

Darling River Run

Discover where the Baaka takes you!

OUTBACK NSW

www.thedarlingriverrun.com.au



EXPERIENCE THE MAJESTY OF THE DARLING RIVER IN OUTBACK NSW

The Darling River Run from Walgett to Wentworth is a spectacular journey stretching nearly 950 kilometres following alongside the mighty Darling. This memorable road trip is rich in history of pioneering days, showcases impressive scenery and highlights indigenous history and culture. Meandering alongside the Darling River be sure to keep your eyes peeled for an abundance of flora and fauna endemic to the region.

The majority of the Darling River Run comprises of unsealed roads either side of the river that follow the Darling from its beginnings 40 km East of Bourke to the southern reaches where it joins the Murray. En route, bridges cross the river system at the townships of Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke, Louth, Tilpa, Wilcannia, Menindee, Pooncarie and Wentworth, allowing travellers to choose their own path – East or West, Upper or Lower.

The Darling River is the third longest river in Australia and is the lifeblood of Outback NSW. Only a small percentage of the Darling's water comes from within the Western Catchment - the majority of "fresh" enters the system from Queensland rains (rain falling west of the Divide in Queensland). Be sure during your drive that you call in to the Visitor Information Centres in each township and chat with the friendly staff who are knowledgeable on the best vantage points, local attractions, river history and updated road conditions.

OUTBACK TRAVEL AND DRIVING

- Take your time and rest frequently to avoid driver fatigue. Plan to stop every 2-3 hours for safety and to see more of the area.
- Try avoiding driving at sunrise and sunset as wildlife is always present. It is the time when fatigue sets in and also many native animals will be the most active. Your car lights can mesmerize and blind animals causing them to go in any direction.
- Be aware when approaching livestock as they will not necessarily keep off the road and can cross when you least expect it.
- Outback NSW can be hot so it is essential that you do not leave children or animals in your vehicle. Protection from sunburn is also important.
- Due to the remote roads, always advise someone where and when you are travelling and when you expect to arrive.
- Be prepared for limited mobile phone and internet reception.
- Swimming—be aware of submerged items, river snags, strong currents and debris. If river level is low, blue-green algae may be present.
- Fishing permits are required in New South Wales.

