

14 DAY ICONIC TOWNS OF AUSTRALIA

CABIN / MOTEL TOUR

Price Includes:

- Airfares
- Cabin / Motel Accommodation
- Most evening meals and breakfasts
- Entries to various attractions (as noted)

Day 1: Fly to Melbourne mid morning and depart for **Ballarat** in the heart of the Victorian Goldfields which made Victoria the wealthiest of the six colonies in the 19th Century.

Day 2: Ballarat with its grand buildings of the Goldfields era. We visit the Eureka Stockade and Sovereign Hill Township, a marvellous recreation of early Ballarat. N.B. Eureka Stockade and Sovereign Hill included in your fare.

Day 3: **Bendigo** is another splendid example of the wealth of the Goldfields with many very grand buildings. From here we move onto the Murray River and **Echuca**, paddlesteamer capital of Australia. Founded in 1853, Echuca became the largest inland port in Australia. We visit the historic wharf and relive the days of paddlesteamers on the Murray.

Day 4: Following the Murray River today firstly to **Swan Hill** another historic river port for the paddlesteamers. From here we continue to one of the most delightful towns in Australia, **Mildura**, centre of the Sunraysia District, where irrigation was introduced to Australia in 1887 by the Chaffey Brothers. We have a delightful stay here including a cruise on a paddleboat. N.B. Paddle boat cruise included in your fare.

Day 5: Onto historic **Wentworth** at the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers, north then on the Silver City Hwy to **Broken Hill** where Charles Rasp in 1883 found silver and started Australia's leading company BHP Biliton.

Day 6: A whole day in Broken Hill seeing the mining industry and town and a visit to the nearby town of **Silverton** where films such as "Mad Max" were shot.



Sovereign Hill

Day 7: Along the Barrier Highway to the historic Darling River Port of **Wilcannia**, now only a shell of its former busy self. Onto **Cobar** where copper has been mined since 1870. Then north to **Bourke** on the Darling River.

Day 8: Bourke began in 1862 was the last outpost of civilization before the "Never Never" thus the saying "Back of Bourke". It was a port on the Darling River for the paddle steamers and when the rail arrived the town became the largest wool rail head in the world. Bourke is a great experience with its grand sandstone buildings and history. The new industry here is cotton production although that industry is in great trouble because of the shortage of water in the Murray Darling System. In the afternoon onto Queensland and **Cunnamulla**.

Day 9: North to **Charleville** home of the Flying Doctor Base and original home of Cobb & Co for the building of its coaches. Onto **Blackall** on the Barcoo River and **Barcaldine**, the headquarters of the Great Shearers' Strike of 1891 which resulted in the formation of the Australia Labour Party. The Australian Workers Heritage Centre is here, Onto **Longreach**. N.B. Entry to Heritage Centre included in your fare.

Day 10: Longreach has great significance in Australia's history. It is the home of QANTAS Airlines (first office opened) and now boasts the very impressive Stockman's Hall of Fame which we visit. N.B. Entry to the Hall of Fame included.

Day 11: Onto **Emerald** on the Nogoa River. A decision made in 1948 by the British Food Corporation to grow sorghum in the area

required the building of the huge Fairbairn Dam enabling the shift of the shire's economic focus from cattle to crops. It now produces over 25% of Queensland's cotton. Emerald of course is so named for the gemstones that are found in the area.

Day 12: **Carnarvon Gorge** is in the Great Dividing Range. Our visit involves a delightful walk in a beautiful Australian Landscape. Onto **Roma** in the afternoon.

Day 13: Roma was the site of the first oil discoveries in Australia and a major landmark is the Big Rig, one of the original oil rigs in the area. The town is named after the wife of Governor Bowen, the Countess Diamantina Georgina Roma. Interestingly Georgina and Diamantina are the names of two of Queensland's largest rivers. In the afternoon onto **Toowoomba**.

Day 14: Toowoomba a beautiful City of over 100,000 on the Darling Downs. We spend the morning here then move onto Brisbane for our flight home after a marvellous Iconic Towns Adventure.

Departure Date From Perth

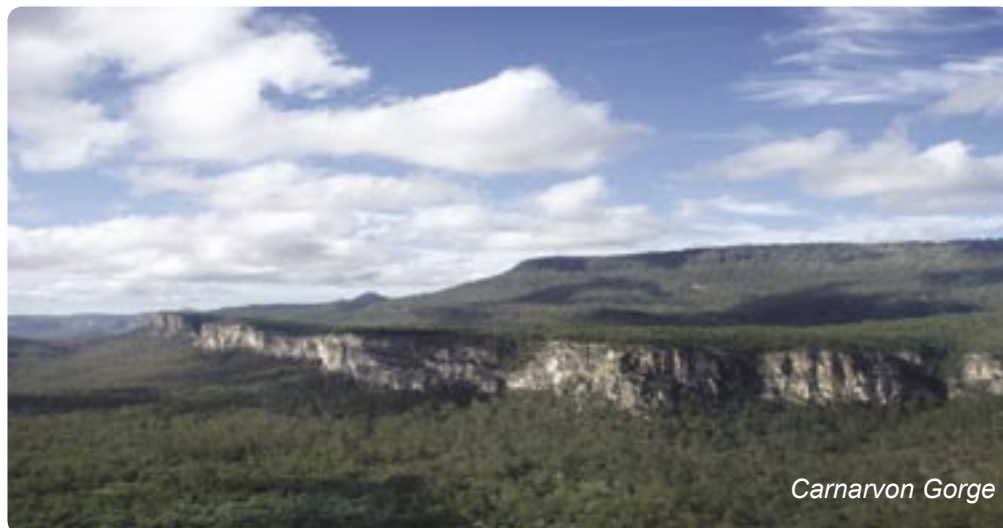
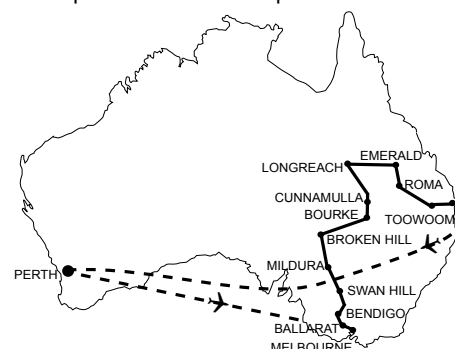
16th April 2009

Senior

Adult

\$3190

\$3240



Carnarvon Gorge

Departing From:		
Capital City	Senior	Adult
Melbourne	\$2790	\$2840
Sydney	\$2890	\$2940
Adelaide	\$2890	\$2940
Brisbane	\$2790	\$2840
Hobart	\$2990	\$3040