

# Girls On Tour: "Way Out West – Central & South West Qld"

## 17 days from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022



### **Day 1 – Tuesday 19 April 2022 – BRISBANE TO BILOELA**

Early morning departure from Brisbane as our adventure begins making our way to Biloela via Eidsvold and Monto where we'll view the Water Tank Art depicting Monto in the 1920's. Overnight in Biloela a small town of approximately 6,000 people.

### **Day 2 – Wed 20 April - BILOELA TO EMERALD**

Our drive to Emerald takes us on the Burnett Highway and we travel through small towns such as Dululu, Gogango, Boolburra, Duaringa, Dingo, Bluff, Blackwater, Comet and finally to Emerald. We'll have plenty of stops along the way and will pass through Blackwater which was a town created specifically for the miners and their families. See Leichhardt's "Dig Tree" at Comet. Highlights in Emerald include

the largest Van Gogh Sunflower Painting, Mosaic Pathway 100 years of Emerald History, Railway Station built 1900 and the Botanic Gardens. Overnight Emerald.

### **Day 3 – Thu 21 April – EMERALD - MITCHELL GRASS RETREAT**

Morning departure from Emerald to travel to the 'Gemfields'. This area is one of the largest Sapphire fields in the world covering 900km<sup>2</sup>. We'll stop at Barcaldine, home of the 'Tree of Knowledge' and birthplace of the Labour Party and visit the newly opened museum. Our final destination today is one of the highlights of the tour, **Mitchell Grass Retreat** with its luxury 'glamping' which will be our outback haven for the night. Rest, reconnect, restore and explore this natural outback environment, swim in the pool, catch up around the firepit and enjoy your luxury ensuite, air-conditioned tent.



### **Day 4 – Fri 22 April – LONGREACH (2 nights)**

Longreach, situated near the geographical centre of Queensland on the Tropic of Capricorn offers plenty to see and do for such a small town and we'll experience much of it. Today we explore some of the many attractions that Longreach has to offer including the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and the Qantas Founders Museum. The Hall of Fame has 5 themed galleries each one depicting an important aspect of our pioneering history. Late this afternoon we will drive a short way East to Ilfracombe where we'll visit Machinery Mile and stop in for a coldy and dinner at the historic 100 year old Wellshot Hotel. Overnight Longreach.



### **Day 5 – Sat 23 April – LONGREACH SIGHTSEEING**

An early start this morning to visit a working station. We will enjoy a safari to spot outback animals, smoko and view the woolshed. After lunch the rest of the day is free to explore downtown Longreach or rest, the choice is yours. In the afternoon we enjoy a cruise on the Thomson River and later Smithy's Outback Dinner and Show. Overnight Longreach.

### **Day 6 -Sun 24 April – LONGREACH TO WINTON (3 nights)**

After breakfast we travel past the Mitchell grass plains of Longreach towards the dramatic country of Winton. We'll visit the Waltzing

Matilda Centre which is dedicated to the tune by Banjo Patterson and is the only attraction in the world dedicated to a song. Winton is known as the 'Dinosaur Capital of Australia'. Overnight Winton.

### **Day 7 – Mon 25 April - WINTON**

Our first stop today is a visit to Arno's Wall made up of all manner of unused items including sewing machines, microwaves and much more. The Musical Fence will test your musical prowess. In the afternoon we will visit the Australian Age of Dinosaurs attraction. Overnight Winton.

### **Day 8 – Tue 26 April - WINTON**

A highlight today as we travel to Lark Quarry where 95 million years ago a Dinosaur Stampede took place. Some 4,000 footprints mark one of the only still visible examples of a dinosaur stampede or river crossing. After our visit we will return to Winton and overnight.

### **Day 9 – Wed 27 April – WINTON TO EROMANGA**

Today as we leave Winton we'll pass through the towns of Stonehenge, Jundah and Windorah and on to Eromanga for the night staying at Cooper's Country Lodge located onsite at Eromanga Natural History Museum.



### **Day 10 – Thu 28 April – EROMANGA TO CUNNAMULLA (2 nights)**

After breakfast we have a tour of the Natural History Museum where we see some of the world's largest megafauna and microfauna. Departing Eromanga, we travel on to the town of Quilpie, a remote and tranquil town which is rich in opals, flora and fauna. There are also several fascinating museums, charming art galleries, shops and restaurants. Quilpie is home to 'The Jewel of the Outback', the beautiful boulder opal and Quilpie displays it in the most unique of ways. See the opal in all its glory at St. Finbarr's Church with the spectacular Opal Altar, Font & Lectern. Next it's on to Cunnamulla via Eulo where the famous Eulo Queen established the Eulo Queen Hotel. Time permitting we'll have a short break at Thargomindah which was one of the first towns to have Hydro Electric Power in 1898. The township of Cunnamulla was created by Cobb & Co. on the third of September 1879, when the first coach drove through from Bourke. It is the only surviving south-west town along the original route and is our stop for 2 nights.

### **Day 11 – Fri 29 April – CUNNAMULLA**

After breakfast, we'll visit the mural which celebrates the importance of Cobb and Co to the town, Robbers Tree, Artesian Time Tunnel and The Cunnamulla Fella. The afternoon is free to wander and explore further or chat with some of the locals.

### **Day 12 – Sat 30 April – CUNNAMULLA TO CHARLOTTE PLAINS HOMESTEAD (2 nights)**

A free morning before we travel to Charlotte Plains and our "Shearers Quarters" experience. Over the next 2 days we will have a tour of this family-owned sheep station and then enjoy drinks and nibbles and a hot bath at the Artesian Bore as we watch the sun go down. We'll top off this incredible day with a campfire under a canopy of a million stars.

### **Day 13 – Sun 1 May – CHARLOTTE PLAINS**

A leisurely day today as you wander and explore further around the station and make the most of the hot and healing waters of the Artesian Bore before enjoying another campfire experience.

### **Day 14 – Mon 2 May – CHARLEVILLE (2 nights)**

After a hearty breakfast we'll farewell Charlotte Plains and head towards the COSMOS Centre in Charleville on the Warrego River where we see the wonders of the planets and skies.

### **Day 15 – Tue 3 May – CHARLEVILLE**

Enjoy a leisurely start to the day before lunch. After lunch we will visit the Hotel Coronas and hear tales of Charleville Society and the history of how the hotel came into existence.

### **Day 16 – Wed 4 May – CHARLEVILLE TO ROMA**

En-route to our final destination for today, Roma, we'll travel through Morven, Mungallala, Mitchell and Muckadilla stopping to visit these small towns and have a lunch break along the way before arriving in Roma and visiting Big Rig to discover the unique history of Australia's oil and gas industry. Tonight we will gather for our farewell dinner and share stories and laughs.

### **Day 17 – Thursday 5 May – ROMA TO BRISBANE**

Before we leave Roma we'll visit the Saleyards and the Avenue of Heroes where 140 bottle trees are planted in remembrance of each local soldier who lost their life in WW1. From here we will travel via 'The Garden City', Toowoomba back to Brisbane stopping for lunch along the way.

#### **INCLUSIONS**

- 13 nights twin share hotel accommodation.
- 1 night Mitchell Grass Retreat
- 2 night Charlotte Plains Station
- All Entry Fees and activities as shown on itinerary
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily including some speciality dinners. (excluding breakfast on day 1 and dinner on day 17).
- Private hostess/guide on board & GOT Escort.
- Private air-conditioned coach and professional driver.

#### **EXCLUSIONS**

- Personal items, travel insurance.

**Cost - \$8,347\*pp**

**Single supplement \$1,210**

*\* based on group of 16 travellers*

