

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

East Coast Coaches

M:(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 30 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. 29 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, cancellation or changes in itinerary or schedules etc.

Travel insurance is advisable on all tours.

11 Day Southern QLD Outback Loop

16th –26th August 2024



Tour Costs:

**\$4910 Per Person Twin/Double Share
\$790 Single Supplement**

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

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

Bookings Close 30 days prior to each tour

**EAST COAST
COACHES**

TOURS & CHARTERS

(07)3200-1628

East Coast Coaches Presents the Southern Outback Queensland Loop 2024

Day 1: Friday 16 August 2024 BRISBANE TO ST GEORGE (D)

Welcome aboard! Today's a travel day so sit back, relax and watch the world go by! In Yelarbon, we stop at the incredible **Silo Art**, the only set so far in Australia to have this unique shape of two tall and six shorter silos in a row. The overall mural concept titled "When the rain comes" depicts a young boy, cooling off in the local Yelarbon Lagoon with a paper boat set to float across the lagoon. The paper boat is made from historical newspaper remnants that were found in the old Yelarbon jail, symbolising the history of the region and the creativity needed to drive future endeavours. Arriving in **Goondiwindi** we have time to purchase lunch before heading to **St George**, perched on the banks of the Balonne River.

(lunch at own cost / dinner in St George) OVERNIGHT: St George

Day 2: Saturday 17 August 2024 ST GEORGE TO CUNNAMULLA (B,L,D)

We arrive in Cunnamulla, a town created by Cobb & Co in 1879 when the first coach drove through from Bourke. Today it is the only surviving south-west town along the original route. After lunch, we take a look at the **Robber's Tree**, last refuge of bank robber Joseph Wells in January 1880, the **Cunnamulla Fella**, an iconic Australian Bush character from a song written by Stan Coster and sung by Slim Dusty. The town erected the statue as a tribute to Stan and Slim and to the 'ringers' of the bush. Here we'll also visit the **Cunnamulla Fella Museum and Art Gallery**. The gallery changes the exhibits often and showcases the works of local artists and talent across Australia. Here, we are standing on the Eromanga Basin, the world's largest underground river that flows beneath one fifth of Australia. We experience this amazing phenomenon in the **Artesian Time Tunnel**. The tunnel incorporates an old mine lift which takes us back to 100 million years and down deep into the middle of ancient sandstone rocks that form part of the basin. We'll learn about the ancient animals that once roamed this region, the "Yowah Nut" and the early days in the opal fields. Finally, we see the **Cunnamulla Water Tower**, painted in unison with the Charleville water tower and represents the two town's Rugby rivalry. (breakfast & dinner at hotel / lunch included). *(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / lunch Cunnamulla Hotel) OVERNIGHT: Cunnamulla*

ECC Inclusions

- Home Pickup & Setdown (Within ECC Pickup Zones)
- Coach Travel
- 10 Breakfasts
- 5 Lunches
- 9 Dinners
- Venue Entries as per itinerary

Day 10: Sunday 25 August 2024 ROMA TO MILES (B,D)

We are joined this morning by a **local guide** who will lead us through **Roma's** evolution, unravelling its intriguing history right up to its present-day development. After our tour we also have time to see **St Paul's Anglican Church**, housing an inspiring display of led light and stained glass windows, dating back to 1876. Following lunch, we travel to Miles. **The Miles Historic Village and Dogwood Centre** is a must see in this area. With over 30 buildings and countless displays this has become an important tourist destination, featuring authentic and original buildings from the 19th and 20th Centuries. *(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / lunch own arrangements and cost)*

OVERNIGHT: MILES

Day 11: Monday 26 August 2024 MILES TO BRISBANE (B,L)

