

# CAIRNS AND THE GULF COUNTRY

25 DAYS DEPARTING MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY TO THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2010

MOTEL ACCOMMODATION – SAFARI STYLE & RESTAURANT MEALS

## KINGSTONS COACH TOURS

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### DAY 1: MON 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY HOME TO NARRANDERA

D.

Departing your home town we travel north via Bendigo and Echuca. Crossing the Murray River into N.S.W. through Deniliquin to Narrandera for our first overnight stop. Time to settle into our motel and freshen up before dinner in the motel restaurant.

### DAY 2: TUE 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY NARRANDERA TO COBAR

B.L.D.

Departing Narrandera we continue north through Leeton to Griffith. Join the Kidman Way to Cobar. Midway between Goolgawi and Hillston is Merriwagga, the very heart of Black Stump Country. Arrive in Cobar and see the Great Western Hotel which boasts the states longest iron lace veranda. Time to settle in to our motel and freshen up before dinner.

### DAY 3: WED 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY COBAR TO CHARLEVILLE

B.L.D.

Early start this morning as we continue our travels north along the Mitchell Highway through Bourke, situated on the Darling River. Crossing the Queensland border we pass through Cunnamulla before arriving at Charleville.

Longreach  
Townsville  
Green Island  
Barrier Reef  
Atherton Tableland  
Undara Lava Tubes  
Karumba  
Croydon  
Burketown  
Birdsville

Aust Stockmans Hall of Fame  
Magnetic Island  
Port Douglas  
Daintree River Cruise  
Kuranda Train & Skyrail  
Georgetown  
Gulf of Carpentaria  
Normanton  
Mt Isa  
Flinders Ranges

### DAY 4: THUR 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY CHARLEVILLE TO LONGREACH

B.L.D.

Departing Charleville this morning we continue north through Tambo to Blackall, the centre of some of the most productive cattle country in Central Queensland. We visit the Wooscour which is the only complete still standing "steam driven" Wooscour in Australia and is now heritage listed. Continuing on through Barcaldine to Ilfracombe. The final leg of our journey today finds us in Longreach, our home for the next two nights.

### DAY 5: FRI 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY AUSTRALIAN STOCKMANS HALL OF FAME

B.L.D.

Our first visit today is to the Qantas Hangar. The centrepiece of the museum is a 1/4 scale replica of the AVRO 504K, the first passenger aircraft purchased by Qantas. Today's highlight is a visit to the Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame, which is a national tribute to the pioneers and settlers of the Australian outback. Free time for the remainder of the day. Something different tonight as we join our cruise on the Thompson River followed by a bushmans dinner and entertainment.

### DAY 6: SAT 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY LONGREACH TO CHARTERS TOWERS

B.L.D.

Early start again today as we continue our travels further north passing through Winton, located at the headwaters of the Diamantina River. In 1895 Banjo Paterson wrote Australia's most famous song, "Waltzing Matilda" on Dagworth Station near Winton. Through Hughenden to the historic gold town of Charters Towers, located in the Burdekin River Valley and once had a gold-rush population of some thirty thousand.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### DAY 7: SUN 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY CHARTERS TOWERS TO TOWNSVILLE

B.D.

A short distance this morning to Townsville situated on the north east coast of Australia. Visit Magnetic Island with its majestic scenery and glorious climate. You won't want to leave. More than half of the island is National Park.

**DAY 8: MON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
TOWNSVILLE TO CAIRNS B.L.**

Travel north today and pass through Ingham, a major sugar, timber and dairying township. Today we visit the historic Paronella Park. What an amazing place. Our next stop is 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. Settle into our motel, home for the next five nights.

**DAY 9: TUE 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
KURANDA SCENIC TRAIN & SKYRAIL B.**

A memorable day today as we join one of the world's most scenic train rides today. Free time to explore Kuranda markets and other attractions before joining the Skyrail and gliding over the rainforest for a bird's eye view of the living canopy just below. Arrive at the Skyrail station and browse for some souvenirs before joining our coach for the return to our motel.

**DAY 10: WED 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
CAIRNS-GREEN ISLAND-BARRIER REEF B.L.**

Today we board a Catamaran for a cruise to Green Island, located on the Great Barrier Reef, a true coral cay surrounded by beautiful patches of reef and crested with thick tropical vegetation. Free time to explore this fabulous island. Enjoy a glass bottom boat ride and try some snorkelling.

**DAY 11: THUR 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
PORT DOUGLAS & DAINTREE RIVER CRUISE B.**

Early rise this morning before heading north to indulge ourselves for the ultimate "Breakfast with the Birds" at the Rainforest Habitat at Port Douglas. Depart this extraordinary habitat and travel the short distance to the international tourist destination of Port Douglas. See St Mary's church by the sea before continuing north to Mossman. Further on to Daintree, a quaint unspoilt township which lies in the heart of the Daintree River catchment basin. Cruise on the Daintree River, through huge rainforests as we search for crocodiles that may be basking in the sun on the banks.

