Day 1 – Brisbane to Longreach

**Journey:** Morning flight Brisbane to Longreach............................................. (Daily services with QantasLink)

**Highlights:** Qantas Founders Museum & Jet Tour; Stockman’s Hall of Fame & Outback Stockman’s Show

**Mid Morning:** Visit the Qantas Founders Museum and learn the history of Australia’s national airline. Experience a WWI simulator, take a guided tour of the 707 and 747 jets, and explore the interactive historical displays of the museum.

**Afternoon:** After lunch, we’ll head across to the nearby Stockman’s Hall of Fame for a guided tour of the five themed galleries, before taking our seats at the Outback Stockman’s Show in the Stockman’s Arena.

**Evening:** Dinner at Stockman’s Hall of Fame following the show.

**Accommodation:** Longreach Tourist Park. Ph: 1800 356 099 or Longreach Pastoral College. Ph: 1800 888 710

Day 2 – Longreach to Welford National Park

**Journey:** Longreach to Jundah.............................................................. approx 217kms / 3hrs

**Highlights:** We drive south through the town of Stonehenge where we will see several interesting rock holes surrounded by ghostly white gum trees and some intriguing rock formations that nature has sculptured over millions of years. Heading towards Jundah, we’ll see the Native Well, a valuable source of water for Indigenous people in days gone by. From Jundah, we take a 30 minute drive into the majestic Welford National Park and our overnight bush campsite. Here we’ll discover an original grazing homestead, learn how to match animals to tracks, climb the spectacular red sand hills and perhaps take a dip in one of the large permanent waterholes. Tonight we get the rare opportunity to watch the sun set and the moon rise at the same time over the Barcoo River.

**Evening:** Dinner tonight on a claypan, the perfect vantage point to watch the shadows created at night!

**Accommodation:** Little Boomerang Waterhole Campsite, Welford National Park Ph: 13 QGOV (137468)
Day 3 – Welford National Park to Birdsville

Journey: Welford National Park to Windorah…………………………………………………… approx 110kms / 1hrs 10mins
Windorah to Birdsville……………………………………………………………………… approx 386kms / 4hrs 30mins

Highlights: Windorah Solar Farm; Tulley Grave; JC Hotel Ruins; Deon’s Lookout; Betoota ghost town; The Serpent

Morning: Following breakfast and some early morning “critter tracking” on the sandhill, we depart Welford and cross the Cooper into Windorah, the heart of the Channel Country. Visit the Windorah Solar Farm – the first solar farm trial by Ergon Energy then continue via huge cattle yards towards Birdsville. En route we’ll see Tulley grave – an old Stocky’s grave located under a big Coolibah and JC Hotel Ruins, the remains of the small town of Canterbury, established in 1884. Drive over a “Jump Up” – where one catchment area rises to the next, and then pass by Oil and Gas fields.

Afternoon: Enjoy a picnic lunch with fabulous views at the elevated Deon’s Lookout. We’ll pass through the ghost town of Betoota and view the outdoor Indigenous artwork of the The Serpent set into a hill.

Evening: Dinner at the Birdsville Caravan Park – Dinner around the fire with damper making activity or possibly try some choc chip bananas!

Accommodation: Birdsville Caravan Park, Birdsville. Ph: (07) 4656 3214

Day 4 – Birdsville

Highlights: Birdsville Bakery; Birdsville Town Tour; Cultural Tour; Geothermal Power Station

Morning: This morning we head to the quirky Birdsville Bakery to have breakfast and hear how the baker became the ‘best’ pie maker in the Outback! We’ll join local operator, Desert Edge Tours for an insider’s tour of Birdsville. Find out how a school with less than 10 students operates, learn about past remote medical treatments at the heritage-listed Australian Inland Mission Hospital, hear stories about the Old Courthouse building and Royal Hotel ruins, built in the late 1800s. Learn the amazing story of the legendary Birdsville Track Mailman, Tom Kruse and visit the famous Birdsville Racetrack. Follow the Two Boys Dreaming Trail at Thutirla Pula Aboriginal Story Place. Back in town we’ll take a tour of Australia’s only operating Geothermal Power Station.

Afternoon: Late afternoon, we take a scenic drive to the famous Big Red Sandhill, the first and largest dune perched on the edge of the Simpson Desert. Our 4WD vehicle will take us to the top of the dune for a spectacular view. We’ll hear about the lay of the land and the water flow through the area, and maybe try our hand at some adventure sand tobogganing! Returning to town, we will pass cattle yards, hear about the working land of the Gibba Plains and discover the story behind bronco branding.

