

Stories of the Overlander's Way

– camping & accommodated



7 Days/6 Nights – price on application

Live and breathe Australia's stories on this wonderful journey along the **Overlander's Way**. Follow the **Ghosts of Gold Heritage Trail** bringing our gold mining legends and characters to life. At the historic **Coolibah Tree** learn its connection to the Burke and Wills story. Boil a billy at **Combo Waterhole** which inspired our unofficial national anthem. Discover dinosaur stories at **Kronosaurus Korner** and learn the story of the Mitakoodi people of the Cloncurry River.

Day 1 – Townsville to Hughenden

Journey: Townsville to Charters Towers.....approx 138km/1hr 30 mins
Charters Towers to Hughenden.....243km/2hrs 50mins

Highlights: Stock Exchange Arcade
Assay Mining Museum
Zara Clark Museum
The Miner's Cottage
Lissner Park
Historic Coolibah Tree
Mt Walker Lookout & Muttaborrasaurus stories

Morning: We begin our story with a 1.5 hour drive west to the town once dubbed 'the world' – Charters Towers. Be prepared for some awesome tales as we follow the Ghosts of Gold Heritage Trail, which brings to life the legends and the characters of Charters Towers. We can even try our hand at panning for gold at the Miner's Cottage!

Lunch: Enjoy a picnic lunch at Lissner Park, home to the First World War Digital Heritage Trail.

Afternoon: Flush with wealth from recent gold discoveries, a prize was offered for the first expedition to cross Australia from North to South – a challenge taken up by Burke & Wills. In Hughenden, we will see the historic Coolibah Tree linked to two relief expeditions searching for Burke and Wills. We'll learn about tree blazing – some would say this was the early explorers' equivalent to today's GPS system!

Tonight we'll have a sunset sausage sizzle at Mt Walker Lookout and hear stories about a time when 'Hughie' the dinosaur called this region home.

Accommodation: Allen Terry Caravan Park, Hughenden. Ph: (07) 4741 1190



Stock Exchange Arcade



Historic Coolibah Tree





Cambridge Downs Heritage Display Centre

Day 2 – Hughenden to Julia Creek

Journey: Hughenden to Richmond.....112km/1hr 10mins
 Richmond to Julia Creek.....149km/1hr 40 mins

Highlights: Kronosaurus Korner
 Horse riding demonstrations
 Campfire stories and stargazing
 Cambridge Downs Heritage Display Centre

Morning: Our next stop will be Richmond where we will step back in time and discover early pioneer stories at the Cambridge Downs Heritage Display Centre. Built from local flagstone rock the Cambridge Downs Heritage Display Centre is a replica of the original Cambridge Downs Homestead built in the late 1860s.

Next our story travels back 100 million years when a large section of Queensland was covered by the Cretaceous Inland Sea. At Kronosaurus Korner we'll hear the amazing discovery story of the 100-million-year-old pliosaur on a nearby cattle station. As we tour the museum, we'll see the most complete marine reptile fossils in the world.

Lunch: Lunch at Kronosaurus Korner.

Afternoon: Leaving the Dinosaurs, we travel on to Julia Creek, known as the 'Gateway to the Gulf' in a region traditionally used for sheep and cattle grazing.

We'll see a horse riding demonstration by local riders then perhaps join the local CWA 'champion' bakers for some hands-on fun to learn how to make the best campfire damper. Tonight enjoy some campfire stories and stargazing. The Outback is one of the best places to explore the galaxy of stars in the night sky.

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



Horse Riding Demonstration



Kronosaurus Korner



Day 3 – Julia Creek to Cloncurry

Journey: Julia Creek to Cloncurry137km/1hr 37mins

Highlights: Julia Creek Dunnart feeding
John Flynn Place Museum & Art Gallery
Mary Kathleen Memorial Park
Chinaman Creek Dam
Bush Tucker Tour with Aboriginal guide
Kup-Murri Traditional Dinner

Morning: We begin the day with a visit to the Julia Creek Visitor Information Centre, 'At the Creek', to learn stories of water, country and people. A highlight will be the opportunity to watch a live Dunnart feeding! Next, we'll travel a short distance to Cloncurry, birthplace of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. At John Flynn Place Museum you'll hear the inspiring story of how the RFDS began as the dream of the Rev John Flynn, a minister with the Presbyterian Church who lived in the Outback for most of his life.

