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# The River Run Route

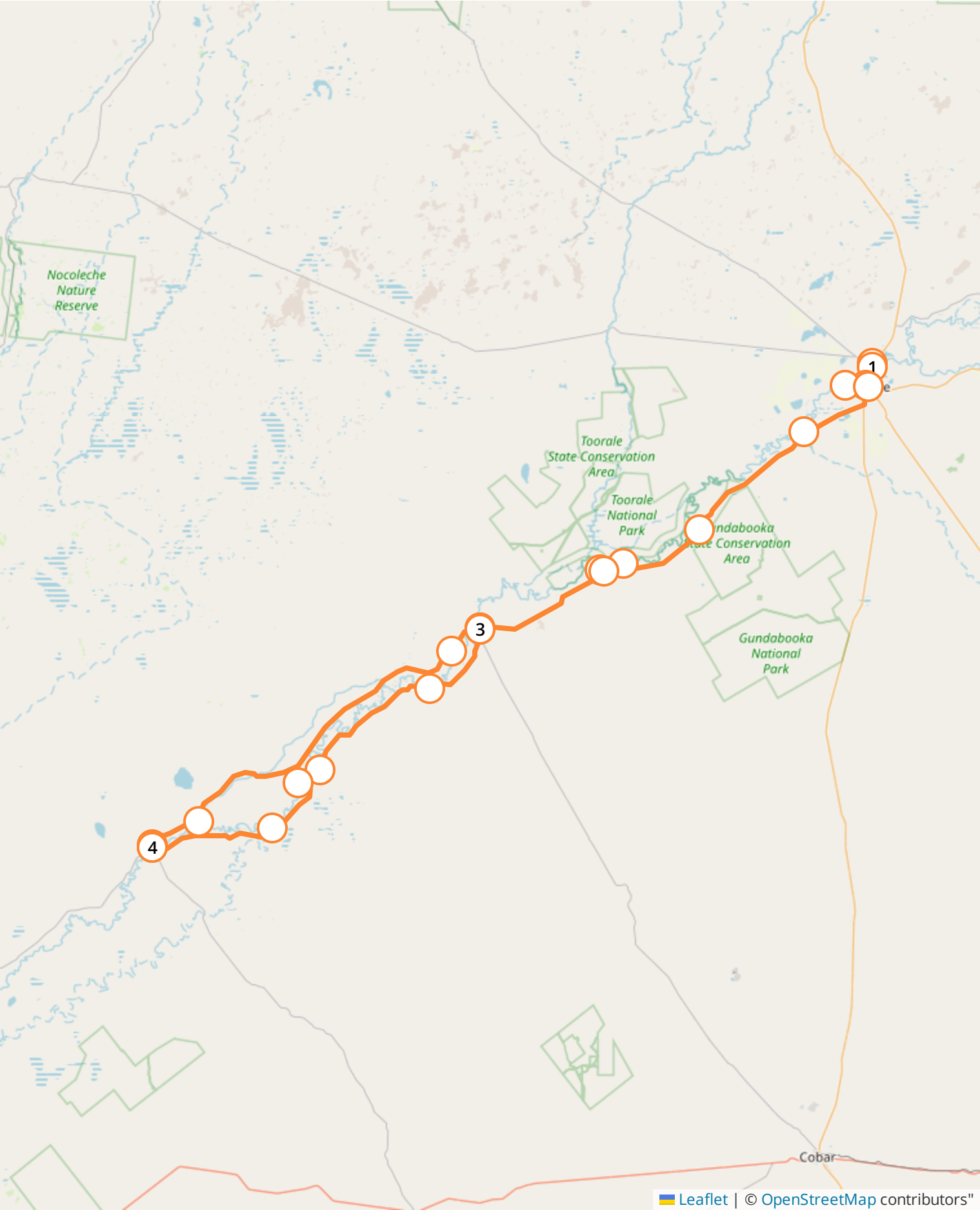


## Details

-  Return Same Path
-  Distance - 286km
-  Pub Stops - 4
-  Duration - 1-2 Days
-  Driving Time - 5hrs

The 'River Run Route' follows the Darling River down to Tilpa and back, including stops at Shindy's Inn at Louth, and the famous Tilpa Hotel as well as numerous historic pub spots along the way.

The River Run 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 Barrington, 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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## 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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## PUB STOP | Port Of Bourke Hotel

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



5 Pub Spot | The Four Mile Hotel



The Four Mile Hotel was a short-lived licensed premises located on the travelling stock route between Bourke and Louth in the late 1870s. As the name suggests, the pub was about four miles from the town, but not to be confused with a later “Four-Mile Hotel” on the road east to Brewarrina.



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## 6 Pun Spot | Commercial Hotel – Jandra



The Commercial Hotel was located at the 18 miles peg, downriver from Bourke within the travelling stock route that ran along the river to Louth. William Irwin was granted a lease of 8 acres of land to build a hotel, effective January 1, 1880.



