



O'Shannessy's
QUALITY TOURS

LIGHTNING RIDGE

Expedition



8 DAY FULLY INCLUSIVE TOUR

21st May to 28th May, 2027

LIGHTNING RIDGE *Expedition*

FRIDAY 21ST MAY TO FRIDAY 28TH MAY, 2027

There is nowhere in Australia quite like Lightning Ridge.

It is a compelling combination of rural sophistication and the wildly eccentric.

There is a moonscape of mullock heaps,

under which hundreds of obsessed miners toil and dig in search of the black opals which have made the town famous, juxtaposed against the cosmopolitan Artesian Bore Baths.

Many who come to "The Ridge" for just a short time, end up staying a life-time without being able to pinpoint the exact reason.

Tour Highlights

- The Big Strawberry
- Griffith Town Tour
- Kidman Way
- Great Cobar Outback Heritage Centre
- Back of Bourke Exhibition Centre
- Lightning Ridge Guided Tour
- Chambers of the Black Hand
- Opal Mine Adventure
- Cactus Farm
- Amigos Castle
- The Grawin
- John Murray Art Gallery
- Dubbo
- Taronga Western Plains Zoo
- CSIRO Radio Telescope "The Dish"
- Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory
- Benalla Street Art

Tour Prices

Twin share room first tour:	\$4,495
Twin share room repeat traveller 2 - 10 Tours:	\$4,445
Twin share room repeat traveller 11 - 20 Tours:	\$4,420
Twin share room repeat traveller 21+ Tours:	\$4,395
Single room supplement:	\$595

Please note a deposit of \$300 is required upon booking.

As a thank you for travelling with O'Shannessy's Quality Tours, you will automatically receive a saving on the total tour price for your second and subsequent tours.

O'Shannessy's Quality Tours will match single travellers who wish to twin share with another single traveller of the same gender. However, if this is not possible, in most cases you shall be provided with single accommodation at the twin share fare (no additional cost). If you are willing to twin share but are a smoker, have a CPAP machine or snore, you will need to pay a single supplement for a sole use room.



MULTIPLE NIGHT STAY

3 nights in Lightning Ridge

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Our Moderate Tours are for those comfortable with a bit more movement while still enjoying a relaxed pace. Please refer to back cover.



Tour Inclusions

Complimentary Chauffeur Driven Transfers

Victorian passengers from Greater Melbourne, Bendigo, Torquay, Ballarat, Geelong, the Bellarine and Mornington Peninsulas, Phillip Island and selected areas of Gippsland will be picked up and returned home in a private chauffeured vehicle by one of our professional drivers. For passengers not within this pick up zone, or our interstate passengers, a quote can be provided for home pickup in extended areas.

Luxury Touring Coaches

Our full size luxury coaches have only 32-36 passenger seats allowing you even more personal space and extra leg room. Our coaches are fitted with comfortable reclining seats with aisle arm rests, foot rests, seat belts, panoramic windows with blinds, refrigerator for passenger use, restroom, climate control air conditioning and Road Cam monitors which display the road ahead in real time. Each coach has a second door for easier entry and exit and touchless hand sanitizer dispensers at each entry to help keep everyone safe. Our coaches have full air suspension delivering a smooth and quiet ride which also allows us to lower the coach closer to the ground, making boarding and disembarking even easier.

Friendly Tour Directors

Enjoy peace of mind with O'Shannessy's Quality Tours, where our dedicated coach crew and experienced tour directors are on board to ensure your journey is as comfortable and memorable as possible. From start to finish, they're there to assist, guide and take care of every detail. Relax and enjoy the experience without a worry.

Quality Accommodation & Fully Inclusive Tours

Enjoy the best available ensuite motel accommodation each night, ensuring a restful journey. All attractions and tours listed in the itinerary are included, as are fully cooked breakfasts, along with delicious two-course restaurant dinners daily and most morning teas and lunches. Please note: two lunches are at your own expense as outlined in the itinerary.

