

# PILGRIMAGE FROM DUBBO TO BOURKE

(GOD'S OWN COUNTRY)

**25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER –  
1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER  
2020**

ESCORTED BY  
**LOCAL HISTORIAN  
DR PAUL ROE**

**8**  
DAYS

**TOUR  
PACKAGE  
PRICE** **\$3,350\***  
PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE)

**OPTIONAL  
SINGLE ROOM** **\$395**  
SUPPLEMENT ADDITIONAL

QANTAS flight option available  
(Sydney – Dubbo Sydney) for AUD\$375 per person return  
(includes all taxes)

**FULLY  
ESCORTED**

\*Price based on group of 20  
paying participants. Itinerary  
& price is subject to change.  
Conditions apply



The wide red country round Bourke on the Darling is Paul's patch and even though he's explored it for forty years or more, it still surprises him. That's mostly because it's story-rich. And it's not just local yarns either – there are stories there that will knock your socks off. Explorers, poets, bushrangers, cameleers, riverboat captains, and a host of plain folk are ready to tell us extraordinary things about our own country that we would never have realised.

For Paul, the most inspiring are the visionaries who shaped Australia with their faith. Why don't you join Paul and he'll do his best to send you home with a swag of tales that will leave you wide-eyed and wondering. We guarantee you'll never see Australia quite the same way again!

Paul is a historian from the Outback with 50 years' experience in engaging audiences, eye to eye, mind to mind and heart to heart with Australia's powerful stories of faith. Paul has a doctorate in history that focusses on telling our Australian Christian story. He's offended by the way followers of Jesus who have generated so much social capital in our country, have been edited out of our shared journey. He believes it's urgent to return their stories creatively to the national conversation about the future. Paul is committed to equipping an army of storytellers who will inspire people in every corner of the country by making this invisible faith-narrative, visible again.

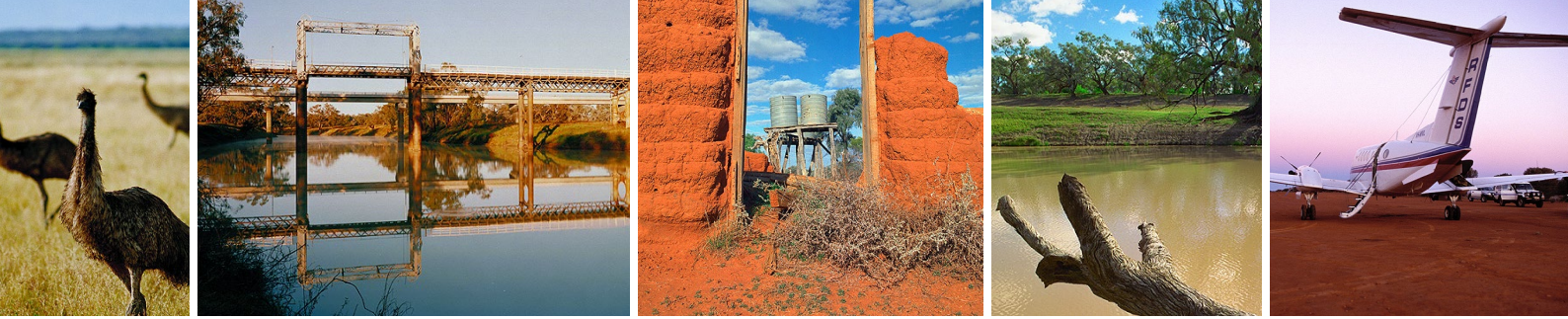
**PRICE INCLUDES**

- 7 nights' accommodation as per below with most meals (as indicated in the itinerary)
- All touring, meetings, experiences, entrance fees, donations, offerings to speakers
- 48 seater luxury coach
- Narromine Aviation Museum
- PV Jandra riverboat
- Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre entry with special evening meal
- Toorale Station walk
- Transfers to Louth to see monument
- Mt Gundabooka National Park
- Brewarrina Aboriginal Cultural Museum
- Cuddie springs
- Guided tour at "Burrima", Macquarie Marshes
- Services of resident expert, Narelle Pfeiffer for 2 days
- Warrumbungle Mountains

**NEXT  
STEPS**

- STEP 1: Register your interest and obtain a booking form from the team at Olive Tree Travel  
STEP 2: To secure your place, a \$200\*\* REFUNDABLE deposit is required ASAP (no later than 25th September)  
STEP 3: Final payment will be due by 9th October 2020

\*\*Deposit is fully refundable in the event that Covid-19 restrictions prevent this journey from proceeding.



### **DAY 1 SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER**

Arrive in Dubbo on the Macquarie River and settle into our accommodation - Golden West Motor Inn. We'll gather together and officially commence our pilgrimage (at St Andrews Chapel). We'll also hear the story of Christian civil rights leader Bill Ferguson who's been called 'the Martin Luther King of Australia.' Then we'll stop at the recently erected statue at the Rotunda in the centre of town. We will share our evening meal with Wiradjuri elder and poet Riverbank Frank Doolan to hear that story first-hand. Paul will fill us in on what to expect from the rest of our 7-day adventure together. (D)

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### **DAY 2 MONDAY 26 OCTOBER**

