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The Rockholes Route

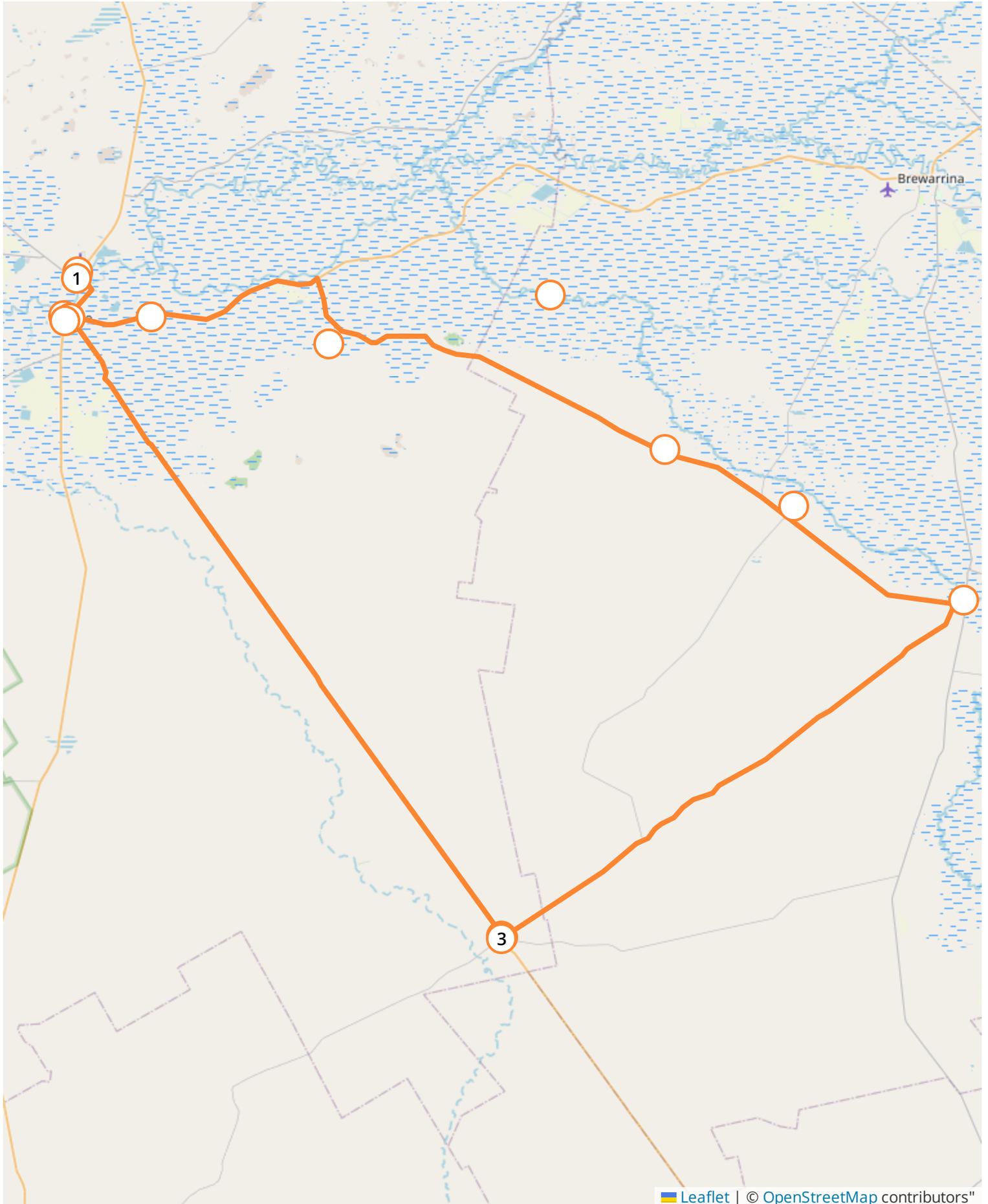


Details

-  Circuit
-  Distance - 240km
-  Pub Stops - 3
-  Duration - 1-2 days
-  Drive Time - 5hrs

The Rockholes Route takes the old road from Bourke, past Mt Oxley to Gongolgon, across to Byrock for a stop at the Mulga Creek Hotel, and back to Bourke along the Mitchell Hwy.

