




The Opal Route



Details

-  Distance - 180km
-  Puns Stops - 4
-  Duration - 1-3 days
-  Time - 3hrs

The Opal Route could take a few hours, or a lifetime, depending on your frame of mind. There are certainly many long-term residents in the opal fields that 'only came for a look' – be careful!

The Opal Route

The route departs Walgett for Lightning Ridge, a well travelled, sealed road that crosses the Namoi and Barwon Rivers before making a bee-line North towards the famous opal town.



The Opal Route



1

Walgett



Walgett is nestled near the meeting point of the Namoi and Barwon Rivers, one of the most significant river junctions in Western NSW. The town's only roundabout marks the junction of the Kamilaroi and Castlereagh Highways, guiding eager outback adventurers through town and onto some of Australia's best outback touring routes.



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Australia

2 Historical Pubs of Walgett

While there is no substantive hotel currently operating in Walgett, the village on the junction of the Namoi and Barwon Rivers is a major hub of pastoralism and cropping, as well as place of great significance for Aboriginal people. During its history, there were at least 8 separate hotels in Walgett at different times – and a brewery.



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3 Gateway Motel/Motel

Call into the Gateway for a fantastically well appointed bottle shop, the best of local knowledge, and great accommodation, however, since Covid, there is no place to wet your whistle at the Gateway Motel/Motel.



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4

Pub Spot | Two Mile Hotel

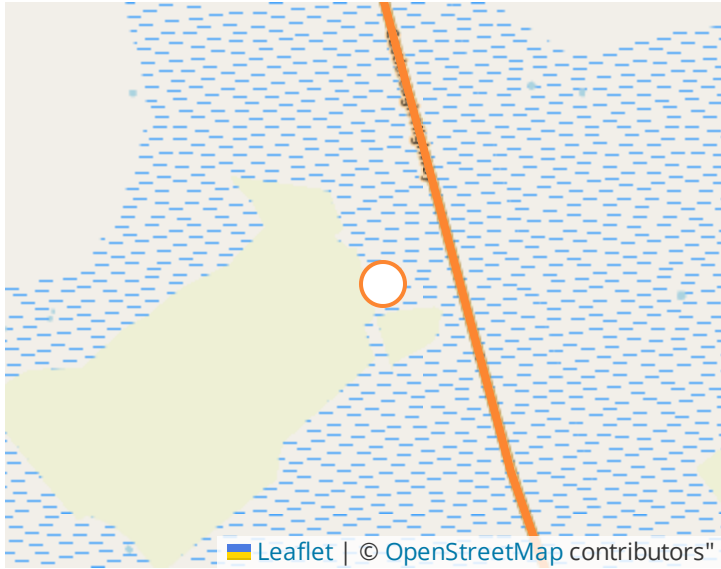
Located near the twisting junction of the Barwon and Narran Rivers just a few miles from town along the road to Lightning Ridge was the Two Mile (Warrambool) Hotel.



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5 Pub Spot | Eumanbah Hotel

Roughly 10 Miles from Walgett on the Lightning Ridge Road, the Eumanbah Hotel existed for just a few short years before disappearing from the historical record.



6 Pub Spot | Goorooway Hotel



The Gooraway hotel some 30 miles from Walgett on the Lightning Ridge road had a fairly long life.



The earliest reference found is that in 1878 the license for the *Goorooway Hotel* was held by William Simpson and was to remain so until 1881 when the hotel was referred to as the Gorawang Inn.

7 Lightning Ridge

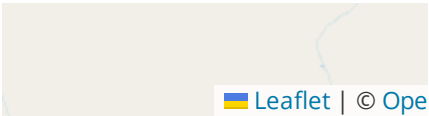
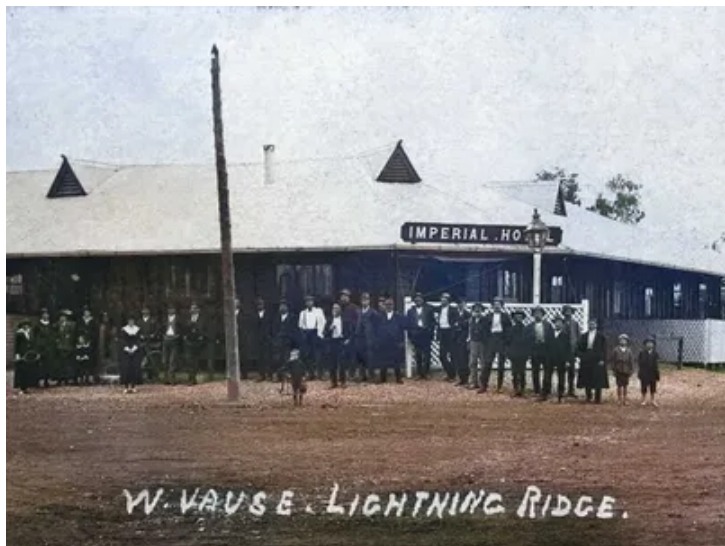
Like the rare black opals hidden deep within the region’s dusty brown foundation, Lightning Ridge is bursting with colourful highlights and fascinating people, ready to reward the inquisitive traveler.