Welcome to our tour to **Lightning Ridge**. With chauffeured pickup from home, we are transferred to meet our **O'Shannessy's Quality Tours** luxury coach and crew. From Melbourne we make our way north to **The Big Strawberry** where we stop for lunch. This afternoon we cross into New South Wales and through to **Griffith**. Row upon row, farm upon farm of oranges, grapes, peaches and other delights boldly announce we have entered one of Australia's most magnificent food and wine producing areas.

OVERNIGHT: Kidman Wayside Inn, GRIFFITH ★★★★★

This morning we visit the **Griffith Visitors Centre** where we collect our **local expert**. Their tour will give us a good introduction to the area and what occurs over a 12 month period, as well as the history of the Griffith area. On the road again, we follow the famous **Kidman Way**. We travel through quite a few little outback towns until we reach **Hillston**; situated on the banks of the Lachlan River, the town provides a wealth of water orientated activities. We pass Mount Hope where Copper Ore was discovered in 1873 on Coan Downs by a shepherd named MacDowall. This discovery led to the opening of the Grade Central, Mount Allen and Mount Solitary Mines. Gold was also mined here. Mount Hope now has a population of about 20, whereas in its heyday it boasted 3,000. Mid-afternoon we arrive in **Cobar** and visit the **Great Cobar Outback Heritage Centre** incorporating the Regional Museum. The Great Cobar Heritage Centre is the former Administration Building of the Great Cobar Copper Mine. The centre captures the essence of Cobar, with an amazing collection of artefacts revealing the extraordinary and diverse range of local heritage. We finish our days touring and check into our motel.

OVERNIGHT: Copper City Motel, COBAR ★★★★★



DAY 3 - COBAR TO LIGHTNING RIDGE

Sunday 23rd May, 2027

Our morning journey takes us to **Bourke**, situated on the banks of the Darling River. There are some wonderful historic buildings here including the Carriers Arms Inn, frequented by Henry Lawson in the early 1890s and mentioned in some of his stories. While we are here, we visit the **Back of Bourke Exhibition Centre** that will bring to life the story of Outback New South Wales and of course the Back O' Bourke. Lightning Ridge is our destination and we aim to get there late afternoon. This is a three night stop so unpack and get comfortable.

OVERNIGHT: Wallangulla Motel, LIGHTNING RIDGE ★★★★★

DAY 4 - EXPLORING LIGHTNING RIDGE

Monday 24th May, 2027

This morning we are in for an intriguing experience. Visit the **Chambers of the Black Hand**, an underground gallery with works carved and painted into the walls by the artist, Ron Canlin. Next, we experience the atmosphere of an underground mine at **Opal Mine Adventures**. Here we'll learn about opal mining through a video presentation and visit the showroom to view the opals that came from the mine in this area. Then popping into the **Cactus Farm**, we'll be captivated by the beautifully displayed and numerous varieties of cacti. We are then joined by a **local guide** who will lead us on a sightseeing tour of this fascinating outback town before uncovering **Amigos Castle**, a huge Italian Style Castle built by one man. Later, we'll return to our hotel and refresh before dinner.

OVERNIGHT: Wallangulla Motel, LIGHTNING RIDGE ★★★★★

DAY 5 - THE GRAWIN

Tuesday 25th May, 2027

With our local expert joining us again we head out to **The Grawin**, a group of Opal Fields where the largest opal 'Light of the World' was found. Be treated as a local at the welcoming **Glengarry Hilton**, a unique place for our lunch and no doubt a great place for the Australian larrikin. After our tucker, we head back to 'The Ridge' with enough time to take a look at the **John Murray Art Gallery**. Here John's kept busy adding to his outside mural, affectionately named 'Billygoat Lane'.

