



# Opals and Art Trail In Outback NSW

*Featuring*  
**Lightning Ridge, Bourke & Cobar**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – 21st March 2024**  
**8 Days & 7 Nights**

**PER PERSON TWIN SHARE: \$3,180**

**Room on your own extra \$790**

**Minimum numbers apply**

Life in regional Australia, is far from easy, with many towns currently facing the risk of being erased from the map due to ongoing hardship, drought & declining industries. Many of these towns are situated in remote areas without tourist attractions to boost their towns - until now... In 2015, a cultural non- profit organisation initiated the first Silo Art Mural as a project to bring art to rural communities. This project was a huge success with renowned artists transforming each grain silo, street art or water tanks into a story telling masterpiece. There are currently over 300 mural locations across 6 states in Australia. We will just be scratching the surface of NSW on this amazing tour but we must start somewhere!

This is a unique, country experience, that will leave you with many lasting memories of our magnificent country town in regional NSW, Australia.

**This tour includes a free gift compliments of Tuncurry Coach Tours upon final payment**



**DAY 1: (MT, L, D) GUNNEDAH****Thursday 14 March 2024**

This morning, we begin our journey into regional NSW, for a guided tour of some of the best Artworks in country NSW towns. This trip would not be complete without the Lightning Ridge experience which not only has some of the best Opals in Australia but is home to Artist John Murray's gallery as well as tremendous street art.

Today we depart Nabyac making our way to Gunnedah for our first night's stay. Enroute we will stop for morning tea, and then again for lunch at Willowtree. Our first Silo artwork will be viewed at a town call Barraba, just north of Gunnedah. This artwork was painted by Fintan Magee and depicts a local water diviner searching for groundwater. Dinner tonight will be at our hotel

**Accommodation: Harvest Lodge Gunnedah****DAY 2: (B, MT, D) GUNNEDAH- LIGHTNING RIDGE Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

This morning, we will start the day with a stop in at the Painted Silos and water tank at Gunnedah.

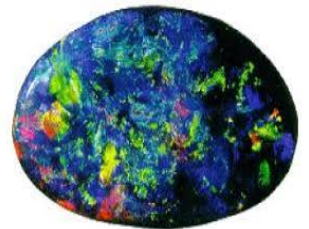
Here we will see a painting of Dorothea Mackellar and images of Australian soldiers from the Vietnam War. Time can also be spent enjoying the local museum and Dorothea Mackellar



Centre. On the road again we make our way to Narrabri for lunch (own expense) before heading on to Walgett and lastly Lightning Ridge. We will be spending the next 3 nights here.

**Accommodation- Wallangulla Motel / Dinner at RSL across the road****DAY 3: (B, L, D) FULL DAY TOUR OF THE RIDGE Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Today we showcase the local area on a full day tour. We collect our guide this morning and head to Grawin, Glengarry and the Sheep-yard areas. We also visit the War Memorial and Museum. A trip to Lightning Ridge wouldn't be complete though without the chance to fossick for opals. Who knows you might get lucky and turn up an opal! Later in the afternoon we will return to town with some free time or swim and relax in the hot artesian baths before dinner.

**Accommodation- Wallangulla Motel / Dinner at RSL across the road****DAY 4: (B,L, D) MORE OF THE RIDGE****Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Today we will visit more of the local attractions in Lightning Ridge. At The Chamber of the Black Hand you will enjoy a self-guided tour of an old opal mine with a difference.

This is an underground gallery with works carved and painted into the walls by the artist, Ron Canlin. This



an experience not to be missed. *(Please note there are 84 steps to navigate to*

*get in to and out of the mine if you choose to participate)* . Next we stop at Bevan's Cactus Nursery where you will be amazed by over 2000 different species of cactus. Enjoy some free time here before we make our way into town for lunch. Our last stop is to the John Murray Art Gallery. His signature style artworks, depict quirky Australian animals with humour and satire all tied in. Lightning Ridge is fast becoming known as the street art location to visit in central

Australia. This afternoon we will have more time to visit the Artesian Bore Baths before dinner.

**Accommodation- Wallangulla Motel / Dinner at RSL across the road**

**DAY 5: (B, L, D) THE RIDGE – BOURKE**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Today we make our way to the Back 'o Bourke but before we arrive we have some other points of interest to visit. Firstly, we will see the painted water tower in Walgett which features a tribute to Jimmy Little. Then we are off to Brewarrina for lunch. Brewarrina has recently joined a growing number of small towns that use murals to attract tourism to the town. Our final stop today is Bourke. This afternoon we will visit the Back O Bourke Exhibition centre. Here you will have time to explore this complex and learn about the history of the town through interactive installations and visual screens.

**Accommodation: Sunshine Gardens Resort or similar**



**DAY 6: (B, L, D) BOURKE- COBAR**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

This morning we make our way to the Darling- Baaka River, one of the most iconic rivers in Australia to board the Jandra Paddleboat. You will learn about the native flora and fauna and history of the riverboat era as you paddle down the river. We will also make a stop at the Back O Bourke Art Gallery and the Bourke Water Tower. Leaving Bourke, we make our way to Cobar in time for lunch. We visit the Information Centre and museum before boarding the coach for a guided tour of town and the must see sights.

**Accommodation: Town & Country Motor Inn**



**DAY 7: (B, D) COBAR- DUBBO**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

For our final night's accommodation, we will be stopping at Dubbo, but we still have more to see before we arrive. Our first stop will be at Nyngan where you can have a look around at the Nyngan Museum and the 'Big Bogan.' We will then make our way on to Nevertire and Warren where we view two more water towers. Lunch today will be at Narromine (own expense). We will arrive in Dubbo with time to relax and refresh before dinner.

**Accommodation: Dubbo RSL or similar**

**DAY 8 (B,L) DUBBO - HOME**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

This morning we will begin our journey home making sure to stop in at Dunedoo and Merriwa to view their silo art works. Lunch today will be spent at Denman before making our final leg of the journey home.

### Pick up Times:

**Hallidays Pt C'van Park** - 5:40am  
**Golden Ponds** - 6:15am  
**Tuncurry** - 6:35am

**Club Forster** - 6:00am  
**Forster Keys** - 6:20am  
**Nabiac** - 7:00am

**Poly Village** - 6:10am  
**Evermore** - 6:25am

### Tour Inclusions:

Luxury Coach Travel  
Experienced Coach Captain and Professional Tour Director  
7 nights Quality Country Style Accommodation.  
7 Breakfasts (B)  
6 Lunches (L)  
7 Dinners (D)

### Luggage:

Is limited to one bag not more than 20kg and one 7kg carry on bag to be stored in the overhead.

### Tour Participation:

It is each passengers responsibility to ensure that they are fit and well to travel at the time of booking and the time of travel.

**Accommodation:** Tuncurry Coach Tours always request rooms with walk in showers and on the lower level of hotels as our priority, however this is not guaranteed and always available. This may mean that your room may have a bath/shower & you may need to walk upstairs.

If you require a disabled room, this will need to be advised at the time of booking.

### Dietary Requirements:

It is the passengers responsibility to address and dietary requirements at the time of booking.

**Please read full Terms and Conditions before booking.**

### Tour payment:

Non Refundable Deposit of \$300.00 per person at time of booking.  
Balance due 2 months prior to the trip- 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024

### Cancellation Charges:

Non- refundable deposit due at the time of booking.  
60 days or more \$300.00 per person  
59-0 days 100% of fare

### Travel Insurance:

Travel Insurance is highly recommended by Dept. of Foreign Affairs & Trade, we advise passengers consider taking out travel insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances which may arise.

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

## **Tuncurry Coach Tours**

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