

lawn hill & the gulf

**\$4099ppts
\$1315s/s**

**2 July &
18 August
2010
18 Days**

- Highlights -**
- Lawn Hill National Park**
- Gulf River Cruise**
- Gulflander Train**
- Undara Lava Tubes**
- Daydream Island & Whitsundays**
- Longreach**
- Stockman's Hall of Fame**
- Qantas Outback Founder's Museum**
- Thomson River Cruise**
- Bunya Mountains**
- Winton Waltzing Matilda Museum**



Day 1: Home—Narrabri (LD)

We will depart Strathfield, Hornsby and Newcastle on our way to Thornton for morning tea and then lunch in the Upper Hunter Valley. In the afternoon we will cross the Breeza Plains to Gunnedah and head towards Narrabri for our accommodation.

Southern Cross Motel 02 6792 3838

Day 2: Narrabri—Mitchell (BLD)

We will travel north towards Moree passing through prosperous black soil farms growing cereal crops or cotton. Mungindi on the Barwon River at the NSW/QLD border, will be our first stop before lunch at the prosperous irrigation town of St George on the Balonne River. We will head north to Mitchell where you will have time to visit their **artesian spa complex** for a relaxing swim (own expense).

Berkley Lodge Mitchell 07 4623 1666

Day 3: Mitchell—Longreach (BLD)

Today we pass through Augathella before passing through Tambo, home of the famous **Tambo Teddies**, the oldest town in Western Queensland. Lunch will be at Blackall, the home of the original black stump. After a stop at Barcaldine, the birthplace of the Labor Party and the National Party, this is also now home to the new Tree of Knowledge memorial so the spirit of the Australian worker lives on.

Albert Park Motel 07 4658 2411 (2 nights)

22

Day 4: Longreach—Hall of Fame & Qantas (BD)

This morning we visit the **Stockman's Hall of Fame**, developed to honour the pioneer's contribution to the settlement of the outback. After lunch (at own expense) we visit the **Qantas Museum** to understand the impact of the opening of air services for the outback. Take a guided tour of a 747 or 707 (own expense). Tonight we enjoy a **Sunset Billabong Cruise** on the **Thomson River with dinner, stories, bush poetry and ballads.**



Day 5: Longreach—Cloncurry (BLD)

Heading north, our first stop will be Winton for a visit to the new **Waltzing Matilda Centre**. This is where Paterson penned the words to *Waltzing Matilda*. Lunch will be at Ayrshire Downs. This 90,000 acre sheep and cattle station is new to our tours and has been chosen for its authenticity. Over a BBQ lunch we will be entertained by shearing demonstrations, a tour of the property and cattle and working dogs. We will stop at McKinlay Hotel, as seen in *Crocodile Dundee* before arriving in the mining and cattle town of Cloncurry.

Gidgee Inn Motel 07 4742 1599

Day 6: Cloncurry—Adel's Grove (Lawn Hill) (BLD)

Into Explorer country today with morning tea at **Burke & Wills Roadhouse**, then to Adel's Grove. On arrival at Adel's Grove, we will enjoy lunch and head into **Lawn Hill National Park**, a tropical oasis with rainforest and paperbark trees surrounding



crystal clear pools. We will divide into two groups, with one group canoeing to spectacular Indarri Falls (pictured at the front of this itinerary), and the other walking along the gorge, then at Indarri Falls we will be able to swim in the natural spa, or just enjoy the beautiful scenery before changing activities.

The 2 or 3 man canoes are broad beamed and have floatation chambers and life jackets (Canoe Hire is included today), very easy to use! We will return to Adel's Grove for dinner.

Accommodation in this unique part of Australia consists of **permanently erected tents with verandahs or dongas**, both with proper beds and linen providing comfortable rustic accommodation. **Hot showers and flush toilets** are 20-30 metres from our tents and/or dongas. Disabled toilet and shower facilities are available. Bring a torch as the power goes off at 10pm. This unique accommodation suits the tropical setting. Our passengers each year say the **Adel's Grove Experience is one of the highlights of this great tour.**

Adel's Grove 07 4748 5502 (2 nights)



Day 7: Adel's Grove—Lawn Hill (BLD)

This morning we return to Lawn Hill National Park. Those who wish to experience the beauty of walking around the top of a Gorge can try the **Island Stack**, with great views over the surrounding countryside. Those feeling less energetic can walk around the base of the Stack to **Wild Dog Dreaming Aboriginal Art Site, or the Cascades** where you will see the formation of tufa and fossils occurring. You may wish to try the canoes again, and perhaps visit Rainbow Dreaming Art Site (canoes at own expense today). Those who wish can take a 4WD tour of the world famous Riversleigh Fossil D Site (own expense).

