

Stations, Dinosaurs and Underground Treasures

– camping & accommodated

7 Days/6 Nights – price on application

Follow the paths of our droving heroes on the **Overlander's Way** from Townsville to Mount Isa. Discover our **gold mining** history and stay at a **sheep and cattle** station. Meet 'Hughie' the **Muttaburrasaurus** and join a **fossil hunt** to find your very own 100 million year old fossil. Feed an **endangered Dunnart**, fossick for gemstones and join an interactive **underground mine** tour.

Day 1 – Homeport to Townsville and Charters Towers

- Journey:** Homeport to Townsville..... (Qantas, Jetstar, Virgin Australia)
Townsville to Charters Towers.....Approx. 138km/1hr 40 mins
- Highlights:** Stock Exchange Arcade
Assay Mining Museum
Zara Clark Museum
The Miner's Cottage
Lissner Park
Venus Gold Battery
- Morning:** Join our coach in Townsville for an adventure along the Overlander's Way. At Charters Towers Visitor Information Centre we view a short film telling the story of the city's beginnings from the discovery of gold. We learn how gold stocks and shares were traded at the National Trust's Stock Exchange Arcade and examine ore samples from local mines and old mining equipment at the Assay Mining Museum.
- We'll take a short walk to the Zara Clark Museum for an insight into Charters Towers' 140-year history then continue our heritage stroll to the nearby Miner's Cottage where we can try our hand at panning for gold!
- Lunch:** Enjoy a picnic lunch and outdoor games at Lissner Park, home to the First World War Digital Heritage Trail.
- Afternoon:** We learn how gold was processed on a guided tour of the Venus Gold Battery, the largest surviving battery relic in Australia. We'll hear stories of colourful characters and discover how the batteries equipment was used to extract the gold from the ore
- Our last stop today is a working cattle station, our base for the next two nights. Tonight we tell stories and sing songs around the campfire under the starry skies!
- Accommodation:** Virginia Park Station, 25 minutes east of Charters Towers. Ph: (07) 4770 3125



Day 2 – Virginia Park Station

- Highlights:** Horse riding
Calf branding
Cow milking
Obstacle course and orienteering
Experiment based land care session
- Morning:** Join in on a range of optional farm activities including horse riding, calf branding and cow milking then test our skills in a programmed obstacle course and orienteering. Meet our onsite Science teacher who will lead us through a one-hour experiment based land care session. This session will introduce the basic principles of sustainable land care.
- Lunch:** Catered lunch at Virginia Park Station.
- Afternoon:** This afternoon is free for us to relax and explore the property or to enjoy the onsite recreational facilities including: tennis court, in-ground swimming pool and table-tennis.
- Accommodation:** Virginia Park Station, 25 minutes east of Charters Towers. Ph: (07) 4770 3125



Day 3 – Virginia Park Station to Hughenden & Richmond

- Journey:** Virginia Park Station to Charters Towers..... 30km/25mins
Charters Towers to Hughenden..... 243km/2hrs 50mins
Hughenden to Richmond..... 112km/1hr 20mins
- Highlights:** Flinders Discovery Centre
Mt Walker Lookout
Fossil hunting
- Morning:** Following breakfast we continue our Overlander's Way journey to Hughenden, home of 'Hughie' the life-size replica of a Muttaborrasaurus, the first entire dinosaur skeleton found in Australia. Along with 'Hughie' we'll discover an amazing collection of fossils and gems at the Flinders Discovery Centre.
- Lunch:** Picnic lunch at the scenic Mt Walker Lookout.
- Afternoon:** Our dinosaur trail continues as we drive the short distance to Richmond for some exciting fossil hunting. A local Paleontologist will join us at one of the fossil sites where we will learn how to find, identify and excavate our very own 100 million year old fossil!
- Accommodation:** Lake View Caravan Park, Richmond. Ph: (07) 4741 3772



Day 4 – Richmond to Julia Creek

Journey: Richmond to Julia Creek149km/1hr 40 mins

Highlights: Kronosaurus Korner
Bush Tucker Garden at Lake Fred Tritton
Julia Creek Orientation Activity
Evening Star Gazing activities



Julia Creek Dunnart

Morning: We visit the famous Kronosaurus Korner, designed to display local fossils from the Cretaceous Inland Sea that covered a large section of Queensland 120 million years ago. We'll discover the most complete marine reptile fossils in the world on a guided walk through the museum.

Lunch: Picnic lunch at the Bush Tucker Garden, on the banks of the award winning Lake Fred Tritton. Take some time to read the plant labels, which tell the story of their traditional use by the local Indigenous people.

