POTTER TRAVEL
OUTBACK
QUEENSLAND

12 DAY TOUR

Departing: Monday 23 July 2018
Returning: Friday 3 August 2018

TOUR COST:

$3775.00 per person Twin/Double Share
$4560.00 Sole Occupancy
Day 1 (LD): CANBERRA TO DUBBO: Monday 23 July 2018
Welcome to our 12 day Outback Queensland Tour. This morning we complete our pickups and head via Boorowa and Cowra onto our lunch stop in Forbes. At McFeeters Motor Museum we have lunch in the café then enjoy a wander through the displays of private vehicles ranging from 1905 to 1999. The collection showcases vintage, classic, veterans and custom made vehicles. This afternoon we travel through Parkes, Peak Hill and on to Dubbo where we’ll stop for the night.

Golden West Motor Inn, Dubbo (ph 02 6882 2822)

Day 2 (BD): DUBBO TO BOURKE: Tuesday 24 July 2018
Today we continue north to Bourke. After some time to buy lunch we head to the Back of Bourke Exhibition which brings life to the story of the outback. Through a series of interactive stories of the inland sea, the wool story, riverboats, and conflicts, we’ll experience a journey through life in the back country. Next we join the PV Jandra, a modern paddle vessel for a cruise along the Darling River. From the end of the 19th century and early into the 20th century, the river was busy with boats carrying wool bales and other produce all the way from the railhead at Bourke to the Murray junction in Wentworth. Our captain will share stories about this era of station life, floods, droughts, birdblife and wildlife. We then check into our overnight accommodation and freshen up for dinner at the local club.

Darling River Motel, Bourke (ph 02 6872 2288)

Day 3 (BLD): BOURKE TO CHARLEVILLE: Wednesday 25 July 2018
We travel across the Queensland border this morning and onto Cunnamulla, located on the banks of the Warrego River and the starting point for the Matilda Highway. We stop here at the hotel for an earlier lunch before continuing through Wyandra to our overnight destination of Charleville. Don some warm clothes this evening as we visit the Cosmos Centre for the twilight session. We enjoy nibbles and drinks before we take an astronomical journey unravelling some of the mysteries of our night sky. Afterwards we enjoy a later dinner.

Waltzing Matilda Motel, Charleville (ph 07 4654 1720)

Day 4 (BLD): CHARLEVILLE TO LONGREACH: Thursday 26 July 2018
This morning we farewell Charleville. Then it’s onto Blackall, named after Sir Samuel Blackall, the second Governor of Queensland. Blackall was the first outback town to start drilling an artesian bore back in 1885 and is also home to the Black Stump. The stump was used for surveying purposes and permanently marks the original Astro Station established in 1887. Anything west of this point is said to be “beyond the black stump”. Our lunch venue today is at the massive Wool Scour, housed in the Visitor Information Centre. This is the only steam driven wool scour (wool washing facility) remaining of the 52 once operating across the country. This afternoon we break in Barcaldine, a town steeped in history of the early pioneers’ struggles and the evolution of Australia as a nation. We stop off at the Tree of Knowledge next to the Railway Station. This signifies the spot where the Australian Labour Party was formed. We arrive in Longreach and settle into our motel, our home for the next three nights.

Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (ph 07 4658 2411)

Day 5 (BD): LONGREACH: Friday 27 July 2018
After breakfast we head out to explore the town. Today we are going to have a special experience as we get a real insight to the back country. Next we join the PV Jandra, a modern paddle vessel for a cruise along the Darling River. From the end of the 19th century and early into the 20th century, the river was busy with boats carrying wool bales and other produce all the way from the railhead at Bourke to the Murray junction in Wentworth. Our captain will share stories about this era of station life, floods, droughts, birdblife and wildlife. We then check into our overnight accommodation and freshen up for dinner at the local club.

Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (ph 07 4658 2411)

Day 6 (BD): LONGREACH: Saturday 28 July 2018
Today we visit the 2 big museums in Longreach. First stop is at the Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame. We’ll have time to wander through the Centre’s five themed galleries proudly displaying the history behind some of Australia’s greatest and bravest explorers, stock workers, pastoralists and Aborigines. The displays allow us to interpret the outback story in a unique way. Late morning we witness the Outback Stockmans Show. The show 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 cross the road for our next visit to the QANTAS Founders Museum. There is a café on site where we can purchase lunch (own expense) before taking a look at the historic photographs, memorabilia and multimedia displays which bring alive the inspirational stories of one of the world’s pioneering airlines. We have allowed plenty of time to enjoy the museum at leisure before our exclusive dinner right in the museum!