First, we visit the former headquarters of the famous Bush Brothers whose Western pastorate in the early 20th century was the size of England. Continue to Taronga Western Plains Zoo, where we come face to face with the amazing animals of God's world - meercats, hippos, giraffes and more. Enjoy lunch with the spider-monkeys and lemurs by the lake. Proceed to the new Royal Flying Doctors Visitor Experience where we will plunge into the epic story of Rev John Flynn who gifted Australia with the unique 'mantle of safety'. This evening we meet the men who have pioneered two innovative programs in Dubbo. Tradies Insight has gained wide recognition for its innovative plans to help fight depression and suicide. We will hear the story from Bruno Efoti, the man with the vision, who will cook a mean traditional Tongan meal for us. And we will hear a moving story from Peter Gibbs explaining why he developed a way for indigenous young people to enter the police force. (B,L,D)

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### **DAY 3 TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER**

Our drive takes us 30kms West to Narromine Air Museum to touch base with some of Australia's early flying history. After morning tea at the Abbey, hosted by Janine the Chaplain from the High School, we head 350 kms North West to Bourke. We'll be travelling through Banjo Patterson's 'Clancy of the Overflow' country and picking up some of the intriguing yarns that are scattered along the long, straight stretch of Mitchell Highway. Bourke was Australia's most inland port, situated at the head of the Darling River. We'll pause in the afternoon on the wharf where Paul will paint some pictures of Bourke's remarkable early history. Kidman's Camp and the Bourke Bridge Inn at North Bourke will be our accommodation. We will be hosted for a camp oven dinner by Steve and Jenny Greentree on the deck of their home overlooking the river. Jenny is a well-recognised artist with a talent for interpreting the stories of the Western country on canvas. (B,MT,D)

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### **DAY 4 WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER**

The morning will see us at the Back O' Bourke Art Gallery where Jenny will tell us the stories behind her artwork. She sees the glory of God in everything. A cruise on the P.V. Jandra past the majestic river gums will open our eyes to the story of the Darling and the days when Bourke was the busiest wool port in the country. Aviatrix Nancy Bird's days as a girl flying Far West nurses out of Bourke are celebrated at the airport on the way into town. After lunch, Paul will show us how events in the early days of Bourke shaped Australia. Henry Lawson, Breaker Morant and war historian Charles Bean all walked the streets and wrote poems and stories that shaped our mythology. And he'll introduce us to some surprising people who left Jesus' footprints all across this part of Australia. We will have an afternoon to browse through the extensive displays at the iconic Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre which are guaranteed to deepen our understanding of our own country. By the end we will agree that Bourke is story-rich. At sunset we'll be on the deck of the Exhibition Centre enjoying drinks and an evening meal with surprising stories from some local Christians. We might even throw some music in! It'll be a chance to sit under a star-filled Western sky. (B,D)

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## DAY 5 THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER

Our drive takes us 80kms South West, past the site of the original Cornerstone Community, where the famous Toorale Station lies, part of the enormous wool empire built by the ingenious Sir Samuel McCaughey. It's a big story about a big man that needs to be told under big skies. This will really stretch our vision. Continue to Louth, where we'll hear the strange legend of the obelisk that glows at sunset before we head to Mt Gundabooka National Park to meet Ranger and Ngemba elder, Phil Sullivan, who will draw us into the narrative of his Stone-Country people. He's definitely a character worth meeting. Then it's home to Bourke – a long day, full of stories we never dreamed were possible. (B,MT,AT,D)

## DAY 6 FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

We head east along the Darling into Murrawari Territory at Brewarinna on the Barwon River, to explore one of oldest man-made structures on earth. The fisheries built and shared by local tribes are said to be 10,000 years old. We'll hear some vibrant fellowship of indigenous Christians that's been active there for decades. Further South, we'll pass Cuddie Springs, the only place in Australia where there is fossil evidence of humans and mega fauna such as diprotodons coexisting. Next, we'll get close up with the wildlife of the Macquarie Marshes thanks to a new boardwalk at the Burrima interpretive centre. Finally, we head into Coonamble on the Castlereagh River and a catch up with school chaplain Narelle Pfeiffer over a meal. (B,D)

**DAY 7 SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER** Narelle will be our specialist guide to lookouts, short walks and a Visitors Centre familiarising us with the unique history of the Warrumbungle Mountains. Then it's on to Siding Springs Observatory, home of the largest optical telescope in Australia, to learn what's happening in the rest of the Universe. In Kamilaroi country at Coonabarabran, we'll share our final meal and celebrate what we've learned from our pilgrimage. An after-dinner option will be a chance to stare through a telescope to learn why 'Coona' is known as the 'Astronomy Capital of Australia'. (B,D)

## DAY 8 SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER

A leisurely trip back to Dubbo via Gilgandra, home to three language groups – Kamilaroi, Wiradjuri and Wayilwan. For a time, this 'windmill town' was known as 'the Holy City' by the indigenous people because of the powerful preaching of local shearer/evangelist Bill Naden. We arrive back in Dubbo around midday at the end of a 1000 km spiritual odyssey that will leave us so much wiser about our home country. (B)

Price excludes: Domestic add-on flights from Sydney – Dubbo – Sydney, Entry costs for any additional venues, Additional meals not mentioned in the itinerary, Extra services which may be available or offered during the tour, Expenses of a personal or emergency nature

### ACCOMMODATION

**Dubbo Golden** West Motor Inn, **Bourke** Bridge Inn and/or Kidman's Camp

**Coonamble** Coonamble Castlereagh Lodge Motel and/or Coonamble Artesian Motor Inn

**Coonabarabran** Coonabarabran Acacia Motor Lodge

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OLIVE TREE  
Travel

Ph. 1300 550 830 or 03 8488 9696

info@olivetretravel.com.au

www.olivetretravel.com.au

103A Gardenvale Road, Gardenvale Victoria 3185



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