

Griffith Spring Festival

In the Heart of Australia's Food Bowl

With Trade Travel

6 Days / 5 Nights - Fully Escorted Ex Sydney

Tour Departs: Sunday 09 October - Friday 14 October, 2022.



TRADE TRAVEL
Group & Private Tour Specialists



Day 1. Sun 9 Oct: Home Port - Griffith

Lunch & Dinner

After boarding our coach we begin our drive across to **Griffith** situated in the NSW **Riverina** region, heart of **Australia's "Food Bowl"**. Our drive will take in stops for morning tea, lunch and another stop for afternoon refreshments before arriving into Griffith late afternoon. The **Rollonin Cafe in Bowning** 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. Among its collection are Australia's only two flying Spitfires and the oldest Tiger Moth still flying in the country. The museum's Wirraway was the first ex-military aircraft permitted to fly on the Civil Aircraft Register, while its World War II Hudson is the only one still flying in the world. On our arrival into Griffith we head straight to our accommodation for check in. This will be 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 we gather for dinner in the motel restaurant.

Overnight Griffith: Kidman Wayside Inn

Day 2. Mon 10 Oct: Wildlife & Cotton

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Wildlife and cotton are on our agenda today which, starting with a **'Wildlife Safari' at the 207 hectare Altina Wildlife Park!** A visit to Altina Wildlife Park and The Zoo-fari is like no other. Meet the animals up close and personal with our guide while travelling in style on a personalised horse-drawn cart. Our guide will take us around the park to meet these magnificent animals during their daily feed times. Following our morning tea and safari we arrive in **Darlington Point for lunch** before our 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 starting from when the bales are brought in, cleaned and packed ready to ship out. Southern Cotton's specially-built observation walkways allow us to witness these stages first-hand in a safe environment. We may even see one of the enormous yellow moon buggies in action! 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. Tue 11 Oct: Intro Griffith, Fruits & Gardens

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Our tour of the region begins as we experience life on the **Catania Fruit Salad Farm** 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, one of the earliest houses in the region, then we board a rustic mini bus for our tour around the orchard. Sharon and Joe are passionate about their farm and sharing their knowledge. We will gain insight into the history of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and hear the story of the prune. Our tour includes samples of seasonal fruits including grapes, plums, figs plus dried nuts, honey and jams. Griffith is also home to several **open gardens** and one of these will be our next **stop for lunch and a wander** before heading to the **Griffith Information Centre** which provides a wonderful display area that captures some of the local history, the water story and the agriculture.



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Day 3. Continued

Located inside the centre is a stained glass window with a colourful view from Hermit's Cave. A short video also provides a fantastic overview of 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 a stop at **Hermit's Cave Lookout** which offers excellent views across vineyards, orange orchards and rice fields to Cocoparra National Park and the Binya Hills in the distance. Another stop will be at the Griffith Regional Theatre to view the amazing **Soft Sculptured Curtain**, one of Griffith's major tourist attractions first unveiled at the Griffith Regional Theatre on 19th February 1987. Over three hundred people from the local community were involved with the creation of this beautiful work (*visit is subject to theatre availability*). Our **last stop for the day** is at **another beautiful open garden** that forms part of the **Griffith Festival of Gardens** which was established in 1991. After a stroll around the garden 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. Wed 12 Oct: History, Gourmet Treats & Wine

Breakfast & Dinner

After breakfast we again set off to discover more of Griffith, starting at the **Pioneer Park Museum** set amongst 11 hectares of picturesque bush land which is dedicated to preserving the history of Griffith and its surrounds. The museum's collection is full of original local buildings, horse drawn and motorised vehicles, old farm machinery and a broad range of antiques specifically used in the local area. Within the Pioneer Park we also find the **Wine and Irrigation Centre**, The 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 who all make fabulous pizza (try the rocket toppa), pasta and gnocchi and of course great coffee and delicious treats (don't miss the gelato and cannoli). After lunch we meet at the **Griffith Regional Art Gallery** which represents one of the creative faces in the Western Riverina Region. We also take a look through the **Griffith War Memorial Museum** which owes its existence to the returned servicemen from WWI who became soldier-settlers in Griffith. They had the foresight to have the Crown Land dedicated as a war memorial. After WWII the returned soldiers, sailors, airmen and their families expressed a wish to establish a fitting memorial to those who served. Australia's involvement in military campaigns in World War 1, World War II, Vietnam, and Afghanistan are presented with displays of military equipment, uniforms, maps and photographs. 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 provides a wonderful finale to our time in Griffith and after another great day out we return to our motel for a rest and our farewell dinner.