Albert Park Motor Inn, Longreach (ph 07 4658 2411)
Day 7 (BLD): LONGREACH TO EMERALD: Sunday 29 July 2018
This morning we travel east along the Capricorn Highway via Jericho, to the gemfields of Rubyvale. Here we have arranged lunch at the Rubyvale Gem Gallery. In 1974 a 21 year old Peter Brown arrived in an old VW Beetle and set up camp along the creek banks west of Rubyvale where, during his fossicking, dug up his first sapphire. He was hooked! Over 40 years later he is still here making beautiful jewellery from the high quality sapphires found in the area. After lunch we view the showroom displays and enjoy the resident rainbow lorikeets in the award winning garden. Our final stop today is Emerald, the commercial hub of Central Queensland.

Emerald Explorers Inn (ph 07 4982 2822)

Day 8 (BLD): EMERALD TO CARNARVON GORGE: Monday 30 July 2018
Our day begins with a look around Emerald including the historic railway station. Built in 1900 it is now classified by the National Trust. Outside the Town Hall we’ll see a fossilised tree that is 250 million years old. It was unearthed on the banks of the Mackenzie River when a railway bridge was being constructed to one of the local mines and donated to the town on the event of its centenary by BHP Mines. From Emerald we head south to today’s destination of Carnarvon Gorge. We will travel via the Fairbairn Dam for a look - the second largest man-made lake in Queensland. Opened in 1972 it is the spillway for Lake Maraboon, meaning ‘where the black ducks fly.’ This huge expanse of water and surrounding bushland is home to birds such as rainbow lorikeets, pelicans and black swans. We’ll stop for our picnic lunch in Beazley Park, Rolleston before driving into the Carnarvon Gorge National Park. Located in the middle of the Great Dividing Range, this rugged area features dramatic gorge scenery.

Carnarvon Gorge Wilderness Lodge (permanent safari tents – ph 07 4984 4503)

Day 9 (BLD): CARNARVON GORGE: Tuesday 31 July 2018
We have the entire day to enjoy the park today. Carnarvon Gorge is stunning, partly because it is an oasis surrounded by drier plains and partly due to its scenic variety, which includes sandstone cliffs, moss gardens, deep pools and rare palms and ferns. The Gorge also contains fine examples of Aboriginal art along with an abundance of animal and bird life. There is a series of walks and impressive landscapes including cliff walls up to 200 metres high. This morning will be with our locally based guide and this afternoon will be free time to enjoy some of the walks closer to the lodge.

Carnarvon Gorge Wilderness Lodge (permanent safari tents – ph 07 4984 4503)

Day 10 (BD): CARNARVON GORGE TO DALBY: Wednesday 1 August 2018
Waking once again to these picturesque surroundings we have breakfast and pack our bags, ready for departure. Making our way through to our lunch stop in Roma (own expense), we’ll take a look at Heroes Avenue – 93 bottle trees which were planted in memorial to those in the First World War. Each tree originally bore a brass plaque stating the name of one of the 93 local men who fell during the war. Only one of these plaques survives, now outside the post office. Our drive now takes us east via Miles and onto Dalby where we’ll check into our motel and freshen up. Dinner this evening is at the local club.

Dalby Manor Motor Inn (ph 07 4662 1011)

Day 11 (BLD): DALBY TO BRISBANE: Thursday 2 August 2018
We travel via Toowoomba onto Brisbane this morning. We’ll make a stop at Mt Coot-tha Lookout for excellent views over Moreton Bay and the city of Brisbane, with the river winding through. We’ll enjoy lunch here then travel downhill into the city. With our tour guide onboard we get to see the city through the eyes of a local. We’ll learn about Brisbane’s convict past, see magnificent colonial buildings sitting comfortably alongside modern glass towers and see the inner renovation suburbs with stunning ‘Queenslander’ houses. We then check into our hotel and freshen up for our evening aboard the Kookaburra River Queen. We experience the city lights and some of Brisbane’s best sights from the boat while we enjoy dinner with live music.

