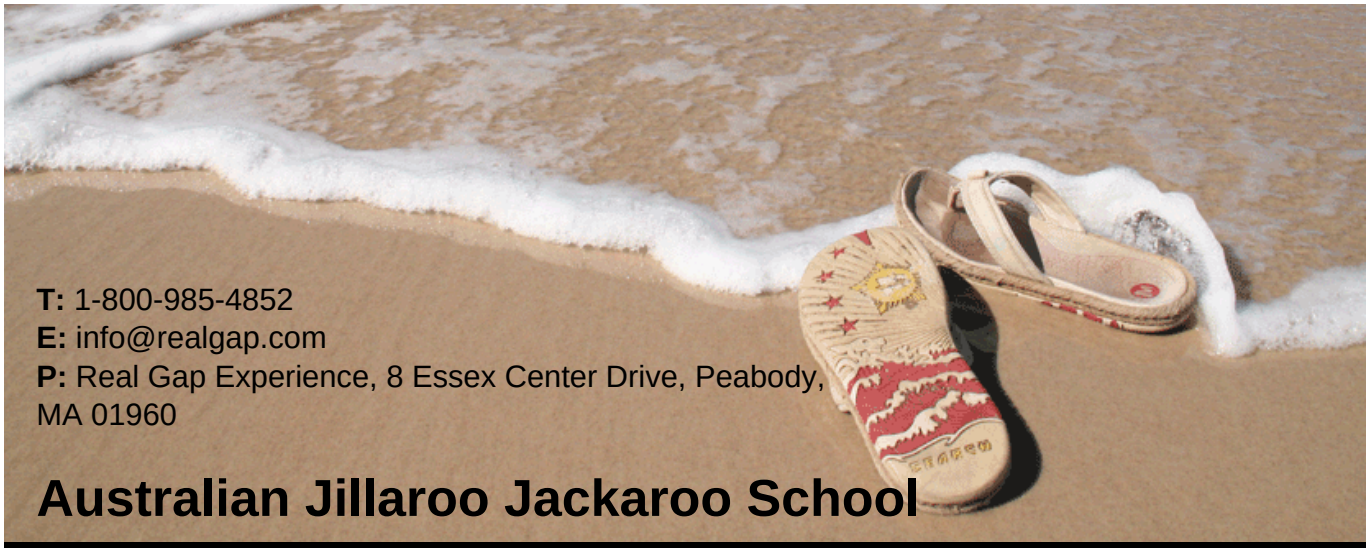

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Australian Jillaroo Jackaroo School

Adventure Relaxation Culture

Trip Name: Australian Jillaroo Jackaroo School **Trip Code:** OZJS **Duration:** From 5 days

Trip Highlights

- Live the outdoor life and experience the stunning Australian outback.
- Get a taste of what it's like to be a real life cowboy or cowgirl!
- Learn a range of new skills from cattle mustering to sheep shearing.
- Take a dip with the horses when the weather is warm enough!
- Tuck into meals like a local; by a roaring campfire under a blanket of stars!

Overview

Take yourself away from the beaten tourist route and into what many describe as the real Australia, the Outback, to learn a host of new skills, live the rustic lifestyle and experience some of the most fun and unique activities of your life!

Set off the beaten track (literally!) your stay out on the ranch will see you befriend your own horse, learning everything from riding to talking to cattle mustering with your new four legged companion. Add to this lassoing, cattle wrestling, cattle branding and building plus enjoying meals by campfire and star light and your experience as a Jillaroo or Jackaroo is complete!

Enjoy traditional tucker, rustic living and master the art of farming using traditional Jackaroo and Jillaroo techniques in the stunning Australian Outback! You learn skills including horse riding, cattle mustering, lassoing and the secret art of Natural Horsemanship or 'Horse Whispering'! It's an action-packed 5 or 11 day itinerary that will leave you breathless but with enough amazing experiences to last a lifetime.

