

Desert Edge Tours

Corner Country Stories – camping & accommodated

6 Days/5 Nights ex Brisbane - price on application

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

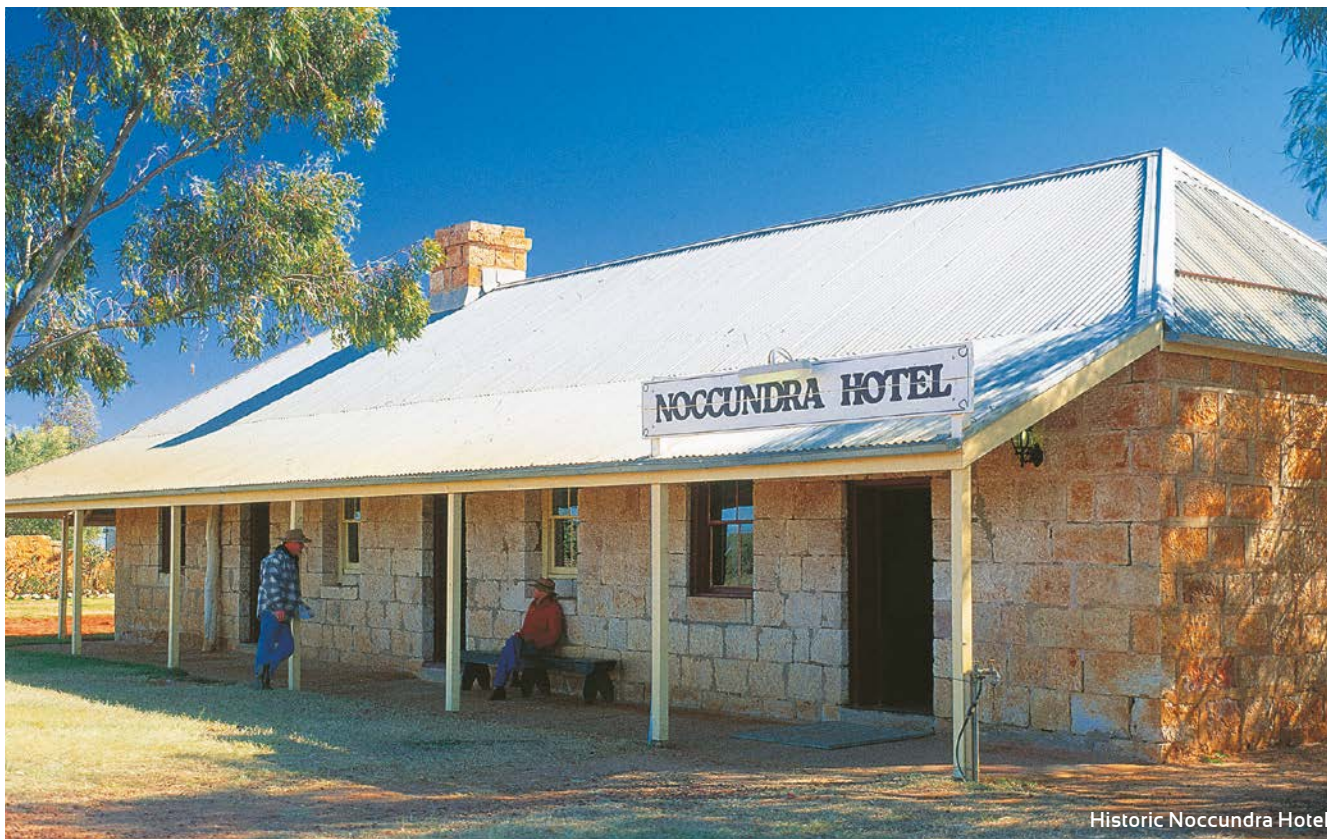
- Journey:** Flight Brisbane to Charleville..... (QantasLink, Rex Airlines)
- Highlights:** Cosmos Centre and Observatory; Save the Bilby Experience
- Afternoon:** On arrival in Charleville we'll join an afternoon tour of the **Save the Bilby Experience** where the dedicated volunteers will share their 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 sky 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 **Cunnamulla** 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



Lake Bindegolly Sunset



Historic Noccundra Hotel

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 Nockatunga 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 Yarluayandi 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

Desert Edge Tours

Tel: 0419 364 381

Email: info@birdsvilledesertedgetours.com

www.birdsvilledesertedgetours.com

OR

Your preferred charter operator

