

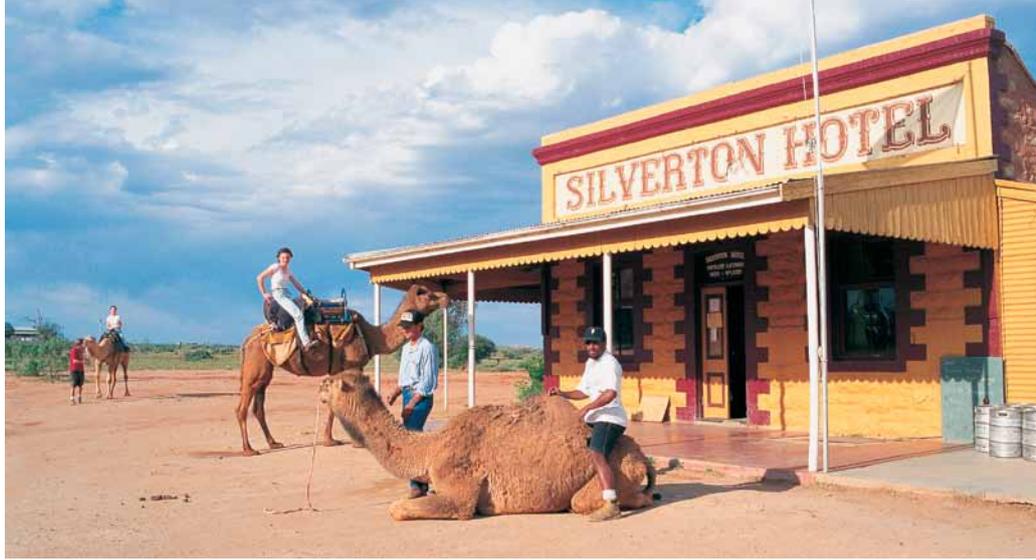
# NSW Outback

HOLIDAY PLANNER

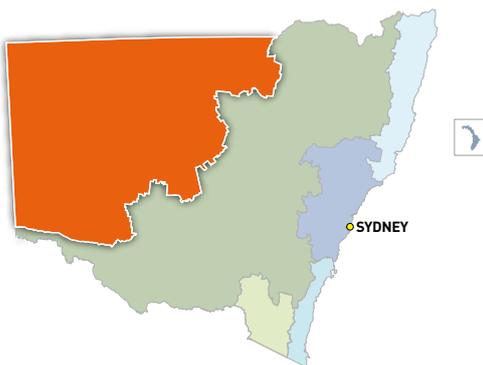


Destination  
NSW





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**front cover:** Walls of China, Mungo National Park, Willandra World Heritage Area (Don Fuchs).  
**inside front cover:** Sunrise over Menindee Lakes.  
**above left to right:** A prize-winning goat, Coolabah (Mike Newling); Camel riding outside Silverton Hotel (Broken Hill Tourism).

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# NSW Outback

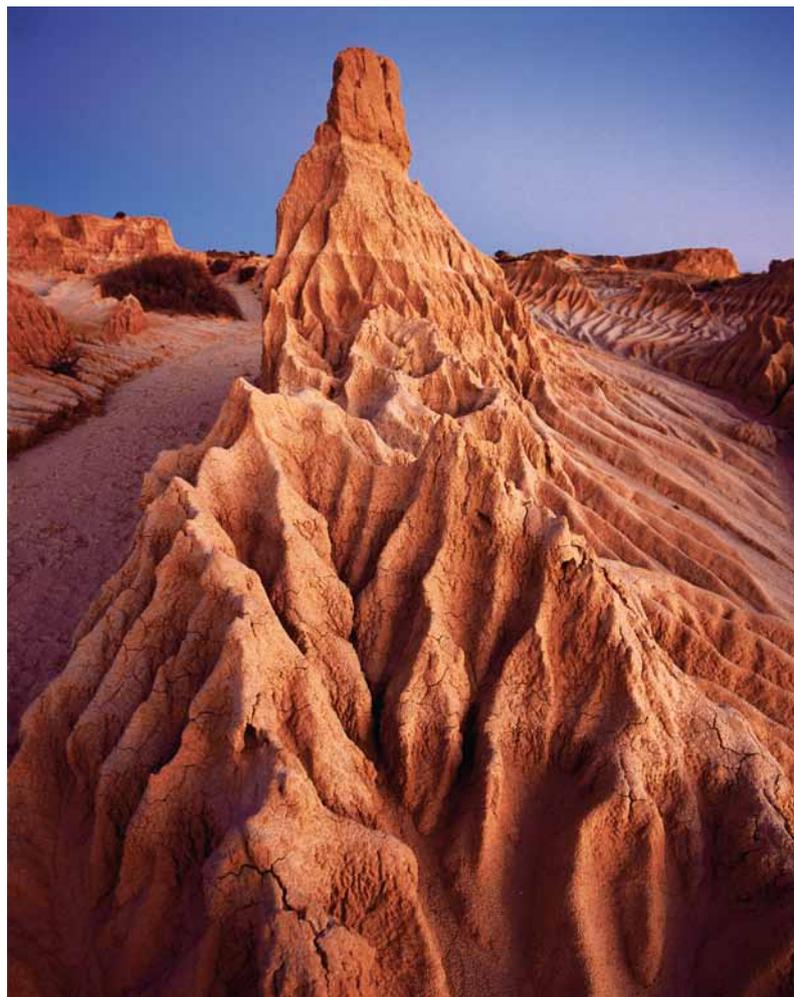
## remarkable people...

The Outback is an extraordinary part of NSW. In this vast area bordering three States, great tracts of red earth merge with endless clear skies.

Lake Mungo, part of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, is a testament to a complex and ancient Aboriginal culture. In this rolling sea of sand the burial site of Mungo Man and Mungo Woman was discovered.

In the Outback you can explore national parks and discover rich archaeological sites. In the country towns, opal fields and pubs along the Darling River, you'll hear colourful stories of river-boat captains, stockmen, Afghan cameleers, miners and artists. And from the region's Aboriginal people, you'll hear their stories of the Dreamtime.

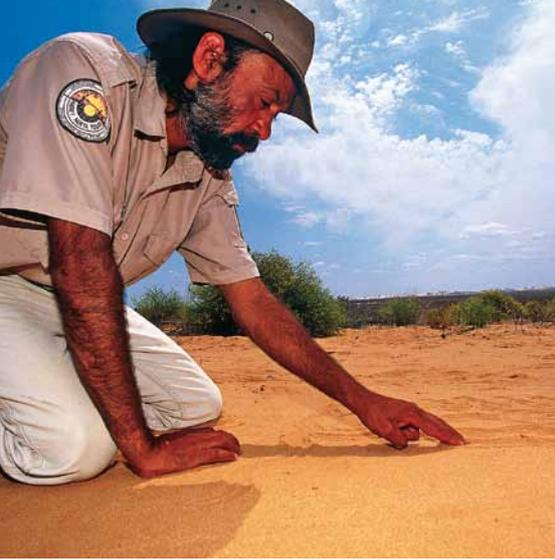
Take yourself on an inspirational journey into the wide open spaces of NSW Outback.



**above left to right:** Mungo National Park (Don Fuchs); Camel trekking in Silverton (Hamilton Lund).  
**below left to right:** Tilpa pub (Mike Newling); Southern Aurora train at Cobar (Great Cobar Heritage Centre); Outback waterway.

# ...inspirational journeys





# A unique land

*At the heart of the continent, eons of sun, wind and rain have etched an ancient landscape where the earth, and even the silence, exert an almost mystical force.*

Nowhere is the individuality of NSW more striking than in its interior. Here, on the earth's driest inhabited continent, plants and animals have evolved unique characteristics to enable them to survive, often acquiring a stark and surreal beauty in the process.

The most famous of the Outback's natural wonders is Lake Mungo. This ancient dry lake bed has revealed the remains of Mungo Man and Mungo Woman, whose ritual burial provides evidence of an age-old and complex Aboriginal culture.

The earliest footprints in Australia – estimated to be more than 20,000 years old – were also discovered at Mungo National Park.

**above left to right:** Harry Nanya Tours, Mungo National Park (Don Fuchs); Aboriginal elders at Walls of China, Mungo National Park (Don Fuchs); Lizard, Bourke; Driving through Kinchega National Park (James McEwan).  
**below left to right:** Aboriginal hand paintings, Mutawintji National Park; Sturt National Park (Sally Mayman).

## Experience the Outback

The Outback sets Australia apart from every other corner of the planet. Whether you're fossicking for opals, having a bet at a dusty race meeting, bending an elbow with the locals in a classic country pub or boiling the billy around a campfire, NSW has Outback experiences in abundance.

Australia's unique plants and animals, including the eucalypt and the kangaroo, created a sensation among 19th century naturalists and, along with the landscape and its Aboriginal culture, continue to fascinate visitors today.

## Works of art

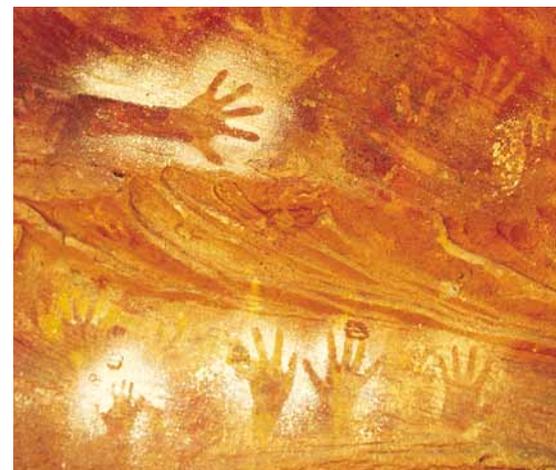
The stark, sun-blistered landscapes, the dazzling night skies and even the plant life have a beauty all of their own. For many years they have provided the inspiration for some of our most accomplished and well-known artists, from Pro Hart and Clifton Pugh to Russell Drysdale and Tim Storrier.

For many thousands of years, before these modern-day painters, the Outback inspired countless Aboriginal artists, who left their anonymous works inscribed on rocks and cave walls. These days you can capture the ethereal beauty of the Outback with a camera, but don't miss the chance to see the artworks in the galleries of Lightning Ridge and Broken Hill, and in the national parks, where Aboriginal rock art bears eloquent testimony to the connection between the original inhabitants and the land around them.

## Aboriginal heritage

Australia's Aboriginal culture stretches back to the dawn of human life on earth, and the roots of that culture can be found in NSW Outback.

Using their knowledge of the landscape and its plants and animals gained over many thousands of years, Aboriginal people are acting as interpreters of their land to the wider world. Walk with them in their own country and you'll be inspired by the depth of their knowledge. Take a bushtucker tour and marvel at the incredible properties of the plants around you, listen to an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger decipher the rock art of Mutawintji Historic Site, or sit around a fire at night and gaze at the starry sky while you listen to tales about the formation of constellations and another version of the story of Creation.





## Outback characters

The Outback fosters a distinctive kind of character – dry, down-to-earth and hilariously larger than life, with a personality that seems to swell to fill the giant void in the landscape.

The locals are best seen at one of the unique celebrations that are a feature of Outback life. Take in an Outback race meeting – such as the famous Louth Races – a rodeo, an agricultural show, an outdoor music festival or one of the many special events – such as the Great Goat Races in Lightning Ridge – and you'll meet some of the special people who have shaped, and been shaped by, this unique part of the country. For many of the people who live on isolated properties, these events are some of the very few times they can get together with friends and neighbours – and they're occasions for a big celebration.

## National parks

Here you can experience the awesome majesty of the landscape, the wildlife and the sounds of birds around a waterhole in the morning, and come to appreciate the unique interaction between Aboriginal people and the places where they walked, hunted and camped. Most of these national parks are located within easy reach of towns with comfortable accommodation facilities, but you'll enhance the experience if you spend a night out under the stars – either as a do-it-yourself expedition or as part of an organised tour – and the magic of the Outback will steal its way into your soul.

