



# Day by Day

Kenny Mac      Aug - Sep 2019  
Solo MTB with a BOB trailer

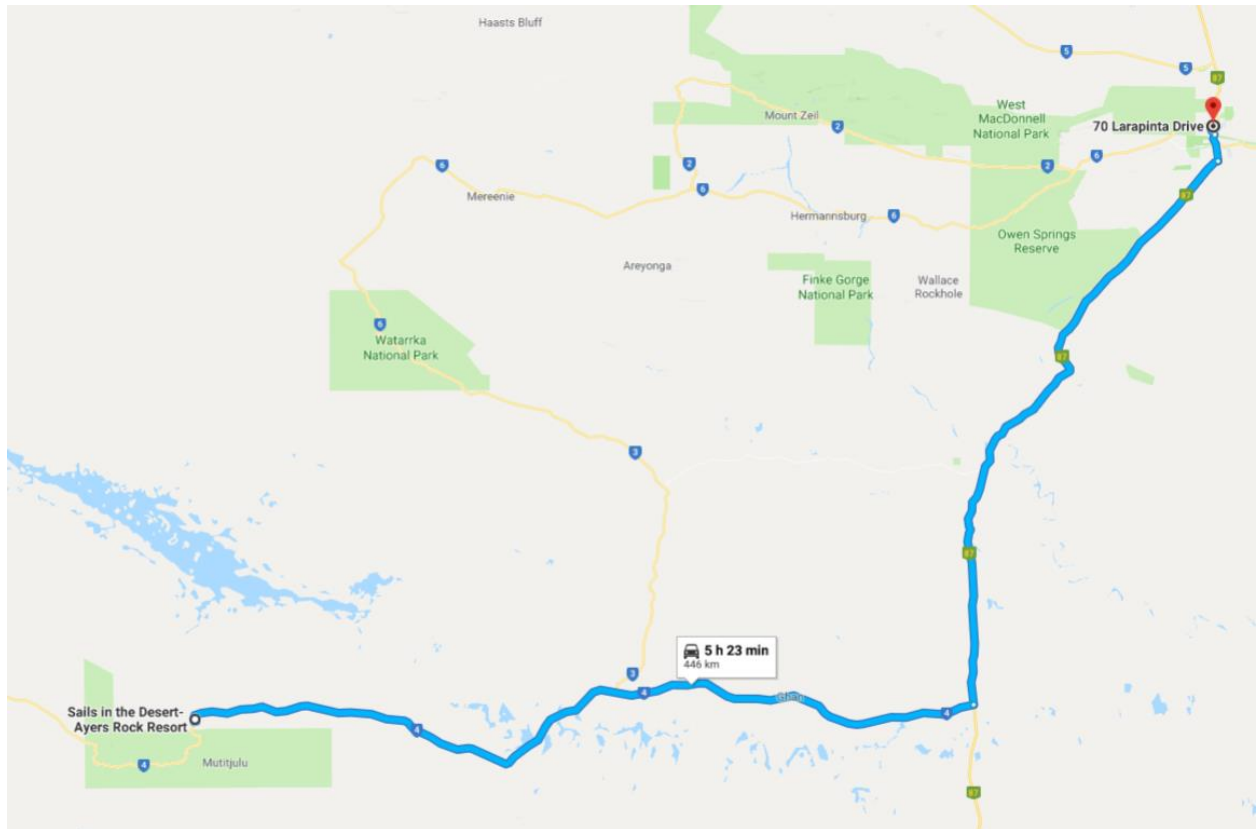


Drive from Ballina to Yulara (Uluru) for the Australian Outback Marathon (Travelling Fit) my 6<sup>th</sup> event with them, 3 marathons and 3 x ½ marathons. Drive is approximately 3,154kms - 5 days from Ballina, NSW, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July arrive at Yulara, NT, the afternoon of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July

Australian Outback Marathon 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Drive to Alice Springs 446kms on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## Drive to Alice Springs Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019



A detailed WIND MAP of Australia, see if I have a head wind or tail wind on my cycle.

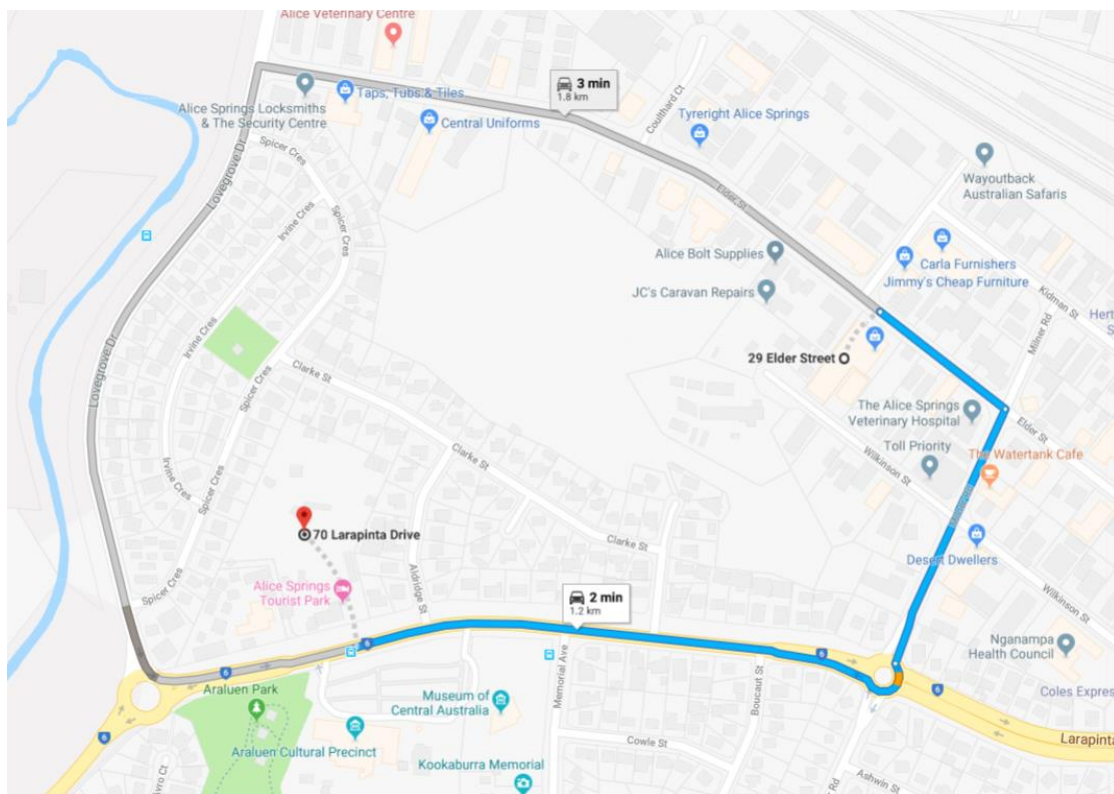
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/wind/wrselect.shtml>

| Statistics                    | Jan  | Feb  | Mar  | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  | Nov  | Dec  | Annual |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| Temperature                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |        |
| Mean maximum temperature (°C) | 36.4 | 35.2 | 32.8 | 28.3 | 23.1 | 19.9 | 19.8 | 22.7 | 27.3 | 31.1 | 33.7 | 35.4 | 28.8   |
| Mean minimum temperature (°C) | 21.5 | 20.7 | 17.5 | 12.6 | 8.2  | 5.0  | 4.0  | 6.0  | 10.3 | 14.7 | 17.9 | 20.3 | 13.2   |



Mon – Fri 8.30am – 5.00pm  
Sat 9.00 am – 2.00pm      Closed Sunday – Public holidays

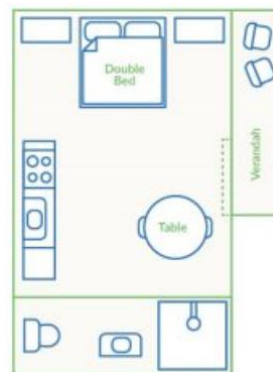
- (08) 8955-5555
- 29 Elder St Alice Springs, NT, 0870



Booked – Confirmation Code:  
Unit – 10539 at 29 Elder Street, Alice Springs  
Unit Size: 3.0m x 6.0m x 3.0m  
David Eckermann

# ALICE SPRINGS

## *Tourist Park*



### Double Ensuite Cabin

| Rate Description | Full Rate               |                      | 30 Jul | 31 Jul | 01 Aug | 02 Aug |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Standard Rate    | \$400.00 <sup>AUD</sup> | <a href="#">Book</a> | 100    | 100    | 100    | 100    |

All you need for a comfortable and relaxing stay is available here at Alice Springs Tourist Park.

- camp kitchen with refrigerator for communal use
- barbecue areas
- television room
- swimming pool
- full tour booking service
- LP gas supplies
- Mini Mart – with bread, milk, small-goods, ice, groceries, souvenirs, book exchange, EFTPOS
- free [WiFi](#)
- 2 amenities blocks
- laundry facilities – coin-operated washers and dryers, ironing facilities
- plenty of conveniently located drying lines
- coin operated barbecues, shade covered, with dish-washing areas and seating
- ATM machine

### ALICE SPRINGS TOURIST PARK

Call 1300 823 404

Phone: (08) 8952 2547

Email: [info@alicespringstouristpark.com.au](mailto:info@alicespringstouristpark.com.au)

70 Larapinta Dr, Araluen (Alice Springs) NT 0870

Booked Deposit paid

Confirmed      Date Arrive 30<sup>th</sup> Jul 2019  
                          Date Depart 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2019

Date Arrive 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 2019  
 Date Depart 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep 2019



# Alice Springs NT to Boulia, QLD

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952 kms



NOTE: There is town water, or rainwater, supply in Alice Springs, Trepahina Gorge Conservation Park at the two camp grounds, Arltunga Visitor Centre, Atitjere at the community store and at Boulia.

From Jervois Station to Boulia there are various bores near road.

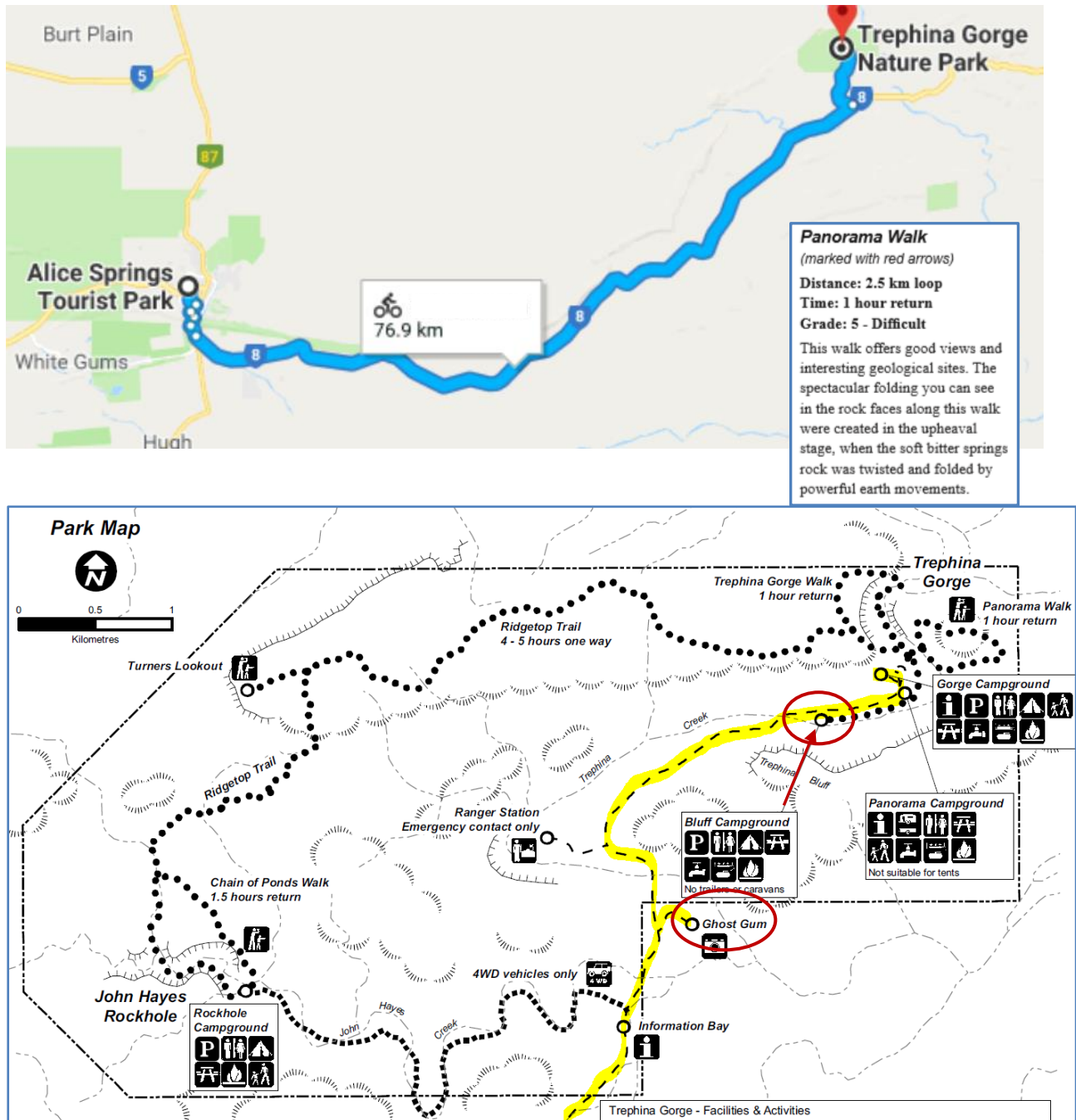
Head down to Ross Hwy.



