

Queensland

THE GREAT
QUEENSLAND
**DINOSAUR
TRAIL**

Your Pocket Guide to Queensland's Dinosaur,
Marine and Megafauna Experiences



**Queensland
Government**

Journey through Queensland on The GREAT Queensland Dinosaur Trail, where prehistoric wonders, fossil digs, and ancient stories are etched into the landscape. From towering dinosaurs in outback museums and marine fossils from the vanished Eromanga Sea, to the World Heritage-listed fossil fields of Riversleigh, this trail connects some of the most extraordinary deep-time experiences in the world.

Travel at your own pace through big skies, red earth, and welcoming towns, uncovering new marvels at every stop. Whether you're brushing dust from ancient bones, walking where giants once roamed, or discovering the stories still being unearthed today, **The GREAT Queensland Dinosaur Trail** invites you to explore a land shaped by deep time – where adventure, discovery, and wonder are always within reach.



Contents

Why Everyone Loves Dinosaurs!.....	4
Welcome	5
The Queensland Palaeo Story.....	6
The GREAT Queensland Dinosaur Trail - Map.....	10
Guided Dinosaur & Outback Tours	12
Queensland Dinosaur Week	13
Eromanga	14
Hughenden	16
Richmond	18
Mount Isa	20
Winton	22
Riversleigh World Heritage Area	24
Isisford	26
Mttaburra	28
Boulia	30
Capricorn Coast	32
Other Queensland Palaeo Experiences	34
Queensland's BIG 7	36
I want to be a palaeontologist	38
Self Drive Itineraries	40
What to know before you go.....	55



dinosaurexperiences.com

Dinosaur Experiences Australia acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands we journey across and gather on.



Everyone Loves Dinosaurs!

"The original rockstars of Earth, no encore needed"

Michael

"I used to dig dinosaurs as a kid, now I can do it for real!" Matt

"Seeing the real dinosaur fossils from where they came from made our trip to the outback." Amy

"They're big, bold, and beautifully bizarre – dinos are pure outback magic"

Olivia

"You don't have to go to Hollywood to find dinosaur magic. Queensland is packed with prehistoric places where dinosaurs actually lived. From ancient stampede tracks at Lark Quarry to marine monsters once swimming through the outback, these aren't just stories – they're fossil facts under your feet." Kath

"Like a time machine with no seatbelt, back to when megafauna ruled"

Oscar

"Move over T.rex, my favourite dinosaur is the southern hunter, Australovenator." Ubi

"Let's be honest: they're just plain cool!"

Sebastian



The Hon. Andrew Powell MP

Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation

Welcome

Step into a land where giants once ruled.

The Crisafulli Government, in partnership with Dinosaur Experiences Australia, is proud to present The GREAT Queensland Dinosaur Trail – your pocket guide to real fossils, real stories, and real adventure.

From red earth and big skies to genuine outback hospitality, this guide invites you to explore deeper, support local communities, and experience the extraordinary history waiting beneath your feet.

We invite you to enjoy the journey and discover the remarkable stories that continue to shape Queensland.



Proudly supported by
the Queensland Government
Engaging Science Grants



**Queensland
Government**



Queensland's palaeoworld is unlike anything else on Earth.

Australia's long history of isolation has meant evolution unfolded differently here, leaving Queensland to proudly boast some of the strangest and most wonderful creatures found nowhere else, both living and extinct. Each of our unique plants and animals carries a deep-time story written in the rocks as fossils. While these stories are found across the continent, Queensland is special, host to most of Australia's iconic fossil treasures.

With a record over 1.5 billion years old, Queensland remains the home of many species with ancestry reaching back tens to hundreds of millions of years. Though sometimes called 'living fossils' or 'relicts', these organisms are anything but; they are survivors, shaped by constant environmental change over immense spans of geological time. Each species and fossil offers a snapshot of how the past shaped the present, writing each chapter in the Queensland palaeo-story.

Wherever you travel in Queensland, you are part of the Queensland palaeo-story. The story of our ancient rainforests can be found from the Wet Tropics of the north to the Gondwana Rainforests in the south. Fossil leaves and seeds from the ancestors of towering bunya pines, beech trees, ferns, and cycads can be found alongside the bones of dinosaurs out west in the now-dry Mitchell-grass plains. Meanwhile, the ancestors of our unique rainforest animals, like musky rat kangaroos, platypuses, tree kangaroos and cuscuses are being discovered as fossils at Mount Etna Caves, Capricorn Caves, and the world-famous Riversleigh World Heritage Area.

The story of the Great Barrier Reef is intimately connected to that of the island paradise of K'gari. Eons of interplay between sea-level change, wind, and Ice Ages has created these stunning natural attractions, providing homes for many unique species. Near the headwaters of the Burnett River, the Queensland lungfish survives, its ancestry stretching back long before the dinosaurs. Along the Cassowary Coast, you might even come face to face with a living dinosaur: the cassowary, a species more closely related to *Tyrannosaurus rex* than *T. rex* is to a *Triceratops*!

Image: Dr Scott Hocknull



Sea shell – 515 million years old

Image: Dr Scott Hocknull



Extinct kangaroo tooth
100,000 years old



Image: Rochelle Lawrence

Ancient crocodile tooth
40,000 years old

Ancient stalactites in
Harp Chamber, Capricorn Caves

Driving west into Channel Country, you'll see Australia's largest living land animals, like kangaroos and emus, but this same landscape once supported giants of far greater size, many of which coexisted with First Nations people for millennia. Three-tonne wombat-like marsupials, six-metre-long venomous goannas, 270kg kangaroos, and marsupial lions all once roamed here.

Arriving in Outback Queensland, you are stepping

further back to a time when much of central Australia lay beneath the vast Eromanga Sea. Home to archaic fish, giant squid, giant sharks and fearsome marine reptiles unlike anything alive today. In the skies above, pterosaurs hunted, while on land, strange plant-eating dinosaurs lived in the forests fringing the sea. One became our State Fossil Emblem, *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*.

When the sea eventually disappeared, it was replaced

by floodplains. Small herds of plant-eating dinosaurs leave their footprints in the mud, stalked by fast, meat-eating theropods armed with razor-sharp teeth and claws. Towering above them, the long-necked titanosaurs of immense size are the largest land animals to ever walk the Outback. Today, their fossilised bones, teeth, claws and footprints tell a story that is waiting for every palaeo-traveller to explore and experience.

Today, Queensland's palaeo-stories are being uncovered across our State with each one waiting to be explored, discovered and experienced.

Image: Dr Scott Hocknull

Opalised plant
93 million years old

Dr. Scott

Dr Scott Hocknull
Principal Research Fellow
Applied Palaeontology &
Palaeotourism



Image: Rochelle Lawrence



The GREAT Queensland Dinosaur Trail

Set out on a journey throughout Queensland and step into a world lost to time, **The GREAT Queensland Dinosaur Trail** invites you to experience a land where extraordinary prehistoric stories are etched into the earth.

