

A photograph of four opera performers on stage. A woman in the center wears a black opera dress with a white ruffled collar and a blonde wig, singing with her mouth open. To her left, a man with a beard and a blue headband looks on. To her right, a man with a black beard and a woman in a blue dress look towards her. The background is dark with stage lighting.

Opera, Food and Wine Outback Tour Broken Hill to Griffith

Departs
8th March 2021





\$6,999 pp

Ex Broken Hill, twin-share -Single supp \$830

OPERA, FOOD AND WINE OUTBACK TOUR BROKEN HILL TO GRIFFITH

Welcome to this updated Australian tour of regional NSW, which includes a Piccolo Orchard Farm special Limone Long Lunch and performance by [Co Opera from Adelaide](#), visits to some wonderful historic homesteads, award-winning gardens and the opportunity to share a meal with our remarkable hosts. Be fascinated by an outback life. You can get an insight into the daily life of a working property, take a guided tour of the history and nature of the property, and in the evening after a rewarding drink, sit down to a delicious home-cooked meal which is sourced primarily from that farm.

Along the way, you will visit World Heritage areas and be guided through them with Aboriginal guides where possible. You will encounter Australian wildlife almost daily including kangaroos, emus, echidnas and a colourful range of spectacular birds. There will be opportunities to taste some award-winning wine and foods direct from the producers and time to relax, unwind and to meet the locals. This tour will be limited to a maximum of 6 guests and consequently due to the small group size, there will not be a Blue Dot Tour Leader. Blue Dot Travel has conducted a reece and we know that you will be in excellent hands with your local tour guide and driver Bill.

Fitness Level: Low to reasonable level of fitness required. Some short hikes to be expected. Bring hiking poles if you normally use them.

Many of the roads you travel on are unsealed dirt or gravel. Although it doesn't rain much in the outback when it does unsealed roads are likely to be closed to traffic. Bindara and Mungo are dry weather only. Our touring route and itinerary will be adjusted in the event of wet weather.

Day 1, Monday 8th March Sydney to Broken Hill

Board the XPLOER 445 train to Broken Hill at 6:18 am from Sydney Central Station via <https://transportnsw.info/regional-bookings/> Seniors discount available. Arrive 7:10 pm (CST) Broken Hill railway station where Pauline or Bill will collect you. We strongly suggest you eat dinner on the train as it will be 8.10 pm eastern time when you arrive and the train can sometimes run late. Kitchens in Broken Hill close around 8:00 on a Monday night in the country. Check in at the Imperial Fine accommodation.

Day 2, Tuesday 9th March Broken Hill

After a fix yourself breakfast located in the guest kitchen, we will depart at 9am head straight to Silverton. Silverton is almost a ghost town but it predates Broken Hill as a thriving silver mining town. When the silver was almost mined out, new deposits were found in Broken Hill. There are pictures in the Silverton Goal museum of houses from Silverton being hauled on carts to Broken Hill by camels. Silverton was more recently made famous by the Mad Max movies and just about every beer commercial that features an outback pub. In the 1970-80s Silverton and Broken Hill established a vibrant art scene which was later dubbed the Brushmen of the Bush movement. While its cooler in the morning we will walk on the Heritage Trail to the Monks Lookout. The view from the Monks look out is as broad as the horizon (in fact you can see the curvature of the earth from here). You can see across the Mundi Mundi Plains to the Flinders Ranges. We will head to the Silverton Pub for lunch and stroll around Silverton and a visit to the Silverton Goal museum and visit a gallery. Tonight we will have a welcome dinner (including a welcome drink) at the Palace Hotel back in Broken Hill. The Palace was made famous by the film Priscilla Queen of the Desert. The Palace is now the HQ of Broken Hill's annual Broken Heel festival. Accommodation at The Imperial. *B/L/D*



Day 3, Wednesday 10th March Broken Hill

The entire city of Broken Hill, also known as the Silver City, was National Heritage listed in 2015. Today is a day for visiting the

quite remarkable collection of Broken Hill museums and galleries, including The Royal Flying Doctor Centre; the fabulous Regional Gallery, lunch at Broken Earth Café on top of the mining area, Pro Hart Gallery, the Geo Centre and the Living Desert Sculpture symposium for sunset. Alternately, at any

time you can pull out of the gallery hopping tour to have some free time to wander the main streets of Broken Hill and to purchase your big chunk of Broken Hill silver or another souvenir.

