



Charters Towers *North Queensland*

Touring Guide 2009

www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au



Contents Page

ghosts of gold Heritage Trail 3-4

More Attractions 5 - 7

Around the World 8

Admission Prices 9

Group Terms & Conditions 10

Map of Charters Towers & Region 11



See Page 5 for details of two exciting NEW tours available in 2009

Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours & World Theatre Guided Tours





ghosts of gold Heritage Trail

Charters Towers *ghosts of gold* come to life in four venues throughout town:

- The Visitor Information Centre Orientation Film and virtual tour touch screen.
- The Stock Exchange Arcade for the "Calling of the Card" and the Assay Mining Museum.
- Venus Gold Battery, the oldest stamp battery in Queensland.
- Towers Hill, by day and by night - Ghosts after Dark film.

Grandeur - One Square Mile

There are few historic city hearts as beautifully preserved as Charters Towers' One Square Mile. The elegance and grandeur of our city heart is truly awe-inspiring. Best of all, this historic One Square Mile precinct of magnificent civic buildings from the gold rush era, including the Stock Exchange Arcade, World Theatre and the Post Office, is easily explored on foot using a Heritage Walking Map.

Built in 1891, the World Theatre was originally the Australian Bank of Commerce. Its name derives from when Charters Towers was the second largest city in Queensland and was affectionately referred to as "The World". The building was converted in 1996 into a 660-seat performing arts theatre, two cinemas, restaurant, gift shop and public art gallery.

Greed - Stock Exchange

The arcade was designed by Sydney architect Mark Day and built by Sandbrook Brothers of Sydney in 1888. This prestigious shop and office arcade was built for local civic leader and businessman Alexander Malcolm. Known then as the Royal Arcade, it housed the Charters Towers Stock Exchange from 1890. It was one of Australia's few regional stock exchanges and was needed to raise capital to work the deep reef mines throughout the region.



Stock Exchange cont

The Stock Exchange was connected to the rest of the commercial world via telegraph, with three calls a day, six days a week. The arcade is a great open thoroughfare and it is easy to imagine the stockbrokers busy at work in their offices, which now operate as shops. Don't miss the "Calling of the Card", a ghostly reminder of Charters Towers' golden days when just a touch of greed echoed in these stately walls.

Ghosts - The Venus Gold Battery

Located on the outskirts of town, the Venus Gold Battery offers an insight into an amazing real-life gold rush of the late 19th century. The battery is of national cultural significance as the largest surviving battery relic in Australia and oldest surviving battery in Queensland.

Constructed in 1872, it was a public or custom mill in its heyday and became a State Battery in 1919 to provide ore crushing facilities for

small miners long after other mills had closed. It ceased commercial operations in 1973 after a century of service. Guided tours are available daily at the battery. One of the highlights is a fascinating film presentation that shows not only the process of extracting gold from ore, but also the story of the battery's working life.



Gold - Towers Hill

Gold was first discovered at the foot of Towers Hill in 1872. From the bottom of the hill, follow the storyboard trail dotted throughout the area. There are storyboards that reflect the hill's colourful past. At the very top is a lookout with panoramic views of Charters Towers. Since the discovery of gold, the area has been subject to much use, predominately as a mining site. The early telegraph route to Cardwell passed overhead and the valley below was used for ordnance storage during World War II.

Towers Hill comes to life in the evening with the *ghosts after dark* film screened in the Amphitheatre. This film reveals the story of the history of Charters Towers, in which ghosts of our past have a starring role. (Entrance fee payable).



More Attractions

The Miner's Cottage

The Miner's Cottage is a mini museum that offers an experience set back in time. The cottage is refurbished and decorated to show how the house would have looked at the start of the 20th century. Panning for gold takes place here also.

Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours

Horseshoe B Longhorns, just 10 km from Charters Towers, has the largest herd of purebred Texas Longhorns in Australia. Learn some of the history of these iconic "wild west" cattle while listening to the clip of the hooves, the clink of the harness and the rhythm of the canvas covered wagon. Enjoy your Billy Tea and Smoko while the "gentle giant" draft horses are being harnessed and hitched to the wagon something very few people get to experience in this modern age.



Guided City Driving Tours

A personalised city tour with an experienced local guide will uncover many significant sites and facts about Charters Towers history.

Discover the hidden treasures of Charters

Towers, visit places off the beaten track and hear the stories of the old days. Our guide will board your bus and entertain you for an hour; test his knowledge and find out some interesting tales of the city.

Historic Ambulance Centre

This centre dates back to 1903 and was restored and reopened to the public 100 years after the first opening. The centre was the first ambulance station outside Brisbane and houses a wonderful collection of vehicles, uniforms and an enormous number of log books recording the cases treated by ambulance officers during the past 100 years. The centre is open on Sundays and at other times by appointment.



World Theatre

Explore this cultural complex where the unique blend of heritage architecture and state of the art technology meet. Check with their friendly staff for details of the live shows, movie times, morning melodies and local and touring exhibitions of art, sculpture, photography and more.