Wander through towns that hold the secrets of ancient creatures and walk where dinosaurs once roamed. Become a modern-day explorer, joining real fossil digs or simply soak up the wonders of our deep past, from marine fossils emerging from the vanished Eromanga Sea to the World Heritage-listed Riversleigh fossil fields, steeped in both scientific discovery and ancient First Nations traditions.

Whether you drive, rail, bus, or join a guided tour, whatever trail you take, every stop along the way promises new marvels, memorable landscapes, and a genuine sense of adventure.

Come and witness ongoing discoveries – right under your feet, history is still being unearthed.

To find more information
about these tours,
and others, visit
dinosaur experiences.com

Guided Dinosaur & Outback Tours

Explore Queensland's prehistoric landscapes with expert-led tours that combine dinosaur discoveries, iconic outback scenery, and seamless travel.

Rangelands
Outback Camp

- ◆ **Red Dirt Tours – Dinosaur Stampede Tours:** Visit the world's only known dinosaur stampede site at Lark Quarry with expert interpretation and outback storytelling.
- ◆ **Red Dirt Tours – Australian Age of Dinosaurs Half Day Tour:** Enjoy guided access to Australia's largest dinosaur museum, including fossil labs and collections.
- ◆ **Outback Aussie Tours – Legendary Longreach & Winton Tour:** A classic outback journey combining dinosaurs, heritage, and iconic Queensland landscapes.
- ◆ **Outback Aussie Tours – Corner Country Explorer Tour:** Discover remote outback regions, fossil stories, and vast desert landscapes on a guided adventure.
- ◆ **SeaAir – 4-Day Carnarvon Ranges to Winton Dinosaur Trail:** A premium small-group journey linking dramatic landscapes with dinosaur country.
- ◆ **Rangelands – Dinosaur & Outback Tours:** Experience remote rangelands through guided tours connecting dinosaurs, landscapes, and station life.

QUEENSLAND

DINOSAUR WEEK

4-10 MAY
2026

National Dinosaur Day – 7 May 2026

Get ready to stomp, roar, and explore! Celebrate Queensland Dinosaur Day by planning your visit to one of the many dino-mite fossil and dinosaur experiences across the state.

From ancient marine monsters to towering land giants, Queensland is recognised as Australia's leading state for dinosaur fossil discoveries.



For a full list of
activations, events,
and ticket specials,
check out the official
Queensland Dinosaur
Week pages and start
planning your prehistoric
adventure today!



Eromanga: Australia's Fossil Frontier



Eromanga blends prehistoric wonder with outback hospitality – where ancient giants come to life.

Eromanga is home to some of the country's most exciting palaeo experiences, including the discovery of *Australotitan cooperensis* – Australia's largest dinosaur 'Cooper'.

At the Eromanga Natural History Museum, visitors can explore fossil labs, join dig tours, and get hands-on with real dinosaur and megafauna specimens. It's a must-visit for science lovers, families, and fossil fanatics alike.



Eromanga Natural History Museum
1 Dinosaur Drive, Eromanga | (07) 4656 3084

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ **Eromanga Natural History Museum**
Meet "Cooper" and explore fossil exhibits and labs
- ◆ **Dinosaur & Megafauna Dig Tours**
Join expert-led digs and uncover ancient secrets
- ◆ **Fossil Prep Experiences**
Learn to clean and prepare real fossils in a working lab
- ◆ **Living History Centre**
Discover local heritage, opal mining, and pioneering stories
- ◆ **Knot-A-Saurus Park**
Snap a photo with the towering aluminium sauropod sculpture

Eromanga Accommodation

- Cooper's Country Lodge**
2 Dinosaur Drive, Eromanga, (07) 4656 3084
Located onsite at the Eromanga Natural History Museum, perfect for fossil lovers and families.
- Eromanga Royal Hotel**
1 Deacon Street, Eromanga (07) 4656 4837
- The Eromanga Outpost**
Webber Street, Eromanga (07) 4656 3206
- Toogunna Plains Farmstay**
319 Belombre Road, Quilpie, 0456 491 777



enhm.com.au



From fossils to red dirt roads, Hughenden is prehistoric Queensland at its finest.

Discover Hughenden's Prehistoric Wonders

Step back in time to where ancient inland seas once teemed with marine reptiles and dinosaurs. Hughenden invites visitors of all ages to explore its rich fossil heritage and outback charm.

At the heart of it all, the Flinders Discovery Centre showcases over 3,000 fossils, including "Hughie" the Muttaborrasaurus, with hands-on activities and interactive exhibits offering a journey through Queensland's Cretaceous past.



Flinders Discovery Centre
37 Gray Street, Hughenden | (07) 4741 2970

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ **Flinders Discovery Centre**
Meet "Hughie" and explore 3,000+ fossils
- ◆ **Porcupine Gorge National Park**
Discover ancient rock formations in the "Little Grand Canyon"
- ◆ **Mount Walker Lookouts**
Take in panoramic views from six scenic spots
- ◆ **Art Trail & Historical Markers**
Stroll past history, art and heritage landmarks
- ◆ **Basalt Byway**
Enjoy a 4WD adventure through volcanic landscapes



Hughenden Accommodation

- Royal Hotel Motel**
14 Moran Street, Hughenden
(07) 4741 1183
- Great Western Hotel-Motel**
14 Brodie Street, Hughenden
(07) 4741 14 54
- Rest Easi Motel**
Richmond Hill Drive, Hughenden
(07) 4741 1633
- Cooinda Cabins**
18 Resolution Street, Hughenden
0427 093 219
- Allen Terry Caravan Park**
2 Resolution Street, Hughenden
(07) 4741 1190



visithughenden.com.au/flinders-discovery-centre



Explore Richmond's Prehistoric Treasures

Richmond is a fossil-lover's dream and home to Kronosaurus Korner, Australia's premier marine fossil museum. Discover remarkable Cretaceous creatures, including plesiosaurs, predators, and Australia's best-preserved dinosaur, "Mia." Fossil-dig tours and hands-on sites let you uncover the secrets of the ancient Eromanga Sea.

