



*Motorcycle Enthusiasts Club*  
**Gold Coast**



## 8 Day Ride to Lightning Ridge

August 2017

### August Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>

Saturday 19/8/17	Gold Coast to Inverell	463k
Sunday 20/8/17	Inverell to Lightning Ridge	406k
Monday 21/8/17	"Free Day" - Lightning Ridge	-
Tuesday 22/8/17	Lightning Ridge to Gunnedah or Tamworth	349 / 421k
Wednesday 23/8/17	"Free Day" – Gunnedah or Tamworth	-
Thursday 24/8/17	Gunnedah to Port Macquarie (Via Nahiack)	413k
Friday 25/8/17	Port Macquarie to Dorrigo (Via Armidale)	374k
Saturday 26/8/17	Dorrigo to Gold Coast (Via Kyogle)	375k



## **Town Information**

### **Inverell**

Nestled in a picturesque valley beside the Macintyre River, 593 km north of Sydney, historic Inverell is surrounded by gemstone country. Inverell and surrounds supply 80% of the world's sapphires, hence the name "Sapphire City". It's the ideal place to try your hand at fossicking and to see how precious stones are processed.

Great walking tracks, reserves and dams provide plenty of outdoor attractions. Stretch your legs in Goonowigall State Conservation Area, a unique wilderness area that supports 120 species of native birds. Explore the marked walking trails and look out for Thunderbolts Rock and the remains of a Chinese settlement.

#### **Attractions:**



#### **National Transport Museum**

The National Transport Museum consists of a display of over 200 exhibits. Cars, trucks, fire engines, motorcycles, bicycles, pedal cars, scooters and numerous models and transport related items make up the ever changing display. As well as a huge variety of the more popular makes of vehicles, there are some rare

and exotic creations on display such as a 1906 Dayton which is believed to be the only working one left worldwide and two of the carriages from the Sydney Monorail. The museum also houses a display of antique dolls and wedding dresses, as well as a decorated cake display.



#### **Accommodation:**

##### **Inverell Caravan Park**

Located 600m east of the Inverell Post Office, on the MacIntyre River, centrally located to shops, clubs, sporting facilities and the Showground. Take a stroll along the bitumen walking / bike track from the park into town along the river.

## Lightning Ridge

### **Lightning Ridge is home of the unique Black Opal:**

Such is the allure of the Ridge that many who initially planned to stay a day or so as part of a larger travel experience, end up staying a lifetime without being able to pinpoint the exact reason.

At the Ridge, one can experience underground sculptures, bottle-houses, antique lamps, castles, astronomy monuments, unique gardens, hills named 'Lunatic', 'Pig' and 'Bald', a pub crawl to 'The Pub in the Scrub', 'The Glengarry Hilton' and 'Sheepyard Flat', and even tour underground mines.

And how do you find all these things? Look out for a coloured car door!

Make sense? ...probably not, but it will when you visit the Ridge!

### **Attractions:**

The Black Opal is reason enough for visiting the Ridge, but it does not end there... there are attractions aplenty from Outback theatre, underground sculptures, bore baths, galleries, jewellers and unique people (just to name a few). Take a step back in time, or try your luck fossicking, whatever your taste, there is something to tickle everyone's fancy.



#### **Amigo's Castle**

A life's passion... this amazing hand-built castle is a labour of love for the last 25 years and there is still a way to go until it is complete.

Opening Hours: Most days between 9am - 5pm

Cost: \$5.00 per person



#### **Artesian Bore Baths**

**Phone:** 02 6829 1670 - Pandora Street, Lightning Ridge

A trip to the Ridge would not be complete without a visit to the *free* Artesian Bore Baths. At the end of a hard day fossicking and exploring, there is nothing quite as therapeutic as a long soak in the naturally heated thermal baths. Allow the water to soothe your aches while you gaze at the starry night sky and enjoy the serenity.

Bliss! **Opening Hours:** Open all the time except between 10am - 12noon Monday to Friday for cleaning. **Cost:** Free



#### **Australian Opal Centre**

**Phone:** 02 6829 1667 - Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge

Meet a life-like dinosaur face to face! Examine rare opalised fossils from long ago, when dinosaurs and other wonderous creatures lived in streams, billabongs and mighty pine forests at the place we now call Lightning Ridge. Learn about Australian opal, opal mining and pioneering life on the opal fields.

