

# GREAT BARRIER REEF TO OUTBACK TOUR

13 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS



**Harley Davidson**  
SELF RIDE GUIDED TOURS

Mobile (61) 404 834 552 [www.wildfiretours.com](http://www.wildfiretours.com)

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**ENJOY A WIDE VARIETY OF MOTORCYCLING FROM ROLLING HILLS, FORESTS, COASTAL PLAINS AND THE WIDE OPEN SPACES OF THE OUTBACK. THERE ARE FAR TOO MANY ADVENTURES ON THIS TOUR TO MENTION THEM ALL, HOWEVER LISTED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS.**

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## AUSTRALIA ZOO



Visit Australia Zoo made famous by Steve Irwin, see a variety of Australian wildlife including the crocodiles being fed at the unique "Crocodile" show. Cuddle a koala, pet and feed the kangaroos, and even hold the reptiles, there is no other zoo like Australia Zoo!

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## BUNDABERG RUM DISTILLERY



On this tour you will see, smell and taste your way through the rum production process, a visit to this famous rum distillery will have your taste buds racing. This tour takes you through the rum making process from raw molasses to the incredible aromas of the maturing spirit. Enjoy a taste of this uniquely Australian rum in the bar with a variety of Bundy mixes and Rum liqueur based drinks. You will have the opportunity to purchase merchandise and unique souvenirs.

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## RUBYVALE

Rubyvale is a town with many bizarre buildings occupied by some unique characters. An underground sapphire mine tour will be followed by fossicking for your chance to hit pay dirt. This is the place to buy gemstones direct from the miners at prices far below those found in the cities. People from all over the world descend on the Gem fields each year to experience fossicking firsthand and try their luck in finding the ultimate gem discovery. If it's treasure that you're seeking or the opportunity to experience a real-life fossicking town, the Sapphire Gem fields has it all with its array of gem shops, galleries, jewelers, underground mines and digging areas.

## THE OUTBACK



Heading into the Outback we will ride along the Capricorn Highway, originally known as Australia's old Route 66, stopping at some of Australia's most iconic country towns.

## RODEO

Australia has some of the largest cattle stations in the world so a visit to a country rodeo should not be missed.

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## GREAT BARRIER REEF



One of the highlights will be a cruise out to the world heritage listed Great Barrier Reef to swim, snorkel or even scuba dive on this world famous reef. Alternatively, the reef can be viewed from the comfort of an underwater submersible. Tour includes morning & afternoon tea and a sumptuous buffet lunch served at the pontoon. Helicopter flights over the famous "heart reef" are also available. The variety of coral, fish and turtles is outstanding. Our accommodation during this phase will be the world famous Coral Sea Resort with its stunning views of the ocean and tropical islands. All tours at cost.

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## LONGREACH & BARCALDINE

We stop at the Outback towns of Longreach and Barcaldine with the chance to discover the history of QANTAS which started as an air service between isolated towns; the Stockman's Hall of Fame outlines how the Outback was explored and settled; and the Worker's Heritage Centre details the rebellion by the Australian workers which was only quelled by military power. Then board the fully licensed M.V. Explorer late afternoon and relax on the top deck with 360 degree views of the majestic Thomson River. Your captain will enthrall you with stories about the river, its wildlife and indigenous links. Relax and enjoy the glorious outback sunset. During the tour there will be many opportunities to meet Australian Hog riders. We will be joined by local HOG Chapters who will ride with us for part of the journey and socialize with us during stops and dinners.



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## MEET & GREET MERCURE HOTEL GOLD COAST

Make your way to this top class hotel, situated just minutes from Broadbeach surrounded by the pristine greens and fairways of Palm Meadows Golf Course. Relax and enjoy your spacious well appointed room, enjoy a game of golf, a swim in the resort style pool, or make use of the other luxury facilities such as the Sauna & Spa Bath / Jacuzzi.

