Day 1 – Brisbane to Barcaldine

Journey:
Overnight on the Spirit of the Outback Queensland Rail Train
Brisbane to Rockhampton ............................................................... approx 638km
Rockhampton to Barcaldine ....................................................... approx 587km

Highlights:
- Spirit of the Outback Rail Journey
- Coastal and outback rail touring
- Onboard activities

Afternoon:
Depart Brisbane early afternoon on the Spirit of the Outback Rail Journey for the start of your Outback Adventure in Western Queensland. This iconic rail experience will travel via coastal Queensland towns of Maryborough and Rockhampton, before heading west via Blackwater and Emerald en-route to Barcaldine. What better way to experience these legendary destinations than by rail on The Spirit of the Outback, where you can see the landscape up close and take the time to admire its untamed beauty. We have the added excitement of an overnight stay aboard the train with plenty of time to spot kangaroos and other wildlife as we travel to Outback Queensland.

Evening:
Spirit of the Outback Rail
Queensland Rail Travel – Group Travel.
Ph: (07) 3235 1308

Please enquire about Edusaver Fares.

Note: Rail fares are not included in this tour price and relevant Edusaver fares will need to be added to this tour itinerary price.

Day 2 – Barcaldine

Highlights:
- Tree of Knowledge evening lights
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre
- Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre
- Radio Theatre – old style cinema with canvas chairs – movie showing

Morning:
You will be met on arrival in Barcaldine mid morning by our Outback Aussie Tours driver/guide, an expert in Outback Queensland and keen to share his local knowledge. Our first stop will be the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, the only national attraction dedicated to celebrating the lives and proud heritage of ordinary working people – telling the stories of the railway workers and blacksmiths, the farmers, nurses and teachers who shaped the nation. We’ll relax in the surrounding parklands with an Outback barbeque lunch.

Afternoon:
After lunch we will be met by a representative of the Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre who will teach you some bush games and education activities.
Evening: We’ll head back to the Centre to freshen up and have dinner before taking a relaxing walk through town to the famous Tree of Knowledge, just on dusk, so that we can see the impressive light display. If everyone is feeling keen for a movie, we can walk to the famous Barcaldine Radio Theatre Show. We’ll sit back in the old style cinema, complete with canvas chairs and watch a latest release movie!

Overnight: Barcaldine.

Day 3 – Barcaldine to Winton

Journey: Barcaldine to Winton ................................................................. 285 km / 2 hour 4 mins

Highlights:
- Australian Age of Dinosaurs
- Visit to a private grazing property
- Aboriginal guided bush tucker walk and cave art interpretation

Morning: This morning we will be met by our Aboriginal guide who will travel with us to a private grazing property. Here we will meet the graziers and hear their stories of living and working on the land. Our Aboriginal guide will take us on a bush tucker walk through the property and interpret Aboriginal cave art which is located on the site. We’ll have morning tea and picnic lunch on the property before reboarding our coach for the drive to Winton.

Hold on to your hats now as we journey into the ancient world of dinosaurs! What better place to learn about Australia’s famous dinosaur discoveries and history than at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs! We’ll be met by one of their expert guides who will take us on an interpretive tour of the Laboratory, home to the world’s largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils. We’ll have the opportunity to see staff working on real dinosaur bones and participate in some hands-on activities.

Late Afternoon: We’ll travel the short distance to the historic town of Winton, our home for the next two nights. Perhaps a barbeque dinner with the local school tonight and some fun activities.

Overnight: Diamantina Lodge, Winton.

Day 4 – Winton

Highlights:
- Bladensburg National Park
- Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry
- Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton

Morning: Following breakfast we will board our coach for a short drive to the nearby Bladensburg National Park. Bladensburg National Park conserves 84,900ha of Mitchell Grass Downs and Channel Country, including unique birdlife, plants and animals. It encompasses areas of important Indigenous and pastoral heritage. The Koa People consider Bladensburg to be part of their traditional country, and the park is also important to the Maiawali and Karuwali People. We’ll meet the park ranger who will share some important stories about the significance of this land and its role as a habitat for native wildlife.

A picnic morning tea at Bladensburg National Park.

Afternoon: Winton is the birthplace of Qantas and famous as the town where the song ‘Waltzing Matilda’ was first penned at the North Gregory Hotel. We’ll visit the Waltzing Matilda Centre – the only museum dedicated to a song and watch the sound and light show of the famous Swaggie telling his story.

Evening: Tonight we have a relaxed dinner at our accommodation – maybe a sing-a-long around the pianola at the famous North Gregory Hotel!

Overnight: Diamantina Lodge, Winton.

Day 5 – Winton to Longreach

Highlights: Longreach School of Distance Education tour

Morning: Straight after breakfast we will travel across the open plains via majestic mesas to the legendary town of Longreach. We’ll join the team at the Longreach School of Distance Education and witness a totally different way of schooling with a tour of the facility. Next we visit the Qantas Founders Museum and get to step inside the 747 and 707 jets on an interpretive tour.
This afternoon, we head out to Camden Park Station, just outside of Longreach for a sheep shearing demonstration. Hear how these third-generation graziers manage their mixed herd of sheep and cattle as well as their hay production business. You’ll be given a tour of their historic shearing shed, see their artesian bore in action, hear stories of early Chinese water management and spot local wildlife.

Tonight we have a relaxed dinner at our accommodation.

Longreach.

Day 6 – Longreach

Morning /Afternoon: We enjoy a morning visit to Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame where we discover the inspiring stories of the men, women and children living in and pioneering Outback Queensland. Witness the quintessential Australian character of the Outback Stockman’s Show – a tribute to the stockman’s skills.

Evening: Tonight we have a relaxed dinner at our accommodation followed by our Outback farewell show. We board the M.V. Longreach Explorer for an afternoon cruise on the majestic Thomson River where you will find out how Longreach was named, hear stories of famous characters like Captain Starlight and discover the indigenous and cultural links.

Overnight: Longreach School of Distance Education.

Day 7 – Longreach – Brisbane

Morning: We have an early morning departure from Longreach aboard the Spirit of the Outback rail journey for our overnight journey back to Brisbane. Many wonderful memories and new Outback friends will ensure that Outback Queensland has a special place in your heart. Come back soon!

Journey: Longreach to Rockhampton .................................Rail Distance: 687km | Travelling Time
Rockhampton to Brisbane .................................Rail Distance: 638km | Travelling Time

Rail fares are not included in this tour price and relevant Edusaver fares will need to be added to this tour itinerary price.

Note:

Spirit of the Outback Rail Qld Rail Travel – Group Travel Ph: (07) 3235 1308

Please enquire about Edusaver Fares.

Winton
Tour Inclusions:
All coach travel; all meals, dormitory style accommodation and activities as indicated; expert commentary with experienced local Savannah guides; all entry fees and transfers.

Tour Highlights:
- Spirit of the Outback Rail Journey
- Coastal & outback rail touring
- Onboard activities
- Tree of Knowledge evening lights
- Australian Workers Heritage Centre
- Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre
- Bush Tucker Walk and Bush Games
- Radio Theatre – old style cinema with canvas chairs – movie showing
- Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum
- Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry Conservation Park
- Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton
- Outback games at Longreach School of Distance Education
- Qantas Founders Museum
- Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame & Stockman’s Show
- Longreach School of Distance Education tour
- Afternoon Cruise on the Thomson River
- Evening Red Faces Farewell Event

Relevant Factsheets:
1-4, 7-8, 12, 13-17, 19, 21