

6 DAY LIGHTNING RIDGE & COTTON COUNTRY



This tour combines two of Australia's richest industries, cotton and opals with the magic of the outback. 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. Enjoy a guided tour of Lightning Ridge. Explore all the 'Ridge' has to offer including the Chambers of the Black Hand and Bevan's Cactus Nursery with some free time to visit the opal shops. In St George visit Steve Margaritis' Unique Egg and visit Riversands Winery.

Departing: Saturday, 10th September 2022

DAY 1 HERVEY BAY – GOONDIWINDI LD

Saturday, 10th September: 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 BOUTIQUE HOTEL, then on to Goondiwindi. Stay Jolly Swagman Motor Inn.

DAY 2 GOONDIWINDI – MOREE BLD

Sunday, 11th September: 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

Monday, 12th September: 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

Tuesday, 13th September: 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

Wednesday, 14th September: 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 – HOME BL

Thursday, 15th September: All too soon our holiday is almost over! Head to Cecil Plains for lunch at the Victory Hotel then continue our journey. Arrive in Brisbane mid-afternoon and the Wide Bay early evening.

Adult: \$2388 pp

Pensioner: \$2376 pp

Past Passenger: \$2370 pp

Single Supplement: \$389pp

Final Payment Due: Wednesday, 27th July 2022