



PLATINUM JOURNEYS

DARLING RIVER RUN

12 Days - Friday 18th September to Tuesday 29th September 2020

Experience towns full of colourful characters and an abundance of natural beauty as we travel one of the country's most iconic touring routes, the Darling River Run.



Day 1: HOME TO MELBOURNE Fri 18 Sept 20 (D)

Welcome to our Darling River Run tour featuring the spectacular landscape and history of Outback New South Wales. The Darling River Run follows the course of the Darling and is home to rich indigenous history and the memories of Australia's pioneering days. Lunch at own expense, dinner at accommodation

Overnight: Canterbury International Hotel (PH: 03 9878 4111)

Day 2: MELBOURNE TO WENTWORTH Sat 19 Sept 20 (BD)

We have an early start as we make our way north through Victoria. This afternoon we have a look at the colourful art silo murals in Nullawil and Sea Lake as we make our way to Wentworth for our overnight stay. Breakfast & dinner at accommodation, lunch at own expense.

Overnight: Wentworth Grande Resort (PH: 03 5027 2225)

Day 3: WENTWORTH TO MUNGO Sun 20 Sept (BLD)

Today we uncover the starkly beautiful landscape of ancient dry lake basins, sand formations and towering dunes of Mungo National Park. This area is rich with Aboriginal stories and significant archaeological discoveries. We take a giant leap back in time and enjoy the day exploring this remarkable location with a local expert. Walk the Walls of China, explore the historic woolshed and be amazed at the landscape from a lookout. Breakfast, lunch & dinner at accommodation.

Overnight: Mungo Lodge (PH: 03 5029 7297)

Day 4: MUNGO TO WHITE CLIFFS Mon 21 Sept 20 (BLD)

From Mungo, its onto Menindee. Experience the Darling River aboard the celebrated River Lady to discover the outback from the stunning perspective of the river. Back on the coach, our touring route then heads upstream to where the river meets the Barrier Highway at Wilcannia. You won't see many buildings as we arrive in White Cliffs – everything from houses to hotels have been built underground to escape the outback heat. People have been drawn to this town for years in search of opals, including the rare 'pineapple' opal with a distinctive spiky shape.

Overnight: Underground Motel, White Cliffs (PH: 08 8005 8271)

Day 5: WHITE CLIFFS Tues 22 Sept 20 (BLD)

Joined by our guide we are taken on a fascinating White Cliffs town tour, uncovering the stories of the hardy souls and tough early days to the now opal mining industry. Enjoy lunch at the Red Earth Opal Cafe and peruse the opal showroom where, if you wish, can purchase a stunning Australian stone! Experience the adventure of going underground to learn all about the life of a miner before heading back to the motel. Breakfast & dinner at accommodation | lunch included

Overnight: Underground Motel, White Cliffs (PH: 08 8005 8271)

Day 6: WHITE CLIFFS TO TRILBY STATION Wed 23 Sept 20 (BLD)

Today we travel to Trilby Station. With a unique history and wildlife, we'll fall in love with the amazing landscape and the good old country hospitality. On arrival we discover Dunlop Station Homestead and Shearing Shed with a guided tour, giving us an insight into the life on a 130,000-acre merino sheep and goat station. Breakfast & dinner at accommodation | lunch included

Overnight: Trilby Station (PH: 02 6874 7420)

Day 7: TRILBY STATION TO BOURKE Thurs 24 Sept 20 (BD)

We farewell our hosts and head to Bourke, situated on the banks of the Darling River. After a guided tour of the town we visit Back o' Bourke Exhibition Centre to hear tales of early exploration and the paddleboat trade. We also learn about the local aboriginal people of the region including farmers, stockman, bush poets, bushrangers and Afghan cameleers. We join the Paddleboat Jandra and recapture the romance of the old-river steamers as we cruise along the quiet waters of the Darling River before settling into our motel. Breakfast & dinner at accommodation | lunch at own expense

Overnight: Darling River Motel (PH: 02 6872 2288)

Day 8: BOURKE TO LIGHTNING RIDGE Fri 25 Sept 20 (BD)

