ICONS PUBS OF THE CORNER COUNTRY

Come and join us on this exciting 13-day tour to visit some Australia’s most iconic Outback Pubs. We visit Bourke, Hungerford, Thargomindah, Noccundra, Toompine, Innamincka, Cameron’s Corner, Tibooburra, the Palace hotel at Broken Hill and of course the most famous Outback Pub of them all: the legendary Birdsville Hotel. Although we visit lots of iconic pubs, it’s not just about the pubs, it’s the outback itself, with amazing sunsets and wonderful scenery.

13 Days Departing 11 May 2018

DAY 1 11 May MERIMBULA/MELBOURNE – CANBERRA – PARKES (-)
Depart Merimbula this morning on our way to Parkes (via Canberra – Melbourne passengers fly to Canberra, own expense, with the latest arrival being 10:30am). Local pickups throughout the Bega Valley; Eden 7.00am, Pambula 7.20am, Pambula Beach 7.30, Merimbula Park street bus stop 7.40am, Tura 7.50am, Kalaru 8.15am, Bega 8.30am and Bemboka 9.00am. Today’s travels take us via Cooma, Canberra and Cowra before arriving into Parkes in time for dinner at the local club (own expense). Overnight Parkes

DAY 2 12 May PARKES – NYNGAN – BOURKE (B)
This morning we leave Parkes and travel via Peak Hill to Nyngan. Visit the army helicopter memorial - a stark reminder of the massive floods that devastated the town in 1990. From here continue travelling north through to Bourke. On arrival head to the Port of Bourke, formally the largest inland port in the world for exporting wool on the Darling River, for some free time to explore the area. Continue to the Back O Bourke Exhibition Centre to learn about the history of the town, it’s people and their tales of isolation and conflict. See stories from Henry Lawson, John Flynn, Fred Hollows and Charles Sturt along with the courageous women of the outback. This is our first night in a true Outback Pub, the Port of Bourke Hotel. Overnight: Port Of Bourke Hotel.

DAY 3 13 May BOURKE – HUNGERFORD (B)
Today leave the black top in search of the true outback travelling the Hungerford road, it doesn’t take long to realise why we are in the all terrain vehicle as we make our way to the Queensland border town of Hungerford (first we have to open the gate to get into Queensland). Our night at the Royal Mail will be one to remember when we rouse up the locals and have a real hum dinger of a time. Overnight: Hungerford (shared rooms and bathrooms here).
DAY 4  14 May  HUNGERFORD – EULO – CUNNAMULLA  (B)
Continue onward today passing through vast sheep station country to join the main route west to outback Queensland. Time to spend in the small settlement of Eulo to visit the artesian mud bath centre and visit the local arts and craft centre before taking a stroll into the Eulo Queen Hotel named after Isabel Robinson who in the late 1800’s amassed a fortune by trading with opal mines and virtually owned the town. End the day in the rural outback community of Cunnamulla nestled beside the Warrego River. See the historic railway station at the end of the rail line from Brisbane and take time to visit the Cunnamulla Fella Art Gallery & Museum as well as the two historic hotels. **Overnight: Cunnamulla**

DAY 5  15 May  CUNNAMULLA – TOOMPINE – QUILPIE  (B)
This morning time for a stroll in the nature bushland adjacent to the river before heading further inland to probably the highlight pub of the trip. Enjoy lunch today in the pub (circa 1893) without a town – Toompine. It was once a thriving community serviced by the Cobb & Co regular coach services. Later on travel to Quilpie – the administrative centre of the local shire situated on the Bulloo River and well known for its boulder opal. **Overnight: Quilpie**

DAY 6  16 May  QUILPIE – WINDORAH – BIRDSVILLE  (B)
Today follow the outback Developmental Road and further into the Queensland channel country where all the watercourses flow south and enter the Diamantina or Cooper river systems. Stop off at the outback settlement of Windorah, home to many old drovers on the stock routes. Later pass through the now abandoned hamlet of Betoota and see the old ruins of the pub. End the day in the outback town of Birdsville on the Diamantina River for our two night stay at the historic Birdsville Hotel with time for a drink at the bar before dinner to soak up the memorabilia in the hotel. **Overnight: Birdsville**