*Dig for fossils,
meet ancient sea
creatures and explore
a prehistoric
inland sea.*



Kronosaurus Korner
1300 576 665 or (07) 4719 3390

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ **Kronosaurus Korner**
Explore ancient sea life and watch fossil preparation in action
- ◆ **Fossil Hunting**
Try your luck at nearby dig sites – you might find your own prehistoric prize
- ◆ **Lake Fred Tritton**
Swim, fish, or picnic by the water and enjoy the splash park
- ◆ **Heritage Walk**
Wander Goldring Street and uncover stories through historical plaques
- ◆ **Cambridge Downs Heritage Display**
Step into a replica 1800s homestead and discover outback life of the past

Richmond Accommodation

Lakeview Caravan Park
109 Goldring Street, Richmond
(07) 4741 3772 / 0409 846 823

Mud Hut Hotel
72 Goldring Street, Richmond
(07) 4741 3223

Ammonite Inn
88 Goldring Street, Richmond
(07) 4741 3932

Midway Motel & Roadhouse
120 Goldring Street or 1 Flinders Highway, Richmond
(07) 4741 3192

Big Wheel Budget Accommodation
70–72 Simpson Street, Richmond
0456 917 505



kronosauruskorner.com.au



Discover Mount Isa's Ancient Secrets

Journey deep into time at the Riversleigh Fossil Discovery Centre, where hands-on exhibits reveal ancient mammals, birds, and reptiles from the World Heritage-listed Riversleigh fossil fields. Interactive labs and guided tours make this a must for curious minds and science lovers.

Mount Isa combines outback spirit with prehistoric wonders for an unforgettable escape.

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ **Riversleigh Fossil Discovery Centre**
– Explore one of the world's richest fossil sites through immersive displays and expert tours.
- ◆ **Hard Times Mine Underground Tour**
– Don a miner's helmet and descend into Mount Isa's mining legacy.
- ◆ **Lake Moondarra** –
Swim, fish, or picnic at this tranquil lake teeming with birds.
- ◆ **Underground Hospital & Museum** – Step into WWII history at Australia's only subterranean hospital.
- ◆ **City Lookouts** – Take in panoramic views from Hilary Street or Telstra Hill – sunsets here are unforgettable.

Mount Isa Accommodation

Mount Isa Caravan Park
112–120 Marian Street,
Mount Isa
(07) 4743 3252

Isa Hotel
13 Miles Street, Mount Isa
(07) 4749 8888

Ibis Styles Mt Isa Verona
Cnr Rodeo Drive, Mount Isa
0427 377 807

Townview Motel
21–23 Marian Street, Mount Isa
(07) 4743 3328

Sunset Tourist Park
2 Sunset Drive, Mount Isa
(07) 4743 9696



Outback at Isa
19 Marian Street, Mount Isa | (07) 4749 1555

outbackatisa.com.au

Winton Unearthed: Where Dinosaurs Walked

Journey to Winton, the Dinosaur Capital of Australia, home to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum of Natural History and Dinosaur Stampede National Monument at Lark Quarry Conservation Park. At the Museum, take a guided tour where you can touch real dinosaur fossils and walk among life-sized bronze replicas from Australia's distant past, then spend the evening at the Gondwana Stars Observatory. At Dinosaur Stampede National Monument, hear about the only known dinosaur stampede on the planet - an extraordinary event 95 million years in the making.

Allow at least three days to see it all - plus everything else Winton has to offer!

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ **Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum**
Discover fossils, join tours, and explore fossil labs with stunning outback views
- ◆ **Dinosaur Stampede National Monument**
Walk beside ancient dinosaur footprints at a globally unique site
- ◆ **Waltzing Matilda Centre**
Dive into Australia's iconic anthem through exhibits and historical displays
- ◆ **Bladensburg National Park**
Explore gorges, trails, and an old homestead for a genuine outback experience
- ◆ **Winton Musical Fence**
a unique public artwork designed by percussionist Graeme Leak that turns everyday objects into a hands-on outback soundtrack.

Winton Accommodation

North Gregory Hotel
67 Elderslie Street, Winton
(07) 4657 0647

Boulder Opal Motor Inn
16 Elderslie Street, Winton
(07) 4657 1211

Matilda Motel
20 Oondooroo Street, Winton
(07) 4657 1433

Winton Outback Motel
95 Elderslie Street, Winton
(07) 4657 1422

Winton Wanderers Caravan Park
481 Landsborough Hwy, Winton
0456 354 975



Winton Information Centre
50 Elderslie Street, Winton | (07) 4657 1466

australianageofdinosaurs.com
experiencewinton.com.au

Explore Riversleigh World Heritage Area

Nestled within Boodjamulla National Park, Riversleigh is one of the world's most significant fossil sites. Its ancient limestone preserves the remains of unique Australian mammals, reptiles, and birds dating back over 25 million years, offering a rare glimpse into Australia's prehistoric past.

For the Waanyi people, this is sacred Boodjamulla Country, deeply connected to the Rainbow Serpent and rich in cultural and spiritual meaning. Today, visitors and scientists explore this remarkable landscape, which is internationally recognised for its outstanding fossil heritage and ongoing scientific importance.

Unsealed roads are unpredictable and may become impassable after rain. Conditions can include rough surfaces, bulldust and corrugations. Travel well-equipped and self-sufficient, as mobile coverage is limited.

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ Discover **rare fossils** in ancient limestone beds
- ◆ Learn about **Waanyi culture** and sacred **Boodjamulla Country**
- ◆ Explore **self-guided walks** with interpretive signage
- ◆ Visit the **Riversleigh Fossil Discovery Centre**, at Outback at Isa, Mount Isa.
- ◆ Soak up spectacular outback scenery in **Boodjamulla National Park**

Riversleigh World Heritage Area Accommodation

Camping near Riversleigh is a true outback experience. Stay at **Wugudaji-Adels Grove**, just 10km from Lawn Hill Gorge and 50km from the World Heritage-listed Riversleigh Fossil Fields – an ideal outback base to explore Boodjamulla's ancient landscapes and fossil treasures.

The **Miyumba camping area** lies adjacent to the Gregory River, around 55 km southeast of Lawn Hill Gorge. Both sites require camping permits and fees apply. Be sure to display your booking tag at your site.

Bookings must be made in advance – especially during Queensland school holidays and peak season from April to October – to secure your spot and ensure smooth access.

Whether waking to birdsong or stargazing by the fire, camping here deepens the connection to both the fossil-rich terrain and the timeless beauty of Boodjamulla Country.



Lawn Hill Gorge, Boodjamulla National Park
Riversleigh World Heritage Area →



Isisford: Where Ancient Crocs Meet Outback Charm

Step into deep time in Isisford, where the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre showcases *Isisfordia duncani* – a life-sized replica of the 98-million-year-old ancestor of modern crocodiles – alongside other remarkable local fossils like the Bulldog fish. Discover how this region transformed from ancient sea to rugged outback.



Isisford fuses ancient history with laid-back country spirit, making it a fossil-lover's outback escape.



Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre
(Isisford Visitor Information Centre)
12 Saint Mary Street, Isisford | (07) 4658 8133

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ **Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre**
Fossils, replicas, and prehistoric discoveries
- ◆ **Big Yellowbelly Sculpture**
Snap a photo beside the towering 12-metre local icon
- ◆ **Oma Waterhole**
Camp, fish, and watch birds near the tranquil Barcoo River
- ◆ **Whitman's Museum & Hospital Museum**
Explore pioneer life and early bush medicine
- ◆ **Historic Town Walk**
Wander heritage streets with river views and friendly locals

Isisford Accommodation

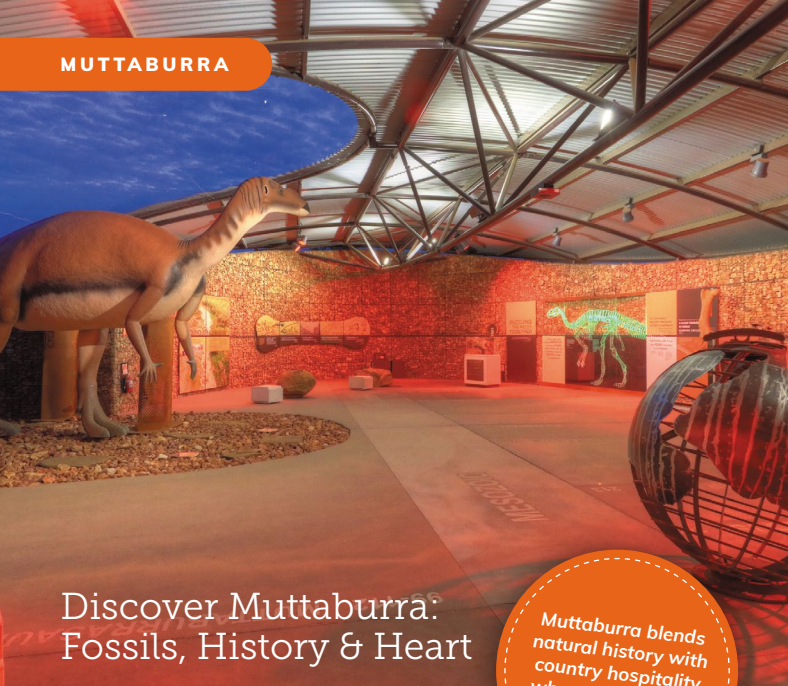
Golden West Hotel & Caravan Park
17 St Mary Street, Isisford
(07) 4658 8222

Oma Waterhole Campground
16 km south-west of Isisford
(Isisford-Yaraka River Road)
Register locally at the Isisford Council Office: (07) 4658 8900

Barcoo Weir Camping Area
Near Barcoo Weir, walking distance from Isisford town centre
Register locally at the Isisford Council Office: (07) 4658 8900



barcooway.com.au/the-outer-barcoo-interpretation-centre/



Discover Muttaborra: Fossils, History & Heart

Unearth Muttaborra's prehistoric charm at the Muttaborrasaurus Interpretation Centre, home to a life-sized replica and interactive exhibits of one of Australia's most complete dinosaur fossils. Learn about *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni*, discovered near the Thomson River, and its status as Queensland's fossil emblem – a thrill for science and dino enthusiasts.

*Muttaborra blends
natural history with
country hospitality
where every corner
holds a story.*



Muttaborra Information Centre
16 Sword Street, Muttaborra | (07) 4658 7147

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ **Muttaborrasaurus Interpretation Centre**
Meet a 100-million-year-old giant and explore its story
- ◆ **Dr Arratta Memorial Museum**
Tour the historic hospital and glimpse pioneering outback medicine
- ◆ **Centre of Queensland Monument**
Stand at Queensland's geographical heart and snap a photo
- ◆ **A.A. Cassimatis General Store Museum**
Step into a restored early 1900s store full of vintage finds
- ◆ **Public Art & Sculptures**
Follow a trail of creative works celebrating Muttaborra's quirky character

Muttaborra Accommodation

Muttaborra Motel
16 Bruford Street, Muttaborra
(07) 4658 7125

Exchange Hotel
12 Bruford Street, Muttaborra
(07) 4658 7125

Back on Bruford
7 Bruford Street, Muttaborra
0417 221 768

Council Caravan Park & Campdraft Grounds
Muttaborra
(07) 4658 7191

Freedom Park
Near the Town Dam, Muttaborra
(07) 4658 7191

Broadwater Camping (Thomson River)
Along the Thomson River, near Muttaborra. No phone
(free bush camping)

muttaborra.com



Follow the
Natural Encounter
Trail - Journey through living
river systems, vast floodplains
and big outback skies. This
remote trail connects wildlife,
water and legend,
including the unforgettable
Min Min Encounter.

Boulia

Discover Boulia's fascinating palaeo heritage at the Boulia Heritage Complex, home to 'Percy', one of the world's best-preserved Plesiosaur fossils – 80% complete – and marine reptile remains from the ancient Eromanga Sea. Explore displays of 100-million-year-old fossils, local Indigenous artefacts, and stories from this region's era as a prehistoric inland sea.

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ **Min Min Encounter**
Experience the mysterious Min Min Lights.
- ◆ **Heritage Complex & Stonehouse Museum**
Explore marine fossils and pioneer artefacts.
- ◆ **Marine Reptile Fossil Display**
See "Percy," Boulia's own outback "Loch Ness Monster."
- ◆ **Boulia Camel Races**
Enjoy July's iconic race and festivities.
- ◆ **Burke River/ Barracks Waterhole**
Relax by scenic outback waterholes.

Boulia Accommodation

Desert Sands Motel
50 Herbert Street, Boulia
(07) 4746 3000

Boulia Caravan Park
Will Street (off Winton Road),
Boulia
(07) 4746 3320

Australian Hotel Motel
Herbert Street, Boulia
(07) 4746 3144

Boulia Desert Sands Motel
Herbert Street, Boulia
(07) 4746 3000



Min Min Encounter & Visitor Information Centre
22–25 Herbert Street, Boulia | (07) 4746 3386

www.boulia.qld.gov.au/Tourism/
Min-Min-Encounter-Visitor-Information-Centre

Rockhampton & Yeppoon

Along the Capricorn Coast, millions of years of history are written into the landscape, revealing a prehistoric story that stretches from underground caves to living crocodilians. Explore limestone caves shaped over deep time, encounter crocodiles whose ancient lineage dates back to the dinosaur age, and follow discovery trails that uncover fossil-rich environments. From immersive nature experiences to hands-on science and coastal road trips, the Capricorn Coast offers a compelling and surprising chapter of Queensland's dinosaur story.

