

**For More information or to
book contact:**

East Coast Coaches

(07) 3200 1628 or

tours@eastcoastcoaches.com.au



Booking Information

Acceptance of T & C's It is understood by East Coast Coaches that all T&C's are accepted by the passenger when a deposit is paid.

Bookings Cancellations and Refunds Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and returning it to East Coast Coaches with the required deposit. Reservations can only be held for 7days without deposit. Final Payment is due 35 Days prior to departure. East Coast Coaches retains the right to cancel a tour due to insufficient numbers or unforeseen circumstances. In this instance either a substitute date or full refund will be offered.

Cancellation Policy The following fees apply according to notice given— 30 days prior to departure of tour, forfeit of deposit only 21 days or less full forfeit. Where a non-refundable ticket has been purchased this will be in addition to cancellation fee.

Tour Costs Tour Prices are current at time of Printing but subject to change without notice for unforeseen circumstances such as, Higher motel costs, Venues closing and replacing them with more expensive venues. All tour costs include GST. Tour price excludes drinks, telephone calls, mini bars, insurance and personal items.

General Conditions Seats cannot be reserved on tours. However, It is East Coast Coaches policy to rotate seats daily to ensure all passengers will enjoy seating.

Dietary Requirements Special meal requests must be advised at time of booking. All efforts will be made to accommodate special requirements such as , Vegetarian, Coeliac Meals, Gluten Free & Lactose Intolerant Meals

Luggage Restrictions Due to weight restriction imposed on coaches for different roads, passengers are limited to one medium sized suitcase p/p Maximum weight not to exceed 20kgs. One piece of hand luggage will be permitted to be carried onboard the coach.

Single Supplement & Travelling Alone A limited number of single rooms are available on each trip. Addition cost occurs for the sole use of a room

Special needs It is essential that you advise of any mobility, Medical conditions, or special needs that you may have at time of booking so we can ensure those needs are met as best as possible. Passengers requiring special assistance are welcome aboard provided that they are accompanied by an able bodied companion capable of providing the necessary assistance when required.

Liability East Coast Coaches while on tour reserves the right to alter or change the itinerary in the best interest of passengers, accommodation or carriers at anytime for any reason. While traveling we shall not be liable for any person taking the tour for a loss, injury or damage to such persons or belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodation, transportation or other services or resulting directly or indirectly for any occurrences beyond its control including breakdown of equipment, Theft, cancelation or changes in itinerary or schedules etc.

Travel insurance is advisable on all tours.

Lightning Ridge

Moree, Grawin, Nindigully, St George

8th– 13th July 2024



Tour Costs:

\$2590 Per Person Twin/Double Share

\$390 Single Supplement

*A \$150 Deposit is required at time of booking.
Final payment due 30 days prior to scheduled departure.*

Travel insurance not included however it is highly recommended all passenger take it out.

Bookings Close 7th June 2024

**EAST COAST
COACHES**

TOURS & CHARTERS

(07)3200-1628

6 Day Lightning Ridge

Lightning Ridge is located in outback NSW on the world's richest deposit of black opal. It's a place that abounds with colourful characters, barrels of dreams, opportunities and experiences! The 'Ridge', as it is known to the locals,

welcomes visitors with classic country hospitality - but they are a unique bunch out there and pride themselves on a wonderful sense of eccentricity. Famous for the elusive and distinctive Black Opal, which is unique to the area, Lightning Ridge is also famous as a thriving frontier town, full of the iconic Australian characters that remind the traveller that the Australian spirit is not a thing of folklore; but the exact qualities that makes the 'Ridge' so unique. As unique and elusive as the Black Opal itself!

Day 1 Home to Moree (D)

Welcome to our 6-day tour to **Lightning Ridge**, the only place in Australia (and one of the few places in the world) where the precious and highly prized **black opal** is found. The black opal has carbon and iron oxide trace elements in it producing a very dark stone with hints of blue, green and red. Completing our pickups this morning we travel through to **Goondiwindi** for some free time and to grab some **lunch** from one of the cafes or hotels. Apart from being right on the Queensland/NSW border, Goondiwindi is also the junction of a number of major highways including the Newell, running all the way to Victoria. From here we continue south to our overnight destination of **Moree**. Here we stop in at the **Visitors Information Centre** for a **tasting** of the local produce, followed by a short **town tour**. We then check into our motel and settle in for dinner. Bring your togs and experience the artesian water at the motel pool. (*Own lunch / dinner in motel*).