Today we set our sights on home. We travel to **Meandarra** and pop in to visit the surprising **Meandarra ANZAC Military Museum** with its collection of military memorabilia sourced over the past 30 years. The collections various ex-military pieces includes a Grant Tank, armoured personnel carriers, a Canberra Bomber, 40mm Naval Twin Mount Gun and more. At **Condamine** we stop briefly to see a large replica of the Bullfrog or **Condamine Bell** which stands in the Condamine Bell Park in the main street. There are plaques about the bell's history which record that in 1867-68 a local blacksmith named Samuel William Jones invented the Condamine 'Bullfrog' cowbell. It was made from either a cross cut saw or pit saw and tied around the necks of cattle and bullocks. The bells ensured the stockmen could locate cattle and even able to determine the distance of a bullock by the sound of its bell. It is claimed it could be heard from seven miles (11.2km) away! No wonder some of the cattle went deaf! Our last meal together will be at the **Dalby Leagues Club**, before arriving home to conclude our Outback Queensland adventure! *(Breakfast at the motel / lunch Dalby Leagues Club)*

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions. We cannot be held responsible for changes due to closures or inclement weather.

DAY 3: Sunday 18 August 2024 CUNNAMULLA - THARGOMINDAH (B,L,D)

This morning we continue on our way, to Eulo. At the **Artesian Mud Baths**, perhaps soak in warm artesian water impregnated with clay, then pat on a milky grey mud pack and let your skin soak in the goodness from this mineral rich mud. The baths are located in a quirky and relaxing outdoor environment, set within a thatched walled enclosure, the bathing area is complete with three baths and a beef wood shower, along with antique washroom accessories from a by-gone era. Take a visit to the Eulo Queen Opal Centre for a wide range of opals from Koroit, Yowah, Duck Creek opal fields. We'll have lunch at the **Eulo Queen Hotel**, the pub is named after colourful character, Isobel Gray, notoriously known as the "Eulo Queen", due to her business ventures in town and her fine taste in jewellery. We then continue through to **Thargomindah**, situated on the Bulloo River in Channel Country. Thargomindah's traditional source of industry is sheep and wool but in recent times, petroleum/oil and gas have made up a large part of the region's economy. It was the first town in Australia, and third in the world to produce hydro-electric power for street lighting. A 'smart cookie' came up with the idea to use the water pressure from the Artesian Basin. Join a local guide for a tour and demonstration of the **Artesian Hydro Power Plant** then step out on the viewing deck for a spectacular outback sunset (with nibbles & drinks). *(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / Lunch Eulo Queen Hotel)*

OVERNIGHT: Thargomindah **2 nights**

Day 4: Monday 19 August 2024 (B,L,D)

THARGOMINDAH – NOCCUNDRA – THARGOMUNDRA

This morning, we'll be joined by a local guide for a town tour with great local stories and insights. Relive moments of yesteryear at the **Old Jail** and **Old Thargomindah Hospital**, courtesy of life-size holographic and interactive experiences. We then go off the beaten track, where we stop for lunch at the **Noccundra Hotel**, the only original surviving building in town. The sandstone was quarried in New South Wales and transported by Camel Train to its present location. You have to ponder the logistics of this! This afternoon we make our way back to Thargomindah with time to freshen up before dinner. *(Breakfast and dinner at motel / lunch at the Noccundra Hotel)*

OVERNIGHT: Thargomindah

DAY 5: Tuesday 20 August 2024 THARGOMINDAH TO QUILPIE (B,D)

This morning we head to Quilpie, where we meet our **guide** who will reveal the tales of this township. We'll see one of Quilpie Shire's most iconic attractions, **St Finbarr's Church**. Resting on the foundations of an intriguing history, you'll discover a radiant beauty, the **Opal Altar**. After lunch (own expense), we continue back to Quilpie for dinner and overnight. *(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / Lunch own arrangements and cost)* **OVERNIGHT:** Quilpie

DAY 6: Wednesday 21 August 2024 QUILPIE- EROMANGA–QUILPIE (B,L,D)

Today we travel to **Eromanga**, the 'furthest town from the sea' in Australia and significant in the discovery of dinosaurs. We enjoy a guided tour of **Eromanga Natural History Museum**, home to Australia's largest dinosaur, a 95-98-million-year-old titanosaur called 'Cooper'. We also visit The **Knot-A-Saurus Park** to view the amazing aluminium dinosaur sculptures. In Opa-opolis Park, we see the monument to the Opal miners, inlaid with local Boulder Opals. We break for lunch at then **Old Royal Hotel**, once a Cobb & Co staging post built in 1885, before a visit to the Living History Centre for a dose of history and information on early settlers, industry and opal mining. We return to Quilpie with time to freshen up before dinner. *(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / lunch Royal Hotel Eromanga)* **OVERNIGHT:** Quilpie