World Theatre Guided Tours

Hear about the history and intrigue that surrounds this unique building. Learn about the "Mosman Street Tragedy" and its ghostly legacy.



Charters Towers Folk Museum

This National Trust owned and operated museum, houses a large collection of photographs, equipment and other memorabilia that reflects Charters Towers' golden past. Their friendly volunteers and staff are only too willing to share their special stories and demonstrate some of the equipment that is housed in the historic Burns Philp building, built in 1888. Ask for a demonstration of the flying fox - the Lampson Aerial Cash System from the old Pollards building. This is always a favourite.

Drive-In Cinema

Take time out and watch a couple of flicks at our local Drive-In Cinema – one of only six (6) still operating in Queensland. There are only 12 left in Australia. The Drive-In usually operates on weekends and school holidays. However, for groups of 40 or more, the Drive-In will arrange for special screenings during the week. If enough notice is given the Drive-In will even attempt to fill special requests for a particular movie.

The Civic Club

Drop into the Civic Club, originally known as the Londoner's Club (a gentlemen's club) and enjoy a drink with a local, soak up the atmosphere of this amazing historic building and have a round of billiards on one of the two 100-year-old tables. Don't forget to make your booking for their famous Friday night BBQ.



Cattle Sales

Experience the thrill of rural living when livestock goes under the hammer. Cattle Sales are held every Wednesday at the Dalrymple Sales Yards.

Pioneer Cemetery

The Pioneer Cemetery contains graves of those buried from 1872 - 1895 and gives insight into the hardships our pioneers faced during the goldfield days.

Charters Towers Cemetery

This newer cemetery, established in 1895, is the resting place for a number of interesting local characters including Jupiter Mosman who was one of the party that discovered gold at Charters Towers, Doctor Leonard Redmond who recognised dengue fever, Fredrick Pfeiffer owner of the rich Day Dawn PC



Mine and James Kenniff who was the last bushranger in Queensland.

Antiques, crafts and local shopping

Charters Towers offers a unique shopping experience where bargain hunters can find a special or two or simply uncover a hidden treasure amongst the many locally made arts and crafts, antique and second hand stores. Our shopping strip is special as it is still a country experience with many locally owned shops providing that good old country service with a smile.



Excelsior Library

Browse through the newly restored Excelsior Library, formally known as the Excelsior Hotel which burnt down in 1995. This fully air conditioned building is also home to the Charters Towers and Dalrymple Archives Group. They are an active group continually gathering and uncovering the golden past of our city. If you have stories to share or need a mystery solved, this is the place for you. The Library is also home to the Excelsior Brass Band and the beginnings of the city's art collection.

Lissner and Centenary Parks

While you are out and about why not have a picnic in one of our beautiful parks. There is Lissner Park comprising of 7 hectares including Boer War Kiosk, Band Rotunda, children's playground, WWI guns, Rotary Centenary



Fountain, Federation Fountain, duck pond and memorials to grazier and pioneer

William Hann and Jupiter Mosman. Lissner Park is well lit therefore perfect for evening picnics. Perhaps you'd prefer to explore Centenary Park with its gold discovery monument. Both parks have picnic tables, gas BBQ's and are always cool and shady.

WWII Photographic Display

The photographic display is in the foyer of City Hall and is open for viewing during business hours.

Markets

Local Art and Craft Markets will brighten up your weekend. The Stock Exchange Arcade hosts markets every first and third Sunday of the month and the Showground Markets are on every second Sunday of the month.

Centenary of Federation Heritage Sculpture Trail

Discover some of our city's characters, such as Zelia Alexander, Annie Baggs and Francis Powel, through sculpture and follow the trail made possible by some very talented local artists. There are currently 16 available for public viewing.



Burdekin Weir

Take a drive out to the Burdekin Weir. This is the source of our liquid gold - water. There is a large picnic area with BBQ facilities (wood fired). From your picnic table watch the pelicans fish for yabbies. If you would prefer a spot of fishing, turn off to the left before the picnic area and travel approximately one kilometre to the Burdekin Water Park. The city's water supply is pumped from the weir to the reservoir on Towers Hill.



CHARTERS TOWERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

a function of

Charters Towers Regional Council

ABN 67 731 313 583



Around The World

There are a number of smaller towns in the Charters Towers Regional Council area, each with at least one unique point of interest. Please contact us for further information, or refer to our website www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au

Ravenswood

Step back in time and explore the unique aspects of the **heritage listed gold mining town** of Ravenswood just an hour's drive south east from Charters Towers. Turn off the Flinders Highway between Charters Towers and Townsville.

Gold was discovered in 1868 and the town of Ravenswood was born with many public buildings being erected. Today only a few remain as magnificent examples of the prosperity of this town's wealthy beginnings. A new lease of life for the town came about in 1995 when the population of 100 locals was boosted by the arrival of some 300 miners to once again reap the rewards gold mining has to offer.

