GETTING TO BROKEN HILL

Find your way to and from the region with ease on the network of sealed highways that link Broken Hill with Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Get here fast on return flights from Adelaide, Sydney, Dubbo, Melbourne and Mildura.

There are rail options from Sydney and Adelaide, including the Indian Pacific and the Outback Explorer, as well as bus services from Adelaide and Dubbo.

Vehicle hire is also available in Broken Hill.

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Approx. Travel Time (hrs)</th>
<th>Approx. Distance (km)</th>
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Above times are based on averages travelled by car.

www.travelin.com.au
BROKEN HILL & OUTBACK GUIDE 2016/17

BROKEN HILL

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Broken Hill is an outback oasis of real life attractions, mining heritage, diverse culture, welcoming hospitality and away-from-it-all experiences.

A true outback city in every sense, Broken Hill is a living, breathing time capsule where the great mining prosperity of yesteryear blends seamlessly with a rising modern art scene, all set amid a sprawling desert landscape. It’s a place of huge skies, red rocky earth and a fascinating and internationally significant history. It is, after all, Australia’s first heritage-listed city, and its secrets are just waiting to be discovered.

With its roots in the silver, lead and zinc mining industries, Broken Hill experienced great prosperity during the 19th century and the architecture of that period lives on to tell the tale. Grand, ornate buildings are dotted around the city and some residential streets are still lined with original miners’ huts, creating a palpable sense of history as you wander around this outback city.

These days, Broken Hill is a cultural hub, home to more than 30 art galleries exhibiting work inspired by the stunning landscapes of outback NSW, countless museums encapsulating the city’s rich history, mine tours and even the opportunity to buy jewellery from a local silversmith.

There’s a broad variety of accommodation options, from hotels and self-contained cottages and apartments to bed-and-breakfasts, backpacker hostels, farmstays and camping. You won’t be short of somewhere to buy a good coffee or a gastronomical pub meal, with Broken Hill’s local cafes and restaurants rivalling the three capital cities that sit within a day’s drive.

This is Australia’s most accessible outback city, and certainly its richest in terms of history and culture. So what are you waiting for? Your authentic Australian outback experience awaits.
TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS

MINING HISTORY
Unearth the heritage of one of the world’s oldest mining towns

HERITAGE TRAIL
Wander through Broken Hill’s captivating and diverse history

FILM HISTORY
Scout locations made famous by movies like Mad Max and Mission Impossible

INTERACTIVE MUSEUMS
Immerse yourself in engaging and informative attractions for all ages

GALLERIES
Be welcomed into the eclectic heart of Broken Hill’s artistic culture

NATIONAL PARKS
From red dunes to lush rivers, explore the region’s magnificent parks

SILVERTON
Discover the unique outback town where the mining boom began

STARGAZING
Clear outback skies put on a spectacular show of stars almost every night

SCENIC FLIGHTS & DRIVING TOURS
Soar above the Silver City, or sightsee from the comfort of a coach or 4WD

NATURE WALK
Follow well-marked trails into beautiful desert landscapes
Since its birth as a promising little mining village in the 1880s, Broken Hill has gone on to become recognised as the boldest of Australia’s outback towns, a reputation pressure-cooked through decades of hardship and heroic survival in the isolation of the desert. The story of how the town gained such a standing is a long and fascinating one, spanning indigenous cultures, European settlement, mining, and the silver screen.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN
Discover how it all began for this outback oasis.

1700 million years ago:
Thermal springs deposit silver, lead and zinc sulphides formed in mud from hot springs on the ocean floor. The Broken Hill ore body is born.

30 million years ago:
The Barrier Ranges are uplifted and the Broken Hill ore body is exposed, and sits rusting for the next 30 million years. This weathering turns the top of the hill into oxides containing silver, lead and zinc.

50,000 years ago:
The Barrier Ranges are home to the Bulali, a subgroup of the Wiljakali people, who occupy the region from Broken Hill to the country beyond today’s border with SA. These hardy people hunt and forage in the Barrier Ranges, and are feared by the more peaceful Baarkindji of the Darling River.

200 million years ago:
The Great Artesian Basin, a huge inland sea, laps into the Corner Country, with the Barrier Hill exposed further south.

1835:
The first European, surveyor and explorer Major Thomas Mitchell, visits the area.

1844:
Charles Sturt passes through the region in his quest to find an inland sea.

1850s:
Pastoralists shear 50,000 sheep at Mt Wood Station (today Sturt National Park).
1860:
Burke and Wills use the Maidens Hotel in Menindee as a base during their ill-fated expedition to the Gulf of Carpentaria, becoming the first Europeans to traverse the continent.

1883:
Burke and Wills use the Maidens Hotel in Menindee as a base during their ill-fated expedition to the Gulf of Carpentaria, becoming the first Europeans to traverse the continent.

1885:
Mining the ore body in Broken Hill sets the newly formed Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited (BHP) on a path to become Australia’s richest company.

1888:
The first train arrives in Broken Hill from South Australia (via Silverton) and Broken Hill is proclaimed a municipality.

1902:
The first steam tram begins shuttling between Argent Street and Patton Street. More than 6000 passengers climb aboard on the first day. The last steam tram finishes its journey in 1926.

1905:
Broken Hill’s population reaches 30,000.

1907:
Broken Hill is proclaimed the Silver City. It is now the second-largest settlement in NSW, after Sydney.

1909:
Picketing is introduced by unions during a violent strike. BHP leases are patrolled by the company and, as intimidation, mock graves set up bearing derogatory ‘epitaphs’ of union members. The strike lasts several months but miners return to work for the same pay rates and hours – 48 hours a week.
**1915:**
Broken Hill is the scene of the only enemy attack on Australian soil in WWI. Only four months before the ANZACs fight the Turks at Gallipoli, a Silverton-bound train is fired on by two men in an ice cream cart flying the Turkish flag. Today a replica cart can be seen at White Rocks at the northern end of Broken Hill. Population peaks at around 35,000.

**1919/20:**
The ‘Great Strike’ lasts 18 months and secures once and for all proper recognition of the rights and conditions of workers in the mining industry.

**1936:**
Dust storms continue to plague the lives of the people, made worse by the sharp, gritty sand from the ‘skimp’ (mill residue) dumps. A tree-planting campaign is initiated under the direction of botanist Albert Morris to minimise these effects. The resulting ‘Regeneration Reserve’ is classified by the National Trust as a Landscape Conservation Area in 1991.

**1939:**
BHP leaves Broken Hill. It has since become Australia’s largest corporate body with widespread interests in steel production, coal mining and shipbuilding.

**1932:**
The worldwide depression is at its lowest point. Unemployment in Australia is almost 30 per cent. In Broken Hill many single men are evicted from boarding houses and in desperation they build a shanty town on the site of the original municipal power station.

**1942:**
A munitions annexe is constructed, employing 300 women and 84 men, producing 637,606 nosecones for shells until the end of WWII.

**1942-45:**
The Broken Hill Gaol houses the nation’s gold reserves in a special steel-lined vault.

**1954:**
Queen Elizabeth visits Broken Hill and broadcasts a message to outback listeners linked with the Flying Doctor base.

**1956:**
Broken Hill School of the Air opens to combat the lack of educational facilities in remote areas.
1960: The Menindee Lakes Storage Scheme opens, guaranteeing a continuous water supply to Broken Hill and offering recreational water sports to the community.

1970: *Wake In Fright* is filmed in Broken Hill and Silverton and puts the area on the map as a unique film location.

1984: The long-established but illegal Crystal Lane Two-Up school is shut down.

1993: The Sculpture Symposium adds a new attraction and visual identity to Broken Hill.

2001: Opening of the Miners’ Memorial and Line of Lode Visitors Centre.

2002: Opening of the Living Desert Sanctuary.

Present day: After more than 125 years of mining a 300-million-tonne mineral system, the 7.5km-long, 1.6km-deep Line of Lode still supports mining, making Broken Hill one of the longest continual mining towns in the world.

Naked eye night sky shows for the novice. Learn about planets, stars, galaxies! It’s an encounter of the fun kind. Please book ahead.

PH 0427 055 225 (11 am to 5 pm)
info@outbackastronomy.com.au
www.outbackastronomy.com.au
Located in the restored former Bond Store, the internationally recognised Broken Hill Geo Centre represents a spectacular array of minerals and gems found in Broken Hill and also tells the story of how the world’s largest deposit of silver, lead and zinc was formed in this historic outback town.

The most famous showpiece in the Broken Hill Geo Centre is the “Silver Tree”. Made from 8.5kg of silver, the tree was created for the Melbourne Colonial Exhibition of 1880. The Silver Tree was once owned by Charles Rasp, the boundary rider who pegged out the first Broken Hill mining lease with his partners.

The Broken Hill Geo Centre brings the story of Broken Hill’s geology and mineralogical rainforest to life with hands-on exhibits, an active interpretive centre and the Time Line Room where you can explore the history of our planet.

Take the family along to experience the wonders of the Broken Hill Geo Centre today.
The Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery is a veritable treasure trove of more than 1800 colonial, early 20th century and contemporary artworks by James Coutts Michie, James Ashton, Margaret Preston, Arthur Streeton, Lloyd Rees, Emily Kane Kngwarreye, Charles Blackman, and more.

It is the oldest regional art gallery in New South Wales, being established in 1904 following the bequest of three major artworks by Mr George McCulloch, one of the founders of BHP.

One of Broken Hill’s original heritage buildings, Sully’s Emporium was a former general hardware store, which provided heavy machinery and explosives for the local mining industry from 1885-1985. It also had its own livery stables and blacksmiths at the rear of the building.

The earliest, longest surviving commercial business in Broken Hill until its closure, Sully’s Emporium was magnificently restored from 1999-2004 and became the home of the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery. It has won numerous heritage awards and is an important and strong architectural feature on the Argent Street streetscape.

The Gallery also provides an annual program of locally curated exhibitions, along with touring exhibitions from major cultural institutions. Experience the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery today.
LIVING DESERT & SCULPTURES

Be inspired by the breathtaking beauty of Broken Hill’s Living Desert and Sculptures and its 12 sandstone pieces created by world renowned artists. The sculptures’ spectacular silhouettes at sunset are a sight to behold.

Explore the sheer tranquillity of the Flora and Fauna Sanctuary, while discovering the region’s Aboriginal heritage along its walking trail.

The Living Desert and Sculptures is a living monument to art and environment and the panoramic topography, scenery and views in this unique 2400ha reserve is a must-see experience.

Experience the beauty of the Living Desert and Sculptures and enjoy a great family day out in the centrally located picnic area with shade and free barbeque use.
Silver City Mint & Art Centre

The Big Picture

Home of the world's largest acrylic painting on canvas. (12mx100m)

Main Gallery

- Smelting, casting and manufacturing of Broken Hill silver jewellery
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Silver Mine

Silver Jewellery

Opal Mine

Chocolate Factory

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reservations@charlesraspmotorinn.com.au
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Please see the outside back cover of this Guide for Tri State Safaris Outback Tours.
EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

Explore iconic Australian heritage alongside amazing modern-day outback attractions.
Broken Hill is a city seemingly designed for exploration, with the architecture providing a similar experience to looking at the rings of an old tree. The city’s many different styles – from basic huts to statements in stone – make it vividly clear how Broken Hill has evolved, and shows the booms, the busts, and individual fortunes made and lost. Stroll the city streets for a real sense of how the ages overlap. You’ll pass palatial Federation and Victorian buildings funded by mining wealth, followed by the curving faces of 1930s art deco then classic tin cottages.

The multitude of galleries and museums scattered throughout the town’s streets also offer a fascinating and in-depth look into Broken Hill’s past. Everywhere you turn, you’ll find stories of people and characters who gave their all to help shape this incredible outback town. Follow in their footsteps, and discover for yourself what makes Broken Hill so unique.

LIVING DESERT RESERVE

Experience the breathtaking topography, scenery and views in this unique 2400ha reserve.

For a sense of why creative people continue to be inspired by the breathtaking beauty of the desert landscape around Broken Hill, visit the 12 massive sculptures located in the Living Desert Reserve. Initiated by Gosford-based sculptor Lawrence Beck and created by 12 artists from five countries, these striking sandstone pieces celebrate the strong connection between art and environment within the region. Perched on top of a hill and accompanied by spectacular panoramic views, the sculptures are an impressive part of Broken Hill’s skyline, particularly at sunset.

Also within the Living Desert Reserve is the 180ha Living Desert Flora and Fauna Sanctuary. Bordered by an electric predator-proof fence, the sanctuary’s tranquil gullies and rocky outcrops are threaded with paths that encourage visitors to experience protected outback plants and
animals, and help to better understand the region’s Aboriginal heritage.

The area is also culturally significant to the local indigenous people, and along the fascinating one and a half kilometre walking trail through the sanctuary, visitors will encounter Aboriginal attractions, the Arboretum and Sturt Pea Wildflower display. The Sculpture Site was established in 1993, and the sandstone artworks were created by artists from around the world. The site can be accessed via a one kilometre walking trail beginning at the sanctuary car park.

**NB.** The Living Desert Reserve is located in the Barrier Ranges, 9km from the city of Broken Hill.

**SULPHIDE STREET RAILWAY & HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

The Sulphide Street Railway and Historical Museum incorporates the Broken Hill Migrant Museum, Hospital Museum, Ron Carter Transport Pavilion and Triple Chance Mineral Collection, providing a unique look at Broken Hill’s fascinating history. The museum also houses a range of railway attractions and machinery, including the Silver City Comet, and an extensive mineral collection.

**SUNDOWN NATURE TRAIL**

Located on the northern edge of the Broken Hill Common in the rocky Sundown Hills, the 2.8km long Sundown Nature Trail takes bushwalkers through a fascinating environment. Experience rocky terrain, hills dotted with tough, perennial plants, and at times ephemeral grasses and wildflowers. Allow about one and a half hours to complete.

