



PLATINUM JOURNEYS

## BRILLIANT BIRDSVILLE

14 Days - Saturday 28 August to Friday 10 September 2021

Be mesmerised by the endless landscapes that trace along the outback horizon and feel the excitement pulsing as on one Australia's most remote towns comes to life with the Birdsville Races.



### Day 1: HOME TO MELBOURNE Sat 28 Aug 21 (D)

Greetings to our fellow travellers. We hit the open road with excitement for the journey ahead as we'll be making our way to the iconic Birdsville Races before travelling to Flinders Ranges National Park. We begin by touring to Forest Hill located just outside of Melbourne for our first night on tour together. Lunch at own expense | dinner at hotel.

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

### Day 2: MELBOURNE TO MILDURA Sun 29 Aug 21 (BD)

We have a travel day as we travel across the Wimmera Plains and through the Victoria Mallee to Mildura. Breakfast & dinner at hotel / lunch at own expense

*Overnight: Best Western Chaffey International Motor Inn, Mildura (PH: 03 5023 5833)*

### Day 3: MILDURA TO TIBBOBURRA Mon 30 Aug 21 (BLD)

Today we pass Broken Hill, stopping in at Bells Milk Bar for lunch. This 1950s style milk bar will take us back to a time that is fondly remembered to before continuing through Packsaddle to Tibooburra for our overnight stay. Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch included

*Overnight: Family Hotel, Tibooburra (PH: 08 8091 3314)*

**Day 4: TIBBOBURRA TO INNAMINCKA Tue 1 Sep 21 (BLD)**

We enjoy lunch at Cameron's Corner, where South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales meet, before continuing to Innamincka. Located along the old Strezlecki Track on the edge of Cooper Creek, Innamincka is where travellers and explorers can discover the real beauty of Australia's outback. Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch included

*Overnight: Innamincka Hotel Motel (PH: 08 8675 9901)*

**Day 5: INNAMINCKA Sun 5 Sep 21 (BD)**

We travel along the Cooper this morning and stop at the Dig Tree, the site of national icons, Burke and Wills expedition and an enduring reminder of the pioneering spirit and extreme harshness of the outback. Tonight, we are in for a treat as we cruise Cooper Creek onboard the Kingfisher. Watch the sunset in this gorgeous outback oasis as our guide gives us a fascinating insight into Cooper Creek and Innamincka Regional Reserve. We'll be captivated by the stunning birdlife, curious animals on the bank and marvellous flora varieties of this peaceful waterway. Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch at own expense

*Overnight: Innamincka Hotel Motel (PH: 08 8675 9901)*

**Day 6: INNAMINCKA TO BIRDSVILLE Thu 2 Sep 21 (BL)**

Today we travel through Sturts Stony Desert and see the historic woolshed, Cordillo Downs Station. We go off the beaten track through the picturesque breakaway country to Birdsville. Deep in the heart of wild and isolated country, Birdsville is one of the Outback's most recognised towns. Its situated between the mighty Simpson Desert, the world's largest sand dune desert and Sturt's Stony Desert. Amongst the arid landscape, sits the famous Birdsville Track and for one weekend a year, the town comes alive as thousands descend upon the town. For the next three nights we're camping at the Birdsville Caravan Park. Breakfast at hotel | packed lunch included | dinner own arrangements and cost

*Overnight: Birdsville Caravan Park - tent site only (subject to availability)*

**Day 7: EXPLORE BIRDSVILLE Fri 3 Sep 21 (-)**

Take in the beauty of this isolated town with a sightseeing tour featuring the local highlights. Our afternoon is at leisure. You might like to wander the interesting town, enjoy lunch at the Birdsville Bakery or grab a drink at the famous Birdsville Hotel. All meals at own arrangement and cost

*Overnight: Birdsville Caravan Park - tent site only (subject to availability)*

**Day 8: BIRDSVILLE RACES Sat 4 Sep 21 (-)**

And they're off! Experience a day at the races unlike any other with a weekend of excitement in the heart of Australia. Here we'll be captivated by the day's atmosphere, the thrill of the races, live entertainment, fun run and fashions on the field. We'll meet up later in the day, with hopefully a win or two. All meals at own arrangement and cost

*Overnight: Birdsville Caravan Park - tent site only (subject to availability)*

## Day 9: BIRDSVILLE TO MARREE Sun 5 Sep 21 (D)

We farewell Queensland and cross the border into South Australia. We continue to Marree, the town famous for being the junction of the illustrious Oodnadatta and Birdsville Tracks. Once a thriving centre for transport and communication, relics of a bygone era remain. The local Marree Pub – like to many in remote parts of Australia – is the social centre of this community and is where we'll be staying. Tonight, make sure you look up into the night sky, it's like a blanket of stardust and twinkly stars. It's a true outback experience. Breakfast own arrangements and cost | lunch own expense | dinner at hotel

*Overnight: Marree Hotel Motel (PH: 08 8675 8344)*

## Day 10: MARREE TO WILPENA Mon 6 Sep 21 (BD)

We stop in Farina, once a thriving town that served a huge area with meal runs reaching as far away as Innamincka and Cordillo Downs. We have time to wander the old town, walk through old rooms and read the informative storyboards. Then it's onto the stunning Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park. Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch at own expense

*Overnight: Wilpena Pound Resort (PH: 08 8648 0004)*

## Day 11: FLINDERS RANGES Tue 7 Sep 21 (BLD)

Uncover the dramatic gorges and spectacular peaks of the Flinders Ranges. We meet our local guide who will take us on an insider's tour of this stunning national park. We enjoy a visit to Gumcreek Station for lunch before returning to Wilpena mid-afternoon. We complete our Flinders Ranges experience with a visit to Stokes Hill to observe the ever-changing colours of the sunset over Wilpena Pound. Marvel at this vast ancient landscape from a spectacular viewing location before dinner at the resort. Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch included

*Overnight: Wilpena Pound Resort (PH: 08 8648 0004)*

## Day 12: WILPENA TO BERRI Wed 8 Sep 21 (BLD)

Our morning stop is in Hawker at the Jeff Morgan Gallery. Jeff has created a unique virtual reality trip across the outback that will leave you in awe. His incredible Wilpena Panorama can be viewed from the ground or a staircase landing that gives a 360-degree view of some of the most beautiful country and gives the illusion, just as if you were on top of St. Mary's peak, the highest point in Wilpena Pound. We continue to Peterborough and visit the Steamtown Heritage Rail Centre to discover more about this importance of this outback town. Peterborough became hugely important as a railway link between the iron ore mines in Broken Hill and the iron and steel processing in Port Pirie. In its peak, over one hundred trains passed through the town. We arrive in Berri, a town located on the mighty Murray River, for our overnight stay. Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch included

*Overnight: Berri Hotel (PH: 08 8582 1411)*

## Day 13: BERRI TO MELBOURNE Thu 9 Sep 21 (BD)

We have a travel day ahead as we make our way back to Melbourne. Grab a good book, watch the scenery roll by the window or chat amongst your new friends. Breakfast & dinner at hotel | lunch at own expense

*Overnight: Mercure Melbourne Albert Park (PH: 03 9529 4300)*

Today we continue our journey home, stopping to stretch our legs and purchase our lunch. We arrive home after a true outback experience, exploring the ancient Flinders Ranges and entertaining Birdsville Races. Breakfast at hotel | lunch at own expense

**Departs Bega Valley via Gippsland & Melbourne**  
**Twin/Double per person \$5995.00 Solo Traveller \$6995.00**

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  
One way travel aboard Spirit of Tasmania  
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**