



# LIGHTNING RIDGE 2024

## 7 DAY ITINERARY



### DAY 1 THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2024

Day One of our Lightening Ridge Tour kicks off with the convenience of home pickups, ensuring a searffless start to your trip. We set forth, with our Coach Captains Terry and Robbie, making our way to the charming town of Warwick. Lunch is provided by the Warwick CWA, where handmade delights and warm hospitality awaits.

Continuing our travels throughout the afternoon, we arrive at our restful haven for the night: Goondiwindi. Situated beside the tranquil Macintyre River and forming the state border between Queensland and New South Wales, Goondiwindi is a destination rich in natural beauty.

Our accommodation for the night is the Ascot Lodge, offering a comfortable retreat and where we join our fellow travellers for a delightful dinner.

### DAY 2 FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2024

Our Good Friday adventure begins as we journey to our main destination, the fascinating Lightning Ridge. Upon arrival, we gather at the Lightning Ridge Bowls Club for a late but satisfying lunch.

The highlight of our day awaits as we venture to "The Chambers of the Black Hand," a hidden gem within a century-old underground mine tunnel. Explore the labyrinth of tunnels adorned with intricate hand carvings, offering a glimpse into the rich history and artistic spirit of Lightning Ridge.

As the day winds down, we check into our "home" for the next four nights—the Lightning Ridge Outback Motel. With air-conditioned rooms ensuring a pleasant stay, it's the perfect retreat after a day of exploration. Don't forget your togs, as the motel's proximity to the local Artesian Bore Baths and Thermal Pools allows you to unwind in the therapeutic waters. Cap off your evening with a delightful dinner at our motel, With Lightning Ridge's unique charm and the promise of exciting days ahead.

### DAY 3 SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2024

Experience the vibrant heart of Lightning Ridge as today unfolds with a series of captivating highlights. Our morning kicks off with a guided tour, delving into the rich history and geological wonders of the 3 Mile Opal Fields. Witness the scale of opal mining with a visit to a large open-cut mine. A unique twist awaits at Bevan's Black Opal and Cactus Nursery, where we discover the outback's ingenious approach to gardening.

Next, we stroll down the main street of Lightning Ridge, immersing ourselves in the lively atmosphere of the main street parade—a celebration that brings the town to life with entertainment and local flair. Lunch is an opportunity to explore the culinary delights of the town at your own pace.

The excitement continues into the afternoon with a visit to the Lightning Ridge Country Races, immerse yourself in the excitement of the races and soak in the local spirit.

As the sun sets on this spectacular day, we return to our hotel to enjoy dinner together and witness the dazzling fireworks display.

### DAY 4 SUNDAY 31 MARCH 2024

Happy Easter! Embrace the joy of Easter Sunday as we begin our day with a visit to a Walk-In Mine, where we engage in a fascinating talk and watch a film on the intricate world of opal mining. Take some time to peruse the gift shop, perhaps finding a unique keepsake to commemorate your visit.

We enjoy Easter lunch at the Lightning Ridge Bowls Club, offering a delightful break before our afternoon of exploration.

After lunch we visit the infamous John Murray Art Gallery, known for its captivating cartoon works of art and the Bottle House Museum, a truly unique dwelling constructed entirely of bottles.

As the day winds down, we return to the comfort of our hotel for a another two course dinner together. Reflect on the day's discoveries and savor the unique experiences that Easter in Lightning Ridge has brought. With each moment, you're creating memories that will make this Easter truly special.

### DAY 5 MONDAY 1 APRIL 2024

Today's adventure takes us to the Mulga Dumps, where fossickers try their luck in uncovering hidden treasures.

On our journey, we make a brief yet poignant stop at the Anzac Memorial. Take a moment to reflect and explore the historical significance of this memorial before moving on to the nearby museum, where you can browse through artefacts and stories that tell the tales of Lightning Ridge.

Lunch beckons at the Grawin Opal Miners Sports Recreation Club, affectionately known as "The Club in the Scrub." A log cabin built by opal miners, it offers a unique and rustic setting to enjoy a delicious meal.

With hearts and bellies full, we journey back to the motel, providing an opportunity for relaxation or an optional visit to the rejuvenating Artesian Bore Baths.

As the day draws to a close, we gather for our final dinner at Lightning Ridge.





**DAY 6**  
**TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2024**

As we bid a fond farewell to Lightning Ridge, our hearts are filled with the memories we've created and shared in this opal-rich oasis. The journey back home is via Moree where we enjoy morning tea. We then continue East to lunch at the Warialda Golf and Bowling Club, where not only do we enjoy a delicious meal, but we also catch sight of the historic buildings that grace the town, adding a touch of nostalgia to our afternoon. After lunch, our adventure continues to the Olives of Beaulieu, a family-owned olive grove and gardens. Indulge your senses as you taste their homegrown delights and peruse the gift shop for unique treasures to take home.

Our route then leads us to Inverell, where a guided tour unveils the town's history and highlights. Tonight, we dine at the Inverell RSL, and stay at the Inverell Club Motel for our final night of our tour.

**DAY 7**  
**WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2024**

As our relaxing journey back home unfolds, we share a delightful morning tea together at Glen Elgin. Our route takes us over the scenic Gibraltar Ranges, offering picturesque views that accompany our homeward adventure towards Grafton and Casino. Lunch is a pleasant affair at the Casino RSL. The road then leads us back through the familiar landscapes of the Tweed and Gold Coast. As we approach the final leg of our journey, we meet the dedicated mini bus team that will ensure everyone reaches their doorstep safely.

The time has come to bid farewell to each other and to the enchanting memories of our Lightning Ridge Easter Tour. From the opal mines to the unique sights and experiences, this journey has been a tapestry of shared stories and newfound friendships. Until our paths cross again, safe travels and may the memories of this Easter tour linger as souvenirs of a special adventure.

**TOUR INCLUSIONS**

- Home pick up and Drop Offs
- Comfortable coach travel with two Coach Captains
- Quality Accommodation and Cooked Breakfasts
- All 2 Course Dinners
- 6 Lunches (except day 3) and Morning and afternoon tea as per itinerary
- All entry fees and guided tours

**PRICING**

**\$2400 per person Twin Share**

**\$450 Single Supplement \*Limited availability**

\$100 non refundable booking deposit required upon booking

Full payment due 28 February 2024

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

Cancellation after paying deposit - Loss of deposit  
45 days prior loss of 50% of total price  
45-30 days prior to departure date Loss of 75% of total price  
Less than 30 days - Loss of 100% of total price (NO REFUND)  
No refunds on any unused portions of the itinerary



**TO SECURE YOUR TICKET CONTACT**  
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