



Darling River Run

Discover where the Baaka takes you!



One of Australia's great driving adventures
Discover the Baaka Darling River and experience outback NSW

Joshua Smith/DPIE

Visit Menindee

Founded in the 1850s, Menindee was the first town to be established on the Darling River and is now a great base for exploring the attractions of far-west NSW.

GETTING THERE

From Wilcannia, drive 145km along unsealed Wilcannia-Menindee Road East or 153km along unsealed West Wilcannia Road to Menindee. Although slightly longer, West Wilcannia Road is more popular, and you'll have lake views at around the 90km mark.

THINGS TO DO

Menindee Visitor Information Centre

Menindee Visitor Centre is a great place to stop and plan your visit. Discover the town's fascinating history along the heritage trail and ask the staff about the day's tours before you head off to explore.

Kinchega National Park

Just over 30min from Menindee, Kinchega National Park boasts an incredible variety of birdlife, haunting river red gums and a landscape of ever-changing colours.

Explore historic Kinchega Woolshed, which saw 6 million sheep shorn during its 97 years of operation. Stop by the ruins of Old Kinchega Homestead to see what life was like for people living on this remote sheep station.

River Lady Cruise

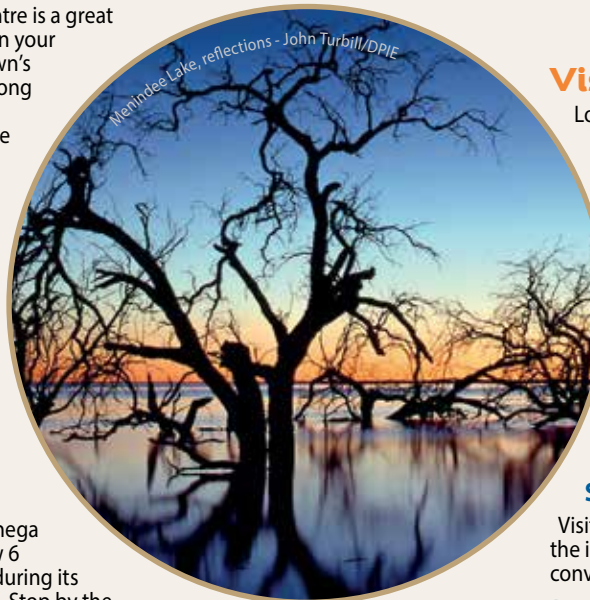
Take a cruise on the celebrated River Lady and experience the beauty of Menindee's inland waterways from the unique perspective of the Darling River.

Visit Pooncarie

Pooncarie is a town with an interesting history. It was first settled by Europeans in the 1840s when they took up illegal grazing runs on crown land. In 1860, Burke and Wills stopped here on their ill-fated expedition to the north west. By 1889, the town was a thriving river port.

GETTING THERE

From Menindee, take Pooncarie Road for 123km. Around 85km of this journey is on unsealed road. Alternatively take the western route through Kinchega National Park. Unsealed road for 184kms (via Pooncarie Bridge).



THINGS TO DO

Mungo National Park

Mungo National Park is part of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area. Covering most of an ancient dry lakebed, it's filled with breathtaking landscapes and Aboriginal artefacts dating back over 40,000 years.

See the park's dramatic formations, explore its pastoral heritage and book a tour with an Aboriginal guide to walk the Mungo lunette, also known as the Walls of China.

Visit Wentworth

Located where the Murray and Darling Rivers meet, Wentworth is the region's oldest European heritage settlement. It was here that Captain Charles Sturt named the Murray River after recognising the end of the Darling on 23 January 1830.

You can explore more of Wentworth's fascinating history by following the self-guided heritage trail from the Visitor Information Centre.

GETTING THERE

From Pooncarie, drive 123km along unsealed High Darling Road/Low Darling Road. Alternatively, you can take the East route along sealed Pooncarie Road for 118km.

THINGS TO DO

See the Murray-Darling River confluence

Visit Junction Park and climb the observation tower to see the impressive sight of the mighty Murray and Darling rivers converging.

Perry Sandhills

Formed by thousands of years of wind erosion, the continuously shifting red dunes of prehistoric Perry Sandhills are a sight to behold. In the dunes stands The God Tree, an ancient river red gum that has survived the centuries. Over time, sand has completely covered the trunk of the tree, so you can now stand within its grand canopy.



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An outback adventure

We acknowledge the Aboriginal Elders past, present and emerging, of the river country whose lands and waters you will travel through.

Take an unforgettable journey through the NSW Outback and immerse yourself in nature, history and culture on the Darling River Run. This is your chance to experience the best of the bush on a spectacular drive that follows the third longest river in Australia.

Visit Brewarrina

Your adventure begins here, the point where the Barwon and Darling Rivers meet. Experience the culture, arts and history Brewarrina has to offer.

THINGS TO DO

Brewarrina Visitor Information Centre

Stop a while, you'll be surprised! Hear about the must-see hidden gems of Brewarrina, a known mecca for fishing and birdwatching. Brewarrina has many self-guided attractions, including heritage listed Mission, Ochre beds, Barwon Bridge, the 'Wandering Jew' Wreck, and Hospital Creek Massacre Site.

