



Journeys into the Outback

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Why Go?

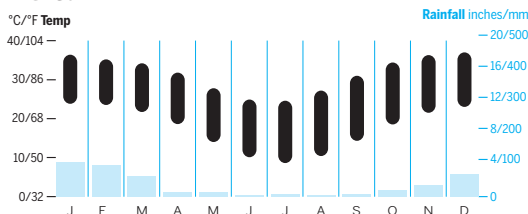
Australia's mystical outback is less a place than a state of mind, and its mythical, spiritual power retains an inexplicable hold on this most urbanised of peoples. Geographically, it lies anywhere west of the Great Dividing Range. Yet to experience it can be elusive.

Driving west from Townsville, you come upon the outback's open spaces within a few hundred kilometres, but if you go expecting cattlemen on horseback or *Crocodile Dundee* types entertaining the crowds in every outback pub, you may be disappointed. Instead, you'll find tiny towns linked by long, roo-strewn roads that slice through vast pastoral plains dotted with surprises: fascinating fossils, eccentric local festivals, blissfully deserted national parks and even striking public art.

The outback can't be experienced on a day trip, but the all-embracing skies, fiery sunsets, star-studded nights and the laconic characters you meet along the way are more than enough reward for all those kilometres.

When to Go

Mt Isa



Best Places to Eat

- » Wagon Wheel Hotel (p410)
- » FJ Holden's (p409)
- » Livingstone's (p412)
- » Rodeo Bar & Grill (p412)
- » Young Tiger (p418)

Best Places to Stay

- » Blacksmith's Cottage (p418)
- » Hotel Corones (p418)
- » Nardoo Station (p414)
- » Wagon Wheel Hotel (p410)

April–October
Mild weather and extended opening hours through the winter.

June–September
Racing festivals and rodeos take place throughout outback Queensland.

November–March
Temperatures soar, rivers swell and roads can flood – take care.

