QUILPIE STATIONS & DINOSAURS GETAWAY

QUILPIE TO QUILPIE

Duration: 4 days / 0 km

The Quilpie Stations and Dinosaurs Getaway is the perfect family adventure in Outback Queensland, blending opal fossicking, outback station stays, and dinosaur discoveries. Explore the rugged landscapes, enjoy fishing and yabbying at Lake Houdraman, life on a real outback station and uncover ancient fossils in the dinosaur-rich town of Eromanga.

Experiences:

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Day 1 - Morning - Local Favourites and Outback Station Stay

Day: 1

Start: **Quilpie** End: **Quilpie**

Plan for a morning arrival in Quilpie and make your first stop the Quilpie Visitor Information Centre - it's a very good place to start! There's plenty of free parking out front, accessible facilities and a welcoming green space with covered seating out back. Inside, you'll be greeted by enthusiastic locals, keen to help you make the most of your stay. Be sure to allow time to wander the onsite museums and family-friendly art gallery too. If you're yearning for a barista coffee with your preferred version of 'milk', then you can't go past 'the coolest horse float turned coffee van.' From the Visitor Information Centre, it's just a two minute stroll to the Unstable Coffee Van, open from 5.30am weekdays. This tiny outback town is bursting at the seams with awesome activities and colourful in-the-know stories. Speaking of colour, there's plenty under the surface too. Best known as an opal town, Quilpie is the largest producer of the highly prized 'Boulder Opal', second only in value to the black opal. For the ultimate 'finders keepers' activity, let the kids loose in the free opal fossicking area just 1.5 kilometres from town. You can purchase Fossicking kits from the Visitor Information Centre for under AUD10. Let the kids know that the most popular colours are blue and green, but red is the most valuable and rarest. While in town, be sure to check out the famous opal altar, created by a local opal miner for St Finbarr's Church, and let's just say he didn't do things by halves! If you're keen to try some local fare for lunch, amble down the main street to the Offshears Bakery. Their traditionally made meat pies are legendary. Especially given they are baked by a World Champion Women's Shearer! Or, if you prefer a traditional pub counter meal, head to the Imperial Hotel. Local tip. To fully appreciate the opal colours, splash some water on them after you find them.

DAY 1 - Afternoon

Day: 2

Start: **Quilpie** End: **Quilpie**

Did someone say 'catch and cook' was on the menu tonight? Freshwater yabbies are easy to trap (just ask a country kid) and they taste absolutely delicious when cooked over the campfire. Preparation is key, so head on over to Paulsen Bros Friendly Grocer to stock up on barbecue di er supplies plus a yabby trap from the Quilpie Hardware, essential for catching your entru00e9e! Just eight minutes down the road, adventure awaits at The Lake, Quilpie. This 2500-acre property is home to Merino sheep, beef cattle, and more recently, Kalahari red goats. The big attraction is most certainly Lake Houdraman, also known as 'The Lake', popular for swimming, fishing, bring your own kayaking and yabbying. Set up your self-contained campsite on the banks of this gorgeous Lake or move in to one of their self-contained cottages and let the fun begin. Don't forget to set your yabby trap! Local tip. Word on the street says that Yabbies love liver pieces from the local butcher. Grab a Yabbying Fact Sheet from the Visitor Information Centre. EveningnHead back into town for the start of the Quilpeta Night Show screened under the stars on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Virtual host, Q the Curlew is the star of this engaging tell-all story of how Quilpie came to be - the struggles, the triumphs and the multi-generational pioneering dynasties. It's a great yarn for the whole family in a wonderfully relaxed setting. Back at your outback station digs, settle in for a tasty barbecue di er, hopefully with that freshly caught yabby entru00e9e. Then, gather the family around the campfire for stargazing and marshmallow toasting u2026letting the dark outback skies work their magic for a blissful night's rest.

DAY 2 - Morning

Day: 3

Start: **Quilpie** End: **Quilpie**

Skip the temptation to snooze and you'll be rewarded with a spectacular sunrise from Baldy Top Lookout. This ancient boulder formation is just 7.4 kilometres from town with approximately two kilometres unsealed. Walk or pushbike around the base then it's a short climb to the top for stunning 360-degree views. After a hearty brekky cook-up back at the station, join farmer Dan on a morning 4WD tour* of the property to spot his prized Kalahari red goats before check-out. (*subject to availability and advance booking). Fuel up the car at the Old Empire Cafu00e9. While there, it is recommended you purchase some of their freshly made chicken and salad wraps for the road. They're a town favourite! Drive 106 kilometres along the fully sealed Diamantina Development Road to Quilpie Shire's dinosaur town, Eromanga. This is where Cooper, the mega of all Australian dinosaurs once roamed and the Eromanga Natural History Museum has the bones to prove it. Make sure you've booked in advance for the 1.00pm Family Fossil Preparation program which includes the popular Australian Dinosaur Giants tour. There's also a state-of-the-art theatre, Interpretative Corridor, and cafu00e9 with a view. Dino-fans looking to extend their experience should consider the museum's overnight Dinosaur Insider's Packages. As you leave Eromanga, be sure to take a 'selfie' at Knot-a-Saurus Park, an impressive sculpture of a Sauropod and her two babies, cleverly created with 100 metre lengths of twisted aluminium. Local tip. The Eromanga Royal Hotel, built in 1885 was once a Cobb & Co Staging Post. It's a top spot for a meal.

DAY 2 - Afternoon

Day: 4

Start: **Quilpie** End: **Quilpie**

Given that you are now in the town dubbed 'furthest from the sea', some forward pla ing as to your next destination is needed. To get your bearings, Eromanga is roughly a three hour drive south-east along the Natural Science Loop to Thargomindah or three and a half hours east to Charleville. Now, if you've decided that another night in the Quilpie Shire is an absolute mustu2026then consider a visit to Toogu a Plains Farmstay. Located 45 minutes' drive from downtown Quilpie and 25 minutes' drive from the Eromanga Natural History Museum it's well placed for a combination station and dinosaur holiday. This fifth generation family-owned sheep and cattle property offers 20 beautifully presented ensuite cabins and family quarters. Guided station tours and an exclusive sunset tour* to nearby rolling red sandhills (super fun for active kids) are just two of the family-friendly activities on offer. Evenings at Toogu a can be spent reco ecting around the communal firepit under a blanket for twinkling stars. (*minimum numbers apply). Whatever your plans, please be sure to chat to the Quilpie Visitor Information Centre team for local experiences, road conditions and safe driving tips. Thanks for visiting!