

Griffith Spring Festival

In the Heart of Australia's Food Bowl

With Trade Travel - Ex Brisbane/Melbourne/Adelaide

6 Days / 5 Nights - Fully Escorted

Tour Departs: Saturday 19 October - Thursday 24 October, 2024.



TRADE TRAVEL
Effortless Journeys, Endless Memories



Day 1. Sat 19 Oct: Home Port - Griffith

Lunch & Dinner

Flights: Homeport - Sydney (Flight times to be advised)

Today after our early morning flights into Sydney, we begin our drive across to **Griffith**, situated in the **Riverina** region, heart of **Australia's "Food Bowl"**. The **Rollonin Cafe in Bowning**, home of Mac the Clydesdale, provides the **perfect setting for lunch** and another stop will be at the **Temora Aviation Museum**, a world class attraction which has arguably the finest collection of flying historic aircraft in the world. On our arrival into Griffith we head straight to our accommodation, our base for the next five nights as we take in the colours of the **annual Spring Festival**, and explore this part of the delightful Riverina. After settling into our rooms for the night we gather for dinner in the motel restaurant.

Overnight Griffith: Kidman Wayside Inn

Day 2. Sun 20 Oct: Wildlife & Cotton

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Wildlife and cotton are on our agenda today, starting with a **'Wildlife Safari' at the 207 hectare Altina Wildlife Park!** With our guide we meet the animals up close and personal during their daily feed times, while travelling in style, on a horse-drawn cart. Our next stop is in Darlington Point and includes **lunch and tour** of the state-of-the-art **Southern Cotton Gin facility**. Our engaging tour is all about the local cotton industry, as well as the cotton ginning process, the Southern Cotton's specially-built observation walkways allow us to witness these stages first-hand in a safe environment. On completion of our tour we make our way back into Griffith to freshen up before dinner down the road at the **Southern Leagues Club**.

Overnight Griffith: Kidman Wayside Inn

Day 3. Mon 21 Oct: Intro Griffith, Fruits & Gardens

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Our tour of the Griffith region begins as we experience life on the **Catania Fruit Salad Farm** with Sharon and Joe, where more than 60 types of fruit and nut trees are grown on this family block. Our journey begins with a look at the original mud brick home built in 1912, then on-board the rustic mini bus for our tour around the orchard. Griffith is also home to several **open gardens** which form part of the **Griffith Festival of Gardens**, established in 1991. One of these open gardens will be our next stop where we meet the creators, take a stroll and enjoy lunch. Next, we visit the **Griffith Information Centre** which provides a wonderful display area that captures some of the local history, the water story and the agriculture. A short video showcases what the town of Griffith is all about. Our **local guide** joins us here before taking us on an informative **90 minute highlights tour** which includes stops at **Hermit's Cave Lookout** and **Griffith Regional Theatre** to view the amazing **Soft Sculptured Curtain**, one of Griffith's major tourist attractions. (*Visit is subject to theatre availability*). Our **last stop for the day** is at **another beautiful open garden** where we will have time to chat to the owners and swap our gardening knowledge. At the end of our day we head back to our motel to rest up before dinner.

Overnight Griffith: Kidman Wayside Inn

Day 4. Tues 22 Oct: History, Gourmet Treats & Wine

Breakfast & Dinner

Today we set off to discover more of Griffith, starting at the **Pioneer Park Museum**, set amongst 11 hectares of picturesque bush land, it's dedicated to preserving the history of Griffith and its surrounds. Within the Pioneer Park we also discover the **Wine and Irrigation Centre**, **Knitted Garden** displays, and the **Italian Museum** which houses an incredible collection of artefacts from the earliest Italian settlers. Around midday we enjoy a break for lunch along Banna Avenue, Griffith's main street which is dominated by Italian cuisine and of course great coffee and delicious treats. After lunch we take a look through the **Griffith Regional Art Gallery** and also the **Griffith War Memorial Museum** which owes its existence to the returned servicemen from WWI who became soldier-settlers in Griffith. No visit to Griffith and the Riverina would be complete without tasting the magnificent wines that are produced in this region. **The Tuscan-style cellar door of Calabria Family Wines Riverina** offers warm Italian hospitality and is the perfect place for our tasting experience. This evening we enjoy a taste of Italy dining at Giuseppe's Restaurant.

