

# 7 Day Cotton, Nuts & Opals



This tour combines two of Australia's richest industries, cotton and opals with the magic of the outback. Enjoy a fabulous guided tour of Goondiwindi. Experience a working cotton farm and go places not open to the public. Visit Stahmann's Pecan Nut Farm, 'Trawalla' the largest and most productive Pecan Nut plantation in the southern hemisphere. In Lightning Ridge explore all the 'ridge' has to offer with some free time to visit the many opal shops. In St George visit Steve Margaritis' 'World Expo' accredited display of carved, illuminated emu eggs followed by a delightful lunch and tour of Riversands Winery. At Stanthorpe visit Lawdogs Australia. This short tour is certainly packed with a variety of experience.

Departing: Sunday, 23rd May 2021

Fitness Level: E - Easy

Meals: B = Breakfast, M = Morning Tea, L = Lunch, A = Afternoon Tea, D = Dinner

## DAY 1 HERVEY BAY – GOONDIWINDI LD

Sunday, 23rd May: With Wide Bay passengers onboard begin our journey south, picking up passengers joining the tour at designated locations enroute, we make our way to Brisbane Coach Terminal to welcome aboard our Brisbane and Gold Coast passengers. Travel the Cunningham Highway to Warwick for lunch and a tour at ABBEY OF THE ROSES, then on to Goondiwindi. Stay Ascot Lodge Motor Inn.

## DAY 2 GOONDIWINDI – MOREE BLD

Monday, 24th May: A special treat this morning with a guided tour of Goondiwindi. Experience a working cotton farm via the cotton gin and go places not open to the public. Learn some interesting facts and legends and finally discover the Fashion House of GOONDIWINDI COTTON. Enjoy lunch at the iconic newly renovated Victoria Hotel which features the most outstanding architecture in Goondiwindi. Travel on to Moree where we visit MOREE PLAINS GALLERY housed in a magnificent 1911 Edwardian-style building. Stay Burke & Wills Motor Inn.

## DAY 3 MOREE – LIGHTNING RIDGE BLD

Tuesday, 25th May: Start our morning with a guided tour to STAHMANN'S PECAN NUT FARM, 'Trawalla' the largest and most productive Pecan Nut Plantation in the Southern Hemisphere. Following our tour, enjoy lunch at the Moree Services Club before continuing on to Lightning Ridge. Two night stay Wallangulla Motel.

## DAY 4 LIGHTNING RIDGE SIGHTSEEING BD

Wednesday, 26th May: This morning enjoy a guided tour of the opal mine known as the CHAMBERS OF THE BLACK HAND – a national treasure in the making. 11.2 metres underground, in a 100 year old mine, subterranean tunnels open into vast chambers. Walls are decorated with the hand carvings of artist Ron Canlin, the owner of this uniquely Australian attraction. Next, a guided tour of Lightning Ridge before visiting BEVAN'S CACTUS NURSERY. Said to be the largest display of old and rare cacti in the southern Hemisphere, this cacti garden is a labour of love and well worth a look! This afternoon is yours to explore the attractions of Lightning Ridge or do some opal shopping.

## DAY 5 LIGHTNING RIDGE – ST GEORGE BLD

Thursday, 27th May: Leaving Lightning Ridge we head out along the Castlereagh Highway passing by the Hebel Hotel, originally opened in 1894 as a Cobb & Co. Changing Station, then through Dirranbandi and Thallon to NINDIGULLY for a stop at Queensland's oldest hotel, still in its original condition and position on the banks of the Moonie River. Built in 1864 the pub was also a Cobb & Co Changing Station. Continue on to St George for lunch, a tour and tasting at RIVERSANDS WINERY followed by a visit to the UNIQUE EGG. These amazing World Class hand carved, illuminated emu eggs were handcrafted by Steve Margaritis over a period of 40 years. When the lights turn off and the LED lights shine through the emu shells – for a moment – you can catch a glimpse into Steve's mind and what he imagines. Stay Merino Motor Inn.

## DAY 6 ST GEORGE – WARWICK BLD

Friday, 28th May: This morning we make our way along the Barwon Highway stopping at Goondiwindi for morning

tea then on to Stanthorpe for lunch at the RSL. After a delicious lunch, it's off to LAWDOGS AUSTRALIA for a 'Dog Show with Bite', a Law Enforcement dog training and demonstration experience including protection, detection and agility dogs. Lawdogs Australia is Australia's first privately owned training kennel open to the public to see puppies and adult dogs going through the law enforcement training. Stay Coachman's Inn.

DAY 7 WARWICK – HOME BL

Saturday, 29th May: All too soon our holiday is almost over! Heading north along the New England Highway to Toowoomba, we stop at the COBB & CO MUSEUM for morning tea and to explore the outstanding National Carriage Collection which features nearly 50 horse-drawn vehicles and galleries showcasing the natural and cultural history of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs. On to Gatton for lunch and a visit to the QUEENSLAND TRANSPORT MUSEUM, before we make our way home. Arrive in Brisbane mid-afternoon and the Wide Bay early evening.

Adult: \$2786 pp

Pensioner: \$2772 pp

Past Passenger: \$2765 pp

Single Supplement: \$429 pp

Final Payment Due: 8th April 2021

Bookings Close on Friday, 9th April 2021