We will all meet at a designated time for a briefing on tour requirements & arrangements, and to chat with your fellow travelers and answer any questions you may have regarding the tour.

Overnight stay on the Gold Coast

## DAY 1 GOLD COAST TO MOOLOOLABAH

Transfer by tour operator to collect bikes and fill in required paperwork.

Depart the Gold Coast & immediately head out into the lush hinterland and sweep our way around the curves enjoying spectacular views east towards Surfers Paradise as we ride to the quaint village of Mt Tamborine. We will then head north past Brisbane City, inland towards Mt Mee where we will stop at the Pitt Stop Café, Dayboro for morning tea / lunch. This café is renowned for it's incredible views.

Continuing on, the scenery that also encompasses the famous Glass House Mountains, will just continue to take you breath away as we head towards our next stop, Australia Zoo, made famous by Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin. See a variety of Australian wildlife including the crocodiles being fed, at the unique "Crocoseum" show. Cuddle a koala, pet and feed the kangaroos, and even hold the reptiles. On leaving Australia Zoo we will head towards the surf where we will overnight in the vibrant coastal town of Mooloolabah. Enjoy a swim, a stroll along the beach or visit one of the many cafes and shops.

Overnight stay in Mooloolabah 250 km 3.5hrs

## 7.00PM OFFICIAL WELCOME DINNER

Enjoy food and fellowship with your tour team and guides. This will be a fun night and a great opportunity to share the first days riding experiences and have any questions you may have answered.

## DAY 2 MOOLOOLABAH TO BUNDABERG

This morning we will head inland again towards the quaint village of Montville, situated on the Blackall Range, for morning coffee. Take some time to browse the eclectic range of shops selling local art & craft, knickknacks & locally made produce. We then ride north through the cane fields to the small City of Bundaberg famous for its locally brewed ginger beer and Bundaberg Rum. Here we will meet up with Bundaberg HOGs, and enjoy a lunch stop before taking a tour of the Bundaberg Rum Distillery which has been operating since 1888.

A visit to this famous icon will have your taste buds racing. This tour takes you through the rum making process from raw molasses to the incredible aromas of the maturing spirit. Enjoy a taste of this uniquely Australian rum in the bar with a variety of mixes and Rum liqueur based drinks. You will have the opportunity to purchase merchandise and unique souvenirs.

Overnight stay in Bundaberg 320 km 4 hrs

## DAY 3 BUNDABERG TO ROCKHAMPTON

Heading north, we will detour to Agnes Waters and the Town of 1770 - so named because Captain Cook landed there in that year. This quiet area has some wonderful beaches and is known for its great fishing. We will ride to the Headland and Lookout at the tip of the Cape. There is an easy walkway to the lookout which offers great views to the estuary and also to the sea. We will then head to our overnight stop of Rockhampton, locally known as "Rocky", on the 'Capricorn Coast'. Rocky is the 'Beef Capital of Australia', this substantial city offers many attractions. Meet & greet with Rocky HOGs and if possible we will take in a local Rodeo (subject to availability)

Overnight stay in Rockhampton 345 km 5.5hrs

## DAY 4 ROCKHAMPTON TO AIRLIE BEACH

Today is one of our longest rides, but well worth the effort to arrive as early as we can into Airlie Beach, gateway to The Great Barrier Reef, for our 2 night stay. On the way we will have a short lunch stop with the Mackay HOGs. On arrival in Airlie Beach as we will ride over the hill you will see the azure blue waters and the islands beyond the shore you will be immediately under its spell. Check into our accommodation within walking distance to the main street of Airlie Beach, where all the action happens. Airlie is filled with casual restaurants and cafes, boutique stores and bars full of lively conversations and a friendly atmosphere.

Overnight stay in Airlie Beach 490 km 5.5 hrs

## DAY 5 FREE DAY SIGHTSEEING

Free day with optional tours to visit the famous heart shaped reef or go scuba diving to explore first hand one of the wonders of the world. To get the best reef experience we would recommend the day trip to "Reef World", or a trip to Whitehaven Beach. Please see "tour options" page for more information and pricing. Early bookings are recommended as popular tours do get booked out. Tour costs not included.

