

The Quilpie Way

The Quilpie Way Self Drive is a journey through the heart of Queensland's outback, offering a unique mix of local flavours, nature, history, and adventure. Explore hidden gems like Lake Houdraman, Eromanga's dinosaurs and megafauna, quirky Outback pubs and the spectacular Hell Hole Gorge.

Day 1 | Quilpie - Local flavours

Plan for a lunchtime arrival in Quilpie for a double dose of Aussie flavour. Park at the Visitor Information Centre and amble down to a local favourite, Offshears Bakery. Their traditionally made meat pies by a World Champion Women's Shearer are legendary. Take advantage of the free picnic area at the Visitor Information Centre to enjoy a relaxed lunch and to check out the local artwork.

Drive around eight minutes to Lake Houdraman, AKA 'The Lake', popular for swimming, fishing, BYO kayaking and yabbing. This beautiful expanse of water is located on a 2500-acre property aptly named The Lake, Quilpie. Experience the Quilpie Night Show screened under the stars (check the schedule at the Visitor Information Centre). Virtual host, Q the Curlew is the star of this engaging tell-all story of how Quilpie came to be – the struggles, the triumphs and the multi-generational pioneering dynasties.

Day 2 | Quilpie - Rich in colour & nature

Treat yourself to an early morning stroll along the Bulloo River Walk. Get in the know with the handy native plant interpretive signs dotted along the 1.5km trail. Keep an eye out for our feathered friends too. For a killer brewed coffee and wholefood treats (including gluten free) call into one of the coolest horse floats turned coffee bars in the west. You'll find Unstable Coffee parked in Quilpie's main street and it's definitely your 'go to' for today's smoko and yummy treats for later.

There's a free opal fossicking area just 1.5km from town and fossicking kits can be purchased from the Visitor Information Centre for under \$10. Quilpie is home to the beautiful boulder opal, so you never know... lady luck may be on your side! While in town, take a peek at the incredible opal altar in St Finbarr's Church. The golden hour before sunset is perfect for exploring the many caves and crevasses of Baldy Top Lookout. This ancient boulder formation is just 6.5km from town on a fully sealed road.

Day 3 | Adavale - Home of the Elegant Emu

Take a one-hour fully sealed drive to Adavale, a closely guarded secret of just under 20 permanent residents. Visit the Elegant Emu.... not the feathered kind of emu, rather a delightful outback patisserie specialising in yummy baked bread, cakes, pastries and decadent High Teas! History buffs will enjoy the historical walk and outdoor mini museum. Keen 'anglers' and 'twitchers' will relish the fishing and birdwatching opportunities in Adavale. Return to Quilpie for your overnight accommodation.

Optional side trip

From Adavale it's just under 1 1/2 hours' drive to the spectacular Hell Hole Gorge National Park. Before starting your drive to Adavale, be sure to check road conditions and purchase a National Park camping permit from the Quilpie Visitor Information Centre. Set up camp at Hell Hole Gorge campsite (4WD access only. Camping visitors must be self-sufficient).

Day 4 | Eromanga - Land of the giants

Drive north west to Eromanga, the furthest town from the sea and home to Australia's largest dinosaur. For a chance to get up close to a 95-million-year-old dinosaur bone, join the Australian Dinosaur Giant's tour at the Eromanga Natural History Museum. Explore the Reception Gallery with its Interpretive Corridor, Multi-Media Theatre Experience and café with a view. Extend your visit with one of their exclusive experience packages featuring accommodation in their 4-star onsite Cooper's Country Lodge and tailored dinosaur and meal options. Back in town, call into the Royal Hotel, built in 1885 and follow the historical walk. Be sure to get a photo of the life-size art sculpture of a Sauropod and her two babies at Knot-a- Saurus Park and visit the Eromanga Living History Centre.

Day 5 | Quilpie - Sand hills & Waterholes

Drive north along the fully sealed Kyabra Road to Yapunya Sand Hills, heralding the signature, rich, red hues of the Channel Country. Continue a short distance to the tranquil Kyabra Waterhole. When full, it covers a massive area of some 55 hectares. Take a break for a picnic morning tea or if time permits throw in a line. Return to Quilpie via Thylungra and the Diamantina Developmental Road.