

12 DAY **CAIRNS** including **LONGREACH, MAGNETIC IS, BARRIER REEF**

DEPARTING THURSDAY 30TH MAY TO MONDAY 10TH JUNE 2024

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – RESTAURANT MEALS



PO BOX 83. ARARAT. VIC 3377
Freecall: 1800 981 187
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HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Bourke</i>	<i>Darling River</i>
<i>Charleville</i>	<i>Cosmos Centre</i>
<i>Blackall</i>	<i>Woolscour</i>
<i>Longreach</i>	<i>Aust Stockmans Hall of Fame</i>
<i>Qantas Museum</i>	<i>Thomson River Cruise</i>
<i>Townsville</i>	<i>Magnetic Island</i>
<i>Green Island</i>	<i>Port Douglas</i>
<i>Barrier Reef</i>	<i>Daintree River Cruise</i>
<i>Cairns</i>	<i>Kuranda Train & Skyrail</i>
<i>Breakfast with the Birds Habitat Port Douglas</i>	

DAY 1: THURSDAY 30TH MAY HOME TO GRIFFITH

D.

Leaving home we travel north via Bendigo and Echuca. Crossing the Murray River into N.S.W. through Deniliquin to Griffith for our first overnight stop. This pleasing, gracious rural centre with its historic buildings and cedar-lined streets, is located in the Riverina region of NSW. Here we settle into our motel and freshen up before dinner which is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: The Kidman Wayside Inn Ph: 02 6964 5666

DAY 2: FRIDAY 31ST MAY GRIFFITH TO BOURKE

B.D.

Departing Griffith we continue along the Kidman Way on our way to Cobar where the sun always shines, the Kidman Way passes through some of Australia's most stunning outback country. We arrive in bustling and prosperous Cobar the jewel of outback NSW for our lunch stop. Continuing on this afternoon we arrive in Bourke for our overnight stop and this historic town is considered to represent the edge of the settled agricultural districts and the gateway to the Outback

which lies north and west of Bourke. We visit The Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, which brings back to life the history of outback New South Wales, and the Back O' Bourke. A chance to enjoy the interactive stories of the inland sea, the wool story, riverboats, conflict and much more. We discover more about the life of Henry Lawson's outback, and marvel at the stories of our women of the west. It is said that "if you know Bourke, you know Australia". There is time to settle into our motel and relax before dinner at the Bourke Bowling Club.

Accom: Darling River Motel Ph: 02 6872 2288

DAY 3: SATURDAY 1ST JUNE BOURKE TO CHARLEVILLE

B.L.D.

This morning there will be a pleasant surprise and something you would probably not expect in a small outback town like Bourke. A cruise along the mighty Darling River aboard the PV Jandra is a journey back in time reliving memories of life on the river when river trade was king. Paddle steamers were the major means of transporting wool and other produce all the way from the railhead at Bourke, to the Murray junction at Wentworth. Later this morning after we cross the Queensland border we pass through Cunnamulla where the handshake's stronger and the smile lasts longer! before arriving at Charleville which is in the heart of Queensland's Mulga country. This is the town in which Cobb and Co had one of its major coach building factories, operating until the advent of the motor coach, while back in 1922 Qantas scheduled its first fare paying passenger service from Charleville to Cloncurry. Tonight something different as we visit the Charleville Cosmos Centre & Observatory. This special observatory is unique, an entire roof is rolled off to reveal powerful Meade telescopes. A never to be forgotten journey of the night sky. There is nothing quite like seeing the distant stars & planets with your own eyes through the magnificent telescopes. Dinner and breakfast in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Mulga Country Motor Inn Ph: 07 4654 3255

DAY 4: SUNDAY 2ND JUNE CHARLEVILLE TO LONGREACH

B.L.D.

