

BROKEN HILL / WHITE CLIFFS LIGHTNING RIDGE

11 days

WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL TO SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2024

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION - RESTAURANT MEALS



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HIGHLIGHTS

- * MILDURA
- * MURRAY & DARLING RIVERS JUNCTION
- * BROKEN HILL
- * BROKEN HILL SCULPTURE PARK
- * SILVER CITY MINT & "THE BIG PICTURE"
- * SILVERTON ART GALLERIES & HOTEL
- * PRO HART GALLERY
- * GEO CENTRE & "THE SILVER TREE"
- * MINER'S MEMORIAL
- * WILCANNIA
- * WHITE CLIFFS TOURING & OPAL MINE
- * BOURKE
- * DARLING RIVER CRUISE
- * LIGHTNING RIDGE TOURING
- * BLACK OPAL AND CACTUS NURSERY
- * AMIGO'S CASTLE
- * CHAMBERS OF THE BLACK HAND
- * DUBBO ZOO

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL
HOME TO MILDURA

D.

After your home pick up we join our luxury tour coach, our first day is spent travelling to Mildura through the Wimmera and Mallee areas of Victoria. Enroute at Red Cliffs we visit Big Lizzie which was an enormous tractor used to clear vast expanses of mallee land around the river at the Red Cliffs soldier settlement area. Continue on to the Murray River city of Mildura for our overnight stop. Dinner and breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Boulevard Motor Inn

Ph: 5023 5023

DAY 2: THURSDAY 18TH APRIL

B.D.

MILDURA TO BROKEN HILL

Departing Mildura this morning we visit the junction of the Darling and Murray Rivers at Wentworth and then travel on to Broken Hill. Known as the "Silver City" Broken Hill is the home of the richest silver-lead-zinc deposit yet discovered. The town was named by Charles Sturt in 1844 when he climbed the "hill" in search of an inland sea. The city boasts many ornate late-nineteenth-century buildings, some twenty-five of which are classified by the National Trust, a prime example of this being the redbrick 1891 Post Office. After lunch we begin our sightseeing with a town tour of Broken Hill with a local guide. We will visit the gallery of well-known local artist Howard Steer and you will be amazed at how his paintings reflect everyday life. You may then enjoy the remainder of the afternoon taking in the Heritage Walk, a leisurely walk covering the central commercial area. Settle into our accommodation, home for the next two nights. Dinner and breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Ibis Styles Broken Hill

Ph: 08 8088 4044

DAY 3: FRIDAY 19TH APRIL

B.D.

BROKEN HILL & SILVERTON

Today we will visit Silverton, Australia's liveliest ghost town. Once a booming mining town, it's now become a Mecca for the film industry. Those filmed or part filmed here includes: A Town Like Alice, Mad Max 11, Hostage & Razorback as well as many commercials and documentaries. Visit the art galleries and museums of this tiny township with its many "classified" buildings. Enjoy a drink at the historic Silverton Hotel and view the many photos and souvenirs. Visit Umberumberka Reservoir, Mundi Mundi plains and Penrose Park recreational area. This afternoon we visit the Albert Kersten Geo Centre home of the famous "Silver Tree" and which presents to visitors the unique geology, metallurgy, minerals and mining history of the region. On then to the Silver City Mint & Art Centre housing the "Big Picture" the world's largest printing on canvas and Broken Hill's number one tourist attraction. The Silver City Mint and Art Centre also feature an iconic 'Chocolate Factory' which offers a range of confectionary lines which are sure to satisfy your sensations. Visit the Line of Lode Miners Memorial-dedicated to the men who lost their lives whilst working in the Broken Hill and District Mines. Weather permitting we will drive out to watch the sunset at the Sculpture Symposium. The magnificent Broken Hill Sculpture Park is one of the main tourist attractions and icons of the Australian outback. Twelve impressive stone sculptures are situated on a hill located in The Living Desert Reserve 10km north of Broken Hill. The sculptures were carved in 1993 by artists from around the world. We return to Broken Hill in time for dinner. Dinner and breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

DAY 4: SATURDAY 20TH APRIL B.D.
BROKEN HILL TO WHITE CLIFFS

This morning our sightseeing begins with a visit to Pro Hart Gallery housing one of the largest private art collections in this country. Pro Hart, who died early in 2006, was a former miner and is Broken Hill's best-known artist. Depart Broken Hill and we travel 195km east to Wilcannia. Once known as the "Queen of the West" Wilcannia has a rich and vibrant history. In the boom years of the 1880's sandstone was quarried locally for the beautiful buildings that stand today. Continue our trek north through saltbush plains dotted with beautiful Leopardwood and wildlife to White Cliffs, a town where pioneering is still a way of life. The opal fields resemble a strange moonscape with an estimated 50,000 disused diggings. The opal fields were first discovered in 1884 by kangaroo shooters. Amongst the treasures in the town are the underground Art Galleries, opal shops and White Cliffs iconic Bottle House & Showroom built of 60,000 bottles. See the historic Post Office, famous for simply baffling all commonsense by the decision to build out of corrugated iron in 1900, when all others were digging holes to escape the heat. We make our home for the next two nights in the famous Underground Dug Out Motel Dinner and breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

Accom: White Cliffs Underground Motel Ph: 08 8091 6677

DAY 5: SUNDAY 21ST APRIL B.L.D.
SIGHTSEEING AND OPAL FOSSICKING

We will enjoy a tour of this most interesting town this morning including a variety of "Dugouts"- underground homes, fossicking for opal, we see the Solar Power Station an experimental and highly advanced operation, with parabolic disks, 5 metres in diameter standing in rows in the harsh landscape. The Pioneer Children's Cemetery provides a grim reminder of the toll taken on the pioneering families. Lunch has been arranged today at the Red Earth Opal Cafe and Showroom. Red Earth Opal Cafe is a unique cafe set on the edge of the White Cliffs Opal Field. The cafe is built of straw bale & earthen walls and incorporated into the cafe is an opal showroom, gifts, souvenirs and tourist information. This afternoon we take our Opal Mine Tour which is a unique look into the early history of the Opal Field and included is a visit to a working and producing opal mine. Situated within the Historic Diggings of the 1890's. Later there is time to perhaps browse at leisure through the underground opal showrooms and art galleries. Dinner and breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

DAY 6: MONDAY 22ND APRIL B.D.
WHITE CLIFFS TO BOURKE

Farewelling White Cliffs we journey back through Wilcannia Cobar and on to Bourke. 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. We visit The Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre, which brings to life the story 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". Dinner tonight is at the Bourke Bowling Club.

