



PLATINUM JOURNEYS
FOR THE DISCERNING EXPERIENCE SEEKER



SPIRIT OF THE OUTBACK

Friday 17th April to Monday 27th April 2020

Travel to Longreach in First Class aboard the Spirit of the Outback then discover the stars, the early days of the pioneers and much more ...



Day 1 HOME - BRISBANE Fri 17 Apr 20 (D))

Welcome to our spectacular tour to the outback. We are transferred to Canberra airport for our flight to Brisbane. We arrive in Brisbane and meet the Platinum Journeys crew for our first night together (lunch at own expense / dinner in hotel). *Flights additional cost.*

Overnight: Pacific Hotel Brisbane (PH: 07 3831 6177)

Day 2 SPIRIT OF THE OUTBACK Sat 18 Apr 20 (BLD)

We discover Brisbane from the water as we enjoy a gentle cruise from Southbank. Sit back and relax as our captain will give an informative commentary while we cruise past Brisbane's most iconic sights including the Kangaroo Point Cliffs, City Centre and the Story Bridge. Our lunch is on a lovely verandah overlooking a section of the Brisbane River at Newstead House, one of the city's oldest surviving homes dating back to 1846. During lunch we'll be given a talk on the house with free time afterwards to enjoy a wander at our own pace. Boarding the Spirit of the Outback we begin our outback 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 clackety-clack as the train comes towards our destination (breakfast in hotel / lunch included / dinner on Spirit of the Outback).

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

Day 3 ARRIVE LONGREACH Sun 19 Apr 20 (BLD)

Today the train leaves the coast, departing Rockhampton and travels via Blackwater, Emerald and Barcaldine to Longreach. The daylight journey will allow us to enjoy the magical colours and landscape of Outback Queensland (breakfast & lunch on Spirit of the Outback / dinner in hotel).

Overnight: Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (PH: 07 4658 2411)

Day 4 OUTBACK LOCALS Mon 20 Apr 20 (BLD)

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. We step back in time at the Station Store in Longreach and discover their excellent range of outback clothing, gifts, homewares, local crafts and souvenirs. Roll up for laughs and legends at the Harry Redford Old Time Tent Show. We are charmed by the fictional story of Harry Redford or "Captain Starlight" and his infamous adventures with old-style outback humour and entertainment. Our unique StoneGrill dining experience re-creates a cook-your-own camp fire dinner for a great outback experience! (breakfast & dinner in hotel / Billy Can lunch included).

Overnight: Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (PH: 07 4658 2411)

Day 5 WINTON TOURING Tue 21 Apr 20 (BD)

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 so you might like to buy yourself a drink here! Following some free time to explore and purchase lunch, we visit the Waltzing Matilda Centre. Tragically, it was burnt to the ground on June 17, 2015. Luckily for us, it has re-opened and is now a world class museum and art gallery. We'll listen to the "swaggie" tell his own version of a story which has become Australia's greatest legend. Trace the history of Waltzing Matilda as it chronicles the growth of a nation and enjoy a unique light and sound show (breakfast & dinner in hotel / lunch at own expense).

Overnight: Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (PH: 07 4658 2411)

Day 6 PLANES AND FAME Wed 22 Apr 20 (BLD)

Today's adventure starts at the iconic Australian Stockmans 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. This afternoon we uncover some national treasures, such as the historic 1922 QANTAS hanger, at the QANTAS Founders Museum. The historic photographs, memorabilia and multimedia displays bring alive the inspirational stories of one of the world's pioneering airlines. After our interesting day, we take a sunset cruise down the majestic Thomson River and enjoy dinner on the bank. 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 (breakfast in hotel / lunch at Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame / dinner on the Thomson River).

Overnight: Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (PH: 07 4658 2411)

Day 7 LONGREACH - CHARLEVILLE Thu 23 Apr 20 (BD)

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 visit the Cosmos Centre. The centre is an audio-visual extravaganza featuring hi-tech interactive displays that will take us on an astronomical journey through the ages, unravelling many mysteries of our night sky (breakfast and dinner in hotel / lunch at own expense).