## Day 1 Alice Springs TOURIST PARK to Trepina Gorge Nature Park

Ride - 85 kms Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug

75 kms (sealed road) Ross Highway, then 9 kms (last 5 kms gravel) to Gorge Campgrounds. Take a small detour to see and photograph the “magnificent Ghost Gum”, believed to be the largest in Australia. The Bluff campground is recommended by other travellers.



## Day 2      Trepghina Gorge Nature Park to Hale River Homestead

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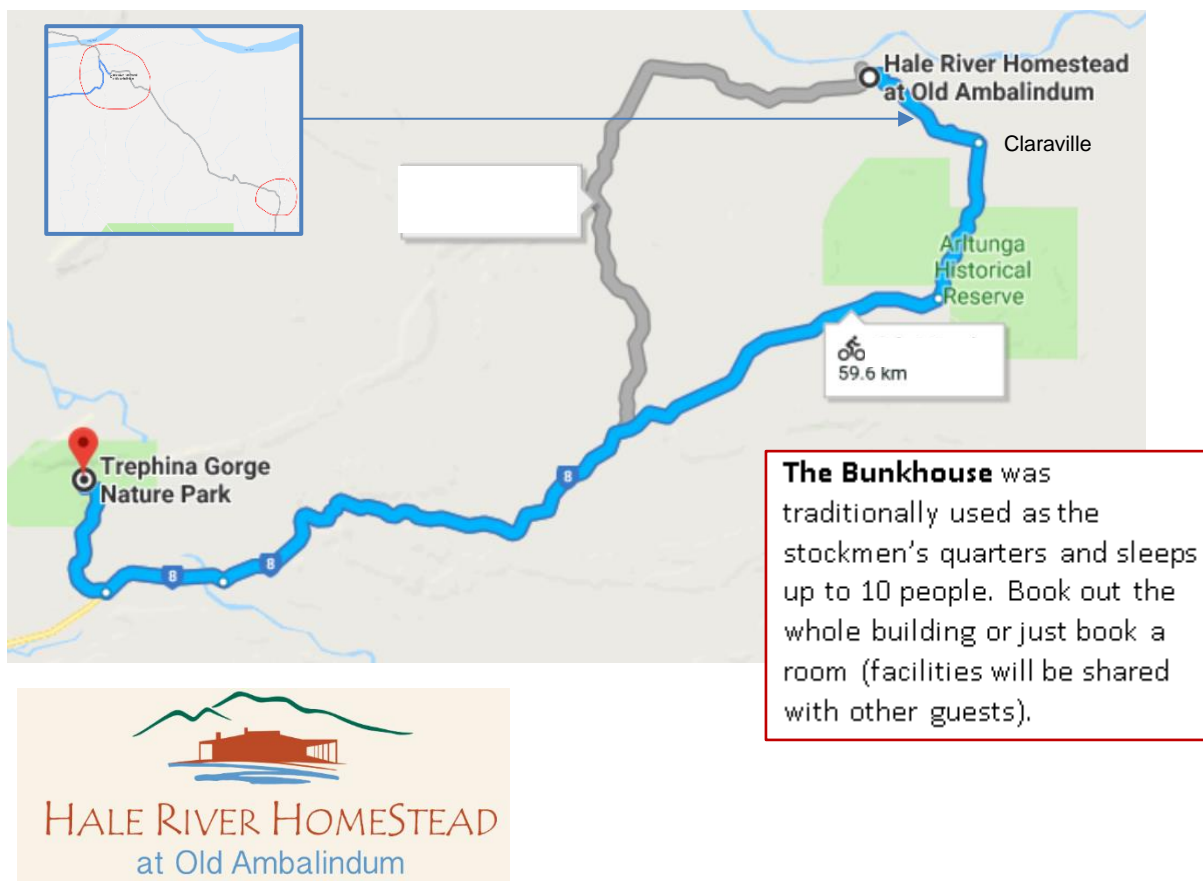
Ride - 60 kms      Sunday 4th Aug

On the way to Hale River stop and see the Arltunga Historical Reserve

**Arltunga Historical Reserve** – Arltunga is located approximately 20km from Hale River Homestead. Walk through late 1800, early 1900 gold mining history. Visit the Government Works, Old Police Station including many more. Also drop into the Visitors Centre to view more information. Click [here](#) to visit the parks website.

Hale River Homestead at Old Ambalindum, Box 2311, Alice Springs NT 0870

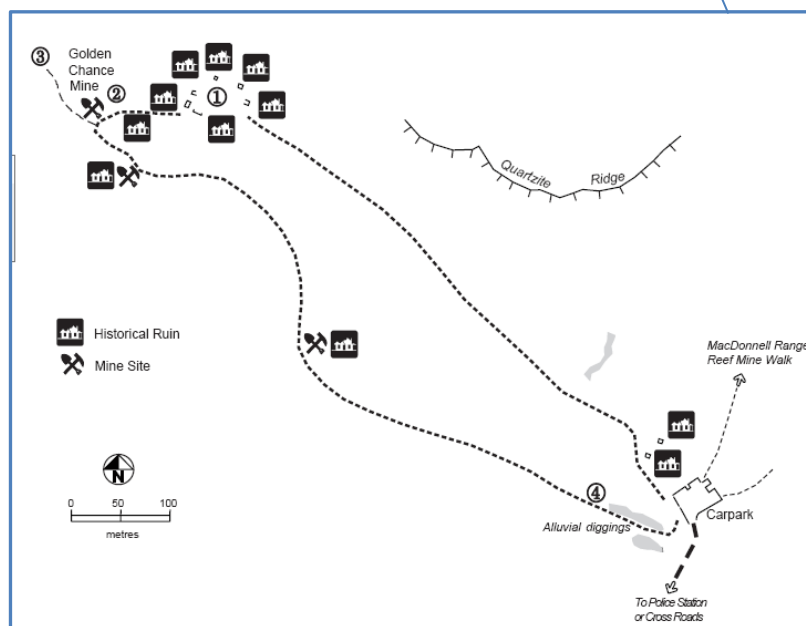
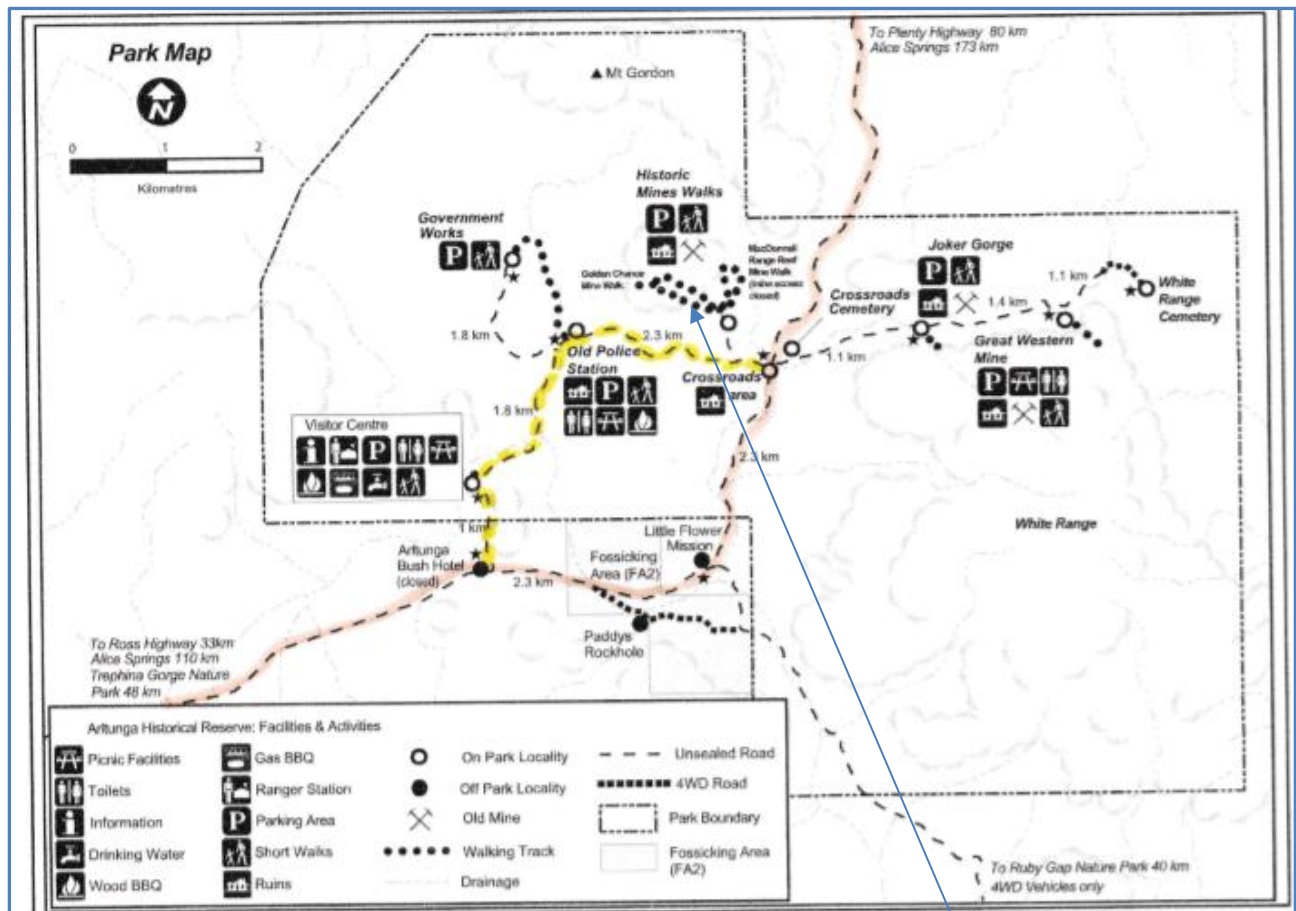
<http://www.haleriverhomestead.com.au/>



**0889569993**

email: [info@haleriverhomestead.com.au](mailto:info@haleriverhomestead.com.au)

## Arltunga Historical Reserve



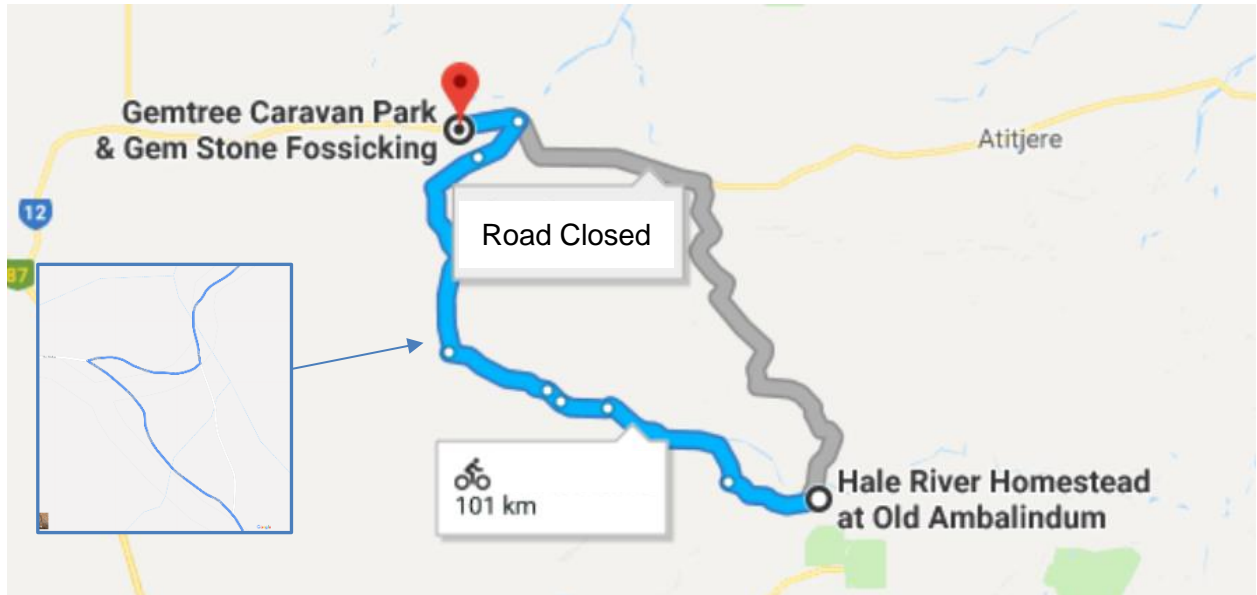


### *Day 3      Hale River Homestead to Gemtree Caravan Park*

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Ride – 101 kms      *Monday 5th Aug*

Gemtree Caravan Park & Gem Stone Fossicking, 6990 Plenty Hwy, Anmatjere NT 0872



<http://www.gemtree.com.au/>

Web booking made 21<sup>st</sup> Jun for the 2 nights NO fossicking tour.