Opening Hours: 1pm - 5pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. 9am - 1pm Tuesday. 9am - 5pm Saturday. Cost: Free entry

Features: Lifelike dinosaur, opalised fossil collection, opal information, books, posters, postcards, toys, gifts and treasures from



#### **Bevan's Black Opal & Cactus Nursery**

**Phone:** 02 6829 0429 - Blue Car Door Tour, Lightning Ridge

Said to be the largest display of old and rare cactus in the southern hemisphere, this garden is a labour of love and well worth a look! Meet the only black opal mining cactus farmers in the world!

Opening Hours: 9am - 5pm 7 days Cost: Adults \$10



### **Big Opal – Underground Mine Tour**

Phone: 02 6829 0247, 3 Mile Road, Lightning Ridge

Visit a genuine working Opal mine. First licensed opal mine open to the public in Lightning Ridge. Hours: From 9:00am 7 days

Self guided tour of the mine. Adults \$15 Features: Opal mine, free entry to

above ground opal and souvenir shop, fossicking, and DVD of opal history featuring Lightning Ridge.



### **Bottle House**

**Phone:** 02 6829 0618 - Opal Street, Lightning Ridge

This is a unique structure and an intriguing example of innovative architecture.

Originally a miner's camp, the Bottle House now houses an astonishing collection of artefacts and other items of interest. Opening Hours: 9am - 5pm 7 days

Cost: Adults \$10

Features: Friendly service and souvenirs.



### **Chambers of the Black Hand**

Phone: 02 6829 0221, 3 Mile Road, 5klms up opposite yellow car door 7

You'll be amazed... The Egyptian chamber has humorous hieroglyphics and is a replica of an Egyptian tomb. Atlas holds the world while Adam supports the roof of the entrance to the working mine - another feature of the tour. The Last Supper which took six months to complete and the pondering Nostradamus, which took

five hours to carve, are depicted in magnificent detail and is testimony to the razor sharp skill and patience of Ron. Opening Hours: Daily Tours at 10.10am and 2.40pm - Rolling Tours daily from 9.30am - 12noon and 3pm - 4.30pm Cost: \$35.00 per Adult - Features: Guided Underground Mine Tours



### **Coopers Cottage**

Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge

Coopers Cottage is an authentic abode of the early miner, built in 1916. Its historical setting embraces the living conditions of the mining pioneer.

Cost: *Free* entry to one of the oldest houses in The Ridge. Opening hours: 11am to 5pm 7 days a week.



### **Walk In Mine**

Phone: 02 6829 0473 - Bald Hill Road , Lightning Ridge

At the Walk In Mine you will be able to take a trip underground and experience for yourself an Opal Mine, view a fascinating film of the many Lightning Ridge characters and their lifestyles at the 'Ridge'.

Enjoy a complimentary tea or coffee in our picnic area and try your hand at

fossicking for your own opal.

Come and meet us and visit our Showroom for your Opal/Jewellery or souvenir of Lightning Ridge at the best prices. All Day Self-Guided Tours, No Bookings Necessary - Opening Hours: 9am - 5pm Daily

Features: Underground Mine, Mining Operations, Opal and Mining Information Talk, Video and Jewellery Showroom. - Cost Tour: Adults \$20.



## Lightning Ridge Tours:



### **Black Opal Tours**

Phone: 02 6829 0368 - - Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge

Join our friendly touring company in the search for the elusive Black Opal. See above ground mining operations, camps and castles, hear stories and fables of the Ridge and fossick for opal! Enjoy exclusive access into Astronomers Monument, an incredible concrete castle and Fred Bodel's camp, the oldest miner's camp at Lightning Ridge. Guided tour through Amigo's Castle and see our private opal display. Learn all you need to know about our beautiful gem stone and more....including a complimentary Devonshire tea served at PLATFORM 1, the Flying Potsman's historic red rattler train carriage!  
DISCOVER THE COLOURFUL NATURE OF THE RIDGE ON THIS GEM OF A TOUR!