## On the road

You might be surprised by how easy it is to travel in NSW Outback. Although the distances are huge – and you still need to plan your trip

with care – you'll find comfortable places to stay, great food and a warm welcome wherever you go, whether you're on a camping safari or a caravan tour, or staying overnight in motels and lodges along the way. A number of homesteads have opened their front gate to paying guests, giving you the chance to experience life, work and play on an Outback station. You'll also gain a rare insight into a unique way of life. Although there are many remote places that are easily accessible in a conventional vehicle, if you have a 4WD the opportunities for exploration and discovery have never been better.



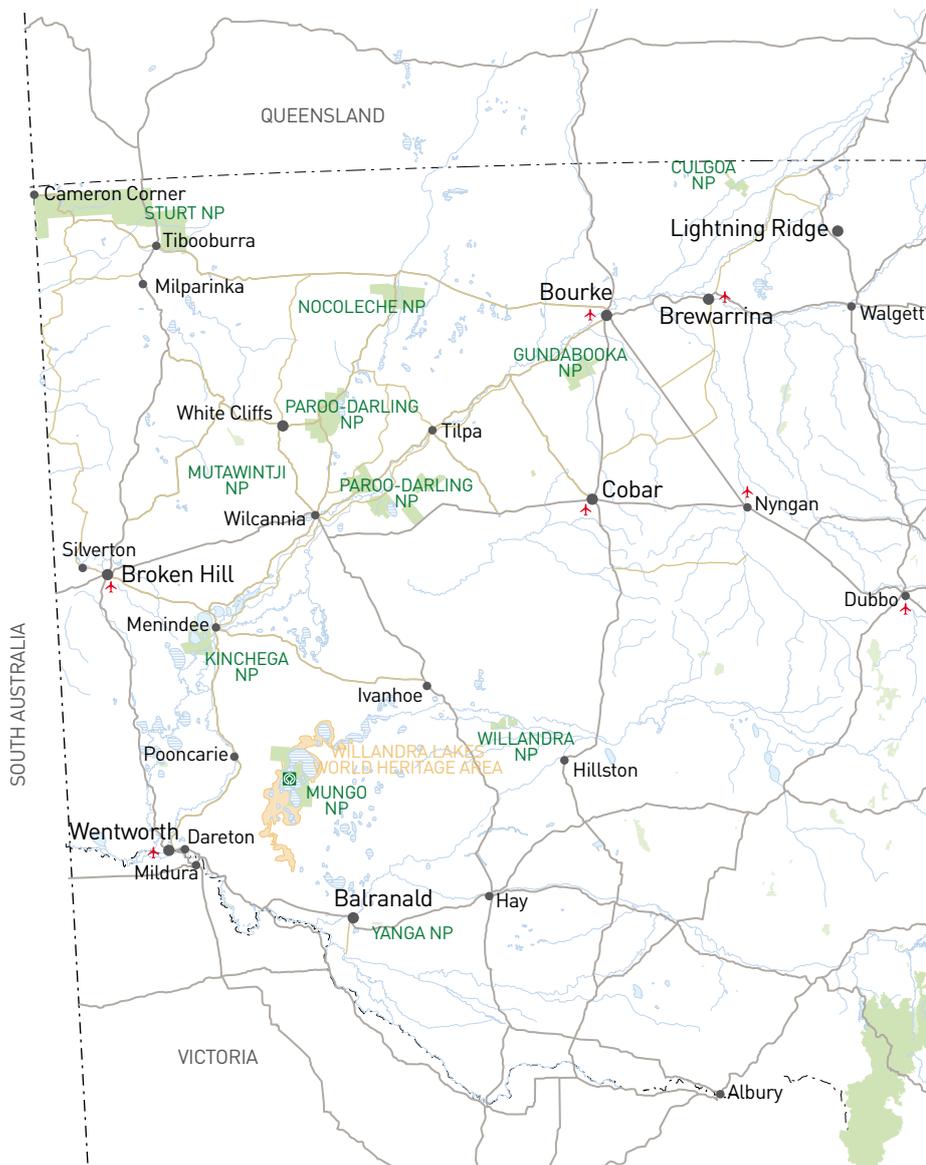
For more information about accommodation and things to do go to [visitsw.com](http://visitsw.com) or call 13 20 77.





# Outback national parks

*Explore the Outback's national parks and you'll discover sun-baked sand dunes as well as lush wetlands teeming with wildlife.*



## An ancient land

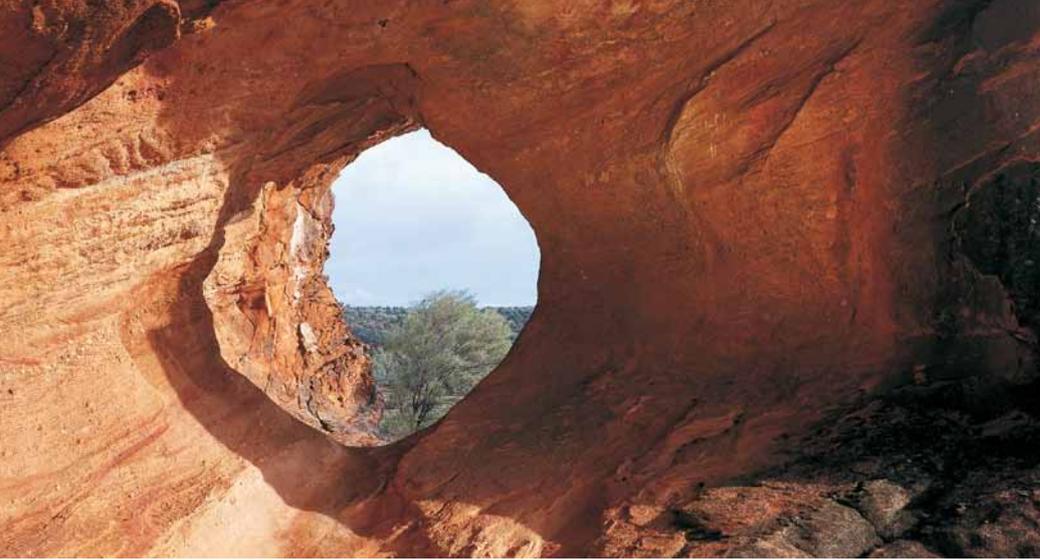
The Outback might look timeless and rugged but it is actually a fragile environment, and the national parks of the region preserve the natural and cultural values of this special place. Spend some time exploring the back roads and walking tracks of these parks and not only will you discover the fascinating story of the plants and animals that have adapted to this harsh environment but you'll also walk in the footsteps of some of the earliest human inhabitants on earth.

## Mungo National Park

A journey into this wild, lonely moonscape of saltbush and sand dunes seared by the sun is an unforgettable experience. One of the first sites in Australia to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Willandra Lakes Area – including Mungo National Park – was described as 'a unique landmark in the study of human evolution on the Australian continent'.

The lakes that once existed here dried up 10,000 years ago and the crescent-shaped lunettes and dunes formed from quartz sands, cemented together by powdered clay, are now striking features of this landscape. The most famous of these are the Walls of China, which tower 30 m above the plain and run for 30 km.

The lakes provided a rich wetland habitat and a natural food supply for the Aboriginal people who lived here about 60,000 years ago. Over that time burial rituals developed – this is the oldest known burial site – and there is also evidence of one of the earliest uses of the grindstone in human history. The 65-km self-



**above left to right:** Mungo National Park (Barry Skipsey); Woolshed at Kinchega National Park; Mutawintji National Park (Tourism Broken Hill); Kangaroos, Sturt National Park.

drive tour through the park, easily accessed via Wentworth, has 15 stops and takes in all the main attractions of the park.

## Mutawintji National Park

In the cracks and folds of the scorched sandstone peaks of the Bynguano Range, north-east of Broken Hill, the permanent water supply made this area a virtual oasis for Aboriginal people. Even in the worst drought, they could hunt rock wallabies and goannas, and gather berries and fruit. It was here that the totemic figures of hunting tales and Creation stories were inscribed on the rock. The finest examples of rock art are found in the Mutawintji Historic Site, a restricted area that can be visited on a guided tour with Aboriginal Discovery Rangers.

Mutawintji's landscape of red rock, saltbush and cypress pines is best explored on foot. One of the finest short walks in the park is the track leading along a creek from the original Mootwingee Homestead to Homestead Gorge, where water trickles from a fissure in the sheer red walls into a rock pool.

## Willandra National Park

Between Ivanhoe and Hillston, this national park is part of what was once Big Willandra Station. The early 20th-century homestead and its outbuildings have been preserved by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as an outstanding example of an Outback pastoral property. The interior of the homestead looks much as it would have in its heyday, with books and letters lying open on desks and tables.

The homestead is close to Willandra Creek, and the 20-km drive along the Merton Motor Trail is one of the best ways to explore Willandra's natural environment.

## Kinchega National Park

Once a large pastoral station, the 44,000-hectare Kinchega National Park offers archaeological sites, middens, stone relics and scarred trees left by the Paakantjii Aboriginal people. Close to the town of Menindee, a chain of natural lakes along the Darling River creates a sensational wetland habitat for huge flocks of birds.

Kinchega Woolshed stands as a monument in corrugated iron to the millions of sheep that were shorn here and also to the stout hands that worked the blades. Remnants of the brick homestead are nearby.

## Sturt National Park

In the far north of NSW, bordering Queensland and South Australia, the park's rolling red sand dunes and flat-topped mesas provide a habitat for wedge-tailed eagles, noisy corellas and bearded dragons, but most of all, for red kangaroos, the kings of the bush. At times you can expect to see thousands of big red kangaroos in mobs of anything up to several hundred. The park has four camp sites and the old Mount Wood Station offers accommodation.

## Paroo-Darling National Park

A rugged and isolated park in the Murray-Darling basin, the expansive lakes that form

the Paroo River Overflow give a powerful sense of the astonishing wildlife riches of NSW Outback. When conditions are favourable, this pristine river system attracts waterbirds, including black swans and brolgas, in huge numbers. The natural attributes of this free-flowing river and the surrounding park are simply enchanting.

## Gundabooka National Park

Located 50 km south of Bourke, the rust-coloured cliffs, gorges and hills of the Gundabooka Range have enormous spiritual resonance for the Ngemba Aboriginal people. Some of the park's rock art sites can be explored via walking trails. The 5-km Little Mountain Track winds through mulga woodlands to the mountain summit, where the panoramas of the northern escarpment of the Gundabooka Range are outstanding.

## Yanga National Park

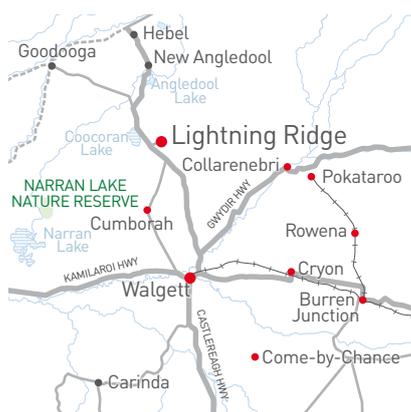
Recently opened, this park is less than 10 km east of Balranald. It features 150 km of Murrumbidgee River frontage, 17,000 hectares of red gum forest and an 1860s homestead.

Be sure to call NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service for information on current road conditions before setting out for any national park. Visit [nationalparks.com.au](http://nationalparks.com.au) or call 1300 361 967.



# Walgett, Lightning Ridge and surrounds

*From the opal fields of Lightning Ridge to the quiet banks of the Barwon River, this is a great place to explore before soaking in a therapeutic artesian pool.*



## MUST SEE AND DO

Sample the mineral-rich heated waters at one of the region's artesian bore baths in Walgett, Lightning Ridge or Burren Junction.

Pack your rod and drop a line in the Barwon River at Collarenebri.

Drink in local history at Lightning Ridge's unique Bottle House Museum.

Browse the inspired works of Lightning Ridge artist John Murray, whose work offers a humorous take on Outback life and landscapes.