Gemtree Caravan Park  
Po Box 8895 Alice Springs  
PH 08 89569855  
[gemtree@gemtree.com.au](mailto:gemtree@gemtree.com.au)

### ***Gem Room & Gallery***

Visit the Gem Room and Gallery and view an extensive range of jewellery, gems, crystals and mineral specimens as well as local Aboriginal Art. Watch our gemcutter at work as he adds a sparkle to your gems. Purchase pieces that catch your eye as a souvenir or take one of our guided fossicking tours and find your own gems!

Tuesday 6th Aug

## Fossicking Tours

Gateway to the ancient centralian gemfields. Experience the thrill of fossicking for your own gems - nurtured by nature for millions of years!

### Tag-Along Garnet and Zircon Fossicking Tours

Join fellow fossickers on our tag-along tours in search of rich red garnets and the renowned Mud Tank zircons. Departure time from March to October is 8.30am (sometimes earlier if the weather is too hot). Tours can be arranged in the summer months, but they will have an early departure time to beat the heat. Please phone and book to avoid disappointment. *Tour Cost \$75 for one or two adults*

*Hi Kenny, again. Our fossicking tours are “tag along tours”, where you take your own vehicle and all the gear and water, we provide you with to do the fossicking. We don’t stay out at the fossicking field for the day with you, we come back to camp once you are finding stones, so I don’t think you will be able to do a tour as you can’t carry the fossicking gear on your bicycle.*

Sorry

Lyndie 22-6-2019



## Day 5      *Gemtree Caravan Park to Atitjere Store (25+kms further on)*

Ride – 103 kms    *Wednesday 7th Aug*

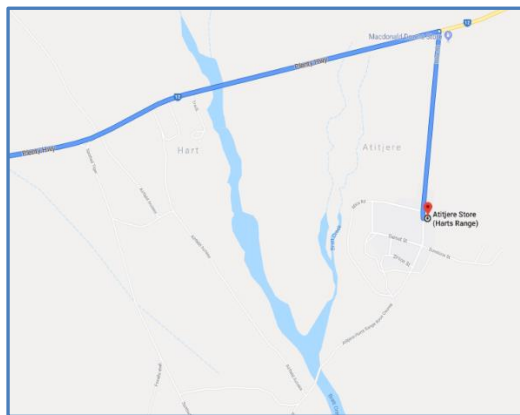
Just after the Ongeva creek crossing the road undulates and the higher humps provide enough elevation for great views of Harts Range. There's not much at Harts Range other than the police station and the Spotted Tiger campground

Two kilometres past the police station is the Aboriginal community of Atitjere.

### Get WATER- WATER- WATER

Call into to store say hello by cold drinks and ride on 22 kms to Binns Track Junction  
Campgrounds on side of road, section of sealed road or go onto Entire Creek.

The Aboriginal community of Atitjere has become much more tourist oriented recently and has fuel, some supplies, credit card facilities and a bakehouse. The store's opening hours are 9.00am until noon and from 2.00pm until 4.00pm on weekdays and from 8.30am until 11.30am on Saturdays – closed Sundays and public holidays.



### Gemtree Caravan Park & Gem Stone Fossicking

6990 Plenty Hwy, Anmatjere NT 0872

↑ Head east on Plenty Hwy/State Route 12 towards Zircon Fields Access

73.5 km

↗ Slight right onto Spotted Tiger

600 m

↙ Turn left onto Airfield Access

2.0 km

↙ Turn left onto Atitjere-Harts Range Race Course

950 m

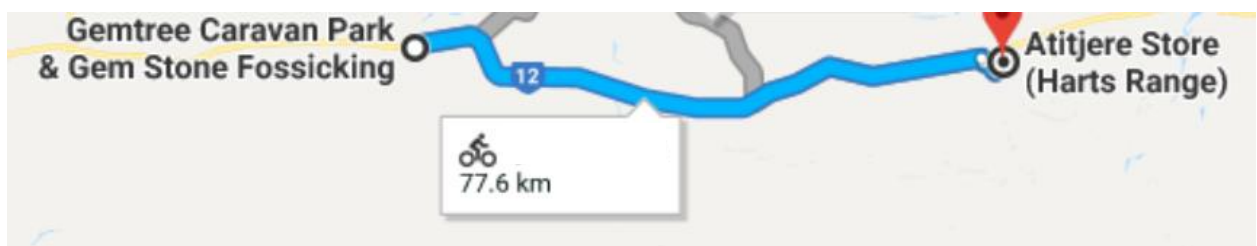
↘ Turn right onto Mica Rd

**i** Destination will be on the right

500 m

### Atitjere Store (Harts Range)

129 Mica Rd, Atitjere NT 0872

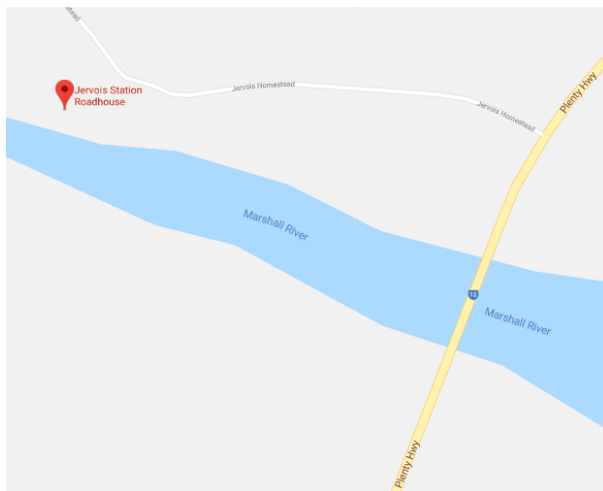
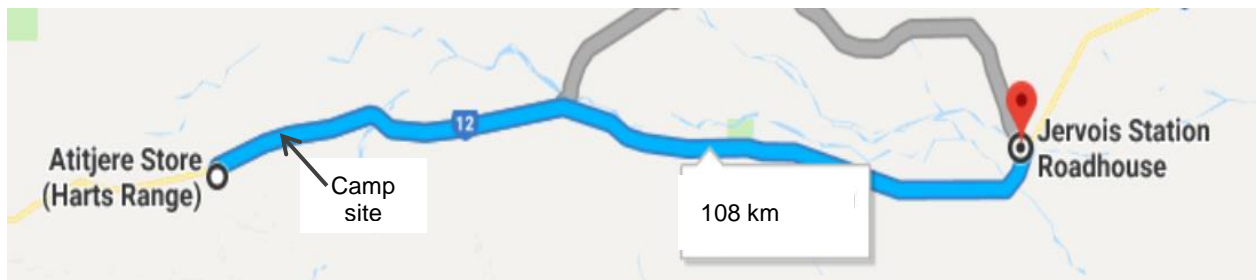




## Day 6 Side of Road Binns Track Junction to Jervois Station Roadhouse

Ride – 108 kms      Thursday 8th Aug  
Jervois has fuel and a campground

May not be reliable for supplies  
Ring ahead to check all facilities.  
Phone: +61 (0) 8 8956 6307  
Email: jervoisstation@bigpond.com  
**Get WATER- WATER- WATER**



### Atitjere Store (Harts Range)

129 Mica Rd, Atitjere NT 0872

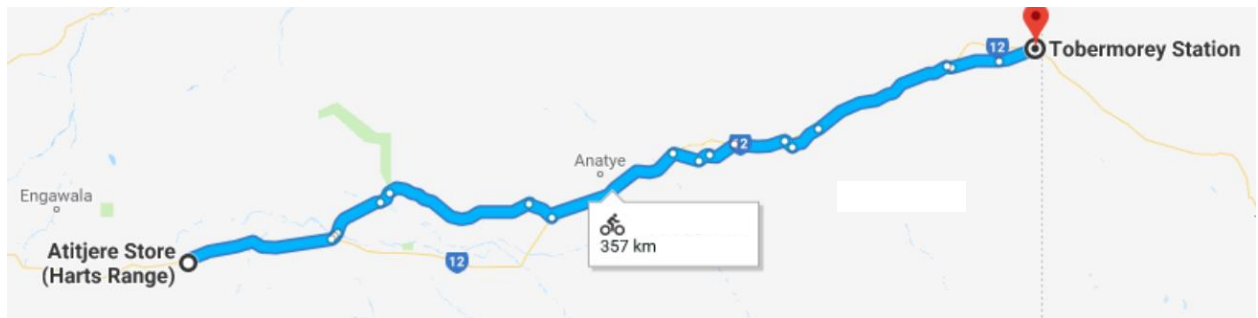
- ↑ Head north on Mica Rd towards Quartz St  
1.3 km
- ➡ Turn right onto Plenty Hwy/State Route 12  
131 km
- ⬅ Turn left onto Jervois Homestead  
850 m

### Jervois Station Roadhouse

Anatye NT 0872







Could have to ride all the way to Tobermorey Station (357km) get water from Atitjere Store OR Jervois Station.

## Water Bores

Between Atitjere Store to Jervois Station:

- Eastern Chief Bore
- Arapunya Road turn off (left)
- 10 Mile Bore
- Indiana Road turn off (right)
- Huckitta
- Blackbird Bore
- First Up Bore
- Via left to Jervois

Between Jervois Station to Tobermorey:

- Lucy Creek Access Road (left)
- Talton Bore
- No3 Bore
- Centenary Bore
- Cockroach Waterhole
- Heartbreak Bore
- No3 Bore
- Tobermorey

Between Tobermorey to Boulia:

- Martins Bore (Abandoned) 32km
- Roxborough Downs turn off (left) 59km
- Cottonbush Well (way of the road)
- Clear View Bore 24km from Boulia
- Boulia

**Binns Track Junction**  
*Arapunya, Hart*

**Harts Range Rest Stop**  
*Track, Hart*

**Between The Hills**  
*Plenty Hwy, Hart*

**Plenty River**  
*Plenty Hwy, Anatye*

**Jervois Station**  
*Plenty Hwy, Anatye*

**Marshall River Rest Area**  
*202 km E of Stuart Hwy*

11.5km

**Woody gully Quarry Site**

29.9km

**Old Quarry**  
*State Route 12, Anatye*

7.4km

**Very Large Termite Mound**  
*Plenty Highway*

13.3km

**Arthur River Camp**  
*Both Sides Of River, Plenty Hwy, Anatye*

20.9km

**Three Range View**

12.5km

**Long Beautiful Campsite**



**Jonas Beautiful Campsite**  
*Plenty Highway, Central Desert Region*



**Rocky Hill**  
*Plenty Hwy*



**Bulldust Stretch**  
*Plenty Highway, Anatye*



**Bad Road - Pot Holes/ Bulldust from Qld**  
*State Route 12, Anatye*



**Tobermorey Station**  
*Plenty Hwy, Anatye*



## Day 7-8-9 Jervois Station Roadhouse to Tobermorey Station

Ride – 225 kms

Friday to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> Aug

Allow 3 days to do this section. Average 75km per day.

### Get WATER- WATER- WATER

As you head further east the country flattens, but there are different styles of termite mounds to break up the monotony. Emergency water is available at Heartbreak Bore and Cockatoo Bore and Waterhole

64kms Injerrabonna Waterhole this side of Tobermorey Station

You can only wonder what the early pioneers went through to name Heartbreak Bore, but it is certainly worth a stop. Several different pump powering options have been trialed (as the old windmill is well past its best). A diesel motor has now been installed, complete with a 20L plastic container hanging from the rafters serving as a bushies' fuel tank. Stock and a vast array of birds were benefiting from the water being pumped from deep below.

<http://tobermorey-roadhouse.com.au/>

\*\*\*\* Located on the Plenty Highway only 4 kms from the Queensland / Northern Territory Border. Here you will find a camping oasis just 800m off the Highway

### Get WATER- WATER- WATER

Welcome to Tobermorey Station  
Roadhouse & Caravan Park

Tobermorey Station is close to the border and used to be a great fuel and camping stop but closed a couple of years ago. It has now re-opened for fuel sales.

