

# Outback Tracks and Corner Country



A 14 Day 4x4 Adventure Coach Tour - 26th Jun to 9 Jul 2012

*Put yourself  
in the picture*



1300 555 899

[www.stonestreetscoaches.com.au](http://www.stonestreetscoaches.com.au)

# Outback Tracks and Corner Country

Lake Eyre  
flight  
option!

**14 Day 4x4 Adventure Coach Tour** (circular trip from SE QLD) **June 26 – July 9 2012**

Corner Country belongs to no one state. Famed for legends and long, lonely tracks, Corner Country calls Outback explorers past and present to make the journey. Towns are little more than old pubs but thirsty travellers aren't the complaining type.

If there's been a rare soaking rain, the wildflowers are amazing. They came alive in 2011 – matching memories of 1974.

Our 14 day 4x4 adventure tour features mostly 2 night stops in key locations: Tibooburra, Innamincka, Marree and Birdsville. This gives our travellers more of a feeling for life in the Outback.

## **Day 1 Toowoomba to Moree 'hot tubbin tonite'**

Westward Ho we go to Goondiwindi on the Macintyre, home of 'Gunsynd' and the heart of the Border Rivers region. Then its over the border and down the Newell Highway into the Gwydir Valley. Moree, known for its Hot Mineral Baths is today's final stop. The Baths reopened at the start of 2012 after a magnificent redevelopment. (LD)

## **Day 2 Moree to Bourke 'footsteps of Henry Lawson'**

We head off, the morning sun at our backs, making tracks for Bourke, once a major inland port on the once-mighty Darling River. The editor of 'The Bulletin' sent a young writer by the name of Henry Lawson out this way in 1892, to give him a taste of outback life. As Lawson later wrote, 'if you know Bourke, you know Australia'. It's where the REAL outback begins. The floods upstream in 2012-11 broke the drought and breathed life back in to the Darling River. (BLD)

## **Day 3 Bourke to Tibooburra 'making dust'**

Now travelling the dirt roads of North West New South Wales, tonight we lodge in the capital of the Corner Country - Tibooburra. Gold was first found in these parts in 1880 and the area used to be known as 'The Granites'. The town's name is believed to come from an aboriginal word for 'heap of boulders'. This part of the world seems so isolated but you'll be surprised just how full of friendliness it is. (BLD)

## **Day 4 Tibooburra 'relax, you're in the Outback'**

Charles Sturt visited out here back in 1844 and Pioneer Park is where you'll find a replica of his 27ft long whale boat. He carted it by wagon north-west to Lake Pinaroo as he searched for the fabled 'inland sea'. The Tibooburra 'Keeping Place' museum houses an interesting collection of the remains of Aboriginal tools and artefacts found around the district. The Outback School of the Air is the most geographically isolated school in the state and the only dual mode school in the country. The 450 million year old granite tors that

surround the town are part of the southern boundary to Sturt National Park. Its north-west boundary is the iconic Cameron Corner, where the NSW-QLD border intersects with the NSW-SA border. (BLD)

## **Day 5 Tibooburra to Innamincka 'inter-pub travel'**

Today we'll head on up the track a way to a former ghost town - Innamincka - which has seen an increase in travellers to the area since oil and gas were discovered in the 60's. It's a tiny settlement on the banks of the Cooper Creek and is surrounded on all sides by the Strzelecki, Tirari and Sturts Stony deserts. (BLD)

## **Day 6 Innamincka 'end of the road for ROHB et al'**

A few kilometres to the east of town you'll find a monument marking the site where Robert O'Hara Burke, leader of the ill fated Burke & Wills expedition, died. Further east is Nappa Merrie station, where the famous 'Dig Tree' can be found. (BLD)

## **Day 7 Innamincka to Marree 'a natural trail'**

We follow the Strzelecki Track and then the Oodnadatta Track, wending our way south and west, heading for Marree. There's Lyndhurst, with its red ochre cliffs and the red dust coloured stone ruins of ghostly Farina on the way. Marree is an old settlement on the edge of the vast desert inland, it's where the Oodnadatta and Birdsville tracks part. This is the corridor into the Outback running north from Adelaide along ancient aboriginal trading routes that took advantage of the springs along the way. Over the years European explorers, Afghan cameleers and the original Ghan railway all followed this trail. We stay in Marree for two nights and from here it's possible to do scenic flights over nearby Lake Eyre. (BLD)

