

7 DAY OUTBACK GIANTS

EMERALD TO EMERALD

Duration: 7 days / 1228 km

Embark on a mesmerizing journey through the expansive and captivating landscapes of Outback Queensland with the 7-Day Outback Giants Drive. This adventure spans 2,100 kilometers, revealing the rugged beauty and unique charm of the region, while immersing you in the rich history and culture that defines Outback life.

Commencing in the historic town of Longreach, a gateway to the Outback, the drive unfolds like a storybook of exploration. Visit the iconic Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, celebrating the pioneers of the Outback, before setting out to Winton, the birthplace of Waltzing Matilda, where you'll encounter the mesmerizing Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry.

As the journey continues, you'll traverse the vast landscapes of Boulia and witness the mysterious Min Min Lights, adding an air of mystique to your adventure. Delve into the fascinating world of marine fossils at Richmond's Kronosaurus Korner and experience the warm hospitality of Outback communities along the way.

This drive is not just a road trip; it's an odyssey through time and space, showcasing the resilience of Outback life and the sheer majesty of the region's giants, be they ancient dinosaurs or the towering landscapes that stretch as far as the eye can see. The 7-Day Outback Giants Drive promises an immersive and unforgettable exploration of Queensland's extraordinary Outback.

Experiences:



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Emerald to Alpha

Day: 1

Start: **Emerald** End: **Alpha**

Day 1: Welcome to Emerald, once famous for its reputation as a major sunflower producer, now home to the world's biggest Van Gogh sunflower painting. Stop for a photo with this superstructure, which stands 25 metres high! Emerald is the gateway to the largest sapphire fields in the Southern Hemisphere, and today you can try your hand at fossicking for your fortune. Rubyvale is your first stop in the Gemfields, and with the digging work already done, buy a bucket of wash to start searching straight away. Book a tag-a-long digging or underground mine tour. Pay a visit to the Australian Miners Historic Museum then take a short drive to the tiny town of Sapphire. If you love a photo opportunity, then 'The Big Ring' 'Big Spa er' and 'Big Pick and Shovel' can all be found in Sapphire, so keep an eye out for these fun icons. In the afternoon, head west on the Capricorn Highway to Alpha, the Gateway to the West. Book a family villa at the Alpha Caravan Park, stretch your legs with a walk around the town's 26 murals depicting rural life in the Shire and dine with the locals at the Alpha Golf Club.

Alpha to Longreach

Day: 2

Start: **Alpha** End: **Longreach**

Day 2: Just 'down the road' in country miles, call in for a 'cuppa' at Jericho and take a stroll around the vintage machinery in Railway Park. Next stop is Barcaldine, known as the Garden City of the West. The town's most famous tree, the Tree of Knowledge, was a 180-year old ghost gum, celebrated as the site for the 1891 Shearer's Strike. Sadly the tree was poisoned in 2006. It has been preserved under an eye-catching timber structure, impressive by day, but magnificent when viewed at night as the original tree canopy is recreated by clever lighting. Spend time at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre where the stories of Australia's working history come to life, then test your musical skills on the large scale outdoor instruments of the Thong-a-phone and Marimba. In Longreach, be sure to download the Longreach Regional Council App to get a heads up on the best things to see and do. Make sure that you arrive in town by early afternoon with time to join one of the popular Thomson River cruise and di er options, the Drover's Sunset Cruise or the Starlight's Di er Cruise.

Longreach

Day: 3

Start: **Longreach** End: **Longreach**

Day 3: According to the locals, Qantas was conceived in Cloncurry, born in Winton and grew up in Longreach. Therefore it's an absolute must when in Longreach to visit the Qantas Founders Museum. Here you can join a guided Jets Tour and experience the F35 flight simulator. Allow plenty of time to wander the interactive displays, which tell the story of the founding of Qantas. Make time to read the storyboards at the historic Longreach Railway Station and meander along the 100-year old platform and imagine the travellers of yesteryear. Hear the pounding hooves of the Cobb & Co stagecoach horses as they gallop full-tilt along a stretch of the original Longreach-Windorah mail route then take your seat for the Harry Redford Old Time Tent Show, great fun for all the family. Tonight at the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, watch the entertaining Outback Stockman's Show, a tribute to the Australian Stockman performed by a third generation stockman. The package includes entry to the museum and the show plus a barbeque di er.

Longreach to Winton

Day: 4

Start: **Longreach** End: **Winton**

Day 4: Travel further west along the Matilda Way to Winton, famous as the birthplace of both Waltzing Matilda and Qantas, and more recently for its world-class dinosaur attractions. Visit the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils at the Australian Age of Dinosaurs and join a guided interpretive tour of the laboratory and collection room. Grab a bite to eat at the Cretaceous Cafu00e9 before continuing your drive to Winton. Visit the Waltzing Matilda Centre, the first museum in the world dedicated to a song. Winton's Waltzing Matilda Centre tells the story of Waltzing Matilda, Winton, and the Outback region. Take a stroll along the Opal Walk and call into Corfield and Fitzmaurice, Winton's first general store. Grab a stick and test your musical talents at the world's only musical fence. Accompanied by a junkyard band, the Musical Fence is free and suitable for all to have a go. Speaking of fences, have you ever seen a fence made with concrete and rocks studded with motorbikes, typewriters and the kitchen sink? Well you can in Winton! Winton is located on the Great Artesian Basin, one of the largest artesian ground basins in the world. You may notice that the water has a distinctive smell, which is due to the sulphur gas trapped with the water. Don't be alarmed though, it is the sweetest, cleanest water on earth!

Winton

Day: 5

Start: **Winton** End: **Winton**

Day 5: There's only one place in the world that has a definitive record of dinosaur stampede behaviour, and that's right here in Winton Shire. Make the most of today and join a full day tour to the Dinosaur Stampede at Lark Quarry and the spectacular Carisbrooke Station. On a guided tour of the Dinosaur Stampede, discover the inspiration behind the blockbuster movie Jurassic Park. See more than 3000 fossilised footprints and the largest collection of dinosaur tracks in the world! Relive this incredible event, from some 95 million years ago, when a huge meat-eating theropod stalked and charged a herd of smaller dinosaurs gathering to drink at the lake. While at Carisbrooke Station, you'll follow the scenic Cory's Range drive to the Three Sisters rock formation, see Python Gorge and fossick for opal. Return to Winton late afternoon and relax with a traditional Outback pub meal.

Winton to Ilfracombe

Day: 6

Start: **Winton** End: **Ilfracombe**

Day 6: Follow the Matilda Highway back via Longreach to Ilfracombe, once a transport hub for Wellshot Station, the largest sheep station in the world at the time. Arrive early and catch the 11.30am performance of 'The Sheep's Back'. Sit back and be entertained with stories of the life of a shearer and his wife, followed by smoko with the actors. Walk the Great Machinery Mile, a graphic timeline of the evolution of the pastoral and transport industries then cool off with a swim in the Artesian Spa. Join a 'smoko' tour of the heritage listed Langenbaker House, over 100 years old and still in its original condition. Tonight, sidle up to the Woolpress Bar at the family friendly Wellshot Hotel for a cool drink and a counter meal.

Ilfracombe to Emerald

Day: 7

Start: **Ilfracombe** End: **Emerald**

Day 7: It's time to wind the windows down and follow the bitumen back to Emerald today. Call into the friendly country towns along the way for a meal, take a swim, pick up some of the local arts and crafts and make your way to Emerald at your leisure.
