

# Nature's Bounty & Outback Heroes

— camping & accommodated



7 Days/6 Nights – price on application

Discover amazing geological formations at **Porcupine Gorge National Park** and swim in pristine rock pools. Stand in the shade of the historic **Coolibah Tree** and feel a connection to the famous explorers **Burke and Wills**. Be inspired by the resilience and diverse operations of local graziers working and surviving on the land. Learn the impacts of mining discoveries in the Outback.



Historic Coolibah Tree



'Hughie' The Muttaborrasaurus

## Day 1 – Homeport to Townsville and Hughenden

- Journey:** Homeport to Townsville..... (Qantas, Jetstar, Virgin Australia)  
Townsville to Burra Range Lookout..... Approx. 269km/3hrs  
Burra Range Lookout to Hughenden..... Approx. 115km/1hr
- Highlights:** Burra Range Lookout, White Mountains National Park  
Historic Coolibah Tree  
Robert Gray Memorial Park  
Eco Walk on Flinders  
Flinders Discovery Centre
- Morning:** Join your coach in Townsville for an adventure along the Overlander's Way. We stop for a picnic morning tea at the Burra Range Lookout in White Mountains National Park. The park protects 14 different ecosystems in the Desert Uplands bioregion, making it one of inland Queensland's most botanically diverse parks.  
Continuing on to Hughenden we are met by a local guide at the Historic Coolibah Tree to learn its historical significance to early explorers Burke and Wills.
- Lunch:** Sausage sizzle at the Robert Gray Memorial Park on the banks of the Flinders River, Hughenden.
- Afternoon:** We'll follow the Eco Walk on Flinders to view species of flora and local artwork depicting the diversity of Flinders Shire then visit the Flinders Discovery Centre, home to 'Hughie', the skeletal Muttaborrasaurus. While at the centre we'll view an exciting Porcupine Gorge light and sound show recounting its formation over 500 million years.
- Accommodation:** Allen Terry Caravan Park, Hughenden. Ph: (07) 4741 1190

## Day 2 – Hughenden to Porcupine Gorge National Park

- Journey:** Hughenden to Porcupine Gorge..... 74km/1hr
- Highlights:** The Pyramid (sandstone monolith)  
Bush walking and plant species identification  
Ranger talk on the Park's geology  
Porcupine Creek  
Swim in pristine rock pools





**Morning:** Travel about an hour north of Hughenden to Porcupine Gorge National Park, known as Australia's 'Little Grand Canyon'. We'll meet the Park Ranger for an interesting discussion on the park's geology, wildlife and plant life. Follow the Pyramid track, a gradually descending walking track to the bottom of the gorge.

**Lunch:** Picnic lunch in Porcupine Gorge National Park.

**Afternoon:** Discover permanent deep pools with resident turtles and enjoy the cool, clear, flowing Porcupine Creek. Explore the floor of the gorge in the shadow of the Pyramid, an isolated monolith of multicoloured sandstone. Follow the track back to our overnight campsite. Enjoy a catered campsite dinner tonight.

**Accommodation:** Pyramid Campsite, Porcupine Gorge National Park  
Ph: 13 QGOV (137468)



Porcupine Gorge Lookout

### Day 3 – Porcupine Gorge National Park to Julia Creek

**Journey:** Porcupine Gorge to Hughenden.....74km/1 hr  
Hughenden to Julia Creek.....256km/2hrs 50mins

**Highlights:** Proa Station Redclaw Farm  
Campdraft and Horsemanship Demonstration  
Meet local cattle producers  
Star gazing around the campfire

**Morning:** We'll pack up camp after breakfast and continue our Overlander's Way adventure to Proa Station Redclaw Farm, just 75kms south-east of Julia Creek. Meet the farmers and learn how they diversified their sheep and cattle operation to set up a Redclaw farm using 6 ponds of artesian water. Travel on to Julia Creek, the first European settlement in north-western Queensland.

**Lunch:** BBQ lunch with local horse riders at Julia Creek.

**Afternoon:** Following lunch you'll be treated to a Campdraft and Horsemanship Demonstration and hear stories from local cattle producers on what it's like to live and work on the land. Tonight you may join in on some star gazing activities around the campfire.

**Accommodation:** Julia Creek Caravan Park. Ph: (07) 4746 7108



Proa Redclaw



## Day 4 – Julia Creek to Mount Isa

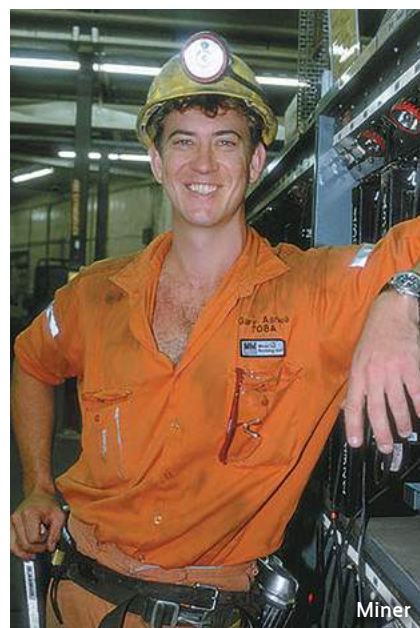
**Journey:** Julia Creek to Mount Isa ..... 258km/2hrs 52mins

**Highlights:** Outback at Isa & Isa Experience  
Hard Times Mine  
Riversleigh Fossil Centre  
Canoeing on Lake Moondarra

**Morning:** We travel via Cloncurry to Mount Isa, one of the world's great mining cities. Here we'll learn the challenges for local people – how they manage their environment and resources. At Outback at Isa, you'll gain a fascinating insight into daily life in the early days at the Isa Experience. Veteran Mount Isa miners will take you on a guided tour of the Hard Times Mine and you'll gain an insight into the development of early mammal mega fauna over the past 30 million years at Riversleigh Fossil Centre.