The Rockholes Route



1 North Bourke

Four hotels jostled for trade when passing drovers, teamsters and shearers arrived at the staging post on the junction of the roads to Hungerford and Barringun, in the old days when the big mobs of a thousand or more head of cattle came from stations far to the North into Bourke railhead. The 'Judas bullock' led them across the span to their fate.



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2 Pub STOP | North Bourke Hotel



Perched on the corner at North Bourke, 'The Northy' is the first thing you'll see after you cross the North Bourke Bridge, and its a great place to stop and get your bearings. The pub is a modern building recently opened which replaced the historic old riverview hotel that was destroyed by fire in 2010.



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3 Bourke



While only two hotels remain operational in Bourke, the outback town is synonymous with the outback, pioneering adventure, and the associated hotels that are scattered throughout the shire. Probably one of the most iconic towns in Australia, synonymous with the term 'The Back of Bourke', this small rural township is located on the banks of the Darling River, and is something of a regional centre for surrounding villages and properties. Sometimes known as 'The Gateway to the Real Outback' Bourke is a key service centre for fuel and supplies before heading out to explore the region.



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4 Historical Pubs & Breweries of Bourke



Sawing and hammering at the embryonic settlement on the Darling River near Fort Bourke in 1860 heralded construction of its first building – American William Sly’s Tattersall’s Hotel. Pioneer drover John Kelly’s Old Fort (Royal) Hotel soon followed and by the time of the big 1864 flood, the small settlement boasted three more pubs.



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5 Pub STOP | Port Bourke

The grand old lady of Bourke, the port of Bourke (originally called 'the Royal') is one of the finest buildings in town, and also one of the finest pubs. A large, double story building with deep verandahs on both levels, the pub faces Mitchell Street and is close to the popular wharf precinct, and the newly paved and landscaped park areas around the river.



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Arrive via Car from Pub STOP | North Bourke Hotel
6.42 km / 3.99 mi - 6 minutes



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6 Pub Spot | Carrington - Four Mile Hotel



Alfred Eccles' Four Mile Hotel was located on the eastern approach to town on the road to Brewarrina. First licenced in 1880 to George Warren, the hotel was later renamed the Carrington and it carried on trading until the mid-1890s.



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7 Pub Spot | Mountain Home

In 1870, an old English soldier named James Read took up 80 acres at the foot of the Mt Oxley ranges and opened a small inn, which he named the Mountain Home.

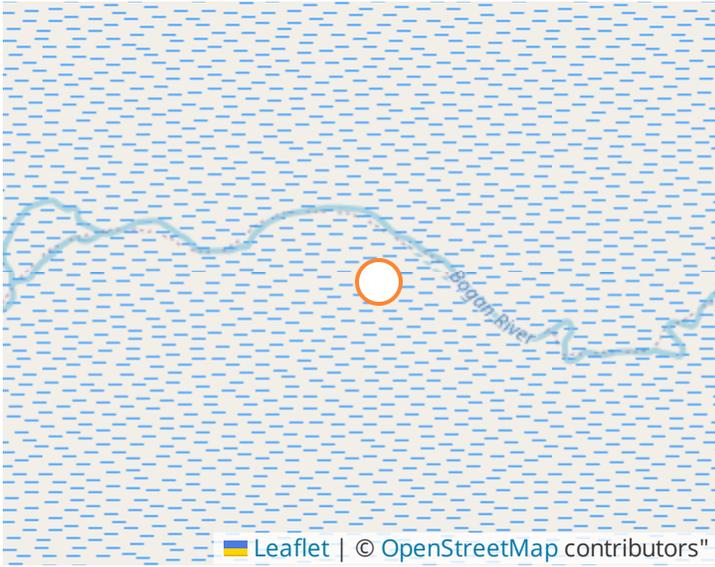


8 Pub Spot | Traveller's Rest – Model Huts

The Traveller's Rest was a short-lived public house situated at a deep Bogan River waterhole between the Pink hills and the Darling River, known as the Model Huts.

