EP BUS CHARTERS

10 DAY LIGHTNING RIDGE TOUR

Monday 04 May 2026—Wednesday 13 May 2026

BOOK TODAY!

PHONE KIM
0417 165 414
kim@epbuscharters.com.au

Ex Port Lincoln

$4650.00 twin share per person

$780.00 single supplement

Ex Adelaide

$4860.00 twin share per person

$870.00 single supplement

HOME TO BROKEN HILL DAY 1

D

Welcome to our 10 day tour to **Lightning Ridge** in the north west of New South Wales – just 70 kilometres south of the Queensland border. We have a travel day today so make sure you bring a good book onboard. Sitback relax and meet your fellow travellers as we head into the outback to **Broken Hill,** with several stops along the way. Arriving late this afternoon we check into our motel and freshen up for dinner.

Dinner in motel | lunch own arrangements and cost

Silver Haven Motor Inn, Broken Hill | 2 nights | 08 8087 2218

BROKEN HILL DAY 2

BLD

We begin the day at Silver City Mint and Art Gallery for a self-guided tour of the impressive Big Picture. The large acrylic painting will draw you into its huge skies and red rock earth of ancient river beds dotted with gums, leading to the distance Flinders Ranges. We then visit the Royal Flying Doctor Base at Broken Hill Airport. We enjoy a guided tour of this fascinating facility and experience first hand a real-life Flying Doctor base in action, view historical photos and other equipment. We have time to purchase lunch before a visit to Pro Hart Gallery. From drawing and sketching to the famed landscapes and narrative paintings, Pro Hart was an artist across many forms. Be amazed by the lush colours, sense of space and spiritual quality of the outback captured in ways only few artists are able to emulate. Our visual senses will be delighted at the Living Desert. Nestled amongst the Barrier Ranges, twelve sandstone artworks highlight the skyline, all with a story to tell. Located on the majestic hilltop, this unusual attraction was created by some of the finest sculptors from around the world.

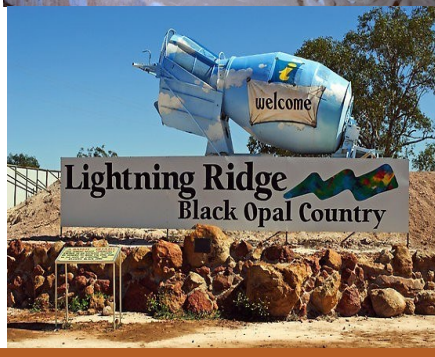
Breakfast and dinner in hotel | lunch own arrangements and cost

BROKEN HILL TO BOURKE DAY 3

BLD

It's an early start today, as we pass through Wilcannia on our way to **Cobar**. We make a stop along the way to enjoy our picnic lunches. In the late 1800s, the great Cobar Copper Mine was Australia's leading producer of copper. Back then the mine had more than 2,000 employees, huge smelters and a 64-metre chimney stack. Remains of the smelter foundations are visible at the **Great Cobar Museum**, which we visit today and also enjoy afternoon tea. Here we take a journey through Cobar's history from the time of the local Aboriginal Ngiyampaa people to the mining era. Marvel at historic artefacts and outstanding collection of exhibits which date from the early 1870s to the present day. We now head to **Bourke**, situated on the banks of the Darling River.

Breakfast in motel | picnic lunch included | dinner at Bowling Club Bourke
Darling River Motel, Bourke | 1 night | 02 6872 2288



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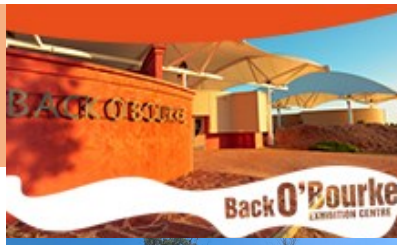

BOURKE TO LIGHTNING RIDGE DAY 4

BLD

This morning after breakfast we take a look at **Bourke**. There are some wonderful historic buildings here such as The Old London Bank (1888) Courthouse (1900) Post office (1880) and Post Office Hotel (1888). At the corner of Mitchell and Wilson Streets is the Carriers Arms Inn, frequented by Henry Lawson in the early 1890s and mentioned in some of his stories. We visit the **Back of Bourke Exhibition** as well as the Bourke Cemetery to see the grave of Fred Hollows. We then continue to **Brewarrina** for our lunch stop. There is an interesting piece of aboriginal history here. The **Brewarrina Fish Traps** are estimated to be over 40,000 years old and are one of the oldest man-made structures on earth. This elaborate network of rock weirs and pools stretches for around half a kilometre along the riverbed and was built by ancient tribes, to catch fish as they swam upstream. We take a look and then continue to **Lightning Ridge.** Lightning Ridge is the only place in Australia (and one of the few places in the world) where the precious and highly prized **Black Opal** is found. The black opal has carbon and iron oxide trace elements in it producing a very dark stone with hints of blue, green and red.

