

STUARTS COACHES

MILDURA, MUNGO N.P, MENINDEE LAKES TOUR

September 2018

Day 1 (LD): HOME TO NARRANDERA: Monday 10 September 2018

Departure – Stuarts Depot at 8.00am

Welcome to our 10 day tour to the north-west corner of NSW. Sit back and enjoy the service and facilities aboard our touring coach as we head over **Cambewarra Mountain** and through **Kangaroo Valley** heading to the Hume Highway. We make several stops during the day, including a lunch stop, before our mid-afternoon arrival into **Narrandera** located on the **Murrumbidgee River**. *(Lunch enroute & Dinner in motel)*

Narrandera Club Motor Inn, PH: 02 6959 3123

Day 2 (BLD): NARRANDERA TO MILDURA: Tuesday 11 September 2018

Following a hearty breakfast we enjoy the sights of the town. Situated at the intersection of the Newell and Sturt Highways, **Narrandera** is the gateway to the **Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area** (M.I.A.). Known for its tree lined streets, parks and gardens, Narrandera is often referred to as an 'oasis', blessed with abundant water and hugging the banks of **Lake Talbot** and the **Murrumbidgee River**. See the Hankinson Fountain, located in the Narrandera Memorial Gardens, which is a ceramic fountain made by Royal Doulton and was presented to the people of the town, by an Alderman, in honour of all those who served in the Great War. There are only two of these fountains known to be in existence, the other one being in India. From Narrandera we head across to **Hay**. Established originally as a Murrumbidgee River crossing for Merino sheep flocks, Hay, named in 1859 after the politician and pastoralist Sir John Hay, has grown to become what is today, an essential service centre for the vast pastoral area that surrounds it. This afternoon we cross the vast Hay Plain to Balranald then onto Mildura. *(Breakfast & Dinner in motel Lunch en route)*

Mildura Inlander Resort, PH: 03 5023 3823

Day 3 (BD): MILDURA: Wednesday 12 September 2018

The River Murray captures the imagination of most travellers, as it will yours. The transformation of the desert into a lush horticultural region is an exciting journey in time, back to when Alfred Deakin visited irrigation settlements in America endeavouring to meet George & WB.Chaffey. The Chaffey Brothers went on to become the benefactors of the area, now known as Mildura, by developing an irrigation colony centred on the River Murray's gift of water. The first stop on our tour today is **Rio Vista**, the 1891 home of WB Chaffey. Now the base for the **Mildura Arts Centre and Historical Museum**, this 19th Century home features antique filled rooms of the 1890s. Beautifully restored woodwork, exquisite hand painted stained glass windows and door panelling. From here we transfer to the Wharf for our morning cruise on the **PS Rothbury**, Built in 1891, the **PS Rothbury** is one of the last "working" Paddlesteamers on the Murray. At that time she was well known as the fastest tow boat on the

river. On arrival back on dry land we have free time to purchase lunch (*passengers own expense*) and take a wander around the local shops. This afternoon we take a scenic drive along the Murray River, through Red Cliffs and stop for a wine tasting at **Trentham Estate Winery**. (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch at own expense*)

Mildura Inlander Resort, PH: 03 5023 3823

Day 4 (BLD): MUNGO NATIONAL PARK: Thursday 13 September 2018

Today we visit **Mungo National Park**. The park is part of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage area. Lake Mungo dried up around 14,000 years ago and today a great crescent shaped dune, called the **Walls of China** stretches along the eastern shore of the lakebed. There is clear evidence here of ancient remnants and campfires. Our guide will take us on a fascinating journey through the area. We will also call at the **Information Centre**, the **Historic Woolshed** built by Chinese labourers back in 1869 and the **Western Lookout** where we can overlook Lake Mungo in the distance. Mid-afternoon we return to our motel to freshen up and relax prior to dinner. (*Breakfast & dinner in motel / lunch included at Mungo Lodge*)

