



PLATINUM JOURNEYS

ICONIC OUTBACK PUBS

15 days Saturday 1st May to Saturday 15th May 2021

Join us on this exciting 15 day tour to some of Australia's most iconic outback pubs. Although we visit lots of pubs it's not just about the watering holes ... it's the beauty of the outback with amazing sunsets and wonderful scenery.



DAY 1: Sat 01 May 21 BEGA VALLEY – CANBERRA – PARKES (D)

Meet your driver/guide and depart Merimbula this morning with local pickups throughout the Bega Valley on our way to Parkes (via Canberra – Melbourne passengers fly to/meet the group in Canberra with the latest arrival being 11:00am). Today is a travel day where you have the chance to chat to your fellow adventurers or watch the scenery roll by your window before arriving for a welcome dinner.

Overnight: Parkes

DAY 2: Sun 02 May 21 PARKES – BOURKE (BD)

Farewell our hosts after breakfast this morning and travel to Bourke, situated on the banks of the Darling River. At the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre hear tales of early exploration and the paddleboat trade. Learn about the local aboriginal people of the region, farmers, stockman, bush poets, bushrangers and Afghan cameleers. Check into the accommodation with time to relax before dinner.

Overnight: Bourke

DAY 3: Mon 03 May 21 BOURKE – HUNGERFORD – THARGOMINDAH (BLD)

Crossing the border into Queensland visit the tiny town of Hungerford, which features a large border gate that doubles as a wild dog and dingo fence. Stop at the historic Royal Mail Hotel which was originally a Cobb & Co Staging Post where weary horses and travellers could rest from the harsh heat, road conditions and infrequent floods. This afternoon push through to Thargomindah.

Overnight: Thargomindah

DAY 4: Tue 04 May 21 EULO & TOOMPINE (BD)

Located on the banks of the Bulloo River, Thargomindah's traditional source of industry is sheep and wool. In recent times, petroleum/oil and gas make up a large part of the region's economy. Drive around the town and look out for the old mud brick hospital and the artesian hydro powerplant, thought to be the oldest working unit in Australia. Thargomindah is also the perfect launch pad to discover nearby iconic pubs as we travel to Eulo for lunch (own expense) where the local pub is named after a colourful character, Isobel Gray, notoriously known as the "Eulo-Queen", due to business ventures in town and her fine taste in jewellery. This afternoon stop at a "pub without a town". Toompine was once a thriving community serviced by Cobb & Co's regular coach service and as with many outback pubs, Toompine is a great place to have a beer or two and a good yarn. Stop in and enjoy the unique atmosphere that includes unbeatable friendly service, entertaining locals and interesting stories.

Overnight: As Above

DAY 5: Wed 05 May 21 THARGOMINDAH - NOCCUNDRRA - INNAMINCKA (BLD)

Enroute today call in at the historic Noccundra Hotel, the only original surviving building in the township. The hotel was built from locally quarried sandstone and transported to Noccundra by Camel Train. From here continue west, arriving at the historic Dig Tree- the site of national icons, Burke & Wills', expedition and an enduring reminder of the pioneering spirit and extreme harshness of the outback. Arrive into Innamincka this afternoon. Located along the old Strezlecki Track on the edge of Cooper Creek, Innamincka is where travellers and explorers can discover the real beauty of Australia's outback.

Overnight: Innamincka

DAY 6: Thu 06 May 21 INNAMINCKA - CORDILLO DOWNS - BIRDSVILLE (BLD)

Travel through picturesque breakaway country then through Sturts Stony Desert and see the historic woolshed on Cordillo Downs Station. Continue to Birdsville for our two night stay. Deep in the heart of wild and isolated country, Birdsville is one of the outback's most recognised towns. This evening enjoy a cold drink at the iconic Birdsville Hotel.

Overnight: Birdsville

DAY 7: Fri 07 May 21 BIRDSVILLE (BD)

Travel to Big Red, the tallest sand dune (40 metres high) in the Simpson Desert. Also see the famous racecourse, the Burke & Wills Camp Tree and the old Diamantina crossing - the original causeway across the river. This afternoon is at leisure. You may like to visit the beautiful Birdsville Billabong or view the local artwork in a gallery.

Overnight: As Above

DAY 8: Sat 08 May 21 BIRDSVILLE - MARREE (BLD)

This morning travel along Australia's most notorious driving track of a bygone era - The Birdsville Track - and see the remains of settlements, missions and station properties that once dotted this busy stockroute. Continue on to Marree, famous for being the junction of the Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks, and once a thriving centre for transport and communications - now relics of a bygone era. Stop at the historic Marree Hotel - a magnificent heritage listed building, before continuing to our overnight stay.