Breakfast at Main Cafe | picnic lunch included | dinner at Bowling Club

Wallangulla Motel | 3 nights | 02 6829 0542

LIGHTNING RIDGE DAY 5

BD

After breakfast we have a very special experience in store at **Chambers of the Black Hand.** 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, such as a samurai warrior 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 be missed. Overall, it is a very unique visit. We then head back into town and meet our local opal expert at the **Opal Cave**. He will introduce us to the local industry and show us how the opal is cut and polished. We have free time to purchase lunch before our visit to the **Walk-In-Mine** to experience the atmosphere of an underground mine. We also have a **tour** including a video presentation and explanation about opal mining. We then visit the showroom to view the opals that came from the mines in this area.

Breakfast in motel | dinner at Bowling Club | lunch own arrangements and cost

GRAWIN AND GLENGARRY DAY 6

BLD

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 70 kilometres 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 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 fin of opal near the fence of the old Sheepyards. A **local guide** joins us on a day's touring including **lunch** at the **Glengarry Hilton**. After a great day we head back to Lightning Ridge with some time to freshen up and relax before dinner.

Breakfast in motel | lunch at the Glengarry Hilton | dinner at Bowling Club

INCLUSIONS

- Complete charter
- 9 nights accommodation
- 9 cooked breakfasts
- 5 motel dinners/4 dinners at Bowling Club Bourke & Lightning Ridge
- 5 lunches
- Tour and visit Big Picture at Silver City Mint and Art Centre, Broken Hill
- Tour of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Broken Hill
- Entry to Pro Hart Gallery, Broken Hill
- Entry and afternoon tea to the Cobar Museum
- Picnic Lunch from Darling River Motel, Bourke
- Locally guided tour of Bourke
- Entry to Exhibition Centre - Back o' Bourke Exhibition & Visitors Centre
- Guided tour of the Fish Traps at Brewarrina Aboriginal Fishtraps
- Entry to Chambers of the Black Hand, Lightning Ridge
- Entry to Opal Cave, Lightning Ridge
- Guided underground tour and fossicking, Opal Mine Adventure
- Full day guided tour - The Grawin. Including The Pub in the scrub, Sheepyard Flats, Guide - John Bevan
- Lunch at Gilgandra Sporties
- Entry and guided tour at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo
- Locally guided tour of White Cliffs
- Picnic lunch included from White Cliffs Hotel Motel
- Sound and light show at Steamtown Heritage Rail Centre, Peterborough

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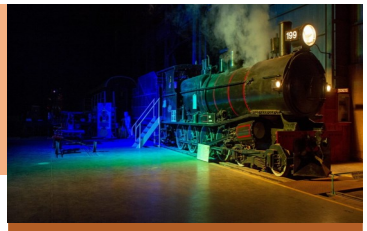

LIGHTNING RIDGE TO DUBBO DAY 7

BLD

We bid Lightning Ridge a fond farewell and make our way to **Gilgandra,** home of the Coo-ees and the Town of Windmills. On arrival we enjoy lunch at the **Gilgandra Sporties** before making our way to **Dubbo** and the **Taronga Western Plains Zoo.** The Zoo is home to more than 1100 animals from around the world, many of them endangered species. The Zoo is in the unique position to allow many of the animals to roam freely and to be viewed without the visual barriers of fences, bars or glass, instead using a system of dry and water-filled moats. A zoo keeper will escort our coach and explain the open range layout and some of the behind the scenes operations of the Zoo. We now check-in to our overnight accommodation here in Dubbo.

Breakfast and dinner in motel | lunch at Gilgandra Sporties
The Oxley Motel Dubbo | 1 night | 02 6882 4444

DUBBO TO WHITE CLIFFS DAY 8

BD

After breakfast we depart on our travel day, via Nyngan onto ***Cobar***. Here we have time to stretch our legs, take a look around and purchase some lunch. This highly productive mining town has an interesting history evidenced by its old buildings like the Great Western Hotel with its endless stretch of iron lace-work ornamenting the verandah. Continuing on, the landscape becomes noticeably barren as we pass through **Wilcannia** and onto the unusual **White Cliffs,** an opal town. We check-in to our accommodation with time to relax before dinner.