**above left to right:** Lightning Ridge opals; Opal mining (Nick Rains); The Black Queen by kerosene light; Enjoying an artesianbore pool (Nick Rains).  
**far right:** Barwon River, Walgett (Arthur Mostead).

## Walgett

Surrounded by a sprawling pastoral region, the town of Walgett is located at the junction of the Namoi and Barwon rivers. Known as the 'Gateway to the Opal Fields', Walgett has several opal fields located to the north-west of the town via the village of Cumberbah. It was on the Grawin opal field, north-west of Cumberbah, that the 'Light of the World' opal, which weighed close to half a kilo, was unearthed in 1928.

## Lightning Ridge

Lightning Ridge is also synonymous with opals. In the parched semi-desert of the State's north-west, this atmospheric mining town of about 3,000 people is famous for the fiery opals it produces. These are a very special kind of opal too, as Lightning Ridge is one of the world's few reliable sources of black opal, a glossy, luminous gem with flecks of red, green and blue that make the semi-precious stone radiate with an inner fire.

There are several places around town where you can shop for opals, and even watch as the raw, rough stone is cut and polished into objects of beauty.

Some of Lightning Ridge's former mines have been converted to tourism facilities, where visitors are taken underground on guided tours of the pick-and-shovel side of mining. The Walk

In Mine on Bald Hill also has a fossicking site where you can search for opals. There's an opal showroom in case you don't strike pay dirt.

A 'must see' attraction is the Black Queen, three hand-built limestone and ironstone cottages set on a mining lease. A distinctive feature of this museum are its walls, made from thousands of coloured glass bottles and aluminium cans. There is also a display of antique oil lamps.

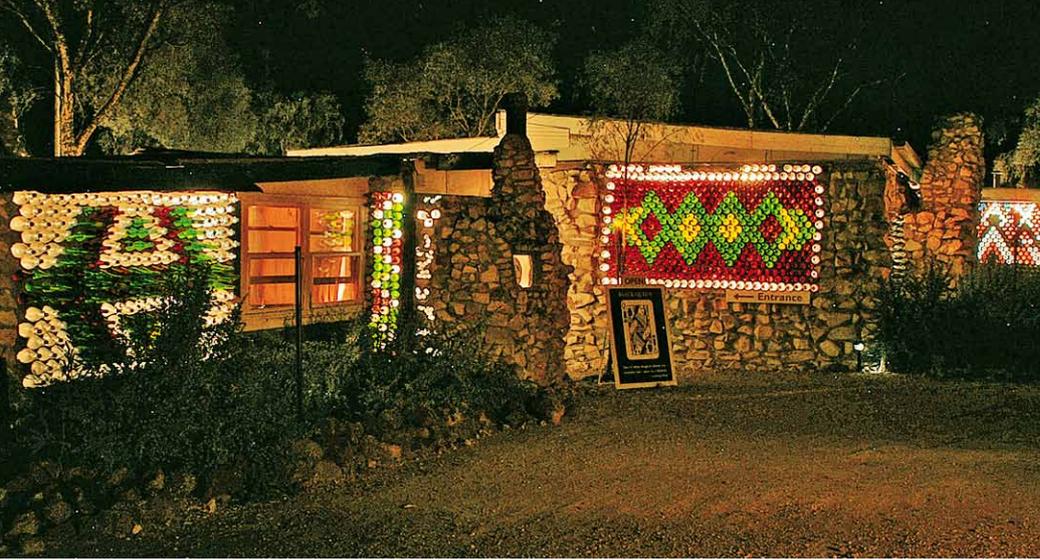
## Aquatic fun

At Lightning Ridge's Artesian Bore Baths, water from deep underground flows into an outdoor pool at a constant 42°C. The potassium-enriched water is said to be especially effective for rheumatic and arthritic pains. At the very least, it's a wonderful soak after a day of dusty digging.

During the summer months, entertain the kids at the town's full-sized Olympic pool and Water Theme Park.

## Aboriginal heritage

According to the traditional beliefs of the Aboriginal people of the region, the opals were created when a huge wheel of fire fell to earth and sprayed the countryside with brilliantly coloured stones. In fact, lightning is attracted by the ridge of brown ironstone on the town site, and this accounts for its name. The Aboriginal history of the region is on display at the Goondee Keeping Place, which



has an extensive collection of archaeological artefacts, hunting implements and other tools.

#### Pioneer heritage

The Heritage Cottage, which serves as a visitor information centre, offers a fascinating glimpse of the pioneering days in Lightning Ridge. Built in 1932 and occupied as a private dwelling, the simple weatherboard house bears witness to the hardships and ingenuity of frontier life with its bark dividing walls, dirt floors and chimney made of kerosene tins. The former town hospital, a modest three-room

house built in 1914, has been relocated to the rear of the cottage.

#### Burren Junction and Collarenebri

Burren Junction, which lies west of Wee Waa on the road to Walgett and Lightning Ridge, is known for its artesian bore bath. Flowing for more than a century, it's free for all to enjoy.

Collarenebri, a charming township north-east of Walgett, is a favourite spot for fishing. Enjoy a day on the banks of the Barwon River, and you'll find cod, yellow belly and catfish that seem keen to get themselves hooked.



**i** For more information about accommodation and things to do, go to [visitsw.com](http://visitsw.com) or contact

**Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre**  
on (02) 6829 1670

## EVENTS

**January:** Walgett B&S Ball. Put on your finery and get set for a great night out with the locals.

**Easter:** Lightning Ridge Great Goat Races. The highlight of the Ridge's festival calendar and a celebration that sees the town's unique character come to the fore.

**May:** Walgett Annual District Show. Town pride shines in this display of local produce, domestic arts, animals and bush skills.

**July:** Lightning Ridge Opal Festival is a vivid celebration of local culture and customs jam-packed with events for all. The event includes the Opal & Gem Expo, with a huge range of opals, jewellery, beads and gems as well as some of the world's best black opals.

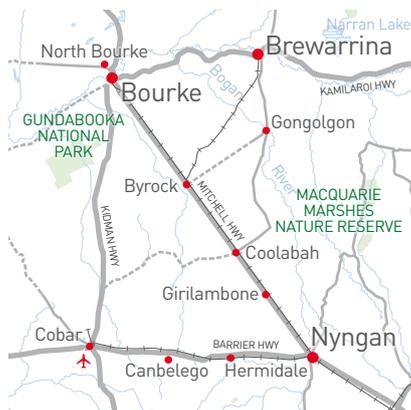
**August:** Cuddie Springs Archaeological Dig Open Day. This site near Carinda provides a fascinating window on Australia's ecological past, with experts on hand to answer questions.

**September:** Come-By-Chance Picnic Races. This tiny town with the intriguing name comes alive for this classic country race day.



# Bourke, Brewarrina and Nyngan

*These riverside towns are steeped in history and Aboriginal culture, guaranteeing every traveller a fascinating promise of adventure.*



## Bourke

Set on the banks of the Darling River, Bourke is a handsome, historic town that was once a thriving river port. In the late 19th century, wool from all over western NSW and southern Queensland was transported here, where it was loaded onto river steamers and shipped downstream. Much of the overland transport was conducted by Afghan camel drivers, who stationed up to 2,000 camels at a site near the present-day Bourke Showgrounds. Bourke thrived on the wool trade, and these days the town has a rich legacy of historic buildings.

Over the years, Bourke has attracted some fascinating characters. Henry Lawson lived here during the 1890s. The Carriers Arms Hotel, which still provides comfort and consolation to the thirsty traveller, became The Shearers Arms in one of his short stories. Fred Hollows, the famous eye surgeon, began treating trachoma in the local Aboriginal community in the 1970s. His grave can be found in Bourke Cemetery.

Surrounded by river red gums on the banks of the Darling River, the Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre is a sleek and sophisticated facility where you can explore the history, culture, flora and fauna of the Darling River and its surroundings. Drawing from the very different strands of the paddleboat trade, the pioneering pastoralists, the Aboriginal people of the region, the bush poets, the Afghan cameleers and the Cobb & Co. coaches, the centre uses the latest audiovisual techniques to weave a fascinating story that makes this an essential

experience for any visitor. Since environmental sustainability is a critical issue in the region, the centre addresses the possibilities for the future of the Darling River region.

## Brewarrina

Located at the head of the Darling River, at the point where the Barwon River becomes the Darling, 'Bre', as it's known to the locals, is infused with a mellow, languid charm that derives from its long and colourful history.

Brewarrina marks the deepest inland point that river steamers could reach. Off Bathurst Street is the town's original road bridge, the Barwon Bridge, which could be raised or lowered to allow steamers to pass. It's one of two surviving lift bridges in NSW.

Because of its large Aboriginal population, Brewarrina has special significance in the region. Here, on the Barwon River, stone traps used during the fishing season were the site of initiation ceremonies and exchanges that drew together several thousand Aboriginal people.

Estimated to be more than 40,000 years old, the traps consist of a series of stone weirs and ponds arranged to form a 'net'. The largest of their kind, these National Heritage-listed traps stretch half a kilometre along the river and indicate a sophisticated culture capable of executing complex engineering works. Guided by Aboriginal people, visitors can tour this site and other cultural areas, including Hospital Creek and the Ochre Beds.

## MUST SEE AND DO

Take a guided tour of the Brewarrina fish traps – 40,000-year-old stone walls that stretch across the Barwon River.

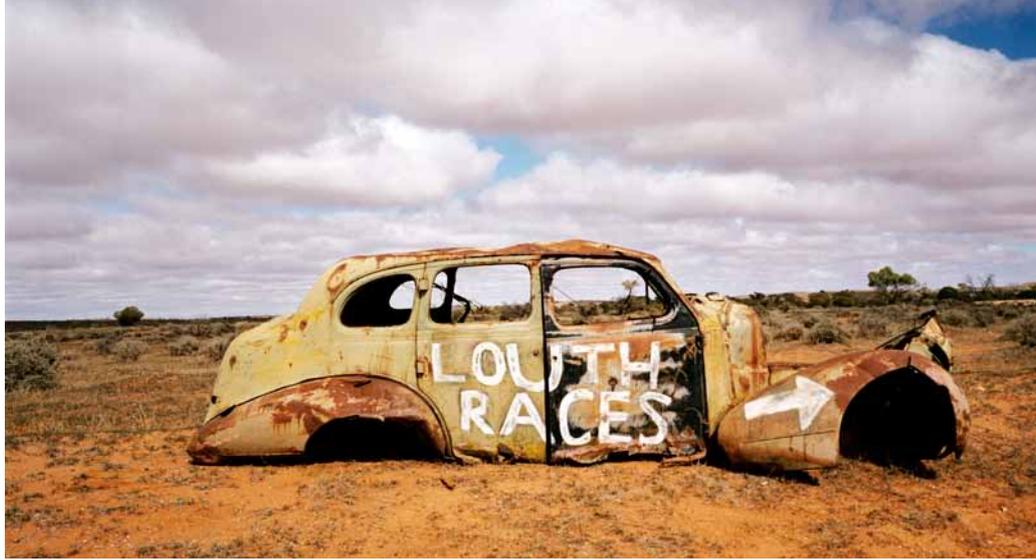
Ride aboard the paddleboat PV *Jandra* out of Bourke.

Don't miss the experience of a country race meeting. The Louth Races, held in August, are some of the best.

Pick up a 'Mud Map' from the visitor information centre and follow in the footsteps of Henry Lawson, or the explorers Sturt and Oxley.

Visit Nyngan Museum and learn about one of the State's biggest rescue efforts during the 1990 flood.

**above left to right:** Nyngan races (Australian Geographic); Wildflowers (Arthur Mostead); Wildflowers at Bourke (Robbi Newman); Car pointing to Louth Races (Mike Newling). **far right:** Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre.



