



THE 2024 OZSKY "ALUMNI" STAR SAFARI

SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 7, 2024

BINDA, NSW, AUSTRALIA

WWW.OZSKY.ORG | INFO@OZSKY.ORG

OPTIONAL CONVOY AND DRIVING DIRECTIONS

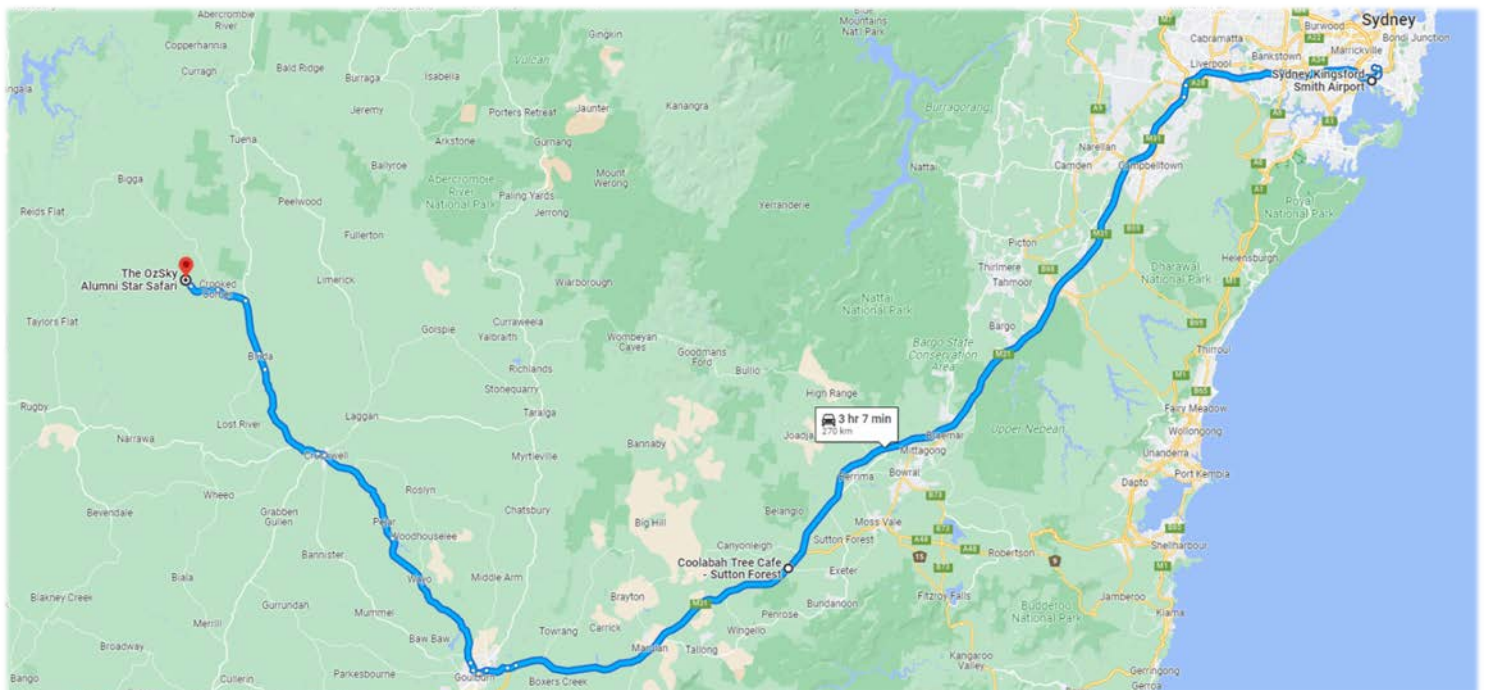


For those of you who are interested in meeting up for the optional convoy, the plan will be to meet at, and depart from the "[Coolabah Tree Cafe](#)" near Sutton Forest by about 11:00am to give each of you enough time to shop for your food, groceries and beverages along the way, get to the site, set up and collimate the telescopes and have a cold beer or a glass of wine before sunset.

For those of you who are arriving too late to join the convoy or who prefer to head out to the observing site independently (or if you should become disconnected from the convoy), [these Driving Directions](#) should help you get there with ease.

If you're using one of Sydney's toll roads when you are driving to and from OzSky "Alumni", please remember to check whether your car rental agency has an automatic tolling arrangement in place, as described in the earlier [OzSky Alumni Overview, Trip Planning, Bookings & Logistics](#) document.