*Step into a world of
ancient landscapes,
living dinosaurs'
descendants and
hands-on discovery
for all ages*

Top 5 Must Do's

- ◆ **Capricorn Caves**
Explore above ground ancient limestone caves
- ◆ **Koorana Crocodile Farm**
Get up close and personal with living dinosaurs
- ◆ **Capricorn Dinosaur Park/Cooberie Park Wildlife Sanctuary**
Cuddle a koala then enjoy some prehistoric fun in the dinosaur park
- ◆ **Great Keppel Island**
Explore stunning white sandy beaches and pristine reefs
- ◆ **Yeppoon Lagoon**
Enjoy this resort style infinity pool with stunning views of Keppel Bay

Accommodation Suggestions

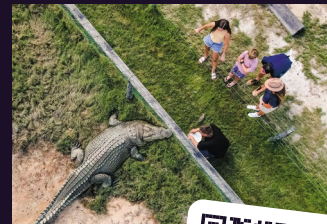
Discovery Parks – Rockhampton
394 Yaamba Road, North Rockhampton | (07) 4926 3822

Capricorn Caves – cabins
30 Olsen Caves Road, The Caves | (07) 4934 2883

Villa La Sini
68-70 Queen Street, Yeppoon
(07) 4938 3099

Poinciana Tourist Park
Via Percy Ford street 9 Scenic Hwy, Yeppoon
(07) 4939 1601

NRMA Capricorn Yeppoon Holiday Park
Wildin Way, Mulambin Beach
(07) 4933 6144



Capricorn Coast Visitor Information Centre
Scenic Highway, Yeppoon, 4703 | 1800 675 755

visitcapricorn.com.au/capricorn-coast-uncover-a-journey-of-the-ages

Chinchilla Fossil Finders

Chinchilla Fossil Finders is a unique, hands-on event that invites families, curious explorers and budding scientists to dig into Queensland's prehistoric past. Set along the Condamine River, this free, community-led fossil hunting experience allows participants to search for real fossils dating back more than three million years, guided by palaeontologists and museum experts.

Visitors can bring their own fossil finds for identification, learn how scientists read landscapes for clues, and discover what life was like when megafauna roamed the region. With live fossil preparation demonstrations, palaeontology talks and family-friendly activities, Chinchilla Fossil Finders blends science, discovery and outdoor adventure in a relaxed regional setting.

Whether you uncover a fossil yourself or simply enjoy watching science in action, this event offers a rare chance to connect with Queensland's ancient past and take part in real-world discovery – no experience required, just curiosity.



Chinchilla Accommodation

Chinchilla Tourist Park

Caravan and camping park offering powered sites, cabins, camp kitchen and amenities, located close to town and the Condamine River.

Chinchilla Motor Inn

Centrally located motel with comfortable rooms, family options, and convenient access to local attractions and dining.

Chinchilla Palms Motor Inn

Popular mid-range motel featuring spacious rooms, on-site dining, and a relaxed setting ideal for short stays.

**Saturday
9 May 2026 –
Chinchilla
Historical Museum**

Crocs: Meet the Ultimate Survivors

Discover the ancient power of crocodiles at the Queensland Museum's *Croc! Lost Giants to Living Legends* exhibition, where prehistoric predators come to life. Explore the evolution of crocodilians from dinosaur-age ancestors to modern-day survivors, uncovering how these remarkable reptiles have thrived for millions of years. Through immersive displays, fossils and interactive experiences, *Croc* reveals why crocodiles are among the planet's ultimate survivors – fierce, fascinating and deeply connected to Queensland's ancient past.



museum.qld.gov.au



Dinosaurs Unearthed: Queensland's Dinosaurs Revealed

Step into Queensland's prehistoric past at the Queensland Museum's *Dinosaurs Unearthed* exhibition, where dinosaurs and ancient creatures are revealed through real fossil discoveries and cutting-edge science. Explore towering skeletons, rare specimens and hands-on displays that bring millions of years of evolution to life. From land-dwelling giants to marine reptiles, *Dinosaurs Unearthed* showcases Queensland's extraordinary fossil heritage.

Where to find Queensland's 'BIG 7'

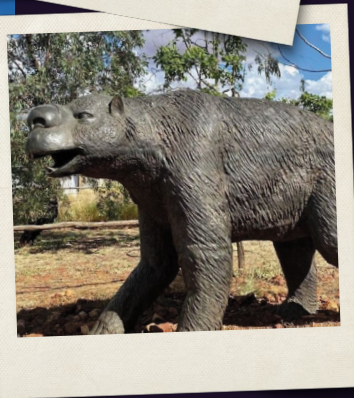
"Mutt" & "Hughy",
Australia's Iconic Dinosaur,
Muttaborrasaurus (Muttaborra
Interpretive Centre &
Hughenden's Flinders
Discovery Centre)



"Banjo", Australia's most
complete meat-eating
dinosaur, Australovenator
(Australian Age of
Dinosaurs, Winton)



"Percy", Australia's
biggest plesiosaur,
Eromangasaurus (Boulia
Heritage Complex, Boulia)



"Krono", Australia's Largest
Marine Reptile Kronosaurus
(Kronosaurus Korner, Richmond)

"Kenny", the world's largest
marsupial, Diprotodon
(Main Street, Eulo)



"Cooper", Australia's Largest
Dinosaur, Australotitan
(Eromanga Natural
History Museum)





I want to be a palaeontologist

Are you drawn to palaeontology but wondering how to turn a passion for the past into a meaningful career? Whether you're fascinated by dinosaurs and megafauna or seeking an adventurous Outback lifestyle, there is a place for you. You might find fulfillment in hands-on field work, engaging visitors with immersive exhibits, or using advanced technologies, animation and VR to ask big questions and tell deep time stories. For many, telling the story of deep time for the public can be just as rewarding as discovering a new species. Why not do both?

Palaeontology offers a powerful, transferable skill set applicable to mineral exploration, heritage

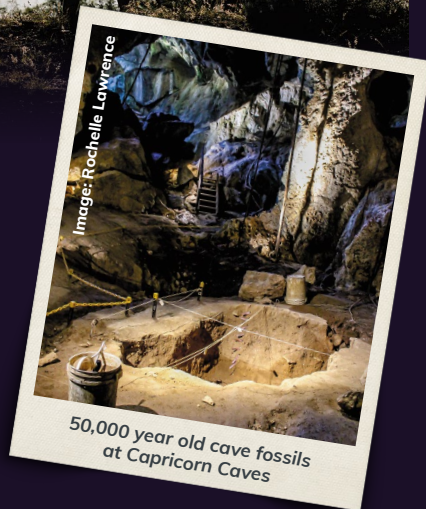


Image: Rochelle Lawrence

50,000 year old cave fossils
at Capricorn Caves

management, tourism, and the creative industries. In Queensland, palaeotourism allows guides and field palaeontologists to connect citizen scientists directly to natural history, making real-time discoveries together. These shared experiences are life-changing and unforgettable.

The modern palaeontologist is increasingly technology driven. In the lab, we use laser- and x-ray-based tech, tools also vital to many other industries like mineral exploration, species conservation and agriculture. From drones and machine learning to robotics and AI, palaeontologists use cutting-edge innovation to understand past, present, and future worlds. Meanwhile, in the workshop or studio, 3D scanning and fabrication brings extinct creatures back to life, opening doors to careers in digital media, gaming, museums, and science communication.

Success in palaeontology means finding your industry champions. Seek mentors, volunteer with organisations and choose study pathways that suit your goals. While jobs focused solely on research are rare, transferable skills have never been more valuable. For example, studying at CQUniversity through an undergraduate course, research higher degree, TAFE certificate or diploma or even a microcredential can provide a range of pathways to a career in palaeontology.