Day 7: Thursday 22 August 2024 QUILPIE TO CHARLEVILLE (B,D)

Leaving Quilpie, we stop for morning tea in one of the smallest towns in Australia to retain its own postcode. **Cooladdi**, taking its name from an Aboriginal term for 'black duck', was once home to 270 residents. Charleville is the centre of a rich pastoral district and was a frontier town with its own brewery and registered bullock teams. Cobb & Co also had a coach building factory here. Ross and Keith Smith landed with engine trouble on their first flight from London to Sydney in 1919. On arrival we look at the **Steiger Vortex Rainmaking Guns** display in the Graham Andrews Parklands. They represent a fascinating outback story. In 1902 Mr Clement Wragge, a Queensland Meteorologist thought he had a 'sure fire' way of breaking what was later known as the "great drought" (lasting from 1896 to 1902). We have some free time here to purchase lunch before we visit the **Cosmos Centre** where we will enjoy a rare opportunity to look through one of the largest hydrogen-alpha telescopes in the world that is available to the public. We'll get a close-up view of the Sun and get a chance to take photos of solar flares and sunspots; don't forget your smartphone! After an early dinner at the motel, we grab a warm jacket and return to the incredible **Cosmos Centre** to be taken on an astronomical journey through the ages, unravelling the many mysteries of our night sky. Enjoy delicious nibbles and drinks before the open-air observatory viewing of the remarkable outback night sky. *(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / lunch own arrangements and cost)* **OVERNIGHT:** Charleville

Day 8: Friday 23 August 2024 EXPLORING CHARLEVILLE (B,D)

Our interesting day begins with a visit to the **Royal Flying Doctor Service Visitor Centre** to gain an incredible insight into this iconic remote service. Next we are joined by a local expert and taken on a fascinating guided tour to unravel the mystery surrounding the **Charleville airport** and how it came to be a top-secret site during World War II. After some free time to purchase lunch, we continue on to the **Bilby Experience** where we uncover the native animal extinction crisis and their breeding program along with a chance to see these unique Australians. *(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / Lunch own arrangements and cost)* **OVERNIGHT:** Charleville

Day 9: Saturday 24 August 2024 CHARLEVILLE TO ROMA (B,D)

We head east this morning to Morven and the **Morven Historical Museum*** where, preserved on the grounds, there is a tin hut composed of flattened kerosene tins, a testament to outback ingenuity. Built as housing during the Great Depression of the 1930s, these huts were common homes. With no work to be had and no steady income during the Great Depression, many people lost their homes and were forced to make do as best they could. Some built their own huts using saplings for the frame, along with flattened and folded kerosene tins for the walls and roof. Across the world and throughout the ages, people have travelled great distances to seek natural spring waters. Today in **Mitchell** we soak in the mineralized waters and relax as the therapeutic waters of The **Great Artesian Spa** work wonders on our bodies. We have time for lunch here before travelling through to the community of **Muckadilla**. Despite its size, this town boasts a rich history and vibrant spirit. At the **Muckadilla Whistle Stop and Native Bush Gardens** we'll encounter an array of local memorabilia, including a homage to Frank Forde, Australia's shortest serving Prime Minister and local figure. Take in the serene atmosphere of the gardens, where we'll discover the Major Mitchell monument and the Leichardt monument, both paying tribute to the explorers who passed through the region. Continuing through to **Roma** we check into our accommodation to prepare for tonight's entertainment – **Roma's Big Rig Night Show**. The Night Show is an outdoor cinema with an interactive display depicting a traditional oil rig site. The show itself is thoroughly entertaining, giving an overview of the discovery of Oil and Gas in Roma and the progression of the industry in Australia. *(Breakfast and dinner at the motel / lunch own arrangements and cost)* **OVERNIGHT:** Roma