

16 DAYS: THE OUTBACK & EAST COAST SPECTACULAR

*Featuring: THE OUTBACK, THE WHITSUNDAYS,
WORLD HERITAGE FRASER ISLAND & SYDNEY*

DEPARTING THURSDAY 31ST MAY TO FRIDAY 15TH JUNE 2012

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – RESTAURANT MEALS



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HIGHLIGHTS

TENNANT CREEK # MT ISA
CROCODILE DUNDEE HOTEL
AIRLIE BEACH # HAMILTON ISLAND
WORLD HERITAGE FRASER ISLAND TOUR
AUSTRALIA ZOO # SUNSHINE COAST
BIG PINEAPPLE # NOOSA
GOLD COAST # SURFERS PARADISE
AUSTRALIA OUTBACK SPECTACULAR DINNER
BYRON BAY # COFFS HARBOUR
BIG BANANA # SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE
SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE # STAR CITY CASINO
SYDNEY HARBOUR DINNER CRUISE
SYDNEY TOWER # PADDYS MARKET

DAY 1: THURSDAY 31ST MAY D. HOME TO ALICE SPRINGS

After pick up from your home town, travel to Tullamarine and join your flight to Alice Springs where our luxury coach will meet you and take you to your accommodation. Dinner tonight is at the Heavitree Gap Tavern
Accom: Heavitree Gap Outback Lodge Ph: 08 8950 4444

DAY 2: FRIDAY 1ST JUNE B.D. ALICE SPRINGS TO TENNANT CREEK

An early start today as we continue north along the Stuart Highway crossing the Tropic of Capricorn and a quick stop at the small Central Mount Stuart Historical Reserve. The cairn commemorates the discovery in 1860 of the centre of Australia by explorer John McDouall Stuart. We visit the Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve which is located on the Stuart Highway between Alice Springs and Darwin, and set against a striking background of the Australian desert. The Devils Marbles are a group of large rounded rocks, some of which are performing a very impressive balancing

act. We continue on to Tennant Creek, which is an outback town shaped by pastoralism, aboriginal culture, copper, gold and tin mining. The surrounding area is called the Barkly Tablelands, a region characterised by wide grassy plains, endless blue sky and massive cattle stations.

Accom: Bluestone Motor Inn Ph: 08 8962 2617

DAY 3: SATURDAY 2ND JUNE B.D. TENNANT CREEK TO MOUNT ISA

After breakfast, we continue further north along the Stuart Highway to the highway junction at Three Ways. Travelling east we cross the Barkly Tablelands stopping briefly at the Barkly Homestead. We cross the Queensland-Northern Territory border at Camooweal, 330 kilometres south of Burketown and 188 kilometres from Mount Isa. Camooweal proudly declares itself 'Gateway to the Northern Territory/Queensland'. We travel further on to Mt Isa, which is our overnight stop.

Accom: Inland Oasis Motel Ph: 07 4743 3433

DAY 4: SUNDAY 3RD JUNE B.D. MOUNT ISA TO CHARTERS TOWERS

Travel via McKinlay to visit the Walkabout Creek Hotel. Originally known as the Federal Hotel it was built in 1900 and was licensed in 1901. The Walkabout Creek Hotel is now famous for being recognized as the pub in the Paul Hogan movie "Crocodile Dundee". Continue east through Richmond often referred to as an oasis in the outback, and on to Hughenden situated on the banks of Queensland's longest river, the Flinders. The town is located above the Great Artesian Basin which provides the only reliable source of freshwater through much of inland Australia. Leaving Hughenden the Flinders Highway takes us on to Charters Towers for our overnight stop. Charters Towers is a scenic gold mining city that is big on history and character. From a chance discovery of gold in 1871, Charters Towers was soon turned into a bustling metropolis, which in its heyday, boasted being the second largest city in Queensland. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Cattlemans Rest Motel Ph: 07 4787 3555

DAY 5: MONDAY 4TH JUNE B.D. CHARTERS TOWERS TO AIRLIE BEACH

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, the town is an ideal base for a huge array of holiday enjoyment on the mainland, islands and in the surrounding Whitsunday waters. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Coral Sea Resort Ph: 07 4964 1300

DAY 6: TUESDAY 5TH JUNE B.D.
AIRLIE BEACH / HAMILTON ISLAND

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 and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE B.D.
AIRLIE BEACH TO HERVEY BAY