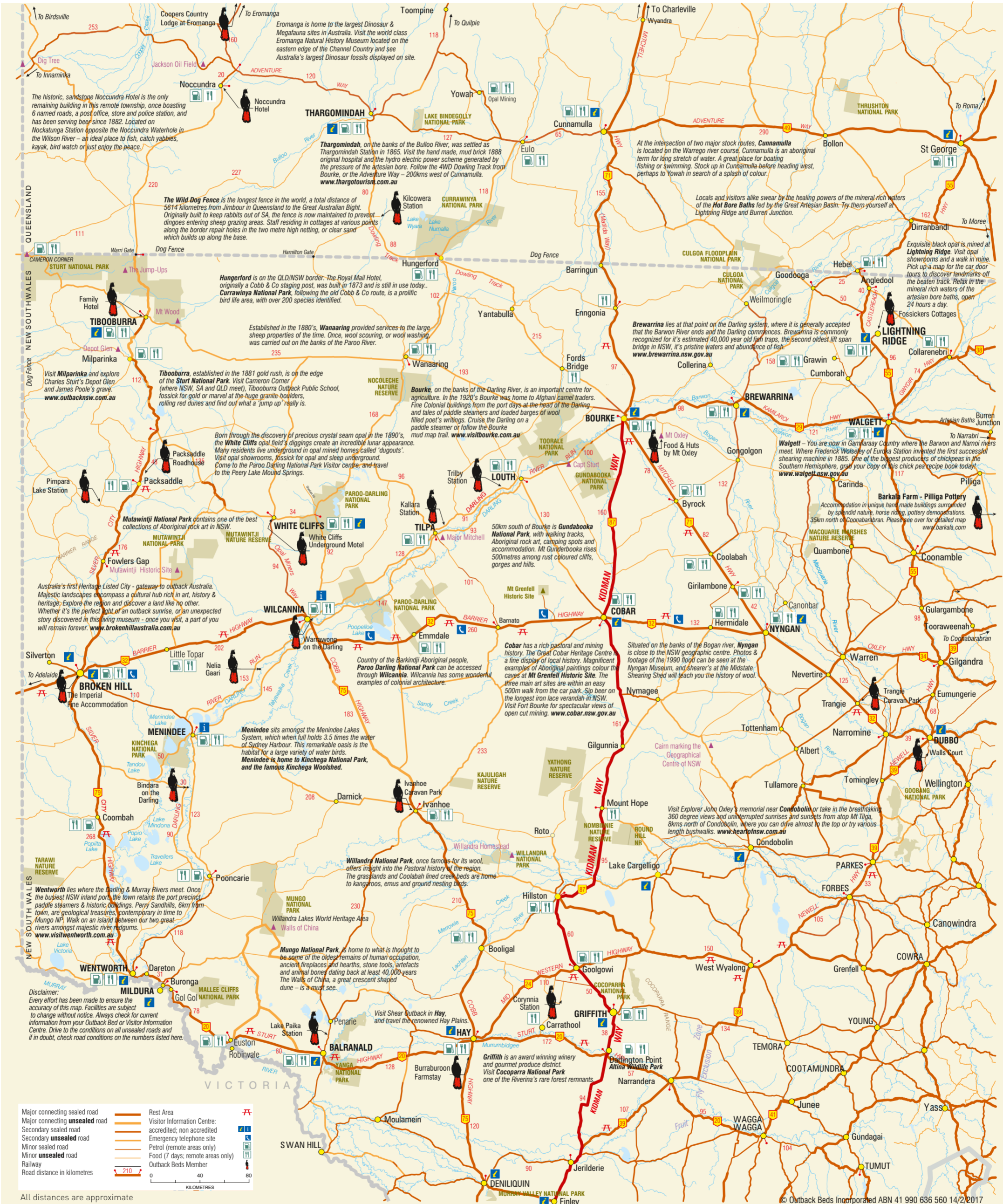
MUST SEE'S

SOME MUST SEE'S WHILST IN OUTBACK NSW

- LIGHTNING RIDGE BORE BATHS
- BAIAME'S NGUNNHU FISH TRAPS - BREWARRINA
- PV JANDRA AND BACK O' BOURKE EXHIBITION CENTRE IN BOURKE
- MARY MATHEWS MONUMENT IN LOUTH
- SHINDY'S INN, LOUTH AND THE TILPA PUB
- TOORALE AND GUNDABOOKA NATIONAL PARKS
- HISTORIC WILCANNIA BUILDINGS
- THE SCULPTURE SYMPOSIUM IN BROKEN HILL
- MENINDEE LAKES
- PERRY SAND HILLS AT WENTWORTH

FIVE DARLING RIVER FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW

- 1. Fish can climb ladders**
Fishways (or fish-ladders) provide passage for fish normally stranded at the base of a weir. Fishways allow them to move along rivers to feed and breed, resulting in increased native fish numbers.
- 2. Charles Sturt originally named the Darling 'Salt River'**
Salinity is not a new phenomenon. Natural underground flows of salty water enter the Darling at several points including the one where Sturt attempted to water his horses in 1829. Salinity is being managed by protecting and rehabilitating waterways and native vegetation, changes in land and water management and engineering works.
- 3. Tilpa means 'floodwaters' in the local Aboriginal Baakindj language**
Floodplains operate in large flood events where the river breaks out of its banks. Due to the flat nature of the Western Catchment, floodwaters can slowly spread for tens of kilometres across the landscape, rejuvenating the plant and animal life of the area and enabling fish breeding to occur.
- 4. 80% of Murray Cod are found within 1 metre of a snag**
Snags are the inland equivalent of marine reefs. Trees and branches that have fallen into the river provide habitat, feeding and spawning sites and shaded resting areas. The Western CMA has re-introduced snags to encourage native fish numbers, replacing the snags removed during the days of the paddle-steamers.
- 5. The Western Catchment supports 471 animal species and 1,351 plant species**
One species is the iconic Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus banksii), which is listed as a vulnerable species. They nest in the hollows of mature River Red Gums (Eucalyptus camaldulensis) along the Darling.



OUTBACK BEDS LOCALITY GUIDE

BALRANALD Lake Paika Station	0427 206 801
BOURKE Food and Huts by Mt Oxley	0427 815 385
BROKEN HILL The Imperial Fine Accom	08 8087 7444
COONABARABRAN Barkala Farmstay/ Pilliga Pottery	02 6842 2239
DUBBO Wall's Court B&B	02 6887 3823
EROMANGA, QLD Cooper's Country Lodge	07 4656 3084
HAY/GRIFFITH Corynnia Station	02 6993 5807
HAY/DENILIQUN Burrauroon Farmstay	02 6993 0669
IVANHOE Ivanhoe Caravan Park	02 6995 1187
LIGHTNING RIDGE Fossilcreek Cottages	02 6829 0066
LOUTH Tribby Station	02 6874 7420
MENINDEE/POONCARIE Bindara on the Darling	0429 917 412
MILPARINKA Milparaka Lake Station	08 8091 2524
NOCCUNDR, QLD Noccundra Hotel	07 4655 4317
PACKSADDLE Pack saddle Roadhouse	08 8091 2539
THARGOMINDAH, QLD Kilcowera Station	07 4655 4960
TIBOOBURRA Family Hotel	08 8091 3314
TILPA Kallara Station	02 6837 3964
TRANGIE Trangie Caravan Park	02 6888 7511
WHITE CLIFFS Underground Motel	08 8091 6677
WILCANNIA Warralong on the Darling	1300 688 225
WILCANNIA/MENINDEE Nelia-Gaari Station	088091 6496

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police / Ambulance / Fire 000
 Royal Flying Doctor Service 08 8088 1188
 Central Darling Shire Road Report
 08 8091 5155
 RSPCA 08 8087 7753
 Wildlife Rescue (RRANA) 0429 204 416
 SES SES 132500

UNSEALED ROADS:

- Generally the unsealed roads are in good condition however you should always drive to the conditions. Please check for road closures prior to your departure as rain or flooding can cause roads to close.
- Drive at a safe speed (10-20kms less) as conditions on unsealed roads can change quickly.
- If approaching another vehicle, slow down and move to the left as this will reduce stone damage to your car and also reduces dust that can impair vision to what is behind their vehicle and yours.
- Slow when approaching cattle grids as some may be raised or dropped and can be hazardous if crossing at speed.
- Don't drive on closed gravel roads.
- If stopping for some reason, pull over and don't stop in the middle of the road. If venturing off the main road, take care as the side drain may look dry but maybe wet underneath.
- Approach creek crossings with caution... they may be washed out and can cause serious damage to your car.
- In the event of wet weather check in with the Bourke Visitors Centre for the latest on road closures. Ph: 0268 721321.