**OUTBACK ASTRONOMY**

Explore the endless outback sky at Outback Astronomy in Broken Hill. The 60-minute Sky Show will introduce you to famous stars, constellations and more across the Milky Way through both naked eye and binocular-assisted viewing with narration by a knowledgeable guide. Additionally, telescope viewing can be arranged for groups and private parties. Suitable for people aged 13 and over.

**HOWARD WILLIAM STEER ART GALLERY**

The Howard William Steer Art Gallery in Broken Hill houses the unique and captivating works of local artist Howard Steer. Born in 1947, Howard has lived his whole life in Broken Hill, and his art reflects this affinity with the Australian outback. Much of his work is satirical, and focuses on the harshness of the Australian environment and the struggles of the early miners. His work is also famous for the often featured ‘Flying Doctor’, a winged, black-suited character with a top hat and bag.

**ABSAŁOM’S GALLERY**

Completed in 1997, Absalom’s Gallery is a must-see in Broken Hill, as it showcases the many beautiful works of artist Jack Absalom. Jack’s evocative art depicts the beauty of the Australian outback, and beautifully captures some of the country’s most awe-inspiring landscapes. Visitors can purchase prints of selected pieces, as well as copies of Jack’s books and DVDs of his many TV documentaries.
AFGHAN MOSQUE

Constructed in around 1891 as a place of worship, the Afghan Mosque in Broken Hill is the only surviving mosque in Australia built by early cameleers. The mosque sits on the site of the former ‘camel camp’, the place where Afghan and Indian camel drivers loaded and unloaded their camel teams. While a fascinating relic from the earliest days of Broken Hill, the mosque can still be used for worship today, with the Alcove pointing towards Mecca. Tours can also be arranged for interested visitors.

ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

The Bruce Langford Visitor Centre combines a museum, theatre and shop, with interactive displays showing the history of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, as well as tributes to the doctors, pilots and flight nurses who work for the RFDS and the many community groups and benefactors who support them. So visit now and tour a working RFDS Base. View the aircraft in the hangar. Watch a unique film in the 44-seat theatre. Shop for special souvenirs and explore the Mantle of Safety Museum.

SCHOOL OF THE AIR

School of the Air is a unique service in Broken Hill, where children living on remote outback station homesteads can receive school lessons via satellite. Tourist sessions are also provided to give visitors to the area an insight into this essential service by allowing them to talk with a teacher and sit in on a live lesson with students. Bookings must be made at least one day prior to your visit at the Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre.

TRI STATE SAFARIS

Explore the NSW Outback with the help of the knowledgeable and experienced team at Tri State Safaris. Since 1992, Tri State Safaris have been running tours and outback adventures through NSW’s far west. Tours are suitable for all ages, and vary from half-day to 15 days’ duration. Just a few of the destinations include Broken Hill, Mutawintji National Park, Corner Country, Kinchega National Park, Menindee Lakes and White Cliffs Opal Fields.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 19th century, the many dry creek beds beyond Broken Hill were favourite picnic spots. Dressed in their Sunday best, locals would spread blankets on the soft sand and tuck into well-stocked hampers. Men played skittles using large wooden balls bowled at unopened champagne bottles that they set up in old camp fireplaces. No expense was spared, to such an extent that people washed their faces in champagne when water was scarce.
STURT PARK RESERVE & TITANIC MEMORIAL

Established in 1895 and renamed Sturt Park in 1944 to commemorate the centenary of Captain Charles Sturt’s inland exploration, Broken Hill’s Sturt Park is a beautiful space of grassy areas and flower displays, with a children’s playground, barbecue and picnic facilities, and a skate park. The park also features a memorial to the bandsmen of the Titanic, who continued to play as the ship went down in an effort to quell passenger panic.

BROKEN HILL HERITAGE TRAIL

There is no better introduction to the ‘Silver City’ than via the Broken Hill Heritage Trail. This two-hour signposted walking tour takes curious visitors past a number of heritage buildings, including the Post Office, the former St Joseph’s Convent and the Trades Hall, and reveals remnants of the town’s silver, lead and zinc mining history through the various streets named after metals, minerals and compounds. Pick up a free map from the Visitor Information Centre, and enjoy this trip through history at your own pace.

BROKEN HILL GEO CENTRE

Behind the stone facade of the restored former Bond Store is another of Broken Hill’s must-see mining museums. The Broken Hill Geo Centre houses a renowned collection of Broken Hill minerals and gems, as well as many hands-on exhibits and information on how the world’s largest deposit of silver lead and zinc was formed in Broken Hill. Additionally, the ‘Time Line Room’ provides curious visitors with the opportunity to explore the history of our planet. Also on display is the iconic Silver Tree, which was once owned by Charles Rasp, the boundary rider who pegged out the first Broken Hill mining lease with his partners.

THE PALACE HOTEL

The Palace Hotel is an iconic heritage building in Broken Hill, famous not only for featuring in the movie Priscilla Queen of the Desert, but for its quality accommodation and popular bar and restaurant. The hotel offers a selection of rooms ranging from deluxe ensuite rooms to pub-style rooms with shared facilities through to budget backpacker dormitories. The rooms are spread out over the first and second floors, with elevator access available for luggage, while the walls and ceilings have been decorated in elegant fashion and covered in Renaissance-inspired and Australian landscape murals. Guests are encouraged to enjoy the views from the stunning veranda and to visit the Side Bar and Restaurant for dinner or drinks, which offers live music on Saturday nights. Additionally, the Palace Hotel hosts the great Australian game of two-up every Friday from 9pm.

SILVER CITY ART CENTRE & MINT

The Silver City Art Centre and Mint, located in the heart of town, is a must-see destination in Broken Hill. The centre is home to the world’s largest acrylic canvas painting, the Big Picture, which measures 100 metres in length, and was completed entirely by one artist. Visitors are also
treated to a huge collection of art from local and interstate artists. The centre is also known for its on-site silver-smithing, which can be viewed most days, and the wide range of exquisite jewellery available for purchase. Additionally, the centre houses the Broken Hill Chocolate Factory, which is well worth a visit for those with a sweet tooth.

**BELLS MILK BAR & MUSEUM**

A Broken Hill icon, Bells Milk Bar has been dishing out its famous milkshakes, sodas and spiders for decades. Stepping inside the milk bar is like stepping back in time, with the original 1950s décor still on show and the ‘latest’ hits from that era still playing. Additionally, Les Bell’s original recipe syrups and cordials remain unchanged, and are still made right there on the premises in two-gallon batches. Once you’ve had your fill of old-fashioned drinks, head into the milk bar museum, which offers a fascinating insight into Australia’s milk bar and café culture. The nostalgic gift shop is also worth a look for those wanting to purchase their own slice of the 1950s. Savoury food options and herbal teas are also available, and free WiFi is provided for customer use.

**SPIRIT OF THE OUTBACK STUDIO GALLERY**

Located in Broken Hill, the Spirit of the Outback Studio Gallery is an exciting art experience and a must-see for anyone visiting the area. Resident artist, Jenny Cattonar, was born in Italy before moving to Australia in 1951, and specialises in portraits, flora, fauna and the surreal. She has won numerous competitions and exhibited across Australia, and her Broken Hill studio offers the opportunity to glimpse her work up close.

**SYNAGOGUE OF THE OUTBACK MUSEUM**

A heritage listed building of the early 20th century, the Broken Hill Synagogue is over 100 years old. In honour of its heritage, a museum was established in 2010 to provide a unique perspective on the richness of Jewish life in the outback. The museum is open on a Monday, Wednesday and Sunday from 10am-3pm.

**BROKEN HILL FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**

Broken Hill Railway Station in Crystal Street is a gateway to and from Broken Hill, and a gateway to the city’s past. As well as the railway connection, the station is home to the Broken Hill Family History Group. Open on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am-3pm, and on a Saturday from 1-4pm, the Broken Hill Family History Group is staffed by a dedicated band of volunteers keen to delve into less known details of Broken Hill’s fascinating cultural heritage.

The group began its sleuthing in 1977, when a handful of interested locals met to research, preserve and promote Broken Hill. They now have a research room and library containing thousands of indexed transcriptions from local original registers.

**ARGIN STREET**

Life in early 20th century Broken Hill was as fast-paced as any big city. More than 30,000 people lived here by 1905 and on any given day, many of them could be seen bustling up and down Argent Street, the showpiece of Broken Hill’s new wealth. The generous width of the street was originally to help bullock trains turn. For a
while it became the domain of the city’s steam trams, and now offers an enticing selection of restaurants, cafes, boutiques, and other speciality shops.

**PATTON VILLAGE**

An equally charming precinct on the ‘south side’ of the city is Patton Village. This delightful row of shops and services stand opposite a quiet park that early last century resonated with the sounds of Broken Hill’s highland and brass bands. Back then, Patton Street was one of the city’s most active commercial centres. It boasted blacksmiths, bootmakers, fruiterers and even an undertaker. Many of the shops today are straight out of the 1950s, like Bells Milk Bar, which has been making malted milks and soda spiders the traditional way since 1892.

**LOCAL PRODUCE**

From casual cafes and elegant restaurants to picnicking in one of the city’s beautiful parks and gardens, there are plenty of cuisine choices in Broken Hill. Supporting the city’s dining culture is an abundance of dedicated food producers like Santalum Quandong Farm, makers of premium jams, sauces and chutneys. Others include Broken Hill Gourmet Products, which make Australian Outback olive oil, and Limestone Station which produce kalamata olives and olive oil along with pistachio nuts, carob products, roasted capsicum, antipasto and an assortment of plenty more. You’ll also find all these delicious products for sale in quality stores throughout Broken Hill, at a number in nearby Silverton, and at Broken Hill’s famous Community Markets.

**COMMUNITY MARKETS**

Browse the bustling Community Markets which, on the second Saturday of every month, offer all sorts of goods for sale, from fresh fruit and vegetables to gourmet meats, jams, pickles, cakes and biscuits, as well as Asian food, chocolates, sweets, and even olive trees. Take your pick from souvenirs, toys, clothes, paintings, folk art and engraved glass while you enjoy a classic outback barbecue.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

By 1932, the worldwide depression was at its worst. Unemployment in Australia reached almost 30 per cent. In Broken Hill, many single men were evicted from boarding houses, and in desperation they built a shantytown on the site of the original municipal power station. Locals called it the ‘chateau de tar drums’ because dwellings were made from drums half-filled with stones and roofed over with flattened kerosene tins. The place became a haven for swagmen. They arrived on the Silverton Tramway steam train and as it slowed at the Pell Street crossing, would jump down and scurry towards the chateau to avoid police patrols.
ACCOMMODATION

Broken Hill’s superb accommodation ranges from elegantly restored heritage hotels and bed and breakfasts, to comfortable modern motels and friendly caravan parks to suit family budgets. For a real ‘down-to-earth’ experience, you can even stay in self-contained cottages restored from miners’ old ‘tinnie’ cottages. Adventuring in the outback doesn’t mean missing out on luxury. Broken Hill’s central location makes it the ideal base from which to discover the entire outback region. So you can trek to remote spots in absolute safety and be back in the comfort of your hotel before dinner.

Broken Hill knows what intrepid outback travellers need before they head out on the road. The city’s supermarkets and speciality stores make it easy to stock up on essentials, home comforts and gourmet treats. Staying overnight or longer is a great way to soak up the real outback, and there’s plenty of comfortable accommodation to choose from – a working sheep or cattle station, family farmstay, bush pub or heritage bed and breakfast. Whether you sleep snugly in a swag, or bed down in authentic shearers’ quarters, there’s nothing like waking as the sun rises over the desert. Some of the most evocative places to stay in the region’s outback towns are its classic old hotels. Once the watering holes of thirsty pioneers and miners, they are wonderfully inviting places with wide verandas that keep the bars and comfortable rooms cool and inviting, no matter how hot it is outside.


LIVE MUSIC

The following venues feature regular live music acts and/or Karaoke nights.

For more information contact the venues directly or check the local newspaper Barrier Daily Truth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alma Hotel</td>
<td>08 8087 3260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demo Club</td>
<td>08 8088 4477</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mulga Hill Tavern</td>
<td>08 8087 7138</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musicians Club</td>
<td>08 8088 1777</td>
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<tr>
<td>Night Train</td>
<td>08 8087 3318</td>
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<td>08 8088 1699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silverton Hotel</td>
<td>08 8088 5313</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Cross Hotel</td>
<td>08 8088 3085</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sturt Club</td>
<td>08 8087 4541</td>
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CINEMA

Silver City Cinema 08 8087 4569

ENTSRTAINMENT

2-Up at The Palace Hotel  Every Friday
Poets in the Pub  1st Monday of month
(Black Lion Inn)

MARKETS

Community Markets (200 Beryl St)  2nd Saturday of month

VENUES

Civic Centre  08 8080 3480
Theatre 44  08 8087 9585
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LOCAL CAFES, RESTAURANTS, BARS & CLUBS
Call 08 8080 3560
www.brokenhillaustralia.com.au
Mulga Hill Tavern

SportsBet Lounge Bar · Fox Sports · KENO · Full TAB Facilities · Sky Channel
Multiple Sports Screens · Watch all LIVE games at once
Huge Screen DVD Jukebox · Cater for Meetings, Functions and Parties

Double Lane Drive Thru Bottleshop Open until 10pm 7 Days

Large Range of Beers & Cider on Tap · Extensive Menu
Weekly Specials Board · Friday Night Late Night Pizza’s · Espresso Coffee
Take away meals available for pick up
All Day Menu options · Kids fun and much more!

Cnr Oxide & William Streets
Ph: 08 8087 7138   Fx: 08 8087 8569
www.facebook.com/Mulgahilltavern

DINING ROOM OPEN 5.30AM EVERYDAY FOR BREAKFAST
McDonald’s, Broken Hill
Galena St, Broken Hill  MAP REF: B-404-H9 Ph: 8088 3332

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Discover the best of Outback NSW

Travel In helps you identify places to visit and things to do in and around Inland NSW. Travel In ventures into the furthest pockets of our backyard to uncover incredible places that are off the beaten track.