Destination Info

This programme is based in Leconfield, a small town in the heart of the Australian outback around 50km east of Tamworth. You'll be able to get back to nature spotting indigenous wildlife and taking horse rides over the vast and stunning surrounding landscape. If you want to get away from it all on a once in a life-time experience then this is the ideal destination for you; traditional tucker, Aussie culture and rustic living!

Please note that the 5-day and 11-day options are at different properties.

Itinerary

Whatever your level of experience, you can get to grips with a whole host of new skills from lassoing to Natural Horsemanship and bed-down under the stars in the Aussie wilderness after a good days work! Below is the typical itinerary for the 5-day jillaroo Jackaroo school, for those that choose the 11-day package you'll be at a different property, doing all the activities over 11 days allowing you to widen your skill set over a more dedicated period of time.

On day 1 you'll be picked up at 9am from the YHA hostel in Tamworth and taken to a second hand store where you can buy cheap work clothes, a cowboy hat and boots. Next stop, the ranch in Leconfield (dependent on the duration of course that you choose) for your introduction and a much needed cup of tea. In the afternoon enjoy a grooming and saddling up lesson as well as a lesson on Natural Horsemanship riding followed by a 2.5 hour ride including bush survival and local bush tucker!

Only Day 2 and you're up to catch and saddle the horses! Enjoy morning lessons in Natural Horsemanship, horse shoeing and whip cracking and lassoing. In the afternoon experience a variety of activities from mustering sheep on horseback to trotting and cantering in the arena, a barrel race on horseback, a talk on sheep health and husbandry and a sheep shearing lesson. Cram in lunch and dinner and you'll soon be settled into your new lifestyle!

Have your energy and concentration levels set to maximum today with fencing or yard building (this often involves tree felling) being taught. Afetr a hearty lunch and for those who are interested in finding out where their meat comes from, you can take part in slaughtering a sheep.

Rise early to catch and saddle the horses before taking some time out to enjoy a few Natural Horsemanship games. Next, experience mustering cattle on horseback and yarding and drafting cattle. You've deserved your lunch, after which you'll learn about cattle breeds and husbandry as well as wrestling, branding and marking calves followed by a demonstration in using working dogs. If that wasn't enough cowboy-ing around for one day you'll also get to put your skills to use in a lassoing competition!

Early to rise again and using your new expert skills you will catch and saddle your horse and learn more about how to maintain saddlery. If travelling in the warmer months, ride to the swimming hole where we swim the horses and after a break and take the horses for a trot and a canter. If it's not warm enough you'll probably not want to swim but you'll still take the ride. After a picnic lunch you'll finish with some games on horseback before riding back to the ranch for your final night in Tamworth where you'll stay in the local YHA Hostel and indulge in a farewell night out with your new friends. You're free to embark on onward travel the next morning.

For those who are taking part in the 11-day course, you'll get twice the experience with time off at the weekend to enjoy the ranch and the local area! Day 11 will be departure day when you'll be taken back to Tamworth in the morning for your onward travel.

Accommodation

If you choose the 5-day course you will stay in a bunkhouse at the ranch. For those that choose the 11-day course you will stay in a different property run by a different organisation. All facilities are shared, giving you the opportunity to live the authentic outback lifestyle and get to know your fellow cowboys and girls!

Programme Services and Facilities

Internet

There is no Internet access at the farm, but there is at the hostel in Tamworth, which you can use before you leave and when you return.

Telephone

The international telephone access code for Australia is +61.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK, +49 for Germany, followed by the telephone number.

There is a phone in the bunkhouse that students can use with 1800 phonecards, they can also use1800 reverse (within Australia) and Collect call. Guests on the **11 day option** can also receive incoming calls on this phone; the number is +61 (0) 267694302. Guests on the **5 day option** can also receive incoming calls on this phone; the number is (02) 67694156.

Another option is to take your mobile and purchase a pay-as-you-go SIM in Australia, or get a Real Gap SIM before you depart, to allow you to text and call cheaply, and keep track of your spending. Before you depart, please ensure that your mobile is set up with international roaming and unlocked, so you may use a pay-as-you-go SIM while you are away.

Laundry

There are laundry facilities onsite.