DAY 7  17 May  BIRDSVILLE  (B)
Travel out to renowned ‘Big Red’ – a large sand dune on the edge of the Simpson Desert, roughly 40 metres high, and have the opportunity to climb. See the famous racetrack which hosts the famous Birdsville Cup annually and for the adventurous perhaps try a camel pie from the bakery for lunch. Travel north 14km out of town toward Bedourie and see the rare desert wadi trees, some said to be 1000 years old. **Overnight: As Above**

DAY 8  18 May  BIRDSVILLE – CORDILLO DOWNS – INNAMINCKA  (B)
Today we head east out of Birdsville, passing through Sturt’s Stony Desert, and see the historic woolshed on Cordell Downs Station. Take the side track this afternoon through the picturesque breakaway country, and end the day in Innamincka on the edge of Cooper Creek and on the old Strzelecki Track. **Overnight: Innamincka**

DAY 9  19 May  INNAMINCKA – THE DIG TREE – TIBOOBURRA  (B)
Travel along the Cooper this morning to the Dig Tree site of the Burke & Wills expedition. Walk around this historic site before proceeding down the Strzelecki Track, part of the epic droving journey of Captain Starlight, then once again marvel at the beauty of the large and vast red sand dunes passing through Cameron’s Corner – the junction of South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales and see the Dog Fence also at this spot. Continue to Tibooburra and time to visit the local hotel to see the murals on the walls of the “Bushmen of the Bush”. **Overnight: Tibooburra**
DAY 10  20 May  TIBOUBURRA – PACKSADDLE – BROKEN HILL  (B)
This morning head south and stop off at the historic settlement of Milparinka and see the old building of this mining town. On the Silver City Highway stop off at the Wayside Inn in Packsaddle and relive part of its history. Our journey today ends in the town of Broken Hill, home of BHP and marvel at the beauty of the grand old-world architecture of the pubs in the town. Take a short drive out to Silverton and see the memorabilia of the movies made locally in the hotel. Overnight: Broken Hill

DAY 11  21 May  BROKEN HILL – MENINDEE – DARLING RIVER – BALRANALD  (B)
Travel out to the Menindee Lakes, the water haven on the Darling River for Broken Hill residents. See the historic Maidens Hotel known for its role in the Burke & Wills expedition. Follow the Darling River south stopping off at the Pooncarie Pub – a watering hole for river fisherman. Later pass through the irrigated Sunraysia region on the Murray River and travel through Mildura to your overnight stop on the Murrumbidgee River in Balranald. Overnight: Balranald

DAY 12  22 May  BALRANALD – WAGGA WAGGA  (B)
Todays travels take you through the food bowl of the Riverina area where rice, grain crops and sheep abound. Passing through the rural towns of Hay and Narrandera our path follows the Murrumbidgee River to our last evening together in the city of Wagga Wagga. Reminisce tonight over dinner of the events and happenings of the past twelve days. Overnight: Wagga Wagga

DAY 13  23 May  WAGGA WAGGA – MERIMBULA  (B)
Sadly pack up for the last time as today the outback pub journey ends after experiencing true outback hospitality and head for home. Melbourne passengers transfer to either Wagga Wagga Railway Station or Wagga Wagga Airport for flight or train trip home. (At own expense)

Tour Cost: $ 3950.00 per person, twin share

| Non refundable deposit required: | $500.00 per person |
| Balance due no later than:       | 30 March 2018      |
| Single Supplement:               | $1250.00           |

Cancellation: In the event of cancellation, levies will apply, please see booking conditions for details.
Accommodation: Due to nature of this Iconic Outback tour accommodation standards are varied and include several stays with shared facilities. A single supplement cannot be guaranteed every night.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:
- Back O Bourke Exhibition Centre
- Royal Mail Hotel, Hungerford
- Eulo Queen Hotel
- Toompine Pub
- Windorah
- Birdsville Hotel & Big Red sand dune
- Cordillo Downs woolshed
- Burke & Wills Dig Tree & Cameron’s Corner
- Tibooburra & Silverton Hotels
- Menindee Lakes & Maidens Hotel

TOUR COST INCLUDES:
- Air conditioned coach travel with experienced driver/guide & hostess.
- Twin share accommodation with ensuite facilities (shared facilities in Hungerford).
- Meals as per the itinerary. B=Breakfast, L=Lunch & D=Dinner.
- 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 listed in the itinerary.
- Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages plus meals not listed in the itinerary.

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT:
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