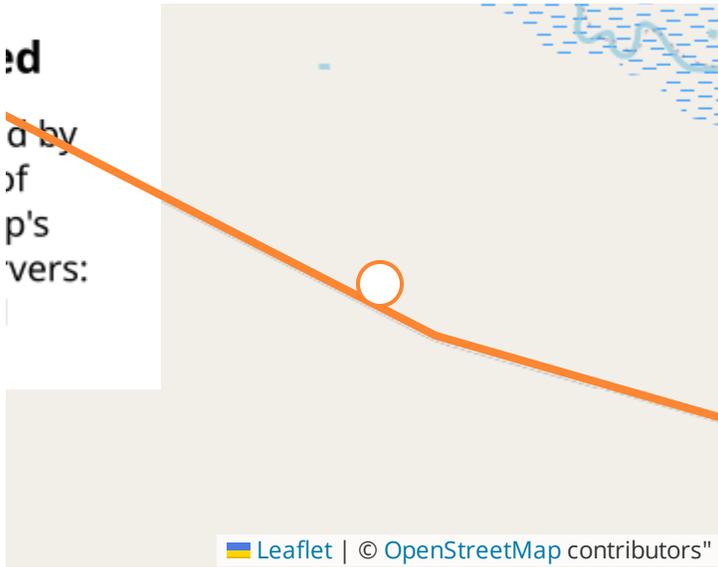


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9 Pub Spot | Pink Hills Hotel

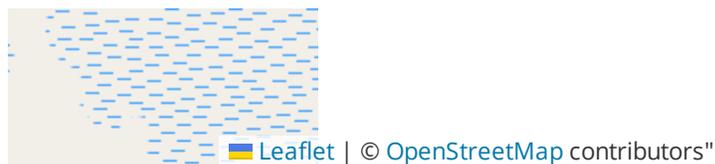
Once you pass Mt Oxley, there is really only one point of elevation that could be called a 'hill', and though it is covered in Mulga, it gave its name to the hotel that was located there.



10 Pub Spot | Railway Hotel - Tarcoon

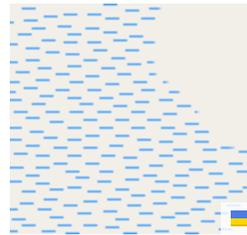
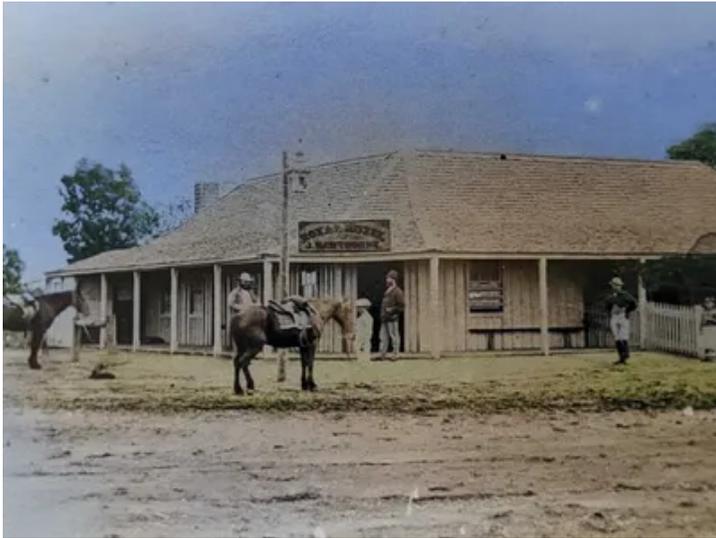


Little remains of the thriving village that intersected with exploration, coach, rail and wool, and ultimately time itself. Tarcoon was a village along the Bogan River which rose and fell with the changing modes of transport. Initially a key stopover for the coach lines which followed the Bogan River down, the village was also critically located on the rail-spur which later crossed from Byrock to Brewarrina, connecting to the Bourke - Sydney line.



11 Pub Spot | Gongolgon

In 1829, fifteen-year-old Edward Botfield arrived in the colony of NSW as a convict. Some forty years later he settled his family on the Bogan River, named his property 'Botfield' and opened his house as a coach stopover. Such were Gongolgon's simple beginnings.