### GET WATER for the next 270 kms

**TOBERMOREY STATION**  
ROADHOUSE & CARAVAN PARK

**NTB**  
TOBERMOREY STATION  
N.T.

Phone  
07 4748 3280 or 07 4748 4996

Fax  
07 4748 4951

Regular Trading Hours  
Monday to Friday:  
7.00am - 6.00pm  
Saturday & Sunday:  
8.00am - 5.00pm

**BORES**

- Jervois Station
- Tatton Bore
- No 3 Bore
- Centenary Bore
- Cockroach Bore
- Heartbreak Bore
- No 3 Bore
- Tobermorey Station

“The Plenty is a top track with plenty of interesting gear along the way, enough corrugations to test the body and enough bulldust patches as well.”



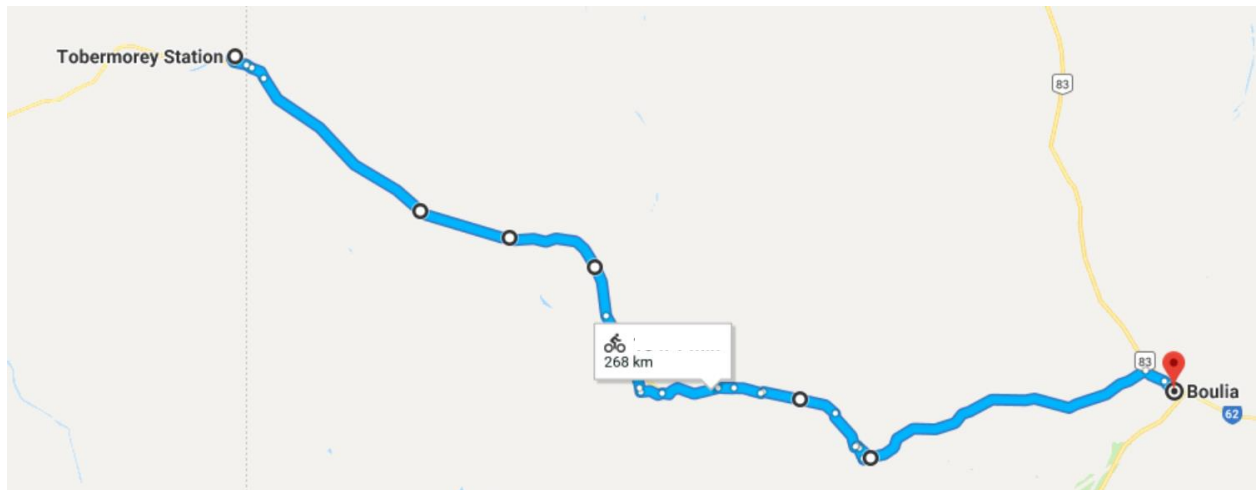
Ride – 270 kms *Monday to Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> Aug*  
Average 90km per day.

Get WATER- WATER- WATER

Soon we leave NT and are in QLD on the Donohue Highway  
4.3 kms from Tobermorey Station to the Donohue HwyTermite Mound. A must do, photo shoot.

Tobermorey to Boulia good camping spot may be found at the Georgina River, at about the 125 km mark.

**NO WATER – no bores or water stations until Boulia.**



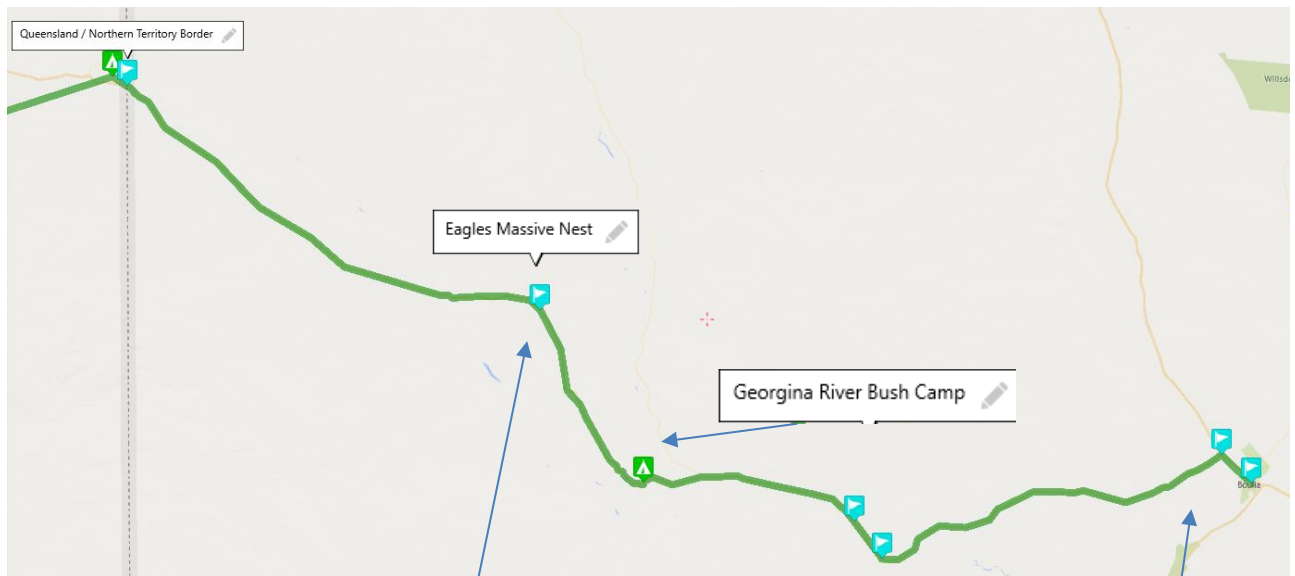
## Desert Sands Motel – BOULIA



## Desert Sands Motel – BOULIA

Owned and operated by John and Genevieve Hammond, the Desert Sands Motel is located at 50 Herbert Street (Boulia's main street) and offers 12 modern motel units in a quiet garden setting within walking distance to all of Boulia's local attractions, eateries and services. Free WiFi, Free laundry and Barbecue.

Booked & Confirmed Date Arrive 14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2019  
Date Depart 16<sup>th</sup> Aug 2019  
Email: [desertsandsmotel@bigpond.com](mailto:desertsandsmotel@bigpond.com)  
Ph: (07) 4746 3000



3.0km  
**POI** Queensland / Northern Territory Border  
*Plenty Highway, Anatye*



85.7km  
**POI** Eagles Massive Nest  
*Donohue Highway, Carrandotta*



38.2km  
**POI** Georgina River Bush Camp  
*Features*



43.6km  
**POI** Tar Sealed Road Donohue Hwy  
*Donohue Highway*

66.7km  
**POI** Road To Alice Springs 800 Kllms  
*LOT 4 Diamantina Developmental Road, Wills*



7.4km  
**POI** Drinking Water Tap In Park  
*Herbert Street Boulia*

Thursday 15th Aug

## Boulia's top attractions:

**Min Min Encounter** – Boulia's newest attraction the Min Min Encounter is a truly unique outback experience. Come and see the show and hear some stories and possible explanations of Boulia's mysterious min min lights.

**Stonehouse Museum** – Boulia's Stonehouse Museum is filled with an impressive display of 100 million-year-old dinosaur fossils and historical pioneering artefacts and is a wealth of outback history.

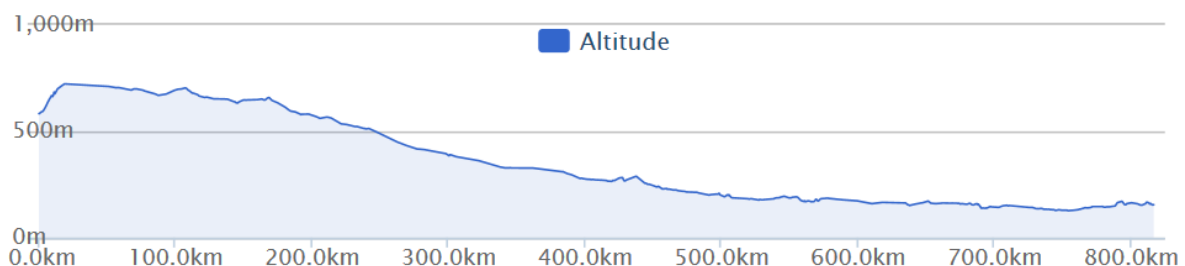
**Boulia Sports & Aquatic Centre** – This fantastic \$4 million centre is one of its kind in the north west and is enjoyed by Boulia locals and travellers alike.

**Police Barracks and Waterhole** – This significant historical site, where the ruins of Boulia's original police barracks lie, is great for catching that elusive yellow belly fish or a few yabbies to throw on the BBQ.

**Cawnpore Hills** – On the road to Boulia, stop to admire these picturesque mesas that are only found in one other part of the world; South America.

**Waddi Trees** – The wood of these rare trees is known to be one of the hardest timbers in the world. Found in only three locations in the world, there is a major patch on the Coorabulka Road, approximately 10 kilometres east of Boulia.

- Alice Springs:
- Gemtree Caravan Park:
- Atitjere:
- Jervois Station:
- Tobermorey Station:
- Boulia:



There is about 100kms of dirt of the total 382kms to Birdsville



## BIRDSVILLE - BOULIA

383 kilometres  
Diamantina Developmental Road

### BIRDSVILLE (approx. population 120)

Lying a few kilometres over the Queensland border, the town had its origin in a store built in 1882 by Robert Frew. He suggested the name Birdsville because of the variety of bird life in the area. By 1895 the population numbered 270. Today, with a much reduced population, the town boasts an A.I.M. Hospital, general store, school, police station, caravan park and the famous Birdsville Pub which has modern motel units available.

### BEDOURIE

Standing on one of the best artesian bore water supplies in Queensland, drilled in 1905 to a depth of 400 metres, and with a daily flow of more than 12 million litres of luke warm water excellent for all domestic purposes. Serviced by a hotel, roadhouse, police station and state school, the town is the administrative centre of the vast Diamantina Shire.

### BOULIA (approx. population 200)

The first European settlers established their homes in 1876 and three years later the township was proclaimed. The first mail service was by horse from Cloncurry (330 km distant), and a telegraph station was opened in 1884. Situated on the western bank of the Burke River, the town is the administrative centre of the Boulia Shire. The attractiveness of this small centre affords a marked contrast to the rugged outback scene.

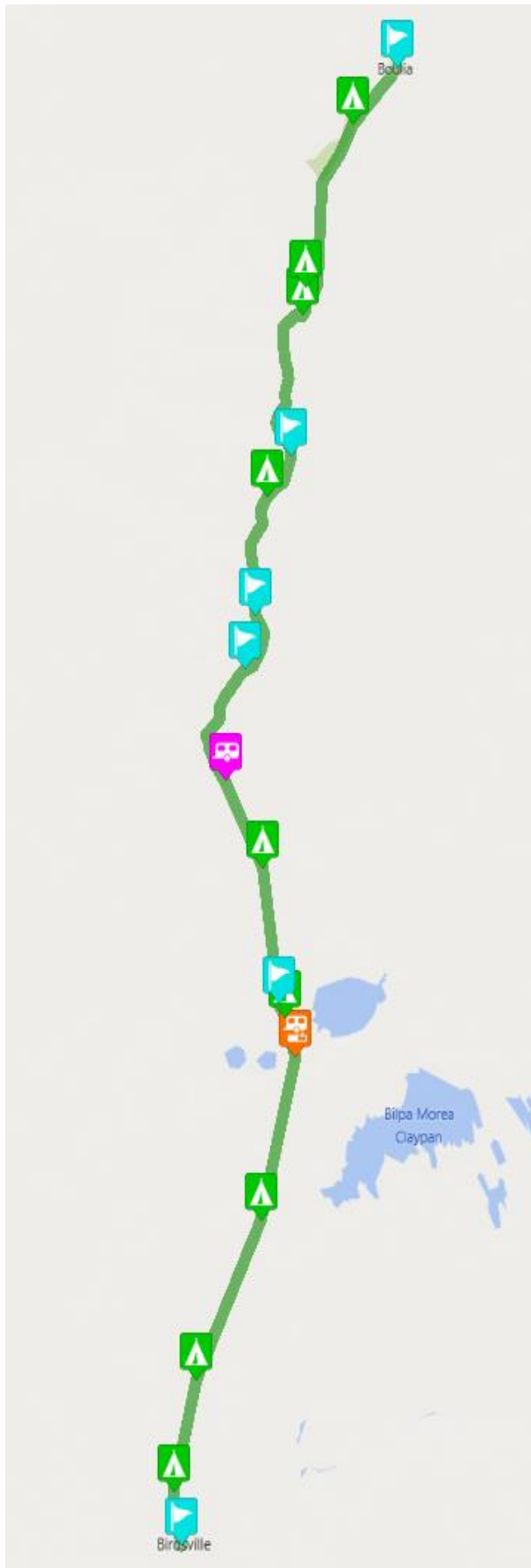
### ROAD SURFACE

Gravel and earth.

