

Day 5

Leaving Bourke this morning, we head to the town of **Brewarrina** – home to the Aboriginal fish traps, and a Traditional Meeting Place. We travel on to Goodooga, near the Queensland Border, and then Lightning Ridge, a town renowned for its beautiful black opal. An interesting side trip is to Grawin Opal Fields and “The Pub In The Scrub”
Overnight : Wallangulla Motel—Lightning Ridge

Day 6

Today’s short travelling distance allows time for a leisurely look around Lightning Ridge, before we head to Walgett, the centre of the Shire. At Coonamble we take a scenic detour into the Warrumbungle National Park where there are a couple of look-outs and easy walks to experience the peace and tranquillity of a protected, fragile environment guarded by the lofty mountains.
Overnight : Orana Windmill Motel – Gilgandra

Day 7

Gilgandra is known as the town of Windmills and we visit the Heritage Centre which houses items from the Coo-ee March of 1915, Aboriginal artefacts and local history and the recently expanded Rural Museum. Warren Shire situated on the Macquarie river is Australia's Wool and Cotton Capital. We pass through Warren on our way to Nyngan, a pleasant country town and service centre on the Bogan River. Continuing further south, we come to the town of Cobar – a copper mining town founded in the early 1870's.
Overnight : Copper City Motel Cobar

Day 8

Bushrangers and Cobb & Co Coaches ! - its all part of the history of the area we travel through today as we leave Cobar and take an unsealed road to Ivanhoe. Amidst flat saltbush plains and red sandy ridges is Hatfield. It was here in 1879 that a band of four horse thieves began a very short-lived spree of bushranging when they robbed the hotelier. They were caught after a shootout two days later and subsequently executed. An interesting town is Merriwagga in the very heart of Black Stump country, and after visiting the tallest bar in Australia we continue on to Balranald.
Overnight : Sturt Motel – Balranald

Day 9

Taking the Sturt Highway to Mildura, we continue through the Riverland towns of Renmark, Barmera, and Waikerie, arriving in Adelaide approximately 6pm.

DEPARTURE DATE 2025

Wednesday 19th February 2025

2025

Desert Sky Tours

Proudly Presents

White Cliffs and The Darling River Run to

**BEYOND THE
BACK O’BOURKE !**

9 days - \$4500 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
- (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 a 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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Day 1

We travel via northern towns to Burra then depending on weather conditions, take either an old pastoral route through the Stations of Quandong, Oakvale, Loch Lilly and Harriedale to The Silver City Highway then Broken Hill, or alternatively on leaving Burra, we follow the Silver City Highway through Yunta to Broken Hill.

Overnight : Silver Haven Motel Broken Hill

Day 2



An attraction today is **Mutawintji National Park**, 130 km northeast of Broken Hill in the Byngano Ranges. We take the Thaaklatjika Mingkana walk to "Wright's Cave" which is a rock overhang site. Depicted on the walls are many representations of splayed frogs (marta mara), sand goannas (thaakurlu) and the tracks of kangaroos (kirrpatja), thought to have been common sources of food for the people living in this area.

Following a picnic lunch, we travel through several creek beds to the remarkable opal mining town of White Cliffs.

Overnight : Underground Motel – White Cliffs

Day 3

One of the legends of Outback New South Wales is The **Darling River Run** – a track over 300 kms running alongside the Darling River, from Wilcannia to Bourke.

There is an element of the "frontier" as we retrace the steps of the explorers Sturt, Mitchell, Dowling, Bourke and Wills. On the Darling floodplain are the tiny townships of Tilpa and Louth.

Our accommodation in Bourke is in the cottage style "Bourke Bridge Inn" "on the banks of the mighty Darling River!"

Overnight : Bourke Bridge Inn—North Bourke



Day 4

A day of sight seeing ! - Bourke is a charming town on the banks of the Darling and was established as a paddle

steamer destination. A modern day replica of a paddle steamer, the "Jandra" gives us a chance during an hour cruise to experience the Darling of old. Following the cruise, we visit the Exhibition Centre and historic cemetery, then head out of town a short distance to Mt Oxley where there are magnificent views and wedge-tailed eagles.

Overnight : Bourke Bridge Inn—North Bourke