First National provides an efficient and professional enquiry and booking service for the Broken Hill and Silverton areas. We have a wide range of fully self-contained accommodation to suit families, singles, holiday makers, contractors and the corporate market. Short and long term bookings available, corporate & discounted rates apply.

**Spot On Outdoors**
- Fishing Tackle
- Bait
- Maps
- Largest Range of Gas Fittings in Broken Hill
- Caravan & Camper Trailer Spares & Accessories
- Tents, Camping Products, Fridges & Ice Boxes available.

**Sufi Books of Broken Hill**
Books on Sufism, Poetry, World Wisdom, Cooking, Health and Healing, Comparative Spirituality, Philosophy and more. We also stock perfume, handcrafted soaps, incense, and essential oils. Hookahs, Mediterranean foods, Djembe drums and many other interesting and unusual items.

**Thom, Dick & Harry’s**
Homewares, Kitchenware, Gifts, Fashion, Café, & Much More!
Discover a shopping emporium in the heart of Broken Hill!
We specialise in:
- High quality & practical kitchenware
- Unique gifts for everyone
- Homewares
- Bath/body

The Line of Lode changed Australia from an agricultural to an industrial nation.

MINING
Built on the back of mining, Broken Hill boasts an incredible story of life underground.

The Broken Hill Geo Centre houses a spectacular array of minerals.
After more than 125 years mining in Broken Hill the 7.5km-long, 1.6km-deep “Line of Lode” has yielded 300 million metric tonnes of ore – enough to fill more than 1500 concert halls in the Sydney Opera House – and generated over $100 billion.

BOOM, BUST AND BRAVADO

Fortunes have come and gone in Broken Hill against an economic background of boom and bust.

Today, mining in Broken Hill is still big business. It generates more than $400 million a year, which, in 2012, accounted for almost half of the city’s gross regional product. The two main mining operators, Perilya and CBH Resources, together employ more than 500 locals in mining works.

Over the years, the vivid stories associated with extreme fluctuations in the city’s wealth have contributed their own richness to the unique character of Broken Hill.

You can experience these stories first-hand on a series of easy, self-guided walking tours – the Broken Hill Heritage Trail, the Broken Hill Cemetery Walk or the Heroes, Larrikins and Visionaries of Broken Hill Walk. Pick up a brochure from the Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre.

BROKEN HILL GEO CENTRE

The most famous showpiece in the Albert Kersten Mining and Minerals Museum is the “Silver Tree”. Made from 8.5kg of silver, the tree was created for the Melbourne Colonial Exhibition of 1880. The Silver Tree was once owned by Charles Rasp, the boundary rider who pegged out the first Broken Hill mining lease with his partners.

The museum is a fabulous representation of the spectacular array of minerals found in Broken Hill – Australia’s premier mineral locality. The museum is internationally recognised, and has been featured in numerous national and international publications. Selections have also been displayed at some of the most prestigious mineral shows, recognised, and has been featured in numerous national and international publications.

DID YOU KNOW?

Much of Broken Hill’s modern mining industry is built on the back of what was established by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company – best known as BHP. A famous name in Australia, BHP Billiton is now one of the world’s largest mining companies. Broken Hill is where it began for BHP in 1885, when the company began mining the massive ore body containing the world’s richest source of silver, lead and zinc.

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publications. Selected specimens from its collection have also been displayed at some of the world’s two largest shows in Tucson and Munich. As well as housing a significant collection of local minerals, the museum tells the story of how the world’s largest deposit of silver, lead and zinc was formed in Broken Hill. The Albert Kersten Mining and Minerals Museum is located in the restored former Bond Store, which dates from 1892.

**DAY DREAM MINE**

Experience an authentic historic mine you can tour in absolute safety. Between Broken Hill and Silverton is the Day Dream Mine.

It descends deep into the earth and gives visitors a real sense of what it must have once been like wielding a pick and shovel in such challenging conditions. Located 33km from Broken Hill near Silverton, the Day Dream Mine enables you to go underground in safety and relative comfort at the same time as getting a sense of the harsh life miners once led. Mining was the reason that Silverton sprang up in the first place, and it’s still possible to experience what life was like for men working in its heyday.

Established in 1882, the mine attracted a settlement of about 500 people and the district’s first smelters. But the settlement was short-lived and gave ground to Silverton and then Broken Hill, although the mine continued to operate until 1983.

**WHITE’S MINERAL ART AND LIVING MINING MUSEUM**

A world of mineral magnificence is on display in White’s Mineral Art and Living Mining Museum. Found on Allendale Street, this gem of an attraction takes you on an illustrated journey through the architectural and mining history of Broken Hill. Bushy White’s mineral paintings are complemented by many rare mining artefacts, underground memorabilia and models of mine sites, making this attraction a great way to interpret mining life without heading underground.

**CONFLICT WITH THE UNION MOVEMENT**

Broken Hill’s “Line of Lode” would change Australia from an agricultural to an industrial nation – but it came at a cost. The dangerous conditions in which the miners worked, and the squalid circumstances in which their families had to live, put BHP on a collision course with unions.

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**WHITE’S MINERAL ART AND LIVING MINING MUSEUM**

A unique experience – go underground without going under!
- Walk-in Mine – Family Viewing
- Guided Tours and Mining Models for ease of understanding
- Crushed Mineral Collage Art Works
- Large Handmade doll & bear display.

Open daily 9am to 5pm. Nominal entry fee

1 Allendale Street, Broken Hill Ph: (08) 8087 2878 Fax: (08) 8087 7884
In 1892, BHP’s contempt for the union movement was illustrated by its decision to scrap a work practice agreement because of slumping world ore prices and this prompted a series of bitter and violent strikes.

During the 1909 industrial dispute, BHP locked-out its workers and brought in ‘scab’ labour. This time BHP stood alone, its intransigence and stubborn refusal to deal with the union having alienated it from the other mining companies in Broken Hill.

When Australia’s Arbitration Court ruled against the company and the ensuing High Court appeal was dismissed, BHP’s reaction was to delay the opening of the mine for two years and then reduce the number of workers employed.

In this increasingly untenable backdrop and coupled with the unreliable nature of commodity prices, it was no surprise BHP was looking for other options and management decided the company’s future lay in steel manufacturing.

BHP chose Newcastle on the NSW coast as the site of its first steelworks and production commenced in 1915. Wartime demand for armaments and sheet metal guaranteed the steel mill’s early years while, in contrast, the Broken Hill operations became a victim to inflation and worsening industrial relations.

The “Great Strike” of 1919 lasted 18 months before the unions prevailed and workers won improved conditions, including a 35-hour week and this result prompted BHP to focus on its expanding steel business and the “Big Mine” played a progressively smaller role in the company’s calculations.

**THE END OF BHP**

BHP closed its Broken Hill operations altogether in 1939 and an unremarkable stone chimney, which was part of a hut built on the mining lease in 1885, now stands as a lonely monument to mark the site of the birthplace of BHP.

It was only in the 1970s that Broken Hill ceased to be Australia’s greatest single producer of mineral wealth and it is unlikely that any single mining field of the future will exert as much influence as did Broken Hill on Australian life.

All up, Broken Hill has produced 200 million...
tonnes of ore. Based on today’s metal prices there has been approximately $300 billion taken out of Broken Hill.

Sheep overseer of Mount Gipps station, George Urquhart was to see Broken Hill yield more and more wealth of which none came to him. He had sold his original share and he later died near Silverton in 1915. Urquhart was the only member of the syndicate to be buried in Broken Hill cemetery.

NB. Busts of the “Syndicate of Seven”, created by artist Geoff De Main, are located in front of the Council Chambers at 240 Blende St, Broken Hill, NSW.

PIONEERING UNIONISM

For most of Broken Hill’s history, mining was a very dangerous profession, but social changes made here resonated around the world. In the late 1800s, safety in the mines was the sole responsibility of the workers themselves. As a result, miners put up with terrible conditions, toiling away by lamplight with hammer and chisel, and breathing silicon-laden dust underground or lead fumes from the smelters. Many died of miners’ phthisis or lead poisoning. Accidents were common and often resulted in death; over the years, more than 800 miners have lost their lives on the job. Today, their legacy is commemorated at the Miners Memorial that stands on top of the Line of Lode.

This memorial is a telling reminder of why Broken Hill pioneered a culture of trade unionism, including the introduction of the 35-hour working week and the defeat of conscription in Australia. In 1890, almost every worker on the “Line of Lode” belonged to a union like the giant Amalgamated Miners’ Association, once one of the most powerful unions in Australia. Massive attempts were made to improve working conditions, including a large strike in 1892.

Union activities at the turn of the century were frequently hostile, which led to Broken Hill developing an infamous reputation for intense and frequent strikes. The conditions that induced these events were a far cry from modern, safety-first methods that use high-tech extraction machines, huge dump trucks and cement-lined underground roads. The city’s proud militancy is presented in the 1905 Trades Hall building – the first privately owned trades hall in the Southern Hemisphere – and in murals on walls of buildings in central Broken Hill.
On your next visit to Broken Hill come and see over 40 years of art by Jack Absalom. There is original oil paintings by Jack, prints and books as well as some of Jack’s television programs on DVD. A unique opal display is also not to be missed.

**Gallery hours:**
- 10am - 5pm daily
- Closed January and February.

**ABSALOM’S GALLERY**
638 Chapple Street, Broken Hill  Ph/Fax: (08) 8087 5881  E: jackab5@bigpond.com.au  www.jackabsalom.com.au

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**BUSH ‘N’ BEYOND GALLERY**
View paintings and prints by artists Ian Lewis and Wendy Martin.
Also:
- Giftlines
- Souvenirs
- Wendy’s handcrafted jewellery
- Metal Sculptures
Open most days – Free entry

Corner of **Gossan and Argent Street, Broken Hill.** Opposite Coles Supermarket entrance.  Ph/Fax: (08) 8087 8807  E: ianlewis@outlook.com.au

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**VISIT THE PRO HART GALLERY**
No visit to Broken Hill is complete until you have been to the Pro Hart Gallery.
Enjoy browsing Pro’s work, select gifts or purchases and learn a little more about one of Australia’s iconic and enduring artists.

108 Wyman Street Broken Hill NSW 2880  **Tel:** 08 8087 2441  **Fax:** 08 8088 1551
www.prohart.com.au

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ARTS & CULTURE

An enduring artistic legacy inspired by individualism, heritage and nature.
Broken Hill's iconic national status is defined through the diverse work of some of Australia's most creative individuals. For generations, they have drawn inspiration from the city's larger-than-life history – from mining to social advocacy – and its spectacular ancient setting.

Today, the grand dame of the outback continues to be the muse for a passionate community of painters, sculptors, ceramicists, musicians, actors and film-makers.

MORE GALLERIES THAN PUBS

There are more than 20 galleries in Broken Hill. In fact, galleries outnumber pubs.

Typical of the city's colourful character is the art and attitude of the late Kevin “Pro” Hart. You can see Pro's direct and humorous approach expressed in so much local art. Take time to chat with the artists about their authentic, down-to-earth lives and you'll understand where it comes from.

There is also plenty of art to enjoy around the city streets – from intriguing sculptures in public parks to bold wall murals that depict Broken Hill's heritage. Art is even set amid the landscape outside the city – the sculptures in the Living Desert Reserve reflect both the diverse culture of the region and an appreciation for the city's magnificent surroundings.

BROKEN HILL REGIONAL ART GALLERY

Step back in time and explore an extensive collection of Australian colonial art works.

The Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery is the oldest regional gallery in New South Wales. Founded in 1904, it is located in the historic Sully’s Emporium Building on Argent Street, which provided heavy machinery for the local mining industry from 1885-1985. From 1999-2004 the building was refurbished and became the home of the

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The Big Picture is the world's largest acrylic painting on canvas.

A Rolls Royce painted by Pro Hart.

Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery – a magnificent restoration recognised by numerous heritage awards.

This superb institution received its first donation of artwork from original Syndicate of Seven member George McCulloch, after encouragement by local doctor Brian James Booth. Ever since, mining companies, the city council and individuals have followed McCulloch’s example and today the gallery boasts a superb collection of Australian and European art. Among these important and impressive colonial, early 20th century and contemporary artworks are treasures by James Coutts Michie, James Ashton, Margaret Preston, Arthur Streeton, Lloyd Rees, Emily Kane Kngwarreye, Charles Blackman, and more.

It also provides an annual program of locally curated exhibitions, along with touring exhibitions from major cultural institutions. Admission to the gallery is by donation.

**BIG PICTURE**

Almost 100 metres long and 12 metres high, the Big Picture features more than 100,000 saltbush, 20,000 trees, 20,000 small stones,
1000 large stones, 3000 clouds, 1500 hills and 12 sculptures. Most amazingly, all this is the creation of Ando, one very dedicated and industrious local artist, which makes the Big Picture the world’s largest acrylic painting on canvas by a single artist. Visit the Big Picture at the Silver City Mint and Art Centre and experience the sensation of walking into a painting at the same time as feeling like you are in the actual outback.

ANCIENT ART
Aboriginal artists made their mark throughout the region thousands of years ago. At Mutawintji (130km north-east of Broken Hill) this legacy is apparent in the remarkable engravings of animals and animal tracks, as well as painted hand stencils and other motifs – some of the best examples of Aboriginal art in New South Wales.

