Contents Page

Ghosts of Gold Heritage Trail ........................................... 3 - 4
More Guided Tours ............................................................ 5 – 6
Other Places of Interest ..................................................... 6 - 8
Around “The World” ............................................................. 9
Admission Prices ............................................................... 10
Group Terms & Conditions ................................................. 11
Map of Charters Towers & Region ....................................... Final
Ghosts of Gold Heritage Trail

Charters Towers Ghosts of Gold come to life in four venues throughout town:

1) The Visitor Information Centre Orientation Film and virtual tour touch screen.
3) Venus Gold Battery, the oldest stamp battery in Queensland.
4) Towers Hill, by day and by night - Ghosts after Dark film.

Grandeur - One Square Mile

The Orientation film and touch screen located at the Visitor Information Centre right in the heart of Charters Towers is the perfect introduction to the city and its heritage trail. 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**
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).

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.
More Guided Tours

The Miner’s Cottage
The Miner’s Cottage is a mini museum that offers an experience set back in time. The cottage has been refurbished and decorated to show how the house would have looked at the start of the 20th century. The collection of 19th century artifacts is fascinating. Guests can also take a turn at gold panning. Work continues on the reconstructed blacksmith’s shop.

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 (or more if you require) - test his knowledge and find out some interesting tales of the city.

Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours
Multi Award Winning Horseshoe B Longhorns, located just 10 km from Charters Towers, has the largest herd of purebred Texas Longhorns in Australia. Johnny Reb “JR” for short has been entered into the Guinness Book of Records as having the longest horn span in the world – well over 9 feet and growing! 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 pulled by “gentle giant” draft horses. Enjoy home made billy tea and “smoko” served direct from an authentic chuck wagon. Lunch can also be organised and served in the rustic outdoor dining and bar area.

Entry fee includes a tour of the cottage and gold panning demonstration. GOLD PANNING can also be arranged for your group at an additional fee. Every gold panning participant will receive a complimentary souvenir of their visit.
**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.

**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.

**Other Places of Interest**

**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.

While there, ask about “the Tragedy on Mosman Street” – another ghostly story.

**Zara Clark Museum**
Owned by the National Trust of Queensland and operated by a group of volunteers working under the umbrella of the National Trust, the museum houses a large collection of photographs, agricultural and mining machinery, household items and other memorabilia that reflect everyday life over the 140 years of Charters Towers' history. Volunteers are only too willing to tell the stories relating to exhibits and demonstrate some of the equipment kept in the heritage listed building, which has its own story to tell.
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.

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.

WWII Photographic Display

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

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.

Markets

Local Art and Craft Markets will brighten up your weekend. The C.W.A. Hall in Mosman Street hosts markets every first and third Sunday of the month and the Showground Markets are on every
second Sunday of the month. Centenary Park Charity markets are on the fourth Sunday.

Lissner and Centenary Parks
While you are out and about why not have a picnic in one of our many beautiful parks. There is Lissner Park comprising of 7 hectares including Boer War Kiosk, Band Rotunda, children's playground, WWI guns, 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. In 2009 a Yarning Circle was constructed in mosaics and depicts the story of the Gudjal people, the traditional owners of the region.

You can also explore Centenary Park with its gold discovery monument – a collection of sculptures by Queensland artist Hugh Anderson. Both parks have picnic tables, gas BBQ's and are always cool and shady.

Heritage Walking Trail
There are few historic city hearts as beautifully preserved at Charters Towers' One Square Mile. Your group can spend their free time exploring the city streets on foot discovering the elegance and grandeur of the magnificent civic buildings, the historic hotels and quaint cottages from the gold rush era.

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.
Around “The World”

There are a number of smaller towns in the Charters Towers Regional Council area, each with their own unique points of interest. Please contact us on Tel: (07) 4761 5533 tourinfo@charterstowers.qld.gov.au www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au for further information.

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 Courthouse Museum is well worth a visit as is the old miner’s hut.

Balfes Creek

Meet Tony the Tin Man and visit the free zoo

Homestead

Local history murals and an Alpaca Farm. Alpaca craft items are available.

Pentland

Burra Range Lookout, the old Norwood Police cells and Art Gallery.

Bluewater Springs

Stop for a cup of coffee in the shady gardens on your way north.

Greenvale

Visit Three Rivers Hotel, made famous by Slim Dusty in a song of the same name. Have a look at the rock collection.

Hidden Valley

Log cabins and platypus walks located in the hinterlands just beyond the Paluma rainforest. Eco tourism at its award winning best. Bookings are essential.

The Burdekin Falls Dam on Lake Dalrymple (four times the size of Sydney Harbour) is located 80 km further down the road.

Herveys Range Community

Take a coffee break with a difference at the oldest known building in North Queensland.

Constructed in 1865 this historic split log inn was the stopping place for bullock teams and Cobb & Co Coaches at a time when Ned Kelly was barely 10 years old!
Bush walks, amazing views across the valley to the offshore islands of Townsville and a very unique gift shop are just some of the relaxing things to enjoy.
2013 Admission Prices - Adult Groups

Prices for group bookings of 10 or more, unless otherwise stated.
Prices valid until 31/12/2013
FOC = Free of Charge - POA = Price on Application
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 mins) .......................................................... $2.00 pp

• Guided tour of the Venus Gold Battery (allow 1½ hr for the tour only)
  o 10 – 19 passengers – tour only .................................................. $12.00 pp
  o 10 – 19 passengers – tour and morning / afternoon tea ............... $18.50 pp
  o 20 or more passengers – tour only ............................................... $11.00 pp
  o 20 or more passengers – tour and morning / afternoon tea .......... $17.50 pp
  o Morning or afternoon tea only ..................................................... $6.50 pp

• Towers Hill Lookout by Day (allow 30 min) ......................................................... FOC

• Ghosts after Dark (Evening presentation and film in the Amphitheatre, allow 45 min)
  o 10 – 19 passengers ................................................................. $9.00 pp
  o 20 + passengers ................................................................. $8.00 pp
  o Wine and Nibble platter (Min 10 people) ................................... $7.00 pp

• The Miner’s Cottage Museum & Gold Panning (allow 1 hr min)
  o Museum Entry, gold panning demonstration & local history presentation........ $6.00 pp
  o Museum Entry & “Lucky Dip” gold panning experience in tailings – includes tuition and a complimentary souvenir ................................ $11.00 pp
  o Includes live music (subject to availability)

• Texas Longhorn Wagon Tours (Min 20 pax. Less than 20 pax POA)
  o Tour option No 1 (includes Lunch) (allow 4 hours) ....................... $75.00 pp
    ▪ Includes Texas Longhorn Wagon Tour, Chuck Wagon Smoko, Saddle Shop and Cattle Yard Tour, Lunch, Entertainment
  o Tour option No 2 (allow 3 hours) ............................................... $60.00 pp
    ▪ Includes Texas Longhorn Wagon Tour, Chuck Wagon Smoko, Saddle Shop and Cattle Yard Tour

Charters Towers Visitor Information Centre Tel (07) 4761 5533
a function of Charters Towers Regional Council
2013 Admission Prices continued

- Guided town tour (you supply your own bus, allow 80 mins)........................................ $4.50 pp

- Historic Ambulance Centre (allow 30 min) ................................................................. $2.20 pp

- Zara Clark Museum...................................................................................................... $5.00 pp

- Drive-In Cinema (Fri & Sat)
  - 10 – 19 passengers........................................................................................................ $8.50 pp
  - Special screenings (outside normal viewing times) – Min 40 pax............................... $8.50 pp
GROUP TERMS & CONDITIONS

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- 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 the 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