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Peter O'Leary in association with Specialty Travel presents his 11 Day

Darling River & Country Roads Outback Tour (No. 1)

Tuesday 8th to Friday 18th October 2019

Featuring places such as
**Broken Hill, White Cliffs, Tilpa, Trilby Station,
Lightning Ridge & many places in between!**

Day 1: Tuesday 8th **Arrive Adelaide** **(D)**
Departing early to catch our flight from Rockhampton via Brisbane we will arrive in Adelaide mid-afternoon and met by our driver from Stonestreets Coaches to transfer to our overnight accommodation in leafy North Adelaide!
Adelaide Meridian Hotel - 08 8267 3033

Day 2: Wednesday 9th **Adelaide/Riverland** **(BLD)**
After breakfast we drive to our appointment at the **Adelaide Oval**. The redeveloped Oval offers a unique blend of new and old – from the latest in stadium design to the famous features such as the heritage listed scoreboard, the century-old Moreton Bay Fig trees and the grassed northern mound. Our 90 minute **Adelaide Oval Tour** will take us behind the scenes to the inner workings of this iconic ground. We then head into the **Riverland**. Around lunch time we stop at **Waikerie**. There is a small gallery here named the **Rain Moth Gallery** which is worth a look – and a short heritage walk to the Murray River is available from the gallery (walk or coach option). Lunch today is at the **Waikerie Hotel** in the centre of town – a modern country pub. We will also make a brief stop at **Illalangi Gourmet Foods** which has a great variety of Riverland Produce. The owner will offer a tasting and a short talk for our group. This afternoon we continue to **Barmera** – located on Lake Bonney. Dinner tonight will be in the motel restaurant
Barmera Country Club Motel - 08 85882888

Day 3: Thursday 10th **Riverland to Broken Hill** **(BLD)**
We continue to **Renmark** this morning. First stop is at **Olivewood**, a homestead and museum containing relics from 1887. **Olivewood** traces the story of the Chaffey Brothers who were instrumental in introducing irrigation to the area. Our drive then takes us the tiny village of **Paringa**. Navigating the Murray River wouldn't be possible without the series of locks and weirs dating back to the 1920s and 1930s. Fourteen locks are still in use today. Here at Paringa, Lock 5, just upstream from Renmark, is a great example of one of these locks. We have arranged morning tea at the historic **Wilkadene Woolshed Brewery**. Located on the banks of the River Murray, Wilkadene was a famous sheep and wheat station, built and run by the Wilkinson family until being bought by the Freeman family in 1988. **Wilkadene Shearing Shed**, with its white-ant resistant native pine posts, supplied paddle steamers with chaff by way of a chute from the shed down the cliff to the river. The early settlers in this area were dependent on the paddle steamers for everything from food and household goods to their religious requirements. The movement of all paddle steamers was noted in the daily diary, often four or five would pass in a day. From here we drive through to **Wentworth** for lunch and then travel north to **Broken Hill**.
Silver Haven Motor Inn - 08 8087 2218 (2 nights)

Day 4: Friday 11th **Broken Hill** **(BLD)**
During today's guided **"Broken Hill Experience"** tour we will hear about the history of Broken Hill and see some of the historic buildings – the Broken Hill Court House built in 1889 and the Broken Hill Trades Hall. Its facade was retained in 1974 after the main halls and offices were demolished. One of the best views of the town is from the top of the **Line of Lode** at the Miners Memorial (listing the names of more than 800 people who have died working at the mine). Broken Hill's population, in the pick and shovel days, built their houses as close as they could to their work. 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 local silver, a 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 one of the highlights of our tour to Broken Hill. It's the world's largest acrylic painting on canvas that totally immerses visitors into the local landscape. On a clear day the curvature of the earth can be seen! After a light lunch we make a stop at **Pro Harts Gallery** for a look at his unique works, widely admired for capturing the true spirit of the outback. He was nicknamed 'Professor' - hence Pro, in his younger days when he was known as an inventor. We also stop in at **The Palace Hotel** to see the interior of the hotel that was used for bar scenes in the movie 'Priscilla - Queen of the Desert'. Finally, just on sunset we transfer to the outskirts of town to see a fascinating attraction. The **Living Desert and Sculpture Symposium** was created from large pieces of Wilcannia Sandstone by twelve of the world's finest sculptors. The arrangements of the stones is double colonnade which defines a special flow from the Pinnacles Hills to Fred Hollow's resting place in Bourke and provides one of the most spectacular views in the area. It will be a delightful way to complete our day's touring!