Ultimately, this career carries profound meaning. Fossils are more than data; they are irreplaceable stories of Country and environmental change. As a palaeontologist, you become a custodian of shared heritage, responsible for protecting and passing these stories to future generations. By choosing this path, you aren't just studying history – you are ensuring its future.

Dr. Scott

Dr Scott Hocknull
Principal Research Fellow
Applied Palaeontology &
Palaeotourism



Image: Dr Scott Hocknull

Dinosaur tooth

Self-Drive Itineraries

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Queensland's prehistoric past and natural wonders. These itineraries highlight five iconic routes with each offering rich discoveries, ancient fossils, diverse landscapes, and genuine country hospitality.

Let the adventure begin!

The Overlanders Way	41
Australia's Dinosaur Trail	44
The Natural Sciences Loop	46
The Outback Adventure Loop	48
Dig the Tropic	52
Longreach to the Outer Barcoo Fossil Loop	56
Natural Encounters Trail	58



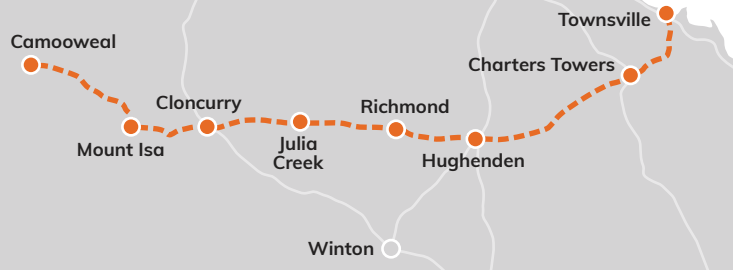
Follow the Overlanders Way

Embark on an iconic journey from coastal Townsville to the Mount Isa, tracing the Overlanders Way through Queensland's rich outback heritage.

Along the way, uncover fossil treasures in Hughenden and Richmond, experience historic gold towns, and marvel at vast landscapes and vibrant outback communities. This legendary drive connects ancient history with modern adventure, making it perfect for travellers seeking culture, nature, and a deeper connection to Australia's heartland.



THE OVERLANDERS WAY



DAY 1 – Townsville (Arrival & Reef)

- ◆ Explore the Great Barrier Reef or visit Reef HQ Aquarium
- ◆ Stroll The Strand and enjoy waterfront dining

Overnight: Townsville

DAY 2 – Townsville to Charters Towers (137 km)

- ◆ Drive inland to historic Charters Towers
- ◆ Explore the Ghosts of Gold Heritage Trail
- ◆ Visit local museums and heritage buildings

Overnight: Charters Towers

DAY 3 – Charters Towers to Hughenden (248 km)

- ◆ Travel west through classic outback landscapes
- ◆ Discover fossils and megafauna at the Flinders Discovery Centre
- ◆ Optional sunset visit to Porcupine Gorge National Park

Overnight: Hughenden

DAY 4 – Hughenden (Explore & Discover)

- ◆ Spend more time at Porcupine Gorge, known as "Australia's Little Grand Canyon"
- ◆ Enjoy local walks, lookout points, and outback hospitality

- ◆ Learn more about Hughenden's Cretaceous past

Overnight: Hughenden

DAY 5 – Hughenden to Richmond (115 km)

- ◆ Drive to Richmond, heart of Queensland's marine fossil story
- ◆ Visit Kronosaurus Korner for marine reptile exhibits and fossil preparation
- ◆ Try fossicking or enjoy a relaxed afternoon in town

Overnight: Richmond

DAY 6 – Richmond to Mount Isa (406 km)

- ◆ Journey west to Mount Isa
- ◆ Visit Outback at Isa and the Riversleigh Fossil Discovery Centre
- ◆ Explore mining heritage and sunset lookouts

Overnight: Mount Isa

DAY 7 – Mount Isa (Explore & Extend)

- ◆ Take a deeper dive into the Riversleigh World Heritage fossil story
- ◆ Optional underground mine tour or cultural experiences
- ◆ Prepare to continue your Outback adventure or return journey

AUSTRALIA'S DINOSAUR TRAIL

OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Outback Queensland's prehistoric heart. The Australian Dinosaur Trail links Winton, Hughenden, and Richmond – three towns rich with fossils, ancient landscapes, and dinosaur-themed attractions. Explore museums, dig sites, and the world's only recorded dinosaur stampede at Lark Quarry.

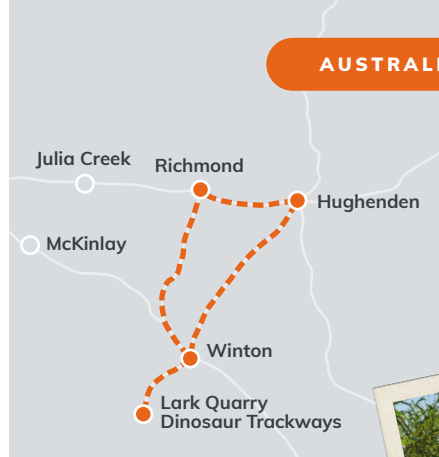
This self-drive adventure is perfect for families, fossil lovers, and curious explorers. Discover interactive exhibits, meet life-sized replicas, and connect with the land where dinosaurs once roamed.



←
Australia's
Dinosaur
Trail Pass

AUSTRALIA'S DINOSAUR TRAIL PASS INCLUDES:

- ◆ The Ultimate Dinosaur Tour of the **Australian Age of Dinosaurs** includes a guided tour of the Fossil Preparation Laboratory, Collection Room in the Reception Centre, "March of the Titanosaurs" exhibition and a self-guided exploration of Dinosaur Canyon
- ◆ Guided tour of Dinosaur Stampede National Monument at **Lark Quarry Conservation Park**
- ◆ Entry to **Kronosaurus Korner**, Richmond
- ◆ Entry to **Flinders Discovery Centre**, Hughenden



DAY 1 – Winton

- ◆ Visit the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum
 - ◆ Explore Dinosaur Canyon and the Fossil Preparation Lab
- Overnight in Winton

DAY 2 – Lark Quarry Day Trip

- ◆ Drive to Lark Quarry Conservation Park (110 km SW of Winton)
 - ◆ See the world's only recorded dinosaur stampede footprints
- Return to Winton for the night

DAY 3 – Winton to Hughenden (215 km)

- ◆ Stop at the Flinders Discovery Centre to meet 'Hughie' the Muttaborrasaurus

AUSTRALIA'S DINOSAUR TRAIL



- ◆ Explore Porcupine Gorge National Park
- Overnight in Hughenden

DAY 4 – Hughenden to Richmond (115 km)

- ◆ Visit Kronosaurus Korner for marine fossils and fossil hunting
 - ◆ Try your hand at fossicking
- Overnight in Richmond

Discover the Natural Sciences Loop

Embark on the Natural Sciences Loop, a circular drive through Outback Queensland's ancient landscapes and scientific marvels.