Casual dinner at the Tydvil pub, who are the state title holder for best schnitty! and then back to The Imperial. *B/L/D*



Day 4, Thursday 11th March Menindee Lakes and Bindara Station

8.00 am, awake, breakfasted and packed. Next stop will be the vast Menindee Lakes. This natural flood lake system was augmented in the 1950s with weirs and channels from the Darling River to form permanent lakes which would secure Broken Hill's water supply. Water is pumped from here to Broken Hill over 100 km away. (Note: we have lost a half hour by entering the Eastern Time Zone again). The lakes are also a recreation destination for Broken Hill residents and a home for a vast array of birds. We will incorporate a boat trip on the Lakes (the River Lady will be operating subject to COVID19 restrictions). After our visit to the lakes we will travel on the 20km to Menindee. The Menindee Maiden Hotel is where Bourke and Wills bailed up for some time while waiting for more funds to come through from Melbourne before they continued on their expedition in search of the inland sea. Pick up a picnic lunch from Red Sands Cafe Menindee and head to Kinchega National Park (another 20km) for a stop at the impressive Kinchega shearing shed for a walk through and to eat lunch at the picnic tables. Around 2 pm, drive on to Bindara Station (just over an hour on dirt road). After settling-in we will enjoy sundowners around the campfire (alcohol is an additional cost) and Barb's home cooked meal where Barb uses as much home grown and locally produced organic food as possible. *B/L/D*

Day 5, Friday 12th March Mungo National Park to Lake Paika Station

After an 8am breakfast we will join the owner of Bindara, Barb, on a 1-2 hour walking guided tour of the property along the Darling River and through the historical precincts We will head to Mungo National Park stopping en route at tiny Pooncarie at the Wharfside Cafe for anyone who needs a coffee (coffee stops such as this one are at your own expense). We will take a 2pm tour of Mungo National Park and the Willandra Lakes World Heritage site run by Aboriginal Discovery Tours. Before the tour we will have a quick lunch at Mungo Lodge to sustain our tour of Mungo and afterward the drive to our evening accommodation. The award winning Mungo



Aboriginal Discovery Tours are conducted in Mungo National Park by rangers from the three tribal groups of the Willandra Lakes region. Mungo Man and Mungo Woman that were found at

Mungo National Park have been carbon dated to over 40,000 years old and have led to the World Heritage listing. The Walls of China Boardwalks are open to public access. Supervised access to the Walls of China beyond the boardwalk is available only through Discovery Tours or a licensed tour operator. The tour takes a little over 2 hours. After the tour we drive for another 1.5 hours to Lake Paika Station. At Lake Paika we will join owner Di and Iain for sunset drinks on their lake (or lake shore depending of water levels) followed by a casual dinner at Lake Paika. Your first glass of wine and nibbles are included. **B/L/D**

Day 6, Saturday 13th March Yanga National Park Lake Paika Station

Today, a guided tour of nearby Yanga National Park. The tour will start from your accommodation at 10 am and we will drive the 20km to Yanga National Park. The tour will include Carter's bank wetlands, a bush walk to teepee tree, morning tea at the woolshed, a



guided tour of the homestead, a visit to Cook's cottage interpretive centre and lunch (both morning tea and lunch are included). We will return to Lake Paika in the early

afternoon to enjoy some easy time wandering through Di's lovely homestead garden before dinner under the stars at Lake Paika. Di is a great cook. **B/L/D**

Day 7, Sunday 14th March Hay and Burraburoon Farmstay

8am depart Lake Paika for the 1.5 hour drive to Hay. We will have a half day in Hay visiting Shear Outback (Australia's Shearer's Hall of fame - all things from the golden wool era including shearing demonstrations). We will be having lunch at The Convent Café, then a fascinating guided tour of Dunera Museum where German Jews and other refugees fleeing Nazi occupied Europe were interned from 1940 and Bishop's Lodge historic house and heritage rose garden, Leaving Hay at 2-3 pm we will travel 60km for our night at at Burraburoon Farmstay. At Burraburoon

we will join owners Ken and Tertia for sundowners with tapas (the tapas is included in your tour but drinks are available for purchase) on the deck over the lake followed by a South African flavoured campoven dinner cooked by Tertia (Sth African expat and editor, journalist, production manager and everything else of the local newspaper) the dinner will include Ken's coal-baked bread. **B/L/D**