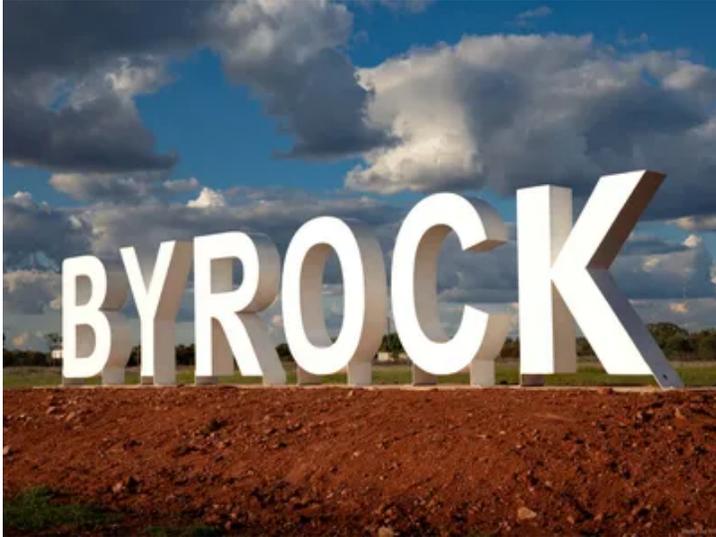


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12 **Byrock**

One of the smaller villages of the Bourke Shire, Byrock has an interesting and colourful past intersecting with coach, rail and road.



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13 Historical Pubs of Byrock

For aeons, the Ngemba stone-country people had rested by the sacred water hole they believed to have been carved from the rock by Baiame, the Creator. By the 1870s, their quiet was shattered as Cobb & Co coaches began ploughing the long miles from Dubbo up to Bourke.



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14 PUB STOP | Mulga Creek Hotel



Paul and Gail Kelly have owned the Mulga Creek Hotel for fourteen years, and they've got some stories to tell.



The pub is open seven days per week serving lunch and dinner, with excellent accommodation and entertainment like pool table, juke box and dart board. Being the only business in town, the pub is also the local Post Office, provides fuel for travellers, and has excellent caravan park and camping facilities at the rear.



Arrive via Car from Pub STOP | Port Bourke
163 km / 101 mi - 2 hours



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15 Bourke



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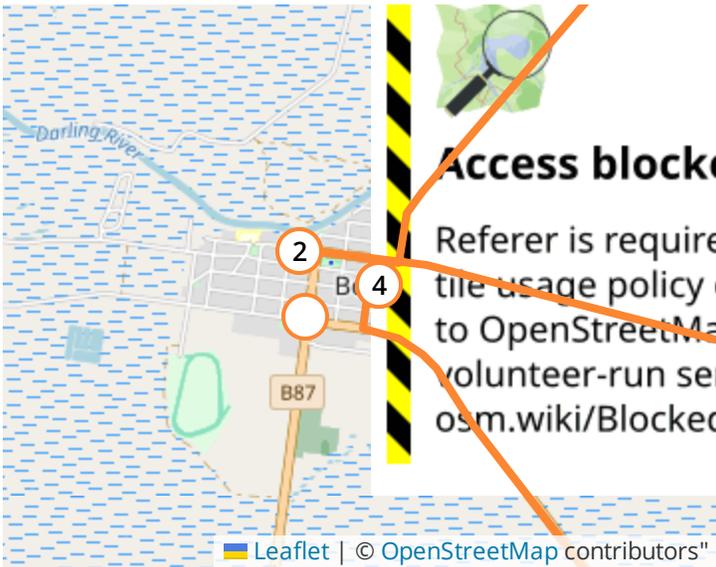
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Arrive via Car from PUB STOP | Mulga Creek Hotel
78.1 km / 48.5 mi - 45 minutes

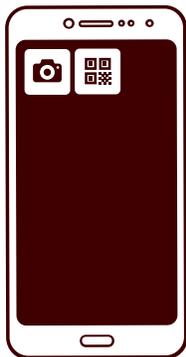


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Australia

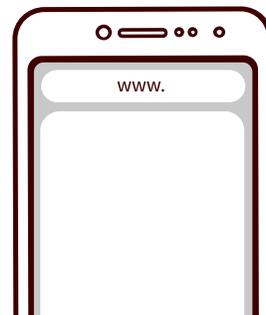
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