

# Outback NSW Station Stays Broken Hill to Griffith

Departs  
13th March 2022

**Blue Dot Travel**

Go somewhere different





**\$6,950 pp**

Ex Syd, twin-share,  
excludes domestic  
flights (and trains)

Single supp \$1,200

## **OUTBACK NSW STATION STAYS ALONG THE DARLING RIVER, BROKEN HILL TO GRIFFITH**

Welcome to our tour of regional NSW, with visits to historic homesteads, private properties, remarkable heritage sites and award-winning gardens, all with our wonderful regional hosts. You'll get an insight into daily life on a working property, take guided tours of the farm, and in the evening after sundowners, sit down to a delicious home-cooked meal which is sourced primarily from the farm.

Along the way, you will visit World Heritage areas, guided by Aboriginal guides where possible. You'll 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 13th March**  
**Arrive Broken Hill**

Fly from your capital city or travel by train to Broken Hill for the beginning of the tour. Bill will collect you on arrival late afternoon. If you arrive earlier, make your own way to the hotel. Check in to the Imperial Fine Accommodation in Broken Hill.

**Day 2, Tuesday 14th March**  
**Broken Hill**

You will find your fix yourself breakfast (which is included), in the guest kitchen. After breakfast 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 Monks Lookout 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. On the way back to Broken Hill we will call in at the sculptures which have a fabulous setting at the top of a ridge with 360 degree views. The sculptures were the result of an international symposium where sculptors from around the world were invited to Broken Hill to turn the hard Wilcannia sandstone into works of art. Tonight we will have a welcome dinner at the Palace Hotel. 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 Fine. *B/L/D*

**Day 3, Wednesday**  
**15th March**  
**Broken Hill**

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 home to 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 the cruise we will travel up the river to Nelia Gaari Station for lunch. Lily and Greg are our hosts at Nelia Gaari which is also on the banks of the Darling River. Over lunch Greg and Lily will give you an overview of their property. We return to Broken Hill for a casual dinner at the Tydvil pub, who are the state title holder for best schnitz! and then back to The Imperial. **B/L/D**

#### **Day 4, Thursday 16th March Menindee Lakes and Bindara Station**

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, and the miner's memorial. 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. Around 2 pm, we drive on to Bindara Station (1-2 hrs half of it 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 17th 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 guided walking tour of the

property along the Darling River and through the historical precincts. We'll head to Mungo National Park stopping en route at tiny Pooncarie at the Wharfside Cafe for anyone who needs a coffee (stops such as this one are at your own expense). We will have a quick lunch at Mungo Lodge, then at 2pm, a tour of Mungo National Park and the Willandra Lakes World Heritage site. 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 18th 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 and 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 19th March Hay and Burraburoon Farmstay**

8:00 am we 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'll have lunch at The Convent Café, followed by a fascinating guided



tour of Dunera Museum, where German Jews and other refugees fleeing Nazi occupied Europe were interned from 1940, Bishop's Lodge historic house and the heritage rose garden. Leaving Hay at 2-3 pm we will travel 60 km for our night 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 camp oven 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. There is limited accommodation so everyone will need to share bathrooms at Burraburoon. **B/L/D**

#### **Day 8, Monday 20th 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 our onboard chef puts the finishing touches on a three 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 we 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 21st March Burrabroon 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 world's 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 10, Wednesday 22nd 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, taking photographs or simply doing nothing. Lunch will at Corynnia. In the evening we will sit around the campfire and enjoy a drink. **B/L/D**

### Day 11, Thursday 23rd 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. First off is a tasting in Bill's cellar at Calabria winery (try the Montepuciano). We then head to the Italian Immigration museum at the interesting Pioneer Park Museum that is located in a lovely setting. Next is a visit to the Piccolo Family farm for a tour of their Visitor Experience Centre and lunch in their beautiful gardens. After lunch it is back to Griffith and a little time to wander the main street and pick up some dinner if you are still hungry (we recommend a visit to Bertoldo Pasticceria and Panetteria for a little something or maybe a homemade gelato). **B/L**



### Day 12, Friday 24th March Griffith

After breakfast at Limone we continue our tour of Griffith (note that we may change the order of our tours around Griffith depending on

the weather, people's interests and the pace at which the group moves). First stop is Aquina Murray Cod Sustainable Fish Farm. Hear the great story of how a young person had an idea, googled "how to become a sustainable fish farmer" and now has a great business

producing a delicious product. Next with a walk through the very surprising and very beautiful Emri's Garden at De Bortoli's winery. This large pleasure house garden was developed by Emri De Bortoli who was a passionate gardener. We are taken on a private tour of this garden by Emri's daughter-in-law Margot. The walk is followed by a tasting at the De Bortoli Winery (Home of the Noble One) accompanied by a lunch tasting platter. Next we are off for a fruit farm for an orchard tour and tasting of the produce. Dinner will be a light pasta or pizza from La Scala, a Griffith institution for 40 years. **B/L/D**

### Day 13, Saturday 25th March Griffith

It is Saturday morning in a bustling country town. We give you half the morning off to wander down the main street, check out the



shops and find yourself breakfast (try the coffee at La Piccola Grosseria). We'll continue our tour of Griffith with a visit to the Aisling Distillery for a tour and tasting of their gin and whiskey. The afternoon is at leisure. Dinner tonight is a highlight of the tour and is 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 onto 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. **L/D**

### Day 14, Sunday 26th March Griffith to Sydney – Optional Long Lunch

Early start to catch your train, flight, or bus service home from Griffith. Breakfast will be a breakfast box from Limone. **B**

**IMPORTANT:** The accommodation on this tour will offer the best level of comfort available. At times we stay at unique character filled properties. These properties have been hand selected by local ground operator Bill of Outback Beds in keeping with our philosophy and intention to support tourism to regional areas. If you are joining the tour as a single traveller and purchase a single supplement, you will receive your own room. However, depending on the configuration of the tour group, occasionally travellers may be required to share a bathroom. There may also be times where the group are accommodated at separate campuses. We will advise you at time of booking. We trust you will be understanding in these circumstances.



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.