Overnight Griffith: Kidman Wayside Inn

Day 5. Wed 23 Oct: Gardens & Citrus Sculptures

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Today we **visit three magnificent gardens** and take a wander amongst the **stunning Citrus Sculptures**. *(Please note the open gardens for 2024 are yet to be listed)*. Three gardens that have been part of the festival in the past and maybe included in this year's festival are: **'Belle Amour' Lake Wyangan**, an award-winning, peaceful three quarter acre garden surrounded by many ornamental trees, David Austin perfumed roses cascading over arbours and arches leading to the sunken rose garden complemented by many varieties of irises forming perennial borders. Another stunner is the **'Rosewood Park on Stokes' Hanwood**, set within vineyards and orange trees, this three acre garden is hedged in by a wall of roses and many flowering trees and shrubs. Small garden rooms provide cool shaded areas for tropical and shade loving plants including a 40 year old Liquid Amber. A third is **'Davitt Farm' Widgelli**, a constantly evolving, gracious three acre garden divided into large spans with French and Italian influences. The main delights are formal lily pond, a Monet lake and bridge, a white trunked forest in which a huge sculpture "Irony" resides, a May and Mulberry walk, species rose garden and spectacular dry stone work. **A light lunch will be provided at our second garden visit of the day!** The Griffith CBD comes alive with an **amazing display of more than 70, larger than life, three dimensional Citrus Sculptures**. The wacky and creative Citrus Sculptures line the main street of Griffith, creating a spectacular gateway to the city across two weeks. The sculptures are unique to Australia and are based on the famous lemon sculptures of Menton, France. After a spectacular and colourful day out we head back to our motel to rest and freshen up before our farewell dinner.

Overnight Griffith: Kidman Wayside Inn

Day 6. Thurs 24 Oct: Griffith - Cowra - Home Town

Breakfast & Lunch

This morning after check out, we depart Griffith and begin our drive back across New South Wales to our home port. Our drive home takes us across through Grenfell, Cowra, Bathurst and through the Blue Mountains. After a comfort stop in Barmedman and again in **Grenfell**, to view the **Silo Art Mural**, we arrive in **Cowra for lunch at the Rose Garden Coffee House** situated next door to the **Cowra Tourist Information Centre**. After lunch we step inside the centre to the **POW Hologram Theatre** and watch a 9-minute hologram recount the tragic **story of the Cowra Breakout in 1944**. The last leg of our journey home takes us across through the Blue Mountains into Sydney before we fly home late afternoon after a delightful few days across in the Riverina celebrating the Griffith Spring Festival with Trade Travel.

Flights: Sydney to Homeport (Flight times to be advised)

Tour Highlights: Temora Aviation Museum; Catania Fruit Salad Farm; 5 Open Garden Visits; Griffith Information Centre Displays & Stained Glass Window; Griffith Highlights Tour - Hermit's Cave Lookout; Griffith Regional Theatre 'Soft Sculptured Curtain'; Amazing Citrus Sculptures; Altina Wildlife Park - Wildlife Safari; Southern Cotton Gin Tour; Pioneer Park Museum - Wine & Irrigation Centre, The Knitted Garden, Italian Museum; Griffith Regional Art Gallery & Griffith War Memorial Museum; Calabria Family Wines; Giuseppe's Restaurant; Grenfell Silo Mural; Cowra POW Hologram Theatre plus more!

Tour Price Includes:

- Trade Travel Tour Escort
- Return Airfares - Homeport to Sydney
- Quality coach travel with seatbelts
- Quality motel accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary (15 meals)
- All entry fees & guides as per itinerary

Tour Cost Ex Melbourne: \$2498.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$440.00)

Tour Cost Ex Brisbane: \$2548.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$440.00)

Tour Cost Ex Adelaide: \$2598.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$440.00)

A minimum of 20 passengers is required for this tour to proceed.

The tour prices are valid for travel in 2024. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice.

Deposit: A deposit of **\$200.00** per person is due on booking to secure your place on this tour, along with completed booking form!

Final Payment: Due no later than **Friday 12 July, 2024**.

For information, bookings & travel insurance contact:

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