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are all provided. If you’re staying for the 5-day course all meals will be cooked in an open air camp oven or if you’re staying for 11 days meals will be served in the main house.

What's Included

- 4-10 nts accom on training ranch (depending on programme choice)
- All tuition and skills lessons
- All meals
- Tamworth pick-up and drop-off
- 24-hour emergency contact number

What's Not Included

- Flights
- Transport to Tamworth
- Extra activities not on itinerary
- Travel insurance
- Visa

Is This Trip For You?

Please note that, although this course is designed to give you a proper taste of outback ranch life it is not the same as the Outback ranch programme we offer, which prepares you for paid work on a ranch. You will have lots of

contact with horses but you probably won't get to ride horses everyday.

What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor is it exhaustive.

Personal Admin

- Visa documents
- Passport
- Driving licence
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service, or the German Krankenversicherungskarte
- Insurance policy document or card
- Credit card, for emergencies and booking internal flights

General

- Journal or diary
- Towels
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush etc)
- Alarm clock
- Torch, batteries (necessary for bush camp and caving)
- Sleeping bag (extra blankets and sheets available at the farm)
- Sun block
- Small padlock to secure luggage

Clothing

- Clothing suitable for weather conditions (remember long sleeved trousers and tops to protect you from the sun)
- Raincoat and/or waterproof clothing
- Riding boots or boots with a heel (can be rented at the farm but there are limited numbers, so best to bring your own)
- Work clothes (old jeans & shirts – can be purchased from second hand shop on your first day)
- Working gloves (these can also be supplied at the farm)
- Wide brim hat
- Sunglasses
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Swimming costumes

Medical Kit

- Medication
- First Aid Kit
- Insect repellent

Please note: Bags are limited to backpack/soft travel bag per person, plus one small piece of hand luggage.

Minimum Age

Under 18s usually accepted depending on riding level and whether they are accompanied by a parent/guardian. Maximum age is dependant upon potential participant' s health.

Flights

Your flight to Australia should arrive at Sydney Airport (SYD), then you will need to arrange transport to Tamworth so that you are there for the morning of the programme start date. We recommend staying in Tamworth the night before your programme start date, as it's quite a long journey if travelling from Sydney or Brisbane. Your return flight should be arranged for your programme end date.

To book your flights, contact us on 01273 647219 and we'll help search for a great deal.

Please note: If you are flying to Australia via the USA you will need to obtain Travel Authorisation by registering online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) no later than 72 hours before departure. This is compulsory and will cost USD$14 to register. To register, please visit: www.esta.cbp.dhs.go

FAQs

1. **Do I have to be able to ride a horse?**
   All levels of riders are welcome of this course.

2. **How do I get to Tamworth?**
   Tamworth is approximately 8 hours by bus from Sydney. Alternatively, you can get there in a one-hour flight with Qantas or take the train (Journey time is 6 hrs).

3. **Can I bring my own riding equipment?**
   If you ride in the UK, you can take your own riding boots and hat.

4. **What style of riding is it?**
   Western Style.

Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

Money Matters

The unit of currency is the Australian Dollar. Changing foreign currency or travellers cheques is usually no problem at banks throughout Australia or at licensed moneychangers.

Australia is affordable by Western European and American standards, but if you are travelling on from Southeast Asia you'll notice a big increase in costs!

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 13.37 $

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 5.04 $
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 2.40 $
Water (0.33 litre bottle) 2.14 $

(Prices quoted in US Dollar)

Passports and Visas

You should ensure that you have a full passport that is valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information provided below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

All visitors to Australia need a visa – only New Zealand nationals are exempt, however you will receive a 'special category' visa on arrival.

For entry into Australia you will require an eVisitor visa. UK passport holders can apply for a 90-day tourist visa online at www.immi.gov.au All other nationalities should consult the relevant embassy.

If you intend to work after your week in Sydney you will be required to apply for a working holiday visa.

Working Holiday Visa
To take part in this programme you will require a working holiday visa. The working holiday visa is available to anyone age 18-30. The emphasis is on casual employment: you are meant to work for no more than six months at any one job. If you want to stay in Australia for up to 24 months, this is now possible for some nationalities. Speak to one of our sales advisors for more information.

