

CAIRNS - EAST COAST

& THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK SPECTACULAR SHOW

16 DAYS DEPARTING SUNDAY 23RD JUNE TO MONDAY 8TH JULY 2019

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – RESTAURANT MEALS



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HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Green Island</i>	<i>Port Douglas</i>
<i>Barrier Reef</i>	<i>Daintree River Cruise</i>
<i>Sugar Museum</i>	<i>Hamilton Island</i>
<i>Paronella Park</i>	<i>Airlie Beach</i>
<i>Gold Coast</i>	<i>Surfers Paradise</i>
<i>Australian Outback Spectacular Dinner</i>	
<i>Byron Bay</i>	<i>Coffs Harbour</i>
<i>Big Banana</i>	<i>Slim Dusty Centre</i>
<i>Western Plains Zoo</i>	<i>Tamworth</i>

DAY 1: SUNDAY 23RD JUNE

HOME TO CAIRNS

After your home pick up we travel to Tullamarine for your flight to Cairns, known as the capital of the tropical far north. The city's terraces, foreshore, parks and spectacular gardens boast colourful blooms and a myriad of tropical plants and trees. Cairns commands an enviable position with the Great Barrier Reef to the east, mountain rainforests and plains of the Atherton Tableland to the west and exquisite palm fringed beaches to the north and south. Check into our hotel, home for the next three nights.

Accom: Doubletree by Hilton-Cairns Ph: 07 4050 6070

DAY 2: MONDAY 24TH JUNE

CAIRNS-GREEN ISLAND-BARRIER REEF **B.L.**

We cruise today to Green Island which is a beautiful 6000 year old coral cay located in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The island is the only coral cay on the Great Barrier Reef with a rainforest growing on it and is home to 126 native plant species, colourful birdlife, surrounded by magnificent coral gardens. Stroll through magical rainforest, laze on the white coral sands and enjoy a glass bottom boat ride to view an amazing display of tropical fish and coral

gardens. Return to Cairns for lunch along the harbour esplanade.

DAY 3: TUESDAY 25TH JUNE

PORT DOUGLAS & DAINTREE RIVER CRUISE **B.**

An early rise this morning before heading north to indulge ourselves for the ultimate "Breakfast with the Birds" at the Rainforest Habitat at Port Douglas. In this wildlife park of the future, visitors can wander through three different and unique environments that depict numerous species of the surrounding rainforest, wetlands, and grasslands. Boardwalks overlook lagoons where both Estuarine and Freshwater crocodiles lurk beneath murky waters or bask on the sunlit banks. Leaving this extraordinary habitat we travel the short distance to the international tourist destination of Port Douglas situated in a tropical tree covered mountain setting. See Little St Mary's Church by the sea and take a stroll on four mile beach before continuing north to Mossman. This small picturesque town referred to as the "sugar town of the north" is set amid the scenic splendour of green cane fields, and rainforest clad mountains. Further on to Daintree where the Daintree region is a nature-lover's paradise. It abounds with tropical birds, butterflies, reptiles and countless species of wildlife, not to mention 3000 plant species from 210 families which are found in the Wet Tropics. This afternoon we enjoy our boat cruise on the Daintree River followed by a special afternoon tea at the Daintree Village.

DAY 4: WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE

CAIRNS TO INGHAM

B.L.D.

This morning we stop at Mourilyan to visit the Sugar Museum before arriving at Paronella Park which is a unique experience where history and romance are fused together. Paronella Park is a magical, unforgettable place nestled amongst heritage gardens and 13 acres of lush Australian rainforest situated on the banks of the crystal clear waters of Mena Creek. This afternoon we continue on to Tully one of the wettest areas in Australia, but it is a thriving sugar cane and banana growing area. On to Ingham for our overnight stop.

Accom: Tropixx Motel

Ph: 07 4776 0000

DAY 5: THURSDAY 27TH JUNE

INGHAM TO AIRLIE BEACH

B.D.

A short distance this morning to Townsville with the idyllic paradise of Magnetic Island right on our doorstep. Later this morning we reach the east coast of Australia travelling via Ayr within the Burdekin Shire. The Burdekin shire produces the most sugarcane per square kilometre in Australia, and then on to Bowen which sits on a square peninsula, with ocean to the north, east, and south. Bowen is in the dry tropics, and so has all the warm sunny weather of a tropical climate, but it is much dryer than the tropical beaches overlooking the Great Barrier Reef. The town of Airlie Beach the perfect holiday destination awaits us, and being

positioned on a picturesque peninsula that reaches out into the Whitsunday waters. Dinner is at a local restaurant and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Coral Sea Resort Ph: 07 4964 1300

DAY 6: FRIDAY 28TH JUNE

AIRLIE BEACH / HAMILTON ISLAND B.L.D.