BRUSHMEN OF THE BUSH
The region’s thriving arts scene owes a lot to the “Brushmen of the Bush” – Jack Absalom, Pro Hart, Hugh Schulz, John Pickup and Eric Minchin. In 1973 they formed a group based on a shared love for painting the Australian outback and exhibited their artwork together for the next 25 years. True to the community spirit of the outback, during that time the group raised over $1 million for charities like the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

ARCHITECTURE
Even the shortest stroll down Argent Street – the city’s main thoroughfare – and around some of the side streets is like walking through the contrasting fortunes of the city and its early residents. Federation and Victorian buildings stand grandly beside tin cottages and the curving faces of 1930s art deco. More than 350 properties are officially listed as locally significant. Many feature on similar state and national heritage lists. Broken Hill is particularly known for its heritage hotels. In their heyday these pubs were essential as places of escape from the drudgery of working underground. Today, Broken Hill’s pubs are still the centre of attention – places to wet your whistle, swap stories, play music and dine in style.
GENERAL INFORMATION

BROKEN HILL VISITOR INFO CENTRE
With so much to see and do, every Broken Hill visit should begin with a trip to the information centre.

The friendly staff at the information centre can provide you with a wealth of knowledge on local tours and accommodation, and you can collect brochures to help you best plan your stay.

The centre also features a gift shop selling souvenirs, many of which are locally made, as well as a range of facilities, including showers, toilets and disabled access for visitors.

The centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 8.30am. Closing times vary from 3pm to 5pm.

NB. The Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre is located on the corner of Blende and Bromide Streets, Broken Hill, NSW.

GETTING HERE
Discovering a lost world in Broken Hill isn’t as hard as you might think.

Broken Hill lies in the centre of a vast yet accessible outback region and the city is a major hub for transport via rail, road and air.

BY CAR
There are many rewarding alternative journeys to the direct routes between the Broken Hill region and major Australian cities. Each offers unique sights and experiences.

Coming from Melbourne
The most direct way to reach Broken Hill from Melbourne is to head past Bendigo on the Calder Freeway (A79) to Mildura, then continue to Wentworth and on to Broken Hill via the Silver City Highway (79).

For an alternative trip home, head south-east out of Broken Hill to Menindee. From Menindee, follow the last leg of the Darling River Run through Pooncarie to Wentworth. This is 123km of unsealed road, so check local road conditions here.

Turn off at Pooncarie to Mungo National Park and the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area, then continue 110km south-west to Mildura. From here, you can follow the Murray River along the Murray Valley Highway (B400) via Swan Hill and Echuca, or head down the Calder Highway (A79) to Ouyen and return to Melbourne via Ballarat or Bendigo.

Coming from Sydney
Head out of Sydney to Bathurst on the Mitchell Highway (32) through Dubbo to Cobar, then turn onto the Barrier Highway (32) and continue to Broken Hill.

On your return, head north from Broken Hill to the rugged Mutawintji National Park. From here, head north-east to the opal mining town of White Cliffs, then a further 98km south to the historic town of Wilcannia. At Wilcannia, you can access the Barrier Highway (32).
**Coming from Adelaide**
Leave Adelaide on the Barrier Highway (32) and travel north towards Burra. Break up your journey with a stop at Peterborough, then continue 283km north-east along the Barrier Highway to Broken Hill.

On the way home, head from Broken Hill to Menindee and follow the last leg of the Darling River Run through Pooncarie to Wentworth. This road is unsealed, so check local road conditions here.

Turn off at Pooncarie to Mungo National Park, then, once you are back in Mildura, connect with the Sturt Highway (A20) for your return to Adelaide.

**Coming from Brisbane**
Take the Warrego Highway (A2) to Toowoomba, then the Gore Highway (A39) to Goondiwindi and on to Moree via the Newell Highway (A39). Take the Gwydir Highway (38) to Walgett and turn onto the Bourke-Brewarrina Road. From Bourke, pick up the Darling River Run through Louth and Tilpa to Wilcannia, then drive the final 200km through to Broken Hill.

As an alternative route home, head north from Broken Hill on the Silver City Highway through Packsaddle and Milparinka, then head 330km up to Tibooburra, Sturt National Park and Cameron Corner. Return to Brisbane from Tibooburra by heading east to Bourke and retracing your outbound journey in reverse.

**BY AIR**
For the fast way in and out, Regional Express Airlines fly direct every day to and from Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne (via Mildura).

Qantas, Jetstar and Virgin Australia also connect daily to Mildura.

Broken Hill services all flights through its airport in south Broken Hill.

Remember to book early, flights often book out quickly!

**BY RAIL**
The Indian Pacific operates from Sydney and Adelaide, with buses connecting from Adelaide and Dubbo.

NSW TrainLink runs weekly direct services to Broken Hill from Sydney on the Outback Explorer. Additionally, NSW TrainLink runs a daily service that includes train travel between Sydney and Dubbo and bus travel between Dubbo and Broken Hill.

For timetables, fares and bookings call 13 22 32.

The Indian Pacific runs directly to Broken Hill from Sydney and Adelaide once or twice a week, depending on the season. Whistle stop tours of the town are available while the train is parked at the Broken Hill train station.

For timetables, fares and bookings call 1800 703 357.

**BY BUS**
Many coach companies visit the area as part of itineraries where Broken Hill is usually a one to three-night destination.

Buses R Us travels three times per week between Adelaide and Broken Hill.

V/Line offers a service between Mildura and Melbourne.

CountryLink offers a daily combined train and bus route from Sydney.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**
Police, Fire & Ambulance 000
Police 08 8087 0299
Fire Broken Hill 08 8087 2233
Hospital 08 8080 1333
RFDS (24-hour service) 08 8080 3777
NRMA 13 11 11
Lifeline 13 11 14
Wildlife Rescue (RRANA) 0429 204 416
RSPCA 08 8087 7753
Veterinary Clinic 08 8087 4242 or 0427 874 242

**RECREATIONAL FISHING**
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au 1300 369 365

**FRUIT FLY**
For detailed information contact Quarantine Domestic on 1800 084 881 or go to www.quarantine.gov.au

As a suggestion when travelling, only buy what you can consume as you can’t carry fresh fruit interstate.
**ACCOMMODATION**

101 A Miner's Rest

102 About Town Cottages - Blue Gum & Blue Bush

103 About Town Cottages - Yellow Gum

104 Aly's Cottage

105 Anneca Holiday House

106 Aussie Bacon & Eggs Cottage 1 & 2

107 Aussie Bacon and Eggs Cottage 3

108 Black Lion Inn

109 Blue Wren Cottage

110 Broken Hill Heritage Cottages - Greatta's Place

111 Broken Hill Heritage Cottages - Toddington Cottage

112 Broken Hill Lake View Caravan Park

113 Broken Hill Tourist Lodge

114 Caledonian Accommodation

115 Capon Cottage

116 Charles Rasp - Avoca Cottage

117 Charles Rasp Motor Inn & Cottages

118 Comfort Inn Crystal

119 Cora's Gypsum Cottage

120 Cottage at Willyama

121 Cottonwood Cottage

122 Daydream Motel

123 Desert Sand Motor Inn

124 Duke of Cornwall

125 Emarro Argent

126 Emarro Oxide

127 Emarro Tramway

128 Emarro William

129 The Gateway Motor Inn

130 Golden Hearth Cottage

131 The Grand Guesthouse

132 Heather's Home Units

133 Hilltop Motel

134 Ibis Styles

135 Imperial Fine Accommodation

136 Jadan Cottages

137 King's Place Outback Accommodation

138 Kookaburra Cottage

139 Lavender'n'Lace Cottage

140 Lily May Cottage

141 The Lodge Outback Motel/Chloride St Cottage

142 Lottie's Cottage

143 Maevie Cottage

144 Mulberry Vale Bush Cabins

145 My Nanna's Place

146 Old Willyama Motor Inn

147 Outback Church Stay Luxury Accommodation

148 Overlanders

149 The Palace Hotel

150 The Real McCoy Holiday Accommodation

151 Red Earth Motel

152 Royal Apartment

153 Royal Exchange Hotel

154 Silver Haven Motor Inn

155 Silver Spade Motel

156 Start Motel

157 Tarrawaling Holiday Units

158 Unique Outback Cottages - Hebbard Cottage

159 Unique Outback Cottages - Lunam Cottage

160 Wickes End Cottage

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**ART GALLERIES**

300 Absalom's Gallery

301 Art on Argent Gallery

302 Artmecca: The Art of Deidre Edwards

303 Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery

304 Bush 'n Beyond Gallery

305 Eric McCormick Gallery

306 The Homestead Gallery

307 Howard William Steer Art Gallery

308 McCanther's Australian Art & Mineral Specimens

309 Pro Hart Art Gallery

310 Silver City Art Centre and Mint

311 Spirit of the Outback Studio Gallery

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**EATING & DRINKING**

107 Black Lion Inn

400 Broken Earth Cafe Restaurant

401 Broken Hill City Sights Tours

402 The Demo Club

154 The Haven Restaurant

403 Masallas Indian Cuisine

404 McDonald's

405 Mulga Hill Tavern

406 The Palace Hotel Restaurant & Bar

134 S-Que Restaurant

123 Southern Cross Hotel

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**TOURS, TRANSPORT & TRAVEL**

500 Broken Hill Caravan & Trailer Centre

501 Broken Hill City Sights Tours

502 Buses R Us

503 Jetset Broken Hill

504 Silver City Air Charter

505 Silver City Scenic Flights

503 Silver City Tours

506 Spot On Outdoors

507 Tri State Safaris

508 Volunteer Walk Tour Group

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**GENERAL**

600 Broken Hill Civic Centre

601 Broken Hill Family History Group

602 Broken Hill St Patrick's Race Club

603 Broken Hill Studios

123 Desert Sand Conference Venue

123 Highrance 24hr Towing BP South

123 Ibis Styles Conference Venue

605 National Parks & Wildlife Service

606 Sea Books of Broken Hill

149 The Palace Hotel Conference Venue

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The Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) and is here to assist travellers with information and practical help. We will book your reservations for accommodation and tours. The centre has showers (at a nominal fee) and public and disabled access toilets. Ample parking and larger vehicles can park opposite the centre. Coach accommodation and bus wash bay facility (at a nominal fee).

If you are arriving out of business hours, our 24 hr datatrax screen is located at the Bromide Street entrance of the VIC's main entrance.
One of the easiest and most rewarding day trips from Broken Hill is to Silverton. A classic outback town, Silverton and its spectacular surrounds offer an array of unique finds. Behind the sleepy streets and heritage stone buildings is a swag-full of art galleries, artist studios, museums, a famous pub and an atmospheric cafe.

Nestled in the arid landscape of the western Barrier Ranges, Silverton is spectacular in a classic outback sense. No wonder the town is more famous as a film location than most places in Australia. The historic Silverton Hotel has featured in more than 100 films and commercials.

Between Broken Hill and Silverton is the Day Dream Mine. It descends deep into the earth and gives visitors a real sense of what it must have once been like wielding a pick and shovel in such challenging conditions.

Silverton is an outback town with a population of less than 50 people. It has a booming art and culture scene to be reckoned with, and the town's photogenic appearance has made it one of the country's most famous filming locations – it has acted as the backdrop for various Hollywood blockbusters and Australian cinematic icons.

In the 1880s, Silverton was a mining hub of equivalent intensity and scale to Broken Hill which lies just 25km to the east. Today, Silverton is about as different from Broken Hill as it could possibly be. It is a quiet outback town characterised by broad, unmade streets and a selection of classic stone buildings.

The beautifully-restored Silverton Gaol Museum and the historic Silverton Hotel are well worth a gander, while Eldee Station is an outback retreat like no other. Only 30 minutes west of Broken Hill, it’s truly a “get-back-to-nature” escape where you can design a stay to suit your budget.

Silverton is also a great base when exploring the surrounding regions. Drive out to the Mundi Mundi Plains to visit the sets of Mad Max and Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, marvel at the curvature of the earth and the beauty of the distant Boolcoomatta Hills in the Olary Ranges, or enjoy a pleasant picnic beside the Umberumberka Reservoir just nine kilometres from Silverton.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Silverton Visitor Information Centre (08) 8088 7566
Your Australian Outback retreat.
Great people, great food, great hospitality

Discover the explorer within when you immerse yourself in the true Australian outback experience of multi award winning Eldee Station.

For further information and enquiries call or email your hosts Naomi and Stephen Schmidt

Phone
(08) 8091 2578

Email
eldeestation@bigpond.com

Book directly at
www.eldeestation.com.au
It’s easy to see why people from around the world dream about visiting Australia’s legendary outback. Vast open spaces, breathtaking natural beauty and the charming personalities of the unique locals have made it a cultural icon that every world traveller aspires to visit. From history and heritage to arts and culture through to natural wonders and unreal adventures, there’s truly something for everyone in the far reaches of New South Wales.

GETTING THERE
It may surprise you to discover that visiting this expansive region is a lot easier than you may think. For those looking to fly, flights to Broken Hill – the unofficial capital of the NSW Outback – operate daily from Sydney and Adelaide with Regional Express Airlines, while Qantas, Jetstar and Virgin Australia also connect daily to Mildura.

If you have the time, there are a number of touring routes to the outback that are as exciting as the destination itself. The iconic Darling River Run and historic Transcontinental Railway are two such options, while a number of sealed highways also service the area.

ICONIC OUTBACK TOWNS
Broken Hill is an outback hub, rich in history, culture and endless surprises. The city boasts an extensive arts scene and a blossoming foodie culture, as well as a long and significant history.

The town of Wilcannia offers a fascinating past, having once been known as the “Queen City of the West”. The town may be a little quieter these days, but there is no shortage of adventures to be had, not least of all due to its proximity to the Paroo-Darling National Park.

Venture further inland through the red desert to Tibooburra and the sprawling Sturt National Park with its rolling sand dunes and flat-topped mesas. You’re now in Corner Country, the iconic meeting place of the NSW, SA and QLD borders, and the home of the famous Dingo Fence – the world’s longest at 5614 kilometres.

Located right on the junction of the NSW, QLD and SA borders, Cameron Corner is a fascinating outback gem. Set on the edge of the Sturt National Park, Cameron Corner can be reached via the In Sturt’s Steps Touring Route, which offers a unique perspective of the region.

