

Moree and Lightning Ridge
Artesian Water and Black Opal Country!
8 Days/7 Nights



Date: Monday 8 to Monday 15 August 2022

FREECALL 1800 611 735

DAY 1 – Monday

MLD



Your tour begins with mini coach pick up in the morning from your home, before meeting with our large coach.
Light morning tea stop will be provided by Kiama Scenic Tours.
Sit back and enjoy the drive as we travel through the beautiful Blue Mountains. Take in the rugged beauty as we take the scenic Cliff Drive to **Echo Point** and see the **Three Sisters** at **Katoomba** – a great stop for a photo opportunity awaits! We enjoy our lunch at **The Gingerbread House**. Set beautifully in a restored 100 year old former church. You may even want to purchase some delicious sweets to take with you. Re-joining our coach, we continue to **Orange** for our overnight stay. On arrival we travel to the top of **Mount Canobolas** for panoramic views of the surrounding region. Mount Canobolas, an extinct volcano, is the highest point between the Blue Mountains and the Indian Ocean - the views are spectacular! We check into our motel and settle in for dinner.
Dinner taken onsite at the accommodation.
Accommodation: Best Western Plus Ambassador, Orange Ph 6393 7500

DAY 2 – Tuesday

BLD



Breakfast provided at motel.
As we continue on to our destination of Lightning Ridge, we make a stop at Gilgandra to see the **Coo-ee Heritage Centre**. One of the displays depicts the journey of 35 men who left Gilgandra in 1915 in the hope of attracting volunteers to join them to enlist for service in WWI. Recruitment drives were held at towns along their march route. Amazingly, by the time they arrived in Sydney, they had recruited a total of 263 men. From here we head to Walgett for lunch at the **Walgett Sporting Club**. Back on the road look out for **Stanley, the Big Bird** as we approach the turn off to **Lightning Ridge**. Created by local artist John Murray, Stanley is an 18-metre-tall emu made from scrap metal, old Volkswagen bodies and the odd discarded satellite dish. In classic waste to art fashion, everything has been scavenged. The bulk of the materials were sourced by Stan Single, who donated the massive steel legs from the demolished Dubbo Police Station. Let's now check in to our accommodation for the next 3 nights at Lightning Ridge.
Dinner taken at Lightning Ridge Bowling Club, across from the motel.
Accommodation: Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge Ph 1800 247 376

DAY 3 – Wednesday

BD



Breakfast provided at motel.
Today, 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 that came from the mine in this area. After lunch (*own expense*) we are captivated by **Chambers of the Black Hand** where local artist Ron Canlin has created the most amazing paintings and sculptures 11.2 metres 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 timers are still there.

Our last stop for the day is to meet our local opal expert at the **Opal Cave**. He will tell us how the opal is cut and polished. Completing our fascinating day, we return to our motel.

Dinner taken at Lightning Ridge Bowling Club, across from the motel.

Accommodation: Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge Ph 1800 247 376

DAY 4 – Thursday

BLD



Breakfast provided at motel.

No trip to Lightning Ridge would be complete without a trip to **The Grawin***. We'll see interesting places like **The Pub in the Scrub**, **The Glengarry Hilton** and **Sheepyard Flats**. Located about 70km west of Lightning Ridge, The Grawin was established in 1908 with the discovery of the opal at "Hammond Hill". Further discoveries in 1920 at "Richards Hill" put the unofficial village on the map. It was at Grawin that the largest opal 'Light of the World' was found in 1928. Since the first discovery of opal in the region, people have come and gone in tides with each new strike, seeking their fortune in search of the rainbow in the rock. It is believed that a field at Grawin was discovered in 1905 but it wasn't until the 1970s that it became a major field in its own right. The Mulga Rush, which began in 2000, is the biggest opal rush since the Coocoran was discovered in the early 1900s. The Sheepyard area was named after a find of opal near the fence of the old Sheepyards. A **local guide** will join us on our day's tour and **lunch** is enjoyed at the **Glengarry Hilton**. After a great day we head back to Lightning Ridge.



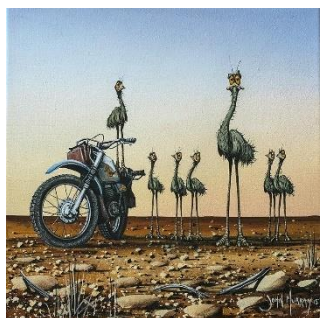
Please Note: Today's touring depends on local weather and road conditions

Dinner taken at Lightning Ridge Bowling Club, across from the motel.

Accommodation: Wallangulla Motel, Lightning Ridge Ph 1800 247 376

DAY 5 – Friday

BD



Breakfast provided at motel.