This morning we board the Fantasea Cruises ferry and make our way to Hamilton Island. Here we will enjoy the morning exploring the island on our bus tour, and then with time to relax in the resort. After lunch, we board the ferry back to Airlie Beach where the rest of the afternoon is free to enjoy this magnificent holiday location. Dinner is at a local restaurant and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

DAY 7: SATURDAY 29TH JUNE

AIRLIE BEACH TO GLADSTONE B.D.

Travelling south today to Mackay and on to Sarina to visit the Sarina Sugar Shed, for an educational tour of this award winning tourist facility. See first hand how sugar is grown, processed, milled and distilled in the unique miniature mill. Further on to Rockhampton known as the Beef Capital of Australia and the gateway between the coast and the outback. Next we arrive in the Gladstone Region which is a unique area and the city of Gladstone which is our overnight stop is developed on hills overlooking the focal point of its economic development - the natural deepwater harbour. Dinner and breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Oaks Grand Gladstone Ph: 07 4972 2422

DAY 8: SUNDAY 30TH JUNE

GLADSTONE TO CALOUNDRA B.D.

This morning we travel through Childers the Qld town where the deliberately lit Childers Palace Backpackers Hostel fire happened on 23 June 2000. Later we pass through Gympie, the site of the annual Country Music Muster and the Gold Rush Festival before continuing on to Nambour, where we find the well known Big Pineapple. There will be time to climb the Big Pineapple and explore the process of Pineapple farming from start to factory. We will experience the plantation aboard the unique Plantation Train as it tours past exotic fruit trees and sub-tropical rainforest. This afternoon we arrive at Caloundra for our one night stay in this holiday city. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Oaks Oasis Resort Ph: 07 5491 0333

DAY 9: MONDAY 1ST JULY

CALOUNDRA TO GOLD COAST B.D.

Our tour today is a shorter trip and takes us through the outskirts of Brisbane on our way to the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is known as a major tourist destination with its sunny subtropical climate, surfing beaches, canal and waterway systems, its high-rise dominated skyline, nightlife and rainforest hinterland. Our accommodation is in the heart of Surfers Paradise and the afternoon is yours to stroll the beach or perhaps visit the many tourist shops in Cavill Avenue. Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Vibe Hotel Ph: 07 5539 0444

DAY 10: TUESDAY 2ND JULY

GOLD COAST - OUTBACK SPECTACULAR B.D.

Today is a free day and one to enjoy the Gold Coast area and there is plenty to see and do. Sea World is a magic marine experience with dolphins, sharks, sting rays, penguins and polar bears and full of educational exhibits. (Passengers own expense). Perhaps a visit to Pacific Fair which is one of

Australia's most iconic shopping centres, and with almost 300 specialty stores passengers will be spoilt for choice. Save some energy though because tonight is something special on this tour, as premium top rail seats and dinner have been booked for the Australian Outback Spectacular Dinner Show. Saddle up and join us on a captivating journey to the snow peaked mountains of the high country where enchanted whispers and legendary yarns come alive with the most inspiring stories of Australian characters. Including the Australian stock horse, stunning special effects and a delicious three course dinner.

DAY 11: WEDNESDAY 3RD JULY

GOLD COAST TO COFFS HARBOUR B.D.

Leaving the Gold Coast this morning we travel via Coolangatta and Tweed Heads where we cross the border in to New South Wales, stopping at Byron Bay for lunch. Byron Bay is the eastern most point of Australia's mainland on the New South Wales north coast. It is famous for its alternative lifestyles and attracts people from all walks of life. Cape Byron is a 107 metre high rocky promontory at Australia's most eastern point. It protects Byron Bay and we visit the Cape Byron lighthouse. Its light beams more than 40 km out to sea to warn sailors to beware of the treacherous coastline. Byron Bay has a subtropical climate all year with the cooling coastal winds providing relief in summer. Further on to Ballina, Grafton and our overnight stop at Coffs Harbour. This afternoon we visit the Big Banana where we see the Bananas Theatre, take the Plantation Tour and see the Packing Shed. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Opal Cove Resort

Ph: 02 6651 0510

DAY 12: THURSDAY 4TH JULY

COFFS HARBOUR TO TAMWORTH B.D.