Brisbane Riverview Hotel (ph 07 3862 1800)

Day 12 (B): BRISBANE TO CANBERRA: Friday 3 August 2018
Our final day sees us making our way to the Brisbane Airport for our flight back to Canberra (flight time TBA). We arrive home later today to complete our fabulous Outback Queensland tour.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPOSIT is required within 7 days of booking confirming your reservation. If no deposit is received, Potter Travel reserves the right to cancel the booking. Deposit is $400.00 per person.

FINAL PAYMENT: FRIDAY 08 JUNE 2018

CANCELLATION TERMS & CONDITIONS:
Reservations that are cancelled prior to FRI 08 JUN 2018. Full refund of deposit less $50.00 administration fee & $55 airfare deposit
Reservations that are cancelled on or after FRI 08 JUN 2018 and prior to FRI 22 JUN 2018 : loss of 25% of total tour cost.
Reservations that are cancelled on or after FRI 22 JUN 2018 and prior to FRI 06 JUL 2018 : loss of 50% of total tour cost.
Reservations that are cancelled on or after FRI 06 JUL 2018 : loss of 100% of total tour cost.

The $50.00 Potter Travel administration fee only occurs when a refund cheque is issued. There is no administration fee for funds transferred to another Potter Travel tour. No shows on day of departure or cancellations whilst on tour will be charged a 100% cancellation fee. Where Potter Travel cancels the tour as a result of insufficient numbers or due to reasons within Potter Travel's control, a full refund of any monies paid at the time of cancellation will be given.

The operation of the tour is subject to minimum numbers. Once inside the final payment date if your cancellation affects our minimum group numbers, Potter Travel reserves the right to impose further cancellation fees in addition to those noted above. Potter Travel reserves the right to pass on any additional fees or surcharges imposed by the airlines or wholesaler with or without notice.

Tour Includes: Dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation at the Hotels mentioned in the Itinerary, some lunches, morning and/or afternoon tea supplied from the coach, entry fees and/or guided tours to all attractions as mentioned in the itinerary, tickets to shows (if applicable), luxury coach travel and GST. Meals are stated in the itinerary as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch and D = Dinner.

Forced Singles are not permitted on our tours. If you wish to twin share you will need to organise your own travelling companion, otherwise single supplement is payable.

Not Included: Alcoholic beverages or other drinks (except wine tasting), meals not specified, room service, telephone calls, some morning/afternoon teas or any items of a personal nature.

Potter Travel recommends that Travel Insurance be taken to protect against unforeseen circumstances. Travel Insurance is available through Potter Travel.

Potter Travel reserves the right to alter itineraries without notice due to weather, road conditions or any other reason which is seen to be in the best interest of passengers travelling. The price is subject to any changes imposed by other tour operators and carriers included in the itinerary. The operation and provision of services from other tour operators and carriers included in the itinerary is the responsibility of these operators and no responsibility is taken by Potter Travel for the failure of such operators to provide the nominated service.

No guarantees will be given as to the exact arrival and departure times for carriers and operators used by Potter Travel. Drop offs may be in the opposite direction to the pickups depending on the touring route taken.

Daily seat rotation will take place on all extended tours, which all travellers must participate in as a condition of booking. Passengers suffering from motion sickness are advised to take the necessary precautions as seat rotation is compulsory.

Potter Travel accepts no responsibility for damage, loss of personal belongings or liability for delays, accidents, injury, irregularity or damage caused by other transport companies used for connecting tours operated by this company. Potter Travel reserves the right to cancel or postpone the tour due to insufficient numbers or as a result of circumstances outside the company’s control.

Participation or inclusion in a photo taken by a Potter Travel staff member whilst on any of our tours, indicates that you are giving us the right to publish any such photos on our Website or Facebook Page for promotional purposes.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING CREDIT CARD HOLDERS

As the banking industry continues to impose a broad range of fees on bank transactions, it has come to the stage where Potter Travel can no longer absorb the merchant charges for all credit card transactions. As of 01 October 2009, Potter Travel will be charging the 1.03% banking fee on all credit card transactions. The charges will apply for partial or full payments by credit card. Cash, Cheque, Money Order and Eftpos payments will NOT incur any additional charges. *Subject to change, in accordance with National Australia Bank Flexipay Merchant Fees.

WAITLISTED PASSENGERS

Where tours are fully booked any future enquiries will be put onto a waitlist and as cancellations occur the person at the top of the waitlist will be contacted first and offered the seat followed by the second, the third and so on. In the instance that you are unable to be contacted on a daytime telephone number, the seat will be offered to the next person on the waitlist.

RESERVATIONS AND ENQUIRIES

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