Ancient Fish Traps

Baiame's Ngunnhu – this elaborate network of rock weir pools called the Ngunnhu was built to trap fish over 40,000 years ago and is still used today. The area is of great significance place for Aboriginal people. A guided tour with the Aboriginal Cultural Museum is a must-do while staying in Brewarrina.

Goodooga Artesian Springs

Find our hot Springs 130kms north of Brewarrina, open 24/7. Experience bathing under a million stars, and breathtaking sunsets whilst also absorbing healing waters straight from the Great Artesian Basin. Accessible baths, showers, toilets, electric BBQ, gym and dump point are available.

Visit Bourke

The soul of the outback can be both seen and felt in Bourke, a vibrant regional hub of history and culture set on the banks of the Darling River.

GETTING THERE

From Brewarrina, drive 98km along the sealed Kamilaroi Highway, then cross the Wayne O'Mally bridge over the Bogan River. There's limited river access until around 40km east of Bourke.

Alternatively, follow the Culgoa River for 139km from Brewarrina to Bourke. Take the Kamilaroi Highway east from Brewarrina, turn left onto Twin Waters Road then left onto unsealed West Culgoa Road. Take the left onto the Mitchell Highway to reach Bourke.



THINGS TO DO

Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre

The Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre paints a true picture of the harsh yet resilient outback. Discover the area's rich history through captivating visual and auditory installations, and stop by the Visitor Centre to gather information and itineraries for your stay.

PV Jandra

Cruise along the mighty Darling on the modern replica paddleboat, the PV Jandra, and discover what life was like at the height of the river trade.

Gundabooka National Park

Just 30min from Bourke lies Gundabooka National Park. From Bourke travel south towards Cobar for 49km then turn right onto the unsealed road. See Aboriginal rock art at the Mulgowan (Yappa) Aboriginal Art Site or walk to the top of Mount Gunderbooka for sweeping 360-degree views of the park.

Visit Louth

Louth was established in 1859 when Irishman T.A. Mathews built a pub to cater for the passing river trade and the Cobb & Co coaches. The pub now serves as the town centre for the 25 or so people that live here.

GETTING THERE

From Bourke, drive along unsealed Louth Road for 99km. Alternatively, take Toorale Road for 126km, of which 104km is unsealed.

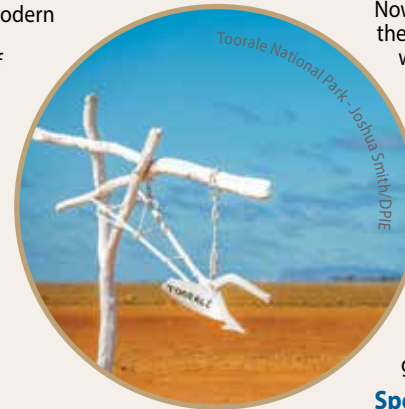
THINGS TO DO

The Celtic Cross

The 8m-high Celtic Cross was commissioned by T.A. Mathews in 1869 as a memorial to his first wife Mary. At sunset each evening, the cross reflects the sun's light back into the village. On August 19, the anniversary of Mary's death, the reflection can be seen from where their home once stood.

The annual Louth Races

The iconic Louth Races are held in August each year, drawing massive crowds keen to capture the magic of the outback. See events such the great damper bake-off and the Gundabooka Golf Challenge and bring an empty stomach for the morning teas and hearty camp oven lunches.



Toorale National Park

Less than an hour's drive from Louth lies the unique floodplain landscapes of Toorale National Park. Discover the area's pastoral history at Toorale Homestead and pitch your tent at Darling River campground (Yapara Paaka Thuru) for an incredible night under the stars.

Visit Tilpa

The welcoming town of Tilpa was originally a busy river port. Nowadays, it's home to several interesting monuments including the shortest heritage walk in Australia and the only cemetery where no-one is buried.

GETTING THERE

From Louth, drive along unsealed Darling River Road East for 93km to Tilpa. Alternatively, you can take unsealed Toorale Road for 91km, which will give you some great access points to the river.

THINGS TO DO

Dunlop Station

Legendary Dunlop Station was the first shed in the world to complete sheep shearing by mechanical means in 1888. You can tour the stone homestead, 45-stand shearing shed and general store, which date back to the 1880s.

Spend a night in the outback

For the ultimate outback experience, stay the night at one of Outback Beds' diverse range of accommodations. Located all along the Darling River, you'll make new friends and create memories that will last a lifetime.



Visit Wilcannia

Wilcannia is a hub for some of Australia's most talented Aboriginal artists.

Once the third-largest port on the Darling River, Wilcannia boasts an impressive number of heritage sandstone buildings. It also has a centre-lift bridge, built in 1896 and now classified by the National Trust.

GETTING THERE

From Tilpa, drive along unsealed West Tilpa Road for 128km to Wilcannia. Alternatively, travel 147km along unsealed East Tilpa Road for some of the most scenic driving along the Darling River.