SM0140

1297





Boulia

21.3km

Boulia Waddi Trees

42.6km

Georgina River Crossing

[64km Break](#)

7.4km

Lower Level Riverbank Site

37.6km

Lookout Access Road

[109km Break](#)

12.0km

Rest Area

[120km Stop](#)

28.2km

Motorcarbreakdown Creek

14.6km

Memorial Cairn

30.5km

Bedourie Simpson Desert Oasis

[73km Stop](#)

21.7km

Bedourie King Creek

30.9km

Hutchison Monument at Pul Over

3.4km

Eyre Creek Campground

[56km Break](#)

9.2km

Birdsville Regional Dump Point (*no camping*)

37.7km

Carcory Ruins

[103km Stop](#)

39.8km

Table & Seats Rest Stop

[40km Break](#)

26.0km

Waddi Tree Rest Area

[Photos](#)

12.3km

Birdsville

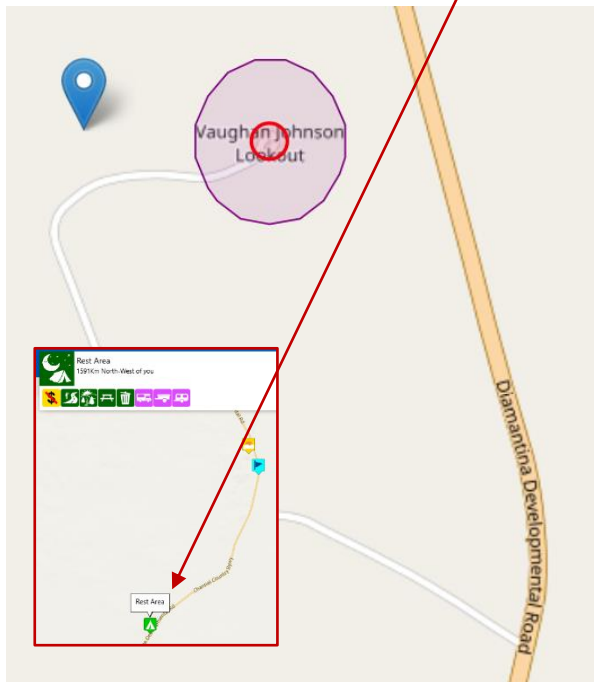
[78km Stop](#)

## Day 14-15 Boulia (Qld) to Bedourie

Ride – 193 kms      Friday to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> Aug

Just over halfway between Boulia and Bedourie is the Vaughan Johnson Lookout on the Marion Downs property. Make sure you take your camera for capturing the stunning views. There are toilets and picnic shelter facilities at the lookout.

**(NO CAMPING)** Go 15kms further for camp site



<http://www.simpsondesertoasis.com.au/accomodation/accomodation.html>

The Simpson Desert Oasis Bedourie is famous for its satisfying meals, choice of air-conditioned cabins or spacious motel rooms, licensed restaurant and caravan park ensuites. 'The Oasis' also provides a grocery store, fuel, tyre repairs and laundromat.

If you wish to make a booking, please contact us on (07) 4746 1291 or complete our online enquiry form on the Contact Us Page.



Ride – 190 kms      *Sunday to Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Aug*

Notes: <https://www.exploroz.com/treks/birdsville-track>

The road from Bedourie to Birdsville is a mix of bitumen stretches and good quality gravel/dust.

## Bedourie to Birdsville Eyre Developmental Road

This route is also known as the Bilby Way.

- **Cuttaburra crossing** further south is a permanent waterhole and wetland area on Eyre Creek. It is a welcome change in the scenery. If Eyre Creek is in flood you need to take the Lake Machattie detour, a very remote track
- Next, the ruins of the abandoned **Carcory Homestead** are worth a stop. It is a protected heritage site, and a good example of the type of homesteads built by the early settlers.
- A few kilometres out of Birdsville is a very rare stand of ancient trees. These **Waddi Trees** only occur in a few places in the world. You can see Waddi trees here in western Queensland, around Alice Springs and in South Africa.  
Listen to the eerie noise of the wind howling through these ancient trees.



## Bedourie - Population 120

Bedourie, another small bush town with true Outback character. It is the administrative centre of the Diamantina Shire.

The town's name means dust storm, and there are quite a few sand dunes around that can produce dust.

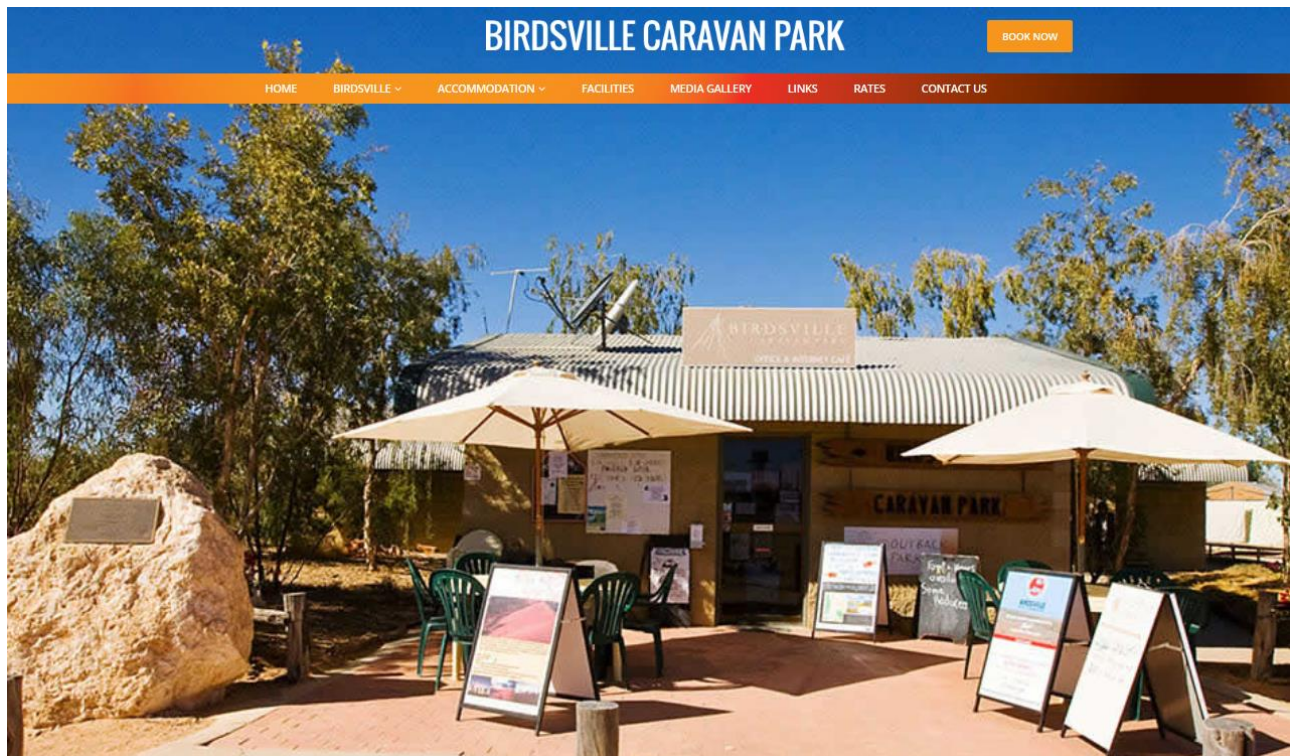
Bedourie's artesian water supply is of good quality, it even feeds the pool and spa of the swimming complex. After a hot day on the dusty tracks this is just heaven, don't you agree?

The sand dunes surrounding Bedourie are very photogenic, especially in the late afternoon. Climb on top of a dune and enjoy an unique sunset. The silence is only broken by the howling wind and the sound of the birds.



## Day 18-19 Birdsville (Qld) – REST DAYS

Tuesday to Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> Aug



<http://www.birdsvillecaravanpark.com/home>

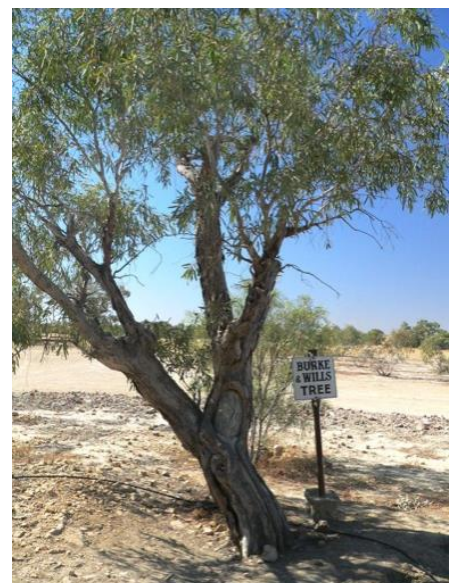
1 Florence Street, BIRDSVILLE QLD 4482

P: (07) 4656 3214

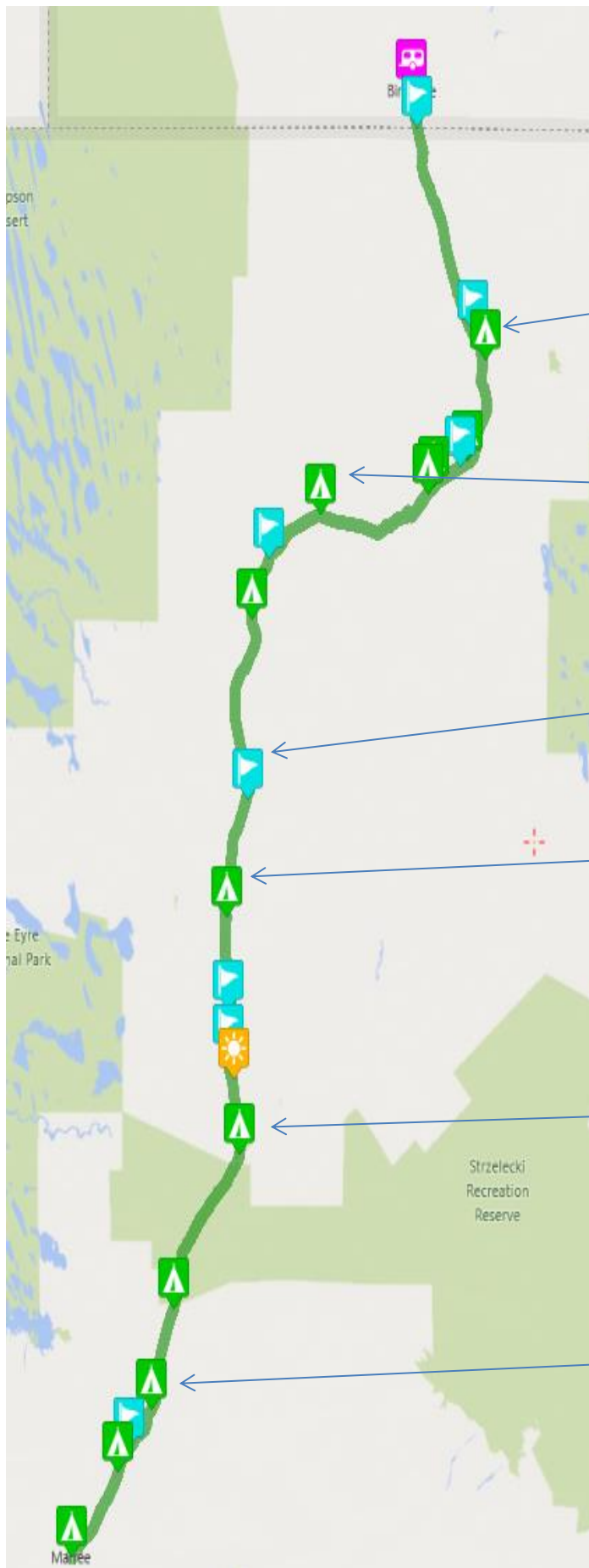
Visit the Burke and Wills tree

### ABOUT BURKE AND WILLS TREE

On August 20, 1860, Robert O'Hara Burke and William John Wills set out from Melbourne to chart a course to the Gulf of Carpentaria, which was the first south-north crossing of Australia. The team of 13 men and 20 camels carried over 20 tonnes of provisions. Though successful in their quest, both Burke and Wills perished on their return journey. Seeds from a Waddi Tree found in the diary of Wills verify their passage through the Birdsville region. The Burke and Wills Tree is located approximately three kilometres from Birdsville and is said to mark one of their final campsites before they reached the Innamincka area, where the famous Dig Tree stands.