Visit the open cut gold mine lookout, White Blow Environmental Park and the beautifully restored heritage buildings. A BBQ lunch can be arranged at one of the original hotels or choose from the menu in their beautiful old dining rooms.

The **Burdekin Falls Dam** on Lake Dalrymple is located 80 km further down the road.

Balfes Creek – meet Tony the Tin Man

Homestead – local history murals

Pentland – Burra Range Lookout

Bluewater Springs – stop for a cup of coffee in the shady gardens.

Greenvale – visit Three Rivers Hotel, made famous by Slim Dusty in a song of the same name.

Hidden Valley – log cabins and platypus. Eco tourism at its award winning best.

Herveys Range Community – Take a coffee break with a difference at the oldest known building in North Queensland. This historic split log inn was the stopping place for bullock teams and Cobb & Co Coaches.

11/1/2008



Please direct all correspondence to:

The Tourism Manager
Visitor Information Centre
PO Box 189

CHARTERS TOWERS QLD 4820

Tel: 07 4761 5533

Fax: 07 4761 5536

Email: tourinfo@charterstowers.qld.gov.au

Web: www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au

74 Mosman Street, Charters Towers



Charters Towers
the ghosts of gold

CHARTERS TOWERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

a function of

Charters Towers Regional Council

ABN 67 731 313 583



2009 Admission Prices - Adult Groups

Prices for group bookings of 10 or more, unless otherwise stated.

Prices Valid until 31/12/2009

FOC = Free of Charge

One FOC ticket for driver and/or tour guide for every 10 paying passengers

- **Visitor Information Centre's Orientation Film, Stock Exchange Arcade, Calling of the Card and Assay Room** (allow 30 min) \$2.00 per adult
- **Guided tour of the Venus Gold Battery** (allow 1 hr)
 - 10 – 19 passengers..... \$10.00 per adult
 - 20 or more passengers \$8.00 per adult
- **Towers Hill Lookout by Day** (allow 30 min) FOC
 - **Ghosts after Dark** (Night film in Amphitheatre, allow 45 min)..... \$5.00 per adult
- **The Miner's Cottage** (allow 45 min - 1 hr)
 - **Museum Entry** \$4.00 per adult
 - **Museum Entry plus Pan for Gold** \$11.00 per adult
 - **Includes complimentary Tea and Coffee**
- **Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours** (allow 3 hours) \$50.00 per adult
 - **Includes Billy Tea and Smoko**
- **Guided town tour** (you supply your own bus, allow 80 mins)..... \$3.50 per adult
- **Historic Ambulance Centre** (allow 30 min) \$2.00 per adult
- **Charters Towers Folk Museum** (allow 45 min - 1 hr)..... \$4.00 per adult
- **Drive-In Cinema (special viewings available on request)**
 - 10 – 19 passengers..... \$7.50 per adult
 - 20 or more passengers \$5.50 per adult
- **World Theatre Guided Tours** \$2.00 per adult

11/1/2008



Please direct all correspondence to:

The Tourism Manager
Visitor Information Centre
PO Box 189

CHARTERS TOWERS QLD 4820

Tel: 07 4761 5533

Fax: 07 4761 5536

Email: tourinfo@charterstowers.qld.gov.au

Web: www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au

74 Mosman Street, Charters Towers



Charters Towers
the ghosts of gold

CHARTERS TOWERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

a function of

Charters Towers Regional Council

ABN 67 731 313 583



GROUP TERMS & CONDITIONS

TOUR CODE/NAME:		OUR REF:
TOUR DATE:		
PASSENGER NOS:		
CONTACT NAME:		
PHONE/FAX/MOBILE:		
EMAIL:		
DATE:		

- Unless otherwise agreed to in writing, confirmed passenger numbers are required 7 days prior to the date of the tour.
- Where passenger numbers are reduced within 48 hours of the date of the tour, payment will be required for the total number of passengers as stated in the Tour Group – Final Booking Confirmation (Form 4) or the most recent confirmation held on file should Form 4 have not been returned to Charters Towers Visitor Information Centre by the tour company.
- A 50% cancellation fee applies when cancelling the entire group within 48 hours of the date of the tour.
- Full payment is required within 7 days of date of invoice.
- Where there are no confirmed credit facilities, a security deposit equivalent to 50% of the total group booking is required to guarantee the reservation, with the final 50% payable on the day of the tour.

ACCEPTED METHODS OF PAYMENT: (Please indicate your preference)

- EFTPOS, Cash or Cheque prior to arrival
- EFTPOS, Cash or Cheque on the day of tour
- 7 day invoice – we **DO / DO NOT*** have credit arrangements with the Charters Towers Regional Council. (*please indicate)

Cheques should be made payable to Charters Towers Regional Council

11/1/2008



Please direct all correspondence to:

The Tourism Manager
Visitor Information Centre
PO Box 189

CHARTERS TOWERS QLD 4820

Tel: 07 4761 5533

Fax: 07 4761 5536

Email: tourinfo@charterstowers.qld.gov.au

Web: www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au

74 Mosman Street, Charters Towers



Charters Towers
the ghosts of gold