## **Day 8 Marree 'Lake Eyre flight option'**

Marree started life as a camp near Hergott Springs, built to support the Overland Telegraph Line workers back in the 1870s, and was called Hergott Springs until

about 1916. The oldest stone building in town is The Great Northern Hotel, built around 1883. The 'Central Australian Railway' station's huge concrete platform looks out of place in such a small town and you'll find old locomotives and railway carriages spread about. Marree's population dwindled when diesel replaced the 'romance' of steam and then again when the railway line closed in 1980, replaced by the new standard-gauge line through the waterless area far to the west. Learn also about Tom Kruse **(BLD)**

**Day 9 Marree to Birdsville**  
**'up The Track'**

We take the Birdsville Track north, out of Marree, across the Tirari Desert and Sturts Stony Desert, to Birdsville in far south-western Queensland. The track started life in the 1860s for cattle drovers (and rustlers) bringing stock from northern Queensland and the Northern Territory to the railheads at Port Augusta and Marree. It crosses the driest part of the country, a very barren and isolated area. It's now a popular route for tourists and the occasional stock road trains. Marree is where the famed mailman Esmond (Tom) Kruse MBE would set off from for his two-week delivery run along the Birdsville Track in his Leyland Badger truck. Tom and the truck were immortalised in the 1954 feature-length documentary film 'Back of Beyond' which went on to claim first prize at the Montevideo Film Festival and other awards. Many events since the 1980s have celebrated Tom and the Birdsville Mail Run. Tom died on 30 June 2011 in Adelaide aged 97 but his Badger survives in the National Motor Museum at Birdwood, recovered from the desert and restored in the 1990s. We enjoy a 2 night stop in Birdsville. **(BLD)**

**Day 10 Birdsville**  
**'you've read about it...'**

Birdsville lies a thousand miles west of the state capital Brisbane. The town was originally called 'Diamantina Crossing', but the name was changed to Birdsville in 1885. Some say that a local identity named it as a compliment to the abundant birdlife in the area. Records show a population of over 300 at the turn of the 20th Century, but this dwindled following Federation in 1901 when customs tolls between states were abolished. It must have once been a town of customs collectors! Nowadays it's best known for its famous pub and the annual race meeting, the Birdsville Races. The town's water comes out of the Great Artesian Basin at a scorching 98C and supplies a good share of the town's electricity as well as hot water and delightful drinking water (compared to the salty product at the other end of the track). **(BLD)**

**Day 11 Birdsville to Windorah**  
**'we like this little town'**

We wander our way across far western Queensland, to a place in the heart of 'Channel Country' - Windorah - a pleasant little village set amongst giant red sand hills beside the multi-channeled Cooper Creek. It gets its name from the local Aboriginal word meaning 'place of large fish'. The Cooper Floodplain is classified as an Important Bird Area. **(BLD)**

**Day 12 Windorah to Thargomindah**  
**'thank aquifers for outback bores'**

We head further east across South Western

Queensland bound for Thargomindah. This town's one claim to fame is its artesian bore. They used the water pressure from the bore to drive a generator to supply the town with electricity - the first in Australia in 1898 and possibly third in the world after Paris and London. This hydro-electric scheme operated successfully until 1951, when it was replaced with a diesel powered generator. **(BLD)**

**Day 13 Thargomindah to Cunnamulla**  
**'heard about the fella?'**

Eastward Ho as we continue our trek across South Western Queensland. On the way we'll 'rest the horses' in the small town of Eulo on the banks of the Paroo River. 2011 wasn't a good year for Eulo as a General Store fire followed the earlier floods. Then it's on through to Cunnamulla on the Warrego River, the home of the 'Cunnamulla Fella'. If you didn't know, it's a song written by Stan Coster and sung by Slim Dusty. **(BLD)**

**Day 14 Cunnamulla to Toowoomba/Brisbane**  
**'home we go'**

Leaving the 'Big South West' we head home today, finding our way back via St. George and the Darling Downs to the tour's beginnings in Toowoomba and Brisbane. **(BL)**



Accommodation	Tour price	Extra Mile awards
Twin/double share	\$4399	9
Single supplement + \$859	\$5258	10

# Stonestreet's Coaches

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### 1. VALIDITY

All bookings with Stonestree's Travel, Stonestree's Tours and Stonestree's Coaches are made according to these terms and conditions.

