

Suggested 'Dig' Itineraries

5 sample 'Dig the Tropic' itineraries suitable for student groups and independent travellers:

ITINERARY 1

Rockhampton and Capricorn Caves (4 days or 6 days)

Accommodation: Rockhampton, The Caves and farmstay options

DAY	SUGGESTED ITINERARY AND ATTRACTIONS
Day 1:	Sights in and around Capricorn Caves (23km from Rockhampton); take a cave tour at Capricorn Caves – a geo-tourism educational program is offered. Visit Mt Etna Caves National Park - ancient rock formations, caves, ancient fossils, and bats (seasonal); interpretative walk. Optional: group and independent accommodation at Capricorn Caves.
Day 2:	Visit Mount Morgan (39km from Rockhampton), explore the mine site ; visit Mount Morgan Historical Museum and the historic Railway Museum and Visitor Information Centre. Continue on to Mt Hay (41km from Rockhampton) to hunt for thundereggs; take a tour or fossicking at Mt Hay Tourist Park.
Day 3:	Day trip to Yeppoon (41km from Rockhampton) and the Great Barrier Reef. Option 1: full-day cruise to Great Keppel Island. Option 2: full-day visit to Byfield National Park.
Day 4:	Sights in and around Rockhampton, including the Tropic of Capricorn Spire, Dreamtime Cultural Centre, Koorana Crocodile Farm
<u>Farmstay Option Add-on:</u>	
Day 5:	Drive to farmstay to experience local farm activities, including horse-riding, campouts, campfires, and local bush-lore. Overnight at farmstay.
Day 6:	More farmstay group activities and return to Rockhampton
Farmstays for Groups:	Myella Farmstay and Kroombit Park Farmstay (see accommodation list)

ITINERARY 2

Emerald and the Sapphire Gemfields (4 days)

Accommodation: Emerald or Rubyvale

DAY	SUGGESTED ITINERARY AND ATTRACTIONS
Day 1:	Sights in and around Emerald – Emerald Pioneer Cottage Complex, the petrified log (carbon dated at 250 million years old) outside the Emerald Town Hall, the Mosaic Pathway, and the Emerald historic railway station
Day 2:	Day trip to the Sapphire Gemfields (4 main fossicking areas) – around Rubyvale, Sapphire, Anakie. Enjoy a full day of fossicking; and take an underground mine tour, and visit the Rubyvale Gem Gallery.
Day 3:	Day trip to Blackwater International Coal Centre (82km from Emerald); interactive learning experience and mine tour
Day 4:	Visit Blackdown Tableland National Park (110km from Emerald); Dreamtime rock-face artwork, National Park tour

ITINERARY 3

Winton and Dinosaur Country (3 days or 5 days)

Accommodation: Winton (in town or nearby) and Boulia

Please note: most days of travel outlined below require a significant amount of travel on unsealed roads. All visitors need to check with the Winton Visitor Information Centre located inside the Waltzing Matilda Centre for road conditions before proceeding, as some of the roads are very isolated.

DAY	SUGGESTED ITINERARY AND ATTRACTIONS
Day 1:	Key sights in Winton – the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Corfield & Fitzmaurice, the Royal Open Air Theatre, the Musical Fence, Heritage Truck and Machinery Museum. Do the Historic Winton Town Walk (2km walk); and visit the Waltzing Matilda Centre
Day 2:	Day trip to Dinosaur Country; travel to Lark Quarry Conservation Park Dinosaur Trackways (110km; some unsealed sections). Optional to return again via the Winton-Jundah Rd, or via Carisbrooke Station. The return via Carisbrook Station (144km) is mostly unsealed roads.
Day 3:	Day trip to Opalton with opal fossicking (246km round trip) – opal miner guide/s and tag-along tours can be arranged on request.
<u>Boulia Option Add-on:</u>	
Day 4:	Drive south-west to Old Cork Station, before continuing on to Cawnpore Lookout and Boulia (404km day in total). Most roads are not sealed. Option 2: drive straight to Boulia via the sealed Kennedy Developmental Rd (362km). Stay overnight in Boulia – motel accommodation available for groups; or nearby farmstay „Macsland Station“ (27km from Boulia; very well set-up for school groups; farm activities).
Day 5:	Boulia sights including the Stonehouse Museum and the Min Min Encounter. Back to Winton, stopping in at Middleton - one of the most isolated pubs in Australia. Kennedy Developmental Rd – 362km (sealed road)

