DINOSAUR COUNTRY
AN OUTBACK, RAIL, HERITAGE AND PALAEONTOLOGY ADVENTURE

With Chris Harding
31 August - 10 September 2021

• BRISBANE • LONGREACH • WINTON • RICHMOND • CHARTERS TOWERS • TOWNSVILLE •

Sunset at Australian Age of Dinosaurs - Credit PIRIE BATH PHOTOGRAPHY
INTRODUCTION

It's hard to imagine Outback Queensland as an inland sea surrounded by lush steamy forests of Cycads, Ferns and oversized Lichens. It's equally hard to imagine giant lumbering dinosaurs herding across the landscape with vicious carnivorous Theropods hot on their heels and seas teaming with strange primitive sharks and monstrous Kronosaurs, 10-metre-long killers, unique to the region. The ancient history of Queensland is even more surreal as you wander the chiselled dry, dusty, weather worn landscape that greets you today. The world is a dynamic place and a tour that explores more than just the recent history of this land is bound to stimulate your imagination.

This special themed adventure from Brisbane to the Dinosaur country in the heart of the state and back to the Coral Coast at Townsville offers a variety of experiences, combining highlights from our other Queensland tours with new destinations and a swag of interesting experiences. From the striking new museums such as the wonderful ‘Age of Dinosaurs’ at Winton and the Lark Quarry, the largest dinosaur run in the world, to the story of the Great Barrier Reef and Magnetic Island and the rural and mining heritage of places like Longreach, Winton and Charters Towers. While you'll be entranced by the unique palaeontology, you will also delight in the variety to be had on this special adventure by classic overnight sleeper train, to Australia's inland sea and crystal coast.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Overnight journey on the Spirit of the Outback in first-class sleepers with dinner, breakfast and lunch next day provided
• Visit the Stockman’s Hall of Fame and Qantas Founders Museum
• Soak up the wonders of the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument
• The services of your special driver/guide Viki for most of the journey
• Explore exceptional Dinosaur museums in Winton, Richmond and Hughenden
• Special evening fossil digs and paleo themed dinner at the Age of Dinosaurs
• Soak up the old gold story and stamper battery display at Charters Towers
• Explore tropical Townsville with visits to Reef HQ Aquarium and Magnetic Island
• A gentle pace, many meals and the best accommodation available on tour

MEET YOUR TOUR LEADER

CHRIS HARDING

Chris Harding is Vice President of the Australian Railway Historical Society, NSW Division. Chris fell under the spell of rail as a child, when he would walk from his home in the Sydney suburb of Belmore to watch trains in action at the Enfield Railway Yards, then home to over 300 steam locomotives. Although side-tracked by a high-flying career in the banking industry, Chris continued to have an active interest in railway history as a tour guide and office-bearer at the NSW Rail Transport Museum, Thirlmere. After leaving the banking world, Chris had the opportunity to pursue his passion full-time, first working for 3801 Limited, the operating company of the famous steam locomotive 3801, and later managing the ARHS Railway Bookshop at Sydney’s Central Station. He also became a popular media contact for commentary on historic and current railway events, frequently appearing on talkback radio and television programs. Although retired, Chris still enjoys working with his mate and founder of Railway Adventures, Scott McGregor, hosting many railway adventures in Australia and Europe.
WHY TRAVEL WITH US

The joy of travel is not confined to the destination. How you travel is a large and important part of the experience. Railway Adventures offers a truly unique perspective on some of the world’s most spectacular holiday destinations, with the confidence that the journey will be just as magical and memorable as what you find at the end of the line.

WITH US, YOU CAN CONFIDENTLY EXPECT:

• **Small group sizes** — a small number of passengers per trip guarantees an intimate experience with less time spent queuing, more time with your guide, and better access to sightseeing destinations.

• **Unique itineraries** — each itinerary has been meticulously developed by a team of expert travellers with many years’ experience, an intimate knowledge of the destination, and with great cultural awareness. You are guaranteed to experience the best that each destination has to offer.

• **Authentic local experiences** — whether it’s a little-known yet impressive steam railway, a small boutique hotel or an authentic restaurant, know that you will experience something special on our tours.