If you need to contact me upon arrival in Australia - or if you need to call for help if you get lost along the way, feel free to get in contact with me directly, either by [Phone call](#) at [04 0011 6655 \(+61 4 0011 6655\)](tel:0400116655) | [iMessage or SMS](#) | [WhatsApp Messenger](#) | [Facebook Messenger](#) | or whatever other system you use...





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SUGGESTED DAYTIME ACTIVITIES

By design, there are no formal or scheduled day trips or tours during the OzSky "Alumni" Star Safari, however, you may like to consider visiting some of the "local" astronomical sites during the week, including:

- [Mount Stromlo Observatory](#)
- [Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex](#)
(Tidbinbilla Tracking Station)
- [Molonglo Observatory Synthesis Telescope \(MOST\) / Square Kilometre Array Molonglo Prototype \(SKAMP\)](#)
(we would need to pre-organise access to this facility, but only if there is sufficient interest – it is a bit out of the way, so would be a VERY long day out)

While I did say "local", each of the above sites is in the vicinity of Canberra, about 3 hours' drive (each way) from the site, so it would be a full day trip. If you do, I suggest you try to do two of them in the one trip to make the most of the long drive.

For those of you looking for some other ideas to fill the daylight hours, here are a few more suggestions:

- [Day trip to Murrumbateman Wineries](#) - This 250-300km (155-185mi) round trip could include stopping at the Murrumbateman Chocolate Shop for morning tea, followed by a visit to one of the many local wineries to sample some of their finest produce. Local wineries include (in no particular order):
 - [Shaw Wines](#)
 - [Yarrh Wines](#)
 - [Helm Wines](#)
 - [Murrumbateman Winery](#)
 - [The Vintner's Daughter](#)
 - [Four Winds Vineyard](#)
 - [Clonakilla](#)
 - [McKellar Ridge](#)
 - [Jeir Creek Wines](#)
 - [Tallagandra Hill Winery](#)
 - [Barton Estate Wines](#)
 - [Granitevale Estate](#)
 - [Eden Road Wines](#)
 - [Gallagher Wines](#)
 - [Wimbaliri Wines](#)
- [Day Trip to Cowra and Boorowa](#) - This 300km (180mi) round trip could include a visit to the charming country town of Cowra and it's impressive [Cowra Japanese Gardens](#), followed by a visit to Boorowa and it's [Lambing Flats Chinese Tribute Gardens](#) before heading back to OzSky via Rugby and Crookwell

- [Day Trip to Taralga Wildlife Park](#) - This 160-200km (100-120mi) round trip could include a visit to see the local wildlife at the [Taralga Wildlife Park](#), followed by a visit to [Oaked Gold](#), home of [The Ministry of Mead](#) and heirloom wines, before returning to OzSky via the tiny villages of Limerick, Peelwood or Tuena.

Additional day trips to Canberra (either independently, or as a group) could also include some of the better Museums and attractions such as:

- [Australian War Memorial](#)
- [National Museum of Australia](#)
- [National Gallery of Australia](#)
- [National Portrait Gallery](#)
- [Questacon National Science & Technology Centre](#)
- [Parliament House](#)
- [National Library of Australia](#)
- [National Dinosaur Museum](#)

Obviously, you won't have enough time to visit all these wonderful attractions in the one week, however there may be a few options you might like to see during the week.

It may be feasible to do two or three in a day depending on which ones are selected, and you could possibly do two (or even three) separate day trips to Canberra, if desired, but after several long observing nights under the Southern Skies, long drives may be undesirable.

Other daylight activities include birdwatching or hiking around the 6,310-acre property, panning for gold in the property's creeks, Solar observing, and of course the stunning, award-winning gardens on the property which were designed by Edna Walling in the late 1940's which should be close to full bloom when we're there.

There is also a solar-heated swimming pool and a concrete tennis court on the property if you're feeling a little sporty, and we may also visit [Abercrombie Caves](#) as a group to take an easy stroll through one or two of the easier limestone caves.

Of course, all these trips are suggestions only, and you can choose to do as many or as few as you like during the week - either independently or as a group - or they could be modified to suit your individual circumstances.

Or, you could simply relax around the property we have access to and make the most of your time away from the sights and sounds of home.

For me, I'll probably do a little bit of both.