### Classic Black Opal Tour (3 hour tour)

Departs: twice daily, seven days a week 8.45am and 1.30pm. (Summer Tours 8.15am only)

Prices: \*\$35 adults \*\$30 seniors \*\$80 Family (2 adults, 2 children \*any additional children will be charged at \$15 each)

### Package Tour (4.5 hours) *Underground experience included*

Price: \*\$70 adults \*\$65 seniors Departs: daily (Summer Tours 8.15am)

Free pickup from your accommodation.

Features: Opal cutting demonstration, Exclusive access into Fred Bodel's Camp, Exclusive access into Astronomer's Monument, Guided tour through Amigo's Castle, fossick for opal, informative talk on Black Opal, Lunatic Hill open cut and hear the history of our opal bearing ridges, complimentary Devonshire tea and most importantly, friendly guides that are real opal miners guaranteeing an unforgettable experience.



### Outback Opal Tours

Phone: 02 6829 4110 - We operate with two fully air-conditioned buses. We can also accommodate large group tours on your bus or on ours.

TOWN TOUR - The entire Lightning Ridge experience - 3 hours

We are the tour that creates memories. Our experienced local tour guides will pick you up and take you through our unique opal-mining town and the surrounding opal fields. You will go fossicking (looking for opals) and also watch a cutting & polishing demonstration by an experienced opal cutter and carver.

OUTBACK OPAL TOURS is the only tour business taking you exclusively inside/around Amigos Castle. This famous Lightning Ridge tourist attraction was recently featured on BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS.

We will explain everything you need to know about opals and share some interesting facts and stories about opal mining (past and present).

You will also go on a guided underground tour at the BIG OPAL. This is a "real working mine" to get the feel of being underground. Entry fee is included in the tour price, as well as a complimentary tea/coffee and biscuits. We love Lightning Ridge - Home of the Black Opal and Australia's national gem stone. Let us share its stories with you!!!

Daily Tours at 9am and 2pm, 7 days a week (all year around). We will pick you up from your accommodation, the Visitor Information Centre or a pre-designated place of your choice.

Prices: Adults \$35 pp, Age Pensioners/Seniors \$30 pp. Features: The real mining experience, underground tour at the Big Opal as part of the tour, Opal cutting & polishing demonstration, famous tourist attraction Amigos castle and so much more from past to present.

## GRAWIN, GLENGARRY & SHEEPYARD TOUR - FULL DAY TOUR

OUTBACK OPAL TOURS also have a full day tour to Grawin, Glengarry and Sheeppark Opal fields. It's a whole day experience you'll never forget, starting the moment you leave Lightning Ridge on the scenic journey to the fields via Cumborah in our air-conditioned bus.

During this trip you will get to visit all three unique bush pubs in this area. The Club in the Scrub for morning tea with its bush golf course, the Sheeppark Inn and Community war memorial & museum and the Glengarry Hilton with its tucker van for lunch. You will have the opportunity to go fossicking for opals on the opal dumps with introduction and guidance from our knowledgeable tour guide.

You will also visit the mining fields, see working mines, meet some real miners and have a chat with the locals while enjoying your morning tea and lunch with a cuppa or a coldie (if you want one).

Take a trip back in time and experience what Lightning Ridge was like 20 years ago.

Prices (include morning tea and lunch): Adults \$95pp, Age pensioners/Seniors \$90pp, Tour is dependent on availability. We need a minimum of 6 bookings to run this tour and it may be cancelled/changed due to weather condition. Please ring to book and/or find out more about our tours.

### Accommodation:

#### Opal Caravan Park

142 Pandora Street, Lightning Ridge NSW 2834

Phone: (02) 6829 4884

Fax: (02) 6829 1446

Email: [enquiries@opalcaravanpark.com.au](mailto:enquiries@opalcaravanpark.com.au)

Enjoy your accommodation in a quiet bushland setting. Only three minutes from the heart of Lightning Ridge, Black Opal Country.