Day 5: Saturday 12th White Cliffs (BLD)

Today we travel on to the historic Opal mining township of **White Cliffs**. The famous Australian cricketer Bill O'Reilly (1905-1992) who Don Bradman referred to as the greatest bowler he ever faced, is White Cliffs favourite son. On arrival we enjoy our lunch break before learning of the hardy souls and the tough early days of our Opal Miners. Our local guide will join us and take us on a tour where we will learn about opal mining and how the miners find their opal. We will see the Solar Power Station and visit an **Opal Showroom** where, if you wish, you can make that special purchase of this beautiful stone. Our accommodation tonight is very unique. We stay in a "**Dug Out**" - a disused opal mine that has been converted into an "Oasis" with huge spacious rooms. It is a truly enjoyable experience and will give you a lot to talk about the following day. You will be fascinated by how spacious the dugout is with its own restaurant and bar and great facilities. Tonight why not take a stroll and enjoy an intriguing look into the outback sky.

White Cliffs Underground Motel - 08 8091 6677

Day 6: Sunday 13th Darling River Run (BLD)

This morning we leave White Cliffs and drive south to **Wilcannia** – once known as Queen City of the West and the site of the original Resches Brewery. After an early lunch we follow the **Darling River** north to **Tilpa** (a beer at the Tilpa Pub is a must!) The Darling River meanders through Outback New South Wales from its origins in Queensland's Darling Downs until it meets the Murray at Wentworth. Much of the pioneering history of Western New South Wales has centred on the river. Early European explorers, in search of the fabled inland sea, tracked one thousand river miles from Brewarrina to Wentworth. Sturt, Mitchell, Dowling, Burke and Wills all performed epic exploring feats. By mid-century cattlemen began to carve out vast stations and forge stock routes to Adelaide and Melbourne. The successful navigation of the Darling, upstream from the Murray River by riverboat in 1859, signalled that the Darling had become a highway. River front wool empires grew at phenomenal speeds. Some were 2-3 million acres, shearing millions of sheep with world record amounts of wool being shipped away to Europe.

From here we turn north enroute to **Trilby Station** – our base for the next two nights. This station is a 130,000 acre working sheep and cattle station. Tomorrow we will enjoy some local touring.

Trilby Station - 02 6874 742 (2 Nights)

Day 7: Monday 14th Trilby Station (BLD)

We have a fascinating day ahead of us. Just up the road, towards Louth, is **Dunlop Station**, the first shed in the world to complete a mechanical shearing back in 1888 (shearing 188,000 sheep!!). Trilby was once a part of the million acre Dunlop Station and the history there is amazing. We have arranged morning tea and a tour of the homestead and shearing shed. We return to **Trilby** for lunch and then enjoy an easy walking/talking tour with Liz Murray (owner) down to the river, past the homestead and up to the hangar. As Liz says "it is more about story telling than walking, giving visitors a woman's perspective about life in the outback". There will also be time to take a swim or walk along the river.

Day 8: Tuesday 15th Bourke/Lightning Ridge (BLD)

This morning we drive through to **Bourke** and join the **Paddleboat Jandra**. It's a great experience to recapture the romance of the old river-steamers as we cruise along the quiet waters of the Darling River. After our cruise we enjoy lunch before the drive east to Walgett and onto **Lightning Ridge**.

Outback Resort Lightning Ridge - 02 6829 0304 (2 nights)

Day 9: Wednesday 16th Lightning Ridge (BLD)

Lightning Ridge, in outback NSW is on the world's richest deposit of black opal. It's a place that abounds with colourful characters, barrels of dreams, opportunities and experiences! The 'Ridge', as it is known to the locals, will welcome you with classic country hospitality but it will certainly not be 'more of the same'. It is something about the pioneering spirit that has allowed this area to develop - many visitors become so enamoured with the place that a 3-day holiday can turn into a new life. Famous for the elusive and distinctive Black Opal which is unique to the area, it is a thriving frontier town full of the iconic Australian characters. During our visit we will experience sculptures underground, bottle-houses, antique lamps, castles, astronomy monuments and hills named 'Lunatic', 'Pig' and 'Bald!!'

