



Outback Queensland & Gulf Savannah

Includes ➔

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Best Festivals

- ➔ Birdsville Cup (p463)
- ➔ Mt Isa Rodeo (p456)
- ➔ Outback Festival (p459)
- ➔ Boulia Camel Races (p462)
- ➔ Undara Opera in the Outback (p464)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Undara Experience (p465)
- ➔ Adel's Grove (p468)
- ➔ North Gregory Hotel (p459)
- ➔ McKinnon & Co Outback Lodges (p460)
- ➔ Cobbold Gorge Village (p465)

Why Go?

If you've done the coast, why stop there? Queensland has some of the most accessible, big-sky, genuine outback Australian country you can experience.

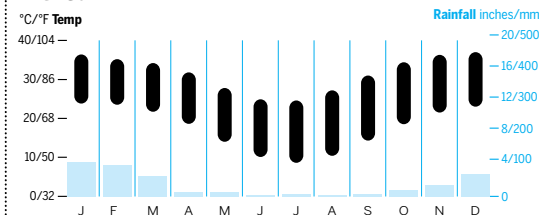
Beyond the Great Dividing Range the sky opens up over tough country, both relentless and beautiful. Travellers come for the exotic and intimate Australian experience, their restlessness tamed by the sheer size of the place, its luminous colours and its silence.

This a region of rodeos and bush races, country pubs and characters, caravanning nomads and backpackers behind bars, barramundi fishing and burnt orange sunsets. In the dry season, endless blue skies hover over stony deserts, matched only by the brilliant velvety clarity of the Milky Way at night.

Queensland's Outback and Gulf Savannah is an eye-wateringly vast region, but it's surprisingly accessible, criss-crossed by sealed roads and peppered with towns small and slightly less small. It's a long way between drinks out here, but it's well worth the drive.

When to Go

Mt Isa



Jun-Aug Perfect winter weather – blue skies, warm days, Gulf fishing.

Mar-Apr & Sep-Oct Either side of peak season, weather still good but crowds and prices down.

Nov-Feb Summer off-season: too hot to travel most of the outback. Heavy rains can cut roads.



Outback & Gulf Savannah Highlights

- 1 Canoeing through Lawn Hill Gorge in **Boodjamulla National Park** (p468).
- 2 Heading underground in **Mt Isa** (p455).
- 3 Fossil-hunting on the Dinosaur Trail, **Winton** (p458).
- 4 Travelling out to remote **Birdsville** (p463).
- 5 Going barramundi fishing in **Karumba** (p466).
- 6 Riding a Cobb & Co stagecoach, wing-walking on a Boeing 747 and paying tribute to early explorers and stockmen at **Longreach** (p459).
- 7 Exploring ancient lava tubes at **Undara Volcanic National Park** (p464).
- 8 Gazing at the starry outback sky near **Charleville** (p461).
- 9 Chasing the cloud phenomenon known as Morning Glory (p467) at isolated **Burketown**.
- 10 Chilling in a classic outback timber pub such as those in **Barcaldine** (p461).