We express to Brewarrina to visit the Brewarrina fish traps that are estimated to be over 40,000 years old and one of the oldest man-made structures on earth. The elaborate network of rock weirs and pools stretches for around half a kilometre along the riverbed and was built by ancient tribes to catch fish as the swap upstream. We experience a Dreamtime story told by Aboriginal elders, watch how the local aboriginal children still catch their fish the traditional way and engage with the history with our local guide. This afternoon we continue onto Lightning Ridge. With its stark and scarred landscape this town has a peculiar fascination for visitors. Also famous for magnificent opals, the town is home to the unique black opal, a rare and luminous gem mined from the surrounding plains. It is the only place in Australia (and one of the few places in the world) where the highly prized opal is found. Breakfast & dinner at accommodation | Lunch at own expense

Overnight: Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge (PH: 02 6829 0542)

Day 9: LIGHTNING RIDGE Sat 26 Sept 20 (BLD)

We will be joined by a local guide for a town tour to see Amigos Castle, a huge Italian Style Castle built by one man, the Bore Baths and Coopers Cottage, an authentic miners camp. Next, we experience the atmosphere of an underground mine at Opal Mine Adventure. Here we'll learn about opal mining through a video presentation and visit the showroom to view the opals that came from the mine in this area. We will be captivated by Chambers of the Black Hand where local artist Ron Canlin has created the most amazing paintings and sculptures 11.2 metres underground. There is The Last Supper, Archangel Gabriel and the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. The second level is a mine that has been worked for over 100 years, and all the old shafts and drives that were dug by the old timers are still there. Breakfast & dinner at accommodation | lunch included

Overnight: Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge (PH: 02 6829 0542)

Day 10: LIGHTNING RIDGE TO MOREE Sun 27 Sept 20 (BLD)

We travel to Moree, well known for its artesian bore baths that are used by people far and wide. After lunch here we discover the quaint country town with a local guide. We relax and rejuvenate in the Moree Artesian Bore Baths, renowned for relieving aches and other muscular pains before dinner. Breakfast & dinner at accommodation | lunch included

Overnight: Burke & Wills Motor Inn Moree (PH: 02 6752 3377)

Day 11: MOREE TO ORANGE Mon 28 Sept 20 (BLD)

Today we head to the complex known as Barkala Farm which also incorporates Pilliga Pottery and the Blue Wren Café where we enjoy lunch. The beautiful woodlands of the Pilliga surrounding the farm provide inspiration for the work done here, ranging from garden pottery to beautifully designed kitchenware and decorative pottery of every shape and size. Using a local source of clay, they make their own cream earthenware and traditional terracotta clays to form into lovely shapes on the potter's wheel and then decorate using their own unique and distinctive methods. Whilst here we are given a demonstration and shown the showroom where the final product is displayed. Following some time to look around the work, we travel to Orange for our final night on tour. Breakfast & dinner at accommodation | lunch included

Overnight: Best Western Plus Ambassador Orange (PH: 02 6393 7500)

We have a travel day ahead as we make our way home. We stop for convenience breaks and lunch en-route. We arrive home from a fantastic getaway. Breakfast at accommodation | lunch at own expense

**Tour cost Twin Share/Double per person \$4995
Solo Traveller \$5745**

Tour cost based on a minimum of 14 passengers.

(B) Breakfast. (L) Lunch. (D) Dinner. Alterations to the itinerary may occur – a final confirmed itinerary will be provided with your travel documentation approximately 3 weeks prior to departure.

TOUR COST INCLUDES:

Air conditioned, restroom equipped vehicle travel with experienced crew
Twin share accommodation with ensuite facilities
Meals as per the itinerary
All entry fees to sightseeing activities as listed in the itinerary

TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Travel insurance – please enquire for a quote or to purchase a policy
Items of a personal nature eg laundry/phone and any optional extras/trips
Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages plus meals not listed in the itinerary

CONDITIONS OF BOOKING

All bookings must be accompanied by a deposit of \$600.00 per person
The balance and final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATION POLICY

More than 90 days notice : full refund less \$600.00 deposit
90 - 60 days before tour : 50% refund
Less than 60 days: no refund

ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTION

For cancellations with more than 30 days notice
75% credit towards a future tour

Platinum Journeys strongly recommend all passengers take out travel insurance at the time of booking, in case of unexpected illness or accident