Day 8, Monday 15th March Burraburoon Farmstay

This morning after breakfast we will head to Echuca to reach the winding path of the Murray River, the longest in Australia. Board the elegant Emmylou paddle-steamer, cruise along the red gum lined Murray River and enjoy a fabulous 2-hour cruise with a delicious lunch prepared by an expert chef on this scenic river ride. Your skipper for the day will greet you as you board the open decks of the *PS Emmylou*. Admire this classic paddle-steamer, powered by seasoned logs of local red gum trees. Relax while your onboard chef puts the finishing touches on your 3-course meal. While you eat, take time to snap photos of the passing landscape and listen to intriguing commentary about the area's history. Finish your meal as you come about and steam back to the dock in Echuca. After the cruise we may visit the highlights of historic Echuca and maybe a visit to a winery before we head back to Burraburoon for a South African brai dinner. **B/L/D**

Day 9, Tuesday 16th March Burraburoon to Corynnia Station

Join Ken (an Ag college lecturer in a previous life) on a stroll through his farm and an overview of local Aboriginal heritage sites and modern agricultural practices. After Ken's tour we will drive to Corynnia Station 1.5 hrs up the road stopping at the Carrathool pub for lunch. At Corynnia Station we will settle in to the accommodation and at around 4 pm we will join owner Bruce as he gives you a tour of their 17,000 acre busy working station where you will learn a little of their technologically advanced farming practices in growing the worlds best quality and highest yielding rice, cotton, rye grass and wool. After the tour relax in the beautiful



gardens before joining Bruce and Julie for informal sundowners in their garden or on the patio (your first drink is complementary. Tonight's dinner will be a homestead dinner prepared for you by Julie. We will have dinner at the homestead. **B/L/D**

Day 11, Wednesday 17th March Corynnia Station

Today is a rest day. After a leisurely breakfast on the homestead terrace spend time strolling in the beautiful gardens of Corynnia, swimming, playing tennis or croquet, reading, photography or simply doing nothing. Lunch will be at Corynnia. In the evening we will sit around the campfire and enjoy a drink. **B/L/D**

Day 12, Thursday 18th March Griffith

After breakfast at Corynnia we head to Griffith. Over the next two days we will take a food and wine tour of Griffith. The tour will include

- a stop at the Hermit's Cave and Scenic Lookout,
- the Italian museum in Pioneer Park (guided tour by the curator),
- a visit to the Piccolo Family farm for a tour and lunch.
- a mixed fruit farm,
- the Murray Cod Sustainable fish farm,
- tastings at a selection of wineries including Calabria, Yarran and DeBortoli,
- a visit to the beautiful gardens at De Bortoli winery with a picnic lunch in their winery garden - individual antipasto boxes lunches,
- an engineering tour and a distillery tasting at Aisling Distillery,
- a visit to Bertoldo Pasticceria and Panetteria for a little something or maybe a homemade gelato.
- a visit to the Whitton malt house brewery including a tasting.

We will purchase some of the Murray River cod fish and BBQ it for our dinner. **B/L/D**



Day 13, Friday 19th March Griffith

Continue with our tour of Griffith. We will have dinner at Limone Dining. Limone is one of most successful of Griffith's many top-

notch Italian eateries, and chef Luke was a 2018 finalist in the Appetite for Excellence award, one of Australia's major competitions for young chefs, waiters and restaurateurs. Luke went on to become the winner of the young restaurateur for 2019. Julie from Corynnia provides Jerusalem artichokes and other fresh produce to Limone in addition to Limone's own kitchen garden. This will be our farewell dinner and will include matching wines. **B/L/D**

Day 14, Saturday 20th March Griffith

Continue with our tour of Griffith and if there is time we will also visit the gallery and studio of Hape Kiddle a sculptor and lepidopterist. Hape will hopefully have time to give us a carving demo and tour of his private studio. Dinner will be a lite pasta or pizza dish from la Scala, a Griffith institution for over 40 years. **B/L/D**

Day 15, Sunday 21st March Long Lunch and Opera at Piccolo Family Farm

An all day event featuring a special Limone Long Lunch set in the gardens of Piccolo Orchard Farm. Your day includes a feast of food, wine and opera. A program of opera highlights is being performed by Adelaide based Co Opera travelling opera company. Although [Co Opera](#) have performed in capital cities and on international tours, Co Opera's focus is to perform in regional Australia. We will return to the Banna Suites for the evening. In the unlikely event that you need dinner it is at your leisure. Your tickets include transport to and from the Piccolo Orchard farm, food, drinks and of course the opera. **B/L**



Day 16, Monday 22nd March Griffith to Sydney

Early start to catch your 9.36am Coach Service 726 to Cootamundra - with a 2 hr 22 mins transit to allow you time for lunch and explore Coota. Then 14.38pm Southern XPT Train 624 train service back to Sydney. The train arrives back in Sydney at 7.47 pm. **B**

Book your return tickets for coach & connecting train via <https://transportnsw.info/regional-bookings/>