Lunch: Picnic lunch at Mary Kathleen Memorial Park.

Afternoon: This afternoon we'll travel around 3km to Chinaman Creek Dam to learn more about the Mitakoodi people of the Cloncurry River (the 'River People'). Our Aboriginal guide will walk us through country on a Bush Tucker trail where we will learn how the local people survived on a variety of bush plants and animals. Late afternoon, we'll be treated to a traditional underground cooking feast called a 'Kup Murri' – a very special dinner treat!

Accommodation: Discovery Parks, Cloncurry. Ph: (07) 4742 2300





Day 4 – Cloncurry to Kynuna and Richmond

- Journey:** Cloncurry to Kynuna.....183km/2 hrs
 Kynuna to Combo Waterhole16km/15 mins
 Combo Waterhole to Richmond265km/3hrs 20mins
- Highlights:** Combo Waterhole
 Bush walks
 Picnic by the billabong
 Bush poetry
- Morning:** This morning we will pack up early and head to the site, which inspired Australia’s unofficial national anthem – *Waltzing Matilda*. At Combo Waterhole Conservation Park, we’ll walk the 2.5km circuit and boil the billy beside the billabong..... under the shade of the Coolibah tree. This will be a great spot for us to recite some other bush poems by Banjo Paterson.
- Lunch:** Picnic lunch and billy tea.
- Afternoon:** After discovering some of Australia’s favourite bush stories, we travel back to Richmond, our overnight stop. Enjoy some free time to relax at our campsite late this afternoon with views of the award winning Lake Fred Tritton. Tonight we’ll have some poetry writing competitions to see who comes up with the best bush poem.
- Accommodation:** Lakeview Caravan Park, Richmond. Ph: (07) 4741 3772

Day 5 – Richmond to Virginia Park Station

- Journey:** Richmond to Charters Towers.....approx 361km/4hrs (6 return)
 Charters Towers to Virginia Park Station.....30km/25mins
- Highlights:** Virginia Park Station
 Farm activities
 Storytelling around the campfire
- Morning:** Up early this morning for a big morning drive with a big finish! We’ll make a morning tea stop at Prairie a small town of just 50 people and part of the Great Northern Railway Line that links Townsville to Mount Isa. We will arrive at Virginia Park Station in time for lunch and to learn the story of life on a working cattle station.
- Lunch:** Catered lunch at Virginia Park Station.
- Afternoon:** Join in on a range of optional farm activities including horse riding and calf branding. Tonight we tell stories and sing songs around the campfire under the starry skies!
- Accommodation:** Virginia Park Station, 25 minutes north east of Charters Towers. Ph: (07) 4770 3125



Virginia Park Station



Billabong Sanctuary

Day 6 – Virginia Park Station to Townsville

Journey: Virginia Park Station to Townsville.....98km/1 hr

Highlights: Virginia Park Station
Billabong Sanctuary

Morning: This morning we join our station hosts to learn the art of cow milking and to hear more stories about life on the land. Following smoko, we'll test our skills on a station obstacle course.

Lunch: Catered lunch at Virginia Park Station.

Afternoon: We reboard our coach for the last leg of our Overlander's Way journey, arriving in Townsville mid afternoon. Discover stories of Australia's wildlife at the Billabong Sanctuary. Meet the ranger for an interactive tour including a crocodile feeding demonstration and turtle feeding. Tonight you'll enjoy a dinner feast and a Sanctuary after Dark tour then fall asleep to the sounds of the Billabong.

Accommodation: Billabong Sanctuary (Melaleuca Function Centre). Ph: (07) 4778 8344

Day 7 – Townsville to Homeport

Journey: Townsville to homeport (Qantas, Virgin Australia, Jetstar)

RELEVANT OUTBACK EDUCATION FACT SHEETS: 01, 07, 08, 09, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 28, 29 – refer www.teq.queensland.com