### 2. TOUR OPERATION

Each booking is conditional on Stonestree's securing the minimum number of bookings required to operate the tour. Where sufficient numbers cannot be achieved, Stonestree's reserves the right to cancel a scheduled departure. In some cases a tour may be offered again on a later date.

### 3. SPECIAL DIETS

Passengers requiring special diets such as vegetarian or gluten free must inform Stonestree's at time of reservation and reconfirm their request with the Stonestree's Driver/Host upon tour commencement. Most catering for our tours is provided by other parties including restaurants, cafes and accommodations. We will inform all meal providers of special passenger diets where advice is needed however Stonestree's cannot guarantee such requests will be met in all instances.

### 4. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Stonestree's welcomes passengers with disabilities or special needs. If assistance is required on tour we do require that passengers are accompanied by a companion capable of providing all necessary assistance. Any special requirements must be advised at time of booking.

With only one or two staff on a coach and up to 40 or more travellers, we regret that we cannot provide individual assistance for walking, dining, getting on and off motorcoaches or other transportation vehicles, or other personal needs.

On some extended tours, wheelchairs and walkers might not be able to be carried due to space limitations. Please enquire if this may affect you.

Stonestree's may, in the opinion of any company representative and in consultation with management, either refuse persons to join a tour or make careful arrangements to set-down persons from the tour if their mental or physical condition is such as to render them: incapable of caring for themselves; causing severe annoyance to the majority of other passengers; or a hazard to themselves or other passengers. Stonestree's will take all due care to assist with arrangements but not be liable for any expenses arising from such persons being precluded from completing the tour for any such reason.

### 5. HEALTH & FITNESS

For safety and enjoyment passengers should be in suitable physical condition to participate in activities according to the tour. In some circumstances Stonestree's may require a passenger to provide written confirmation of suitable physical condition from a doctor. Some tours may include walks which vary in degree of difficulty from moderate to difficult. Passengers need to be aware of the high temperatures which may be experienced in the Outback. Medical Equipment: Please note that in some remote outback locations electric power may not be available 24 hours per day. Passengers are advised to bring take adequate medication (and spare prescriptions for essential medication) for remote travel and emergencies.

### 6. PRICING

All prices are quoted in Australian currency and include tour preparation, operation costs and GST where applicable. Prices include all on-tour coach travel, some airport transfers at arrival and departure point of each tour; meals, accommodation, sightseeing and admissions as per the itinerary. Prices may include one or more airfares as shown.

Not included are meals not specified in the itinerary, drinks, laundry, optional activities and items of a personal nature.

Changes to flight schedules may require additional overnight accommodation at either commencement or completion of the tour, which is at passengers' own expense.

Tours, as well as included and optional activities, are all subject to availability, operational and seasonal factors.

Stonestree's Coaches reserves the right to vary the advertised or printed price to cover any significant increases in air fare, rail fare, fuel price or other tour related costs.

### 7. CHANGES TO THE ITINERARY

Stonestree's reserves the right to alter or change the accommodation, meal providers, carriers or vessels at any time for any reason; and cancel or alter the itinerary and/or tour at any time without notice as Stonestree's considers necessary for any valid reason whatsoever including road, weather or traffic conditions, non performance of suppliers, industrial action, operational conditions and requirements.

Stonestree's may replace, suspend or cancel any tour inclusion (or option) where that tour inclusion is not available or in the opinion of Stonestree's, it has become unadvisable, unsafe or unsuitable.

Stonestree's is not the provider of accommodations, attractions, travel by air/rail/water, third-party tours (whether included or optional) and most meals.

Stonestree's have used information supplied by the providers of attractions, activities, meals and accommodation venues and have endeavoured to ensure the information contained in

brochures is correct at the time of printing. Stonestree's accept no responsibility for accuracy of information provided by other parties.

During local or national holidays, certain facilities such as museums and restaurants, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited or not available.

The coach crew retain the right to alter the itinerary in a manner to the best overall benefit for all concerned. The coach crew will liaise with Stonestree's management according to the circumstances and extent of tour changes.

Stonestree's Coaches maintains strict standards of safety and reliability of their vehicles at all times, however, in rare cases mechanical failure may occur. Passengers are assured that

every effort is made to minimise any small inconvenience experienced, while we utilise the large network of repair facilities at our disposal, Australia wide.

