

# Outback Station Stays, Mungo NP and the Darling River Tour Broken Hill to Griffith

14th to 28 Oct 2024





**\$6,900 pp**

twin-share

Single supp \$1,200

## **OUTBACK STATION STAYS, MUNGO NP AND DARLING RIVER TOUR BROKEN HILL TO GRIFFITH OCTOBER 14-28, 2024**

Welcome to our tour of regional NSW, with visits to some wonderful historic homesteads, national parks, a long lunch with an award-winning chef, beautiful 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 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. 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.

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### Day 1, Monday 14th October Sydney to Broken Hill

Fly to Broken Hill (from SYD, MEL or ADL) or board the XPT train to Broken Hill at 5:48 am for a 6:18 am departure from Sydney Central Station. You can buy food on the train or take along some snacks for the 13 hour 22 minute journey <https://transportnsw.info/onboardfoodanddrink>. Arrive 7:10 pm (CST) Broken Hill railway station on the Explorer train. 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 (or similar).

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### Day 2, Tuesday 15th October Broken Hill

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 the 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.



Tonight we will have a welcome dinner (including a welcome drink) 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. *B/L/D*

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### Day 3, Wednesday 16th October Menindee Lakes and Broken Hill

8.00 am, awake, breakfasted and on the road. Next stop will be the vast Menindee Lakes (1hr drive). 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. 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. We will have a picnic lunch beside the lakes. We return to Broken Hill for a visit to the top of the Line of Lode mining area and Miner's Memorial. Dinner will be at Saltbush, a local gem. *B/L/D*

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### Day 4, Thursday 17th October Broken Hill to Bindara Station

The entire city of Broken Hill, also known as the Silver City, was National Heritage listed in 2015. Broken Hill has quite a remarkable collection of museums and galleries, including The Royal Flying Doctor Centre, the fabulous Regional Gallery and the Geocentre. This morning you have a free



morning to visit the galleries at your leisure or walk down the main street and enjoy the architecture or buy a big chunk of local silver as a souvenir. The railway museum and Union Hall are also close by and are worth popping

your head into. Find some lunch down town while you are wandering (lunch is not included). After lunch, as a group we will take a tour of the Royal flying Doctor Service and then head to our next stop on our tour, Bindara Station (about 3hrs away), we will be travelling on dirt road for about ¾ of the way passing through Kinchega National Park. After settling-in at Bindara, 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/D*

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### Day 5, Friday 18th October Bindara Station



An early start to join the owner of Bindara, Barb, on a 1-2 hour walking guided tour of the property along the Darling River. Enjoy the soft morning light over the water while we look for canoe trees and other signs of Aboriginal culture. We have a pre breakfast cup of tea on the walk before returning to the homestead for a cooked breakfast. The rest of the day is at leisure before we take an afternoon tour of the property and it's historical precincts. *B/L/D*

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### Day 6, Saturday 19th October Bindara on the Darling, Wentworth/Mildura and Burrabroon Farmstay

Today we travel along the Darling River to its end where it joins the mighty Murray River at Wentworth. We will take a nature stroll to the confluence of the two rivers before

retreating to the historic Weir and Lock (or similar) for lunch. In the afternoon we relax on the Murray River for a 2 hour paddle steamer ride. After our river journey we head to Burraburoon Farmstay. Burruburoon is a little over 300km away, so chill out in the car or take a nap as we roll through expanses of Mallee woodland and sheep and wheat country. At Burraburoon we will join owners Ken and Tertia for sundowners 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). Our dinner will include Ken's coal-baked bread. Burraburoon is a unique property and you are assured a welcome visit, there is limited accommodation so everyone will need to share bathrooms at Burraburoon. *B/L/D*



**Day 7, Sunday 20th October  
Burraburoon Farmstay**

After a lazy breakfast we 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 and lunch at Burraburoon we head to the Hay Cotton Gin for a comprehensive guided tour given by Will, Ken and Tertia's son. The facility is the most technologically advanced gin in the Southern hemisphere and the size and speed of the ginning machines is quite mind boggling. The word "gin" is an abbreviation for "engine". Invented by Eli Whitney in 1793,



the cotton gin was an important invention because it significantly reduced the time it took to separate cotton seeds from the cotton fibres. The cotton gin revolutionised the American textile industry, and the subsequent increase in the production of processed cotton became a pivotal time in world history. After the tour we head back to Burraburoon for a South African brai dinner. *B/L/D*