This morning we have an appointment at an incredible underground attraction here in Lightning Ridge called the **Chambers of the Black Hand**. Opened in April, 2007, this is a unique tourist mine. At 11.2m underground, local artist Ron Canlin has created the most amazing paintings and sculptures. There is The Last Supper, Archangel Gabriel and the Chinese Terracotta Warriors. Ron is constantly carving new work so there are changes every day. 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. On this level a geology tour will give us the different strata's opal formation - an experience not to be missed. No trip to Lightning Ridge would be complete without a trip to **The Grawin**. If you think "the Ridge" is unique, you have to see places like The Pub in the Scrub, The Glengarry Hilton and Sheeppark Flats. Located about 70 kilometres west of Lightning Ridge, The Grawin was established in 1908 with the discovery of 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". The Sheeppark area was named after a find of opal near the fence of the old Sheepparks. A local guide joins us on a day's touring to the Grawin, Glengarry and Sheeppark opal fields and we enjoy **lunch at the Glengarry Hilton** before heading back to the Ridge.

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

Day 10: Thursday 17th

Lightning Ridge/Goondiwindi

(BD)

From Lightning Ridge we make our way east to **Moree** for our lunch stop (own expense) and then we take a brief sightseeing tour of this unique rural town. Moree's main street showcases majestically restored heritage listed buildings influenced by American, Egyptian, Greek, and Spanish design, dating back to between 1920 to 1939 Art Deco period. The result is a unique CBD which is perfect for taking a trip down memory lane. Mid-afternoon we travel on to **Goondiwindi**, where on arrival we have time to check in and freshen up before dinner this evening where we meet up with the southbound group.

Jolly Swagman Motor Inn - 07 4671 4560

Day 11: Friday 18th

Goondiwindi/Warwick/Home

(BL)

After breakfast we visit the **Statue of the Goondiwindi Grey**. "Gunsynd" showed that dreams can come true by becoming the Champion of his era winning the Cox Plate and the 4 big mile races - the only horse to have achieved this in History. We then stop for a visit to the **Customs House Museum**. A border customs point before Federation, this authentically restored building contains a magnificent cottage garden and a rich and colourful collection of mementos of yesteryear. Departing Goondiwindi we head to **Warwick** for lunch at the beautiful "Abby of the Roses" Here we will enjoy a tour of the historic home and making our way back to **Brisbane** to catch our afternoon flight to Rockhampton following our adventure into the outback of New South Wales.

Tour Cost

\$3935.00 per person

Single Supplement – add \$565.00 per person

1. *Make sure you **phone** your booking through first to ensure availability of seats!*
2. *To guarantee your place on this tour please fill out attached Booking Form and return to Peter with a **\$500 Deposit per person***
3. **Final Balance Due by Monday 19th August 2019**
4. **Insurance not included but highly recommended. Please ask for a quote as per Booking Form!!**

Any queries please phone Peter on 49112644

Tour Inclusions

- 10 night's motel accommodation
- 10 cooked motel breakfasts
- 10 motel dinners
- 9 included lunches – see below
- Tour of the Adelaide Oval, Adelaide
- Lunch on day 2
- Entry to the Rain Moth Gallery, Waikerie
- Guided tour of the Olivewood Homestead, Renmark
- Tour and morning tea at the Wilkadene Woolshed Brewery, Renmark
- Lunch at the Crown Hotel, Wentworth
- Guided tour of Broken Hill
- Tour at the Silver City Mint & Art Centre, Broken Hill
- Lunch at the Musicians Club, Broken Hill
- Entry to the Pro Hart Gallery, Broken Hill
- Tour of the Palace Hotel, Broken Hill
- Entry to the International Sculpture Symposium, Broken Hill
- Lunch at the General Store, White Cliffs
- Guided tour of White Cliffs
- Picnic lunch on day 6
- Touring and lunch at Trilby Station
- Cruise aboard the PV Jandra, Bourke
- Lunch at the Port of Bourke Hotel on day 8
- Entry to the Chamber of the Black Hand, Lightning Ridge
- Guided tour of Lightning Ridge and The Grawin on day 9
- Lunch at the Glengarry Hilton, Lightning Ridge
- Entry to Opal Cave, Lightning Ridge
- Guided town tour of Moree
- Entry to Customs House Museum, Goondiwindi
- Lunch and tour at Abbey of the Roses, Warwick
- Luxury 4WD Coach (Stonestreets)

Terms & Conditions

Specialty Travel reserves the right –

To vary the itinerary in any way at any time it deems necessary.