Mildura Inlander Resort, PH: 03 5023 3823

Day 5 (BLD): MILDURA TO BROKEN HILL: Friday 14 September 2018

We make our way to nearby **Wentworth** this morning and stop at the lovely parkland area at the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers for a “birds eye” view of the waterway. Lock 10 here was constructed between 1925 and 1929 and, like all locks, it helps maintain constant river heights all year round. We also visit the **Old Wentworth Gaol**. Make sure to bring the camera as there are some fun photo opportunities – behind real prison bars or perhaps in the stock! A visit to the gaol shows the hard lives and extreme conditions prisoners endured amongst the beauty of the old pepper trees dating back to establishment of the gaol in 1879. Our lunch today is at **Artback Australia**. Artback Gallery opened in 2009 and features regularly changing displays by a number of resident artists. The mission and the source of the Artback name is the “desire for everyone, old and young alike, to have an opportunity to get back to art. After lunch we have a three hour drive north to **Broken Hill** – our base for the next 3 nights. Before checking into our hotel we have arranged a tour of the **Royal Flying Doctor Base** at Broken Hill Airport. (*Breakfast & dinner in the Motel/Light lunch at Artback Australia*)

Silver Haven Motor Inn, Broken Hill, PH: 08 8087 2218

Day 6 (BLD): BROKEN HILL & SILVERTON: Saturday 15 September 2018

This morning a local guide will join us, describing the history of **Broken Hill** and show us some of the historic buildings – the Broken Hill Court House built in 1889, the Broken Hill Trades Hall (1898) and the Broken Hill Town Hall Facade, retained in 1974 after the main halls and offices were demolished. Dominating this town is the **“Line of Lode”** – the seven kilometre strip of what was the biggest deposit of silver, lead and zinc in the world. Unlike modern mining towns, where the accommodation is built well away from the mine activities, Broken Hill’s population, in the pick and shovel days, built their houses as close as they could to their work. So, we now head up to the best view in town - from the top of the Line of Lode where we find the **Miners Memorial**. Back in town, our next stop is the **Silver City Mint and Art Centre**. Known as one of the best galleries in town, the centre houses jewellery made from Broken Hill silver, a Broken Hill mineral display and an extensive range of original paintings by well known artists. However

it is the dramatic **“Big Picture”** painted by Peter Anderson that will be a highlight of our tour to Broken Hill. It’s the world’s largest acrylic painting on canvas that totally immerses visitors into the local landscape. The experience is breathtaking as we gaze out to the distant Flinders Ranges, follow ancient river beds dotted with gum trees, and see a massive thunderstorm unfolding in the desert and get a view of the Sculpture Symposium and Living Desert area to the west of Broken Hill. Late morning, we drive to Silverton, which preceded Broken Hill and was for a time, the largest town in the Barrier Ranges. Today it’s a virtual ghost town but a number of the historic buildings remain. More recently Silverton has hosted film crews who have produced many well known movies such as Mad Max 2, A Town Like Alice and Priscilla Queen of the Desert. We enjoy a light lunch at the **Silverton Pub**, then step back in time at the **Silverton Gaol and Historical Museum**. Virtually every aspect of life in Silverton's heyday is represented, with literally thousands of items on display. Tools of the trades of mining, transport, entertainment, technology, food, religion, sport, education and medicine are accompanied by a range of photographs, painting a vivid picture of Silverton's early years. Not far is **Mundi Mundi Lookout**, located 5kms west of Silverton, the Mundi Mundi plains is a truly breathtaking place. The view must be seen to be believed. The wide flat heart of the Australian outback extends seemingly forever. On a clear day the curvature of the earth can be seen!
(Breakfast and dinner in the Motel, Lunch Silverton)