Where a tour is cancelled prior to the departure date, Stonestree's will use all reasonable endeavours to offer the nearest possible alternative tour (subject to a refund or payment to cover any tour price difference) or, if this is not acceptable, refund the tour price including deposit.

Stonestreets will endeavour to contact clients in the event of industrial action effecting air, rail or other tour related transportation. However if contact is not made passengers should phone our office to finalise alternative arrangements.

## 8. DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENT

A non-refundable/non-transferable \$200 or 10% deposit per person (whichever is the greatest) is payable within 7 days for booking confirmation. Bookings will be automatically cancelled if a deposit is not received by Stonestreets within 7 days of the booking. Final payment for tour costs must be paid no later than 30 days prior to travel. For bookings made less than 30 days prior to departure, full payment is required within 48 hours for confirmation. It is the passenger's responsibility to pay the tour price by the due date. Please ensure payments are made within the specified time limits to ensure that bookings are not automatically cancelled.

## 9. CANCELLATION FEES

Where Stonestreets book travel on behalf of clients on other carriers other than those Stonestreets include in their published itinerary, payments made are subject to the cancellation conditions of the respective carriers.

Required period of notice	Fee per person
<b>Tours with flight/s</b> 90 days and over 60 - 89 days	\$200 (administration fee) loss of deposit
<b>Tours with no flight/s</b> 90 days and over 60 - 89 days	Full refund \$200 (administration fee)
<b>All Tours</b> 30 - 59 days 15 - 29 days 14 days or less	loss of deposit 50% of tour fare Full tour fare

Please note: transferring to another date is treated as a cancellation and cancellation fees apply.

## 10. TRAVEL INSURANCE

Passengers are strongly recommended to take out travel insurance to cover against unforeseen circumstances including cancellation. Stonestreet's Coaches can assist with travel insurance or providers can be found through the Yellow Pages, internet or travel agents.

## 11. BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Due to workplace health and safety laws and in accordance with the airlines, passengers are entitled to carry one suitcase per person not exceeding a weight of 20kg. Personal items such as make-up, cameras etc should be carried in a travel bag which is not to exceed 7kg per person. Where possible use soft bags not cases. Passengers are to ensure that luggage meets the weight requirements.

## 12. YOUNG TRAVELLERS

A child is classified as 12 years and younger and children under 7 years of age are not recommended. Child prices are subject to sharing with sole use or twin sharing adults only. Persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Please note some tours are not suitable for children.

## 13. RESPONSIBILITY

Holiday travel and activities are subject to some degree of risk. Passenger participation in tours operated or offered by Stonestreets may incur certain risks and dangers which are beyond the operators' control including, but not limited to the hazards of travelling in remote areas, travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation, the forces of nature and accident or illness in remote regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. Stonestreets and any carrier companies will not have any liability regarding provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered. It is understood that Stonestreets will use their best efforts to ensure that adequate measures are taken. Passengers are encouraged to make their own enquiries regarding conditions and safety warnings in relation to the destination they are travelling to.

Stonestreets finalise all arrangements for these tours upon the express condition that they cannot accept responsibility or liability for any delays, accidents, injury or damage caused by the airlines, rail, express coaches or any other service the company acts as agents on behalf of arising out of the provision of, or failure to provide these services.

## 14. SEAT ROTATION

On extended tours, to assist all travellers to enjoy front and window seats and to get to know fellow travellers, a daily seat rotation system may be employed.

## 15. ROOMING ARRANGEMENTS

It's fun to make new friends but Stonestreets accepts no responsibility for the suitability of rooming partners allocated for single passengers willing to share accommodation. If a passenger regards their rooming partner to be unsuitable every effort will be made to re-match or arrange single accommodation for the duration of the tour with the additional costs being paid by the passenger.

## 16. ENJOYMENT

Stonestreets seek to give travellers an enjoyable holiday experience and continue to build our proud reputation for doing just that. If a customer feels disappointed with their experience Stonestreets would like to receive their feedback so we can work to improve what we do where we can. However we cannot accept liability for any loss of enjoyment whatsoever and howsoever experienced by the passengers for circumstances beyond the company's control.

These terms and conditions may be subject to further changes by Stonestreets from time to time and are shown on Stonestreets website. Bookings are made subject to the terms and conditions applying at the time of deposit.