• **Expert local guides and local operators** — we employ local guides to share their passion and knowledge of the place they call home, while our partners on the ground provide the best possible support and backup all the way.

• **Customer satisfaction** — our testimonials speak for themselves. Thousands have travelled with us over the years and many come back year after year, often bringing friends along. Our customer satisfaction ratings show that over 97% would recommend us to others and/or travel with us again.

• **Fully-escorted** — our tour leaders are experienced and capable, entertaining and considerate, and together with our local guides have your needs well covered. They help with everything along the way, providing peace of mind, and enabling you to relax and enjoy the journey. And you’ll find them jolly good company to boot!

SOME WAYS YOU’LL TRAVEL

We have selected a variety of highly acclaimed and unusual train trips, private luxury coaches for off-train travel, and other appealing ways of exploring this fascinating and ancient land. Here are just a few:

- [Spirit of the Outback Train](image)
- [Red Dirt Tours](image)
- [Magnetic Island Ferry](image)
Day 1 • Tuesday 31 August: BRISBANE – LONGREACH
To start our adventure, enjoy an afternoon welcome reception in the KG bar of the Mercure Hotel in Brisbane, right beside the iconic Roma Street Station. We recommend that you arrive at the hotel in Brisbane no later than 3PM. Meet your tour leader as well as your fellow travellers while enjoying a beverage and canapes before heading to the platform for our date with the Spirit of the Outback. After checking in and locating your sleeping berth, relax and settle in for our 6.10 pm departure.
From the comfort of your air-conditioned, first-class sleeping berth you will enjoy a fascinating journey from Brisbane to Longreach. A chef-prepared dinner is served in the train’s “Tuckerbox” dining car and afterwards you can unwind in the “Shearers Rest” lounge car as evening descends on our northbound train.
Overnight: On board the Spirit of the Outback (D)

Day 2 • Wednesday 1 September: LONGREACH
Wake up to a vista of the Central Ranges, while towns like Bluff, Blackwater and Emerald roll by as we enjoy our cooked breakfast. Soak up the ever-changing landscape as we head further into the heart of the Queensland outback, passing sleepy Central Queensland towns like Alpha, Jericho and Barcaldine in the afternoon, leading to our destination of Longreach at 7.15 pm.
Named after the “long reach” of the Thomson River, the town had only been gazetted for five years when the railway arrived in 1892. Longreach is situated right on the Tropic of Capricorn and has a population of just over 3,000, boosted by travellers who come to see the great museums, notably the Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame and the Qantas Founders Museum.
Overnight: Albert Park Motel, (or similar), Longreach (B, L, D)

Day 3 • Thursday 2 September: LONGREACH – WINTON
After breakfast, we take the short stroll to the Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame, Australia’s premier outback heritage institution. Explore the museum, which showcases an eclectic mix of objects touchscreens, open displays, photographs, artworks and audio-visual presentations. After a live show we have time for lunch at the Hall of Fame café.
After lunch we will head on foot to the Qantas Founders Museum. The museum tells the story of the four key figures who founded Qantas and highlights what life was like in Queensland in the 1920s. We will also attend a 1½-hour Jet Tour for a behind-the-scenes look at both a 747 and 707.
In the afternoon, we board our private coach from Red Dirt Tours to take us the 180 kilometres to Winton and check in to our hotel. This evening you will enjoy dinner in the hotel’s authentic retro dining room.
Overnight: North Gregory Hotel (or similar), Winton (B, D)

Day 4 • Friday 3 September: WINTON
This morning after breakfast at the hotel we begin the exploration of Australia’s rich Dinosaur legacy. Viki from Red Dirt is on hand once again to take us on a guided tour of the wild country to the west of Winton, leading us across the outback to the exceptional Lark Quarry National Monument. It was here that the world’s best preserved fossil proof of a Dinosaur stampede was discovered by the local station manager in the 1960’s. Your time here includes a guided tour, a film and some time for lunch. Back at Winton, a somewhat more recent history is on show with a visit to the Waltzing Matilda Centre, the first museum in the world dedicated to a song. The rest of the afternoon and evening are yours at leisure.
Overnight: North Gregory Hotel (or similar), Winton (B, L)