Australia

8 Historical Pubs of Lightning Ridge

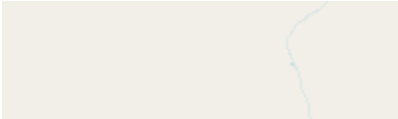
Lightning Ridge is one of the most iconic outback destinations in Australia. Synonymous with its famous black opal, the town's very backbone is the hard and thirsty work of mining. Quite surprising that a town like this only ever really had one hotel.



9

PUB STOP | Lightning Ridge Outback Resort

It might be the last pub standing in Lightning Ridge, but the Outback Resort has got plenty to offer, pretty much everything you need actually. Located on the main road into town, right across from the Tourist Information Centre the Outback Resort is a sprawling complex of motel accommodation, camping, bistro and bar.



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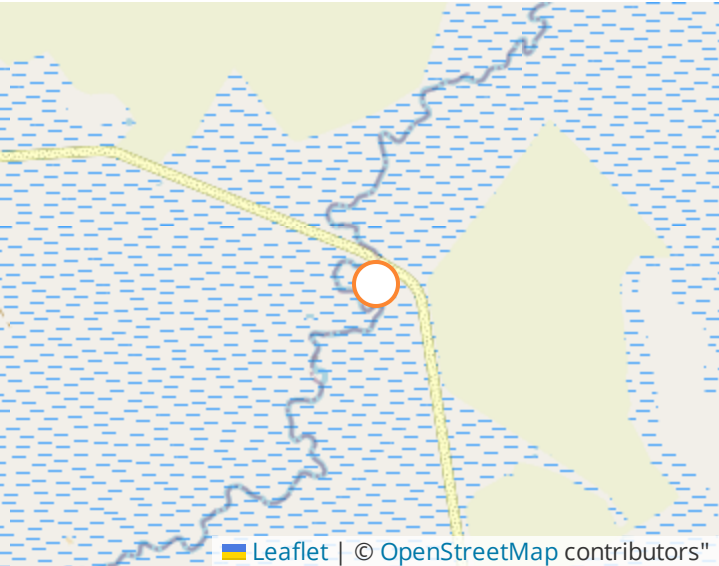
Arrive via Car from **Gateway Motel/Motel**
78.4 km / 48.7 mi - 46 minutes



10

Pub Spot | Wilby Wilby Inn

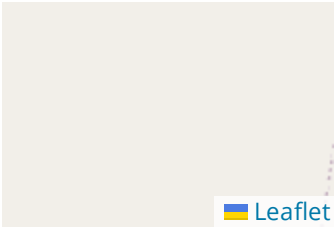
Located North of Cumborah and a short distance from the Grawin Opal Fields, the Grawin Hotel, or Wilby Wilby Inn has a storied past.



11

Pub Spot | Cumborah Hotel

On the southernmost Travelling Stock Route from Wilby Wilby to Walgett, another watering place became the focus for a small settlement. It was to be called Cumborah.

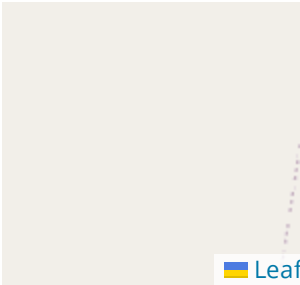


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12

Cumborah

Nestled into the surrounding Mulga and Cypress scrubland, Cumborah was once a thriving hub for local graziers, their families, and employees. The name “Cumborah” is thought to translate to “sweet water,” referring to the small springs that bubble up from the sandstone.