**DAY 12: FRI 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
CAIRNS B.**

Free day to do some shopping, maybe some of your own sightseeing or just put your feet up and relax.

**DAY 13: SAT 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
CAIRNS TO UNDARA B.L.D.**

Early start this morning as we head off to tour the Atherton Tableland. At Lake Barrine we enjoy a Lake Cruise before visiting the Curtain Fig Tree, from here we join the Kennedy Highway and travel south/west to Undara. The Undara Volcanoes National Park is a fascinating and unforgettable experience.

**DAY 14: SUN 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
UNDARA TO NORMANTON B.L.D.**

Enjoy a guided tour of the lava tubes this morning, recognised as the longest and largest lava tubes in the world before continuing further west to Georgetown on the Gulf

Developmental Road to Croydon. Continue our journey further west to Normanton which is the central town of the whole Gulf Savannah.

**DAY 15: MON 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
NORMANTON TO KARUMBA B.L.D.**

This morning we visit Normanton's corrugated iron railway station which dates back to 1891. Join the historic Gulflander Railmotor and travel to Ella Vale Station. The remainder of the morning we enjoy a town tour of Normanton. Later we have a short drive to Karumba, situated at the mouth of the Norman River. A highlight this evening will be our cruise to watch the magnificent Gulf sunset. On the cruise we will relax and enjoy a glass of wine with some freshly cooked Gulf prawns and a tropical fruit platter.

**DAY 16: TUE 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
KARUMBA TO BURKETOWN B.L.D.**

Travelling east this morning along the Burketown Road, passing Camp 119, the last camp of Burke & Wills during their expedition, we arrive in Burketown, home for the next two nights and the centre of rich beef country and just 25km from the Gulf of Carpentaria.

**DAY 17: WED 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY  
BURKETOWN SIGHTSEEING B.L.D.**

We set off today to discover Burketown, see the hundred year old town bore which still issues boiling water and creates a billabong where birdlife gathers. See the original Burketown Post Office, over 100 years old and now the town's information centre, the original Gulf Meatworks, and the cemetery which offers an insight into the town's historic past.

**DAY 18: THUR 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY  
BURKETOWN TO MT ISA B.L.D.**

Early start today as we farewell Burketown and the Gulf of Carpentaria and travel south through the outback where the only sign of civilisation is the Burke and Wills Roadhouse until we reach Cloncurry, a mining town situated on the banks of the Cloncurry River. From Cloncurry we join the Barkly Highway and travel west to Mt Isa, home for the next two nights.

**DAY 19: FRI 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY  
MT ISA SIGHTSEEING B.L.D.**

Our city tour today will take in the Clock Tower, a proud memorial to John Campbell Miles, whose discovery in 1923 of rich silver and lead ore initiated the settlement of Mt Isa. The city lookout offers panoramic views of the city and mine area. A visit to the National Trust Tent House. This afternoon you will enjoy an extensive guided tour of the Mt Isa mine complex.

**DAY 20: SAT 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
MT ISA TO BIRDSVILLE B.L.D.**

A very early start today as we depart Mt Isa and continue our trek south through Dajarra to Boulia, the capital of the Channel Country. It is the home of the mysterious MIN MIN LIGHT. Moving further south through Bedourie to Birdsville, home for the next two nights.

**DAY 21: SUN 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
BIRDSVILLE SIGHTSEEING B.L.D.**

This morning we travel a short distance out of Birdsville to view "Big Red", the biggest sand hill in the desert. Visit the Birdsville cemetery, the famous Birdsville race track and the

Birdsville Information Centre. After lunch we visit the Birdsville Working Museum for a personalised guided tour into yesteryear.

**DAY 22: MON 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**BIRDSVILLE TO MARREE**

**B.L.D.**

Today we commence our journey along the notorious Birdsville Track. The track links Marree (South Australia) and Birdsville (Queensland). It skirts some of the driest areas of Australia passing between the Simpson, Sturt's Stony, the Strzelecki and Tirari Deserts. We pass Lake Harry ruins, Killalpaninna Lutheran Mission Memorial en route to Marree..

**DAY 23: TUE 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**MARREE TO FLINDERS RANGES**

**B.L.D.**

Depart Marree this morning and continue our journey further south through Lyndhurst, before arriving in Leigh Creek, a small coal mining township situated in the North Flinders Ranges. From Leigh Creek we continue on to Blinman for a short visit to the old pub before arriving at Wilpena for our overnight stop. Time for a walk to Wilpena Homestead before dinner should you wish.

**DAY 24: WED 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**WILPENNA TO LOXTON**

**B.L.**

Leaving the Flinders Ranges behind, we make our way south through Hawker to one of Australia's oldest copper mining towns, Burra. Continue on to Loxton for our last night away.

**DAY 25: THUR 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**LOXTON TO HOME**

**B.**

Departing Loxton this morning, we make our way via Ouyen, Warracknabeal and Horsham for the final leg of our journey home after a memorable twenty five days away.

**PRICE:                    \$0.00 Per Person Twin Share**  
**SINGLE SUP:            \$0.00 If Available**

**The above prices include GST**