Cobar offers an authentic taste of the outback, and boasts a rich history steeped in mining. Visit the Great Cobar Heritage Centre for an insight into days gone by, explore the open cut mine of Fort Bourke Hill, or get a taste for the town streets by strolling around the heritage trail.
It may be small, but the town of Hay packs a punch. Explore the heritage buildings of this historic town, pay a visit to its many fascinating museums, or explore the artworks of the Bidgee Riverside Trail.

Historic, charming and unique, Menindee has more than a few surprises up its sleeve. Sitting between the magnificent Menindee Lakes and the Darling River, this outback town boasts some of the region’s most beautiful sunsets, while the nearby Kinchega National Park offers its own adventures.

Harbouring a long mining history, the truly unique town of White Cliffs is a sight to behold. Owing to the discovery of opals in the 1890s, the town today resembles the moon’s surface, with the landscape dotted with more than 50,000 mines. When in town, consider staying at the unique Underground Motel or taking a tour of a working opal mine.

While boasting only a small population, the town of Silverton has a big personality. Used as the backdrop for many famous movies – including Mad Max II and The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert – the town offers a landscape that has to be seen to be believed, and wealth of attractions that aren’t to be missed.

The NSW Outback is a haven for outdoorsy types, not least of all because it boasts such a wide range of extraordinary and diverse national parks. Whether you enjoy bush walking, bird watching, mountain biking, camping or four-wheel driving, you’re guaranteed to find it in the great NSW Outback.

The Aboriginal heritage of the outback is extremely palpable, and can be felt right across the region. From the mysteries of the Mungo National Park to the long Aboriginal history of Wilcannia, no trip to the outback is complete without immersing yourself in this fascinating history. Learn about the rock art in Mutawintji National Park with Tri State Safaris, glimpse unique indigenous artefacts in Tibooburra, visit the famous Living Desert Reserve in Broken Hill, and more.

When it comes to accommodation that’s out of the ordinary, the outback has you covered.

You can stay in a renovated 1911 church, an underground motel, an original miner’s cottage, an authentic outback station like Eldee Station, Goodwood Station Stay, Trilby Station or Mount Gipps Station, an historic hotel, and so much more.

The NSW Outback is almost bursting at the seams with character-rich old-fashioned pubs. You’ve got the Cameron Corner Store, which is situated at the intersection of the NSW, QLD and SA borders, the Palace Hotel in Broken Hill, which rose to fame with a cameo in The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, and the infamous Tilpa Pub, which is made entirely from corrugated iron and covered in graffiti. You can even add your own mark to these walls for the price of a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Broken Hill is a veritable smorgasbord of hotels and as such boasts a legendary pub scene, while the Packsaddle Roadhouse in Packsaddle and the Family Hotel in Tibooburra both hold incredible histories and enviable reputations. And where would we be without mentioning the Silverton Hotel, that famous pub that appeared in Australian cinema classics like Wake in Fright and Razorback.

Just as important to the unique appeal of the outback are the local characters. There are those who were born in the outback and have since moved away – like Adelaide Crows captain Taylor Walker and comedian Steve “The Sandman” Abbott – those who moved to the outback from the coast – such as Outback ER doc Andrew Olesnicky and ABC rural reporter Cherie von Horchner – and those who have called this vast region home their whole lives – like Olympian Marina Morris.

Fill your itinerary with a magnitude of other fascinating, unique and quirky adventures: prospect for black opals, visit an iconic film set, take a walk through some spectacular scenery and look at 40,000-year-old Aboriginal fish traps. Go on a 4WD tour with Tri State Safaris, visit a plethora of fascinating museums, immerse yourself in a flourishing arts scene, delve into the region’s cafe culture, and so much more.
NSW NATIONAL PARKS

Natural beauty on show at every scale – from rugged ranges to the tiniest wildflowers.
Mesmerising landscapes come alive with brilliant colour in NSW Outback and Rivers national parks – deep red clay dunes, clear blue skies, vivid sunrises and sunsets painting the sky and clouds, dainty yet colourful wildflowers and splashes of dazzlingly-feathered birdlife. The night sky’s inky blackness twinkles with stars as countless galaxies spiral off to infinity.

Tread softly in the footsteps of a people whose culture stretches back thousands of years as you explore landscapes brimming with fascinating natural and indigenous culture.

These ancient lands, invigorating and untamed, are places of contrast: drought and tumbling rains, bare earth and flowing rivers, eerie silence and the squabbling of a thousand riverbirds.

Our national parks let you enjoy this with ease ... you’ll feel as though you could breathe in the world.

**MUNGO NATIONAL PARK**

This extraordinary place is of great significance to the Ngiyampaa, Mutthi Mutthi and southern Paakantji people, a connection that reaches back more than 40,000 years. Mungo National Park has the oldest recorded cremation in the world.

A famous feature of the park is the dramatically sculpted clay and sand formations known as
the Walls of China that stretch for about 30km. Evidence of early human habitation is everywhere in and around this moonscape; ancient fireplaces, stone tools and other artefacts. These contrast with unfamiliar fossils of preserved mega-fauna and prehistoric plant life.

Long after the mega fauna came mega flocks of sheep on historic Gol Gol Station, now preserved as part of the park.

The Walls walk is accessible by guided tours, while the boardwalk is available to all, along with the loop drive, Zanci Woolshed and pastoral loop drive and other walks to enjoy at leisure.

A thriving kangaroo and emu population also make Mungo the perfect place to see Australia’s coat of arms up close. There is the amazing sight and sound of hundreds of pink cockatoos and diverse bird species taking turns drinking from ground tanks. Standing out from the crowd is the Mallee ring-neck parrot with its vivid green and gold plumage.

Adjacent to Mungo Visitor Centre is Mungo Woolshed. Built in 1869, it stands a striking reminder of the pastoral history of this dramatic landscape. Step inside the shady cool and marvel at the ingenious drop-log construction made from local cypress pine. At its peak, this shed was a hive of activity, with 18 men hand shearing over 50,000 sheep. Erosion caused by sheep, rabbits and tree felling not only reduced the capacity for

DID YOU KNOW?

No visit to Kinchega National Park is complete without exploring this and other beautiful old buildings of Kinchega Station. Built in 1875 of corrugated iron and river red gum, the historic Kinchega Woolshed is a vast and well-preserved piece of Australian pastoral heritage. The huge old building resonates with history. Stand in the cool emptiness and it is easy to imagine how the place once echoed with the voices of more than 60 shearsers as they clipped their way through the station’s 140,000 sheep.

Yanga National Park is a breeding haven for waterbirds.
farming, it revealed the long-held secrets of the ancient lakebed.

Mungo lies at the heart of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, added to the World Heritage list in 1981.

**YANGA NATIONAL PARK**

A fisherman’s paradise, Yanga National Park embraces magnificent river frontage, wetlands, lakes and breeding grounds for waterbirds. It forms part of the Lower Murrumbidgee Floodplain, with more than 22,000ha of river red gum forest, black box-nitre goosefoot swamp, belah rosewood woodlands, and native grassland and saltbush plains.

For more than 160 years, Yanga was a working pastoral, cropping and irrigation property. Today, the Yanga Homestead and Woolshed, about 5km south-west of Balranald on the Windomal Road, are restored and ready to explore or tour.

The woolshed has an interpretive display describing historical aspects of Yanga Station, the riverboat trade, the pastoral life in the western Riverina, and the evolution of the Lower Murrumbidgee Floodplain.

Tucked along the banks of the river are campgrounds, bushwalks and plenty of spots to cast a line or launch a canoe.

You’ll need time, time to unearth a diverse and ancient history in an area once peopled by Aboriginal families, with scar trees, ovens, middens and other artefacts scattered throughout the park. Explorers and pioneers, shearers and rabbit trappers have also left their mark.

Access to Yanga is 8km south-east of Balranald off the Sturt Highway.

**MUTAWINTJI NATIONAL PARK**

The fiery red ranges of Bynguano colour the magnificent Mutawintji ("place of green grass and waterholes") National Park. Meander through this sacred area, keeping a keen eye out for native wildlife including majestic wedge-tailed eagles, peregrine falcons and endangered yellow-footed rock wallabies, Australia’s most brightly coloured mammal.

Deep gorges lead to tranquil rock pools and river red gum lined creek beds. Walks in this park are leisurely meanders of discovery through the traditional home of the Malyankapa and Paakantji...
people. Mutawintji, just north of Broken Hill, has been a significant meeting place for thousands of years; a place of initiations, rainmaking and other ceremonies.

Explore Mutawintji Historic Site, which sits within Mutawintji National Park, on a guided tour. It contains some of NSW’s finest Aboriginal paintings, stencils and engravings in caves and on rock formations.

**PAROO-DARLING NATIONAL PARK**

The Paroo River wetland system is one of the most important in NSW and comprises the only unregulated river in the Murray-Darling catchment.

Paroo-Darling National Park embraces these wetlands. You’ll need to take time to explore to experience the scale and diversity of natural habitats such as Peery Lake.

In seasons of plenty, walk around the lake edge or launch a canoe and marvel at the birdlife – 60,000 birds were recorded in the last survey. During seasons of dry the lake reveals its secrets of stone and sandy areas together with intriguing landscape.

The west end of the park is about 20km north-east of White Cliffs and west of Wilcannia, within the country of the Paakantji people. Significant sites reveal a great deal about their way of life over the last 10,000 years.

There are picnic areas, and scenic camping on the Darling River at the Coach and Horses campground 40km north of Wilcannia on the east side of the river. Be sure to bring your fishing rod to this popular fishing spot and keep the camera out … you never know who will visit the campsite.

**STURT NATIONAL PARK**

Rolling red sand dunes, seasonal wetlands, woodlands and grass plains combine in one of the largest, most distinctive national parks in NSW.
Sturt National Park is steeped in Outback beauty, protecting an enormous arid landscape of space and solitude – from the rolling red sand dunes of the Strezlecki desert to the flat-topped mesas around Tibooburra.

Tibooburra means “heaps of rocks” in the local Aboriginal language, acknowledging the 450 million year old granite tors that surround the town and line the road on the way to the park. These contrast with the red sand of the desert on the western side of the park and with the ‘jump ups’ that rise from the plains in the central part.

Walks and drives within the park let you to stop and soak up the beautiful surroundings. For more up close views of the landscape, try the short loop walks at Fort Grey or Dead Horse Gully. Climb to the summit of Mount Wood for stunning views over the park. Or walk to Sturt’s Tree across Lake Pinnaroo (in the dry seasons) for a sense of what it must have been like for the first European explorers visiting Wangkumara, Malyankapa and Wadikali country.

Named after the famous explorer, Charles Sturt, and a place of Aboriginal occupation dating back more than 20,000 years, Sturt National Park is located in the north-west corner of the state near Tibooburra. It is bounded to the north and west by the ‘wild dog fence’ – the longest fence in the world stretching 5614 kilometres.

Spend the night at one of the park’s four campgrounds; each offers sites suitable for caravans and camper trailers as well as barbecue and picnic facilities. You may have the campground to yourself. That is, if you don’t count the park’s resident kangaroos and abundant birdlife.

GUNDABOOKA NATIONAL PARK

The mysterious Mount Gundabooka stands sentry over Gundabooka National Park and State Conservation Area, a vast landscape rich in Aboriginal and European heritage stretching from the banks of the Darling River across the plains.

Mount Gundabooka seems to accompany you
as you explore the surrounding woodlands, floodplains and sand hills, significant to the local Ngemba and Baakandji people. You can gain a sense of the enduring culture of the Ngemba people on the Mulgowan (Yapa) Aboriginal Art Site walking track. Arriving at the enormous rock overhang, you’ll discover unique Aboriginal rock paintings that depict animal motifs, dancers, hand stencils and hunting tools.

The park is made up of old sheep stations – Ben Lomond, Belah and Mulgowan, with great opportunities to explore old homesteads, quarters, fences, tanks and shearing sheds. The pastoral station Yanda is now the State Conservation Area, gazetted in 2005.
In the heart of Gundabooka is the Belah Shearers’ Quarters. This evocative slice of Australian history was built in the mid-20th century to accommodate shearers when Gundabooka was a functioning sheep station. Today, the quarters offer fun, comfortable and inexpensive accommodation.

Redbank Homestead is a charming alternative for accommodation, situated in an isolated area on the Darling River. Both venues provide facilities that feel like a little bit of luxury in the desert – electricity, air-conditioning and hot showers.

The park is about 50km from Bourke. There are great places for camping, with sites for caravans, motorhomes and tents.

Clockwise from top: Willandra National Park exudes tranquillity; A myriad of reptiles and wildflowers are part of the natural ecosystem.

Historically rich Paroo-Darling National Park showcases a diverse natural habitat.
Cocoparra National Park’s rugged ranges reveal a dramatic, dynamic and vivid landscape.
**MT GRENFELL HISTORIC SITE**

Mount Grenfell Historic Site’s quiet and remote location attracts adventurous visitors … rewarded with an amazing collection of Aboriginal art reflecting the long history and culture of Ngiyampaa Country. Among the depictions are dancing figures, kangaroo, emu, and lizards – images from many different time periods by many different artists.

The tranquillity of the site is ideal to fully appreciate this unique piece of Australia’s heritage, and speculate on the stories that inspired the artwork.

There is a picnic area near the entrance, a place to rest, relax and recharge before taking the short walk to the rock art, or tackling the longer Ngiyampaa walk which features panoramic views from the ridge.

Access Mount Grenfell by driving west from Cobar along the Barrier Highway for 40km, and right at the Mount Grenfell Historic Site sign for about 30km along the dry weather road.