## Nyngan

On the banks of the Bogan River, Nyngan is an energetic rural town. Set on the divide between Australia's interior and the Outback regions, Nyngan features a diverse range of flora and fauna from both areas. More than 200 bird species and a similar number of reptile, amphibian and animal species have been recorded here. Spend a leisurely hour at the Rotary Park near the Peter Sinclair Bridge and you'll probably spot several of these birds and animals.

The Nyngan Museum has a fascinating local history collection. Included in the museum

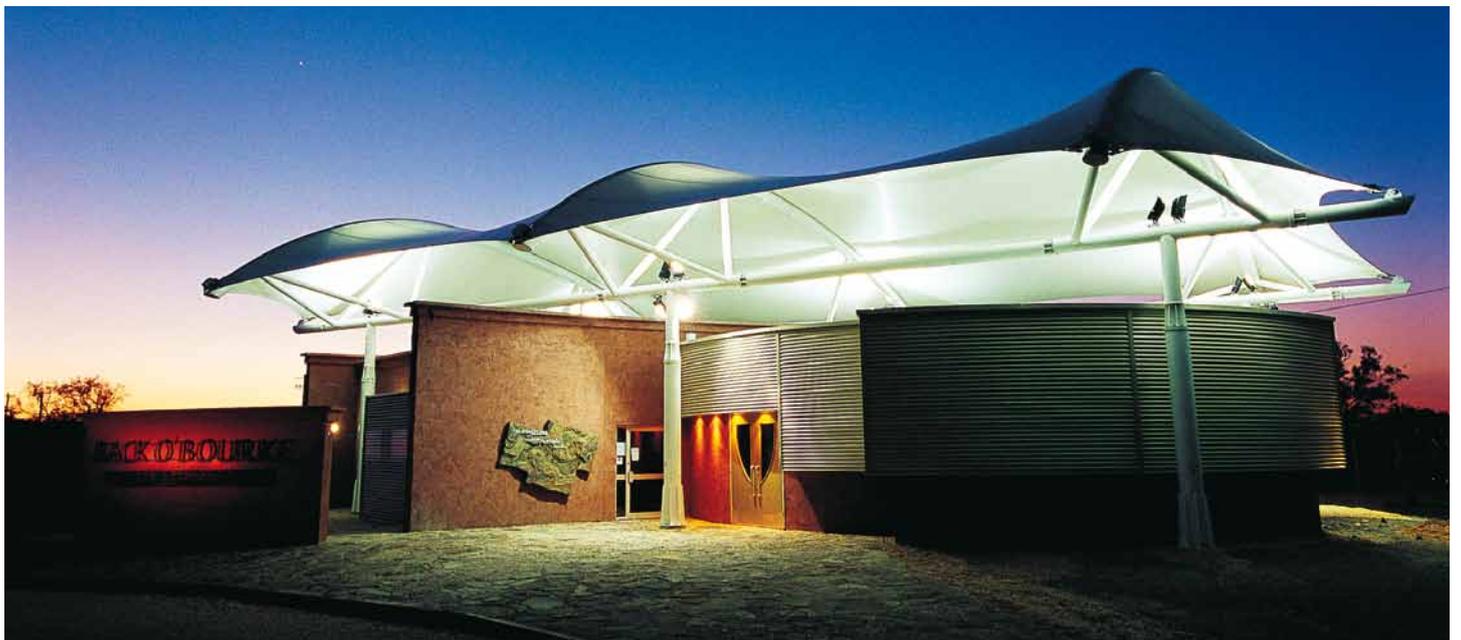
are exhibits that outline the 1835 journey of the explorer Major Mitchell, the first European to document a journey along the Bogan River. Railway displays and local domestic appliances that were once common on early sheep stations form part of the collection. From the modern era, there are dramatic illustrations of the huge flood of 1990 when the entire town was airlifted out of reach of the swelling waters of the Bogan River – one of the State's biggest rescue efforts.

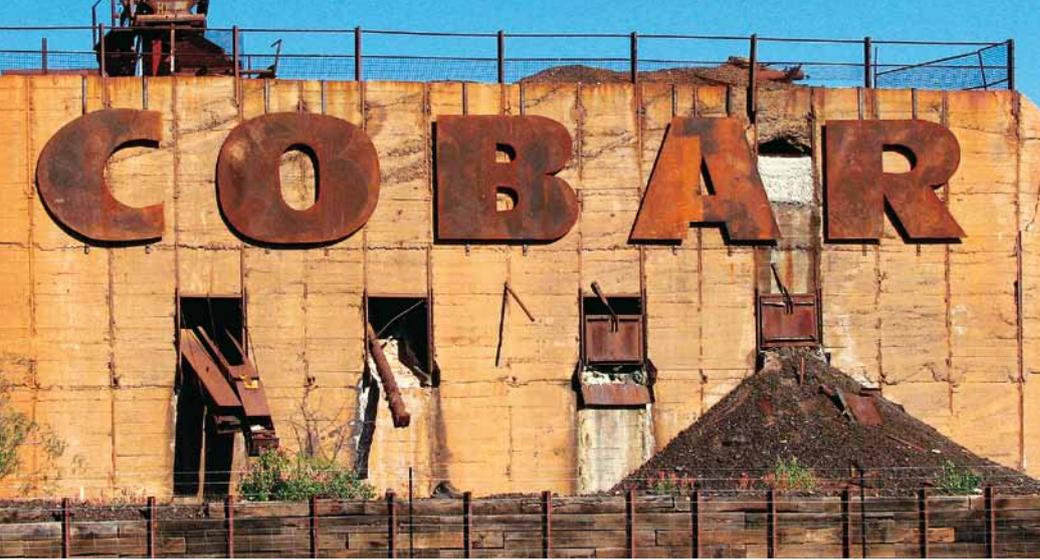
The Mid-State Shearing Shed is a proud local monument to Nyngan's shearing industry. Built by a group of retired shearers and housed

in a former railway shed, the facility has various displays highlighting the contribution that sheep and shearers have made to modern Australia, and also a number of large murals that showcase the talents of local artists.

 For more information about accommodation and things to do, go to [visitsw.com](http://visitsw.com) or contact

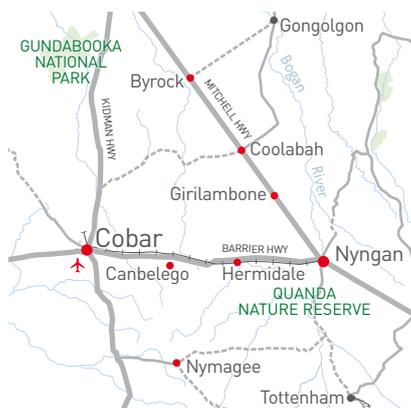
**Bourke Visitor Information Centre**  
on (02) 6872 1321.





# Cobar

*Complemented by the rugged beauty of its Outback surroundings, Cobar is a thriving town, justly proud of its long connection with the mining industry.*



## MUST SEE AND DO

Stroll down Cobar's side streets and discover the town's colonial treasures.

Stop off for refreshments at the longest iron-lace verandah in NSW – at the Great Western Hotel.

Explore the Aboriginal rock art at Mount Grenfell, where three main rock shelters feature more than 1,000 images.

Discover Cobar's history at the renowned Great Cobar Heritage Centre.

View the open-cut mine and Cobar's surroundings from Fort Bourke Hill Lookout, the site of the town's first gold mine.

**above left to right:** Old mine works, Cobar (Great Cobar Heritage Centre); Cobar Miners Memorial (Great Cobar Heritage Centre).  
**right:** Old miners' lamps (Australian Geographic).

## Rugged Beauty

At the crossroads of the Barrier Highway and the Kidman Way, Cobar is a flourishing town built around the thriving mining and pastoral industries. Mining commenced here in the 1870s and, since that time, the town has been an important source of copper, lead, silver, zinc and gold, its fortunes fluctuating with the rise and fall of demand.

Housed inside the former Administration Building of the Great Cobar Copper Mine, the Great Cobar Heritage Centre is an information centre and museum that provides an essential introduction to the town and its surroundings. With historic artefacts and displays chronicled in lavish detail, the centre explores the history of Cobar, from the time of the Ngiyampaa Aboriginal people to the first European pastoralists and miners and on to the mining industry of the present day. A magnificent timber staircase leads to the upper storey and various models and displays from the mining and pastoral industries, including a model woolshed and a stamper battery, a large metal machine used for crushing ore and extracting gold.

From the centre, the Cobar Heritage Walk takes in most of the town's historic buildings, which include a number of distinguished works from the Victorian and Edwardian eras, as well as the simple cottages built by the miners themselves. One of Cobar's architectural highlights is the Great Western Hotel. Built in 1898, it has an iron-lace verandah that's more than 100 m long, making it the longest in the

State. A detailed map of the Cobar Heritage Walk is available from the Great Cobar Heritage Centre.

### Around the town

On the outskirts of town is Cobar's weather station, one of nine of its kind in Australia. A half-hour tour, starting at 8.45am, includes the daily release of a weather balloon and a behind-the-scenes tour of the facilities.

Located 67 km north-west of Cobar on the Barrier Highway, the Mount Grenfell Historic Site boasts some outstanding examples of Aboriginal rock art. The site's three main rock shelters feature more than 1,000 images that depict human and animal figures painted with ochre, clay and other natural pigments. There are also some fine examples of hand stencils. At one time, these rock shelters were used as refuges by Aboriginal people, who were drawn here by the semi-permanent waterhole nearby.

Cobar is experiencing another gold and copper boom. The drive up Fort Bourke Hill offers a panoramic view over Cobar and its surrounding mines. Rising 60 m above the town, the hilltop is the site of the New Cobar Gold Mine, Cobar's first gold mine. Here a viewing platform affords a spectacular view of the mining operations.

**i** For more information about accommodation and things to do, go to [visitnsw.com](http://visitnsw.com) or contact

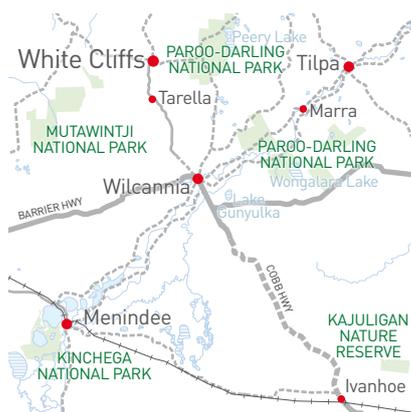
**Great Cobar Heritage Centre**  
on (02) 6836 2448.





# White Cliffs, Menindee, Tilpa and Wilcannia

*White Cliffs and the towns along the Darling River are rich with memories of a time when paddle-steamers opened up the dry heart of the continent.*



## MUST SEE AND DO

Follow in the footsteps of drovers and stockmen, and travel the Long Paddock on the Cobb Highway.

Visit White Cliffs' opal-cutters and jewellers in their dug-outs.

Admire the historic National Trust-listed centre-lift bridge over the Darling at Wilcannia.

Take a self-guided heritage walk around Menindee.

Have the quietest night's sleep of your life at White Cliffs – all accommodation is underground.

**above left to right:** Solar station, White Cliffs (Arthur Mostead); Tilpa Tilpa Pub (James McEwan); Menindee Lakes near Kinchega National Park (Sally Mayman); Four Wheel Driving from Tilpa to Wilcannia (James McEwan).

## White Cliffs

White Cliffs is one of the most unusual towns in Australia, although the reason might not be immediately obvious – because most of the town is underground. When opal mining began here in the 1880s, the shortage of building materials coupled with the fierce temperatures made life above the surface difficult. In the underground shafts, however, conditions were relatively comfortable. When they wanted to create a home, the miners simply put a door on the front of a mineshaft and set up house. Today White Cliffs has motels, B&Bs, museums and art galleries – all underground.

Australia's oldest commercial opal field, White Cliffs was the first to establish this country as the world's leading producer of this fiery stone. The opals mined here were far more vivid and vastly superior to opals mined in other countries, and White Cliffs opals quickly became popular, particularly in Europe, paving the way for the opening of opal fields in other parts of Australia. The galleries here are a great place to shop for locally mined opals that have been cut and set by expert jewellers.

