

CHARLEVILLE, BOURKE, LIGHTNING RIDGE & ST. GEORGE

11 JUNE 2008

Cost Per Person (twin share) \$1987.00 (excludes rail) Single Supp \$315.00

~~~Booking Conditions Apply~~~ Non-Smokers Only

### **Wednesday 11 June (lunch & dinner)**

12.00noon – Tour commences at either Charleville Railway Station where you will be met off The Westlander or for those that self-drive we will meet at the Warrego Motel. After checking into your accommodation we will enjoy some lunch together before a town tour. You will have some free time this afternoon to wander around Charleville before an evening with a difference!

Overnight at the Warrego Motel.

### **Thursday 12 June (breakfast, smoko, lunch & dinner)**

8.00am – Departing Charleville we'll travel south on the Matilda Highway to Cunnamulla and enjoy smoko with the "Cunnamulla Fella", then its south to the border of NSW for lunch at Barrington. Travel through Enngonia before arriving into Bourke and visiting the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre and the Bourke Visitor Information Centre. For the next two nights we will be guests of John and Sipa at the historic Bourke Riverside Motel. After check-in, join us for chardonnay and nibbles before dinner in the motel dining room. 2 nights at the Bourke Riverside Motel.

### **Friday 13 June (breakfast, lunch, smoko & dinner)**

7.30am – Continental breakfast before a local guide will join us for a tour of Bourke. We'll enjoy a BBQ lunch in the beautiful grounds of the Riverside Motel before cruising along the Darling River on the "PV Jandra" paddleboat. Bourke was at one time the largest inland river port in the world! Dinner this evening will be a Chinese banquet at the Bourke Bowling Club.

### **Saturday 14 June (breakfast, smoko, lunch & dinner)**

7.30am – Continental breakfast before we depart for Lightning Ridge via Mt Oxley and Brewarrina. Rising from the perfectly flat landscape, Mt Oxley offers spectacular views over hundreds of kilometres of outback plains. Whilst at Mt Oxley enjoy smoko and a chat with station owners Bill and Denise. Then it's onto Brewarrina for a look around and lunch at the last remaining original authentic Greek café in Australia. Then we're off to step back in time as we travel through the opal mining community of Sheeppark before arriving in Lightning Ridge, famous for its spectacular black opal. Enjoy a 2-night stay at the Wallangulla Motel with dinner at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club.

### **Sunday 15 June (breakfast, smoko, lunch & dinner)**

7.30am – Continental breakfast before departing on a town tour followed by a visit to an underground opal mine where you will have the opportunity to view opal cutting and polishing. Enjoy lunch in town before some free time this afternoon to explore. There are a number of opal shops to browse through including Down to Earth Opals and Lost Sea Opals, John Murray's Art Gallery and perhaps take a look at Cooper's Cottage, an historical miners cottage built in 1916. Dinner this evening at the Bowls Club.

### **Monday 16 June (breakfast, smoko, lunch & dinner)**

7.30am – Continental breakfast and just a few more things to show you in Lightning Ridge before traveling back into Queensland via Hebel where we will have lunch. After lunch we'll continue onto Dirranbandi where we'll have a look around town before we head out to the entrance of Cubbie Station, the largest cotton property in the southern hemisphere, to hear the truth!! Late this afternoon we will arrive in St. George to check in at the Riverland Motor Inn for our 2 night stay.

### **Tuesday 17 June (breakfast, smoko, lunch & dinner)**

7.30am – Enjoy a continental breakfast in the restaurant before we head out for a town tour with a local guide and a scenic flight over St. George looking at the irrigation farming and taking in Beardmore Dam. We'll show you something very 'unique' in St. George, before lunch and some free time to explore. We'll finish the day with wine tasting at Riversands Vineyard.

### **Wednesday 18 June (breakfast, smoko & lunch)**

7.30am – After breakfast, we'll depart St. George and head to Rosehill Aviaries where we will enjoy a delicious smoko with John and Elaine and a tour of the most complete collection of Australian parrots in the world. We'll then travel the back roads to "Bonus Downs", at Mitchell, where we will have lunch with our hosts, Lyle & Madonna. Bonus Downs is one of the finest and oldest established properties in this area offering good old fashioned country hospitality in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Our hosts will also provide a tour of the fully restored homestead and workers accommodation before we head off via Morven to Charleville where this adventure will end.

### **Tour inclusions:**

- ✓ Local owner/operator Graham and Deb and their modern airconditioned bus
- ✓ All ensuited motel accommodation – 3 x 2-night stays
- ✓ Meals (continental breakfasts, lunches and 2-course dinners) plus smokos along the way.
- ✓ "Cunnamulla Fella" Story
- ✓ Back O' Bourke Centre, the "Jandra" Paddleboat Cruise & tour of Bourke, Mt Oxley
- ✓ Lightning Ridge Opal Fields Tour and Underground Mine Tour
- ✓ Rosehill Aviaries
- ✓ Scenic flight over St. George
- ✓ Tour of "Bonus Downs" Homestead
- ✓ And a few other surprises !!!