Visit Charleville's Cosmos Centre, fossick for opals in Quilpie, and explore Australia's largest dinosaur at the Eromanga Natural History Museum. Discover hydro history in Thargomindah and wetlands wildlife in Cunnamulla.

This journey blends geology, fossils, stargazing, and country hospitality – perfect for curious explorers and families seeking outback adventure with a scientific twist



NATURAL SCIENCES LOOP



DAY 1 – Charleville

◆ Visit the Cosmos Centre for astronomy and bilby conservation
Overnight in Charleville

DAY 2 – Charleville to Quilpie (210 km)

◆ Discover opals and Lake Houdraman
Overnight in Quilpie

DAY 3 – Quilpie to Eromanga (100 km)

◆ Explore the Eromanga Natural History Museum
◆ See Australia's largest dinosaur fossils
Overnight in Eromanga

DAY 4 – Eromanga to Thargomindah (220 km)

◆ Learn about Australia's first hydroelectric plant
◆ Enjoy remote landscapes
Overnight in Thargomindah

DAY 5 – Thargomindah to Cunnamulla (200 km)

◆ Visit the Artesian Time Tunnel and Bowra wildlife reserve
Overnight in Cunnamulla

Outback Adventure Loop – Discover Queensland's Wild Heart

Embark on a journey where red dirt roads lead to endless skies, ancient landscapes whisper stories of time, and remote towns offer warmth that defies distance.

This 7-day loop from Brisbane to Brisbane invites you to experience the raw beauty of Outback Queensland, from fossil country and iconic pubs to star-filled skies and sand dunes that hum with history.

Whether you're chasing adventure, craving solitude, or yearning to reconnect with nature, the Outback has something to stir every soul. Pack your sense of wonder – this is no ordinary road trip.



DAY 1: Brisbane to Roma (504 km)

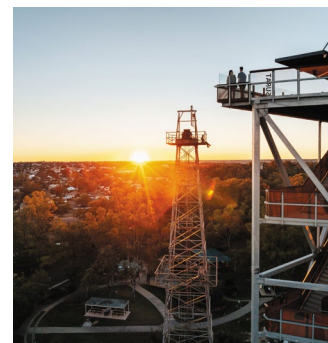
- ◆ Drive via Toowoomba and Chinchilla
- ◆ Stop at Picnic Point for panoramic views
- ◆ Explore Roma's Big Rig Night Show

Overnight: Roma Explorers Inn

DAY 2: Roma to Charleville (267 km)

- ◆ Visit Outback Date Farm
- ◆ Lunch at Hotel Corones
- ◆ WWII Secrets Tour & Bilby Experience
- ◆ Stargazing at Cosmos Centre

Overnight: Mulga Country Motor Inn





DAY 3: Charleville to Quilpie (211 km)

- ◆ Pass through Cooladdi (Australia's smallest town with a postcode!)
- ◆ Visit Quilpie Visitor Centre & opal altar at St Finbarr's Church
- ◆ Sunset at Baldy Top Lookout
- ◆ Visit Eromanga Natural History Museum

Overnight: Toogunna Plains Farmstay

DAY 4: Quilpie to Windorah (247 km)

- ◆ Drive through Channel Country
- ◆ Explore Cooper Creek & Windorah Solar Farm
- ◆ Optional: Attend quirky International Yabby Races (seasonal)

Overnight: Windorah Caravan Park

DAY 5: Windorah to Birdsville (387 km)

- ◆ Cross the iconic red dunes
- ◆ Visit Birdsville Hotel & Big Red Sand Dune
- ◆ Optional: Birdsville Races or Big Red Bash (seasonal)

Overnight: Birdsville Lodge

DAY 6: Birdsville to Winton (600+ km via Bedourie & Boulia)

- ◆ Stop at Bedourie Mud Baths & Boulia's Min Min Encounter
- ◆ Discover dinosaur fossils at Australian Age of Dinosaurs

Overnight: Winton

DAY 7: Winton to Brisbane (via Longreach & Roma)

- ◆ Visit Stockman's Hall of Fame in Longreach or take a sunset cruise on the Thomson River
- ◆ Return to Brisbane via Roma
- ◆ Optional: Break journey with overnight in Roma

Dig the Tropic

Stretching along the Tropic of Capricorn, the **Dig the Tropic Geo Trail** invites travellers on a journey through deep time, from ancient coral reefs turned to stone, to volcanic landscapes rich in gold and gemstones, fertile coastal plains, and the living reefs of the Southern Great Barrier Reef. This immersive trail reveals the Capricorn Coast and Rockhampton region as a place shaped by powerful geological forces, where prehistoric worlds, human history and modern-day experiences connect seamlessly across land and sea.



DIG THE TROPIC

DAY 1 – Rockhampton & The Caves

- ◆ Explore Capricorn Caves, a spectacular limestone cave system formed from ancient coral reefs more than 390 million years ago
- ◆ Join a guided experience to learn how geology, climate and deep time shaped Central Queensland's landscape
- ◆ Walk Rockhampton Zoo with Time Safaris Prehistoric Zoo Walking Tours, handling fossils and discovering the prehistoric ancestors of today's animals with palaeo-author Phil Hore
- ◆ Evening dining and riverside walks in Rockhampton

Overnight: Rockhampton

DAY 2 – Rockhampton Hinterland & Volcanic Landscapes

- ◆ Travel inland to Mount Morgan, once believed to be one of the richest gold mines in the world
- ◆ Explore the township via the self-guided QR heritage tour, uncovering stories of mining innovation and human endeavour
- ◆ Continue to Mt Hay Gemstone Tourist Park, fossicking for thundereggs created by volcanic activity millions of years ago, with the option to cut and polish your find

Overnight: Rockhampton



DAY 3 – Rockhampton to Yeppoon (Capricorn Coast)

- ◆ Drive east as ancient inland landscapes give way to the Coral Sea
- ◆ Enjoy coastal lookouts from Capricorn Coast National Park and foreshore walks shaped by volcanic headlands
- ◆ Arrive in Yeppoon and explore relaxed seaside precincts

Overnight: Yeppoon

DAY 4 – Capricorn Coast

- ◆ Explore Capricorn Dinosaur Park and Mini Golf, where fossil discoveries, life-size dinosaurs and interactive exhibits bring prehistoric stories to life
- ◆ Follow flavours grown from fertile volcanic soils along the Taste Capricorn Coast food trail, showcasing local producers, distilleries and coastal dining
- ◆ Enjoy beaches, coastal parks and family-friendly nature experiences

Overnight: Yeppoon

DAY 5 – Optional Extension:

Great Keppel Island & Southern Great Barrier Reef

- ◆ Enjoy a day trip or overnight stay to Great Keppel Island, where ancient volcanic islands meet coral reef systems
- ◆ Explore fringing reefs of the Southern Great Barrier Reef, shaped over millions of years by changing sea levels and climate
- ◆ Snorkel, swim or relax on white sandy beaches, connecting land-based geology with living marine ecosystems