Accom: Darling River Motel. Ph: 02 6872 2288

DAY 7: TUESDAY 23RD APRIL B.D.
BOURKE TO LIGHTNING RIDGE

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.

Leaving Bourke we travel via Brewarrina a small town on the banks of the Barwon River in the Brewarrina Shire and on to Walgett at the junction of the Barwon and Namoi rivers and near the junction of the Kamilaroi and Castlereagh Highways. Walgett is known as the gateway to the opal fields and has several opal fields located to the north-west of town via the village of Cumborah. The famous "light of the world" opal, weighing almost half a kilo, was found here in 1928. Continue on and now just 60km from the Queensland border we arrive at Lightning Ridge our home for the next two nights. Dinner tonight will be at the very popular Lightning Ridge Bowling Club. Breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Wallangulla Motel. Ph: 02 6829 0542

DAY 8: WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL B.D.
LIGHTNING RIDGE

Enjoy a hearty breakfast this morning before a full day touring, exploring and experiencing the amazing Lightning Ridge. We visit the Chambers of the Black Hand where the first level is 11 metres underground with images carved and painted in the sandstone walls and pillars. The Egyptian chamber has humorous hieroglyphics and is a replica of an Egyptian tomb. Atlas holds the world while Adam supports the roof of the entrance to the working mine. The Last Supper which took six months to complete and the pondering Nostradamus, which took five hours to carve, are depicted in magnificent detail and is testimony to razor sharp skill and patience. The John Murray Art Gallery in Lightning Ridge is the exclusive outlet for original John Murray paintings and here we see one of the outback's favourite painters and a chance for you to view the brilliant landscapes and characters first hand. A must in Lightning Ridge is Bevan's Black Opal and Cactus Nursery. Said to be the largest display of old and rare cactus in the southern hemisphere, this garden is a labour of love and will be well worth a look. We visit Amigo's Castle, this amazing hand-built castle was a labour of love from 1981 to 2001. Amigo's Castle was single handedly built by an Italian born man who skilled himself in construction, and lifted every stone into place with the aid of 44 gallon drums and wooden planks. It is one of the most famous and televised attractions in Lightning Ridge. A trip to "The Ridge" would not be complete without a visit to the Artesian Bore Baths. At the end of a hard day fossicking and exploring, there is nothing quite as therapeutic as a long soak in the naturally heated thermal baths. Here you can allow the water to soothe your body while you gaze at the starry night sky and enjoy the serenity. Dinner tonight will be at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club. Breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

DAY 9: THURSDAY 25TH APRIL B.D.
LIGHTNING RIDGE TO DUBBO

Leaving the opal fields early today we begin our tour south again on the Castlereagh Highway travelling through Walgett which is a regional hub for wool, wheat and cotton industries and the prosperous cattle region of Coonamble, and on to Dubbo. The attractive city of Dubbo lies astride the Macquarie River and is an important regional centre to the huge agricultural areas in the northwest of NSW. Time to settle in for our overnight stop before dinner in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Matilda Motor Inn Ph: 02 6882 3944

DAY 10: FRIDAY 26TH APRIL B.D.
DUBBO TO NARRANDERA

This morning we visit the Western Plains Zoo, a great open range zoo set in 300 hectares of natural bushland and home to more than 800 animals. The Zoo offers clear views of animals

in settings that have been landscaped to closely resemble the natural environments of the animals. The animals are grouped in five continental zones plus an area devoted to water birds. "Natural" barriers such as moats and ditches separate the animals from the visitors, giving the animals freedom to roam. Later we continue on the Newell Hwy south through Parkes, known internationally as the "Gateway to the Stars" with the spectacular 64 metre Parkes Radio Telescope, being clearly visible from the Newell Highway. Further onto Forbes, West Wyalong onto Narrandera for our overnight stop. Narrandera is at the junction of the Sturt and Newell highways and perched beside the Murrumbidgee River. Narrandera blends elegance, environment and history, bringing you an oasis of tree lined streets, shady parks and gardens. Dinner and breakfast will be in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Gateway Motor Inn Ph 0488 290 650

**DAY 10: SATURDAY 27TH APRIL B.
NARRANDERA TO HOME**

Today we travel south along the Newell Highway through the Riverina plains, dotted with famous sheep studs to Jerilderie. This small town services the surrounding merino stud area and is famous for being where Ned Kelly staged an audacious robbery at the bank and Post Office in 1879. 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 eleven days sightseeing.

PRICE: \$5230.00 per person twin share
SINGLE SUPP: \$ 980.00
Prices include GST

PRICE INCLUDES:

Luxury Coach Travel

Brendan's Australian Tours Travel Bag and Wallet

Motel Accommodation Twin Share

Meals as specified

B=Breakfast

L= Lunch

D=Dinner

Admissions to attractions and cruises as specified.

Pick up and return to your home.

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



At Howard Steer's Gallery in Broken Hill



Brendan's
AUSTRALIAN
TOURS