The Opal Caravan Park a member of the Top Parks Chain, is the perfect starting point to explore all that Lightning Ridge has to offer - The Walget Shire Council owned Hot Artesian Bore Baths, Mine Tours, Art Galleries, Sunsets, Shopping and Eateries.

Featuring modern facilities, spacious drive through sites and self contained cabin, this outback accommodation venue is bound to delight.



## **Gunnedah**

Gunnedah is the hub of one of Australia's richest agricultural regions - the Liverpool Plains in North West New South Wales - and is located on the Kamilaroi and Oxley Highways. Gunnedah has a great variety of shopping, dining and entertainment venues. Residents and visitors will appreciate the variety of great cuisine that the local restaurants, pubs, clubs and takeaway venues have to offer.

You will marvel at the beauty of the district and enjoy the hospitality and comfort that only the local people can offer. Genuine smiles and the natural beauty of the landscape paint a picture of real country Australia. It is little wonder that this beautiful area inspired Dorothea Mackellar - author of "My Country", to write some of her amazing poetry and prose.



### **Attractions:**

#### **AgQuip 2017 - August 22, 23, 24.**

AgQuip is Australia's largest and premier primary industry field days and one of the largest agricultural events in the world. The nation's biggest agricultural event showcases over 3,000

individual companies and attracts over 100,000 visitors from across the nation and overseas. The event runs over three days, Tuesday to Thursday, in August, eight kilometres west of Gunnedah, New South Wales. The site on Blackjack Road covers 26 hectares.

### **Accommodation:**

Due to AgQuip accommodation around Gunnedah is very limited with the exception of camping at the Show Grounds. For those not wanting to camp or attend AgQuip, an alternative could be accommodation and attractions at Tamworth. (See Below)

## **Tamworth**

Tamworth is 80km from Gunnedah and is the home of Country Music.

### **Attractions:**



There are 6 Museums in Tamworth with one of special interest being the Powerhouse Motorcycle Museum.

Others include:

- Australian Railway Monument Museum.
- Power Station Museum
- Walk a Country Mile Museum
- Australian Country Music Hall of Fame
- Australasian Country Music Hands of Fame.

## **Nabiac**

### **Nabiac Motorcycle Museum:**

The museum is located in the historic village of Nabiac, 28 kilometres south of Taree and 140 kilometres north of Newcastle on the Pacific Highway, on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, Australia.

Many of the motorcycles are on loan to the museum for display, but the majority are owned by the Kelleher family.



Among the favourite machines on display are a Kenilworth scooter (1919), a twin cylinder water-cooled 2 stroke Scott, and a Vincent Black Knight. There is an excellent range of vintage bikes from the early nineteen hundreds and of course many, many very interesting later machines. Allow an hour or two (or ten, if you're a serious enthusiast) to have a good look around and read some of the fascinating history presented. Books, toys, models, badges, patches and memorabilia are available for sale at the museum.

## **Port Macquarie**

Amidst a stunning coastline of rocky headlands and neighbouring the banks of the Hastings River estuary is the vibrant and unspoilt town of Port Macquarie. Offering a distinctive mix of heritage buildings, modern hotels and apartments, diverse dining, shopping and entertainment venues, Port Macquarie has much to offer.

### **Accommodation**

Marina Holiday Park

52-60 Settlement Point Road

Port Macquarie NSW 2444 Australia

**Phone:** 02 6583 2353 / 0477 672 627

## **Wollomombi Falls**



Stop for a break at Wollomombi Falls campground and picnic area in World Heritage wilderness in New England, for breathtaking scenic views of waterfalls and gorge country.

## **Dorrigo**

Dorrigo sits in a strategic part of the 'Coffs Coast' only a half hour scenic drive along the Waterfall Way from Bellingen, one hour from Coffs Harbour, and one and a half hours from Armidale in New South Wales.

Waterfall Way lives up to its name as we have many spectacular waterfalls in the area along with World Heritage National Parks with viewing platforms and picnic amenities.



