

# Scottsdale Tours Limited

P O Box 383 ♦ Katikati 3166 ♦ New Zealand ♦

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## GULF TO THE OUTBACK

*Cairns, Gulf of Carpentaria, Mt Isa, Longreach, Brisbane*  
**August 29 – September 14, 2010**



*This is our big adventure of the year as we fly into Cairns for our first couple of days. We board the historic Savannahlander Train for the next 2 days and head up to the Atherton Tablelands and beyond at a very gentle pace with time to stop and admire the flora and fauna along the way to Chillagoe for our overnight stop and then on into Forsyth. Then a complete change as we spend 2 nights on Robin Hood Station with a tour and visit to the spectacular Cobbald Gorge. Our travels then take us across to the Gulf at Karumba before we turn south and head down to the huge mining centre of Mt Isa. Then it is on into the massive outback station country through Winton to Longreach where*

*we visit another large station. Charleville is our next stop with its excellent star gazing facility in the crystal clear outback sky. We then make our way across to Brisbane through Roma and Toowoomba for our flight home. This tour can be split by arrangement at Mt Isa if you only wish to do this part of it.*

### **Day 1 Sunday 29 August**

We make an afternoon departure for an overnight stop in Auckland. There will be a chance to get a light meal on the way up. (Dinner at your expense).

### **Day 2 Monday 30 August**

**D**

This morning we join our flight to lovely tropical Cairns where we spend our next 2 nights.

### **Day 3 Tuesday 31 August**

**BD**

Our local tour guide joins us this morning as we enjoy the sights of Cairns with a guided tour. Some free time this afternoon to check out the shops or perhaps visit one of the many local attractions

### **Day 4 Wednesday 01 September**

**BD**

An early start this morning as we board the historic Savannahlander train for Almaden. Our journey today takes us through Kuranda and the sugar cane fields of Mareeba, and then this afternoon we arrive into Almaden where we board our coach and travel to Chillagoe. The town is a stunning mix of outback landscapes, mining heritage, aboriginal art sites and fantastic limestone caves. This afternoon, we are joined by a local guide who will show us the local area before we visit the Caves. We return to Almaden for our overnight stop where perhaps in keeping with our outback surroundings our accommodation is a bit more primitive than we generally use, it has shared facilities.

### **Day 5 Thursday 02 September**

**BD**

Following breakfast, we re-board the Savannahlander and the grand-old-lady continues our travels at a sedate 50kph, stopping at suitable locations for the driver to make a billy of tea, or to point out interesting landscape features to the passengers. We travel cross-country through the Outback to Mount Surprise and stop for some free time to purchase lunch. This afternoon we continue via Einasleigh to Forsyth. Our coach will transfer us to Cobbald where we make our way to the motel for our next 2 nights on this huge outback station.

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## **Day 6 Friday 03 September**

**BLD**

Robin Hood Cattle Station is a truly outstanding and unique property. Apart from the ever changing views, and the 10,000 head of Brahman cattle on the station's 1284 square kilometres with a history that dates back to early gold rush days, it also contains a geological wonderland. Cobbold Gorge is unique, hidden away within the rugged sandstone formations of North Queensland, and the last 500 meters is only accessible by flat bottom boat. Our tour includes the boat cruise along here. Lunch is provided near the waters edge at the gorge. Returning to the village mid afternoon, we have the rest of the day to relax. **This is a fabulous day out!!!!!!**.

## **Day 7 Saturday 04 September**

**BD**

Today, we continue west along the Gulf Development Road through Georgetown and Croydon to Normanton. This afternoon we make our way to Karumba, which is the easiest point of access to the Gulf. The town is located on the mouth of the Norman River and is now the centre of the prawning industry in the Gulf of Carpentaria. This afternoon we enjoy a cruise on the peaceful Gulf Waters aboard the Ferryman. After our cruise, we enjoy open air dining (weather permitting) on the beachfront overlooking the mouth of the Norman River and the Gulf at the Sunset Tavern, Karumba Point. Overnight Karumba

## **Day 8 Sunday 05 September**

**BD**

Today is a travel day so sit back and relax as we make our way south through some of the most remote areas in Queensland. We use the Burke Development Road until we connect with the Barkly Highway and arrive in Mount Isa for our next 2 nights stay.

## **Day 9 Monday 06 September**

**BD**

We're in for an absolutely fascinating day today. This morning we have a "mine-blowing" experience when we visit the multi award winning \$12 million Outback at Isa Complex. Here, we head underground on a thrilling Hard Times Mine Tour – this fully guided tour descends to the 1.2kms of tunnels in an Alamac cage, lowered from an historic headframe. Wearing protective clothing, including a miner's cap and lamp, we are led by knowledgeable miners who will give us a real insight into working underground. After lunch we will visit the unique Riversleigh Fossil Interpretative Centre, and have a look around the rest of the area.