Day 5 • Saturday 4 September: WINTON
This morning, enjoy free time to explore the classic outback town of Winton. You may wish to visit the heritage truck and machinery museum, check out the famous boulder opals and wander the streets that feature many interesting heritage buildings and interesting shops. After lunch on your own Viki will pick you up for the drive out visit the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum. Here you will have plenty of time to wander the displays and our guide will show us around and host the walk-through Dino Canyon.
To cap off the day we enjoy and early dinner at Age Of Dinosaurs and visit the new Observatory which has only just opened and is a great addition to the Outback story. The rest of the evening back in town is at leisure.
Overnight: North Gregory Hotel (or similar), Winton (B, D)
Day 6 • Sunday 5 September: WINTON – RICHMOND
Today we continue our exploration along Australia's Dinosaur Trail in Queensland's Outback a few hours north to the town of Richmond. Along the way we talk about the Outback Landscape and its defining feature which is home to so many of the fossil records and Dinosaur story – the great Inland Sea. At Richmond you have time to relax and have lunch after which we head to Kronosaurus Korner, Richmond's main attraction and Australia's premier marine fossil museum. In the late afternoon you have the option to join in on a field trip to fossick for fossils at a local site followed by dinner in the hotel's popular restaurant
Overnight: Ammonite Inn (or similar), Richmond (B, L, D)

Day 7 • Monday 6 September: RICHMOND – HUGHENDEN – CHARTERS TOWERS
Departing first thing we hit the highway, the Flinders' Way that is, heading east along the Dinosaur trail to the town of Hughenden. Here we take time to explore the Flinders Discovery Centre which is well stocked with fascinating specimens but houses heaps more than just Dinosaurs. To follow up this theme and complete the Dinosaur story, we take time to do some of our own fossil fossicking just a short way out of town after which you have some free time at the Windmill Café to freshen up before continuing onto Charters Towers a few hours further east along the Flinders Highway.
We arrive in the late afternoon and settle into our hotel for the next 2 nights. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.
Overnight: Cattleman's Rest Motor Inn (or similar), Charters Towers (B, L, D)

Day 8 • Tuesday 7 September: CHARTERS TOWERS
Our day in 'The Towers' starts with a guided walk of the heritage buildings in the heart of town. The Arcade where one of Australia's most volatile Stock Exchanges operated in the boom times of the 1890's. Later in the morning we head a short way out of town to the Venus Gold Battery for a guided tour of the largest surviving Battery in Queensland. Built in 1872, this mill provided gold extraction facilities to miners for over a century. The huge "stampers" pounded away through the day and night extracting the precious gold from quartz up until 1973. The afternoon free to take an optional tour via the Burdekin River to the National Trust Gold Rush town of Ravenswood, here you can enjoy a guided walking tour of the compact historic townscape. Back in Charters Towers the evening is free at leisure.
Overnight: Cattleman's Rest Motor Inn (or similar), Charters Towers (B, L)

Day 9 • Wednesday 8 September: CHARTERS TOWERS – TOWNSVILLE
This morning heading west we travel to Townsville to begin a day exploring the city and its unique setting nestled as it does at the base of Castle Rock. On arrival take a tour of the Army Museum of Queensland located in the beautiful Jezzine Barracks. The museum collects objects and stories relating to the history of the Australian Army in North Queensland. After lunch at the esplanade you have time to visit the Reef HQ, the world's largest living coral reef aquarium. We then check into your centrally located hotel and an evening at leisure.
Overnight: Grand Chancellor Hotel, (or similar), Townsville (B)

Day 10 • Thursday 9 September: TOWNSVILLE
We start the day with a ferry cruise to wonderful Magnetic Island. Upon arrival the island tour coach takes us to experience the history and landscape of the island. Observe some of the wonderful wildlife and enjoy the scenery of this unique island. Lunch will be on your own at a selection or places at Horseshoe Bay after which there will be time to relax and walk on the island before our return ferry cruise. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner.
Overnight: Grand Chancellor Hotel, (or similar), Townsville (B, D)

Day 11 • Friday 10 September: TOWNSVILLE (B)
After breakfast this morning our tour comes to an end. Transfers to the airport for flight home, or onward for another adventures.
WHAT’S INCLUDED

• 10 nights in comfortable, centrally located accommodation
• Daily breakfast, 5 lunches and 7 dinners
• Drinks included with welcome and farewell dinners
• Comfortable chartered coach for transfers and excursions
• Comprehensive sightseeing with expert local guides
• All excursions and entrance fees to attractions, as listed in the itinerary
• Tipping and gratuities

WHAT WE DON’T INCLUDE

• Meals and services not mentioned in itinerary
• All other personal expenses such as drinks, phone calls, laundry services, camera fees where applicable
• Excursions listed as optional and extra in the brochure
• Flights.