To be eligible for a Working Holiday Visa, you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 30 years at the time of application
- Have a valid passport for one of the countries listed at Australian Immigration, www.immi.gov.au
- Have no dependant children
- Have not previously entered Australia on a working holiday visa
- Meet health and character requirements
- Be outside Australia at the time of visa grant

To be granted a working holiday visa you must also agree that:

- Your main reason for coming to Australia is to holiday
- You must not undertake studies or training for more than 4 months
- You will leave Australia at the end of your authorized stay
- You must have sufficient funds to support yourself for the initial part of your stay. AUD$5000 minimum is regarded as sufficient. You may have to provide evidence of this in the form of a bank statement.

For the most up to date information on visa requirements, please visit http://www.immi.gov.au/

Cultural Considerations

Australia is a melting pot of different cultures. It has a population of over 21 million people with most of the population living on the east coast between Adelaide and Cairns. High waves of immigration from England, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Malta and Eastern Europe have occurred during Australia's brief history, particularly after World War II, and the later waves from the Middle-East, East, and South-East Asia, as well as the Indian subcontinent, have created a truly diverse population.

Although Australia has no official language, English is spoken by 80% of the population. Chinese, Italian and Greek are respectively the next most common languages, reflecting Australia's cultural diversity and concentration of nationalities. Australians have very strong attitudes and belief systems which are reflected in their culture. Australians traditionally have a very ironic sense of humour.

Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

Safety

As in most countries there are people who try to take advantage of tourists. The following advice is intended to help you keep safe:

- Always keep your personal items such as passport, money and camera with you and in a safe place. You can buy mini padlocks to prevent people from going into your bag without your permission.
- Don't carry excess amounts of cash
- Wherever possible, walk around in groups, especially after dark, and avoid taking short cuts
- Do not pick up hitchhikers if you are driving and do not hitch hike yourself
- When you are out do not leave your drinks unattended, as there have been reports of drinks being spiked

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK and American customers please see the relevant links below;

UK: www.fco.gov.uk
USA: www.travel.state.gov

ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if your card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

Language Guide

Here are some Australian terms and phrases that you might find useful:

Bottle Shop - *Off-licence/Liquor store*
Bonzer - *Good*
Bush - *Unsettled country area*
Dag - *Nerd*
Esky - *Portable insulated box to keep food/drink cold*
Fair Dinkum - *Honestly, truly*
Pokies - *Gambling machines*
Pom - *Person of English descent*

Singlet - *Sleeveless cotton vest*
Smoko - *Tea break*
Thongs - *Flip flops/Sandals*
Ute - *Utility vehicle/pick-up truck*

Food & Drink

You will find food in Australia to suit all taste buds, with the larger cities in particular offering a great range of places to eat. Due to the large amount of British settlers, Australian food is reasonably similar to that in Western Europe, but if you are feeling particularly adventurous get involved in some bush tucker (kangaroo, emus) or the infamous vegemite. For less scary Aussie food, look out for fresh seafood and of course, a typical Aussie barbecue!

Please let Real Gap know before you depart if you are a vegetarian or have any other dietary requirements.

Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country.

To view a list of the public holidays for Australia, please see the link below:

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/australia/

Weather

Australia is located in the southern hemisphere, where seasons are the opposite of those in the northern hemisphere.

The summer months in Australia (November to March) can get very hot. Up north, in Queensland for example, the summer period brings the rainy season and the weather can be very hot and humid with lots of rainfall. The winter months (June to August) in Queensland bring much dryer weather but still heat. The further south you go the colder and wetter winter becomes and in some mountainous areas of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania skiing is possible.

Time

Australia is such a big country that it has three time zones:

Eastern Standard Time (Queensland) – 10 hours ahead of GMT depending on Daylight Savings
Central Time – 9.5 hours ahead of GMT
Western Time - 8 hours ahead of GMT

Electricity

Electricity in Australia is 240 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second.

Sockets in Australia are V-shaped flat prongs.

Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of reommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

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