

# Lamble Tours

ABN 25 337 126 257

146/134 Warragul - Lardner Rd Warragul Vic 3820

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## 9 DAYS OUTBACK QLD

&

## LIGHTNING RIDGE

**Sunday 24 August - Monday 1 September 2025**

**FLY - COACH - FLY**

Immerse yourself in a true outback experience and discover some of Australia's most unique outback towns on this fascinating tour. Beginning in Queensland, discover the rich history of Roma and indulge in local food and wine at St George. Continuing to New South Wales to **Lightning Ridge**, home to the elusive '**Black Opal**' and renowned for its colourful characters and fantastic experiences.

### Includes

- Home pick up & return service Metro area & Mornington Peninsula
- Return Virgin Flights
- Coach Travel
- 8 Nights Motel Accommodation
- Breakfasts - Evening Meals - Lunch as per itinerary
- Guided Tours & Entrance Fees

**Cost: \$3,850.00 Per person twin share/double Single supp \$590.00**

**Please pay \$200.00 deposit before 20 June 2025**

AIR TAXES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

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## Day 1: (D) HOME TO BRISBANE SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST 2025

Welcome to our 9 Day Outback Queensland and Lightning Ridge tour! Today we make our way to Melbourne Airport where we board our afternoon direct flight to Brisbane. Upon arrival to Brisbane, we are met by our coach driver who will transfer us to our overnight accommodation. We have time to settle in before we meet again for dinner in the hotel.

Hotel Grand Chancellor Brisbane | 07 3831 4055

## Day 2: (BLD) BRISBANE TO ROMA MONDAY, 25 AUGUST 2025

Today we begin our outback adventure! This morning we visit the highest vantage point in the city at Mount Coot -The Lookout, to take in the stunning views before travelling through the Lockyer Valley to our early lunch stop at Urth Café in Toowoomba. This afternoon, watch the scenery roll by, and get to know your fellow travellers as we express through to Roma. Roma, located in the centre of the Maranoa Shire, is home to the largest store cattle market in Australia and is an important piece of the oil and gas industry.

Best Western Bungil Creek Motel, Roma | 07 4624 2200

Breakfast and dinner at motel | Lunch at Urth Cafe & Co

## Day 3: (BD) ROMA TO ST GEORGE TUESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2025

We are met by a local guide this morning who will first take us to the Roma Saleyards to see firsthand the largest cattle selling centre in the Southern hemisphere on sale day. Through told and untold stories of early settlers, cattle duffers and merchants, you will discover Roma's past. Uncover how the town transformed, the industries it supports and find hidden treasures like Heroes Avenue, naturally illuminated stained glass windows, the Biggest Bottle Tree and the Roma Bush Gardens. We have free time in town to purchase lunch (own expense) before we farewell Roma and continue our journey to Surat where we visit the Cobb & Co Changing Station. The Museum is built on the original site of the Cobb & Co Store and was once the drop off point for coach passengers and goods. Included in the current display is a 14 seat replica Cobb & Co Coach, a 25,000 litre fresh water aquarium and a display of local artworks at the Surat on Balonne Gallery. Located just outside of St George is The Anchorage Historic

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Homestead, a rare example of opulence and grandeur for a homestead of the early 1900s. The homestead was built in 1903 for Andrew Nixon from local cypress milled at Nixon's sawmill. The unique architecture features large lofty rooms and wide sweeping verandahs perfectly suited to western Queensland living. We enjoy a delightful afternoon tea on the verandah, the perfect way to wind down for the day. We then arrive at our accommodation in St George for our overnight stay.

Merino Motor Inn, St George | 07 4625 3333

## **Day 4: (BLD) ST GEORGE TO LIGHTNING RIDGE 27 AUGUST 2025**

This morning a prominent local cotton and grain farmer will host us on a visit to his farm, where we learn about cotton planting, growing, irrigation, harvesting and marketing. Then onto Riversands Winery who will guide us through a journey on table and wine grape growing, followed by a delicious lunch and wine tasting. After a relaxing afternoon, we board the coach for an afternoon of travel along the Castlereagh Highway. We make our way through the small town of Hebel, once known as Kelly's Point because it is believed that Ned Kelly's brother Dan and flower Kelly gang member Steve Hard lived here under an alias. Arriving in Lightning Ridge, we make our way to our accommodation where we settle in for the next three nights.

**Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge | 3 nights | 02 6829 0542**

## **Day 5: (BD) LIGHTNING RIDGE THURSDAY, 28 AUGUST 2025**

This morning our coach captain takes us on a brief sightseeing tour of the town before our first visit to the Walk in Mine. Here we experience the atmosphere of an underground mine with a tour including a video presentation and explanation about opal mining. Next, we uncover one of the more unusual sights in the town is Amigo's Castle. The 15 metre tall structure, based on Italian ruins, was hand built with ironstone boulders in the 1980s and is now home to a small gallery, underground cellars, a corner turret and no roof! We complete our morning at Down to Earth Opals\* who have been mining, designing, and specialising in selling to the world one-of-a-kind jewellery pieces and top gem quality loose opals. We then have free time in town to purchase lunch (own expense) and the opportunity to visit the John Murray Art Gallery. As you view

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the brilliant landscapes and characters John creates, we will appreciate why he is one of the outback's favourite painters. John has also kept busy adding to his mural on the outside wall of the Gallery. This afternoon we are in for a unique experience at Chambers of the Black Hand. We will be captivated by local artist, Ron Canlin, through witnessing the stunning paintings and sculptures he has created 11.2 metres underground. Ron's creations include The Last Supper, the Egyptian Chamber, and the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. The remainder of the day will be at leisure where you will also be given the opportunity to visit the Hot Artesian Bore Baths.

## **Day 6: (BLD) THE GRAWIN      FRIDAY, 29 AUGUST 2025**

No tour to Lightning Ridge would be complete without a trip to The Grawin. A local guide will join us on our day tour as we visit unique locations including all three bush pubs Sheeppark Inn, Glengarry Hilton, and the Club in the Scrub. 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 Coocoran was discovered in the early 1900s. The Sheeppark area was named after a find of opal near the fence of the old Sheepparks. After a very interesting day we arrive back in Lightning Ridge later this afternoon.

## **Day 7: (BLD) LIGHTNING RIDGE TO GLEN INNE 30 AUGUST 2025**

Farewelling "The Ridge", today we venture to the township of Glen Innes, regarding itself as the Celtic Capital of New England and is also known as the "Land of the Beardies". We return to Castlereagh Highway, where we journey through fertile farming land, arriving in Narrabri for our lunch stop at the Outback Shack. We continue our travel west this afternoon arriving in Glen Innes in time to check into our accommodation.

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New England Motor Lodge, Glen Innes | 02 6732 2922

## **Day 8: (BLD) GLEN INNES TO BRISBANE      SUNDAY, 31 AUGUST 2025**

Glen Innes has the distinction of being chosen for the site of the "Australian Standing Stones". These are the only standing stones to be erected in the last 3000 years and can be viewed at the Centennial Parklands. Departing Glenn Innes, we travel through Tenterfield, the town where Sir Henry Parkes made his famous 1889 speech calling for Australia's federation and Stanthorpe, located in the heart of the Granit Belt. We stop for lunch today in Warwick before the final stretch to Brisbane for our final night on tour.

Hotel Grand Chancellor Brisbane | 07 3831 4055

Breakfast and dinner at motel | Lunch at the Criterion Hotel Warwick

## **Day 9: (B) BRISBANE TO HOME      MONDAY, 01 SEPTEMBER 2025**

Our tour sadly comes to an end today. This morning we check out of our hotel and make our way to Brisbane Airport for our mid-morning flight back to Melbourne. We arrive in Melbourne just after midday completing our true outback adventure with Lamble Tours.

Direct deposit: **BENDIGO    BSB: 633 000      ACCOUNT: 162401020**

Cheques make payable to 'Lamble Tours' Address as above.

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

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