100 million years ago, dinosaurs roamed the land around a great Australian inland sea. Giant long-necked sauropods, ferocious theropods and diminutive plant-eating ornithopods shared this world with everything from crocodiles and turtles to tiny mammals, yabbies and snails. Lightning Ridge was a forested floodplain at the edge of this ancient sea. Today, ‘the Ridge’ is famous for its opal and its fossils. It is the most prolific dinosaur fossil site in NSW.

Searching for opalised fossils is a privilege usually available only to opal miners and scientists. Share incredible moments of discovery as the Australian Opal Centre and Australian Geographic Society invite you to join the search for fossils on the opal fields.

Six days PACKED with discovery...
Guided by experts, you will go to special locations on the opal fields of Lightning Ridge, seeking new specimens for the Australian Opal Centre’s globally significant collection of opalised fossils. Your discoveries will further establish this collection as a world-class scientific and cultural resource. You will:

• Learn about opalised fossils and Australia in the Age of Dinosaurs
• Learn to recognise and identify fossils and geological specimens
• Search for fossils with privileged access to carefully guarded sites
• Discover diverse opalised plant and animal fossils
• Hunt for opals at a tailout - the moment of truth for the opal miner
• Get special hands-on access to fossils in the AOC collection
• Learn techniques for casting and moulding specimens
• Attend fascinating lectures on opals and opal mining history, opalised fossils and dinosaur hunting
• Experience an underground opal mine (optional)

...and enjoy the extraordinary sights, sounds and hospitality of the opal fields.

ELIGIBILITY: Anyone 18 years and over is eligible; no experience is required. Maximum of 40 places ONLY (2 separate groups of 20 volunteers).

WHEN: WEEK 1 Mon. 17 to Sat. 22 August 2020. WEEK 2 Mon. 24 to Sat. 29 August 2020. Note: Week 2 is available for return participants only.

LOCATION: The incredible outback opal mining town of Lightning Ridge, Australia.

COST: $2,200 per person (incl. GST); return digger $1,980. Includes all activities and most meals; excludes accommodation and transport. This is a scientific and fundraising venture for the Australian Opal Centre and Australian Geographic Society.

TO SECURE YOUR PLACE: Complete and send in your registration and deposit; participants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

YOU WILL BE LED AND GUIDED BY:
Dr Phil Bell, a dinosaur specialist at the University of New England. Phil has uncovered and studied dinosaurs around the globe including Argentina, Canada, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan. Jenni Brammall, former manager of the Australian Opal Centre and a palaeontologist, gemmologist, designer and opal expert. Dr Elizabeth Smith, a palaeoentologist, artist, author and authority on Lightning Ridge’s fossils. Clytie Smith and Cybele Sousa de Lemos, super fossil finders. Timothy Fraunfelder, palaeontology PhD student at the University of New England, with field experience at Lightning Ridge, Winton and in Canada....and other great team members!

REGISTER NOW! Complete and return the attached Registration Form today to secure your place.

FIND OUT MORE - email dig@australianopalcentre.com or call Jenni on 0427 904 587.
LIGHTNING RIDGE FOSSIL DIG
17 – 22 AND 24 - 29 August 2020
A rare opportunity to join the search for fossils from the Age of Dinosaurs at Lightning Ridge

Registration Form

Use this form to register to participate in the 2020 Lightning Ridge Fossil Dig (payment information below). Please send your form and payment to:
dig@australianopalcentre.com or Australian Opal Centre, PO Box 229, Lightning Ridge, NSW 2834

NAME.......................................................................................................................................................
ADDRESS ..............................................................................................................................................
TOWN/CITY ........................................................... STATE ..........................................................
POSTCODE/ZIP CODE .................................................. COUNTRY ...............................................
TELEPHONE (home/work) ........................................ TELEPHONE (mobile) ..........................................
DATE OF BIRTH .................................................. EMAIL ..........................................................

I wish to apply to participate in the Lightning Ridge Fossil Dig 2020 and I wish to register for (tick one box): ☐ Week 1 ☐ Week 2 (available to return participants only)

Do you have special dietary requirements? ........................................................................................................
Any medical condition/s? ......................................................................................................................................
Do you have skills or interests relevant to the Fossil Dig? .............................................................................

SIGNATURE ................................................................ DATE .............................................................

Cost is $2,200 per person. Participants on a previous Lightning Ridge Fossil Dig are offered a special Return Digger price of $1,980. A non-refundable deposit of $500 is required to secure your place, with full payment due by 30 June 2020. If for any reason you need to cancel, you may apply your deposit towards another Australian Opal Centre event any time in the following two years. If you cancel 6 or more weeks prior to the Dig we will refund you except for your deposit; cancellations less than 6 weeks prior result in forfeiture of payment.

PAYMENT AMOUNT:

Please tick AMOUNT

Full payment (First Lightning Ridge Dig) $2,200
Full payment (Return Digger) $1,980
Deposit $500
Donation (donations over $2 are tax deductible) $0

TOTAL $0

PAYMENT METHOD:
☐ Cash ☐ Cheque ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Direct deposit

Name on card: ........................................................................................................ Signature: ...........................................

For direct deposit: Account - LROFC Inc Events BSB - 032561 Acc no - 118355

Please put your name in the Description for your direct deposit transaction

What happens next?

On receiving your deposit we’ll send confirmation of your acceptance. If you have not paid in full, we will contact you to arrange for the balance of your payment to be made in instalments. A Field Guide will be issued in May 2020. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please get in touch! Email dig@australianopalcentre.com or call Jenni on 0427 904 587.