ITINERARY 4

Longreach and Barcaldine (4-5 days)

Accommodation: Longreach and Barcaldine

DAY	SUGGESTED ITINERARY AND ATTRACTIONS
Day 1:	Key sights in and around Longreach - local sights in Longreach including the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, QANTAS Museum, Power House Museum, School of the Air (school group tours), a self-guided tour of the Longreach Cemetery, and the Longreach Agricultural College (educational tours available).
Day 2:	Visit Starlight's Lookout (just out of town) and view Jump-up Country/mesas, or take a cruise on the Thomson River
Day 3:	Full day trip to Ilfracombe (27km from Longreach); see the Machinery and Heritage Display, Historic Wellshot Hotel, Ilfracombe Artesian Spa, and Langenbaker House. Extra option: continue on to Isisford (116km from Longreach); visit The Outer Barcoo Interpretive Centre, see <i>Isisfordia Duncani</i> and the Isis Downs Shearing Shed. Back to Longreach.
Day 4:	Full day trip to Barcaldine (107km from Longreach); visit the Tree of Knowledge historic site, Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Historical Museum, Radio Picture Theatre. Optional: stay the night in Barcaldine and return to Longreach the next day. Accommodation: Wanpa-rda Outdoor Educational Centre provides school/group accommodation and educational (curriculum) programs.
Optional Day 5:	Complete activities in Barcaldine and return to Longreach.

ITINERARY 5

Emerald to Longreach (5-6 days or 9 days): Fly In – Fly Out program

Accommodation: Emerald, Barcaldine, Longreach, Winton, Boulia

DAY	SUGGESTED ITINERARY AND ATTRACTIONS
Day 1: Emerald	Arrive Emerald. Sights in and around Emerald – Emerald Pioneer Cottage Complex, the petrified log (carbon dated at 250 million years old) outside the Emerald Town Hall, the Mosaic Pathway, and the Emerald historic railway station
Day 2: Emerald	Day trip to the Sapphire Gemfields (4 main fossicking areas) – around Rubyvale, Sapphire, Anakie. Enjoy a full day of fossicking; and take an underground mine tour, and visit the Rubyvale Gem Gallery. Back to Emerald for the night.
Day 3: Barcaldine	Travel on to Barcaldine; visit the Tree of Knowledge historic site, Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Historical Museum, Radio Picture Theatre. Overnight in Barcaldine.
Day 4: Longreach	Travel to Longreach. Stop in Ilfracombe (27km from Longreach) to visit the Machinery and Heritage Display, Historic Wellshot Hotel, Ilfracombe Artesian Spa, and Langenbaker House. Overnight in Longreach.
Day 5: Longreach	Key sights in and around Longreach - local sights in Longreach including the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, QANTAS Museum, Power House Museum, School of the Air (school group tours), a self-guided tour of the Longreach Cemetery, and the Longreach Agricultural College (educational tours available). Visit Starlight's Lookout (just out of town) and view Jump-up Country/mesas, or take a cruise on the Thomson River. Overnight in Longreach.
Day 6:	Depart Longreach.
Winton & Boulia Option Add-on 4 Days:	
Day 6: Winton	Travel to Winton. Key sights in Winton – the Australian Age of Dinosaurs Museum, Corfield & Fitzmaurice, the Royal Open Air Theatre, the Musical Fence, Heritage Truck and Machinery Museum. Do the Historic Winton Town Walk (2km walk); and visit the Waltzing Matilda Centre. Overnight in Winton.
Day 7: Winton	Day trip to Dinosaur Country; travel to Lark Quarry Conservation Park Dinosaur Trackways (110km; mostly unsealed road). Back to Winton for the night.
Day 8: Boulia	Travel back to Longreach for departure flight. Or: Travel to Boulia via the sealed Kennedy Developmental Rd (362km). Boulia sights including the Stonehouse Museum and the Min Min Encounter. Stay overnight in Boulia – motel accommodation available for groups; or nearby farmstay „Macsland Station“ (27km from Boulia; very well set-up for school groups; farm activities).
Day 9:	Back to Winton, stopping in at Middleton - one of the most isolated pubs in Australia. Kennedy Developmental Rd – 362km (sealed road), and travel on to Longreach for departure flight.