Afternoon: Leaving the Dinosaurs, we travel on to Julia Creek, home to the endangered Julia Creek Dunnart, an extremely shy nocturnal hunter found on the Mitchell grass downs surrounding Julia Creek.

Explore the outdoors with an organised orienteering activity taking in a number of local sites including the Julia Creek Artesian Bore, Julia Creek Water Tower, Duncan McIntyre Museum and Julia Creek Opera House.

Enjoy a barbeque dinner tonight followed by Star Gazing activities.

Accommodation: Julia Creek Caravan Park. Ph: (07) 4746 7108

Day 5 – Julia Creek to Cloncurry

Journey: Julia Creek to Cloncurry.....137km/1hr 40 mins

Highlights: Live Dunnart feeding, Julia Creek Visitor Information Centre
Traditional smoko with local cattle producers
Chinaman Creek Dam (natural and water supply)
Mock court trial at historic Cloncurry Courthouse

Morning: We begin the day with a visit to the Julia Creek Visitor Information Centre, 'At the Creek', to learn stories of water, country and people. A highlight will be the opportunity to watch a live Dunnart feeding! Enjoy a traditional smoko with local cattle producers and hear first hand what it's like to live and work on the land. Following smoko we continue our Overlander's Way journey to Cloncurry.

Lunch: Enjoy a barbeque at Chinaman Creek Dam. Explore the collection of walking tracks and see a vast array of birdlife. Learn how water is harvested from the Cloncurry River back into the dam and how this water is then transported to Cloncurry Treatment Plant.

Afternoon: We visit the historic Cloncurry Courthouse to take part in a mock trial involving a significant local event. Scripts will be provided for a maximum of 15 students per session. Will your acting talents be discovered today?

Accommodation: Discovery Parks, Cloncurry. Ph: (07) 4742 2300



Chinaman Creek Dam

Day 6 – Cloncurry to Mount Isa

Journey: Cloncurry to Mount Isa.....120km/1hr 25mins

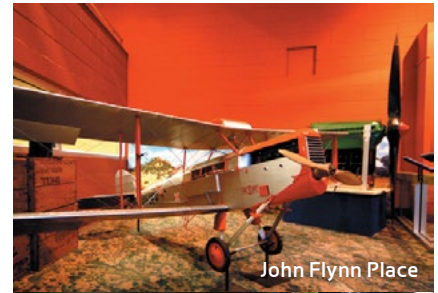
Highlights: John Flynn Place Museum and Art Gallery
Cloncurry Unearthed, Mary Kathleen Memorial Park
Outback at Isa
Hard Times Mine
Riversleigh Fossil Centre

Morning: Learn the important role played by Cloncurry in the great Australian story of how John Flynn began his Royal Flying Doctor Service at John Flynn Place Museum and Art Gallery. At Cloncurry Unearthed, we will have the chance to fossick for gemstones and minerals. Enjoy a picnic smoko in the Mary Kathleen Memorial Park grounds before travelling on to Mount Isa.

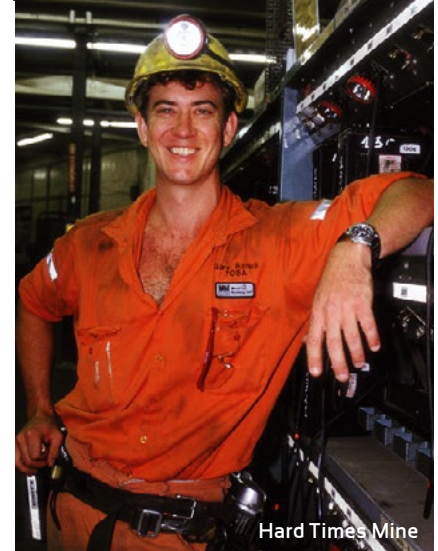
Lunch: Outback at Isa, Mount Isa

Afternoon: Go deep into the heart of mining country as experienced Mount Isa miners take us on a guided tour of the Hard Times Mine. Enjoy this interactive discovery into the day-to-day activities of an underground mining operation. Next, at the Riversleigh Fossil Centre we'll gain an insight into the development of early mammal mega fauna over the past 30 million years.

Accommodation: Isa Youth Camp, Lake Moondarra, Mount Isa.
Ph: (07) 4743 9881



John Flynn Place



Hard Times Mine

Day 7 – Mount Isa to Homeport

Journey: Mount Isa to Homeport.....(QantasLink, Virgin Australia)

DAY 7 – DAY 10: Extend your visit from Mount Isa and add the 4 Day/3 Night Lawn Hill Outback Experience
<http://teq.queensland.com/-/media/965A901141AC49158CA170827024CF66.ashx?la=en-AU>

RELEVANT FACT SHEETS: 05-06, 09, 16, 19-21, 23, 28-30

