

4 DAY

# COME *a-Waltzing* WINTON



*Ready to dig into Australia's roots?*

The next four days will have you and the family uncovering Australia's history amongst rugged wilderness without even opening a textbook. Welcome to a classroom of a better kind.

Australian history runs through the veins of Winton, from the ochre red soil below to the walls of the grand-old pubs that line the streets.

Grab your Akubra, a set of wheels and pack the kids; you're in for one fun-filled history lesson — bet you haven't believed that before.

## DAY 1

### Dig up Winton's *ancient history*

Your first history lesson bell rings at 9AM this morning at the **Australian Age of Dinosaurs**. Perched on 'The Jump-Up', 24 kilometres south-east of Winton, you'll uncover why this town is known as Australia's Dinosaur Mecca.

The natural history museum, home to the world's largest collection of Australian dinosaur fossils, will give you (and the kids) a real Jurassic Park experience. The three-hour guided Ultimate Dinosaur Tour pass will ignite your inner-palaeontologist when you visit their boned-filled collection rooms, working laboratory and jaw-to-flaw impressive Dinosaur Canyon. Prepare to have your #mindblown when you discover how these prehistoric giants are found, and the kids will boast at their next show and tell how they got to touch real dinosaur fossils and meet local residents 'Banjo' and 'Matilda'.

Trust us, we know palaeontology makes for hungry work. Retrace your tracks to Winton for lunchtime tucker and find yourself at the Tattersalls Hotel. Their classic pub feeds are sure to impress the hungriest of travellers.

Outback sunsets await for you this afternoon but don't forget to check in to your accommodation. Take your pick from staying in an iconic pub, a motel with country flare, quaint B&B, or caravan park for those with homes in tow. This is where you'll be for the next few nights, so make yourself at home.

While Winton comes with a guaranteed 360-degree blazing sunset view daily, a tour to the **Rangeland Rifts** for sundown will be sure to put the whole family in awe. Be ready for your local guide who will take you to explore the narrow rifts of mesa country at Rangelands Station before you toast a spectacular outback sunset from the lookout. All you need to do? Pack your own drinks and make sure your camera roll has plenty of room for some serious sunset spam.



## DAY 2

### *Waltz down memory lane* with Matilda

Pack the car ready for a morning road trip, before grabbing a window seat at the Musical Fence Café. Enjoy your coffee fix and breakfast fry-up while watching graziers to brolgas play part in the main street morning bustle. On your way out, pick up some home-styled treats to take away for a morning family picnic.

"Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong" will seem all too familiar when you make your way 132 kilometres north to **Combo Waterhole**. Set out on foot along the self-guided 2.6 kilometre return walking track to the famous waterhole which Banjo Paterson visited in 1895, inspiring the words to the ballad which captured the spirit of Australia – Waltzing Matilda. Sit in the shade under a coolibah tree or spot the local wildlife which the waterhole acts as a refuge in the dryer times.



Continue your history lesson of the bush ballad in Winton at the **Waltzing Matilda Centre**, the first museum in the world dedicated to a song. A family pass to the museum will give you a multi-sensory experience of the Waltzing Matilda story through the richness of film, animation, interaction with artefacts, sounds and audio clips.

Longreach, 177 kilometres south, may often take the glory for Australia's national airline, Qantas' beginning, but Winton is where it really all began with the first official board meeting held in 1921. You'll be able to turn the pages on this history in the Qantilda Museum with entry apart of your Waltzing Matilda Centre family pass.

Make your way on foot to the **North Gregory Hotel**; known as the 'Queen', she's been a Winton resident since 1879 but has seen her fair share of makeovers including her current ode to art deco. It's not her ripe old age and interiors which make her famed, however; if these pub walls could talk, you'd hear Waltzing Matilda and whispers of the beginnings of Qantas. This is where Banjo Patterson unknowingly premiered Australia's now unofficial national anthem in 1895 and secret meetings forming Qantas were held.

Cool off in the hydrotherapy spa at Banjo's Beer Garden, often found with live entertainment accompanied by the smell of gidgee wood-fired cuisine. If you wind up spending your entire afternoon here, we won't blame you either.



### DAY 3

## Unearth a *dinosaur stampede*

Packed with locals and passing travellers from 5:30AM onwards, you'll know Winton's Balamara Bakery is the right place to come for a flaky pastry to fuel your day ahead.

If your mini-palaeontologists are wanting to uncover more of Winton's past, today is the day to make your way to **Lark Quarry**.

Have your road trip playlist and be ready to play eye spy for the 110km drive or join a local Savannah Guide on full day tour to Lark Quarry Conservation Park, where you'll gain valuable insight into the ancient surrounds of Winton plus a break from the steering wheel.

It's here that the only known dinosaur stampede took place 95 million years ago. See how you size up next to almost 4,000 footprints that mark the site, alongside alongside a trio of dinosaur skeletons, and a handful of palaeontologists who continue to work away on the space.

Take your pick this afternoon from making a splash at Winton's Waterpark for some R&R and family fun or setting an alarm for sunset, making your way to the 'Way Out West' sign to capture the perfect family outback silhouette photo. Tonight, take your pick of where to eat from one of Winton's fine institutions.



## DAY 4

### Step back *in time*

Ease into your morning in Winton today.

If Winton's red soil has truly made its way under your skin by now, a shopping trip down the wide-main street will have you stopping at Searle's Outback Store. Get your whole clan trying on Akubra's to fit in with the locals or pick up some souvenirs from the store where you'll leave wondering if there's anything that they don't sell. Make way on foot to the heritage-listed Corfield & Fitzmaurice store which opened its doors in 1878. The perfectly preserved old-style general store will show the kids the days before online shopping and After-Pay.

Opal studs the veins of Winton, so we won't be surprised if the glint of an opal catches your eye. Check out the gems from the nearby mines while the kids dive into the free fossicking pits at the local stores that are a kaleidoscope of colours.

For fans of historic trucks and old vehicles, drive down memory lane this afternoon at the Diamantina Heritage Truck & Machinery Museum.

If a four-wheel-drive adventure sounds more like your family's kind of adventure, set your wheels on **Bladensburg National Park**. The national park just 20 minutes drive from Winton will have you exploring rugged outback landscapes and learning about the park's Indigenous and pastoral heritage. Take the 40 kilometre return Scrammy Drive to find out who Scrammy was and be impressed by the spectacular country from Scrammy Lookout.

If you're staying tonight, sit back in a canvas seat at the Royal Open Air Theatre. Locals and visitors have been catching flicks under a blanket of stars and passing the popcorn here since 1918.

*Got time up your sleeve?*

Plan a trip to the tiny opal mining town, rightly named, **Opalton**, 123 kilometres from Winton to play opal hunter for a day.



You'll find Winton along the Matilda Way, 1,400 kilometres from Brisbane. Take your time on the drive, or for those short on time, take a flight from Brisbane to Longreach and jump in a hire car for the short two-hour road trip north-west.

To really unfold Winton, save **Winton's iconic festivals** in your diary and get planning your road trip to fit in with Winton's Way Out West Festival, Vision Splendid Outback Film Festival, Winton Opal Festival, and Outback Festival, featuring the Quilton Australian Dunny Derby — all suitably timed for when school is out of action.



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**WALTZING MATILDA**  
CENTRE WINTON