RAILWAY ADVENTURES IN 2022

DINOSAUR COUNTRY
AN OUTBACK, RAIL, HERITAGE AND PALAEONTOLOGY ADVENTURE

With Chris Harding
03 – 13 May
26 July – 05 August

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

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 the Coral Coast of Townsville to the Dinosaur country in the heart of the state and back to Brisbane 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 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

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

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!
Day 1 • Tuesday: ARRIVE - TOWNSVILLE
We begin our adventure with a briefing and celebratory welcome dinner and drinks at the Hotel with the group and your tour leader setting the stage for the journey ahead.
Overnight: Grand Chancellor Hotel, Townsville (D)

Day 2 • Wednesday: TOWNSVILLE - CHARTERS TOWERS
After checking out, 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. Head to the station to board the Inlander for our train journey to Charters Towers. This evening we enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.
Overnight: Cattleman’s Rest Motor Inn, Charters Towers (B, D)

Day 3 • Thursday: CHARTERS TOWERS
Our day in ‘The Towers’ starts with a guided walk of the heritage buildings in the heart of town to 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. In the afternoon, take a 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, Charters Towers (B, L)

Day 4 • Friday: CHARTERS TOWERS - HUGHENDEN - RICHMOND
Departing first thing we hit the highway, the Flinders’ Way, heading west along the Dinosaur trail to the town of Hughenden. Enjoy Lunch at the Windmill Café and freshen up before we take time to explore the Flinders Discovery Centre, which is well stocked with fascinating specimens and houses heaps more than just Dinosaurs. Late afternoon, continue onto Richmond an hour or so further west along the Flinders Highway. Tonight’s dinner is hosted at the hotel.
Overnight: Ammonite Hotel, Richmond (B, L, D)

Day 5 • Saturday: RICHMOND - WINTON
This morning we head to Kronosaurus Korner, Richmond’s main attraction and Australia’s premier marine fossil museum. We have time to explore before we continue our exploration along Australia’s Dinosaur Trail in Queensland’s Outback a few hours south to the town of Winton. Along the way we talk about the Outback Landscape and it’s defining feature which is home to so many of the fossil records and Dinosaur story – the great Inland Sea. On arrival into Winton 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, L, D)

Day 6 • Sunday: WINTON
This morning after breakfast at the hotel we begin the exploration of Australia’s rich Dinosaur legacy. Vicki from Red Dirt Tours 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)
Day 7 • Monday: 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, Vicki will pick you up for the drive out to 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 an early dinner at Age of Dinosaurs and visit the newly opened Observatory 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 8 • Tuesday: WINTON - LONGREACH
This morning after breakfast, we board our private coach from Red Dirt Tours to take us the 180 kilometres to Longreach. 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.
On arrival we head to the Australian Stockman’s Hall of Fame, Australia’s premier outback heritage institution where you can explore the museum showcasing an eclectic mix of objects - touchscreens, open displays, photographs, artworks and audio-visual presentations. Enjoy lunch in the Halls Cafe followed by a fun filled live show.
Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant.
Overnight: Albert Park Motel or Longreach Motor Inn, Longreach (B, L, D)

Day 9 • Wednesday: LONGREACH
After breakfast we head to the Qantas Founders Museum which tells the story of the four key figures who founded Qantas and highlights what life was like in Queensland in the 1920s. The history of our iconic airline unfolds as you experience a 1½-hour Jet Tour, a behind-the-scenes look at both a 747, 707 and more followed by lunch at the museum.
Overnight: Albert Park Motel or Longreach Motor Inn, Longreach (B, L, D)

Day 10 • Thursday: LONGREACH - BRISBANE
This morning after breakfast we head to the station to board the Spirit of the Outback for our overnight journey to Brisbane. As we head out of the heart of Outback Queensland, the ever-changing landscape passes the sleepy Central Queensland towns like, Barcaldine, Alpha, and Jericho. A chef-prepared dinner is served in the train’s “Tuckerbox” dining car while the Central Ranges towns of Emerald, Blackwater and Bluff roll by. Afterwards you can unwind in the “Shearers Rest” lounge car as evening descends on our southbound train. From the comfort of your air-conditioned, first-class sleeping berth you will enjoy a fascinating journey from Longreach to Brisbane.
Overnight: On board the Spirit of the Outback (B, L, D)

Day 11 • Friday: BRISBANE (B)
Wake up to a vista of the lush sub-tropical coastal plain with features like the Glass House Mountains to capture. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast on the train this morning with an expected arrival into Roma Street Station just before midday, signalling the end of our adventure. From here you can take transfers to the airport for the flight home, or onward connections to continue your adventure.
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

 deceived - Reasonable fitness
You will need to be able to walk for a couple of hours at a gentle pace, remain standing in museums and galleries, get on and off coaches, trains and boats unassisted. These tours often include luggage handling services, short-distance transfers, privately chartered trains and longer stays in hotels so you can more easily choose to take time out.
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

Country Road Motel, Charters Towers

Grand Chancellor Hotel, Townsville

Please Note: Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.
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. 15 December 2021.

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