2nd nights stay in Airlie Beach

## DAY 6 AIRLIE BEACH - MORANBAH

Leaving the clear blue waters of the Whitsundays we begin the next phase of our journey, discovering Australia's vast Outback. Today's ride encompasses the Isaac Region. This allows us to stop off in some of the smaller country communities whose charm and character are often overlooked. Our stop tonight in Moranbah is the starting point to exploring the exciting gem stone mining towns we will visit over the next few days.

Overnight stay in Moranbah 308 km 4hrs

## DAY 7 MORANBAH - EMERALD

Depart Moranbah passing through the old mining town of Clermont which in January 1862 saw the first rigging of camps alongside the prospectors on the gentle sloping banks of Hood's Lagoon. This town was the first place to be successfully mined outside of South Australia and by the end of 1863 over 1,000 miners were operating in local fields. Many of the old mine sites can still be seen, along with the last standing of the 21 copper mine chimneys which we will stop and visit. From there we will ride to Emerald for our overnight stop. Things to see in Emerald are both historic and quirky. Places of interest include, The Botanic Gardens, the only Gardens within the Central Western District, Emerald Historic Railway Station with it's intricate wrought iron trim, Emerald Centenary of Federation Mosaic Walkway that leads to the largest Van Gough Sunflower painting in the world, standing some 25 metres high!

Overnight stay in Emerald.  
Dinner with Central Highland HOGs 225 km 2.5hrs

## DAY 8 EMERALD - LONGREACH

We will start our ride to Longreach with our first stop at Rubyvale for a guided tour of Australia's largest underground walk-in Sapphire Mines. After the Tour we will have the opportunity to browse their underground museum and read about some of the amazing sapphires that have been found over the years. Buy a bucket of "wash" and start fossicking for your own gem, their friendly staff will show you how, you never know your luck!! Next stop will be the town of Sapphire, where there are some photo opportunities at 'The Big Ring', 'Big Spanner' and 'Big Pick and Shovel' which can all be found in and around Sapphire, so keep an eye out for these fun icons. From here we will head straight to Longreach for a much deserved swim and good nights sleep at our well appointed motel.

Overnight stay in Longreach (2 night Stay)

415 km 4 hrs

## DAY 9 FREE DAY SIGHTSEEING

In the morning, you will have the opportunity to tour the Qantas Museum, showcasing where Qantas Airways first began. Additional Tours are available to take the 747 Wing Walk (additional cost) & 1.5 hr guided tour of the 747 & 707 jets (additional cost). Visit the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre which is Australia's premier outback heritage institution in Queensland. The center provides visitors with a spectacular outback experience. A visit to all of these places is highly recommended.

**Evening** • Dinner on the Drovers Sunset River Cruise (cost inc) • Enjoy a 1 hour Sunset River cruise with nibbles • Bush Poetry and 2 course Dinner at the Wharf around a campfire. • Starlight's Spectacular Sound and Light Show

2nd overnight in Longreach

## DAY 10 LONGREACH TO CHARLEVILLE

Ride to Blackall located on the banks of the Barcoo River and visit the Blackall Woolscour, a historic wool washing plant which operated on steam from 1908 to 1978, it is the only complete operation of its kind left in Australia, with the original steam engine still in place. Then onto Charleville, where Cobb and Co had their largest and longest running coach making factory and it was also in Charleville that the famous rainmaking experiment, the Vortex Gun was carried out. You can still see the vortex guns, or explore the secrets that WWII held at the Charville Airport, take a scenic flight over the beautiful Mulga and Gidgea country or just relax and take a heritage ride or walk.