THINGS TO DO

Paroo-Darling National Park

A place of outstanding natural beauty, Paroo-Darling National Park transforms into a spectacular inland playground for waterbirds when Peery Lake is full. For an authentic bush camping experience, spend the night by the river at Coach and Horses campground.



Darling River Run

Discover where the Baaka takes you!

Discover the majesty of the mighty Darling

Immerse yourself in the nature, history and culture of the NSW Outback on an unforgettable road trip along the Darling River Run.

Your adventure will take you from Brewarrina to Wentworth, following the mighty Darling for nearly 950km. As you meander along the river, you'll see incredible landscapes, encounter local wildlife and discover areas rich in Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Along the way you'll pass iconic outback towns brimming with friendly Aussie spirit and rich heritage. From Brewarrina, you'll travel to Bourke, Louth, Tilpa, Wilcannia, Menindee and Pooncarie before reaching the historic town of Wentworth where the Darling River meets the Murray River.

Be sure to call into the visitor information centre at each town to discover the best vantage points, local attractions and available tours.

OUTBACK CONTACT NUMBERS

Dial **Triple Zero (000)** in an emergency. Please note you'll need mobile reception to call Triple Zero (000).

24-hour medical assistance

Royal Flying Doctor Service (08) 8088 1188

Emergency rescue service

NSW State Emergency Service (SES) 132 500

Road information

Visit council websites or Live traffic NSW.

Wildlife rescue

RSPCA Broken Hill Vet (08) 8087 7753

Wildlife Rescue (RRANA) 0429 204 416

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Baaka** is the Aboriginal name for the Darling River.
- **Fish can climb ladders**
Fishways (or fish ladders) help increase native fish numbers by letting fish move along rivers to feed and breed.
- **The Darling River was originally called Salt River**
Charles Sturt initially called this river Salt River after he tried to water his horses in 1829 and found that the water was salty. Salty water enters the Darling River at several points from natural salty underground flows.
- **Tilpa means 'floodwaters' in the local Aboriginal Baakindji language**
Floodplains fill when the river breaks its banks. The floodwaters here can slowly spread for tens of kilometres due to the flat nature of the western catchment. They rejuvenate plant and animal life and allow fish to breed.
- **80% of Murray cod are found within 1m of a snag**
Snags are trees or branches that have fallen into the river. Fish use them as habitats, feeding and spawning sites, and shaded rest areas. Snags that were removed during the days of the paddle steamers are now being reintroduced to restore native fish numbers.
- **471 animal species and 1351 plant species live in the western catchment**
One species is the iconic red-tailed black cockatoo, which is listed as vulnerable. They nest in the hollows of mature river red gums along the Darling.

STAY SAFE IN THE OUTBACK

Outback NSW is a place of extremes. Temperatures can reach up to 50°C in some places and nights can be cold. Before you set out, make sure you're prepared for your visit.

- Always tell someone where and when you are travelling and when you expect to arrive.
- Be prepared for limited mobile and internet reception.
- Take frequent rests every 2-3 hours to avoid driver fatigue.
- Avoid driving at sunrise and sunset. This is the time when fatigue sets in. It's also the time when many native animals will be most active.
- Approach livestock with caution when driving. They may venture onto the road and can cross when you least expect it.
- Do not leave children or animals in your vehicle.
- If you go swimming, beware of submerged hazards, river snags and strong currents. Blue-green algae may be present if river levels are low.



km distances in blue indicate the Darling River Run route for both sides of the Darling River.

DRIVING ON UNSEALED ROADS

The roads along the Darling River Run are mostly unsealed and conditions can change quickly. Follow these tips to stay safe:

- Rain or flooding can cause roads to close. Before you set out please check for any road closures. Check out the relevant council website for details, or go to a local Visitor Information Centre.
- Consider driving 10-20km below the speed limit so you can adjust to changing road conditions.
- Slow down and move to the left when you see an oncoming vehicle. This will reduce stone damage to your car and reduce dust that can impair visibility. Drive with your lights on.
- Slow down when approaching cattle grids as some may be raised or dropped. They can be hazardous if you cross them at speed.
- Don't drive on closed unsealed roads.
- If you need to stop, pull over to the side of the road.
- Take care if you venture off the main road. The side drain may look dry but could be wet underneath.
- Approach creek crossings with caution. They may be washed out and can damage your car.

Outback Beds Accommodation & Farm Stays

- A. Food & Huts by Mt Oxley
- B. Trilby Station
- C. Kallara Station
- D. Nelia Gaari Station
- E. Bindara Station
- F. Garraways Cottage

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Discover our comprehensive directory of over 150 locations for accommodation, where to eat, attractions, activities, supplies, services and more.



1. Goodooga Great Artesian Springs
2. Culgoa National Park
3. Fish Traps - Brewarrina Aboriginal Cultural Tours
4. Four Mile Camping Reserve
5. PV Jandra
6. Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre
7. Toorale National Park
8. Gundabooka National Park
9. Mary Mathews Monument
10. Peery Lake, Paroo-Darling National Park
11. Wilcannia Sandstone Architecture
12. Menindee Lakes
13. Kinchega National Park
14. Mungo National Park
15. Murray & Darling River confluence



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