

NSW 8-day Silo Art Tour

Friday 1st to Friday 8th March 2024



Itinerary Details

Day 01 (D): PORT MACQUARIE TO TAMWORTH

Friday 1st March 24



Welcome to our NSW Silo and Water tank tour. The talent and the enormity of the art we will see will be spectacular. Once our morning pickups are complete, we travel on the Oxley Highway through Wauchope and Bendemeer to Tamworth. On arrival we head to our first art piece on tour - The Tamworth water tank, which is located at the Oxley Lookout on Flagstaff Mountain, offering views to township and the rich Peel Valley. We have time at leisure to purchase lunch and enjoy the atmosphere. This afternoon we head to the **Tamworth Visitors Centre** which is now located next to the **Golden Guitar** – a perfect spot for a group photo!

Lunch own arrangements and cost | dinner at hotel

Ibis Styles Tamworth Towers | 1 night

Day 02 (BLD): TAMWORTH TO NARRABRI

Saturday 2nd March 24

After breakfast we now head to the small town of **Barraba** and stop for a look at the Silo art mural that was painted by Fintan Magee. This mural depicts a local water diviner searching for groundwater, using a y-shaped twig or rod or two L-shaped ones. From here we head to **Gunnedah** and stop at the **Gunnedah Water Tower Museum** and look at the Mural. The mural facing west features a group of soldiers from 7RAR waiting to be picked up by the iconic Huey helicopters, while the mural facing north includes soldiers paying their respects beside the Long Tan Cross. Whilst in Gunnedah we look at the **Gunnedah Art Silo** that has extracts from the Dorothea Mackellar poem "My Country". We enjoy lunch at the **Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club**. This afternoon we arrive in Narrabri and have afternoon tea and a look through the Visitor Information Centre, and then we meet a local guide for a town tour and hear all about the local cotton industry. Dinner tonight is at the **Outback Shack Bar and Grill** located within the Narrabri RSL Club. The 'Outback Shack' is full of historical memorabilia, mainly sourced from local properties and features a stunning mural of the main street of Narrabri from yesteryear.

Breakfast at motel | lunch at Gunnedah Services Bowling Club | Dinner at the Outback Shack Bar & Grill

Nandewar Motor Inn, Narrabri | 1 night



Day 03 (BLD): NARRABRI TO LIGHTNING RIDGE

Sunday 3rd March 24



This morning we head to Walgett, where we see the **Walgett Water Tower** which depicts Jimmy Little, a celebrated and beloved Australian Aboriginal musician, actor and advocate whose career spanned six decades. As we approach Lightning Ridge the first thing we see is Stanley the Emu. Stanley is an 18-metre sculpture made by artist John Murray and he has been made entirely from scrap metal from a VW Beetle. His light-hearted depiction gives you some foresight into the art you will see within the town. John Murray is an outback artist that **03**

(BLD): NARRABRI TO LIGHTNING RIDGE

CONTINUED

Sunday 3rd March 24

now calls Lightning Ridge his home. He is well known for his signature art pieces where he contrasts serious landscape studies with whimsical caricatures of birds and other Aussie creatures. He has many featured art pieces around the town including his own art gallery located in Opal Street, which we visit before lunch. Be sure to check out Phyllis Lane, which is right next door to Johns Gallery, where much of John's wonderful street art is on display. Lightning Ridge is a rich opal field famous as the only source of black opal in the world. With its stark and scarred landscape this town has a peculiar fascination for visitors. Opals can be purchased direct from the miners while the novice fossicker can occasionally stumble across a choice stone among the heaps of mullock known locally as 'shincracker'. Be captivated by **The Chambers of the Black Hand**, where local artist, Ron Canlin, has created the most amazing paintings and sculptures 11.2 meters underground. There is the Last Supper, Archangel Gabriel, and the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. The second level is a mine that has been worked for over 100 years, and all the old shafts and drives that were dug by the old miners are still there. What an interesting tour to finish the day on.



Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch at Lightning Ridge Bowling Club

Lightning Ridge Outback Resort | 3 nights

Day 04 (BD): LIGHTNING RIDGE

Monday 4th March 24



We are joined by a **local guide** for a town tour to see the **Bore Baths** and **Coppers Cottage**, an authentic miner's camp. We finish our guided tour at Bevans Cactus Farm, the **largest cactus nursery in the Southern Hemisphere**. Grown from seeds collected around the world, many plants in this nursery are now over 100 years old. We now have some free time to purchase lunch before our afternoon touring. We experience the atmosphere of an underground mine at **Opal Mine Adventure**. Here we'll learn about opal mining through a video presentation and visit the showroom to view the opals from the local

area. We finish our day at the **Opal Cave**, to discover how the opal is cut and polished with a local opal expert.

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch own arrangements and cost

Day 05 (BLD) THE GRAWIN: 2020

With our **local expert** again joining us we head out to **The Grawin**, a group of Opal Fields that are made up of Grawin, Glengarry, Sheeppark and Mulga Rush. It was at Grawin that the largest opal 'Light of the World' was found in 1928. We'll also experience the delights of the **Glengarry Hilton** pub where we can purchase lunch. It is a welcoming place that will treat us like a local. After such an interesting day, we head back to 'the Ridge' and relax prior to dinner. *(Breakfast and dinner in motel, lunch own expense and arrangements)*

*** Please Note: Today's Touring depends on local weather and road conditions***

Breakfast and dinner at motel | lunch included.