Travelling south through the amazing range of natural features and cultural heritage at Mackay and on to Rockhampton known as the Beef Capital of Australia and the gateway between the coast and the outback. Further south 100km the Gladstone Region is a unique area and the city of Gladstone is developed on hills overlooking the focal point of its economic development the natural deepwater harbour. This is the Wide Bay Burnett region of Queensland being the coastal and hinterland areas between Gladstone and Caloundra and it has unique natural advantages, with an enviable climate and proximity to the major trading and service centres of South East Queensland. Late afternoon we pass through Childers the Qld town where the deliberately lit Childers Palace Backpackers Hostel fire on 23 June 2000 killed 15 backpackers. Hevey Bay is our destination and Hervey Bay with its wonderful sub tropical temperature has often been called the jewel in Queensland's crown. It is also referred to as the Whale Watch Capital of the World. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Mantra Hervey Bay. 07 4197 8200

DAY 8: THURSDAY 7TH JUNE B.D.
HERVEY BAY / FRASER ISLAND

A real highlight of the tour is a trip across to the World Heritage listed Fraser Island, the world's largest sand island that is a place of exceptional beauty. The sand surprisingly supports fresh water lakes bright as jewels, perched in the tops of the sand dunes and fast-flowing, crystal-clear creeks. This is the only place in the world where tall rainforests are found growing on sand dunes at elevations of over 200 metres. Famous 75-Mile Beach is flanked by strikingly coloured sand cliffs and desert-like sand blows. Fresh water creeks flow across it into the ocean. We may see some of Australia's purest bred dingoes or some of the 354 recorded bird species, which range from rainbow-coloured parrots to birds of prey. We will learn about the natural and cultural history of Fraser Island. Paddle or swim in the crystal-clear blue waters of Lake McKenzie, the island's most beautiful perched lake. We drive along spectacular 75- Mile Beach and stop to paddle or swim in the cool fresh waters of Eli Creek. This swift flowing creek, the largest on the eastern beach, spills 80 megalitres of water into the ocean every day. We visit the Maheno shipwreck and marvel at the coloured sands of the Pinnacles. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

DAY 9: FRIDAY 8TH JUNE B.D.
HERVEY BAY TO CALOUNDRA

A tour highlight this morning at Beerwah where we visit the Australia Zoo which is a 31 ha zoo located on the Sunshine Coast and is owned by Terri Irwin, the widow of the late Steve Irwin. At the zoo, a team of passionate conservationists work round-the-clock to deliver an animal experience like no other. Perhaps cuddle a koala, hand-feed the Asian elephants, walk with a Sumatran tiger and watch a crocodile launch from the waters edge. Australia Zoo is the ultimate wildlife adventure. This afternoon we arrive in Caloundra for you to spend some time exploring the pristine beach and immediate area. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

DAY 10: SATURDAY 9TH JUNE B.D.
CALOUNDRA TO GOLD COAST

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. Tonight is something special on this tour, as premium top rail seats and dinner have been booked for the Australian Outback Spectacular Dinner Show. One of Australia's most legendary stories is retold as Australian Outback Spectacular celebrates the courageous spirit of the Australian horse and commemorates the legend that is Phar Lap. Australian Outback Spectacular's 'Spirit of the Horse' features an amazing cast of larger than life characters, magnificent animals including the Australian stock horse, stunning special effects and a delicious three course dinner.. Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Vibe Hotel Ph: 07 5539 0444

DAY 11: SUNDAY 10TH JUNE B.D.
GOLD COAST TO COFFS HARBOUR

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. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Opal Cove Resort Ph: 1800 008 198

DAY 12: MONDAY 11TH JUNE B.D.
COFFS HARBOUR TO PORT MACQUARIE

This morning is spent in Coffs Harbour where our first visit is the Big Banana where we see the Bananas Theatre, take the Plantation Tour and see the Packing Shed. We then have time to see the amazing award winning Coffs Harbour Butterfly House, Maze and Tearooms. A chance to walk amongst the beauty and diversity of Australia's vast range of butterflies in an indoor subtropical rainforest setting. Farewelling Coffs Harbour this afternoon we make our way to Nambucca Heads. As we go, note the plantations of Australia's own native nut tree, the Macadamia that have

largely replaced the Red Cedar trees of yesteryear. Enjoy a tour of Nambucca Heads, a seaside town situated at the mouth of the Nambucca River whilst taking in the panoramic views of the Tasman Sea from the Headlands. Visit the Graffiti Wall and Mural Corner where bright graffiti and murals have been painted on the concrete blocks that form the breakwater wall. We arrive at Port Macquarie in time for you to relax before dinner at the motel. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Macquarie Waters Apartments Ph 02 6584 5755