### Solar energy

Since 1981, White Cliffs has been the site of a solar power station whose mirror-plated discs stand out from their stark surroundings like props in a science fiction movie. The experimental facility designed by the

Australian National University is no longer operational, but the 5-m dish-shaped collectors make dramatic subjects for photographers.

## Menindee

Menindee, the first town to be established along the Darling River, quickly became a port for the river steamers carrying cargoes of wool downriver. The town was an important outpost that made European settlement viable for the sheep stations scattered across the parched semi-desert of western NSW.

The Maidens Hotel, the second-oldest pub in the State still serving beer, underlines the town's long history. Its most famous visitors were the explorers Burke and Wills, who arrived by river steamer in 1860 during their ill-fated expedition to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

### Kinchega National Park

The arid land surrounding Menindee is greened by irrigation schemes from the Darling River, providing water for citrus groves and stone-fruit orchards. When water is in plentiful supply, the bird life in the area is sensational.

Menindee is also the gateway to Kinchega National Park, where the Darling forms a chain of natural lakes. Irrigation dams have broadened these lakes, where the dead river gums add a



stark, surreal edge to the landscape. Menindee Lakes is seen at its best when the setting sun turns the trees into silhouettes.

## Tilpa

Like many Outback towns, Tilpa is famous for its pub. The Tilpa Hotel is made entirely from corrugated iron and is covered with graffiti that encapsulates the dry wit of the bush.

Despite its small size, Tilpa is remarkable in several ways. When the Darling floods here, it spills across a floodplain that's 70 km wide. The town is also known for its bushranger heritage and has the shortest Heritage Walk in the country – just two signs, on opposite sides of the main street. The Tilpa cemetery is Australia's only site without a single grave.

## Wilcannia

Wilcannia was once a thriving port for the wool cargo that was shipped along the Darling by river steamers. Those days are long gone, but the town still has a legacy of magnificent stone buildings. Among its heritage buildings are the 1880 post office and its attached residence, the Club Hotel, which dates from 1879, and the Athenaeum Library, now the town's Rural Transaction Centre. Here you can consult National Parks Discovery Guides, who can arrange town tours and provide detailed histories of all the town's major buildings.

## Paroo-Darling National Park

Located 60 km from Wilcannia, Paroo-Darling National Park is a major wetland system, part of the only section with unregulated flow in the Murray-Darling river system. This free-flowing river sustains a rich and diverse ecosystem that is home to a large number of bird species, including black swans and broilgas. The area around Peery Lake, which has the most extensive bone midden deposits in the State, is an area of profound cultural significance for the Paakantji Aboriginal people.

## Ivanhoe

Located 200 km east of Menindee on the Cobb Highway, Ivanhoe is a peaceful town with an array of visitor amenities. The self-guided Ivanhoe Heritage Trail, which includes the town's major historic sites and public buildings, is a great way to explore this classic Outback town.

### DID YOU KNOW?

At the Tilpa Hotel, you can add your own wit to the graffiti wall for the price of a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Central Darling Shire is the largest local government area in NSW – over 53,000 square kilometres, similar in size to the State of Tasmania.

Wilcannia was the third-largest inland port in Australia in the 1880s, when it was known as the Queen City of the West.



# Broken Hill

*Discover a rich mining heritage and a vibrant arts community in the Silver City, where the great Australian Outback is right on your doorstep.*



## MUST SEE AND DO

At Mutawintji National Park see some extraordinary Aboriginal rock art that dates back 30,000 years.

Take a sunset stroll around the spectacular Living Desert Sculptures.

Tour the city's galleries, and take home a one-off souvenir.

Sample local culture in the Silverton Hotel and, while you're there, check out its movie memorabilia.

Rock on and view the mineral collection at the Albert Kersten GeoCentre, Broken Hill.

**above left to right:** Mining site, Broken Hill; Town centre, Broken Hill (Hamilton Lund); Pro Hart ant sculpture, Broken Hill (Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre); Living Desert Sculptures.  
**far right:** Vast horizon (Broken Hill Tourism).

## Silver City

The unofficial capital of NSW Outback, Broken Hill is known for its isolation as well as its rich silver deposits. It's the town that gave birth to BHP, now called BHP Billiton, the world's largest mining company.

In 1883, Charles Rasp, a boundary rider at Mount Gipps Station, found what he thought were tin deposits here. The tin turned out to be silver, and Rasp staked a mining claim of 16 hectares, setting up a syndicate of seven to buy all the surrounding land. The land held the richest silver-lead-zinc concentration ever found, a continuous ore body 7 km long and 220 m across. Today, mining still plays an important role in the working life of Broken Hill, and its historic significance is underlined by the huge piles of crushed rock that dominate the city.

## Artworks

The vast skies, sun-seared rocks and even the towering mining equipment of Broken Hill and its surroundings have inspired some of Australia's best known artists. The city has a large population of working artists and more than 25 art galleries – in fact, the Silver City has as many galleries as pubs.

The most illustrious artists are the so-called 'Brushmen of the Bush', a group of self-taught artists who drew their inspiration from Broken Hill and its harsh surroundings. Pro Hart, a famous Broken Hill native, was renowned for his colourful and often irreverent works.

His Wyman Street gallery houses a collection of the late artist's works as well as a significant private collection of European masters.

The most unusual gallery in Broken Hill is probably White's Mineral Art Gallery. Made to look like a mineshaft, with stout beams and rock walls, the gallery is the creation of Kevin White, who uses ground-up minerals to paint his pictures. There's even an art pub. Another monument to the artistic urge and located close to the heart of Broken Hill, Mario's Palace Hotel is an ornate Victorian building that dates from the town's mining heyday. Inspired by the city's wealth of creative talent, Mario himself painted a copy of Botticelli's *Venus de Milo* on the hotel's ceiling. The hotel featured in the film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

## Sculptures in the desert

About 10 km north of Broken Hill, in the middle of the Living Desert Reserve, is Sundown Hill, site of the Living Desert Sculptures. This group of 12 impressive sandstone sculptures was created by a group of international artists in 1993. The sculptures are particularly striking at sunset, as is the view from the ridge.

## Mining memorabilia

The Albert Kersten GeoCentre is an interactive museum and interpretive centre that unravels the history of the earth with a fascinating, hands-on insight into geology, mineral exploration and mining. Included in the centre's exhibits are several hundred artefacts from the



city's mining history as well as almost 2,000 specimens, including a 42-kg silver nugget.

### Outback classroom

The School of the Air has a total enrolment of only about 80, but its 'classroom' covers an area of more than one million square kilometres. Most of the school's students live on isolated sheep and cattle stations scattered across the Outback, and they use computers linked by satellite to communicate with their teacher and classmates, supplementing what would otherwise be a dull educational diet. Visitors are welcome to sit in on the class, held from Monday to Thursday from 8.30 to 9.30am, except for school and public holidays, but you must be at the school by 8.15am. Bookings are made through the Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre.

### Mutawintji National Park

Situated 130 km north-east of Broken Hill, Mutawintji is one of the State's most accessible and spectacular national parks. Its centrepiece is the Bynguano Range – a tortured landscape of scorched, tumbled sandstone, twisted cypress pines and tiny streams that is a favourite subject for the painters of Broken Hill.

An important cultural site and ceremonial place, the water holes of these ranges once attracted Aboriginal people, who created galleries of some of humankind's oldest art in the shelter of the rock overhangs. There are more than 300 archaeological sites dating

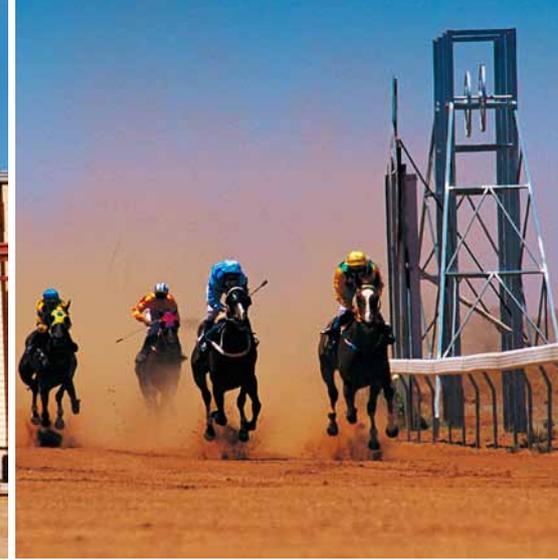
back 30,000 years scattered throughout the park, and the finest examples are found in the Mutawintji Historic Site.

The semi-permanent water holes in these ranges attract a diverse range of wildlife, so you can expect to see wallaroos or rock wallabies and shingleback lizards as well as a rich and colourful variety of bird life that includes corellas, ringneck parrots, nankeen kestrels and peregrine falcons.

### Silverton

The town of Silverton, 25 km west of Broken Hill, was once the largest township in the Barrier Ranges. The town boomed after silver was discovered here in the 1880s, and within a short period it had a population of 3,000, plus schools, banks, pubs and all the other public buildings that are typical of a thriving mining township. When the town's silver boom ended just a few years after it had begun, the





## DID YOU KNOW?

The Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery is the oldest regional gallery in NSW. Established in 1904 to meet the cultural needs of this isolated city, this is a great place to see some of the best known of the 'Brushmen of the Bush' artworks in a single location.

The collection's 1,300 images include works by local artists such as Pro Hart, Hugh Schulz, Eric Minchin and Badger Bates. Works by Johnny Bulun Bulun, Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, Trevor Nickolls and Anne Petyane are also featured. The gallery changes its exhibitions throughout the year.

miners moved to Broken Hill, and Silverton was virtually abandoned, its rich legacy of impressive buildings left to the elements.

If you happen to be in Silverton in the evening, drive 5 km to the lookout west of the town and watch the sun sink across the Mundi Mundi Plain – the land seems to stretch to eternity.

### The Outback 'Hollywood'

Today Silverton has a population of less than 70, but its photogenic qualities – blood-red earth and sunsets, solitary stone buildings and camels in the main street – have made it a favourite with visitors as well as film- and commercial-makers in search of authentic Outback scenery.

In fact Silverton is now known as the Hollywood of the Outback. The list of films made in and around the town includes *Mission Impossible II*, *Wake in Fright*, *A Town Like Alice*, *Dirty Deeds*, *The Adventures of Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, *Razorback* and *Mad Max II*.

Featured prominently in these cinematic works, the Silverton Hotel has a display of still photographs from films that have been shot locally. There's also a replica of Mad Max's V8 Interceptor parked outside.

The town has several resident artists, and except for the hot summer months, there are usually studios and galleries open.

At the corner of Burke and Loftus streets, the former Silverton Gaol is now the town's museum, which brings the story of Silverton's history vividly alive with an enthralling

collection of photographs, documents, household items and pastoral and mining equipment. The exhibits continue across the road at the old Court House.

### Daydream Mine

At the Daydream Mine, near Silverton, take a one-hour walking tour through the silver mine and gain an insight into the gruelling business of mining a century ago. Opened in 1882 and worked intermittently for almost a century, the mine employed 150 men and 20 boys who toiled by candlelight. The mine shafts were so narrow that the miners often had to lie on their sides to work.

**above left to right:** Silverton Hotel, Silverton (Mike Newling); Maiden Plate race day, Broken Hill (Australian Geographic); Road signs to Broken Hill, Tibooburra and White Cliffs; Milparinka historic sites.  
**far right:** Dingo fence, Cameron Corner (Broken Hill Tourism).

 For more information about accommodation and things to do, go to [visitsnw.com](http://visitsnw.com) or contact

**Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre**  
on 1300 557 036.



# Corner Country

*Bordering three states, this region offers visitors a vivid combination of history, wildflowers, rugged landscapes and classic Outback station life.*

## EVENTS

**March:** St Patricks Races. One of the Outback's premier social events, with an eight-race program fashion shows and live entertainment.