Tuesday 5th March 24



Day 06 (BLD): LIGHTNING RIDGE TO GILGANDRA

Wednesday 6th March 24



We make our way to **Brewarrina** to visit the **Brewarrina Fishtraps** that are estimated to be over 40,000 years old and one of the oldest man-made structures on earth. The elaborate network of rock weirs and pools stretching for around half a kilometre along the riverbed was built by ancient tribes to catch fish at the swamp upstream. We experience a Dreamtime story by an Aboriginal elder, watch how the local Aboriginal children still catch their fish the traditional way and engage with the history with our guide. We enjoy our picnic lunches

before we leave. Lightning Ridge artist John Murray and renowned artist Jenny McCracken, between the two of them and with the help of the local community they have been painting walls, toilet blocks and a new concept, levy banks. Not only to brighten up their town and to engage community spirit. Keep your eyes out for some more colourful street art. The water tower at **Coonamble** was painted by John Murray and Sooty Welsh in June 2017 and took just 11 days to complete. It features Australian Pink and Grey Galahs' and fence posts to signify the rural aspect of Coonamble. It also includes the sun, moon, and the Southern Cross. Aboriginal dreamtime artwork was painted by Sooty Welsh and decorates the bottom of the tank. Located near the eastern bank of the Castlereagh River in Aberford Street is the history museum which is situated in the old police station. This building

Day 06 (BLD): LIGHTNING RIDGE TO GILGANDRA CONTINUED

dates to 1886 and is worth checking out while in Coonamble also. We make our way to **Gulgambone**; you will love this town for its artwork. to see the water tower showing a Kingfisher bird diving for fish. Whilst in town there are several murals we can see. We enjoy afternoon tea at **Two eight Two eight** before travelling to Gilgandra for the night.

Breakfast and dinner in motel | picnic lunches included

Gilgandra Motel | 1 night

Wednesday 6th March 24



Day 07 (BLD): GILGANDRA TO LITHGOW



This morning we make our way to **Dunedoo** for a look at the Silos that feature **Winx**, a retired champion Australian thoroughbred racehorse and her famous rider **Hugh Bowman**, who was also born in Dunedoo. From here we head to **Merriwa** where we look at the Merriwa Art Silos. The mural depicts a flock of sheep wearing red socks in a canola field, why the red socks? The artist pays homage to the town's beloved annual Festival of the Fleeces. We enjoy lunch an early lunch in the **Merriwa RSL Club** before our afternoon travels to Portland and the Silos known as **"The Foundations"**. The old Portland Cement Works were painted by Guido van Helten and depict five male and one female past Portland Cement workers, a lovely tribute to the workers. Our final travels today take us to Lithgow for our last night on tour.

Breakfast and dinner in motel | lunch at Merriwa RSL Club

Lithgow Workies Motel | 1 night

Thursday 7th March 24

Day 08 (BL): LITHGOW TO HOME

We still have a few more stops with art before arriving at home. As we travel through the Blue Mountains we see the **Riverview Water Tank Art, Street Art Murals Artists (SAMA)** Janne Birkner and Scott Nagy created a 50-metre mural around the base of the Sydney Water tank. A great stop for a morning break. From here we head to **Kurri Kurri** for lunch at the **Kurri Kurri Bowling Club** before meeting our local guide. We will be taken on a pictorial journey, showcasing the area's history, heritage, and uniqueness with the town's **murals**. What a lovely way to end our tour appreciating art. We arrive home late afternoon with wonderful experiences and art appreciation enjoyed with friends.

Breakfast in motel | lunch at Kurri Kurri Bowling Club

Friday 8th March 24



Tour Inclusions

- 7 night's motel accommodation
- 7 motel breakfasts
- 5 motel dinners and 2 out - see below.
- 6 included lunches – see below.
- Entry to the Water Tower Museum, Gunnedah
- Lunch at the Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club
- Locally guided tour of Narrabri
- Afternoon tea at the Narrabri Region Visitor Information Centre
- Dinner at the Narrabri RSL - Outback Shack
- Visit John Murray Art Gallery
- Lunch at the Lightning Ridge Bowling Club
- Entry to the Chambers of the Black Hand, Lightning Ridge
- Locally guided tour of Lightning Ridge
- Entry to Cactus Sanctuary
- Guided underground tour, fossicking including tea and coffee at the Opal Mine Adventure
- Entry to the Opal Cave
- Full day guided tour including Grawin.
- Lunch at the
- Guided tour of the Fish Traps-Brewarrina Aboriginal Fishtraps
- Packed Lunch from the Lightning Ridge Outback Resort and Caravan Park

Tour Inclusions continued

- Afternoon tea at Two eight Two eight
- Dinner at the Gilgandra Services Club
- Lunch at the Merriwa RSL Club
- Lunch at the Kurri Kurri Bowling Club
- Locally guided tour of the Kurri Kurri Murals

For more information or to book;

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