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Australia

13 PUB STOP | Club In The Scrub

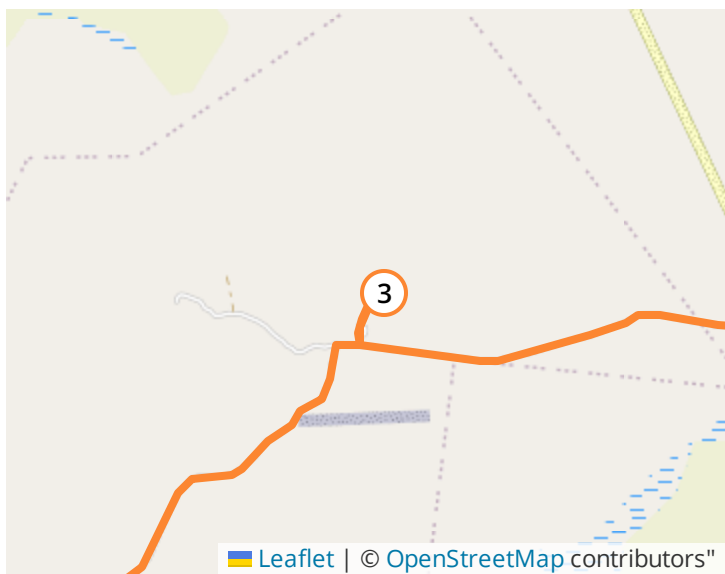


The Grawin Opal Fields are a loose assemblage of shacks, mines, camps and houses, held together by tracks, trails, mounds and used machinery....and the Club in The Scrub is no different.



Guests can expect warm fires in winter and conditioning in summer, an excellent kitchen and dining room with meals 7 days a week, as well as pool tables, darts, plasma tvs and enough memorabilia and curios to keep you entertained for days. The club has eftpos and wifi, but thankfully, no pokies.

Run largely by volunteers the *Club in The Scrub* is a real community hub. There's plenty of camping in around, and some times the golf course is open (not always) – but you will always find a few locals to yarn to, and learn about life in the opal fields.



Arrive via Car from PUB STOP | Lightning Ridge Outback Resort
66.7 km / 41.5 mi - 45 minutes



14

PUB STOP | Glengarry Hilton Hotel

Looking something like the various mining camps that surround it, the Glengarry Hilton is a community hub for the opal field, and a much loved watering hole for its locals.



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Arrive via Car from **PUB STOP | Club In The Scrub**
8.44 km / 5.25 mi - 11 minutes



15

PUB STOP | The Sheeppyard Inn

Surrounded by memorabilia and curios, with shady verandahs front and back and a massive stone fireplace inside, the Sheeppyard Inn is a comfortable hub for locals and visitors.



3

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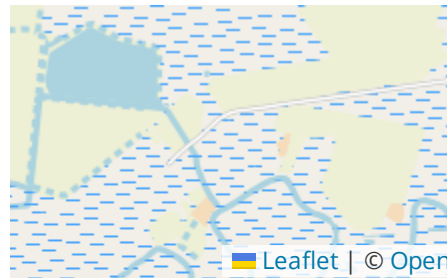
Arrive via Car from PUB STOP | Glengarry
Hilton Hotel
2.74 km / 1.7 mi - 4 minutes



16 Pub Spot | The Barwon Inn



The Barwon Inn is one of the long standing establishment in the Walgett district, and the stretch of the river where the hotel was located being still known by this name.



17

Walgett

Walgett is nestled near the meeting point of the Namoi and Barwon Rivers, one of the most significant river junctions in Western NSW. The town's only roundabout marks the junction of the Kamilaroi and Castlereagh Highways, guiding eager outback adventurers through town and onto some of Australia's best outback touring routes.



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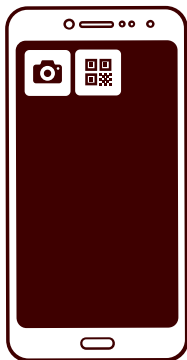
Australia



Arrive via Car from **PUB STOP | The Sheepyard Inn**
73.4 km / 45.6 mi - 52 minutes



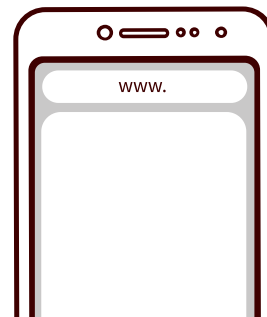
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