**May:** ARB Warn 4x4 Outback Challenge. One of the toughest 4WD challenges in the world, with highly modified vehicles churning through sand scrub over the nine-day event.

**May:** Agfair Broken Hill. A bi-annual event scheduled to take place in 2010. Held at Broken Hill racecourse, this event has all the colour, excitement and thrills of a traditional agricultural field day.

**June:** Silverado Shootout. Competitors dress in western gear to test their skills in an old-fashioned shootout.

## Tibooburra & Milparinka

Although Tibooburra has a population of about 100, the town is the major service centre for the region and has a range of facilities far greater than its size might suggest. Tibooburra is also the gateway to Sturt National Park.

Charles Sturt passed through Tibooburra in 1845, searching for Australia's inland sea – and dragging a whaleboat in his supply train. You'll see a full-sized replica of Sturt's boat in Pioneer Park. Burke and Wills travelled through the area in 1860 on their way from Menindee to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Today, Tibooburra has many stories to tell and you'll hear them at The Family Hotel. This pub is quirky enough from the outside but step inside, and you're in for a surprise. The walls have been decorated by some of the greats of Australian art – Russell Drysdale, Eric Minchin and Clifton Pugh, a one-time owner, whose paintings leave nothing to the imagination.

Milparinka's place in Australia's history is also connected to Sturt's travels – he spent six months camped nearby at Depot Glen. Today, visitors are keen to explore the area. Attractions in the award-winning Heritage precinct include the 1880s Albert Hotel and a historic walking track that starts at the hotel and includes the cemetery.

### Aboriginal heritage

For 25,000 years this region was home to the Wangkumara and Maljangapa



Aboriginal people, whose middens, quarries, camp sites, ceremonial sites and tool 'workshops' are scattered throughout the area. Tibooburra's Keeping Place Museum has a collection that includes tools and photographic material related to the Aboriginal history of the region.

## Cameron Corner

At Cameron Corner, 145 km north-west of Tibooburra, you can stand at the intersection of three States – NSW, South Australia and Queensland. In this vast area of sand dunes and granite outcrops is the famous 'dingo fence', the world's longest, running for 5,000 km along the SA and NSW border.



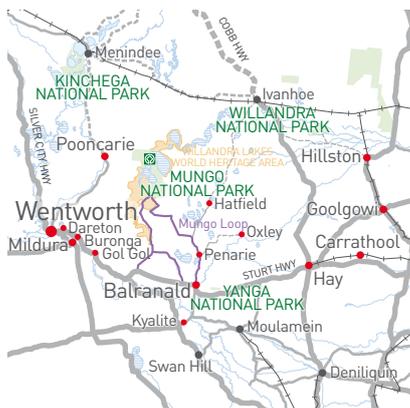
For more information about accommodation and things to do, go to [visitnsw.com](http://visitnsw.com) or contact

**Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre**  
on 1300 557 036.



# Wentworth and surrounds

*At the junction of Australia's two greatest rivers you'll discover a colourful river-boat history as well as iconic Australian Aboriginal sites.*



## MUST SEE AND DO

Say 'Hello, Darling' from the observation tower, where Australia's two greatest rivers – the Darling and the Murray – meet.

Stand beneath the canopy of 'The God Tree', an ancient river red gum that has survived the centuries, now stranded amid rolling red sand dunes.

Climb the red dunes of the prehistoric Perry Sandhills, the backdrop for many films and commercials.

**above left to right:** Murray and Darling River junction (Rob Blackburn); The "M.V. Loyalty" boat at the Darling River and Murray River junction (James McEwan); Perry Sandhills, Wentworth (Rob Blackburn); Harry Nanya Tours, Mungo National Park (Don Fuchs).

**far right:** Music Under the Stars at Perry Sandhills.

## The meeting of the waters

Situated at the confluence of the Darling and Murray rivers, Wentworth is the region's oldest town, with a fascinating history that includes explorers and the colourful river-boat trade.

The first European to arrive here was Charles Sturt, who sailed past in a whaleboat in 1830 on his second great river journey. On 23 January, he turned into 'a new and beautiful stream', and after a short investigative journey, he correctly identified this as the Darling River, a river he had explored the previous year. He resumed his voyage to the confluence point and named the 'broad and noble river' the Murray.

At the point where the two rivers meet, Junction Island Nature Reserve is a beautiful place for a stroll. A walking track around the reserve takes in a 'canoe tree', one of many scarred river red gums, from which the local Aboriginal people once cut bark for their canoes and utensils.

## Historical links

Settled around 1840, Wentworth became the centre of a thriving river trade as paddle-steamers towed barges loaded with wool and cargo downstream to the river ports in South Australia. By the time Wentworth was declared a municipality in 1879, it was the State's busiest inland port.

The expansion of the railway network later in the century spelt the end of Wentworth as a commercial port, but the town was left with much of its historic infrastructure intact.

Wentworth has a thriving houseboat industry, and there is no better way to explore the river than at a pattering pace in a floating home of your own, tying up to the riverbank at night and waking to the sounds of birds in the river red gums. No boat licence is required, and houseboats come in all possible configurations, up to luxury models that can sleep 12.

Built in 1879–81, the Courthouse and Old Wentworth Gaol are classified by the National Trust as the country's first Australian-designed courthouse and gaol. Last utilised as a prison in 1927, the gaol still held unwilling inmates until 1963, when it was used as extra classrooms for the Wentworth Central School.

## Local heroes

At the corner of Adelaide and Adams streets is a monument to an unusual local hero, the Ferguson TEA20 tractor. During the '1 in 100 years' 1956 flood, the Darling and Murray rivers peaked on the same day. Threatened by the flood waters for many months, the town was eventually saved by local returned soldiers, who used their Ferguson tractors to build a levee bank.

Another fine example of Wentworth's civic pride, the PS *Ruby* is a 1907 paddle-steamer purchased by the local Rotary Club in 1968. It was donated to Wentworth in 1996. After a total overhaul by volunteers, the Ruby was restored to her former glory and refloated in 2002. Once again she cuts a majestic figure on the river.



## Touring the area

The incredible array of produce from this area, combined with some exceptionally talented local chefs, make cellar door tastings and local restaurants a highlight of any tour. On the Silver City Highway between Wentworth and Mildura, Dareton is at the centre of the Coomealla Irrigation Area and is best known for its superior dried fruit and wine grapes.

In Buronga, the border town across the Murray from Mildura, the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens have attracted national and international attention. Just a few kilometres upstream is the town of Gol Gol, once a staging post for the legendary Cobb & Co. coaches.

Situated 116 km north of Wentworth, Pooncarie was once a thriving Darling River port, and to many locals it's still 'The Port'. Stop off to absorb the atmosphere and hospitality of this genuine country town.

## Rich Aboriginal heritage

Wentworth is the gateway to Mungo National Park, a World Heritage Area and a remarkable corner of the State.

Before the last Ice Age, much of this area was covered by the Willandra Lakes, and today these vast, dry lake beds provide a snapshot that has helped unravel some of the mysteries of Aboriginal life in Australia as much as 60,000 years ago. Aboriginal people have always lived along our great waterways. Their knowledge of the landscape and its plants and

animals has been passed down in stories over many thousands of years. Harry Nanya Tours, an Aboriginal tour operator, has earned many accolades for its excellent interpretative tours based on traditional knowledge. For anyone who wants a unique perspective on this special part of NSW Outback, this is the perfect choice.

 For more information about accommodation and things to do, go to [visitnsw.com](http://visitnsw.com) or contact

**Wentworth Visitor Information Centre**  
on (03) 5027 5080.

## EVENTS

**March:** Music under the Stars. Part of the Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival, this event takes place against the dramatic setting of the Perry Sandhills.

**August:** Wentworth Show. Country comes to town, with displays of riding skills and bushcrafts, animals, market stalls and local food and wine.

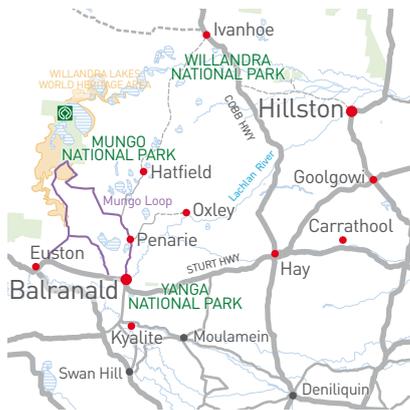
**September:** Mildura Country Music Festival. With 800 hours of free music on the program, this is the third biggest country music festival in Australia.





# Balranald and Hillston

*This area sums up the best of Outback country life, including wildlife, a wonderful history and a warm-hearted welcome.*



## MUST SEE AND DO

Take a snapshot of the Walls of China in Mungo National Park.

Stroll across Hillston's swing bridge for access to a nature reserve and walking tracks on the northern side of the Lachlan River.

Go back in time – visit the Heritage Park in Balranald's Market Street.

Take binoculars and a guidebook and go birdwatching on the local waterways.

Spend a night in Willandra National Park – stay at the Homestead or camp site.

Picnic or try your luck at fishing on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River.

**above left to right:** Homebush Hotel in Penarie, just outside of Balranald (Hank van Apeldoorn); Tour through Yanga National Park (Rob Blackburn).  
**far right:** Perry Sandhills, Wentworth (Don Fuchs).

## Balranald

A riverfront oasis surrounded by saltbush and mallee plains, Balranald was the original settlement on the lower Murrumbidgee River. Today this former paddle-steamer port offers reminders of its pioneering past.

Several historic buildings – including the old gaol, the relocated Wintong school house, the historic museum and the start of the town's Heritage Walk – have been incorporated into the town's Heritage Park.

Balranald also boasts important ecological credentials. Situated at the south-west corner of the 217,000 hectares of the lower Murrumbidgee floodplain, which extends all the way to Maude, the area is the home of the endangered Southern Bell or 'Growling Grass' frog. The floodplain, which includes the largest remaining wetlands in the Murrumbidgee Valley, also contains 35,000 hectares of red gum forest.

The Balranald Common Bird Trail passes through remnant black box, red gum and lignum vegetation habitats and is an ideal place to see some of the unique local birdlife.

The area's red gum forest, along with the Yanga Station Homestead, 8 km south-east of Balranald, are central features of the Yanga National Park.

Close to the Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Murray, Wakool and Edward rivers, Balranald's Five Rivers Fishing Trail provides ideal locations for keen fishing folk.

To the north-west of Balranald is the acclaimed Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area. At the centre of this series of dry lake beds is Mungo National Park, famous for its eroded Walls of China and spectacular archaeological finds.

## Hillston

On the banks of the Lachlan River, Hillston is a small town with a colourful history that's been given new life by an extensive irrigation system. Now a major fruit-producing region, its orchards and citrus groves stand in stark contrast to their parched surroundings. Here you can experience some of the beauty of the Outback, including Sturt's Desert Pea and majestic river red gums, while at Lake Woorabinda, you'll see kangaroos, emu and an abundance of birdlife.

Located in Keats Street – also known as the Kidman Way – the Hillston Historical Museum has an intriguing collection of machinery, household goods and a restored late 19th-century homestead.

The Red Dust and Paddy Melons Gallery showcases the paintings, sculptures and craft work of the Hillston Creative Arts Council.

**i** For more information about accommodation and things to do, go to [visitsnw.com](http://visitsnw.com) or contact

**Balranald Visitor Information Centre** on 1800 444 043.





above: Camping at Sturt National Park (Sally Mayman).

# Visitor safety tips

## Outback roads

Road conditions in NSW can vary from multi-lane motorways to single-lane roads. Some roads may be gravel or compacted earth, with narrow and unstable edges. Be sure to drive slowly on narrow bridges and be aware of hazards such as flooded roads. Be on the alert for livestock that may wander onto the roads and take extra care around sunrise and sunset when native animals are active.

## Drive safely

In NSW, seatbelt-wearing is compulsory as are child restraints and baby capsules. It is illegal to leave a child unattended in a vehicle. For motorcyclists, crash helmets are mandatory.