**CULGOA NATIONAL PARK**

Despite its small size, Culgoa National Park has plenty to offer. It teems with birdlife, particularly along the banks of the coolabah-lined Culgoa River. Settle in the shade of a coolabah tree and watch the bustards, falcons, honeyeaters, brolgas and cockatoos and wildlife including kangaroos and emus on the open grass plains. In spring, Culgoa’s spring wildflowers on the floodplain and woodlands give a spectacular display of colour.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Tibooburra means “heaps of rocks” in the local Aboriginal language, and you can’t miss the rocks – 450-million-year-old granite tors that surround the town and line the road on the way to the park. They contrast with the red sand of the desert on the western side of the park and with the ‘jump ups’ that rise from the plains in the central part of the park.
Located about 100km north of Brewarrina and 180km north-east of Bourke on the Culgoa River, the park harbours true gems of Aboriginal and European culture. Culgoa River Campground is a top place for camping, with sites among the gidgee trees along the river. Bring a torch as much of the wildlife is active at night. From here, Connellys track is an enjoyable and easy walk with great opportunities for birdwatching and stargazing at night.

**WILLANDRA NATIONAL PARK**

Once famous for wool productions, Willandra National Park gives insight into the region’s pastoral heritage. The old homestead and shearing shed precincts are fascinating to explore.

The park’s natural attractions are just as compelling – it’s no wonder this peaceful and secluded place is favoured by photographers and artists.

Vast, semi-arid riverine plains incorporate wetlands, grasslands, and black box-lined creeks. These support an abundance of wildflowers, kangaroos and emus, waterbirds, reptiles and frogs. Activities include the Nilla Yannagalang Billana walking track – the name means “walking alone together” and it will seem that your only company is nature as you meander alongside the Willandra Creek.

There are picnic and barbecue areas, plus opportunities for cycling, fishing, seasonal canoeing and nature study. Stay overnight in a choice of historic pastoral accommodation or camp out under the stars.

The park is about an hour from Hillston via the Ivanhoe-Mossgiel Road and Whealbah-Trida Road.

**KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK**

Kinchega National Park is the traditional land of the Paakantji nation, a river people who caught...
fish by spearing from a canoe or while diving and used nets and fish traps made from baskets. Artefacts and special sites in the area date back an incredible 35,000 years.

Meander along the Darling River’s red gum-lined banks, which mark the park’s eastern boundary, or stroll the shores of Lake Menindee, Lake Cawndilla and Lake Emu. It’s a dry landscape that bursts with seasonal wildflowers after rain. Abundant wildlife – birds, kangaroos, goannas and emus – bring opportunities for photography.

Explore Aboriginal sites and European buildings including Kinchega Woolshed and its adjacent walks. As you explore, you’ll be given a taste of a harsh history in this challenging environment.

In the dry or wet, the lakes provide a peaceful place for picnicking and taking in the tranquillity of the natural surrounds. The Darling River Run provides car-based access, with caravan and camping sites along its meandering path.

Kinchega is 100km south of Broken Hill, near the township of Menindee. It’s always a good idea to check with the visitor centre that areas are open.

You can also book to stay in the old shearers’ quarters within the park, which has a kitchen and communal lounge for occupants.

**TOORALE NATIONAL PARK**

A car tour of Toorale National Park and State Conservation Area along the Darling River Run is a true outback adventure, a journey through a vast floodplain and along the meandering Darling River and its riverbanks.

It’s a great place for fishing and birdwatching. There are plenty of places such as at Many Big Rocks picnic area (Karnu Yalpa) to enjoy a riverside feast with the sights and sounds of abundant birdlife.

Bring your camping gear. It can be unpacked in a naturally rich area such as Darling River camp

Offering a true outback experience, Gundabooka National Park is rich in both Aboriginal and European heritage.
Yapara Paaka Thuru). You’ll enjoy awe-inspiring skies over a floodplain landscape, with dramatic sunsets and intensely starry nights.

Drive to the Mt Talowla lookout (Withawithalaana) and take the Walking Track (Thina Yapa) for an expansive 360-degree view of the landscape. In good seasons the landscape comes to life with a surprising display of colourful wildflowers.

Toorale is 70km south-west of Bourke.

**COCOPARRA NATIONAL PARK**

Cocoparra National Park is ideal for bushwalking, biking and birdwatching, and it’s only a half-hour drive from Griffith in the Riverina.

Here, the huge sky of the outback is paired with the distinctive Cocoparra Range. This dramatic and rugged place is a haven for bushwalkers, birdwatchers and nature-lovers, with a landscape that’s vividly alive and always changing.

In a variety of habitats you can explore rugged ranges along with deep narrow valleys, folded and eroded rock faces. Spectacular scenery is everywhere with dramatic overviews of the plains and craggy landscapes, so bring your camera and binoculars. You’ll find woodlands and forests occupied by white cypress pine, Mallee gum, kurrajong, yellow box and many more during bushwalks.

Visit after rain to see the waterfalls and creeks in full flow and if you’re a budding botanist you must come in spring to see the wonderful variety of wildflowers; orchids, wattles and tea tree bringing extra vibrancy to the land. Other seasonal delights include the nesting season of the majestic peregrine falcons and the sight of rainbow bee-eaters building their homes in the ground – you’ll know them by their amazing spectrum of colour.

It’s an incredibly peaceful place to spend time in, so stay for a bush camp to really appreciate all the park has to offer.
NSW OUTBACK TOWNS

Places with presence and the promise of unique attractions – from Aboriginal art to precious gems.
LIGHTNING RIDGE

Like the glittering facets of the black opals that make Lightning Ridge famous, this iconic outback town presents an array of colourful experiences. Seemingly in the middle of nowhere and wielding a rugged façade, Lightning Ridge nonetheless boasts an unmistakable allure, owing no doubt to the surprisingly diverse attractions, the quirky locals and the relaxed atmosphere.

Black opal was first discovered in Lightning Ridge in the 1870s, with the ensuing decades leading to a time of prosperity that is still evident today. Today, you can browse the many opal shops in town and marvel at the beautiful gems that are literally being pulled from the ground around you. For an insight into where these treasures come from, make your way into one of Lightning Ridge’s famous opal mines, with the Walk-in Mine and Big Opal Underground Mine tours offering fascinating experiences underground. Afterwards, you can either scrub off the desert dust in Lightning Ridge’s free artesian baths, or cool off in the Olympic Pool and Water Theme Park.

There are plenty more things to do and see that showcase the creativity and individuality of Lightning Ridge and its inhabitants. Check out

DID YOU KNOW?

The distinct ‘gold rush’ atmosphere here isn’t imaginary. Lightning Ridge is a modern-day frontier town energised by the promise of black opal. On any given day (in the few quiet streets of Lightning Ridge) millions of ‘opal dollars’ may be changing hands. Miners fresh from their claims sell pockets of ‘roughs’ to the town’s carvers, jewellers and retailers. What’s the secret to finding black opal? Stand facing the sun, remove your hat and throw it as far as you can. Wherever it lands, start digging.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre (02) 6829 1670
the collection of cacti at Bevan’s Black Opal and Cactus Garden, or visit the Chambers of the Black Hand to see over 700 sandstone carvings and paintings located 12 metres underground. Or pop into John Murray Art Gallery for a whimsical photo-realistic perspective on the region.

Accommodation in town caters for every taste and budget, with motels, caravan parks, and bed and breakfasts available. Dining options are also varied, with the Club in the Scrub a great place to enjoy a refreshment or two while listening to the tales of local miners. There are so many adventures to be had in this unexpected region, and they’re yours to uncover today.

WALGETT

Known as the gateway to the opal fields of Lightning Ridge, Glengarry and Grawin, Walgett is a true gem of the NSW Outback. The town offers an authentic landscape and spectacular sunsets, and its streets hint at a prosperous past that still bubbles beneath the surface. There is more to this town than meets the eye, and with a mention in two Banjo Patterson poems – A Walgett Episode and Been There Before – Walgett has more than a few secrets up its sleeve.

The town takes its name from an Aboriginal word meaning “the meeting of two rivers”, a reference to Walgett’s position at the junction of the Namoi and Barwon Rivers. The lands surrounding Walgett are agriculturally rich and successful in the farming of sheep, cattle and wheat. While a port for paddle steamers in a former life, Walgett is now a haven for fishing enthusiasts, and boasts eight rivers nearby offering Murray cod and yellowbelly.

Walgett is also the starting point of the famous
Darling River Run, which stretches 730km from Walgett to Wentworth along the Darling River. This incredible drive is definitely one for the bucket list, as it snakes through isolated outback towns that were once thriving ports on the Murray-Darling river system, including Louth, Tilpa and Wilcannia. The route also takes in the magnificent Mungo National Park, which holds thousands of years’ worth of history and possibly the secret to the evolution of man.

The township of Walgett glows with warm hospitality and friendly locals. Accommodation options range from caravan parks and camping grounds to bed and breakfasts, motels and farmstays, with some hotels even offering swimming pools in which to escape the summer heat. Walgett offers a true taste of the outback, and at only a day’s drive from three capital cities, it’s yours to discover today.

BOURKE

Famed bush poet Henry Lawson once wrote: “If you know Bourke, you know Australia.” This sentiment perfectly encapsulates the rugged and rustic appeal of this authentic outback town, which artist John Murray has also described as the “gateway to the real outback”. Historic and surprising, the township’s isolated location led to the coining of the term, “the back of Bourke”, meaning a remote destination. Despite this reputation, Bourke is a region of intrigue and rural charm, one which offers opportunities a world away from anything you’ve experienced before.

Located on the banks of the Darling River, Bourke is an historic port town that was once an important trading centre and transportation hub. These days, the town emanates old world appeal, with the heritage trail and the Back O’Bourke Exhibition Centre offering a glimpse into a
Like many 19th century Australian outback towns, Bourke relied on camels for overland transport, and the area supported a large Afghan community which drove the teams of camels. Today, you can visit the small early 19th century Afghan mosque in the Bourke cemetery.

DID YOU KNOW?

The areas just outside the township are brimming in authentic outback scenery, with Gundabooka National Park in particular proffering a landscape of rust-coloured cliffs, gorges and hills. Bird watchers and wildlife spotters will be in their element at Mt Oxley and Mt Gundabooka, with an estimated 140 different types of birds present in the region.

The accommodation options in Bourke are varied, and range from caravan parks and motels through to farmstays and hotels. Visitors can get a true taste of the outback at the Comeroo Camel Station, or experience famous country hospitality at Trilby Station. Bourke is also awash with genuine outback pubs, meaning there is no better way to wet your whistle than with an old-fashioned pub crawl. Located nine hours from Sydney and 10 hours from Brisbane, Bourke is an outback experience that’s more than worth the drive.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Bourke Visitor Information Centre (02) 6872 1321
BREWARRINA

Situated on the southern banks of the Darling River is one of the NSW Outback’s most culturally rich towns, Brewarrina. Derived from the historical meaning, “a native standing place”, the small town of 1200 people is a relaxed and rustic tourist destination in the stunning country between Lightning Ridge and Bourke.

Brewarrina’s strong connection with its Aboriginal ancestors dates back over 40,000 years, with the land on which the town sits historically being the site of great inter-tribal meetings in eastern Australia. These days, around 68 per cent of its residents identify themselves as indigenous Australians, and visitors are encouraged to immerse themselves in this rich Aboriginal culture by learning about the Dreamtime and contemporary indigenous history.

Brewarrina is also home to a vast array of breathtaking natural attractions, including the National Heritage listed Brewarrina Fish Traps, Culgoa National Park and the Barwon/Darling

DID YOU KNOW?

Brewarrina is located amid the traditional lands of the Ngemba, Muwarrari and Yualwarri peoples. The area has a long Aboriginal history and was once the meeting ground for over 5000 people. The name Brewarrina is derived from “burru waranha”, a Wayilwan Aboriginal name for a species of acacia tree. The town was first known as Walcha Hut after one of the earliest white settler land holdings in the mid-1800s.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Brewarrina Visitor Information Centre (02) 6830 5152
River. For those looking to enjoy a spot of fishing or boating, the Brewarrina Weir is the perfect location. The 168-metre wide body of water provides great access to the growing number of activities along the river, and people can catch cod, yellowbelly, catfish and bream during most of the year.

Whether you are planning on a short stop-over or an extended stay, Brewarrina offers a selection of accommodation options ranging from caravan and camping grounds to bed and breakfast and hotels, ensuring the ideal holiday experience no matter your taste or budget. Dotted around the town are some delightful cafes and restaurants, with varied dining options sure to appease even the fussiest of traveller.

Brewarrina is a charming town in the heart of the rugged NSW Outback, and it’s one which is sure to have you transfixed with its profound culture and history.

**WHITE CLIFFS**

Located in the north-west of NSW, White Cliffs is a pioneering town born through the discovery of opal in the 1890s. While the days of great prosperity have passed, the town today is characterised by an air of optimism, eccentricity, ingenuity and an enduring sense of peace and quiet.

The captivating town belies its small, dusty and ramshackle appearance, and harbours an ‘old’ soul, immense skies and a colour palette that will take your breath away. The opal-rich country around White Cliffs appears at first like a moonscape, with the craters of more than 50,000 mines dotted as far as the eye can see.

Really get under the skin of White Cliffs by visiting opal showrooms, trying your hand at fossicking, or stopping in at the photographic gallery. The White Cliffs Outback Store forms the hub of the community and is therefore well worth a look, too; it provides good, honest and generous meals as well as fuel and supplies.

Being underground is a way of life here and certainly the most pleasant way to deal with summer when temperatures can soar to more than 50 degrees Celsius. To escape the summer heat, houses are built underground in mine shafts where the temperature is a constant 23
The Back O’ Bourke Exhibition Centre brings to life the story of Outback New South Wales and the Back O’ Bourke.

Enjoy the interactive stories of the Inland Sea, CEW Bean, the Wool story and much more.

BACK O’ BOURKE EXHIBITION CENTRE

Contact: 0268 721321  www.visitbourke.com.au
Dreams and ambitions are deeply rooted in the rock and landscape of White Cliffs.