FITNESS RATING

🪳 One ‘Loco’ - fitness rating
HOW TO BOOK
Download a booking form from our website and follow the easy steps to getting on board. Alternatively, contact us on 1300 800 977 or info@railwayadventures.com if you’d prefer a form be sent to you. Complete the form and submit it, along with your $1000 pp deposit to secure your place on the tour.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
We endeavour to have all the details of our tours correct at the time of printing. However, sometimes factors beyond our control may affect the final inclusions and prices. These factors may include, but not be limited to; significant fluctuations in currency exchange rates, individual hotel/restaurant decisions that may affect bookings; weather events forcing a change of itinerary; unexpected trackwork on rail lines, unexpected closure of site attractions and so forth. Therefore, items mentioned in the brochure such as quoted prices, hotels and inclusions are subject to change. If a change is imposed on us, we will endeavour to ensure the substitute is of the same quality that you’ve paid for.

TOUR PACE / LEVEL OF FITNESS:
Our itineraries are designed to make the most of each destination, so a reasonable amount of activity is built into most days, which is why we call them adventures. Our philosophy is to offer you the best experience possible, while leaving you, our guest, the flexibility to pace yourself and choose how much or how little you want to do. Each Railway Adventures tour incorporates periods of free time for your own exploration and relaxation.

While you don’t need to be a ‘gym junky’, a reasonable level of fitness is required for most of our tours. The ability to manage your own luggage, get on and off all manner of trains and coaches, walk for extended periods, stand comfortably, and climb steps and stairs will ensure you get the maximum enjoyment from your adventure.

ADDITIONAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
In addition to assisting with flight suggestions and bookings, we can also give you some ideas of what you could do before and after your Railway Adventure. We can also organise your all-important Travel Insurance for you. Call our office on 1300 800 977 if you would like to discuss options.

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS
We have suggested flights for this itinerary depending on your departure point from Australia, any preferred stopovers en-route and/or your planned pre- and post-tour activities. We can also investigate your preferred airline and offer you a solution based on connection times and prices. Contact 1300 800 977 to discuss your options.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
For more information on factors such as travel insurance requirements, fitness levels, fees and charges, tour cancellations, payment schedules and so on, please refer to our Terms and Conditions, which accompany the booking form. They can also be found on our website.

SOME PLACES YOU’LL STAY
Hand-picked hotels and resorts based on location, customer feedback, value and atmosphere.

Albert Park Motel, Longreach

North Gregory Hotel - Credit Tourism and Events Queensland

Cattleman’s Rest Motor Inn, Charters Towers

Grand Chancellor Hotel, Townsville

Please Note: Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

PRICE GUIDE
Per person twin share.......................... $5,425
Single supplement.................................. $565
Deposit (per person).............................. $500 at time of booking
Final payment due by ......................... 29 June 2021
Railway Adventures was launched in 2012 by well-known Australian TV personality and self-confessed rail fan, Scott McGregor. A lifelong passion for travel has taken Scott to scores of countries and his preference for rail has seen him exploring many of the world’s great train journeys, confirming his belief that the most relaxing, romantic and engaging way to see a country is by rail. He even has his own life-sized, fully restored opulent train accommodation atop the Great Dividing Range near Mudgee, offering guests a rare and special bush retreat experience.

Since 2012 Railway Adventures has thrilled and delighted more than 1200 travellers on over 100 tours from Sweden to Sri Lanka, Tasmania to Transylvania, Britain to Burma, Venice to Vietnam and all manner of shorter adventures in our own wonderful country. Scott’s numerous rail-themed TV documentaries, his ongoing involvement in rail heritage and his extensive connections with private train owners around the world, guarantee that every Railway Adventures tour is exclusive, entertaining and authentic. 29 June 2020.