Birdsville  
13.4km  
Border Crossing

63.0km

Tarlina Waterhole

9.3km

Geak Hill 86 km Camp Here

32.5km

Connies Hole

3.9km Walkers Crossing Innaminck Road

3.1km Lake Surprise Creek rest

45.9km

Tippipila Creek Bush Camp 97km Camp Here

23.9km

Warburton Track/Birdsville Track Intverse

18.7km

Mt Gason Creek rest

52.0km

Just before in the creek 95km Camp Here

Mirra Mitta Bore (NO CAMPING)

38.2km

Mungerannie Hotel & Camp Area 38km Camp

27.4km

Ooroowillannie Ruins

12.8km

Old Mulka Ruins

7.2km

Appatoonganie Waterhole

22.2km

Cooper Creek Camp 70km Camp Here

51.8km

Dulkaninna Station – Coolabah  
Campground (toilets & showers)

30.1km

Clayton Wetlands Camp 82km Camp Here (toilets & showers)

14.1km

Lake Harry Lookout

8.3km

Lake Harry Ruins

30.7km

Marree

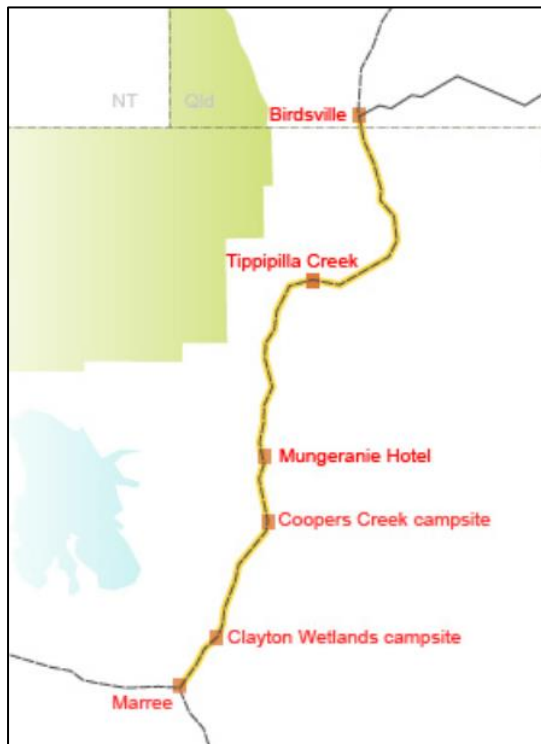
## Day 20-21-22-23 Birdsville (Qld) to Mungerannie Hotel

---

310 kms 4 days riding Thursday to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Aug

Its 180 kms to Tippiilla Creek go as far as you can on day one. Have a look at the Page Family Grave maybe camp side of road at Geak Hill. Day 3 on the track ride 90kms just before Mirra Mitta Bore (no camping). Leaves a nice 39 km ride to Mungerannie Pub on day 4.

**Water \*\*\*\*\* Water \*\*\*\*\* Water**



The Birdsville Track has come a long way in recent years from the legendary rugged track from the mid-1900s. It is in fact now a fully formed unsealed highway that varies from magnificent smooth clay, to clay with chunky gravel embedded, to a significant stretch, Blue Ute Bore to the Clifton Hills Station homestead turnoff, about 80km, of just the bumpy chunky gravel, sometimes deep when crossing the dry watercourses.

Despite skirting three deserts there are only limited sections of sand because the road is topped with clay when crossing each of the large number of sand dunes.

Overall the surface is firm, sand is not an issue, but with those bumps the fatter the tyres the less wear and tear on your body.

There's plenty of vibration to be absorbed so good gel gloves and a well-worn in saddle are the go.

Good water carrying capacity is a must as there are limited places where reliable water can be obtained.

Birdsville and Marree have a town supply from artesian bores, better get used to that high salt content that means you drink significantly more to quench your thirst. Mungerannie Pub has similarly flavoured bore water.

The other official campsites along the track: Tippiilla Creek, Cooper Creek and Clayton Wetlands has bore water tanks associated with flushing toilets and a hand basin, Clayton also has a hot shower and spa bath straight from the bore.

There's also a flowing bore at Mirra Mitta, arrives right on boiling, ie, hotter than 100°C due to the pressure, and smelling of bad eggs and another bore at Lake Harry ruins of similar quality if lower temperature, ie, suitable for the shower on the side of the road.

In cases of emergency there are a few homesteads close to the track: Pandie Pandie, Clifton Hills, Mulka, Etadunna, Clayton where you could ask. It is cattle country so there are occasional polythene water tanks seen in the distance, well off the track, supplying water to the cattle but getting access to the water in the tanks is often difficult.

The Track cuts through the driest region on the continent where the long term average is less than 150mm of rainfall a year, the creeks can't be relied on, they flow rarely and if they are flowing it's unlikely you will be able to get through on the wet and flooded track.

When it comes down to it this is one track where it may be advisable to accept offers of water from the 4WDers who stop for a chat.

90 km Birdsville to Page Family Grave side of the road camp at Geak Hill  
90 km Page Family Grave to Tippiilla Creek campsite  
91 km Tippiilla Creek campsite just before Mirra Mitta Bore (no camping)  
39 km Side of road just before Mirra Mitta Bore to Mungeranie pub  
70 km Mungeranie pub to Coopers Creek campsite  
82 km Coopers Creek campsite to Clayton Wetland campsite  
53 km Clayton Wetland campsite to Marree

There are 4 official campsites on the Birdsville: Tippiilla Creek, free, 177 km south of Birdsville; Mungeranie pub, \$ basically for a hot shower and/or a hot, if somewhat murky, outdoor pool to soak most of the dust off and a campsite that looks like anywhere else on the rest of the track; Coopers Creek, free, with toilet; and Clayton Wetlands, \$10 per vehicle which I guess means free if you are on your bike, complete with hot shower and spa pool.

You are crossing three deserts here: the edge of the Simpson Desert as you leave Birdsville with the big dunes; Sturts Stony Desert, which is, err, stony, with extensive areas of gibber plains, just almost black pebbles; and the seldom known Tirari Desert, the continent's only true white sand desert like you find in the Sahara.

*Monday to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> Aug*

70kms to Coopers Creek Campsite – camp here next day ride 82kms to Clayton Wetlands Campsite that leaves about 52 kms to Marree.

### **NOTES:**

Mulka ruins - not much is left of the former station and store.

Cooper creek - crossing the 5 km wide sandy creek bed is no problem if it's dry. Scrubs and low trees indicate the Cooper's channels and make a difference to the surrounding country. There is a detour to a ferry on Etadunna property, check if the Cooper is in flood before you start your journey.

Cannuwaukaninna Bore - this is the most accessible bore, only a few metres off the track. Be careful, the artesian water pours out at near-boiling point. It's a good picnic spot, and the small wetland attracts many birds. Take your time, sit down and watch the amazing birdlife.

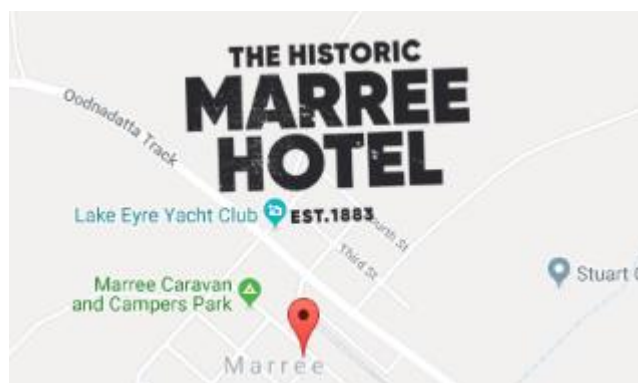
Clayton Creek 53kms from Marree is an honesty box camping site, complete with toilets and a self-serve spa. Bores were drilled into the Great Artesian Basin at 40km intervals along the Birdsville Track for stock movements. They create mini oases of birdlife and greenery where they are still functional.

Lake Harry ruins - More than 100 years ago, after a bore had been drilled, a date palm plantation was established here. The date trees grew successfully, up to 2000 date palms stood there in the 1930s, the project failed due to the lack of bees to pollinate the trees. The Outback has reclaimed its land and only the ruins remind of these days.

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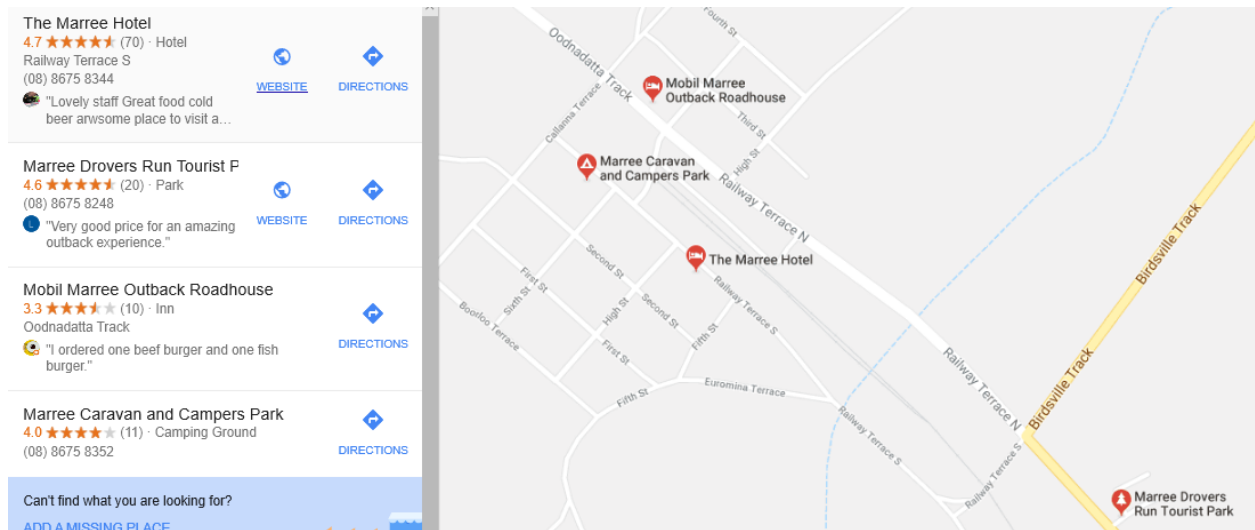
**The Marree Hotel**  
**Railway Terrace South**  
**Marree**  
**South Australia**  
**5733**  
**t. (08) 8675 8344**

**e. [info@marreehotel.com.au](mailto:info@marreehotel.com.au)**



## Day 27-28 Marree (Rest Days)

Thursday to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Aug



# THE MARREE MAN

## OVERVIEW

The mysterious Marree Man is a four kilometre-long carving etched deep into the red earth of Outback South Australia. After being discovered in 1998, still no one knows who created it or why.

Located 65 kilometres away from the town of Marree, you can see the man himself on a scenic flight from the historic Marree Hotel or with Wrightsair.



## OODNADATTA TRACK



There's plenty to see out in the middle of this vast landscape.

A classic outback track with settlements conveniently spaced with natural history along the way. I have allowed 6 days riding, gives me some time for looking at the scenery and photographing around the bridges and railway junk. With my load 70km a day is enough in the often soft and corrugated conditions to get to the famous Pink Pub at Oodnadatta.

Drinking water is available at Marree, Coward Springs and Oodnadatta. You can buy water at William Creek. I'll stock up in Coward Springs and buy some also. Any creek water is usually more salty than the sea.