To amend the price subject to any changes imposed by other operators and carriers included in the itinerary. The operation and provision of services from other operators and carriers included in the itinerary is the responsibility of these operators and no responsibility is taken by Specialty Travel for the failure of such operators to provide the nominated service.

To cancel or postpone the tour due to insufficient numbers or as the result of circumstances outside the company's control that in the opinion of the company would adversely affect the operation of the tour

The company accepts no responsibility for damage or loss of personal belongings and suggests that suitable insurance be attained for protection of the same.

The company does not accept responsibility or liability for delays, accidents, injury, irregularity or damage caused by other transport companies used for connection tours operated by this company.

Cancellations

Cancellation fees may be levied in accordance with notice given. For cancellations between 2 and 3 months of the date of travel, cancellation fees **may** apply on deposits or payments made as per conditions imposed by other suppliers of services included in the tour. For cancellations after final payment (normally 45 to 60 days prior to departure) & no shows a 100% cancellation fee **may** apply.

However no cancellation fees will apply if someone else replaces you on the same tour.

Fares & Payments

Fares quoted are subject to alteration. However no change will be made after the final balance has been paid. A deposit of **\$500pp** is required to confirm your booking with the **balance due at least 45 days** prior to departure. (Please be advised your booking is not guaranteed until we receive deposit). Payment by Mastercard & Visa Credit Cards will incur a 1% Fee. Amex attracts a higher Fee.

Inclusions

Inclusions for each tour are shown on the itinerary. As a general rule, tours include dinner, bed, breakfast and entry fees to various attractions and cruises etc. Meals included are identified by the symbols, B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner.

Exclusions

Meals not specified, optional tours, room service, telephone calls, drinks and other items of a personal nature.

Accommodation

Wherever possible, rooms are self-contained with private bathroom, colour television, tea and coffee making facilities and heating/air conditioning. Persons wanting a single room must pay a single supplement.

Departure Details

Passengers are requested to be ready for departure at least 15 minutes prior to departure time. Departure details and times will be advised either at the time of booking or final payment.

Travel Insurance

Is not included but is strongly recommended and available if required, for an additional cost.

BOOKING FORM
DOMESTIC TRAVEL



Phone (07) 4911 2644

Make sure you phone your booking through first to ensure availability of seats!!

TOUR NAME: No.1 Darling River & Country Roads Outback Tour **DEPARTURE DATE** Tuesday 8th October

Surname (1) _____ Given Name/s _____ Title _____

(Please supply names as per Passport or Driver's License)

Surname (2) _____ Given Name/s _____ Title _____

Preferred Name (if different from above): 1. _____ 2. _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____ Have Name Badge? Yes / No (Please circle one)

Preferred Accommodation: (Please circle one) Twin Share / Single Supplement ; Twin Beds/Double Bed

If travelling with a friend & sharing a room, please advise their name _____

Dietary Requirements: (If Any) _____

Pickup Point: (Please circle one) Yeppoon Rail; Emu Park Bus Terminal; Northside Plaza; South Rocky Mobil; Gracemere PO; or meet at Airport

We strongly recommend TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Quote required **Yes** – If yes please advise Dates of Birth 1: _____ 2 _____

Quote required **No** I/We have or will arrange our own Insurance

\$500.00 Deposit per person is required with booking. Final Balance due Monday 19th August

Payment Methods– Cheque, Credit Card or Direct Deposit

Cheque: (Please make payable to **SPECIALTY TRAVEL**)

Direct Deposit: Specialty Travel Trust Account: Westpac Bank - BSB: 034210; Acc No: 137027
NB: (If using this method please phone me on 49112644 and advise when done)

Credit Card Type: (Please Circle one) Mastercard / Visa (1% Fee) Amex (3%)

This is to confirm that I, the **Cardholder:** _____

(Full name as it appears on your credit card)

have read and accept the Terms & Conditions of Specialty Travel as stated online and/or in their brochures and authorize Specialty Travel to charge the following credit card for deposit and/or final payment:

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: _____ **CCV:** (on back of Card) _____

Amount: \$ _____ **Signature:** _____

Please return completed form by one of the following:

Post: Peter O'Leary, 134 Nollers Road, Silverleigh Q 4401

Email: peter@specialty.travel

Direct Phone: 4911 2644 (local call)