Meet the storytellers and **characters of Outback Queensland** on a journey from Charleville to Birdsville. Be mesmerised by the **Cosmos Centre Twilight Show** and visit the Save the **Bilby Experience**. Hear tales of local larrikins and the **Eulo Queen**. Learn of the **Geo Dynamics Hot Rock Installation** and spot birdlife on a **Cooper Creek cruise**. Retrace **Burke and Wills’** final days in the harsh and beautiful environment where the Channel Country meets the desert.

**NB: Teachers – We recommend downloading apps, Skywalker Astronomy Guide and geocaching.**

### Day 1 – Brisbane to Charleville

**Journey:** Flight Brisbane to Charleville................................................................. (QantasLink, Rex Airlines)

**Highlights:** Cosmos Centre and Observatory; Save the Bilby Experience

**Afternoon:** On arrival in Charleville we’ll join an afternoon tour of the Save the Bilby Experience where the dedicated volunteers will share their knowledge and passion for the preservation of this delightful marsupial.

**Evening:** Tonight be mesmerised by the Cosmos Centre Twilight Show as we explore the night shy with the aid of the powerful Meade telescopes.

**Accommodation:** Bailey Bar Caravan Park, 196 King Street, Charleville. Ph: (07) 4654 1744

### Day 2 – Charleville to Thargomindah

**Journey:** Charleville to Thargomindah................................................................. approx 417km / 5.3hrs

**Highlights:** Robbers Tree; Opal cutting demonstration; Eulo Mud Springs & Eulo Queen stories; Lake Bindegolly National Park

**Morning:** Departing Charleville, we’ll follow the Warrego River to Cunnamullala which came into being as a Cobb and Co. coach stop. See the famous ‘Robbers Tree’ and hear the story of the unfortunate local station hand who robbed the local bank at gunpoint. Watch a demonstration of opal cutting and polishing.

**Afternoon:** Discover the quaint township of Eulo, hear the tales of Isabel ‘The Eulo Queen’ and learn the story of the Eulo Mud Springs. We’ll call in at Lake Bindegolly National Park, which conserves one of the most important wetland systems in south-west Queensland. Huge numbers of waterbirds can be seen on the lakes. Travel to Thargomindah and discover the historic electrical street lighting story.

**Accommodation:** Explorer Caravan Park, Thargomindah. Ph: (07) 4655 3307
Day 3 – Thargomindah to Innamincka

Journey: Thargomindah to Innamincka................................................................. approx. 400km/4.5 hrs

Highlights: Noccundra Hotel; Geo Dynamics Hot Rock Installation; King’s Marker; Cooper Creek cruise; Australian Inland Mission

Morning: We travel west to Noccundra on the banks of the Wilson River, contained in the pastoral holding of Nochatunga Station. Tour the Noccundra Hotel, an important Cobb & Co. coach stop, built in 1882 from sandstone quarried in NSW and transported by camel train. Pass by large cattle stations and travel through the heart of the oil and gas fields to Innamincka on the banks of the Cooper Creek in north-east South Australia.

Afternoon: Learn about the Geo Dynamics Hot Rock Installation harnessing the energy from the earth’s natural hot granites deep beneath the surface. Explore the restored Australian Inland Mission building. Spot local wildlife and see King’s Marker on an afternoon cruise on the Cooper Creek.

Accommodation: Innamincka Trading Post, Innamincka. Ph: (08) 8675 9900

Day 4 – Innamincka to Birdsville

Journey: Innamincka to Birdsville......................................................................................... approx 417km / 6hrs

Highlights: History of Burke and Wills; Cadelga Ruins; Cordillo Downs; the iconic Dig Tree Cooper Creek punt cruise; Possible Geocaching competitions en route

Morning: Follow the Strzelecki Desert through flood plains, sand dunes and gibber country. Visit the site of Burke and Wills’ Depot Camp and see the iconic Dig Tree, a reminder of Australia’s pioneering spirit.

Afternoon: Journey through changing environments, following the Burke and Will’s trail from Innamincka. We visit the heritage-listed Cordillo Downs shearing shed – Australia’s largest – where a record 85,000 sheep were sheared in the 1880s. See Cadelga Ruins, hear stories of early pastoralists and the hardships they endured. Arrive into Birdsville and our campsite, late afternoon. Dinner under the stars tonight!

Accommodation: Birdsville Caravan Park, Birdsville. Ph: (07) 4656 3214
Day 5 – Birdsville

Highlights: Warrarri Centre - Aboriginal cultural stories and activities; Big Red Sandhill; Birdsville Bakery

Morning: This morning we head to the Warrarri Visitor Information Centre to meet Jean or Betty, Traditional owners and Elders of the local Wangkangurru Yarluyandi Tribe. Following a traditional Welcome to Country, we’ll wander to the Meeting Place, where they will share fascinating stories about their family, culture and local Aboriginal bush medicine.

Be prepared to be awestruck with a scenic tour to the top of Big Red Sandhill perched on the edge of the Simpson Desert. Feel the fine red sand between your toes, learn about the lay of the land and, for the adventure seekers, perhaps some sand tobogganing! Sausage sizzle or picnic lunch at the bottom of Big Red Sandhill.

Afternoon: Returning to Birdsville, we’ll pass cattle yards and learn about the process of bronco branding. We’ll have time for afternoon tea and a swim at Pelican Point on the banks of the Birdsville Billabong. Perhaps an opportunity to try your hand at yabby pots?

Evening: Dinner at the Birdsville Bakery – Storytelling around the fire whilst enjoying some famous local BFC (Birdsville Fried Chicken).

Accommodation: Birdsville Caravan Park, Birdsville. Ph: (07) 4656 3214

Day 6 – Birdsville to Brisbane

Journey: Flight Birdsville to Brisbane................................................................................................................................. (REX Airlines)

Highlights: Birdsville to Brisbane flight

Morning: Following breakfast we will have a 'Reflections session' of our Corner Country Stories adventure before boarding our return flight to Brisbane.

Tour Highlights:
- Cosmos Centre Twilight Show and Save the Bilby Experience
- Cunnamulla and Opal Cutting Demonstration
- Eulo Mud Springs and Isabel the Eulo Queen Stories
- Historic Noccundra Hotel and Lake Bindegolly National Park
- Cooper Creek punt Cruise
- Cadelga Ruins and Cordillo Downs shearing shed
- Birdsville Billabong, Big Red Tour & Australian Inland Mission
- Warrarri Centre – Aboriginal cultural stories and activities

Related Fact Sheets: 3, 18, 22, 24, 26-27

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES
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