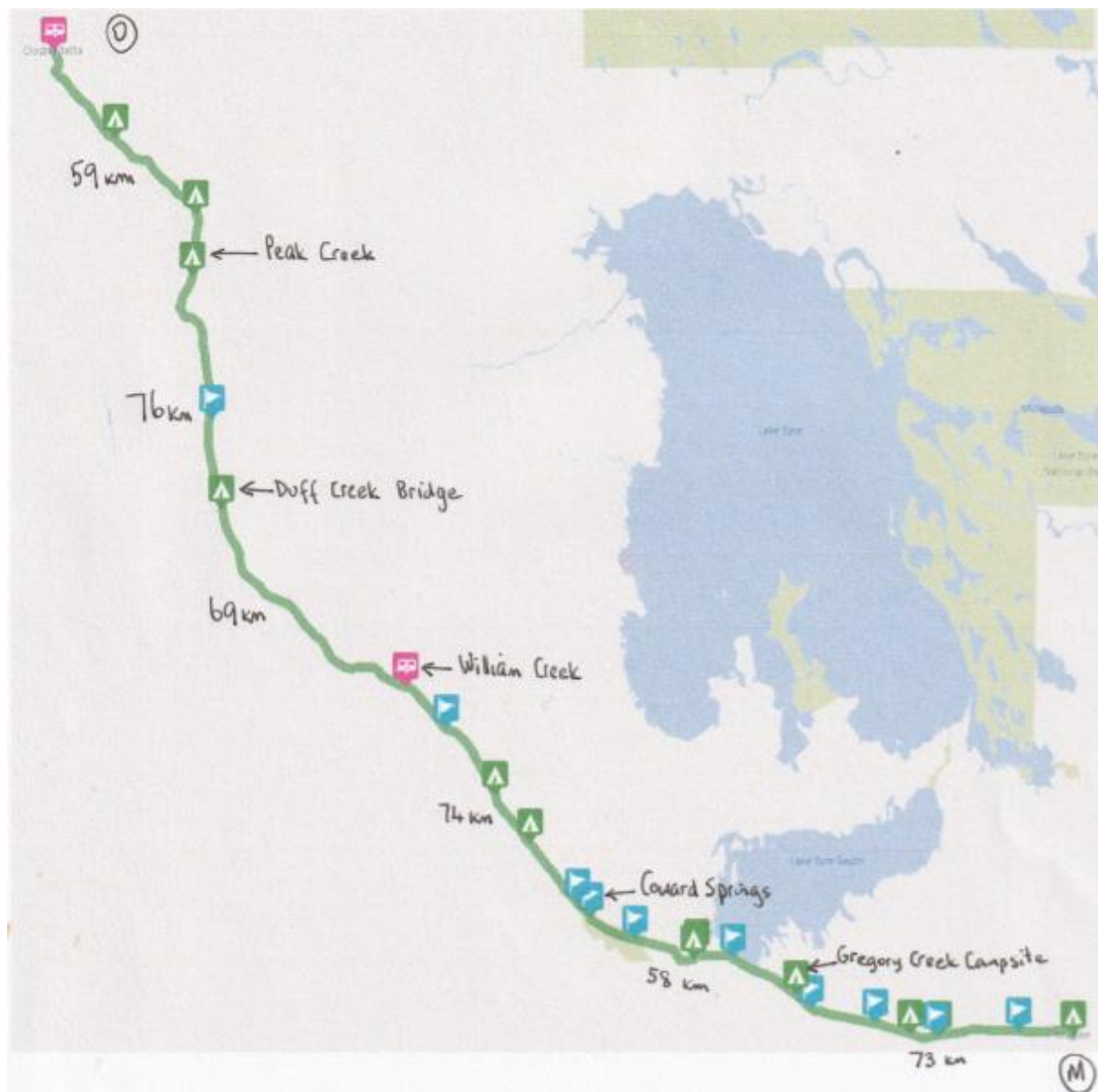
131 km Marree to Coward Springs (73kms & 58kms camp side of road)  
74 km Coward Springs to William Creek Just a pub with counter meals at William Creek.  
69 km William Creek to Duff Creek Bridge Camping  
76 km Duff Creek Bridge Camping to Algebuckina Waterhole  
59 km Algebuckina Waterhole to Oodnadatta

Coward Springs, \$12.50pp, William Creek, \$12.50pp or Room \$75.00.

I'll also cross the 5,614 km long Dingo exclusion fence.

Sitting in the 26°C natural springs at Coward Springs is a relaxing way to finish the day.

Take care with carrying enough water to last between the known watering points, ie Marree, William Creek, Oodnadatta. Nothing much else along the way.



73 kms or a few more. *Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> Aug*

There is a Gregory Creek Campsite 5.2km or so past Borefield Road about halfway to Coward springs, might be okay for camping.

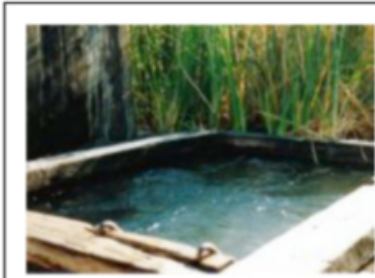


58kms Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Sep

Coward Springs. Get there early to get a spot and a swim in the spring.

### Coward Springs Campground

• on the Oodnadatta Track between Marree & William Creek •



#### Sheltered low-key camping

- Toilets built from Ghan railway sleepers
- Hot showers
- Each site has its own fireplace - please bring your own firewood.
- Peaceful - no generators after 5pm or in the morning

#### Natural and cultural heritage area

Coward Springs Railway Site is listed on the State Heritage Register.

- Heritage walk
- Museum (the restored 'Engine Drivers Cabin') - displays, local stories and artwork

Coward Springs bore-fed wetland is under a Heritage Agreement.

- Bird-watching
- Soak and revitalise in the 'natural' spa.

#### Camping fee

\$12.50 per person, children (3-15) half-price

Day visitor entrance fee - \$2 per person

Bookings only taken for large or tour groups (paid in advance).



74 kms     Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sep

A nice room and food. I've read that it's an absolutely shit road.

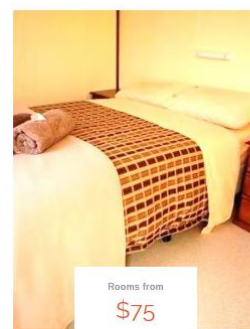
"We are open 7 days a week year-round and friendly team are on hand to assist you.

Send us an email, give us a call."

(08) 8670 7880

Oodnadatta Track, William Creek, South Australia, 5710, Australia

[williamcreekhotel@bigpond.com](mailto:williamcreekhotel@bigpond.com)

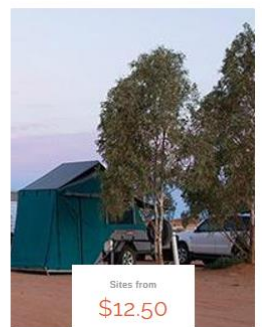


Rooms from  
**\$75**

*Hotel*

**HOTEL ROOMS**

Air-conditioned, ensuite and shared  
bathrooms



Sites from  
**\$12.50**

*Camping*

**CAMPING GROUND**

Powered or unpowered sites

The town has basic facilities. There is a pub, of course, a few sheds, a store and a campground with different styles of cabins, and an all-weather airfield only 100m away from the pub.

Wrights Air operates scenic flight over Lake Eyre, Anna Creek station and the Painted Desert. Since 2012 Trevor Wright owns the hotel in William Creek.

You don't need a street map, everything is conveniently lined up on the Oodnadatta Track.

William Creek is set on a salt bush plain 204 km north-west of Marree and it's the first place to get fuel, food and water supplies after you leave Marree.

Day 32 69 kms to Duff Creek Bridge Camping  
 Day 33 76 kms to Algebuckina Railway Bridge  
 Day 34 59 kms to Oodnadatta

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> SepWednesday 4<sup>th</sup> SepThursday 5<sup>th</sup> Sep

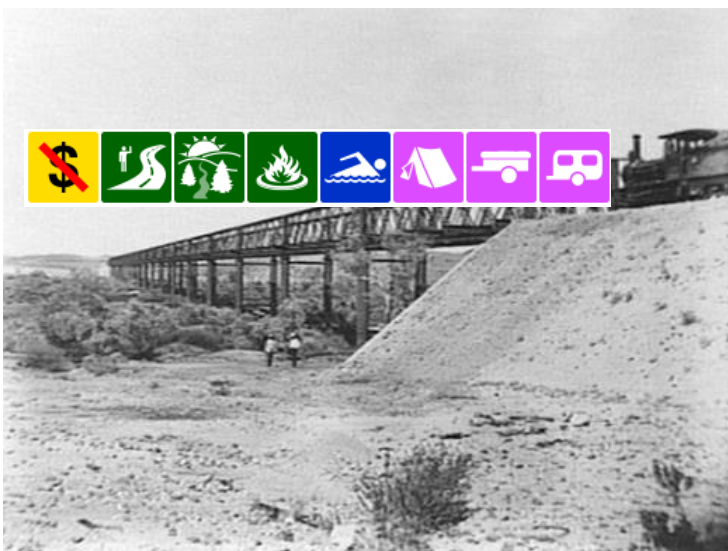
Duff Creek near the turn-off to Nilpinna homestead, is a fairly broad creek bed, deeply covered with fine, powdery sand. A rusty railway bridge stretches across Duff Creek some hundred metres west of the track.



Twenty-four kilometres further on is Edwards Creek railway siding. The usual water tank, water softener and a few ruins can be seen from the roadside. The siding is on property of Nilpinna station. NO CAMPING



"Congratulations – you've made it to the centre point of the Oodnadatta Track! Drive to survive – only 320 km to go!!"



Dimensions of the Algebuckina structure are: 19 spans, each 101 feet 6 inches (30.9 metres) long; total length 1,928 feet 6 inches (587.8 metres)—which is 51 feet 6 inches (15.7 metres) shorter than the Murray bridge—and 10 feet (3 metres) deep girders.



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Sep



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## Contact the Pink Roadhouse

Phone: (08) 86 707 822

Freecall: 1800 802 074

Fax: (08) 86 707 831

Post Office Phone: (08) 86 707 819

UHF Channel 7 duplex (repeater)

### Postal Address:

The Pink Roadhouse

Post Office

Oodnadatta, SA 5734

e-mail: [pinkroadhouse@bigpond.com](mailto:pinkroadhouse@bigpond.com)



## Oodnadatta Post Office

We are an Australia Post Office servicing the local community with typical agency services.

So while you are in Oodnadatta send a few postcards and they'll leave here with the Oodnadatta postmark, making your souvenir a special memento.

WiFi's free in the roadhouse.

## Day 36 – 37 - 38 Oodnadatta to Dalhousie Springs via Hamilton Homestead

---

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Sep

108 kms to Hamilton Homestead then 70 kms to Dalhousie, steady as you go Kenny Mac. Average 60km per day, camp when and where I need to.

Get has far as I can. Not a worry, I'm not expected to be at Dalhousie Springs until Monday afternoon. Pedirka Desert.

I've got 9 tough days on the road now till I reach Kulgera, via Finke and Lamberts Centre of Australia.

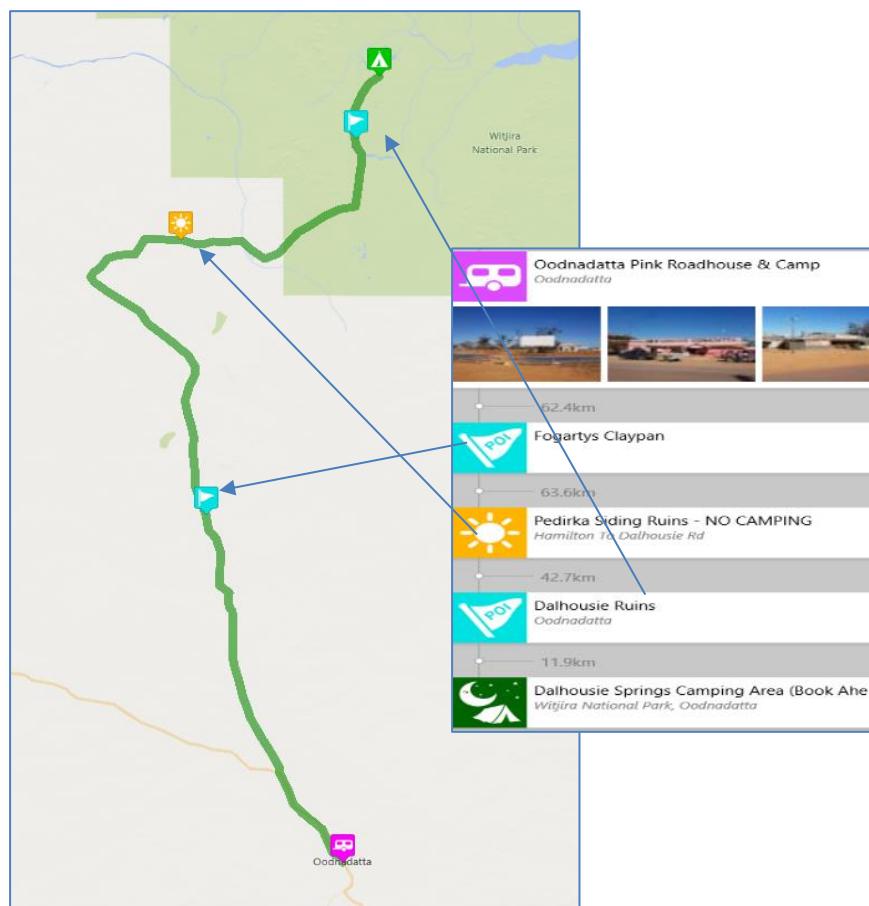
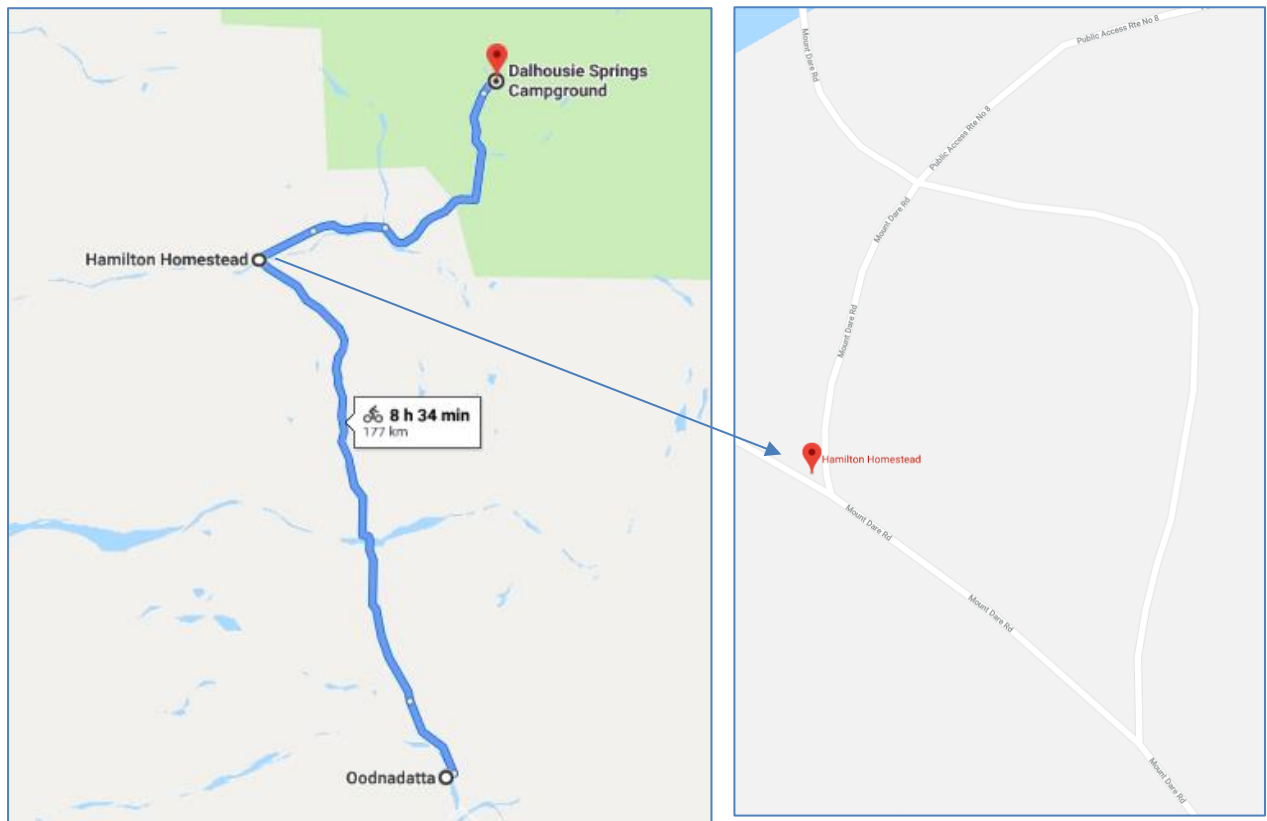