Overnight: Marree

DAY 9: Sun 09 May 21

COPLEY – LEIGH CREEK – MERNA MORA (BLD)

Follow the road south stopping at Farina, once the railhead settled by optimistic farmers in 1878 – poor conditions and terrible seasons led to the demise of this venture. Take time to explore the many relics and ruins before continuing via Lyndhurst, stopping off at Copley to experience another wonderful outback pub. Continue onto Leigh Creek, the site of South Australia's once thriving coal industry and now a ghost town due to the mine closure. Continue south to Parachilna and the famous Prairie Hotel, originally established as a rail siding pub now famous for serving "feral" mixed grills including roo, emu & goat. End the day at Merna Mora Station, owned by the Fels family for over 100 years and experience true outback hospitality.

Overnight: Merna Mora Station - 2 Bedroom Units PH: (08) 8648 4717

DAY 10: Mon 10 May 21 FLINDERS RANGES (BLD)

Today is a full day to explore these beautiful surroundings. Visit Bunyeroo Gorge which runs through Heysen Range towards Lake Torrens. Afterwards visit beautiful Brachina Gorge which meanders through ridges of quartzite and was once used as a pass through which bullock teams pulled their loads. Continue to breathtaking Wilpena Pound to marvel at the view as you look over the rim into the Pound itself. Continue to Hawker and visit the historic old railway station complex built in 1885 before returning to Merna Mora Station. Overnight: As Above

Overnight: Merna Mora Station - 2 Bedroom Units PH: (08) 8648 4717

DAY 11: Tue 11 May 21 MERNA MORA – MAGNETIC HILL – BROKEN HILL (BLD)

We depart this magical spot after breakfast and travel south via Orroroo, stopping at Magnetic Hill to experience the strange phenomena of what appears to be the vehicle rolling uphill when in neutral! Continue through Peterborough towards Broken Hill, a living, breathing time capsule where the great mining prosperity of yesteryear blends seamlessly with the rising modern art scene. Enjoy dinner this evening at Mario's Palace Hotel.

Overnight: Broken Hill

DAY 12: Wed 12 May 21 BROKEN HILL SIGHTSEEING (B)

This morning travel to Line of Lode Lookout & Miners Memorial, a unique structure which is a memorial to the 800+ miners who lost their lives working in the Broken Hill mines. Afterwards witness the spiritual quality of the outback captured at the Pro Hart Gallery before delighting our visual senses at the International Sculpture Symposium - nestled amongst the Barrier Ranges, twelve sandstone artworks highlight the skyline and all have a story to tell. Located on a majestic hilltop, this unusual attraction was created by the finest sculptors from around the world. After lunch (own expense) travel to Silverton, a remote outpost north of Broken Hill. See the unique art galleries and visit Mundi Mundi Plains Lookout before arriving at the iconic Silverton Pub which shot to fame appearing in the Mad Max films and enjoy dinner here this evening (own expense).

Overnight: Broken Hill

DAY 13: Thu 13 May 21 BROKEN HILL – MENINDEE – MUNGO - MILDURA (BLD)

Travel to Menindee to visit the Menindee Lake precinct with water fed from the Darling River. Visit the Maidens Hotel and riverside camp from the Burke & Wills expedition. Later on follow the Darling River and stop off at the Pooncarie Pub – a watering hole for the fisherman. Continue to Mungo National Park and visit the historic old woolshed and view the China wall before leaving the park – heading to cross the Murray River into Victoria and arriving in Mildura for our overnight stay.

Overnight: Mildura

Depart this regional city in the Sunraysia district, well known for citrus & horticulture, paddleboats and wine bars and cross the vast Hay Plains. Arrive into Hay, located on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River near a natural crossing and the intersection of the Sturt, Mid-Western and Cobb Highways – it has always been an important centre of transport and communications. Have the opportunity to stretch the legs then continue to Wagga Wagga for our final night on tour, enjoying a farewell dinner at the hotel this evening.

Overnight: Wagga Wagga

DAY 15: Sat 15 May 21 WAGGA WAGGA – CANBERRA – BEGA VALLEY (B)

Sadly pack up for the last time today as the outback pub journey comes to an end with fond memories experiencing true outback hospitality. Travel via Canberra for interstate passengers to fly home (please ensure flight is after 2:00pm) before continuing via the Bega Valley to Merimbula.

(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.

**Tour cost Twin Share/Double per person \$6450
Solo Traveller \$7450**

Tour cost based on a minimum of 14 passengers.

TOUR COST INCLUDES:

Air conditioned, restroom equipped vehicle travel with experienced crew
Twin share accommodation with ensuite facilities
Meals as per the itinerary
All entry fees to sightseeing activities as listed in the itinerary

TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Travel insurance – please enquire for a quote or to purchase a policy
Items of a personal nature eg laundry/phone and any optional extras/trips
Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages plus meals not listed in the itinerary

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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 90 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATION POLICY

More than 90 days notice : refund less \$600.00 deposit
90 - 60 days before tour : 50% refund
Less than 60 days: no refund

ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTION

For cancellations with more than 30 days notice
75% credit towards a future tour

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