

Lightning Ridge & Outback Tour



Travelabout's... 7 Day Coach Tour – Departing 15 June 2021

*A well-paced itinerary to Lightning Ridge and the Outback,
via Tamworth and return via Armidale and Port Macquarie*

*Travel in luxury... in a very modern seat-belted coach with built-in toilet,
and quality accommodation mostly in 3+ star motels*



*Lightning Ridge is famous for opals and in particular
the rare Black Opal. Discover the nature, history,
culture and colourful characters as you explore the
Opal fields.*

Try fossicking for opals as well as purchase.

Also the chance to bath in the natural thermal pool.

*Visit Timbertown, including lunch, stream train rides,
with many demonstrations, attractions and stores.*

Visit Tamworth's Country Music Hall of Fame

Visit Narrabri Tourist Office & Cotton Museum

*A complete holiday package including luxury coach transport, experienced coach captain,
2-day private tour of Lightning Ridge, entry fees to all attractions and all delicious meals...
6 cooked breakfasts, 6 light lunches and 2 or 3 course dinners with choices*

Price \$2090pp twin share

\$2460 sole use

Contact Marlene...

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Travelabout Tours & Cruises

117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde NSW 2114

Lightning Ridge & Outback Tour 2021

Detailed itinerary

Day 1 15 Jun Tue Sydney – Muswellbrook – Tamworth

This morning we meet Brian Pratt our coach captain and depart West Ryde at 8.30am to start our exciting adventure to Lightning Ridge and Outback tour. Sit back and relax as we travel to Newcastle, take the New England Highway to Tamworth via Muswellbrook, where we stop for our included lunch. Then onto Tamworth, the 'Country Music Capital of Australia', and visit the Visitors Information Centre with its 'Big Guitar' in front. We have included entry to brand-new National Guitar Museum and The Gallery of Stars Wax Museum. Later visit the Country Music Hall of Fame and wax museum, then onto our motel, where you have some free time before dinner, served in our hotel. Dinner included. O/n Tamworth Motor Inn (L,D)

Day 2 16 Jun Wed Tamworth – Narrabri – Lightning Ridge

Following breakfast, there will be some free time to explore the shops before travelling along the Oxley and Kamilaroi Highways to Narrabri, located on the banks of the Namoi River. Narrabri is a thriving agricultural centre and the centre of a major cotton growing industry. A light lunch is included at the Narrabri Sporties Club, with some free time before our visit to the Tourist Office for a presentation on the region. Then continue along Kamilaroi Highway to Walgett, and Castlereagh Highway to Lightning Ridge, located about 20km south of the Queensland border. Lightning Ridge is famed for its rare black opal, artesian bores, Outback theatre, underground sculptures, galleries, jewellers, colourful and unique people. There will be some time to relax before our included dinner. O/n Lightning Ridge Outback Resort (B,L,D)

Day 3 17 Jun Thu Lightning Ridge – Excursion

This morning we meet our local guide and head for the fields! Our first visit is to Fred Bodel's Hut, the oldest miners' camp still standing in Lightning Ridge, and along the way we pass the historic Three Mile Flat the site of an early miners' settlement. We continue onto Lunatic Hill Open Cut Mine, which is the largest open cut opal mine in NSW and here we learn of historic opal mining techniques and try our luck at opal fossicking ourselves! We travel back into town and enjoy morning tea, witness an opal cutting demonstration and listen to an informative talk on the famous Black Opal. Filled with new knowledge we head out to Simms Hill Opal fields and Miners' Camp to get some practical experience. We continue our travels to marvel at the weird and wonderful Astronomers' Monument, a concrete structure of three levels built by hand! We visit Amigo's Castle, a hand built stone castle and make a visit to the local hot artesian baths. We continue onto Bevan's Opal Cactus Garden which has the largest variety of cactus in Australia. We enjoy lunch at the garden before visiting the Chambers of the Black Hand, a 100 year old mine. Here we can explore the hand carved sandstone sculptures, walls and pillars of the underground Gallery. After an amazing day, we make our way to our motel via the artesian baths, where there is some free time before our included dinner in our hotel restaurant. O/n Lightning Ridge Outback Resort (B,L,D)

Day 4 18 Jun Fri Lightning Ridge – Grawin- Glengarry Excursion

This morning our guide joins us and we head out to Grawin, Glengarry & the Sheeppark Opal Fields. Our first stop is the Grawin Club in the Scrub for morning tea, then we travel through the mining fields and view working mines and opal mining machinery. Afterwards we try our luck at fossicking for an opal on the Mullock heaps. Lunch today is from the tucker van at the Glengarry Hilton, a great opportunity to meet some of the eccentric and opal loving locals. We take a tour around town with a visit to the Sheeppark community War Memorial and Sweeney's community shop. We reboard the coach and return to Lightning Ridge, where again we visit to the artesian baths before our included dinner. O/n Lightning Ridge Outback Resort (B,L,D)

Day 5 19 Jun Sat Lightning Ridge – Moree - Armidale

We farewell Lightning Ridge and travel through the Moree Plains and the heart of the northern 'wheat belt' of NSW, to Moree, located on the banks of the Mehi River, in the beautiful Gwydir Valley. Here we drive around and admire some of the well maintained old town buildings, before our included light lunch at the local 'Services Club'. We travel east along the Gwydir Highway to Warialda, then take the Bingara Road and Thunderbolt's Highway to Armidale in the New England High Country. Armidale is dubbed the Cathedral City in is one of Australia's most elegant regional cities, with an altitude of 1000m above sea level. Our included dinner will be served in our hotel. O/n Deer Park Motor Inn (B,L,D)

Day 6 20 Jun Sun Armidale – Wauchope – Port Macquarie

This morning we drive along the wide streets of Armidale and admire many beautiful heritage buildings and the 19th century churches. Then continue along Thunderbolt's Highway to Bendemeer, and on the Oxley Highway to Wauchope. We arrive at the Australian colonial theme park of Timbertown, where we enjoy an included traditional Aussie lunch that includes the famous Timbertown Pies. Then you are free to join in all of the attractions, including the Timbertown Heritage Steam Train, Miniature Train Rides, Horse & Carriage Rides that operate on a regular scheduled program. Also there is Steam Sawmill, Gold Panning, Blacksmith and Timbertown shops & traders. Later in the afternoon it's a short drive to Port Macquarie where we have some free time before our included dinner. O/n Macquarie Barracks Motor Inn (B,L,D)

Day 7 21 Jun Mon Port Macquarie – West Ryde

This morning we take a scenic drive south along Port Macquarie's stunning coast to Tacking Point Lighthouse, enroute passing many lookouts. We stop the Sea Acres Rainforest Centre for a leisurely walk along the elevated rainforest walkways. Then head home stopping at Bulahdelah Bowling Club for a light lunch, then continue to West Ryde, with expected arrival around 5.00pm. Sadly our tour comes to an end but our friendships and memories will continue. (B,L)