If you want to experience this for yourself, the White Cliffs Underground Motel provides a taste of life underground. Nestled into the side of a mesa known locally as “Poor Man’s Hill” due to its lack of opal, the motel has operated for more than 20 years and attracts visitors from around the world.

And for a true taste of local living, consider Underground Retreat; a three-bedroom self-contained underground home built in a former opal mine.

When above ground expect to see lava-like sunsets that span the horizon and, after the sun has gone down, a crystal clear mass of stars.

The town is filled with friendly, quirky and welcoming locals, all of whom have dreams and ambitions deeply rooted in the rock and landscape that has withstood the test of time over millions of years. White Cliffs is a one-of-a-kind experience and, at only three hours from Broken Hill, it’s just waiting to be explored.

DID YOU KNOW?

Today there are approximately 135 dugout homes in White Cliffs, each a haven from the ever-changing weather outside. This quirky way of living began when 19th century miners started converting their old mines into dugouts to escape the heat. Originally, picks and shovels were used to create these homes, with buckets and wheelbarrows to remove the dirt. Now most people use jackhammers and blowers – huge, above-ground vacuum cleaners that suck out the dirt through shafts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

White Cliffs Visitor Information Centre (08) 8091 6611

www.travelin.com.au

Dreams and ambitions are deeply rooted in the rock and landscape of White Cliffs.
Cameron Corner, Milparinka & Tibooburra

As far outback as you can go in New South Wales, Corner Country offers wide-open spaces, red sand dunes and big blue skies. It stretches north and west beyond Broken Hill, taking in historic mining towns, remarkable wildlife, places where explorers once camped and the famous wild dog fence – the longest single fence in the world. The main towns in this unique pocket of Australia are Tibooburra, Milparinka and Cameron Corner, this latter destination famous for being the intersection point of Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.

Filling the north-west pocket of New South Wales is the remote yet surprising town of Cameron Corner. Quirky attractions abound at this famous location, including the chance to stand in three different time zones at once.

The immense Sturt National Park lies between Cameron Corner and Tibooburra. The journey between the two towns will see drivers traverse the Waka Clay Pan, pass Fort Grey – which was built by the park’s namesake, explorer Charles Sturt – and connect with the world’s longest fence that was constructed to keep dingoes out of the pastoral lands of NSW.

Cameron Corner was surveyed in 1880 by James Cameron, the town’s namesake. This might be one of the most remote locations in the NSW Outback, but a must-see at this unique destination is the Cameron Corner Store, which is open seven days a week for meals, fuel and accommodation.

Situated 296km north of Broken Hill and 39km south of Tibooburra, Milparinka is a unique outback town in the heart of corner country. Red, dusty soil dominates the landscape, with big skies and mesmerising horizons all part of the picture. With its roots steeped in gold, Milparinka is a town boasting a fascinating history, the
remnants of which can still be seen dotted around the streets.

Milparinka was once a substantial township with four hotels, a bank, shops, a library, a newspaper office, police station and courthouse, a Cobb & Co office, school and post office. Today, the town’s bustle may be long gone, but four of the most significant buildings have been carefully restored as part of an award-winning heritage precinct.

Isolated and rugged, yet at the centre of so much, this north-west corner of NSW is an eye-opening experience and one you’re unlikely to forget.

Located in the north-west corner of NSW is the quintessential outback town of Tibooburra. Tibooburra is an indigenous word for “heaps of rocks”, a name earned by the numerous 450-million-year-old granite tors that surround the town. While dominated by red dirt, the country around the town bursts to life after rain, when wildflowers bloom across the plains.

The famous Sturt National Park is on Tibooburra’s doorstep, and offers a fascinating landscape of rolling red sand dunes and flat topped mesa. Named after explorer Charles Sturt, the park covers 344,000 hectares and is one of NSW’s largest nature conservation reserves.

Call into the Land Council’s Keeping Place – a museum of Aboriginal artefacts – to experience the town’s rich Aboriginal history, try your hand at fossicking for gold, or visit The Family Hotel to see paintings by famous Australian artists Clifton Pugh and Russell Drysdale.

WILCANNIA, TILPA & LOUTH

Wilcannia is an outback town located in the central west region of NSW. The area the town occupies is the homeland of the Barkindji people; a group who once occupied the length of the Darling River from Bourke to Wentworth. Wilcannia was first settled by Europeans after the exploration of the Darling by Major Thomas Mitchell, with original settlers taking up ‘runs’ that were millions of acres in size. Today, the town offers a fascinating insight into Australian and indigenous history.

About 200km from Broken Hill, Wilcannia is an evocative step back in time. This legacy is apparent today on streets lined with historic architecture, best enjoyed by walking the town’s heritage trail or taking

A monument to the memory of James Poole, second in command of Sturt’s Exploring Party.

DID YOU KNOW?

A museum out in the open may seem a little unusual, but it is one of the best ways to experience how early European settlers worked on the land. Part of the historic Mt Wood homestead complex in Sturt National Park is the Outdoor Pastoral Museum, which includes original and reconstructed artefacts that help piece together the life of 19th century pastoralists. The museum features examples of equipment they used, such as a portable steam engine that was imported from England.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Tibooburra Visitor Information Centre (08) 8091 3333
a short drive around town for a glimpse of beautiful and architecturally impressive buildings made of local sandstone.

Significant buildings and structures are the courthouse, the gaol, the school with its murals, the post office with its iron lacework, as well as the National Trust-listed centre-link bridge – an old wharf that handled all that cargo so many years ago.

In the 1890s, Wilcannia was Australia’s third-largest inland port town and known as the “Queen City of the West”. The thriving town had 13 hotels and a diverse population of 3000 made up of English, Irish, Scottish, Portuguese, Chinese, German, Afghans, and the Australian-born sons and daughters of early settlers and convicts. From 1859, the river was plied by paddle steamers, which travelled as far up as Bourke. This bustling legacy is apparent today on streets lined with historic architecture, best enjoyed by walking the town’s heritage trail.

There is comfortable and unique accommodation available in and around the town, including camping grounds, caravan parks, stations and even an underground hotel in the nearby town of White Cliffs. Come see this fascinating pocket of the NSW Outback for yourself.

Tilpa is a fascinating outback town that boasts an incredible collage of Australian and indigenous history. The town is set in semi-arid terrain dominated by red dirt, and lies 130km north of Wilcannia. Tilpa means “floodwaters” in the local Aboriginal Paakantji language, which is fitting considering the landscape here is so flat that floodwaters can spread for many kilometres.

Tilpa is perhaps best known for its pub made entirely from corrugated iron and covered with graffiti that displays the dry wit of the bush. You can add your own to the Tilpa Hotel’s walls for the price of a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Natural wonders also abound in the area, with national parks, watering holes and prolific birdlife and wildlife nearby. With its distinctive landscape, you can truly understand why Australia is known as Louth – a place that still loves “a drink, a party and a punt”.

Wilcannia Post Office

Louth – a place that still loves “a drink, a party and a punt”.

Wilcannia Post Office

Tilpa Hotel
the sunburnt country.

Situated in the NSW central west region is the unassuming outback town of Louth. Louth was made famous by the Australian poet Henry Lawson, as a place that loved “a drink, a party and a punt”. Today the quiet town on the Darling River is far less raucous but can still put on a great show, with the Louth Races in particular always attracting big crowds.

Located 132km north of Cobar on the banks of the Darling River, Louth boasts a population of less than 50 people. While known as a town that enjoys a party, Louth’s most impressive attraction is the sombre ‘Celtic Cross’, a polished granite 24-foot high monument in the cemetery that was constructed by Louth’s founder, Thomas Matthews, as a memorial to his wife Mary, who died in 1869.

Accommodation options are limited, but the famous Trilby Station lies only 20 minutes south-west of town along the Darling River Run. Shindy’s Inn also offers comfortable accommodation, as well as quality counter meals and cold beers for those hot days. Louth is quintessentially Australian, and a true outback town.

**MENINDEE**

The historic township of Menindee sits snugly between the magnificent Menindee Lakes and the Darling River on the cusp of Kinchega National Park.

The Menindee Lakes offer a safe haven for water birds and provide the opportunity for spectacular freshwater fishing. Nearby Copi Hollow – an artificially constructed lake – is ideal for speedboats, sailing, swimming, waterskiing, and all manner of water sports.

The town’s unique outback position also sees it the beneficiary of some of NSW’s most breathtaking sunsets. Menindee is a photographer’s dream to be sure, but there’s much more to this town than just natural beauty.

Menindee was the first established town on the
Tilpa pub is covered with graffiti displaying the dry wit of the bush.

Relax and enjoy yourself at the end of a busy day!! The Barwon Inn is located 7km west of Walgett on the Kamilaroi Highway. Set amongst 138 acres of bushland and nestled on the Barwon River, making it an ideal fishing spot! Considered to be the quietest accommodation option in Walgett, offering 18 log cabin style motel rooms with ensuites. Bistro and bar open Monday to Thursday for dinner, with breakfast offered daily. Ample parking space to accommodate large vehicles.

Contact your hosts: Richard and Jenni McKenzie  P: 02 68281154 or E: thebarwoninn@bigpond.com www.thebarwoninn.com.au

Menindee sits between the Menindee Lakes and the Darling River.

WHITE CLIFFS UNDERGROUND MOTEL
Experiences of a lifetime and the magic of the underground – sleep, eat, explore and learn in a mesa hill deep in the outback. Understand the lure of the opal, characters of the outback, and what holds people here. The famous White Cliffs Underground Motel includes:
• Bar
• Restaurant
• History and culture centre

Ph: (08) 8091 6677  www.undergroundmotel.com.au
Darling River during the paddle steamer era of the mid-1800s. The Menindee Heritage Trail takes you on a journey through time, rediscovering the many people, places and events in the history of this fascinating town. Be sure to find the two historic trees – one marked by a survey team in 1882, and one in Yartla Street that marks the height of the 1890 floods.

The dry sand dunes around the lakes have unveiled some of the most prolific and early remnants of human existence anywhere in the world, with fossils and marked stones of the Barkindji people and their ancestors dating back 26,000 years! For a perspective on Menindee’s more recent history, namely its pastoral heritage, visit the Kinchega Woolshed where six million sheep were shorn during a century of operation. At its peak in the 1880s there were stands for 62 shearers. Today, you can bunk down in the old shearers’ quarters.

Other accommodation options include numerous cottages, caravan parks, motels and farmstays. Menindee also boasts the second oldest pub in NSW, which is where Burke and Wills stayed during their ill-fated expedition to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Menindee is a town that offers a little of the old with a bit of the new, and it’s yours to discover today.

COBAR & NYNGAN

Cobar is an outback town situated on the crossroads of the Kidman Way and the Barrier Highway. The town and district of Cobar Shire is steeped in mining and pastoral history, and the town’s streets dotted with both old and modern buildings that chronicle Cobar’s transformation over the past 146 years.

Mining has always been associated with Cobar and at one time, the Great Cobar Copper Mining Co. had one of the world’s largest copper mining and processing operations. Evidence of past mining is seen at the Great Cobar Open Cut.

South of Cobar, along the Kidman Way, visitors can see the site of the Peak Gold Mines, which were closed in the late 1950s but then re-opened in the 1990s using new mining techniques. A viewing platform at the Peak gives a good view of a modern-day mine. The operating New Cobar Open Cut Mine is also very impressive to say the least, and can be observed from the Fort Bourke Hill Lookout.

The Great Cobar Heritage Centre, located in the
former administration building of the Great Cobar Copper Mine, is a must-see when visiting Cobar. The centre captures the essence of the town, and houses an outstanding collection of exhibits that date from the early 1870s to the present day. Through the exhibits the rich history inherent in everyday life of Cobar pioneers and the culture of ‘making do’ become apparent.

Exploring Cobar can be done on foot by following the Heritage Walk, which takes in the major points of interest. Additionally, for those who wish to get up close to old mining machinery, the Miner’s Heritage Park offers not only a glimpse of old industrial machinery but also offers some interesting photographic opportunities.

The surrounding landscape is both surprising and impressive, incorporating wooded, undulating country, with rugged hills and dry water courses. The Cobar area abounds with wildlife which includes kangaroos, emus, echidnas, giant goannas and 200 species of birds, including the magnificent pink cockatoo and the spectacular wedge-tailed eagle. The opportunity also existed to observe some well-preserved Aboriginal rock art detailing the heritage of the Ngiyampaa people by visiting the Mt Grenfell Historic Site, located 60km west of Cobar.

Situated beside the idyllic Bogan River is the township of Nyngan. Boasting a relaxed and care-free lifestyle, the progressive dwelling for approximately 2500 people is characterised by its warm hospitality and comfortable living.

Located in the Bogan Shire of the NSW Outback, Nyngan has an abundance of productive agricultural land for sheep and cattle, and their farmers are highly competitive on local and international markets.

With all the facilities of a modern rural town, Nyngan’s community enjoys excellent recreational and sporting facilities including bowls, golf, tennis, dancing, swimming, rugby, touch football, cricket, netball, soccer and pony club – just to name a few!

Aside from sport, there are a wide range of less strenuous activities that allow visitors to familiarise themselves with unique Nyngan. The serene Bogan River, with its sparkling waters and peaceful birdsong, is the perfect place to sit and reflect. The historic museum tells the story of Nyngan, with photographs, videos and items from the past providing a deeper understanding of the town and its heritage. Alternatively, simply relax with a good book and a cup of tea, and enjoy the slow-paced holiday lifestyle and magnificent country of the outback.

Dining out is made easy with a selection of

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farmstays, motels and hotels. There’s no shortage of quality kitchens in town either, and whether you’re looking for a feed on the run or a fine country dining experience to savour, Hay has it sorted. The town may hide under a guise of isolation, but being within a day’s drive of three capital cities, what it truly offers is a unique and authentic country experience unlike any other.