## **Day 10 Tuesday 07 September**

**BD**

We farewell "The Isa" this morning and pass through Dajara before arriving in Boulia. After lunch here we will participate in the Min Min Encounter. This is a unique theatrical experience incorporating animatronics, fibre optics and loads of other high tech wizardry. The encounter is a tribute to the long honoured art of the bush yarn, all based around the famed Min Min light phenomenon. Our afternoon sees us expressing through pulsating Middleton to our overnight destination in Winton. Another great day in the outback.

## **Day 11 Wednesday 08 September**

**BD**

Today we arrive in Longreach for our visit to the Stockman's Hall of Fame. Here we will see outback antiques, videos that make use of modern technology to tell old stories, an 1866 settlers hut and all the stockman's paraphernalia is on show. We have time to purchase lunch before making our way to the Qantas Founders Outback Museum where a Boeing 747-200, donated by Qantas Airways Ltd, is the latest addition to the exhibit and forms a spectacular part of the museum's outdoor display. We spend the next 2 nights in Longreach.

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## **Day 12 Thursday 09 September**

**BD**

Today is a special Scottsdale experience as we travel out to Toobrack Station where we are hosted for the day by the Rogers family who have farmed this property for around 150 years. Everything the family ever owned is either in the old homestead or out in the yard and it is really a living museum. During the day we do a tour of the station and enjoy lunch in the shearers quarters. This evening we board the MV Longreach Explorer, the double deck Catamaran, for a spectacular Sunset and Candlelight Dinner Cruise on the timeless Thomson River flood plain and main channel. We explore the upper reaches of the magical meandering waterhole, an exclusive experience not accessed by groups before. We can soak up the wonder of the constellations and their reflections as the sunset fades followed by a delicious dinner onboard. This will be a memorable evening and another memorable day.

## **Day 13 Friday 10 September**

**BD**

Our journey today takes us through another stretch of western Queensland station country passing Barcardine, Winton, the Teddy town of Tambo, and Augathella on our way to our home for the next 2 nights in Charleville. This evening, we visit the Cosmos Centre. The centre is an audio-visual extravaganza featuring hi-tech interactive displays that take us on an astronomical journey through the ages, unravelling many mysteries of our night sky. Tonight we can enjoy the open-air observatory and view the outback night sky.

## **Day 14 Saturday 11 September**

**BD**

Our touring takes in the sights of Charleville today. The day will include morning high tea at another historic station homestead, a tour of historic Coronas Hotel, School of the Air, and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. An interesting view of a very different lifestyle to what most of us would be used to.

## **Day 15 Sunday 12 September**

**BD**

We head east through Mitchell to Roma this morning. Roma is an early Queensland settlement and now the centre for a huge sheep and cattle raising district. There's enough oil in the area to support a small refinery, which produces just enough petroleum for local use. Gas deposits in the region are considerably larger and Roma supplies the city of Brisbane with gas through a 450km pipeline. We enjoy the local sights including a visit to the Big Rig a new \$5 million tribute to Australia's multi-billion dollar oil and gas industry. We have time to purchase lunch here before completing our day's touring when we arrive in Dalby for our overnight stop

## **Day 16 Monday 13 September**

**BD**

We travel to the coast via Toowoomba today, arriving in Brisbane in time to purchase lunch. We rejoin our coach and welcome our local guide for an informative tour around the city. We take a look at Brisbane from the Mt Coot-tha Lookout. This large park has a very good lookout and an excellent Botanic Garden. This evening we have a special treat in store – cruising on the Brisbane River on our Riverlights Dinner Cruise. What a wonderful way to spend our last night on tour. Overnight in Brisbane.

## **Day 17 Tuesday 14 September**

**B**

All good things must come to an end and today is spent farewelling our new found friends as we make our way home.

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## **Highlights include**

Cairns sights, Kuranda Train, Skyrail,  
Tjapakai Aboriginal Cultural Centre  
Savannahlander Train, Chillagoe Caves  
Robin Hood Station (1284 sq Kms)  
Cobbald Gorge, Gulf of Carpentaria  
Norman River Cruise, Mt Isa Mine Tour  
Min Min Centre, Longreach sights  
Stockmans Hall of Fame, Qantas Museum,  
Toobrack Station  
Charleville Cosmos Centre  
Brisbane sights



**17 days-16 nights**  
**All inclusive escorted package,**  
**TOTAL COST \$4595**  
**\$100 deposit on booking**  
**\$1500 by May 30, 2010**  
**Balance of \$2995 by June 30, 2010**  
**Single Supplement \$900**