**DAY 13: TUESDAY 12TH JUNE B.D.
PORT MACQUARIE TO SYDNEY**

Leaving Port Macquarie we pass through Taree, Raymond Terrace, cross the Hawkesbury River before arriving in the City of Sydney. Sydney is the largest and most populous city in Australia and the state capital of New South Wales. Located on Australia's south-east coast of the Tasman Sea with an approximate population of 4.5 million, Sydney has a reputation as an international centre for commerce, arts, fashion, culture, entertainment, music, education and tourism. Dinner tonight will be a smorgasbord buffet at the Star City Casino. Breakfast is in the motel restaurant. Our accommodation for the next two nights is at the Novotel on Darling Harbour, being a premium hotel offering Sydney accommodation right in the heart of Darling Harbour.

Accom: Novotel on Darling Harbour Ph: 02 9934 0000

**DAY 14: WEDNESDAY 13TH JUNE B.D.
SYDNEY SIGHTSEEING**

Today we tour this vibrant capital city. Sydney is Australia's oldest and largest city set on one of the most beautiful harbours in the world. We enjoy views of the breathtaking Sydney Opera House; one of the modern wonders of the world, before continuing on to the Historic Rocks area. The Rocks is nestled beside the great arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, which overlooks the famous sails of the Sydney Opera House. This area, previously Sydney's old quarter was restored to its early charm in the late 1970's, and provides a fascinating range of specialty shops, cafes and craft centres. We make our way through the cosmopolitan Kings Cross, an area close to the centre of Sydney that throbs with life day and night. Express lift to the top of the Sydney Tower and take in the fabulous views of the city. The remainder of the day can be a great shopping experience. Sydney's Paddy's Markets is a Sydney shopping institution and a huge "buzz" on market day. Dinner tonight is buffet style cruising on Sydney Harbour where the beauty of the harbour will dazzle you by night. The harbour is renowned as one of the world's most beautiful harbours and its display of city lights and awe-inspiring ambience will make this a truly memorable experience. Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

**DAY 15: THURSDAY 14TH JUNE B.D.
SYDNEY TO ALBURY**

Depart Sydney this morning pausing at Berrima, a preserved Georgian village dating back to 1836 that has changed little since early last century. The original village is built entirely of local materials to suit local conditions. "Five miles" from Gundagai see the legendary "Dog on the Tuckerbox" and in Gundagai see the 1866 wooden bridge, the longest timber viaduct in Australia. We visit Rusconi's Marble Masterpiece, a lifetime's work of over 20,000 pieces of marble. Continuing along the Hume Highway we make our way through the beautiful Southern Highlands – or "nature's art gallery". We see the famous Ettamogah Pub as we head

south before arriving in Albury for our last overnight stop. The twin cities of Albury and Wodonga are set in a rich pastoral area and the industrial and commercial 'heart' of Southern NSW. Dinner and Breakfast is in the motel restaurant.

Accom: Sundowner Albury Ph: 02 6042 0500

**DAY 16: FRIDAY 15TH JUNE B.
ALBURY TO HOME**

We depart Albury on the last day of our tour making our way home through the rich dairying, fruit growing and agriculturally productive areas surrounding the Goulburn River Valley. Travel on home through Bendigo with passengers being farewelled after a memorable sixteen days exploring some of the outback and much of the East Coast of Australia.

OPTION 2: With this tour, you have the option of not flying to Alice Springs, but joining the coach in Victoria and travelling through Central Australia on the full Desert to the Sea tour. With either of these options you would be picked up and returned to your home. Should you be interested in either of these options, please enquire with your travel agent or contact Brendan's Australian Tours on: Freecall 1800 981 187

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

**PRICE including GST; \$6370.00 per person
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1500.00**

PRICE INCLUDES:

- **Luxury Coach Travel.**
- **Motel Accommodation (Twin Share)**
- **Admissions to attractions and cruises as per the itinerary.**
- **All meals as specified. B: Breakfast, D:Dinner**
- **Pick up & return to your home.**

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

The Outback & East Coast Spectacular is a tour that reveals the wonders of the Australian Outback, the glorious climate of Queensland, and many of the pristine localities on the East Coast of Australia. You will see the tour includes many of the very best attractions on offer