

TOURING

Spread your wings and explore some of the classic travelling routes of Outback NSW.



DARLING RIVER RUN

Darling River

One of Australia's great outback journeys, the Darling River Run is an adventure along Australia's longest river, the 2,740km-long Darling River.

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

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

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

From Brewarrina, drive west to Mount Oxley to spot wedge-tail eagles soaring overhead, and then continue to Bourke - the outback town made famous by Australian folklore. Experience the Back O'Bourke Exhibition Centre, which brings the rich cultural history of Outback NSW to life. If you have time, take a side trip through the wonderful Gundabooka National Park and get close to the vivid rock art. Then enjoy dinner in Bourke at the old Carriers Arms Hotel (known as Henry Lawson's local) before spending the night at a comfortable station stay or motel.

Start your second day with a morning's sightseeing. Follow the Maritime Trail and cruise the river on the Jandra paddle steamer. Get back on the gravel road and follow the line of majestic river red gums to Louth, population 50. The centerpiece of town is its classic pub displaying photos of life on the Darling.

Drive the scenic Wilcannia-Bourke Road to Tilpa and check into the century-old Tilpa Pub. This unique outback pub is made from corrugated iron and timber, with walls covered in travellers' messages. Chat to the friendly locals as you tuck into steak

Left page: Kinchega National Park, Kinchega Woolshed



Menindee Lakes

sandwiches and a cold beer before retiring after a long day behind the wheel.

The next day, journey through the open plains to Wilcannia, once one of Australia's busiest inland ports. A rewarding detour is a trip to Broken Hill. This jewel of western NSW is famous for mining, stunning arid landscapes, heritage buildings and a thriving arts scene that includes the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery - the oldest in the state.

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

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

Finish your Darling River Run by heading southeast to the colonial-era river port of Wentworth. There's plenty to do - from outback adventure tours to wine tastings

and water-skiing - in this fascinating town where the mighty Darling River meets up with the Murray River.



Did You Know?

Part of the Murray-Darling basin, the Darling River is fed primarily from the summer rains of southern Queensland. The Darling River makes its journey south-west across the state to Wentworth where it joins the mighty Murray River, which then flows on to Lake Alexandrina and into the Great Australian Bight.