The signposted speed limit is the maximum driving speed allowable. Reduced speeds at school zones, road works and other special areas apply. The blood alcohol limit for drivers is 0.05% and zero for L- and P-plate drivers.

Always check road and weather conditions prior to travelling into remote areas and advise local authorities of your intended itinerary. Storms and heavy rains can occur during summer and flooding may isolate towns. Two-way radios, satellite or CDMA mobile phones are strongly recommended when travelling in the region as normal mobile phones may not work.

Visitors need to take extra care when driving in NSW Outback – drive at a safe speed, especially on unsealed roads, and when passing other vehicles. Slow down for oncoming vehicles, moving off to the left when large vehicles such as road trains approach.

A major cause of death and injury is driving while fatigued. Avoid driving between midnight and dawn and ensure you are well rested before undertaking a long trip. Remember: stop, revive

and survive. Take a break every two hours and share the driving whenever possible.

Always check distances that need to be travelled and carry appropriate levels of fuel and water with you. On major highways fuel stops are rarely more than 200 km apart and it should not be necessary to carry spare fuel (check the services grid on page 28 for fuel stops). However, if you carry extra fuel, ensure that it is kept securely outside the vehicle and stored in approved containers.

Ensure your vehicle is mechanically sound and that your spare tyre is at the correct pressure. You may want to carry other spares, including radiator hoses and fanbelts, along with a good tool kit.

If your vehicle breaks down, do not leave it. Your vehicle will provide you with shelter until help arrives and it will be easier for a search party to spot.

## Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone

As a way of protecting valuable crops, NSW Outback has a Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone. Road signs will tell you when you are approaching the zone. Please be sure to dispose of all fruit and vegetables before entering the zone.

## Weather conditions

When travelling in the Outback, always take clothing that's appropriate for changeable weather conditions. Summer temperatures can be very high, but you may also experience low temperatures, particularly overnight. It is easy to get sunburnt in the Outback. In some areas shade is scarce and extra sun protection is required – wearing a broad-brimmed hat and sunscreen is recommended year-round.

## In the bush

If embarking on a bushwalk, always tell someone where you are going and be prepared for unexpected weather. Seek information on conditions from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service or visitor information centres prior to departure.

## Water safety

Be careful when swimming in isolated locations in rivers, creeks and waterholes, especially if you have children with you. Do not dive off rocks into natural pools that may be too shallow or you may sustain permanent spinal injuries. Don't swim after dark, or when under the influence of alcohol.

## More information

National Parks and Wildlife Service Visitor Centres, visitor information centres and local police can provide up-to-date information on park rules and regulations, road and weather conditions and fire bans. Telephone the National Parks and Wildlife Service on 1300 361 967.

## Outback etiquette

Many roads in the Outback cross station properties and you may need to use station gates on your travels. The rule of the Outback is to leave gates in the same way you find them. If the gate is closed, ensure you close it after you drive through – it's important for the protection of valuable livestock.

Be aware that not all station owners are amenable to visitors travelling through or camping on their properties. Call into the homestead and ask the owner's permission before setting up camp, and never take firearms or pets onto properties without permission.

**In an emergency, telephone 000.**

# Getting there

## Sydney to Broken Hill

**Distance:** 1,167 km west of Sydney  
**Car:** approx. 14 hours  
**Train:** 13.5 hours from Sydney. CountryLink offers a direct service from Sydney to Broken Hill every Monday. The service from Broken Hill to Sydney operates on Tuesday. CountryLink also operates a daily service from Sydney to Dubbo. Transfers from Dubbo to Broken Hill are via coach. The Indian Pacific operates twice a week (in both directions) – an 18-hour trip.  
**Air:** Regional Express operate flights to Broken Hill via Dubbo daily.

## Melbourne to Broken Hill

**Distance:** 834 km north-west of Melbourne  
**Car:** approx. 9 hours  
**Air:** Qantas and Regional Express operate flights from Melbourne to Mildura. Transfers from Mildura are via coach.  
**Bus:** Victorian Government V/Line Bus runs from Melbourne to Mildura Sunday to Friday. Connecting buses run three times a week from Mildura to Broken Hill.

## Adelaide to Broken Hill

**Distance:** 512 km north-east of Adelaide  
**Car:** approx. 5.5 hours  
**Train:** The Indian Pacific operates twice a week – a 7-hour trip.  
**Air:** Regional Express operate a daily direct service to Broken Hill – a one-hour flight.

## Brisbane to Broken Hill

**Distance:** 1,546 km south-west of Brisbane  
**Car:** approx. 16.5 hours  
**Train:** Services from Brisbane to Sydney operate twice a week. Refer to Sydney information for connections to Broken Hill.  
**Air:** Daily flights from Brisbane to Sydney. Refer to Sydney information for connections to Broken Hill.

## Travelling time and distance table

	ADELAIDE	Albury	Batemans Bay	Bathurst	Bourke	BRISBANE	Broken Hill	CANBERRA	Coffs Harbour	Cooma	Cowra	Dubbo	Eden	Gosford	Goulburn	Griffith	Katoomba	MELBOURNE	Moree	Narrandera	Newcastle	Nowra	Port Macquarie	SYDNEY	Tamworth	Tenterfield	Tweed Heads	Wagga Wagga	Wentworth	Wollongong
ADELAIDE	•	9.4	14.3	12.5	11.5	22.05	5.35	12.3	20.2	12.5	11.3	12.35	14.05	16	12.4	8.5	14	8.05	16.4	8.5	16.35	14.05	19.05	14.4	16.25	19.35	22.4	9.5	4.55	14.05
Albury	868	•	5.4	5.3	10.35	16	10.1	4.5	15.45	5.2	4.1	7.5	5.4	7	5.05	3.15	6.5	3	12.3	2.1	10.1	6.5	13.4	8	12.5	13.25	20.35	1.45	6.3	6.55
Batemans Bay	1306	489	•	4.25	10.5	14.2	13.25	2.05	9.25	2.35	4.2	6.3	2.05	4.6	1.55	6.5	4.2	8.2	10.35	5.5	5	1.2	7.3	3.1	8.05	11.3	13	4.4	11	2.05
Bathurst	1174	472	333	•	6.5	11.5	10.4	3.1	8.35	4.3	1.2	2.3	6.2	3.25	2.3	4.5	1.2	8.35	6.35	4.3	4.2	3.35	6.5	3	5.05	8.3	11.35	4.2	9.1	3.35
Bourke	1042	871	867	574	•	10.5	7.05	9.05	12.1	10.3	6.3	4.15	11.55	9.25	9.3	7.1	8.05	11.55	5.5	8	9.55	11	11.4	10.05	7.45	8.4	13.4	9.15	8.55	10.1
BRISBANE	2024	1393	1216	974	928	•	16.5	14.1	5	15.3	12.2	9.35	16.3	10.3	13.2	14.1	12.2	18.35	5.3	13.5	9.45	13.3	7.4	11.15	6.45	3.2	1.25	14.2	118.35	12.15
Broken Hill	512	830	1135	958	619	1546	•	13.15	16.2	13.45	9.2	8.25	13.35	13.2	13.3	8.25	12	8.55	12.1	7.5	14	15.15	15.5	14.15	11.55	14.1	19.5	9.5	2.45	15.2
CANBERRA	1164	347	151	257	748	1208	1103	•	12	1.25	2.2	5.1	3.05	4.4	1.2	4.55	4	6.5	9.5	3.5	6.25	3.05	9.55	4.15	9.35	11.2	16.5	3.25	9.2	3.1
Coffs Harbour	1808	1102	816	699	951	404	1337	821	•	13.25	9.5	8.5	11.3	5.35	10.4	16.1	7.3	15.1	5.4	12.05	5.45	10.25	2.25	8.05	4.25	3.3	4.5	14.45	16.45	9.45
Cooma	1199	385	245	366	859	1316	1141	111	932	•	3.4	6.35	1.5	5.2	2.45	6.2	5.2	6.55	11.15	4.05	7.35	4.3	11.2	5.4	11	12.35	18.15	3.55	9.15	4.35
Cowra	1068	366	336	106	542	1070	873	194	804	305	•	2.4	5.2	4.4	2.3	3.3	2.35	7.2	6.5	3.1	5.35	3.55	8.05	4.2	6.1	9.35	12.4	3	7.55	3.55
Dubbo	1167	575	498	205	349	859	755	398	650	509	212	•	8.05	5.3	5.25	5	3.5	9	4.4	4.25	5.4	6.25	8.2	5.5	4.25	7	12.2	5.25	9.1	5.55
Eden	1279	454	206	534	1015	1421	1309	284	1020	169	473	684	•	6.15	4	7	6.25	6.05	12.1	5.55	7.1	3.25	9.4	5.2	10.2	13.35	15.05	4.55	11.5	4.2
Gosford	1431	614	350	235	793	869	1178	342	470	455	341	425	556	•	3.7	8.2	2.15	10.5	7.1	7.2	1.1	2.5	3.45	1	4.2	7.45	9.5	6	12.1	2
Goulburn	1180	375	146	187	776	1114	1137	94	727	205	210	426	372	252	•	5.1	3	7	10.05	4	5.05	1.45	8.35	2.55	8.15	10.25	15.3	3.4	9.5	1.5
Griffith	803	262	505	421	526	1272	738	349	1131	479	315	390	639	630	377	•	6.05	5.2	9.4	1.1	10.35	6.55	14.05	8.35	9.25	11.35	17.15	2.25	5.1	7
Katoomba	1273	571	328	98	672	1007	1057	318	612	427	204	304	533	148	224	520	•	9.5	7.05	5.5	3.1	3	5.4	1.4	5.35	9	11.1	5.35	10.3	2.2
MELBOURNE	727	310	759	775	976	1680	834	656	1386	620	675	821	554	923	672	457	880	•	13.05	4.35	10.55	8.25	13.2	9	12.5	16	19.05	4.55	6.55	8.25
Moree	1545	953	877	540	457	479	1065	776	458	887	591	378	1063	556	804	768	573	1120	•	8.3	7	11	6.55	8.45	3.25	3.25	8.2	10.05	13.5	10.1
Narrandera	825	71	486	402	664	1252	767	343	1036	379	296	394	548	611	340	97	501	428	773	•	7.55	5.25	10.25	6	8.1	11.2	14.25	1.05	5.15	5.25
Newcastle	1516	706	437	320	777	797	1163	425	402	536	426	408	642	91	331	735	234	1008	503	695	•	4.5	3.4	2.3	4	7.1	10.35	8.45	13.4	4
Nowra	1306	506	119	287	892	1095	1262	225	709	336	336	523	324	232	131	508	211	798	800	485	313	•	8.2	2.35	8	10.1	15.15	5.25	10.3	1.05
Port Macquarie	1750	952	672	555	930	560	1316	671	170	782	661	629	876	326	577	981	468	1242	495	930	252	559	•	6.1	3.55	4.55	7.15	12.15	15.35	7.3
SYDNEY	1370	572	275	201	781	937	1167	291	552	402	307	412	479	74	197	607	103	862	633	549	156	159	402	•	6	8.25	12.4	6.35	11.1	1.3
Tamworth	1508	922	666	403	648	575	1034	693	303	804	498	347	870	336	59	737	436	1163	273	736	284	581	282	414	•	3.25	7.55	9.5	12.5	7.1
Tenterfield	1778	1147	963	700	747	275	1299	954	285	1063	797	613	1168	635	860	1025	733	1434	299	1006	525	845	439	685	299	•	3.05	11.4	16.2	9.25
Tweed Heads	2034	1427	1115	955	1019	104	1588	1146	325	1257	1052	901	1320	767	1052	1296	911	1689	593	1262	727	1034	495	877	554	256	•	17.45	19	14.2
Wagga Wagga	919	130	389	329	665	1274	858	254	1014	283	223	390	451	514	273	196	428	457	768	99	604	404	850	470	737	1030	1291	•	6.15	5.3
Wentworth	402	571	985	840	797	1689	266	824	1473	863	735	831	1034	1097	844	468	941	572	1209	492	1177	969	1411	1034	1172	1446	1696	583	•	10.35
Wollongong	1317	519	196	246	818	1020	1275	238	635	349	347	449	401	157	144	521	148	810	726	497	239	79	485	80	507	770	960	417	982	•