**HAY**

A melting pot of heritage and culture, the historic town of Hay is a monument to the struggles and successes of days gone by. With its vast open plains and proximity to the picturesque Murrumbidgee River, the town provides a unique landscape that has fascinated poets and artists for centuries, including the great Banjo Paterson. Yet despite their endeavours to capture the intrigue of this town, Hay is still a place of secrets, all of which are yearning to be discovered.

Owing to its peculiar position atop one of the flattest stretches of land in the world, the town has become known as a place of big, open skies, blazing sunsets and mesmerising colour palettes. As captivating as its natural beauty is, Hay is also remarkable for its rich history. The streets are dotted with heritage buildings and diverse museums, which together speak volumes of a prosperous past. These five museums feature unique collections that span the town’s lifetime, each remembering the people and the events that shaped the land.

Accommodation is varied and plentiful in Hay, with visitors able to choose from a wealth of camping grounds, caravan parks, cottages, restaurants and takeaway food outlets, and there are also three licensed clubs for after-hours entertainment.

Accommodation options include three motels, two caravan parks and hotels, which are sure to provide the perfect night’s sleep to prepare you for exploring the region by day.

**BALRANALD**

A picture of colonial prosperity, Balranald is a riverfront haven that beautifully entwines a rich, palpable history with an invigorating and diverse natural landscape. Located on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River, this vibrant town is surrounded by saltbush, Mallee plains and fertile agricultural lands, and acts as a gateway to the World Heritage-listed Mungo National Park. Its roots stretch back to the days of Australia’s earliest explorers, and as the oldest settlement on the lower Murrumbidgee River, it is a town with countless stories to tell.

While a flourishing paddle steamer port in a former life, Balranald today is a bustling reminder of its pioneering past. Its collection of museums and galleries serve to bring to life this fascinating

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The country around Cobar supports abundant wildlife that includes kangaroos, emus, echidnas, snakes, lizards and giant goannas. Birdwatchers can spot over 200 different species of birds, including the magnificent Major Mitchell cockatoos, wedge-tailed eagles and Mallee ringneck parrots.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Cobar Visitor Information Centre (02) 6836 2448

A bird’s-eye view of the Cobar Open Cut Mine from Fort Bourke Hill Lookout.
era, while the Heritage Park has brought together several of the town’s most ornate and significant buildings, including the old gaol and the relocated Wintong school house.

The varied accommodation options offer something for everyone, and range from motels and caravan parks to farmstays and cabins. Spend the night on the Murray River at the Euston Club Resort, or experience something that little bit different at the lakeside Lake Paika Station Farmstay. Feeling peckish? Enjoy a gourmet pie straight from Balranald Bakery’s oven, a counter meal and a pot at the iconic Kyalite Pub, or some authentic Italian fare at Café Cassaro – the culinary options are endless. This is a true country town, offering warm country hospitality, and at only a day’s drive from four capital cities, all roads really do lead to Balranald. So pack up the car and head on out, because a visit to this fascinating and picturesque town is within everyone’s reach.

Licensed since 1876, the Prairie Hotel has more recently earned recognition as one of the most awarded Australian Outback Hotels.

Hotel Accommodation is offered in 4 original Heritage rooms and 8 architecturally designed in-ground Executive and Deluxe rooms, all with exclusive access to the guest lounge. Self-contained Fettlers Cabins exude Prairie Style, and the Prairie Overflow provides private air-conditioned ATCO’S with shared bathroom facilities. Powered sites and a campground are also available.

Locals and visitors, famous and infamous congregate in the hotel to savour its award-winning feral (and non-feral) cuisine, to peruse the highly regarded Prairie Art Gallery or just “hang-out” enjoying the local hospitality and a Fargher Lager on the verandah at sunset.

Parachilna - where the Desert meets the Flinders Ranges... enroute to the Outback Tracks

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PRAIRIE HOTEL RESERVATIONS
BOOK ONLINE www.prairiehotel.com.au
1800 331 473 or reservations@prairiehotel.com.au

Parachilna - where the Desert meets the Flinders Ranges... enroute to the Outback Tracks

Licensed since 1876, the Prairie Hotel has more recently earned recognition as one of the most awarded Australian Outback Hotels.

Hotel Accommodation is offered in 4 original Heritage rooms and 8 architecturally designed in-ground Executive and Deluxe rooms, all with exclusive access to the guest lounge. Self-contained Fettlers Cabins exude Prairie Style, and the Prairie Overflow provides private air-conditioned ATCO’S with shared bathroom facilities. Powered sites and a campground are also available.

Locals and visitors, famous and infamous congregate in the hotel to savour its award-winning feral (and non-feral) cuisine, to peruse the highly regarded Prairie Art Gallery or just “hang-out” enjoying the local hospitality and a Fargher Lager on the verandah at sunset.

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EXPLORE THE HEART OF THE NSW OUTBACK

The NSW Outback is vast and expansive. A trip through this iconic pocket of Australia is an absolute must for any traveller’s bucket list.

One way to enjoy a special Outback experience is to stay with one of the Outback Beds providers. Accommodation options range from iconic farm stays to unique country town boutique accommodation, working sheep & cattle stations, organic farms, opal mining towns, Bed & Breakfasts, luxury tranquil river campsites, self-contained cottages and shearer’s quarters. A true-blue outback adventure awaits. In a land of harsh environmental extremes, the clever people of the clever country sought to protect the way of life they love – living in Outback Australia.

IMPERIAL FINE ACCOMMODATION

Facilities include:
• 6 luxury ensuite rooms
• Wide verandas
• Spacious 2-3 br apartments
• Complimentary WiFi, DVDs & filtered water
• Solar heated pool
• Free off-street parking
• Relaxing gardens

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Book direct from our website: www.imperialfineaccommodation.com

TRILBY STATION

Come & experience our 320,000-acre backyard – offering unique self-contained accommodation, B&B, powered sites & secluded river campsites on the Darling River.

Liz & Gary Murray, Trilby Station - Louth via Bourke NSW 2840 Ph: (02) 6874 7420
M: +61 419447938 E: trilbystation@bigpond.com  www.trilbystation.com.au

KALLARA STATION STAY

We welcome you to Kallara to stay with us on the western banks of the Darling River, 12km upstream of Tilpa, Outback NSW 2840

Contact: Justin & Julie McClure Ph: (02) 6837 3964 or 0428 373 964 E: jj@kallarastation.com.au

OUTBACK BEDS

Spend time exploring the back roads with Outback Beds.

Combining unique accommodation options from farmstays through to heritage indulgence, character filled locations, iconic regions & beuat natural attractions, the Outback Beds network and their new touring routes will lead you on unforgettable journeys with memorable destinations... staying in the Outback with Friends.

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Arkarooola Wilderness Sanctuary

Spectacular rugged peaks towering above outback plains. Mysterious waterholes, jagged gorges and a tortured landscape add to the haunting beauty that is Arkaroola. Echoes from the Dreaming come to life with names like Barraranna and Nooldoonooldoona. Our Advanced Ecotourism accredited Ridgetop and Waterhole Guided Tours are world renowned.

Travel from the depths of ancient sea-beds to the roof of the Flinders at Sillers Lookout, watch for the shy and endangered Yellow-footed rock wallaby by ancient waterholes, or take a scenic flight. Tour the universe from one of our three professionally equipped Advanced Ecotourism accredited astronomical observatories; the views of the southern hemisphere night skies are breathtaking.

Use our network of great walking trails and 4WD tracks to explore this ancient wonderland.

With a wide range of accommodation including motel, caravan and camping, a licensed restaurant, basic shop, including fuel and basic repair facilities, your comfort is assured. Stay with us and experience it all and more – at Arkaroola.

Phone: (08) 8648 4848
Fax: (08) 8648 4846
Email: res@arkaroola.com.au
Web: www.arkaroola.com.au
OUTBACK ROAD TRIP

DRIVING
Always check the road and weather conditions before travelling to remote areas in the NSW Outback and let local authorities know about your intended route.

Avoid driving between dusk and dawn and take a break every few hours. Also, share the driving as much as possible. Always check distances that need to be travelled. Carry enough water and fuel. Drive according to the conditions. Drive slowly on narrow bridges and be aware of dangers like flooded roads and wandering livestock. Take special care at dawn and dusk when native animals are most prevalent.

UNSEALED ROADS
Drive 10-20km slower on unsealed roads because surface conditions can change suddenly. Slow down when approaching oncoming vehicles. Pull over rather than stop in the middle of the road but be careful because roadside drains may look dry but can be very wet underneath.

BREAKDOWNS
Never leave your vehicle if you break down because it will provide you with shelter until help arrives. This will also make it easier for a search party to spot you.

OUTBACK ETIQUETTE
Before camping on private property, always call in at the homestead and ask permission.
Always leave gates as you found them, open or shut, when crossing property boundaries.
And try your hand at a classic outback wave to passing drivers – which can be anything from raising a finger from the steering wheel to tipping your hat, if you’re wearing one.

ROAD CONDITION REPORTS
Broken Hill District (08) 8082 6660
Central Darling Shire (08) 8091 5155
Wilcannia, White Cliffs, Ivanhoe, Menindee
New South Wales www.rms.nsw.gov.au
South Australia www.transport.sa.gov.au 1300 361 033
Queensland www.racq.com.au
Northern Territory www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/roadreport 1800 246 199
RAA 13 11 11
NRMA 13 11 22
TOURING
Spread your wings and explore some of the classic travelling routes of the NSW Outback.

The Darling River makes its journey south-west across the state to Wentworth where it joins the mighty Murray River. Inset: The iconic Tilpa pub has its walls covered in travellers' messages.
The Darling River Run is one of many great touring routes right across NSW that is worthy of an Outback road trip. For those travelling by train or plane, there’s always the option of joining a 4WD tour to get a taste of the amazing Outback experience.

**DARLING RIVER RUN**

The Darling River Run is a trip through time and the heart of the NSW Outback. Best done by four wheel drive it runs between Brewarrina in the north and Wentworth in the south, taking in Broken Hill, Lake Mungo, Kinchega and Gundabooka national parks which are just astonishing, and classic outback towns like Wilcannia, Menindee, Pooncarrie, Tilpa and Louth. The drive more or less tracks along the 2740km-long Darling River before it joins the Murray at Wentworth. When you tour this route, you’ll be re-tracing the steps of explorers Sturt, Mitchell, Dowling, Burke and Wills and the history and heritage of the run are matched by the vastness of the landscape. Nature lovers will find plenty of wildlife through the region and a bird watching tour of the vast Menindee Lakes system is recommended.

This easy-to-follow route is a wonderful way to explore natural beauty and rich Indigenous culture in some of the best national parks in NSW, enjoy the laidback atmosphere of iconic country
towns, and learn about pastoral pioneers and their life on the land at the many farmstays of the region.

The Darling River Run is 730km long and is best enjoyed at leisure over four days, with many people choosing to start their adventure with a couple of nights in the famous outback town of Lightning Ridge.

Day one extends from Walgett to Brewarrina then on to Bourke. Drive west from Walgett and follow the Barwon River to Brewarrina where it joins with the Darling River. Take a break here to see the ancient Aboriginal fish traps estimated to be over 40,000 years old.

From Brewarrina, drive west to Mount Oxley to spot wedge-tail eagles soaring overhead, and then continue to Bourke – the outback town made famous by Australian folklore.

Experience the Back O’Bourke Exhibition Centre, which brings the rich cultural history of the NSW Outback to life. If you have time, take a side trip through the wonderful Gundabooka National Park and get close to the vivid rock art.

Start your second day with a morning’s sightseeing. Follow the Maritime Trail and cruise the river on the Jandra paddle steamer.

Get back on the gravel road and follow the line of majestic river red gums to Louth, population 50. The centrepiece of this town is its classic pub displaying photos of life on the Darling.

Drive the scenic Wilcannia-Bourke Road to Tilpa and check into the century-old Tilpa pub. This unique outback pub is made from corrugated iron and timber, with walls covered in travellers’ messages. Chat to the friendly locals as you tuck into steak sandwiches and a cold beer before retiring after a long day behind the wheel. Then the next day, journey through the open plains to Wilcannia, once one of Australia’s busiest inland ports. A rewarding detour is a trip to Broken Hill. This jewel of western NSW is famous for mining,
stunning arid landscapes, heritage buildings and a thriving arts scene that includes the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery – the oldest in the state.

The 110km stretch from Broken Hill to Menindee passes stunning red sandhills to Darling River’s first European settlement and the world-renowned Menindee Lakes. Spend the night explorer-style at Pamamaroo Creek’s Burke and Wills campsite.

Day four of the run takes in Menindee to Mungo National Park then concludes at Wentworth. First, drive past the tiny township of Pooncarie. Definitely factor in a side trip into Mungo National Park – the site of discovery of the 60,000-year-old Mungo Man.

Finish your Darling River Run by heading southeast to the colonial-era river port of Wentworth. There’s plenty to do – from outback adventure tours to wine tastings and water-skiing – in this fascinating town where the mighty Darling River meets up with the Murray River.

WHY NOT CONSIDER?

Why not consider what’s on offer just that little bit further? With rugged peaks towering above the plains, the landscapes of the Flinders Ranges offer yet another spectacular Outback experience. Catch the views of the southern skies from Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary and stop at Prairie Hotel Parachilna, one of the most awarded Outback hotels, for a bite or a night.
# SERVICES AND FACILITIES

## FUEL

| Fuel | Balranald | Brewarrina | Bourke | Broken Hill | Cameron Corner | Cobar | Coodaah | Emmudie | Euston | Ilulston | Ivanhoe | Kyarlee | Lightning Ridge | Louth | Merindda | Milparinka | Nyngan | Packsaddle | Penarie | Penecarrie | Silverton | Tibooburra | Tilpa | Wilcannia |
|------|-----------|------------|--------|-------------|---------------|-------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|-------|----------|-----------|--------|------------|--------|------------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|------|
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