Day 8: Lawn Hill—Karumba/Normanton (BLD)

We will depart this natural oasis and head towards the Gulf, with lunch on the way to **Normanton**, established as a port for the Croydon Gold Rush, to see the early beginnings of the Burns Philp Company, and have a photo with the **largest crocodile ever killed up north**, 33 feet long! For the next two nights we will

lawn hill & the gulf

stay in the brand new motel at the point of Karumba, admire flocks of Brolgas, and tonight join the Ferryman for a **sunset cruise**, enjoying a drink as we view the Gulf of Carpentaria, before a seafood dinner
End of the Road Motel 07 4745 9599 (2 nights)

Day 9: Karumba Free Morning & Barramundi Farm, Gulflander Rail Dinner Experience (BD)

An easy morning today with a leisurely breakfast. Some options for today include fishing charter in the Gulf, chasing mackerel & king salmon, crocodile and crab tour, or a morning birdwatching cruise. This afternoon we will tour the **Barramundi Farm**, feed these giant fish, and learn how they breed. Late afternoon we will board the famous **Gulflander**, a petrol driven tram. Our driver will give a great account of life in the Gulf Country. A **BBQ dinner** tonight on the river looking at the stars before reboarding the Gulflander to return.

Day 10: Karumba/Normanton—Undara (BLD)

Saying goodbye to the Gulf, we will make our way east with a stop at the early gold rush town of Croydon. Georgetown will be our lunch stop, where you have the option to visit TerrEstrial an impressive rock and minerals display (own expense). Upon arrival at **Undara** there will be time to explore the grounds. Our lodgings tonight are **beautifully restored heritage train carriages**. Each carriage contains two to three rooms, with luxurious furnishings complemented by “offsuite” ensuites at the end of each carriage, a unique experience to help step back in time.

Undara Lava Lodge 07 4097 1411

Day 11: Undara—Townsville (BLD)

After a **bush breakfast round the campfire** we will have a **guided ranger walk in the unique lava tubes**, where we take the boardwalk inside a tunnel formed by lava. Lunch will be at the **Three Rivers Hotel at Greenvale**, made famous by Slim Dusty singing Stan Coster’s Golden Guitar Winning Song. Continuing over the range towards the coast, we reach Townsville.

Jupiters Townsville Hotel & Casino 07 4722 2244



Day 12: Townsville—Daydream Island (BLD)

We will enjoy time this morning in the City and Esplanade before passing through the irrigated tropics area where a variety of fruit and vegetables to be grown around Ayr, Home Hill and **Bowen**, also the location for the iconic film “Australia”. Soak up the atmosphere as we pass Airlie Beach on our way to the ferry for our journey to **Daydream Island**. Once on the island make yourself at home in total luxury with

moderate temperatures. You can enjoy a walk after dinner and soak up the tranquillity.

Daydream Island Resort 07 4948 8488 (2 nights)

Day 13: Daydream Island Free Day (B)

Today is a **Free day** to either enjoy the Island Resort and its facilities or join a luncheon buffet on board one of the Fantasea cruises enroute to beautiful Whitehaven beach, for a swim, walk or relax (own expense). Another popular option is a sunset cruise and guided snorkelling tours (own expense). Tonight for dinner enjoy one of the many restaurants available within the resort complex.

Day 14: Daydream Island—Rockhampton (BLD)

Mackay is our first stop today then we continue south through sugar cane farms for lunch at Clairview. We arrive at **Rockhampton**, the beef capital, with some free time, to see the beautiful heritage buildings before checking into our accommodation.

Travelodge Rockhampton 07 4927 9933

Day 15: Rockhampton—Dalby (BLD)

We will pass through Mount Morgan towards the attractive new mining town of Biloela and explore **the Silos, Queensland’s Heritage Primary Industry Museum**. Today’s travel will take us through a variety of countryside, from cotton plantations at Biloela to dairying and farming at Monto. After lunch at Monto we continue through the citrus farming area of Mundubbera on the Burnett River before reaching our destination for today, Dalby.

Dalby Midtown Motor Inn 1800 032 529 (2 nights)

Day 16: Bunya Mountains (BLD)

We visit the beautiful **Bunya Mountains** with their wide variety of wildlife and birdlife set amongst beautiful rainforest and Bunya Pines. After a spectacular drive through mountainous countryside we will arrive at **Burton’s Well** for morning tea before a walk through the magnificent 3-5 metre high Xantheria (Grass Trees) to **Mount Kiangarow** at 1135m above sea level. From here there are amazing views over the Darling Downs. Next stop is the **Dandabah Picnic Area** for a lovely lunch and a chance to sample the bunya nuts at **Cider Gums Restaurant**, photograph lazy kangaroos, rosellas and bush turkeys in the picnic area. After lunch we will enjoy a scenic walk (either 500 metres or 4km length) along the ridge top. The strangler figs are so large that we can walk through them on the board walk. We will then return to Dalby.

Day 17: Dalby—Armidale (BLD)

We will pass through Toowoomba and then join the New England Highway to head south to Stanthorpe for lunch at a local winery. We travel through Tenterfield with a stop at Glen Innes before reaching Armidale.

Comfort Inn Hallmark Armidale 02 6772 9800

Day 18: Armidale—Home (BL)

We will follow the New England Highway through Tamworth and then into the Hunter Valley as we make our way home to Newcastle and Sydney.