Overnight stay in Charleville

520 km 4.5hrs

## DAY 11 CHARLEVILLE TO ROMA

Ride to Mitchell where you can relax in the hot artesian pools. There is only one thing to do after a day long travelling adventure - and that is to kick back, relax, and soak up the minerals of a therapeutic hot pool. Then onto Roma known for Gas and Oil production. The most famous attraction in Roma would undoubtedly be the Big Rig, here you will learn all about Australia's history in Oil and Gas exploration. From the first gas find in Roma over a 100 years ago, through to today's multi billion dollar industry, the museum houses a collection of photos, facts, stories and equipment which piece together the industry as a whole. Roma is also home to Australia's largest cattle sales, in the unique atmosphere of a true outback experience. Worthy of a visit whilst in Roma is the Courthouse (est.1901), Mt Abundance Homestead, Meadowbank Museum and Roma Avenue of Heroes. The present courthouse replaced the original, which held one of outback Australia's most famous trials. The legend of Harry Redford was bought to public notice in Roma's courthouse 2 years after he was charged with the theft of 1000 head of cattle from Bowen Station near Longreach.

Redford allegedly stole the cattle and 'drove' them through country where no man had conquered, with an eventual sale in South Australia. Among the herd was one bull in particular, an unmistakable big white bull that gave the whole game away. Even with damning evidence against Redford, it is believed that the juror's were so captivated by his bush skills, daring and panache, that he was found not guilty and let walk a free man, going on to successfully manage several large properties and perhaps bask in the 'glory' of being Australia's "King of the Cattle Duffers".

Overnight Stay in Roma

265 km 3 hrs

## DAY 12 ROMA TO TEXAS

Ride to the tiny town of Texas, perched on the banks of the peaceful Dumaresq River. Here you'll find the serenity of rural landscapes. The picturesque Dumaresq River is one of the star attractions of the Western Country, it winds through gentle hills and rocks crossed by the historic weirs of Bonshaw, Cunningham and Glenarbon. The fertile river flats are dotted with old tobacco barn relics from a colorful past where grape vines now flourish alongside orchards, vegetables, peanuts and a myriad of other agricultural crops. Texas was named over a land claim in the 1850s which bore many similarities to one happening in Republic of Texas and Mexico in the United States at the same time. The original town was established on the river flats in 1875 but was relocated after the disastrous floods of 1890 and 1921. Remnants of the original historic township still exist for visitors to see.

Overnight stay in Texas with farewell dinner

455 km 5.5hrs

## DAY 13 TEXAS TO GOLD COAST HARLEY DAVIDSON - HEAD HOME

The final leg of our journey will take us through now familiar winding country roads and enjoy the last day of country riding as we head back to Gold Coast Harley Davidson to drop off our bikes and farewell our fellow travelers.

380 km 4.5hrs

### INCLUSIONS

- Late Model Harley Davidson
- Experienced Tour Leader
- Toll Charges
- Support Vehicle, inc space for small luggage
- Legal Helmet
- Welcome & Farewell Dinners
- Hotel Accommodation inc breakfast

### Entry to:

- Australia Zoo
- Underground mine tour at Rubyvale
- Stockmans Hall of Fame
- Workers Heritage Centre at Bacaldine
- Hot Artesian Spa at Mitchell
- GST (Goods & Services Tax)
- Bundaberg Rum Distillery
- Qantas Museum
- Woolscour tour Blackall
- Drovers Sunset River Cruise in Longreach
- Tour Video

### EXCLUSIONS

Airfare & any required visas

- All food (unless specified above) & Snacks inc mini bar
- Fuel & Oil
- Tips
- Souvenirs
- Alcohol & Beverages
- Insurance excess

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Airlie Beach day cruise to reef \$230 • Whitehaven beach & Daydream Island tour \$155 • Scenic seaplane flights POA • Scenic helicopter flights POA • Whitsunday day sailing POA

An addition to this tour is an extra two days to extend it to Winton and trip out to Lark Quarry and opal fossicking (very popular). Check web sites for tour dates & prices [www.wildfiretours.com](http://www.wildfiretours.com)

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