### **Attractions**

Directly connected to Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, Skywalk lookout offers a bird's-eye view of the surrounding landscape. Perched right on the edge of the escarpment, the views take in Bellinger Valley to the coast with deep valleys and gorges, blanketed in a rich rainforest

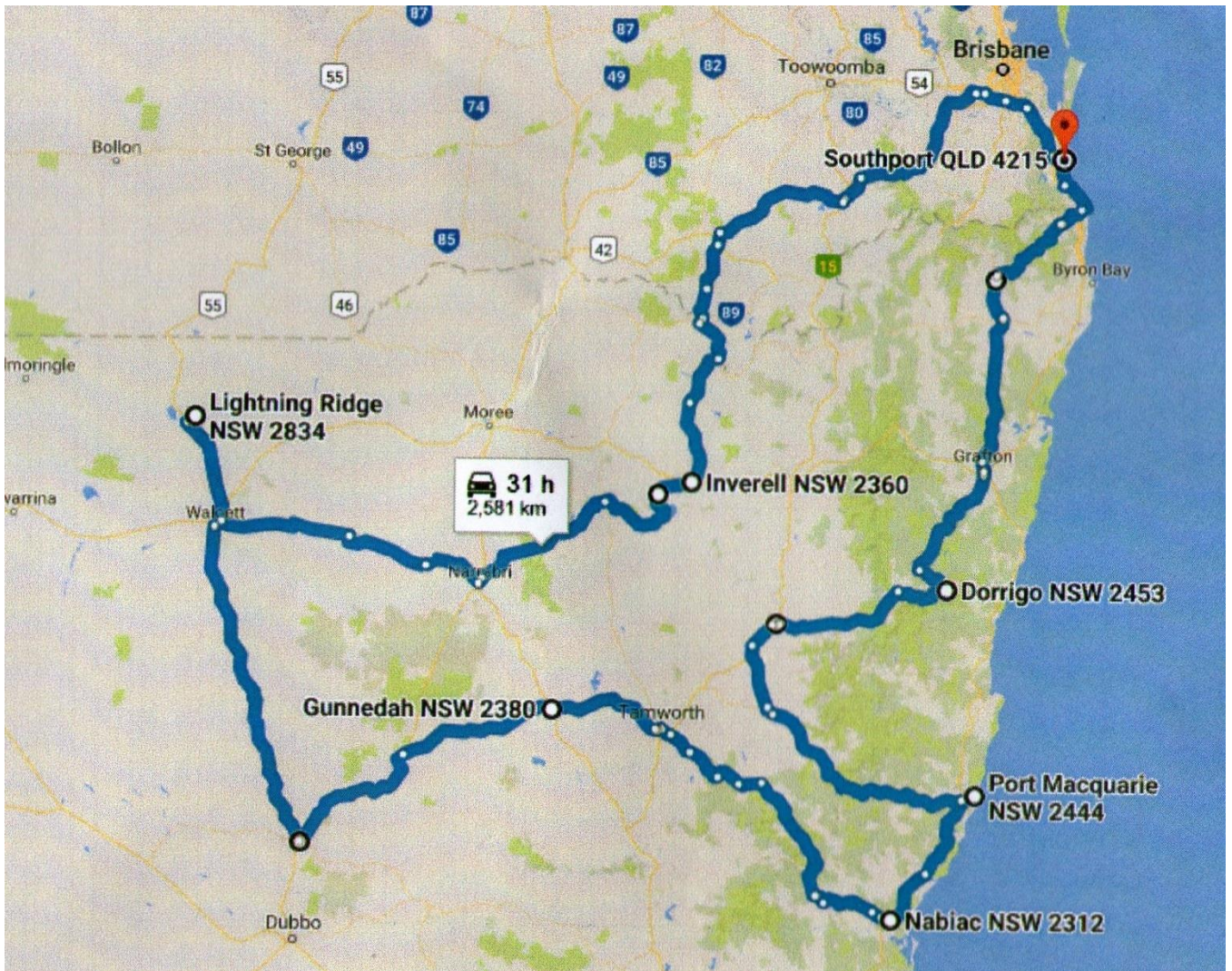
### **Accommodation**

Dorrigo Mountain Resort Caravan Park.

3991 Waterfall Way, Dorrigo. PH: 02 6657 2564



# Ride Map



**For more information Contact:**

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