OVERNIGHT: Wallangulla Motel, LIGHTNING RIDGE ★★★★★



DAY 6 - LIGHTNING RIDGE TO DUBBO

Wednesday 26th May, 2027

Farewell to Lightning Ridge as we travel south through Coonamble and Gilgandra to **Dubbo**. Dubbo is one of Australia's largest cities - in population terms it is ranked in the top 40. Unlike many other rural centers throughout Australia, Dubbo has experienced quite dramatic growth over the past decade and now offers all the sophistication of a capital city, without sacrificing the benefits of country life. It is situated in the geographical heart of NSW and has a history that goes back more than 180 years. Dubbo is also home to the **Taronga Western Plains Zoo**. The zoo is one of the largest in the world, covering some 300 hectares, where animals live in large natural areas behaving very much as they would in the wild. We are joined by a **local guide** who will board our coach and provide us with an insight into the animals and zoo (with plenty of stops for explanations and photos). After our tour, we have some free time to revisit the animals. We then check into our accommodation.

OVERNIGHT: Quality Inn Dubbo International, DUBBO ★★★★★

DAY 7 - DUBBO TO WAGGA WAGGA

Thursday 27th May, 2027

We have a slightly earlier start this morning; from Dubbo we take the Newell Highway through Peake Hill. Just north of Parkes, we visit the **CSIRO Radio Telescope**, also called "The Dish". The visitors centre features many hands on displays and exhibits and our visit also includes an audio-visual experience. Our lunch venue today is in **Grenfell** and our afternoon journey takes us through Young and Cootamundra. We stop in **Junee** for a tour of the **Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory** before the last leg of today's journey which takes us to **Wagga Wagga**.

OVERNIGHT: Mercure Wagga Wagga, WAGGA WAGGA ★★★★★

DAY 8 - WAGGA WAGGA TO MELBOURNE

Friday 28th May, 2027

Unfortunately, our holiday is coming to an end and today is mostly a travel day so sit back and enjoy the ride! We stop in **Albury** for our morning break then drive to **Benalla**. Here, we'll take a drive to see some of the **Street Art** – artists from around the world were brought together to paint murals on bare walls, some over three stories high. After lunch, we continue on to Melbourne. As always, our chauffeurs await our arrival to transfer us safely home with memories of a sensational **Lightning Ridge** tour – all part of the **O'Shannessy's Quality Tours** superior service.



PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

Receipt of payment of funds will be taken as acceptance of O'Shannessy's Quality Tours conditions of travel for this tour. Prices include GST and all taxes. Deposit is fully refundable until **46 days** prior to departure date. Balance due on invoice.

Cancellation within **45 days** of tour departure date: **No refund**

Cancellation **on or after** tour departure date: **No refund**

If a tour is cancelled for any reason by O'Shannessy's Quality Tours before the departure date, all passengers will be offered the option of transferring to another tour of their choice, hold the funds in trust for a future tour or a full refund. There is no time limit as to when this must be used. If a lockdown is implemented while a tour is in progress, our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of our passengers and ensuring that we get each and every one of them home safely, and therefore we treat every situation individually. The Australian Government (see www.smarttraveller.gov.au) recommends all travellers no matter where you are going, obtain comprehensive travel insurance from a reputable provider. It may enable you to claim back the cost of your tour if you are unable to travel or have to cancel at late notice. Always read the PDS provided, to ensure the cover meets all of your needs. We are able to provide travel insurance through Nib Insurance.

If you would like a quote for travel insurance, please call our office on 1800 354 352.

CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL

These terms and conditions form the basis of the contract between You and O'Shannessy's Quality Tours (O'Shannessy's Quality Tours "We", "Us", or "Our" contract). It is important that You read the complete list of terms and conditions provided to you upon invoice carefully and that you understand your rights and obligations. A complete list will be provided upon invoice, alternatively they are available upon request via phone, mail, email or on our website. By agreeing to participate in a tour arranged by Us, You are deemed to have accepted these terms and conditions in full. Any special requests, dietary/personal must be notified to Our office at the time of booking. All efforts will be made to accommodate any special requests. It is your responsibility to advise O'Shannessy's Quality Tours of any pre-existing medical conditions that may affect your ability to participate on the tour. No passenger will be permitted to embark on or continue the tour while their physical or mental condition is, in the opinion of any representative of O'Shannessy's Quality Tours, such as to render them incapable of caring for themselves, or whereby they become objectionable to other passengers or they become a hazard to themselves or other passengers. Passengers rotate seats in the coach daily to ensure fairness to all passengers. No exceptions will be made. The information presented in any printed publications, itineraries, brochures or touring programs is to the best of our knowledge correct at the time of publication. The itinerary may be subject to change without notice. Whilst every effort is made to adhere to the itinerary provided, O'Shannessy's Quality Tours reserves the right to alter the touring and attractions as dictated by circumstances and conditions outside the company's control. Alterations may be made to ensure the smooth running of the tour. O'Shannessy's Quality Tours cannot be held responsible for printing or typographical errors arising from unforeseen circumstances. O'Shannessy's Quality Tours representatives/crew or any associated carrier, reserves the right at its discretion to exclude from a tour or to terminate the travel arrangements of any person during the course of the tour, without refund, of anyone who: Presents on the day of the tour departure as ill or unwell in any way, including but not limited to: cough, runny nose, sneezing, vomiting or temperature above 37.5 deg C, Is incapable of caring for themselves without a minder/carer, Is unable to cope with the requirements of the tour or who may need or require services or facilities that are not available, Fails to comply with the reasonable instructions of O'Shannessy's Quality Tours crew, Engages in undesirable behaviour or interferes with the enjoyment of other passengers, Is a hazard to themselves or other passengers and/or is likely to become objectionable to other passengers, O'Shannessy's Quality Tours staff and or third party suppliers. Anyone so excluded will be required to disembark at a safe public location, transport from which will be wholly their responsibility. However, if and where possible, O'Shannessy's Quality Tours staff may assist in obtaining transport. You agree that O'Shannessy's Quality Tours is released from all liability for You and You agree not to hold O'Shannessy's Quality Tours responsible for termination of Your travel arrangements.

Activity Level - Moderate

Our Moderate Tours are for those comfortable with a bit more movement while still enjoying a relaxed pace, our moderate tours may include air travel and a mix of touring styles. You should be prepared to:

- Embark and disembark the coach unassisted
- Negotiate some steps and gentle, undulating paths
- Embark and disembark watercraft and other vehicles via stairs
- Walk or stand for up to an hour at a time, including through domestic airports
- Negotiate a flight of stairs
- Travel for up to 2 hours in various vehicles for guided tours
- Manage uneven ground such as sand, pebbles or gravel
- Handle different climates, including heat and humidity
- Occasionally stay above ground floor (no guarantee of ground floor rooms)

Upcoming Tours

Mystery Tour in Winter - June 2027

Savannah Discovery - July 2027

Broome Winter Escape - August 2027

Travelling with like-minded, mature aged travellers means you'll experience a casual and relaxed atmosphere, where fellow travellers become new-found friends.

Keep in Touch

Be sure to visit our website **oshannessys.com.au** where you'll be able to stay up to date with information, tour inspiration or simply enjoy sharing your travel experiences with us.

You can subscribe to our **eNewsletter** so you'll be the first to find out about our additional tours that pop up throughout the year.

You can also find us on **Facebook** at *O'Shannessy's Quality Tours* and stay up to date with our posts by liking the page. We would also love to see your pictures exploring Australia or travelling the world with O'Shannessy's Quality Tours so be sure to tag us in your travels! **#oshannessys #friendstotravelwith**

Feel free to call into our office for a chat with our friendly team at **2121 Point Nepean Road, Rye Vic 3943**. You can also email us at **enquiries@oshannessys.com.au** or call us:



1800 354 352