100 km = 62 miles 100 miles = 160 km

Approx. travelling time between towns

Approx. distance between towns (km)

# Traveller Information

Use this services guide to plan your trip through towns in Outback NSW

	Barranald	Brewarrina	Bourke	Broken Hill	Cobar	Coolabah	Emmdale	Euston	Girilambone	Hemidale	Hillston	Ivanhoe	Kyalite	Lightning Ridge	Little Topar	Louth	Menindee	Milparinka	Mount Hope	Nyngan	Pooncarie	Penarie	Silverton	Tibooburra	Tilpa	Walgett	Wanaaring	Wentworth	White Cliffs	Wilcannia
<b>FUEL</b>																														
Petrol	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
LPG	●		●	●	●			●			●			●			●			●						●		●		●
Diesel	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>VISITOR SERVICES</b>																														
Visitor information	●	●	●	●	●	●					●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Hotel	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Motel	●		●	●	●	●		●			●	●		●			●			●	●			●			●	●	●	●
Caravan park	●	●	●	●	●		●	●			●	●	●	●			●			●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Camping	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cabins	●		●	●	●			●			●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●		●	●	●			●	●	●	●
B&Bs	●	●	●	●	●						●	●	●	●		●			●		●						●		●	●
Farmstay	●	●	●	●	●											●	●	●		●			●	●	●	●	●	●		●
<b>SERVICES</b>																														
Mobile phone <sup>1</sup>	●	●	●	●	●	●	CDMA CDMA			CDMA	●	CDMA	●	CDMA	●	CDMA	CDMA			●		CDMA	CDMA	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Internet access	●	●	●	●	●					●			●							●							●		●	
Churches	●	●	●	●	●			●		●	●	●		●		●	●			●				●		●		●	●	●
Post office	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●			●			●	●			●		●	●	●	●	●
Banking	●	●	●	●	●						●	●		●			●			●				●			●	●	●	●
ATM	●	●	●	●	●						●	●		●			●			●				●			●	●	●	●
EFTPOS	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Motorhome dump	●			●	●			●						●													●		●	
Mechanical repairs	●	●	●	●	●			●		●	●	●		●			●	Minor		●							●	●	●	●
Boat ramp	●	●	●					●					●							●								●		●
Food 7 days	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Takeaway	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Restaurant	●	●	●	●	●			●			●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●		●	●	●			●	●	●	●
Supplies	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●		●		●	●		●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>EMERGENCY</b>																														
Hospital	●	●	●	●	●						●	●		●			●			●				●		●	●	●	●	●
RFDS	●	●	●	●	●	●					●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Police	●	●	●	●	●			●			●	●		●			●			●				●		●	●	●	●	●
NRMA	●	●	●	●	●						●	●		●						●						●		●		●

1. CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access): Wireless, ultra-high frequency digital telephone. Refer to your mobile carrier for details.

2. RFDS (Royal Flying Doctor Service) provides emergency medical services in the Outback.

All efforts were made to ensure this service directory was accurate at the time of printing. Always check with visitor information centres for current information.

## Accredited Visitor Information Centres

When you are on the road, look for the information symbol . Call into a NSW Accredited Visitor Information Centre for advice on all you need to know about places to stay and things to see and do in the local area. Opening hours are 9 am to 5 pm, every day.

### Surrounding areas

**Dubbo Visitors Centre & Events Bureau**  
Telephone: 1800 674 443  
Cnr Macquarie & Erskine St, Dubbo  
dubbo.com.au

**Griffith Visitor Information Centre**  
Telephone: 1800 681 141  
Cnr. Banna & Jondaryan Ave, Griffith  
griffith.com.au

**Hay Visitor Information Centre**  
Telephone: 1300 307 090  
407 Moppett Street, Hay  
hay.nsw.gov.au

**Narrabri Shire Visitors Centre**  
Telephone: 1800 659 931  
Newell Highway, Narrabri  
visitnarrabri.com.au

### Outback NSW

**Balranald Visitor Information Centre**  
Telephone: 1800 444 043  
80 Market St, Balranald  
balranald.nsw.gov.au

**Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre**  
Telephone: 1300 557 036  
Cnr Blende & Bromide Sts,  
Broken Hill  
visitbrokenhill.com.au

**Bourke Visitor Information Centre**  
Telephone: (02) 6872 1321  
Kidman Way, Bourke  
visitbourke.com.au

**Great Cobar Heritage Centre**  
Telephone: (02) 6836 2448  
Barrier Highway, Cobar  
cobarvisitnsw.com.au

**Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre**  
Telephone: (02) 6829 1670  
Lions Park, Morilla Street,  
Lightning Ridge  
lightningridgeinfo.com.au

**Wentworth Visitor Information Centre**  
Telephone: (03) 5027 5080  
66 Darling St, Wentworth  
visitwentworth.com.au



**above, top to bottom:** Camel trekking, Silverton (Hamilton Lund); Sturt Desert Pea (Australian Geographic); Sign to Mungo National Park Visitor Centre (Don Fuchs).  
**back cover, top row:** Kangaroos, Sturt National Park; Cobar Miners Memorial (Great Cobar Heritage Centre); Mining site, Broken Hill.  
**middle row:** Murray and Darling River junction (Rob Blackburn); Road signs to Broken Hill, Tibooburra and White Cliffs; Mutawintji National Park (Tourism Broken Hill).  
**bottom row:** Woolshed at Kinchega National Park; Lightning Ridge opals; Solar station, White Cliffs (Arthur Mostead).

## Find out more on the web



Looking for information about holidaying in NSW?

To help plan a great trip to any part of NSW, go to our website: [visitnsw.com](http://visitnsw.com)

More than 5,000 accommodation choices are listed, from boutique hotels and resorts to beach getaways and country retreats. The best attractions in the State are also here – the museums, art galleries, wineries, zoos and

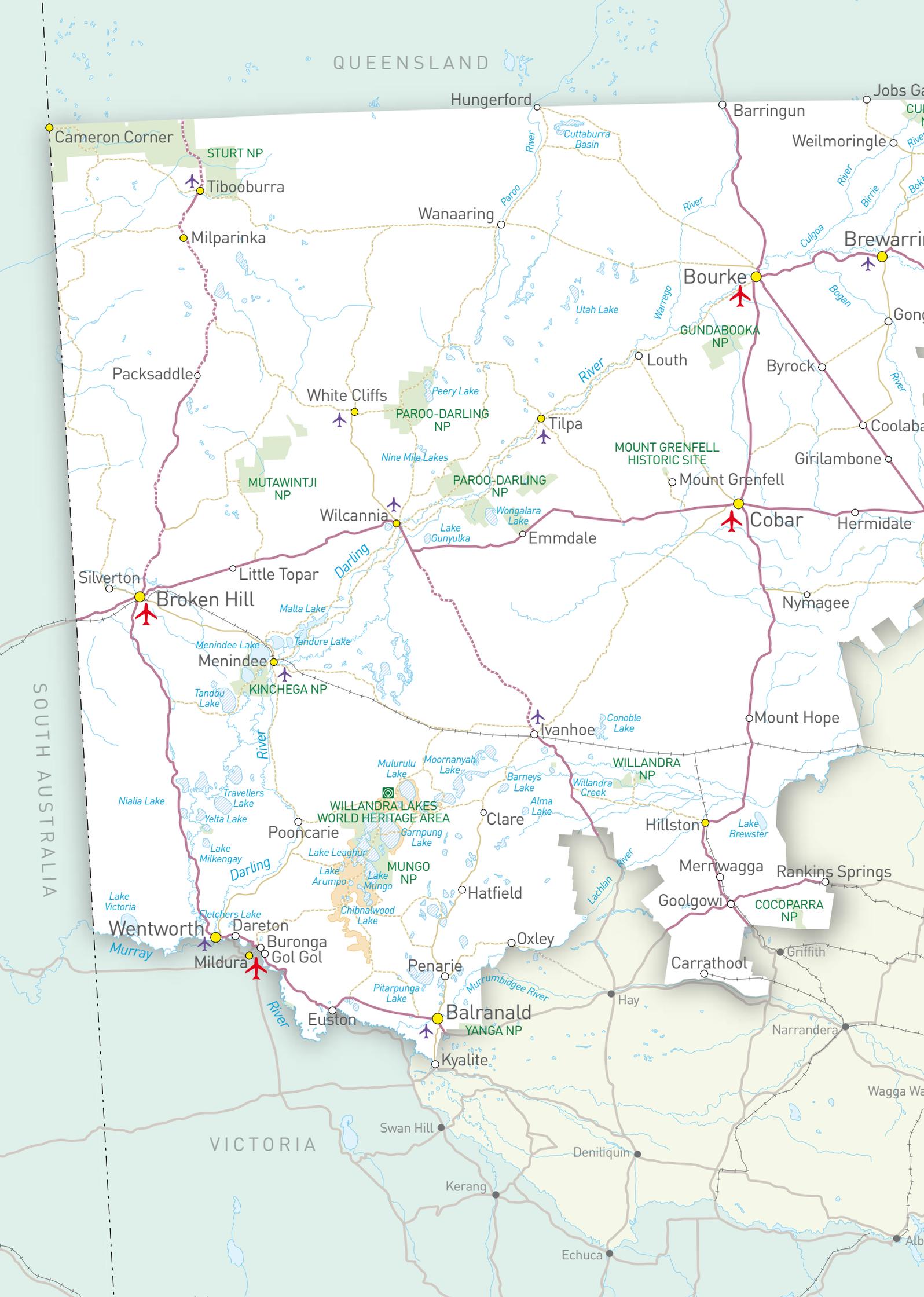
national parks that add so much to your trip. And there are 500 tours to help you get out and explore the best of NSW with the experts.

At any time of the year there are great local events to enjoy, from wine shows, music festivals, rodeos and campdrafts to whale-watching and sporting and cultural celebrations. Check the events section on the website for full details.

And if you want to plan a driving holiday, then follow our driving directions to plan your travel route around NSW.

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QUEENSLAND

Hungerford

Barrington

Jobs G

Cameron Corner

STURT NP

Tibooburra

Weilmoringle

Wanaaring

Milparinka

Brewarri

Bourke

GUNDABOOKA NP

Packsaddle

White Cliffs

Tilpa

Byrock

MUTAWINTJI NP

PAROO-DARLING NP

MOUNT GRENFELL HISTORIC SITE

Wilcannia

Emmdale

Cobar

Hermidate

Silverton

Broken Hill

Nymagee

Little Topar

Menindee

KINCHEGA NP

Ivanhoe

Mount Hope

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Nialia Lake

WILLANDRA LAKES WORLD HERITAGE AREA

WILLANDRA NP

Travellers Lake

Pooncarie

Clare

Hillston

Yelta Lake

MUNGO NP

Alma Lake

Lake Brewster

Lake Milkengay

Lake Leagbur

Barneys Lake

Merriwagga

Lake Victoria

Lake Arumpo

Willandra Creek

Rankins Springs

Fletchers Lake

Lake Mungo

Lachlan River

Goolgowi

Dareton

Chibnalwood Lake

Oxley

Carrathool

Mildura

Pitarbunga Lake

Penarie

Griffith

Buronga

Murrumbidgee River

Kyalite

Narrandera

Gol Gol

Euston

Balranald

Hay

Yarra River

Swan Hill

Kerang

Denitiquin

Murray River

Echuca

Wagga Wa

VICTORIA

Echuca

Alb



### ZONE LEGEND

Freeway/Highway			unsealed
Main Road			unsealed
Railway			
Metropolitan area			
National Park			NP
Nature Reserve			NR
Lake			
Seasonal Lake			
World Heritage Area			
Airport commercial			
Airfield chartered or private			

### SCALE



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