What to know before you go – Your Guide to travelling the Queensland Outback

Plan & Prepare

- ◆ Carry physical maps and a GPS
- ◆ Stock up on water, fuel, and spare parts
- ◆ Get a mechanical check-up before the trip
- ◆ Pack a first aid kit and emergency supplies

Driving & Safety

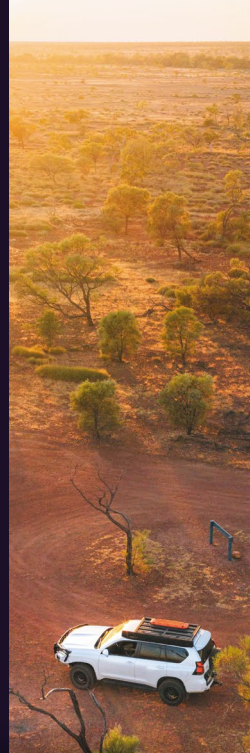
- ◆ Most highways are sealed; 4WD only needed for remote tracks
- ◆ Avoid driving at night due to active wildlife
- ◆ Watch for kangaroos, emus, and livestock – especially at dawn/dusk
- ◆ Road trains and narrow roads require extra caution

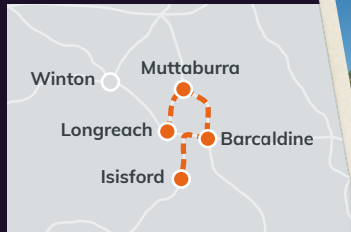
Navigation & Services

- ◆ Fuel stops may be 200 km apart – don't ignore "no fuel" signs
- ◆ Towns are spaced 2–3 hours apart – plan supplies accordingly
- ◆ Check road conditions and weather updates before departing



For more information and tips for planning your outback Queensland driving adventure make sure you read *Drive Outback Queensland*. This handy digital booklet is crammed with everything that you will need to plan your Outback Queensland adventure – from drive itineraries and maps to iconic attractions by region.





Longreach to the Outer Barcoo Fossil Loop

Embark on a captivating outback journey linking Longreach, Muttaborra, Barcardine and Isisford, where prehistoric rivers, iconic heritage and fossil discoveries shape the landscape. This easy self-drive loop blends dinosaur and megafauna stories with classic outback towns, wide skies and genuine country hospitality.



Day 1 - Longreach

Begin your adventure in Longreach, the cultural heart of Outback Queensland.

- ◆ Visit the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame
- ◆ Explore the Qantas Founders Museum

- ◆ Enjoy a Thompson River sunset cruise or river walk

Overnight in Longreach

Day 2 - Longreach to Muttaborra (121 km)

Travel west into dinosaur country.

- ◆ Discover Queensland's state fossil at the Muttaborrasaurus Interpretation Centre
- ◆ Visit the Centre of Queensland Monument
- ◆ Explore the Dr Arratta Memorial Museum and heritage streets

Overnight in Muttaborra

Day 3 - Muttaborra to Barcardine (210 km)

Head east through open grazing country and ancient river systems.

- ◆ Visit the Australian Workers Heritage Centre and Tree of Knowledge

- ◆ Explore the Barcardine Regional Museum
- ◆ Relax by Lagoon Creek walking tracks

Overnight in Barcardine

Day 4 - Barcardine to Isisford (120 km)

Journey southwest into the Outer Barcoo fossil region.

- ◆ Explore the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre and meet *Isisfordia duncani*
- ◆ Photograph the Big Yellowbelly sculpture
- ◆ Visit Oma Waterhole or Barcoo Weir for birdlife and outback scenery

Overnight in Isisford or return to Longreach (≈120 km)

This loop reveals a lesser-known chapter of Queensland's prehistoric story -from dinosaurs and ancient crocodiles to the rivers that shaped today's outback communities - making it an ideal add-on to the Overlanders Way or Natural Sciences Loop.



Natural Encounters Trail

Set out on a remote outback journey beginning in Boulia, where ancient inland seas, mysterious night lights and living waterways shape the landscape. The Natural Encounters Trail reveals Queensland's southwest through rare wildlife, artesian waters, vast floodplains and stories carved by water in a dry land.

This self-drive route is ideal for travellers seeking nature, solitude and authentic outback experiences.

Day 1 - Boulia

Begin your journey in one of Queensland's most intriguing outback towns.

- ◆ Visit the Boulia Heritage Complex and marine reptile fossil displays
- ◆ Experience the Min Min Encounter, uncovering the mystery of the famous Min Min Lights
- ◆ Explore Burke River and Barracks Waterhole

Overnight in Boulia

Day 2 - Boulia to Bedourie (180 km)

Travel south into Channel Country landscapes.

- ◆ Soak in the Bedourie Artesian Spa
- ◆ Explore the heritage streets and historic courthouse
- ◆ Enjoy birdlife and sunset views over Eyre Creek

Overnight in Bedourie

Day 3 - Bedourie to Birdsville (215 km)

Follow desert channels toward the Simpson Desert fringe.

- ◆ Drive through expansive floodplains and dune country
- ◆ Visit the iconic Birdsville Hotel
- ◆ Walk the edge of Big Red Sand Dune

Overnight in Birdsville

Day 4 - Birdsville to Thargomindah (450 km)

Journey west through some of Queensland's most remote terrain.

- ◆ Pass Cooper Creek and Channel Country systems
- ◆ Experience vast outback skies and uninterrupted horizons
- ◆ Arrive in Thargomindah

Overnight in Thargomindah

Day 5 - Thargomindah to Eulo (140 km)

Trace the Bulloo River south-east.

- ◆ Discover Australia's first hydroelectric power station
- ◆ Explore wetlands and river systems
- ◆ Relax in the Eulo Artesian Baths
- ◆ Visit Kenny, the life-sized bronze statue of the giant prehistoric marsupial Diprotodon in the centre of Eulo.

Overnight in Eulo or nearby camping areas

Day 6 - Eulo to Cunnamulla (70 km)

Conclude your journey along the Warrego River.

- ◆ Visit the Artesian Time Tunnel
- ◆ Explore river walks and heritage sites
- ◆ Spot birdlife along wetlands and floodplains

Overnight in Cunnamulla

From fossil-rich inland seas to mysterious night lights and life-giving artesian waters, the Natural Encounters Trail showcases Queensland's outback as a living, breathing landscape shaped by deep time, nature and human resilience.

Queensland

For more dinosaur-themed adventures, fossil trails, and prehistoric experiences across Outback Queensland, visit the official website

dinosaur experiences.com

You'll find detailed itineraries, maps, tips, and travel inspiration to help you uncover Queensland's ancient secrets – perfect for families, road trippers, and budding paleontologists.

