

2020
Desert Sky Tours

Proudly Presents

**Birdsville
Windorah &
The Channel Country**

9 days - \$3985 per person

Includes

Motel Accommodation and all Meals



Desert Sky Tours - General Information

TRAVEL ROUTINE

The distance travelled in any day will depend on the general road conditions and sightseeing opportunities along the way. After morning departure at 7.30am, we take a break at around 10.30am and stop for lunch between 12.00-1.00pm, and an afternoon break approximately 3.00pm.

Other stops are taken for photos, exploring and recreation.

MEDICAL

We carry a comprehensive First Aid kit, and have an accredited Senior First Aid staff member on hand on all tours.

Due to the nature of outback travel, and the vast distances involved, anyone with health problems, should give proper consideration to undertaking this trip, and seek their doctor's advice if necessary.

WHAT YOUR FARE INCLUDES

- All meals from start to finish and hotel accommodation (twin share) plus meals where indicated. (Alcoholic drinks are not included).
- Tour costs do not include additional accommodation, meals and incidental expenses resulting from flooding, natural delays, unavailable connections or other unforeseen circumstances. Travel Insurance is recommended for these instances.

TOUR VEHICLES

Travel is in a Toyota Landcruiser 4WD vehicle

For your safety we carry an HF Radio with Royal Flying Doctor frequencies, and a satellite telephone.

WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING

Comfortable casual clothes, for warm to hot days, and cool to cold nights, stout comfortable shoes, and hat. (Most people bring more clothes than they ever use, so consider carefully, and keep your baggage to a minimum), a camera, with plenty of film and a torch.

DESERT SKY TOURS

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Your Itinerary 2020

Day 1

We depart Adelaide travelling via the mid north towns of Tarlee, Rhynie and Auburn and enter the Clare Valley through Leasingham and Penwortham - (the home of explorer John Horrocks).

The Clare Valley extends to Stanley Flat, and as we continue north, we leave the vineyards and enter farming communities, passing wheat silos at Gulnare and Gladstone.

Crossing Goyder's Line near Melrose, our journey continues on to Quorn and Hawker then through Leigh Creek to Copley, and our first night at the Leigh Creek Hotel.

Overnight: Leigh Creek Hotel - Copley.

Day 2

After breakfast, we continue north to Lyndhurst stopping at the abandoned town of Farina then onto Marree for lunch. We explore this historic town at the junction of the Birdsville and Oodnadatta Tracks.

The Birdsville Track was established in the 1860's and was the main stock route to bring cattle from central Queensland to the railway in Marree.

There are several stops to see the hot water bores and ruins in this gibber country before arriving at Mungerannie, and our stop-over for the night.

Overnight: Mungerannie Hotel

Day 3

Back on the Birdsville Track, we head further north to Mirra Mitta Bore and an oasis of greenery and birdlife. We take the "outside" track around Goyder's Lagoon and cross over the famous Koonchera sand dune on the Diamantina floodplain before coming to the South Australian and Queensland border.

The first attraction is the legendary Birdsville race track, and a little further we cross the Diamantina River and into the town of Birdsville!

Overnight: Birdsville Hotel

Day 4

An opportunity to relax and experience the atmosphere of Birdsville, including a visit to the unique Birdsville Working Museum and other local attractions.

We take a morning trip to the Waddi Trees and Dingo Caves, and after lunch there is an interesting trip to Nappanera Sand-dune ("Big Red") in the Simpson Desert.

Overnight: Birdsville Hotel

Day 5

Leaving Birdsville, we head east on the Birdsville Developmental Road to Durrrie and a little before Betoota is Deon's Lookout which provides magnificent views over the desert landscape. The Diamantina Developmental Road brings us to Windorah in the heart of Channel Country, and the junction of the Thompson and Barcoo Rivers which form the Cooper Creek.

Accommodation: Western Star Motel Windorah

Day 6

Leaving Windorah on the Diamantina Development Road, we come to Thylungra, and the homestead of “Kings in Grass Castles” fame. Our next stop is Quilpie, where attractions include Baldy Top lookout ,St Finbar’s Church with it’s opal altar, lectern and font, and Lake Houdraman .Visiting this beautiful, natural lake teeming with native birds makes it difficult to believe this is Outback Queensland.

Now! - a journey of discovery as we take the ’Dowling Track” and travel in the footsteps of Vincent James Dowling and other pioneers who over 100 years ago discovered the “Plains of Promise”.

We visit the Toompine Roadhouse - The “pub without a town”, which was an old Cobb & Co staging post then continue to Thargomindah on the banks of the Bulloo River.

Accommodation: Oasis Motel Thargomindah

Day 7

Back on the Dowling Track with 4WD sections taking us past Kilcowera Station to Hungerford on the Qld/NSW border and the Rabbit Proof Fence.

We take a short detour to Currawinya NP, which features two lakes (Numalla— freshwater and Wyara– saltwater.) The Track continues to Yantabulla, once a prosperous town but little remains today, then Fords Bridge on the Warrego River, a sleepy town with population of four, and mud brick hotel.

The Dowling Track ends at Bourke, the centre of wool, cotton and citrus.

We have a look around town, including the Back O’ Bourke visitor centre.

Accommodation: Riverside Motel Bourke

Day 8

Interest today as we travel the “Darling River Run” - one of Australia’s great outback experiences, through Louth and Tilpa to Wilcannia then Broken Hill..

Accommodation: Silver Haven Motel Broken Hill

Day 9

Leaving Broken Hill, we travel approximately 100kms south along the Silver City Highway then take the “Eastern Road” through the Stations of Harriedale, Loch Lilly, Oakvale and Quandong to Burra and Adelaide .

The Tour Includes:

- Nine days fully escorted 4WD Outback touring
- All morning and afternoon teas
- All Lunches
- All evening meals
- Accommodation as described in the itinerary
- All park entry fees and permits
- Complimentary home pick-up (metropolitan area).



DEPARTURE DATE 2020

Saturday 1st August