Departing Charleville this morning we continue north, joining the Landsborough Highway and travel through Tambo to Blackall famous for many reasons and the centre of some of the most productive cattle country in Central Queensland. Blade shearer Jack Howe put Blackall on the map in 1892 at 'Alice Downs' when he set a world record by shearing 321 sheep in seven hours and 40 minutes. Blackall was also the first outback town to start drilling an artesian bore back in 1885. It is also the home of the Black Stump which 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'. We visit the Wool Scour which is the only complete still standing "steam driven" Wool Scour in Australia and is now heritage listed. Continuing on to Barcardine and then Longreach our home for the next two nights.

Accom: Longreach Motor Inn Ph 07 4658 2322

DAY 5: MONDAY 3RD JUNE

AUSTRALIAN STOCKMANS HALL OF FAME B.D.

Here you can soak up the history and heritage that surrounds the legendary town of Longreach. Our first visit today is to the Qantas Hangar where six aircraft were built in the hangar between 1916 and 1929, then on to the Qantas Foundation Memorial Museum. The centrepiece of the museum is a 1/4 scale replica of the AVRO 504K, the first passenger aircraft purchased by Qantas. Join a tour of the decommissioned 747 'City of Bunbury' and the latest addition to the collection is the Boeing 707 jet, the very first passenger jet ever owned by Qantas. A highlight of the day then is a visit to the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame. Pioneering country best describes Longreach and district, and it was for this reason that it was chosen as the site for the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame. This outstanding tribute to Australia's outback pioneers includes a variety of traditional artefacts, electronic displays, photographs, films and stories of bush life. Tonight there is something different as we join our cruise on the Thomson River followed by a bushman's dinner and entertainment.

DAY 6: TUESDAY 4TH JUNE

LONGREACH TO CHARTERS TOWERS B.L.D.

Early start today as we continue our travels further north passing through Winton, located at the headwaters of the Diamantina River. Winton is in the centre of Matilda Country, a diverse region in which vast Mitchell Grass plains are broken by magnificent coloured gorges, ridges and jump-ups. It is a major sheep area and a large trucking centre for the giant road trains bringing cattle from the Channel Country into the railhead. The Outback town is best known as the place that AB (Banjo) Paterson wrote Waltzing Matilda in 1895 while staying at Dagworth Station outside Winton. Through Hughenden to the historic gold town of Charters Towers, located in the Burdekin River Valley. Charters Towers is a regional centre for the mining, beef industry and education, specifically boarding schools catering for remote rural families. Dinner & breakfast while at Charters Towers will be at the motel restaurant.

Accom: Cattlemans Rest Motel Ph: 07 4787 3555

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE

CHARTERS TOWERS TO INGHAM B.D.

A short distance this morning to Townsville with the idyllic paradise of Magnetic Island right on our doorstep. With a diverse mix of rainforest, reef, sandy beaches, outback bush and big city benefits, Townsville has something everyone. We visit Magnetic Island with its majestic scenery and glorious climate that averages over 320 days of sunshine per year, and you won't want to leave. Two thirds of Magnetic Island is national park featuring huge strands of eucalypts and abundant wildlife, including koalas and varied birdlife. Later today we travel to Ingham. Dinner & breakfast while in Ingham will be at the motel restaurant.

Accom: Tropixx Motel Ph: 07 4776 0000

DAY 8: THURSDAY 6TH JUNE

INGHAM TO CAIRNS

B.L.

Today we continue on to Tully one of the wettest areas in Australia, but it is a thriving sugar cane and banana growing area. Visit 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. We stop at Mourilyan to visit the Sugar Museum before arriving in Cairns. Known as the capital of the tropical far north, this colourful city overlooks Trinity Bay. The city's terraces, foreshore, parks and spectacular gardens boast a colourful 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. Settle into our motel, home for the next four nights.

Accom: DoubleTree by Hilton

Ph: 07 4052 6752

DAY 9: FRIDAY 7TH JUNE

KURANDA SCENIC TRAIN & SKYRAIL B.