Breakfast and dinner in motel | lunch own arrangements and cost
White Cliffs Hotel Motel | 1 night | 08 8091 6606

WHITE CLIFFS TO PETERBOROUGH DAY 9

BLD

Before departing the area a local guide will join us on board and take us on a tour of this unique place. 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; his father was a school teacher here. We also visit an Opal showroom. It's now time to farewell Whit Cliffs as the rest of the day will be spent traveling to Peterborough for our last night on tour. We do make a stop along the way to enjoy our picnic lunch and to stretch our legs. Tonight dinner is prepared for us at our motel and after we head to **Steamtown** for their **Sound and light show**. We find our seats in a comfortably restored 1916 historic rail carriage placed on a 3 gauge turntable. We spend an hour moving through the tunnels of time to learn about Peterborough, railways in South Australia and the many fascinating personal stories associated with it. The experience propels us into being part of the last two centuries and will top off our day perfectly.

Breakfast and dinner in motel | picnic lunch included

Roundhouse Motel Peterborough | 1 night | 08 8651 2078

PETERBOROUGH TO HOME DAY 10

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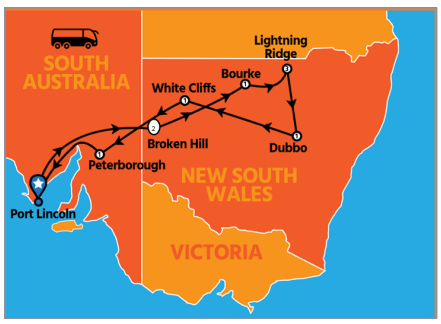
What a wonderful holiday we have had travelling with friends and making new ones along the way. Today we head for home arriving late afternoon with many wonderful memories of our holiday in the Australian outback.

Breakfast in motel | lunch own arrangements and cost



TERMS & Conditions

- Price is based on twin share, single supplements apply
- $350 per person—deposit required upon booking (when receiving paperwork)
- Deposit is non refundable if guest cancels
- Tour will be rescheduled if COVID-19 causes cancellation of dates on itinerary or deposit credited to your tour of choice within 12 months
- Dietary requirements upon booking
- Balance due 5 weeks prior to tour departure
- 5 weeks to 14 days 50% loss
- 14-8 days 70% cancellation fee
- Inside 7 days 100% cancellation fee
- Itinerary subject to change due to weather or events out of our control

EP BUS CHARTERS

Testimonials

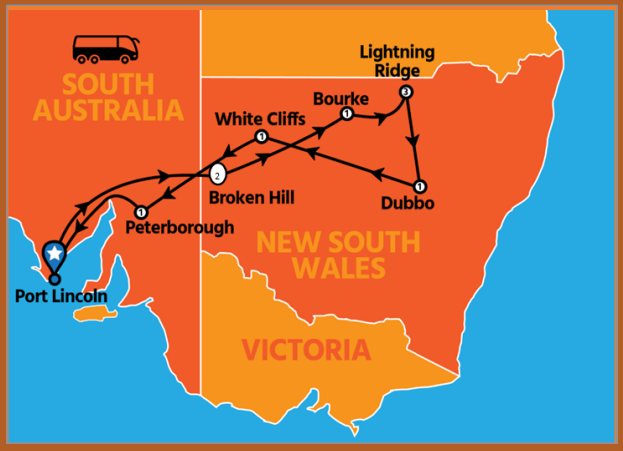
Kim and Dave gave us a wonderful time touring and seeing the whales and windmills, and we had a great time in COORABIE with wine and a nice fire. I would tour with them again, very relaxing, enjoyable with safe driving. Thank you Kim and David for dropping us off at our homes in Lincoln. Erica Sampson

Fantastic Operators. Very knowledgeable and informative. Kim is very kind and helpful. This is the only trip I've been on where I haven't constantly had my purse open, as nearly everything has been included in the tour price, which is very rare. I highly recommend EP Charters and will be touring with them at every opportunity. Sue Monfries

Great Little getaway to Kangaroo Island, Hostess and bus captain very knowledgeable and friendly. John Kauffmann

Looking for a stress free tour? Where better to go than EP Bus Charters tours where Kim & David are wonderful hosts. Kim & David are caring and the friendliness portrayed from the moment one books a tour to the end of one's tour is a memorable experience. An up & coming tour with EP Bus Charters is the Whale experience to the Head of The Bight. Everything thing required, good accommodation, meals and entertainment is organised and varied to suit. You can be assured of a tour to remember. Having travelled with EP Bus Charters tour on two occasions I can highly recommend their hospitality. Recently I went with them to the 70th Barossa Festival. What a wonderful variety and action packed holiday. Rae Brewster

Fully Hosted with old fashioned care. Husband and wife team travelling in a comfortable touring coach.



CONTACT US TODAY AND LOCK IN YOUR ADVENTURE!

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES PHONE KIM 0417 165 414
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