Evening Dinner at the Birdsville Bakery – Storytelling around the fire whilst enjoying some famous local BFC (Birdsville Fried Chicken).

Accommodation: Birdsville Caravan Park, Birdsville. Ph: (07) 4656 3214
Day 5 — Birdsville to Boulia

Journey: Birdsville to Boulia ........................................................................................................................................... approx 376kms / 6hrs

Highlights: Waddi Trees; Shoe Tree; Moonie’s Grave; Carcoory Ruins; Open Hot Bore; The Dust Storm Sculpture; Mud hut; Vaughn Johnson Lookout; Min Min Encounter; Stonehouse Museum; Marine Reptile Fossil Display

Morning: Following breakfast, we begin a drive north to Bedourie. Along the way we will pass the rare and endangered Waddi Trees, considered to be 500 – 1000 years old! We see the unusual “Shoe Tree”, a true testament to the Australian humour! At Moonie’s Grave we’ll hear the story of a local ringer’s early demise before exploring Carcoory Ruins, remnants of an early 1900s homestead. We’ll learn why the Artesian Bore is the lifeblood of the outback graziers and view the amazing birdlife at the Cuttaburra Crossing wetlands.

Pass historic Glengyle, one of the original Sydney Kidman properties and Cookawinchika Waterhole, once an Afghan cameleer’s overnight stop. See The Dust Storm Sculpture, part of a trio of work including the Serpent at Betoota and the Meeting Place in Birdsville – each artwork created to preserve, share and promote this deep knowledge of place before it is lost. We visit the Mud Hut, Bedourie’s most historical building, and hear of its many lives.

Afternoon: Stop for spectacular views and a picnic lunch at Vaughn Johnson Lookout before arriving into Boulia mid afternoon. We visit the Min Min Encounter for the animatronics show about the intriguing legend of the Min Min Lights and call into the well-preserved Stonehouse Museum, one of the first homes built in Western Queensland. In the grounds of the Stonehouse Museum is the Marine Reptile Fossil Display, which contains some of the best fossils in Western Queensland.

Evening: Dinner at our accommodation.

Accommodation: Boulia Caravan Park. Ph: (07) 4746 3320 OR Boulia Desert Sands Motel. Ph: (07) 4746 3000

Day 6 — Boulia to Mt Isa

Journey: Boulia to Mt Isa........................................... approx 305kms / 3hrs

Highlights: Underground Hospital; Beth Anderson Museum; National Trust Tent House; Hard Times Mine Tour; Dinner in the Underground Crib Room

Morning: Enjoy the scenic drive from Boulia to Mt Isa from the red soil of the Gibba Country to the black soil and grassy savannah land of the River Country.

Afternoon: On arrival in Mt Isa, we will have lunch and visit the fully restored Underground Crib Room, Outback at Isa, built in 1942 after the bombing of Darwin, when Mt Isa was seen as a potential target from the Japanese during WWII. See the Beth Anderson Museum complete with medical equipment from the era and the National Trust Tent House, which is fully stocked as if it was only lived in yesterday. Join the interactive Hard Times Mine Tour for an educational adventure through a mine to learn about what life is really like as a miner.

Evening: This evening we will dine like the miners with Dinner in the Underground Crib Room. Here we will have a “Reflection session” of our Far West experience.

Accommodation: Sunset Caravan Park, Mt Isa. Ph: (07) 4743 7668
Day 7 – Mt Isa to Brisbane

Journey: Mt Isa to Brisbane........................................................................................................ (Qantas or Virgin Airlines)

Morning: We board our return flight home to Brisbane

Tour Highlights:
- Qantas Founders Museum & Jet Tour
- Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame & Outback Stockman’s Show
- Welford National Park overnight campsite & bush activities
- Windorah Solar Farm and the Native Well
- JC Hotel Ruins and Betoota ghost town
- The Dreamtime Serpent and The Dust Storm sculptures
- Birdsville Bakery and Big Red Sandhill Tour
- Birdsville Town Tour and Aboriginal Cultural experiences
- Min Min Encounter, Stonehouse Museum and Marine Reptile Fossil Display
- Underground Hospital, Beth Anderson Museum, National Trust Tent House
- Hard Times Mine Tour, Dinner in the Underground Crib Room

Relevant Factsheets: 1-6, 9, 14-15, 17, 24, 27

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