A trip to Cairns would not be complete without taking the amazing scenic Kuranda train ride. We travel by bus to Central Station to take the train to Kuranda. Enjoy the natural beauty reflecting on the effort that was taken to construct the rail line over the mountain. There are many outstanding chances to get that perfect photo, and the train actually stops on a trestle bridge to give you the perfect picture location. In Kuranda the village in the rainforest, you are free to explore the markets and craft shops in the village, have a quiet coffee and soak up the atmosphere or take a look at the Butterfly House. On the return trip we take the exciting Sky Rail, with its fabulous panoramic views and breathtaking scenery across the top of rainforest.

DAY 10: SATURDAY 8TH 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 11: SUNDAY 9TH 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. One of the oldest towns in Queensland, it is surrounded by lush vegetation and pristine rainforests. 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 canefields, 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.

MONDAY 10TH JUNE

DAY 12: CAIRNS TO HOME

B.

Free time this morning before being transferred to Cairns Airport to board your return flight to Tullamarine where you will once again be met and transferred to your home town after a memorable twelve days touring.

OPTION 2: With this tour you have the option of not flying home from Cairns, but coaching all the way home via the Gulf Country, Mt Isa, Birdsville, Marree and the Flinders Ranges. Should you be interested in this option, please phone Brendan's Australian Tours on Freecall 1800 981 187

Accommodation for the above tour is motel, hotel & cabin 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.

PRICE: \$6760.00 per person twin share
SINGLE SUP: \$1190.00
Price includes GST

PRICE INCLUDES:

Luxury Coach Travel

Brendan's Australian Tours Travel Bag & Wallet

Motel Accommodation - Twin Share

All Cruises & Admissions as specified.

All Meals as specified:

B = Breakfast

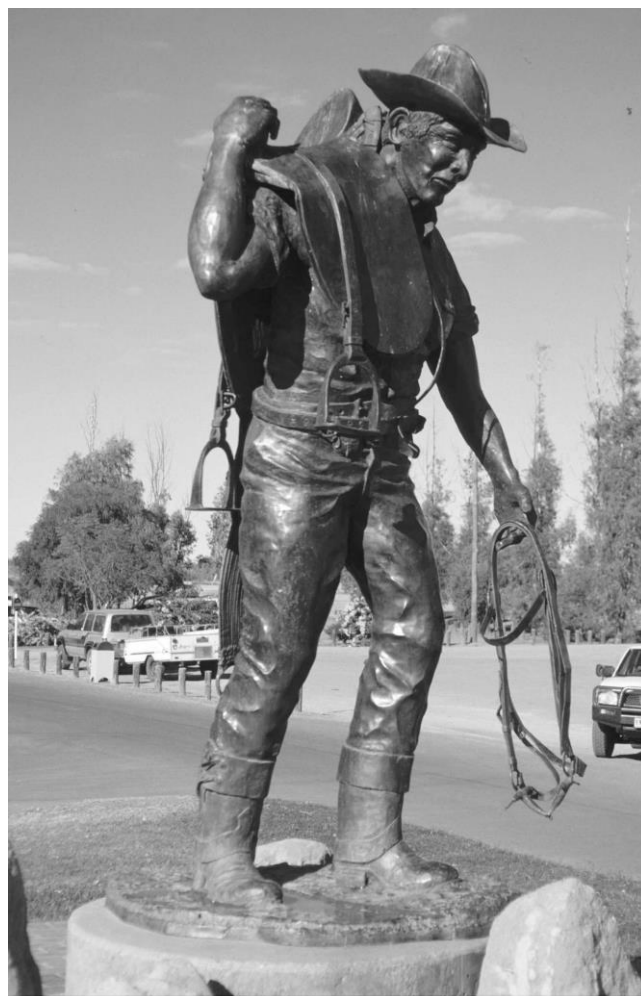
L = Lunch

D = Dinner

Airfare Cairns to Melbourne

Pick up & return to your home.

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



Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach
one of the many highlights
on the Cairns tours



Brendan's
AUSTRALIAN
TOURS