Day 2 Moree to Lightning Ridge (B,L,D)

Following breakfast, we make our way along the Gwydir Highway through to **Lightning Ridge**. Upon arrival we have **lunch** at the Outback Resort then collect our **local guide** for a **tour** of town. With its stark and scarred landscape this town has a peculiar fascination for visitors. During our tour we'll view an **open cut mine**, see the **Bore Baths** and **Coopers Cottage**. This authentic **miner's camp** was built in 1916 and is a genuine historical display of early pioneer living. After our wonderful day we check into our accommodation – home base for the next three nights (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at hotel*).

Day 3 Lightning Ridge (B,D)

After breakfast we head to the **Walk-In-Mine** to experience the atmosphere of an underground mine. We also have a tour including a video presentation and explanation about opal mining. We then visit the showroom to view the opals that came from the mines in this area. Next is a visit to the **John Murray Art Gallery**, well worth a visit. John has been kept busy adding to his mural on the outside wall of the Gallery, affectionately named "Billygoat Lane" (in reference to its original name). We now have some free time for lunch (own expense) before an afternoon visit to the **Chambers of the Black Hand**. Opened in April, 2007, this is a unique tourist mine. At 11.2m underground, local artist Ron Canlin has created the most amazing paintings and sculptures. There is The Last Supper, Archangel Gabriel and the Chinese Terracotta Warriors.

Day 3 cont... Ron is constantly carving new work, such as a samurai warrior so there are changes every day. The second level is a mine that has been worked for over 100 years, and all the old shafts and drives that were dug by the old timers are still there. On this level a geology tour will give us the different strata's opal formation - an experience not to be missed. Overall, it is a very unique visit. Our last stop for the day is to **Amigos Castle**, a huge Italian Style Castle built by one man from ironstone. We'll take a look around then return to our motel (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at own cost*).

Day 4 Lightning Ridge & The Grawin (B,L,D)

No trip to Lightning Ridge would be complete without a trip to **The Grawin ****. We'll see interesting places like **The Pub in the Scrub**, **The Glengarry Hilton** and **Sheepyard Flats**. Located about 70km west of Lightning Ridge, The Grawin was established in 1908 with the discovery of the opal at "Hammond Hill". Further discoveries in 1920 at "Richards Hill" put the unofficial village on the map. It was at Grawin that the largest opal 'Light of the World' was found in 1928. Since the first discovery of opal in the region, people have come and gone in tides with each new strike, seeking their fortune in search of the rainbow in the rock. It is believed that a field at Grawin was discovered in 1905 but it wasn't until the 1970s that it became a major field in its own right. The Mulga Rush, which began in 2000, is the biggest opal rush since the Coooran was discovered in the early 1900s. The Sheepyard area was named after a find of opal near the fence of the old Sheepyards. A **local guide** will join us on our day's tour and **lunch** is enjoyed at the **Glengarry Hilton**. After a great day we head back to Lightning Ridge. We have one last stop to make at **Bevans Cactus Farm**. Started in 1966 and now encompassing two passionate generations, Bevan's host the largest cactus nursery in the Southern Hemisphere with approximately 2,500 young and aged varieties. Grown from seeds collected from around the world, many plants are now over 100 years old, with the oldest being nearly 150 years of age (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch on tour*).

Day 5 Lightning Ridge to St George Via Nindigully (B,D)

We farewell "the Ridge" this morning and travel north along Castlereagh Highway, cross the Queensland border to the little town of **Hebel**, once known as Kelly's Point because it is believed that Ned Kelly's brother Dan and fellow Kelly gang member Steve Hart lived here under an alias. Just goes to show you never really know who your neighbours are! We'll stop for a break in **Dirranbandi** in the heart of cotton country before continuing on to **Thallon**. Painted on the town's towering grain silos are icons of the district. Joel Fergie and Travis Vinson's "The Watering Hole" is a striking image and we'll take a moment to take it all in before we continue on to **Nindigully** for own lunch at the oldest pub in Queensland. This afternoon we arrive in to **St George**, located on the banks of the Balonne River, where we join **Sandytown River Cruises** for an enjoyable tour along the **Balonne River**. We then check into our accommodation and relax prior to dinner (*breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at own cost the Nindigully Hotel*).

Day 6 St George to Home (B,L)

Today we follow Adventure Way east and make our way home. We'll stop to enjoy our **picnic lunches** en-route, before arriving in Brisbane late afternoon to complete our 6-day tour to **Lightning Ridge** (*breakfast in motel / picnic lunches*).

