbished Burke & Wills Hotel for our final night of the tour. (B,L,D)

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DAY 15 – Toowoomba - Brisbane

After breakfast we enjoy a tour of this strong regional city before making our way to Brisbane where you will be dropped off at the airport or Royal On The Park hotel. (B)

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