We start our day with a visit to **John Murray Art Gallery**. John has been kept busy adding to his mural on the outside wall of the Gallery. Wandering around the gallery, John's artistic talent becomes apparent with his pieces filled with light and humour. It's clear he likes to make people smile and enjoy his creations! Next is one of the more unusual sights, **Amigos Castle** – a castle built from ironstone by a local resident. We have a guided tour, and then have some free time to purchase lunch (*own expense*) before bidding Lightning Ridge a fond farewell. Travelling east to **Moree**, the plains represent the richest agricultural producing shire in Australia. The town also serves as the economic and cultural focus of North-Western New South Wales. Another distinct feature of Moree is the hot artesian springs in the area. Arriving at our hotel in Moree, unpack and settle in for the next two nights.

Dinner taken onsite at accommodation.

Accommodation: Artesian Spa Motor Inn, Moree Ph 6752 2466



DAY 6 – Saturday

BD



Breakfast provided at motel.

Today we enjoy taking in the local sights. Our tour begins at the **Visitors Centre** where we sample some of the quality produce grown in the rich soils of the region before meeting our **local guide** who will join us on the coach.

Visit **Pecan Farm**, the largest pecan farm in the Southern Hemisphere.

A tour includes an interesting video on the actual farm operations and processing of the pecan nut. We have time for a lunch break (*own expense*) before our afternoon tour of a **Cotton Farm**. Again, accompanied by our guide, our visit to a working cotton farm and cotton gin gives us a real insight into the life of cotton farmers. Rounding out our day is some free time to relax. Perhaps enjoy the relaxation of the **Moree Artesian Aquatic Centre** (*at own cost*). The hot waters are drawn from the Great Artesian Basin, which underlies an extensive area of north-western NSW. Not only are the waters good for your health but also for those seeking relief from the normal aches and pains of daily life.

Dinner taken onsite at accommodation.

Accommodation: Artesian Spa Motor Inn, Moree Ph 6752 2466



DAY 7 – Sunday

BLD



Breakfast provided at motel.

Back on the road we make our way through to **Gunnedah**, known as the Koala capital of the world! Thanks to the special tree corridors that have been planted throughout the town, it is home to Australia's largest and healthiest population of koalas who are regularly spotted walking along the residential streets and bush tracks. We make a stop at the **Gunnedah Art Silo** that has extracts from the Dorothea Mackellar poem "My Country" before visiting the **Gunnedah Rural Museum**. This is a working museum of farm machinery, equipment and artefacts highlighting the early days of agriculture in Australia. We enjoy lunch here before continuing on to our overnight stay in Muswellbrook. Upon arrival we settle into our motel and freshen up for dinner.

Dinner taken at Muswellbrook RSL.

Accommodation: Noahs Mid City Motor Inn, Muswellbrook Ph 6543 2833

DAY 8 – Monday

BM



Breakfast provided at motel.

With our bags packed full of wonderful memories we head for home.

We stop along the way for convenience breaks and to purchase lunch (*own expense*).

Return to your home late afternoon.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to Covid-19, all itinerary attractions are subject to change without notice

B = Breakfast **M** = Morning Tea **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner

Inclusions:

7 nights' accommodation, all breakfasts, all dinners, light morning tea on 2 days, lunch on 4 days, entry to all attractions and coach pick up & drop off from your home.
(Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Sydney areas only)

	Price per person twin share	Single supplement
Travel Club Members	\$2625	\$499
Non-Members	\$2675	\$499

Deposit required: \$100 per person

Balance due: Monday 11 July 2022

CANCELLATION FEES AND AMENDMENTS

All fees will be levied relative to the amount of notice given

Days Notice:	60-90 Days ↓	31-60 Days ↓	Within 30 days ↓
Deposit:	Full refund <u>OR</u> Transferable**	50% refundable & Non-transferable	Non-refundable & Non-transferable

**If you cancel your booking 60 days or more prior to your booked tour, the deposit is transferable to another advertised tour. This deposit is only transferable once. Should you cancel a tour a second time, full deposit will be lost. Please contact office for further details.

All payments can be made by the following options:

- In person at our tour office
- Via credit card payment over the phone (VISA or Mastercard only)
- Cheque or money order sent to our post office box. All cheques/money orders are to be made payable to '**Kiama Scenic Tours**'.
- Direct deposit – Please ask for our details if you choose to pay by this method



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Email: enquiries@kiamascenictours.com.au

ABN 81 613 590 962

Accreditation: 9602

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- **All tours are subject to minimum numbers**
- **Venues, itineraries and attractions are subject to change without notice**
 - **Travel Insurance is recommended for all extended tours.**
Ask your preferred insurer for more details
- **Due to seating restrictions, we cannot reserve seats on the coach.**
Seat rotation will apply for all extended tours.