

Out-n-Back

Arrival Day 1, Sydney, New South Wales (NSW)

Spend the day resting on the beach, shopping or walking around this amazing international city known for its Harbour and parks. Dinner tonight will be on your own. To avoid jet lag, drink lots of water and get to bed at a reasonable hour.

Day 2 Sydney, NSW

Transfer for the day to Bankstown Airport to meet your plane and our crew. A CFI will be on hand to perform the check rides, sign off for your Australian licensing, and conduct the tour briefing. Afterward, enjoy a "welcome" dinner with your travel companions as you cruise along Sydney Harbour.

Day 3, Moree, NSW

AND WE'RE OFF! Known throughout Australia for its artesian mineral spas, Moree is a town situated on a plain of wheat and cotton. It is also home of the Southern Hemisphere's largest pecan farm. The RSL (Returned Serviceman's League) is located next door to the hotel. Better brush up on your lawn bowls.

Day 4, Charleville, QLD

After a tour of the WWII planes and bomb site at the airport, it's off to lunch at the meteorite center followed by a visit to the Royal Flying Doctor's Southeastern Queensland base. A mini tour of the town will have you shaking your head with disbelief at the "silly" notions of 19th Century science as demonstrated by the twelve foot Steigerguns. After dinner and to finish off the day, enjoy a visit to the Cosmos Center deep space observatory.

Day 5, Longreach, QLD

Qantas Airlines started in this small outback town. After lunch, we head over to the museum to see what obstacles this Australian icon had to overcome to service the nation. The tour comes with a 747 wing walk. A sunset campfire dinner and river cruise caps off the evening. Day 6, Birdsville, QLD

As there aren't many options for activities in Birdsville, we will get a late start today and spend the morning in Longreach in order to visit the Stockman's Hall of Fame. The tenacity of the Drovers, Jackaroos and Jillaroos who forged a cattle industry in some of the most barren terrain in the world is displayed within its walls. After lunch, we head west to Birdsville which is located over 1600 km west of Brisbane in the vast Diamantina Shire. Birdsville sits on the edge of the Simpson Desert and operates like some kind of mysterious magnet to people who want to go to one of the most isolated places on the continent. A tiny settlement consisting of a pub and a few houses, Birdsville will give us an evening to recharge and meet a few of the locals. Interesting tidbits: the walls of the pub are over three feet thick and the planes practically taxi to the front door. Ready for a "Coldy?"

Day 7 and 8 Alice Springs, NT

Land in the town lovingly called "The Alice" by locals. Transfer to the hotel and relax by the pool, the bar, or explore on your own via one of the "Hop-on Hop-off" town tour buses. Visit the Central Australian Aviation Museum, The Ghan (train) Museum or the Desert Park Wildlife Zoo. Tonight is the Sounds of Starlight show at the Todd Mall which combines vivid images with didgeridoo music. Since we will be here for two days, our second day will be a ride out to the MacDonnell Ranges. How does a sunset dinner and a camel ride sound?

Day 9, Yulara (Ayers Rock/Uluru)

Touch down in Yulara early enough in the day to see Uluru as an orange-red mound that grows darker red as the heat of the day warms the surface. Tours are available to see the Rock close up or you can snap a shot as we fly over. It is still possible to climb to the top, but only those in top physical condition should endeavor the ascent. Should you decide not to climb the rock, you should make an effort to see the cave drawings scattered around its base. Dinner tonight is at sunset, with Uluru as your backdrop. Spectacular. Day 10, Coober Pedy

If Lightning Ridge is famous for its black opals, then Coober Pedy is famous for all others. Eight varieties as a matter of fact. Stay in the world's only underground 5 star motel, see the World's Largest Didgeridoo's Opal mine and museum and an underground pottery. And, of course, go shopping for that perfect opal.

Day 11 Broken Hill, NSW (via a fuel stop) in Leigh Creek

Due to the remoteness of the Outback and the special permission required by the military to land at Woomera, we have adjusted our tour to head straight to Broken Hill also known as the "Silver City." It holds the largest silver, lead and zinc lodes in the world. Have your photo taken by the 375 mile fence "Dingo Fence."

Day 12 Griffith, NSW

Welcome back to green country! After landing in we are stop off for a quick lunch at the Catania Fruit Salad farm before heading to award winning Casella Wineries, home to the number one selling wine in America: Yellowtail.

Day 13 and 14 Cessnock, NSW

The Hunter Valley is renowned for wines and beauty. Our two day stay will allow pilots to savor a drop of local fare as well. Visit wineries, a cheese factory, a chocolate shop, an olive farm and a local micro brewery all from the comfort of a splendid horse drawn carriage. If golf is a favorite pastime, there are two 18-hole championship courses in town.

Day 15 Sydney, NSW

It is only a short hop from Cessnock to Bankstown Airport. With ATC approval, as a special treat en-route to Bankstown: a scenic Sydney Harbour flight path at low altitude. Despite the tour being officially over once we land, Australian Air Safaris would be happy to assist in arranging activities for you for the day. Transportation back to the hotel is already prearranged as is the farewell dinner for the group tonight.