I'm taking this more interesting and remote track north rather than following the Oodnadatta Track via Marla. Heading to Finke and visit Lamberts Centre of Australia. Have been warned of the 14km of intermittent sand just south of New Crown homestead it's a tough but the reasonable, if slow, travelling hard along the rest of the route makes up for it.

"The road to Hamilton Station gets an occasional grade which is not always good news for those on a bike but that section is generally as good, or better, than the Oodnadatta Track. The sand stretches are usually only a few 100m long. Walking the bike can be frustrating at times but after about 3 hours pushing, shoving, hauling, dragging, and swearing it's all over. The road from New Crown homestead to Kulgera is regularly graded but is generally soft and slow. The 4WD track into Lambert Centre is a long sand pit but it can be fun to just ride through the shrubbery when you get sick of the track itself. Think about 2 hours to traverse the 13km each way. On the last day heading into Kulgera the road gradually improves, the surface gets harder."

"You need the capacity to take about 25 litres, (man, that's another 25kg), to last three days riding and two nights out to get between these points if you are spending the time to get to Lambert Centre, (and you gotta do that). It's not good to run out of water out here." Notes from another cyclist.





Dalhousie Ruins and Thermal Pools. Look fabulous.



Desert Park Pass Permit and  
Camp booked paid.

|                                      |                   |                              |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                          | <b>Email</b>      |                              |
| Kenneth McIlwain                     | kaam5@bigpond.com |                              |
| <b>Phone Number</b>                  |                   |                              |
| 0413583542                           |                   |                              |
| <b>Itinerary Total:</b>              | \$23.00           |                              |
| <b>Total Paid:</b>                   | \$23.00           |                              |
| <b>Balance Due:</b>                  | \$0.00            |                              |
| <b>Dalhousie Springs Campground</b>  |                   |                              |
| Dalhousie Springs Campground         |                   |                              |
| <b>Email</b>                         |                   |                              |
| DEW.SAALOnlineBookings@sa.gov.au     |                   |                              |
| <b>Phone</b>                         |                   |                              |
| 08 8648 5300                         |                   |                              |
| <b>Address</b>                       |                   |                              |
| Witjira National Park                |                   |                              |
| <b>Start Date</b>                    |                   | <b>Number of Nights</b>      |
| Monday, 9 September 2019             |                   | 1                            |
| <b>Check In</b>                      |                   | <b>Check Out</b>             |
| 12:01                                |                   | 11:00                        |
| <b>Number of Persons</b>             |                   | <b>Booking Total Inc GST</b> |
| 1A                                   |                   | \$15.00                      |
| <b>Booking ID</b>                    |                   | <b>GST</b>                   |
| 7769178                              |                   | \$1.36                       |
| <b>Booked By</b>                     |                   |                              |
| Department for Environment and Water |                   |                              |

65 kms to Mt Dare.     *Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Sep*



Mt Dare Hotel is ideally situated on the Western edge of the Simpson Desert just 10km south of the Northern Territory border. We are at a crossroad for travellers, visit Ayers Rock to the west, Alice Springs to the north, Queensland via the Simpson to the east and the Oodnadatta track and the Flinders Rangers to the south.

Most tracks with the exception of the Simpson Desert require minimal 4wd experience and are accessible by popular all-wheel drive vehicles. If you do wish to tackle the Simpson moderate 4wd experience and a high clearance 4 wheel drive are necessary.

A Park Pass is required to visit the Mt Dare Hotel and to visit or stay at Dalhousie Springs and can be purchased online or at Mt Dare.

We have a great range of services and supplies that we are constantly improving to meet the demands of the Outback traveller, so come and say g'day to Graham, Sandra and family & staff.

### **Budget Cabins**

Accommodation consists of 6 basic cabins with no bathroom and 2 en-suite cabins.

\*Bookings are preferred as our accommodation is limited, there is no need to book for camping. Enquiries by phone or email welcome.

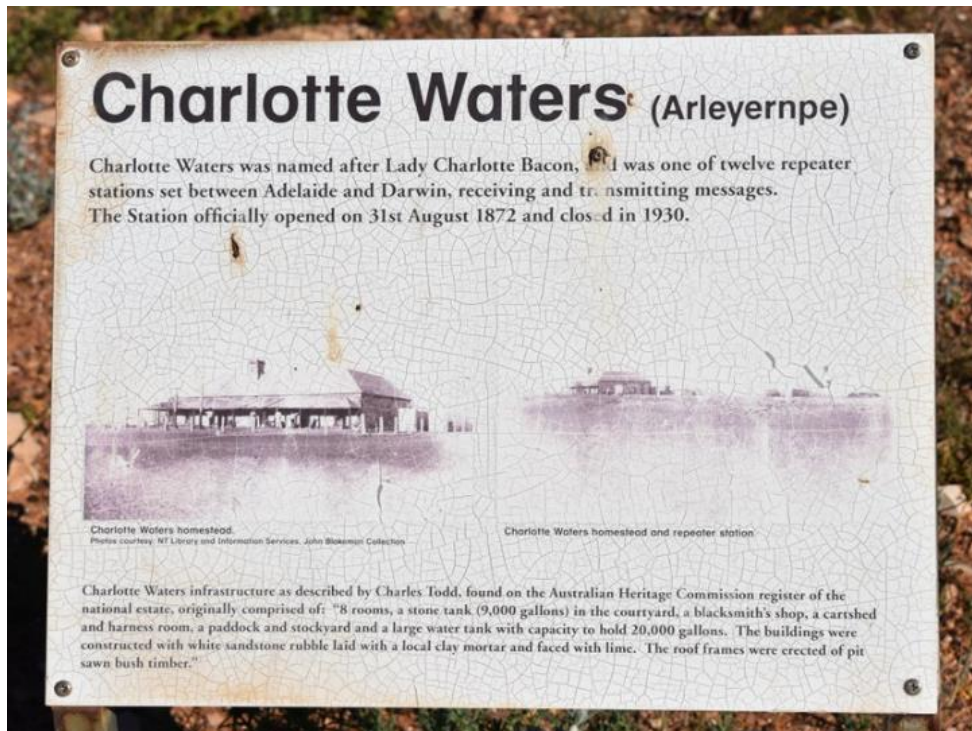
When booking a cabin, please include a credit card number and expiry date. There will be no charges to the card unless there is a late cancellation.

The road to Finke is plagued with sand, I'll take 2 days averaging around 51km a day.





51 kms     Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Sep



See how I go, whether I go further this is just a cattle station.



51kms to a shop????      Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Sep



## Aputula Store

### Opening Hours

Mon: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Tue: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Wed: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Thu: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Fri: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Sat: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Sun: Closed

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Organisation in Finke NT  
Opening at 09:00

CALL (08) 8956 0968

---

### APUTULA COMMUNITY STORE (FINKE)

Aputula Store stocks Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, Groceries, Meat, Sandwiches, Drinks, Ice Creams, Unleaded and Diesel Fuels. All proceeds go directly to the Aputula Aboriginal Community



*Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Sep*

35 kms then head back out and find somewhere on side of road to camp.



## Day 43    Lamberts Centre to halfway to Kulgera

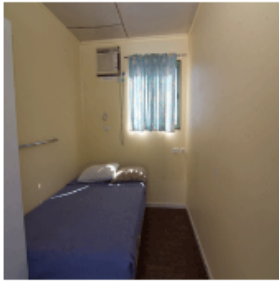
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Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Sep    About 70km

## Day 44    halfway to Kulgera

---

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Sep    60kms to the roadhouse drinks and food.



### Double Budget Room

Single room with 1 x double bed and wardrobe, air-conditioned, with power point, linen is provided, use of campground amenities. No cooking in room \$10 deposit for towels.

[Click The Book Now Button To Check Rates & Book Online](#)

[Book Now](#)

---

Address: 1St Stuart Hwy, Ghan NT 0872  
Hours: Open · Closes 9PM  
Phone: (08) 8956 0973



## **Day 45      Kulgera Roadhouse REST DAY**

---

*Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Sep*

Chance to write up notes from the last week or so and send to Lan, lots of photos. Enjoy my day off and eat well, that's my plan.

## **Day 46      Kulgera Roadhouse to Erldunda Roadhouse**

---

75 kms to the roadhouse. *Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Sep*



## Day 47     *Erlidunda Roadhouse to Stuart Well Roadhouse*

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108 kms to the roadhouse     *Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Sep*

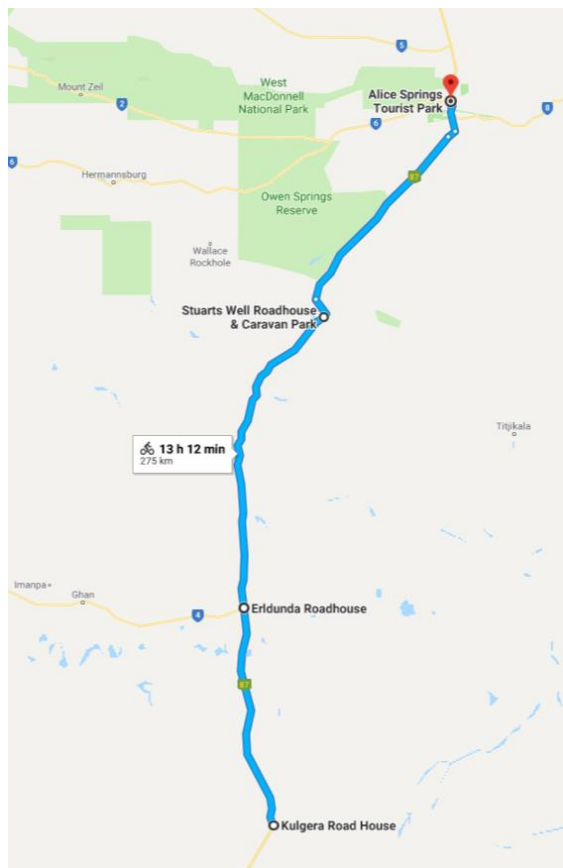


## Day 48     *Stuart Well Roadhouse to Alice Springs Tourist Park*

---

92 kms — *Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Sep to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Sep 2019*

REST for a few days before the drive home.



DESERTS I'll touch during the trek.

- Great Victoria Desert (348,750sq.km)
- Great Sandy Desert (267,250sq.km)
- Tanami Desert (184,500sq.km)
- Simpson Desert (176,500sq.km)
- Gibson Desert (156,000sq.km)
- Little Sandy Desert (111,500sq.km)
- Strzelecki Desert (80,250sq.km)
- Sturt Stony Desert (29,750sq.km)
- Tirari Desert (15,250sq.km)
- Pedirka Desert (1250sq. km)

also (Painted Desert)







*The famous corrugations*