Overnight: Waltzing Matilda Motel, Charleville (PH: 07 4654 1720)

Day 8 CHARLEVILLE – LIGHTNING RIDGE Fri 24 Apr 20 (BLD)

We have a travel day ahead as we will be crossing the border into New South Wales to Lightning Ridge. Chat to your fellow adventures or watch the scenery roll by your window. We enjoy a packed lunch in St George before expressing to Lightning Ridge (breakfast and dinner in hotel / packed lunch)

Overnight: Lightening Ridge Outback Resort & Caravan Park (PH: 02 6829 0304)

Day 9 OPAL DISCOVERY Sat 25 Apr 20 (BD)

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. We begin with a guided town tour to see Amigos Castle, a huge Italian Style Castle built by one man, the Bore Baths and Coopers Cottage, an authentic miners camp. We experience the atmosphere of an underground mine at Opal Mine Adventure. Here we'll also learn about opal mining through a video presentation and a visit the showroom to view the opals that came from the mines in this area. We will be captivated by Chambers of the Black Hand where local artist Ron Canlin has created the most amazing paintings and sculptures 11.2 meters underground. There is The Last Supper, Archangel Gabriel and the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. The second level is a mine that has been worked for over 100 years, and all the old shafts and drives that were dug by the old timers are still there. We finish our day at the Opal Cave, to discover how the opal is cut and polished with a local opal expert (breakfast & dinner in hotel / lunch at own expense).

Lightning Ridge Outback Resort and Caravan Park (PH: 02 6829 0304)

Day 10 LIGHTNING RIDGE - PARKES Sun 26 Apr 20 (BLD)

Leaving Lightning Ridge, we travel south to Dundullimal Homestead, in Dubbo, believed to be to oldest sophisticated slab house in Australia. Dundullimal's sandstone stables, timber church and rustic shed, showcase the hardships and conditions of rural life on an isolated property. We continue our journey to Parkes, a town named after one of the NSW's most famous statesman, Henry Parkes. Look out for the huge telescope situated to the north of the town (breakfast & dinner at hotel / lunch at Dundullimal Homestead).

Overnight: North Parkes Motor Inn, Parkes (PH: 02 6863 4333)

Day 11 PARKES - HOME Mon 27 Apr 20 (BL)

This morning, we have time to make a stop at Memorial Hill Lookout for fantastic views of the town. We then make our way to the quaint village of Bowning. Housed in a 'slab hut' designed and built to replicate local buildings from the 1800s is Rollonin Café. We travel back in time with the interior walls lined with old newspapers and a beautiful cottage garden surrounding the café. We enjoy our delicious farewell lunch here. We continue home with new friends and fond memories of our Spirit of the Outback tour (breakfast at hotel / lunch included).



Townsville

Mount Isa

Mackay

Winton

Rockhampton

Longreach

Maryborough

Charleville

Caloundra

Brisbane

Gold Coast

Lismore

Lightning Ridge

Grafton

Armidale

Taree

Broken Hill

NEW SOUTH WALES

Parkes

Newcastle

Mildura

Sydney

Griffith

Wagga Wagga

J.B.T.

Adelaide

Canberra

Horsham

Wangaratta

Merimbula

VICTORIA

Mount Gambier

Melbourne

Traralgon

Warrnambool

Desert Reserve

Whyalla

road

Gray
Inwealth
Reserve



PLATINUMJOURNEYS
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Tour Cost Twin Share \$4995pp Solo Traveller \$5495pp

(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. Alterations to the itinerary may occur – a final confirmed itinerary will be provided with your travel documentation approximately 3 weeks prior to departure.

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE CONTACT US

www.travelmakers.com.au

phil@travelmakers.com.au

Call us **1800 838 408 (02) 6223 2780**

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CONDITIONS OF BOOKING

All bookings must be accompanied by a deposit of \$600.00 per person
The balance and final payment must be received 60 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATION POLICY

More than 60 days notice : full refund less \$600.00 deposit

14 days to 60 days before tour : 50% refund

Within 14 days of tour : no refund

**Travel Makers and Platinum Journeys strongly recommend all passengers
take out travel insurance in case of illness or accident**