Overnight Griffith: Kidman Wayside Inn

Day 5. Thu 13 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 2022 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 including varieties of ample shrubs and heritage plants. David Austin perfumed roses cascading over arbours and arches leading to the sunken rose garden complemented by many varieties of irises forming perennial borders. Enjoy the tranquillity of the original water fountain built by Bruno surrounded by a fascinating fish pond and the espaliered fruit trees frame the bountiful vegetable garden. Another is the **'Rosewood Park on Stokes' Hanwood**, surrounded by vineyards and beautiful orange trees, this three acre garden is hedged in by a wall of roses and many flowering trees and shrubs. Thousands of roses of all varieties, arbours, arches, gazebo's and gables lend themselves to hold up the beautiful Pierre De Ronsard and Lorraine Lee Crepescule plantings. Small garden rooms provide cool shaded areas for tropical and shade loving plants including a 40 year old Liquid Amber. A gazebo nestled on a large pond filled with water lilies and irises is a welcomed respite after a meander through this garden. A third is **'Davit 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. Wander around this country garden to find beautiful bronzes and garden statuary and a canopy of mature deciduous trees. **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 Citrus Sculptures line the main street of Griffith, creating a spectacular gateway to the city across two weeks. The sculptures are wacky and creative and include a grand piano, a giant guitar, a chook, talking robot and a Cinderella inspired carriage with horses. The sculptures are unique to Australia and are based on the famous lemon sculptures of Menton, France. They are created using 100,000 oranges and an army of 700 volunteers. Sculptures are created by schools, service clubs, community groups and multi-national companies - it is a fabulous community event. After a spectacular and colourful day out we then head back to our motel to rest and freshen up before dinner.

Overnight Griffith: Kidman Wayside Inn

Day 6. Fri 14 Oct: Griffith - Cowra - Home Town

Breakfast & Lunch

This morning after an early breakfast and check out, it's time to 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 we arrive in **Grenfell**, the *'Birthplace of Henry Lawson'*, we stop by the **Silo Art Mural** representing the contemporary farming industry and landscape of the Weddin Shire. The foreground features sheep, cattle, and native birds set in a landscape adorned by the Weddin Mountains National Park. We then head onto **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**.

Day 6. Continued

The theatre is housed in a small tin replica of a Nissen hut found at the Cowra Prisoner of War Camp during World War II. The hologram tells the story of the Cowra Breakout through the eyes of Claire, a young Cowra local. The presentation is aimed at raising awareness of the historical significance of Cowra in modern military history and to encourage visitation to other local attractions and locations of historical importance. Prior to leaving Cowra we are joined by a **local guide** before visiting some major historical sites including the **Cowra Italy Friendship Monument, World Peace Bell, Military and Migrant Camps, Garrison Gates** and both the **Australian and Japanese War Cemeteries**. Our next stop will be in Lithgow which will incorporate a comfort stop with a look through the **Lithgow Small Arms Factory Museum**. Widely recognised for its comprehensive collection of modern firearms from around the world, it also is a showcase of Australian manufacturing. Displays show the production processes and social history of this renowned facility. Visitors are amazed by the myriad of commercial items produced which provided the factory's lifeblood between wars and preserved the valuable skills of its workforce. The last leg of our journey home takes us down along the Bells Line of Road before arriving back home after a delightful time across in the Riverina with Trade Travel.

Griffith Spring Festival



The Griffith Spring Fest is packed with a range of exciting events including the spectacularly unique Citrus Sculptures, seven beautiful open gardens including talks and workshops and the LINX Launch Party held in the Visitors Centre Carpark. Visitors are invited to join with the Griffith community in celebrating their orange harvest, love of gardening, the outdoors and their cultural richness.

The Griffith Spring Fest brand was born in 2017 combining a number of popular established community events to achieve a common goal. The Festival of Gardens was established in 1991 and the Citrus Sculptures were first installed in 1995.

The festival is organised by a dedicated working group, supported and guided by Griffith City Council. With the assistance from garden owners, sponsors and their local Council they are able to run a safe and successful festival each year. Each year festival ambassadors are invited to run workshops and talks in the open gardens and at the various events around Griffith.

In the past they have had a number of well-known gardening specialists join in to help celebrate the festival including Phil Dudman and Julie Ray from Garden2Kitchen, Costa Georgiadis and Tino Carnevale.

So, join the fun in 2022 and take a tour with us to Griffith and the Riverina to discover the amazing colours and sample the gourmet delights the region has to offer!



Tour Highlights: Rollonin Cafe; Temora Aviation Museum; Catania Fruit Salad Farm; 5 Open Garden Visits - TBA; Griffith Information Centre Displays & Stained Glass Window; Informative 90 minute 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; Tuscan-style Calabria Family Wines Cellar Door Tastings; Grenfell Silo At Mural; Cowra Rose Garden Coffee House & Cowra Tourist Information Centre - POW Hologram Theatre "Tragic story of the Cowra Breakout in 1944; Guided History Tour Cowra; Lithgow Small Arms Factory plus more!

Tour Price Includes:

- Trade Travel Tour Escort
- Luxury coach travel with seatbelts
- Quality motel accommodation
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner as per itinerary (15)
- All entry fees & guides as per itinerary

Credit: Destination NSW



Tour Cost: \$1948.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$460.00)

Tour cost based on minimum 20 pax

The tour prices valid for travel in 2022. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice.

Tour Cost: \$1798.00 per person Twin Share (Single Supplement \$460.00)

Tour cost based on minimum 30 pax

The tour prices valid for travel in 2022. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change without notice.

PAYMENT DETAILS

DEPOSIT \$200.00 with completed & signed booking forms to secure your place on this tour.

FINAL PAYMENT due by Tuesday **31 August, 2022.**

**For Information, bookings & travel insurance contact:
Trade Travel 1800 034 439 Email: bookings@tradetravel.com**



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