Silver Haven Motor Inn, Broken Hill, PH: 08 8087 2218

Day 7 (BLD): MENINDEE LAKES: Sunday 16 September 2018

To the south of “The Hill” is **Menindee Lake**, the historic town of **Menindee** and the **Kinchega National Park**. We take a look at the lakes and the township which acts as an oasis for wildlife amidst the dry red sand plains of the surrounding semi-arid region. The serenity of the lakes is disturbed only by the multitudes of waterbirds and the wanderings of red kangaroos and emus. We have arranged to join the **River Lady** for a one hour cruise on the Menindee Lake and then enjoy lunch at Maidens Hotel. It was here **Burke and Wills** camped in 1860, prior to their ill-fated trip to the Cooper Creek and the Gulf of Carpentaria. We head back to Broken Hill mid-afternoon. *(Breakfast & dinner in the motel / lunch in Menindee)*

Silver Haven Motor Inn, Broken Hill, PH: 08 8087 2218

Day 8 (BLD): BROKEN HILL TO COBAR: Monday 17 September 2018

We have a rather long drive this morning, so sit back and relax. In **Wilcannia** we have lunch at the Wilcannia Golf Club, then in the afternoon head to Cobar. On arrival we pay a visit to **The Cobar Heritage Centre**, which is housed in the former administration building of the Great Cobar Copper Mine. The centre captures the essence of Cobar, housing an outstanding collection of exhibits which date from the early 1870s to the present day. The collection of artefacts reveals the extraordinary diverse local heritage of Cobar. *(Breakfast & dinner in the motel / lunch at Wilcannia Golf Club)*

Town and Country Motel, Cobar PH: 02 6836 1244

Day 10 (BLD): COBAR TO PARKES: Tuesday 18 September 2018

This morning we head to Nyngan for our morning break, then our next stop is the **Narromine Iris Farm**. Mel and Vas Roberts started growing irises in 1997 and opened to the public with

three display beds and 15 rows of irises, for the first time in the spring of 1998. They have transformed the old bull yards into a lovely picturesque and peaceful spot to visit. From small beginnings the Iris Farm has grown to around five acres of tall bearded iris, plus about three acres of gardens and lawn area. This afternoon we call into the **CSIRO Radio Telescope** complex just north of **Parkes**. The visitor centre features many hands on displays and exhibits and our visit also includes a 30 minute audio visual called "The Invisible Universe". Late afternoon we arrive into Parkes and check into our hotel for our final night of the tour. *(Breakfast & dinner in the motel / lunch at Narromine Iris Farm)*

North Parkes Motel, PH: 02 6863 4333

Day 10 (B): HEADING HOME: Wednesday 19 September 2018

All good things must come to an end and so this morning we start the final leg of our journey home. Later this afternoon we arrive back on the coast following a wonderful time away. *(Breakfast in the motel, lunch own expense)*

Deposit of \$300 at time of booking. Final balance to be paid by 25th July 2018

All itineraries are subject to change due to occasional restrictions in opening times/days of some attractions, e.g. churches, wineries etc. We cannot be held responsible for any changes due to closures, inclement weather etc.

Booking Conditions

Accommodation is on a share room basis in Motels, Hotels and the like. Single Supplement will apply if no twin share is available. The accommodation named may be altered without notice. The right is reserved to amend or modify the itinerary at any time without notice for unpredictable weather or road conditions or for any other reason beyond our control.

Cancellation Fees: In the event of the cancellation of a tour the following fees apply;

- 60 days or more prior to departure, loss of deposit.
- Between 7 and 59 days prior to departure, 50% of tour price.
- Less than 7 days prior to departure, 100% of tour price.

Refunds: No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour after departure.

Responsibilities: Please label luggage clearly. Stuarts Travel advises that the service it provides is for the booking and packaging of goods and services provided by other operators such as hotels, motels, and transportation companies. Passengers are advised to familiarize themselves with the terms and conditions on which these services are supplied. Accordingly, Stuarts Travel will not be responsible and will be excluded from any liability for any loss, damage, omission or acts being negligent or otherwise, committed by the operators of airlines, coach lines, rail travel, hotels / motels or attractions used in connection with the tour. Passengers rotate in the Coach, giving every one forward and window seating. Min. No's do apply.

B – Breakfast L – Lunch D – Dinner Insurance is recommended

Payment to Stuarts Travel acknowledges that you have read, understand and accept these booking conditions.