**Day 8, Monday 21st October  
Burraburoon Farmstay to Lake Paika Station**

Today we depart Burraburoon for the 50km 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 on site cafe (or similar), before heading to the Dunera Museum, where German Jews and other refugees fleeing Nazi-occupied Europe were interned from 1940. Next stop is Lake Paika Station (1.5hrs). At Lake Paika we will join owner Di and Iain for afternoon tea and drinks in their beautiful homestead garden (drinks included). Tonight, weather permitting, we will be dining alfresco under the stars and on the shores of their lake (or close-to, depending of water levels). *B/L/D*

**Day 9, Tuesday 22nd October  
Mungo National Park**

After breakfast we head to Mungo National Park for the day (1.5 hour drive). We will have 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 back to Lake Paika Station for dinner. Di is a great cook. *B/L/D*



**Day 10, Wednesday 23rd October  
Lake Paika to Corynnia Station**

Today we depart Lake Paika for the 3 hour drive to Corynnia Station. We will pull in at nearby Yanga National Park to visit the unique homestead and woolshed. En route to Corynnia Station we will pass through Hay again and have a break and a quick visit Bishop's Lodge historic house and the heritage rose garden. We press on to Corynnia Station stopping at the Carrathool pub for lunch. At Corynnia Station we will settle into the accommodation and at around 4 pm, we'll join owner Bruce and Julie for informal sundowners in their garden or on the patio (your first drink is complimentary). Tonight's dinner will be a homestead dinner prepared for you by Julie. *B/L/D*



**Day 11, Thursday 24th October  
Corynnia Station**

After breakfast at Corynnia Station 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.

Lunch will be at Corynnia. The afternoon is at your leisure. Spend time strolling in the beautiful gardens of Corynnia, swimming, playing tennis or croquet, reading, photography or simply doing nothing. Dinner and overnight at Corynnia Station. *B/L/D*

**Day 12, Friday 25th October  
Corynnia Station to Griffith**

After breakfast at Corynnia we head to Griffith. Over the next two days we will take a food and wine tour of Griffith. Our first stop sounds a bit odd but it is a fascinating place. We are heading to Cassella Family Wines. Their wine brands include Morris of Rutherglen, Brands Laira fo Coonawarra, Peter Lehman Wines and Bailey's of Glenrowan. Cassella's bottle a mind blowing 36,000 bottles



of wine an hour. The company export over 12,000 cases of wine a year to over 50 countries. You might be surprised to learn that the Griffith Region is the biggest producer of wine in Australia. After visiting Cassella's we visit Piccolo Family Farm for a farm tour, wine tasting and lunch. We return to our hotel where there should be enough time in the afternoon to take a walk along the main street. Dinner is on your own. *B/L*

**Day 13, Saturday 26th October  
Griffith**

After breakfast we will take a food and wine tour of Griffith. First stop is the a Murray Cod fish farm including a tasting of this much sort after fish. We then head onto DeBortoli Winery for a guided walking tour of the beautiful Emeri's Garden, part of the De Bortoli winery complex. After our garden tour we will have a wine tasting at De Bortoli cellar door (optional tasting of the Noble One). We will have dinner at Limone Dining. Limone is the 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 and restaurateurs. Luke went onto become the winner of the young restaurateur for 2019. *B/L/D*

**Day 14, Sunday 28th October  
Griffith**

Sunday is a sleep in (find your own breakfast). We will get moving just before midday. Today's feature is the Piccolo Family Farm Long Lunch a truly remarkable and delicious event. Once a year Limone Dining provide a long lunch spectacular in the lovely gardens at Piccolo Family Farm. The long lunch includes wines and musical entertainment. We head back to our accommodation in the late afternoon. Find your own dinner (but we don't think that you will need it. *L*

**Day 15, Monday 28th October  
End of Tour**

Early start to catch your bus / train service back to Sydney or a little later if you are flying . Breakfast will be a breakfast box from Limone to enjoy on the train.

