

Heritage and Homesteads: 5-Day Tour Through Roma and Maranoa Shire | 5-9 May, 2025

Enjoy the warmth of local hospitality, explore charming streets, and take in the natural beauty of the surrounding countryside. With the region's rich history, we will rediscover the people, places and events that helped shaped Australia's cultural heritage.



DAY 1 (D): HOME TO ROMA

Monday 5 May 2025

Welcome to our 5 day tour to Roma. After our morning pickups we'll begin our travel from the Sunshine Coast. We head west and stop for convenience breaks along the way. We arrive in Roma later this afternoon with time to settle into our motel before tonight's Night Experience at the Big Rig. As the sun sets, we relax under the outback sky and are taken on a sound and light journey to learn the entertaining trials and triumphs of the early industry men and women of Roma.

Roma Explorers Inn | 4 nights
(Lunch own expense | Dinner at motel)

DAY 2 (BLD): ROMA

Tuesday 6 May 2025

This morning we will visit the Roma Saleyards, the largest cattle selling facility in the southern hemisphere. A volunteer will show us through the yard and give an interesting insight before we visit the state-of-the-art interpretation centre sharing stories of the industry. From here we are off for a local town tour of Roma. Our locally based guide will join the coach and give us an insight into the early settlement and progression of Roma and indeed an insight into the history of the Maranoa.

We will take in many historic buildings and sites including St Paul's Anglican Church which features stunning leadlight windows, each with a story. Visitors can gain an insight into how the Church was built and also hear the story of each window. Afterwards we head to the Big Rig to enjoy lunch and a self-guided tour of the Big Rig Oil Patch. We journey through time from Australia's first discovery of petroleum, through the boom-and-bust years of oil and gas exploration and on to today's multibillion dollar industry.

(Breakfast and dinner at motel | Lunch at Big Rig)

DAY 3 (BLD): SURAT, YULEBA, AND WALLUMBILLA

Wednesday 7 May 2025

Today we explore outside of Roma. We have a local guide join the coach with us today who will travel with us to the historic town of Surat, located on the banks of the beautiful Balonne River. On arrival we arranged a fascinating visit to the Cobb & Co Changing Station. The Museum is built on the original site of the Cobb & Co Store – and the drop off point for coach passengers and goods. Included in the current display is a 14 seat replica Cobb & Co Coach, a 25,000 litre fresh water aquarium and a display of local artworks at the Surat on Balonne Gallery. From here we drive along part of the route that was once taken by the last Cobb & Co Coach Service in Australia to Yuleba. Then onto Wallumbilla where we stop for a picnic lunch at Calico Cottage. This facility was established some 28 years ago when (during a period of drought) a group of farmers' wives agreed that they needed to make an income off of the property. Together, they commenced selling home baked goods and crafts from a cottage located on the highway in town. Today, many of the original volunteers still greet visitors and 'put the kettle on.' Devonshire Tea is available and a variety of country-style, baked treats can be purchased to take home.

(Breakfast and dinner at motel | Packed lunch included)



DAY 4 (BD): ROMA, MUCKADILLA, AND AMBY

Thursday 08 May 2025

Starting off the day, we visit heritage listed Mt Abundance Homestead. We'll be greeted warmly by the owners before being led on an interesting tour. Discover the first post office in the Roma district and visit the underground cellar lined with locally handmade bricks before a pleasant morning tea on the veranda. We head back to Roma for lunch (own expense) before our afternoon drive to Muckadilla Whistle Stop and Native Bush Gardens, located west of Roma. Muckadilla is a small community, with a big heart. The Whistle Stop houses local memorabilia, including a tribute to Australia's shortest serving Prime Minister and local lad, Frank Forde. We will enjoy the peaceful surrounds of the Native Bush Gardens, the Major Mitchell monument and Leichhardt monument – both of which pay tribute to the explorers who passed through the region from 1846. Further west is Amby - a quaint country town. We will have a local join us on the coach to tell us about the town, in particular the remnants of the Scar Trees that are here, the War Memorial and Arch Way and Amby's International Airport. From here we return to Roma for our last dinner together on tour.

(Breakfast and dinner at motel | Lunch own expense)

DAY 5 (BL): ROMA TO HOME

Friday 09 May 2025

After breakfast, we farewell our hosts at Roma and begin our journey home. We stop in Dalby for lunch at the local club. Our coach has us arriving home later this afternoon after another fantastic tour.

(Breakfast at motel | Lunch at Dalby Leagues Club)



Tour Inclusions

- 4 nights motel accommodation
- 4 motel cooked breakfasts
- 4 motel two course dinners
- 3 included lunches – see below
- Night Show at Roma Big Rig
- Roma Saleyard Tour
- Guided town tour of Roma
- Guided tour of St Pauls Anglican Church
- Lunch at Roma Big Rig
- Entry to Oil Patch Roma Big Rig
- Guide to join coach for Stuart, Yuleba, and Wallumbilla touring
- Visit and morning tea at Cobb & Co Changing Station
- Visit to Calico Cottage Heritage Complex
- Packed lunch (day 3)
- Guided tour & morning tea at Mt Abundance Homestead
- Visit and afternoon tea at Muckadilla Whistle Stop & Native Bush Garden
- Guided town tour of Amby
- Lunch at Dalby Leagues Club

Costs

\$2,265.00 per person Twin/Twin Share / Double

\$2,590.00 per person Single