This morning we farewell Coffs Harbour and travel to Kempsey. Here we visit the brand new Slim Dusty Centre. The museum features memorabilia from the Kirkpatricks own extensive collection. Enjoy the costumes, the images of Australian life and its people and the insights into Australia's vast history and geography that only Slim & Joy's sixty years on the road can provide. Leaving Kempsey we make our way to Tamworth nationally famous as the "Country Music Capital of Australia". The city is recognized as the "National Equine Capital of Australia" because of the high volume of horse events held in the city and the construction of the world class Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre. This afternoon we explore the city visiting The Big Golden Guitar - Gallery of Stars Wax Museum, Hands of Fame Park and Peel St before returning to the motel with time to freshen up before dinner.

Accom: Best Western Sanctuary Inn. Ph: 02 6766 2903

DAY 13: FRIDAY 5TH JULY

TAMWORTH TO DUBBO B.D.

Travel this morning to Gunnedah where the major industry is agriculture, with 80% of the shire area devoted to farming. The Gunnedah area is noted for its abundance of native wildlife, including kangaroos, echidnas and koalas. We continue through Coonabarabran known as the 'Astronomy Capital of Australia' and one of the best towns in NSW to experience nature. Travelling further south to Gilgandra known as the town of Windmills and Home of the Coo-ees. The Gilgandra District is predominantly an agricultural area with sheep, beef cattle and winter cereal cropping being the main enterprises. Later this afternoon we arrive in Dubbo for our two night stop.

Accom: Quality Inn. Dubbo. Ph: 02 6882 4777

**DAY 14: SATURDAY 6TH JULY
DUBBO SIGHTSEEING**

B.D.

We discover why Dubbo is one of the most popular holiday destinations in inland NSW as the city has an intriguing past and is steeped in history. It was proclaimed a village in 1849 and a town by 1872, Dubbo officially became a City in 1966. Dubbo's past, present and future is a matrix of firsts, lasts and one-offs. Today we visit the Taronga Western Plains Zoo with over 3sq km of wild and wonderful bushland and with a collection of animals from right around the world. All this is right on the edge of Dubbo. Surrounded by magnificent wildlife on wide open areas it is easy to see why the Dubbo Taronga Western Plains Zoo won the 2011 Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence Award for consistently receiving excellent ratings from visitors. This afternoon we visit the historic Dundillimal Homestead Dundillimal is Australia's oldest timber slab homestead and Dubbo's oldest building open to the public. Built in the early 1840s Dundillimal is a finely crafted, rustic home with its interior remarkably sophisticated for its time. Leaving Dundillimal we return to the city centre where there will be an opportunity to explore the retail and business centre of Dubbo before returning in time for dinner at the motel.

**DAY 15: SUNDAY 7TH JULY
DUBBO TO DENILIQUN**

B.D.

This morning we travel to Parkes where we visit the site of the Parkes Observatory. When Neil Armstrong first walked on the moon in 1969, it was the Parkes Observatory's giant radio telescope that broadcast the event around the world. From Parkes we pass through Forbes on the banks of the Lachlan River and on to West Wyalong the prosperous large scale farming district which is the largest cereal-growing centre in NSW. Continue on to Narrandera which is at the junction of the Sturt and Newell highways and perched beside the Murrumbidgee River. Arriving in Deniliquin which is a major service centre for the surrounding agricultural region that includes both dry land and irrigated areas, beef cattle and wool growing. We check into our motel before dinner which will be at the Deniliquin RSL Club.

Accom: Deniliquin Country Club: Ph: 03 5881 5299

**DAY 16: MONDAY 8TH JULY
DENILIQUN TO HOME**

B.

Today the last day of our tour we continue on to Echuca, one of Victoria's oldest river towns and formerly Victoria's third largest port in the days of the Paddlesteamers. Located at the junction of the Murray, Campaspe and Goulburn Rivers, Echuca has now capitalised on its riverboat history with an enthralling restoration of the old Port area. Continue further south to Bendigo and home after a memorable sixteen days sightseeing.

Accommodation for the above tour is motel, hotel or villas on a twin share basis.

PLEASE NOTE: Lunches and Dinners have not been included while in Cairns as there are approximately one hundred restaurants nearby and this allows you the flexibility of using your free time in Cairns to try different eating places without being restricted to tour times. Breakfast in Cairns is supplied by the motel.

PRICE: \$7550.00 per person twin share
SINGLE SUP: \$1780.00
Price includes GST

PRICE INCLUDES:
Luxury Coach Travel

Brendan's Australian Tours Travel Bag & Wallet

Motel Accommodation - Twin Share

All Admissions & Cruises as specified

Airfare Melbourne to Cairns

All Meals as specified:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Pick up & return to your home.

● **Travel Insurance is highly recommended and is the responsibility of each passenger.**