

THE NATURAL SCIENCES LOOP

EROMANGA NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM



dinosaurexperiences.com

Fossils, Stars, Opals & Outback Innovation Where Deep Time Meets Big Skies

Embark on a circular journey through Outback Queensland where prehistoric oceans, ancient river systems and pioneering innovation intersect.

The Natural Sciences Loop connects Charleville, Quilpie, Eromanga, Thargomindah and Cunnamulla – a region shaped by inland seas, artesian waters, meteor-filled night skies and some of Australia's most remarkable fossil discoveries.

From stargazing beneath vast, unpolluted skies to standing beside Australia's largest dinosaur, this drive blends geology, palaeontology, astronomy and outback resilience into one unforgettable journey.

This isn't just a road trip – it's a story written in stone.

Drive Itinerary

DAY 1 – CHARLEVILLE

Stars Above, Stories Below

Begin in Charleville, where science looks both skyward and underground.

At the Charleville Cosmos Centre, explore the universe through powerful telescopes beneath some of Australia's clearest night skies. The same dark skies that guide astronomers today once watched over dinosaurs roaming the inland plains.

Visit the Bilby Experience and learn about conservation in fragile arid ecosystems – landscapes shaped by millions of years of environmental change.

Walk along the Warrego River at sunset, imagining the ancient waterways that once flowed across Queensland during the time of megafauna and dinosaurs.

Overnight: Charleville

Charleville Visitor Information Centre
Railway Station, King Street
P: (07) 4656 8359
www.experiencecharleville.com.au

WHY TRAVEL THE NATURAL SCIENCES LOOP?

- ◆ Meet "Cooper" – Australia's largest dinosaur
- ◆ Discover opals formed in an ancient inland sea
- ◆ Explore Australia's first hydroelectric power station
- ◆ Wander wetlands fed by the Great Artesian Basin
- ◆ Stargaze in some of the darkest skies on Earth

TRAVEL TIPS

- ◆ Most roads are sealed – always check local conditions
- ◆ Fuel stops can be 200 km apart – plan ahead
- ◆ Avoid dusk/dawn driving due to wildlife
- ◆ Carry water and sun protection
- ◆ Book fossil experiences in advance





Extend Your Journey

The Natural Sciences Loop connects with:

- ◆ The Matilda Way
- ◆ The Outback Adventure Way
- ◆ The Warrego Way

Link your journey into a broader deep-time exploration across Queensland.

DAY 2 – CHARLEVILLE TO QUILPIE (210 KM)

Opals from an Ancient Sea

Drive west into Channel Country landscapes – vast floodplains that once lay beneath the Eromanga Sea over 100 million years ago.

In Quilpie, discover brilliant opals formed when silica-rich water filled cracks and voids in sediment left behind by that ancient sea. These gemstones are geological time captured in colour.

Visit the opal altar at St Finbarr's Church, explore Lake Houdraman and climb Baldy Top Lookout for panoramic views across landscapes shaped by erosion, flood and deep time.

The earth here doesn't just tell stories – it sparkles with them.

Overnight: Quilpie

Quilpie Visitor Information Centre
P: (07) 4656 0540
www.visitquilpieshire.com.au
51 Broлга Street, Quilpie

DAY 3 – QUILPIE TO EROMANGA (100 KM)

Walk with Giants

Today you enter true dinosaur country.

At the Eromanga Natural History Museum, meet "Cooper" (Australotitan cooperensis) – Australia's largest dinosaur. This enormous titanosaur once walked muddy floodplains that bordered the inland sea.

Join a Fossil Preparation Experience or guided tour and witness how palaeontologists carefully uncover bones preserved for over 95 million years.

Explore working fossil labs, megafauna discoveries and ongoing scientific research that continues to rewrite Queensland's prehistoric story.

In Eromanga, discovery is not just displayed – it's happening.

Overnight: Eromanga

Eromanga Natural History Museum
1 Dinosaur Drive, Eromanga
P: (07) 4656 3084
www.enhm.com.au

DAY 4 – EROMANGA TO THARGOMINDAH (220 KM)

Innovation in a Harsh Landscape

Travel south through vast open horizons shaped by ancient sedimentary basins.

In Thargomindah, visit Australia's first hydroelectric power station – an extraordinary feat of engineering in a remote outback town. Powered by artesian pressure from the Great Artesian Basin, it demonstrates how geological forces beneath the earth continue to shape human innovation.

Explore Bulloo River landscapes and reflect on how underground water systems – formed over millions of years – sustain life in one of Australia's driest regions.

Here, science meets survival.

Overnight: Thargomindah

Visitor Information
P: (07) 4621 8095
www.explorebulloo.com.au
37 Dowling Street, Thargomindah



What Makes This Loop Unique?

The Natural Sciences Loop celebrates the full spectrum of Queensland's scientific story:

- ◆ Prehistoric inland seas
- ◆ Dinosaur giants and megafauna
- ◆ Opals born from marine sediments
- ◆ Artesian water systems millions of years old
- ◆ Early renewable energy innovation
- ◆ Some of the darkest skies in the Southern Hemisphere

Few drives combine palaeontology, geology, astronomy and outback engineering in one seamless journey. This is Queensland's science story – told across red earth, river systems and endless skies.