**Lunch** Picnic lunch at Lake Moondarra.

**Afternoon:** Enjoy an afternoon of recreational activities at Lake Moondarra, built for Mount Isa Mines in 1958 as a source of water for the Mines and the city. Stocked with barramundi it's the home to the annual Lake Moondarra Fishing Classic. Join in on some great team-building activities featuring ball games and water sports.



Miner

**Accommodation:** Isa Youth Camp, Lake Moondarra, Mount Isa. Ph: (07) 4743 9881

## Day 5 – Mount Isa to Richmond

**Journey:** Mount Isa to Cloncurry ..... 120km/1hr 25mins  
Cloncurry to Richmond ..... 286km/3hrs

**Highlights:** City Look Out  
Underground Hospital & Beth Anderson Museum  
John Flynn Place Museum & Art Gallery  
Bush Tucker Garden  
Team-building games at Lake Fred Tritton

**Morning:** This morning after departing our accommodation, you'll get a birds-eye view of Mount Isa and the Mines from the City Look Out – the perfect place for photos! We'll then step back in time to 1942 with a tour of the perfectly preserved Underground Hospital, built following the bombing of Darwin in WWII, and the interesting Beth Anderson Museum.

Departing Mount Isa after morning tea, we begin our return journey along the Overlander's Way to Cloncurry's John Flynn Place Museum & Art Gallery. Learn the great Australian story of how John Flynn began his Royal Flying Doctor Service.



Lake Fred Tritton



**Lunch:** John Flynn Place Gardens.

**Afternoon:** We say goodbye to the friendly town of Cloncurry and head east towards Richmond, arriving late afternoon for check-in to our overnight accommodation overlooking Lake Fred Tritton. Explore the Bush Tucker Garden, which tells the story of the plants' traditional use by the local Indigenous people. Enjoy some team-building games and swimming at Lake Fred Tritton before dinner.

**Accommodation:** Lakeview Caravan Park, Richmond. Ph: (07) 4741 3772

## Day 6 – Richmond to Charters Towers

**Journey:** Richmond to Pentland..... 256km/2hrs 50mins  
Pentland to Charters Towers..... 110km/1hr 25mins

**Highlights:** Kronosaurus Korner  
Pentland Historical Railway Station  
Norwood Lockup  
Ghosts after Dark – Towers Hill amphitheatre

**Morning:** We visit the famous Kronosaurus Korner, designed to display local fossils from the Cretaceous Inland Sea that covered a large section of Queensland 100 million years ago. You'll discover the most complete marine reptile fossils in the world on a guided museum walk through. Enjoy morning tea at the museum.

We continue our return journey with a lunch stop in the small rural community of Pentland, whose history is linked to the gold rush and great inland rail corridors of last century. Historic sites and buildings include the Norwood Lockup (police cells) and Pentland Historical Railway Station – a reminder of a bygone era.

**Lunch:** Picnic lunch, Pentland.

**Afternoon:** We arrive in Charters Towers late afternoon. Tonight we will watch the Ghosts after Dark film screened at the amphitheatre atop Towers Hill. Hear some local tales and historical milestones, which will give you an understanding of how tough it was in 'The World' back then.

**Accommodation:** Charters Towers School of Distance Education. Ph: (07) 4754 6888



## Day 7 – Charters Towers to Townsville & Homeward connections

**Journey:** Charters Towers to Ravenswood.....89km/1hr  
Ravenswood to Townsville.....129km/1hr 30mins

**Highlights:** Venus Gold Battery  
Heritage listed gold mining town of Ravenswood

**Morning:** This morning we'll enjoy a guided tour of the Venus Gold Battery, the largest surviving battery relic in Australia. You'll learn how the battery's equipment was used to extract the gold from the ore.

We'll then take a drive to the heritage listed gold mining town of Ravenswood for a step back in time exploring the few remaining examples of the town's wealthy beginnings.

**Lunch:** Picnic lunch Ravenswood.

**Afternoon:** The last leg of our Overlander's Way journey comes to an end on arrival in Townsville, the Gateway to North Queensland. Transfer to your homeward bound connections.\*\*

\*\*Consider extending your stay in Townsville to include visits to Reef HQ Aquarium, the world's largest living coral reef aquarium or perhaps a trip to Magnetic Island, part of the Great Barrier Reef island chain boasting pristine beaches, hidden bays, abundant wildlife and a ton of walking tracks.

RELEVANT OUTBACK EDUCATION FACT SHEETS: 05-06, 09, 11, 16, 19-21, 23, 28-30 – refer [www.teq.queensland.com](http://www.teq.queensland.com)