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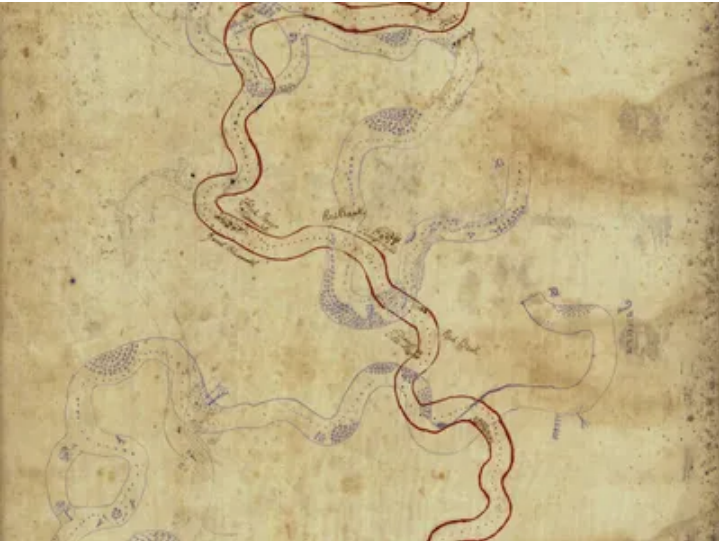




7 **Pun Spot | Redbank Hotel**



The Redbank Hotel was one of a number of small licensed premises that dotted the landscape at an average distance of around 12 miles from one another – 12 miles being the average distance a stockman could move a grazing flock of sheep in one day. Other venues established in the area in the 1870s included the East Toorale Hotel and the Commercial Hotel established at Jandra Station.



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## 8 Pub Spot | Galway Hotel



Before the current road network with bridges and crossings was established, overland travellers followed, and crossed rivers according to need and proximity. Working men approaching or leaving the enormous Toorale Station simply crossed the river to what was known as 'East Toorale'. A number of hotels owed their existence to this accumulation of men, and the Galway Hotel, a few hours further downstream towards Louth also flourished amidst the endless enterprise of pastoralism.



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## 9 Rose Isle Station

Rose Isle is a grazing property located 70 km downstream of Bourke on the Louth - Bourke road part of the Darling River Run with beautiful river views and peaceful campsites. With powered and un-powered lawn sites and river sites for caravans, camp trailers, boats and tents, but also provide shearer quarters, cabin and self contained cottage accommodation for those travelling without setting up their own camps. Enjoy fishing, bird watching, hiking, kayaking or just relaxing in the back country.



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Bourke Wilcannia Road, Louth, Australia

## 10 Pub Spot | East Toorale



East Toorale on the other side of the river from the famous Toorale Station was home to no fewer than four different “signs of the house” over a period spanning some five decades. As well as being a convenient wayside stop for travellers between Bourke and Louth, the hotels at East Toorale derived much business from the shearers, roustabouts and drovers of Toorale, the original station homestead and shearing shed were located just a few kilometres away across the river.



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## 11 Louth



Once a thriving river port which included up to 5 thriving hotels at different times due to its proximity to pastoral stations, the village of Louth is now a popular stop for travellers seeking adventure along the Darling River and is well known for hosting NSW's premier outback race meeting every August.



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## 12 Historical Pubs of Louth

This village on the Darling River was developed to take advantage of the proximity to the huge pastoral stations west of the Darling boasted five hotels at different times, The Daniel O’Connell (Dan O’Connell) The Royal Hotel, The Post Office Hotel, The Telegraph Hotel (probably at Weelong) and Shindy’s Inn (formerly the Royal Hotel).



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## 13 Pub Stop | Shindy's Inn

Shindy's Inn is the current Hotel in Louth, a low wide building with frontage to the river and the street, shady verandahs and outside sitting areas. The pub is built on the site of the former Royal Hotel which was destroyed not once, but twice by fire, becoming 'Shindy's Inn' after it's 1956 rebuild.



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Bloxham Street, Louth, Australia



Arrive via Car from **PUB STOP | Port Of Bourke Hotel**  
98.9 km / 61.5 mi - 1 hour 1 minute



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Pub Spot | Stoney Creek Hotel

Stoney Creek joins the Darling, from the east, a little downstream from Louth. On the southern corner, on supposedly flood-free ground under a stony ridge, stood John Howell’s “Stoney Creek” Hotel.



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# Pub Spot | Traveller's Rest (Compodore)



The Travellers' Rest was one of the small wayside hotels and mail changing station between Louth and Tilpa. Located just a mile from the large shearing shed at Winbar, the hotel did good trade for just over forty years.



16

# Pub Spot | Telegraph Hotel – Weelong



Upstream on the eastern side of the river was the location for the district’s next licenced hotel, at Weelong. The Telegraph Hotel was located where red country runs in on to the bank of the Darling River about a kilometre and a half above Curranyalpa homestead.



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# Tilpa

Situated on the western banks of the Darling River, between Louth and Wilcannia, Tilpa is a welcoming Outback stop for travellers seeking a unique experience, whether for a few hours or a few days. Known for its scenic camping and fishing along the Darling River, this small town also boasts an iconic pub that’s been a social hub for over a century.



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## 18 Historical Pubs & Breweries of Tilpa

Tilpa's first licenced hotel was opened in 1877 when a licence was granted to James Buckley on January third of that year, and on the original licence its location is given as Killara, Darling River. The name of this new hotel was the "Wee Watter", although it has sometimes, unofficially, been called the "Wee Watta" or "Wee Watah".



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# Tilpa Hotel

Grown from a river boat trade along the Darling River, the hotel/pub is the heart of Tilpa and and a favourite attraction to both travellers and locals. Established in 1894, the Tilpa Hotel full of character and includes a bistro and accommodation.



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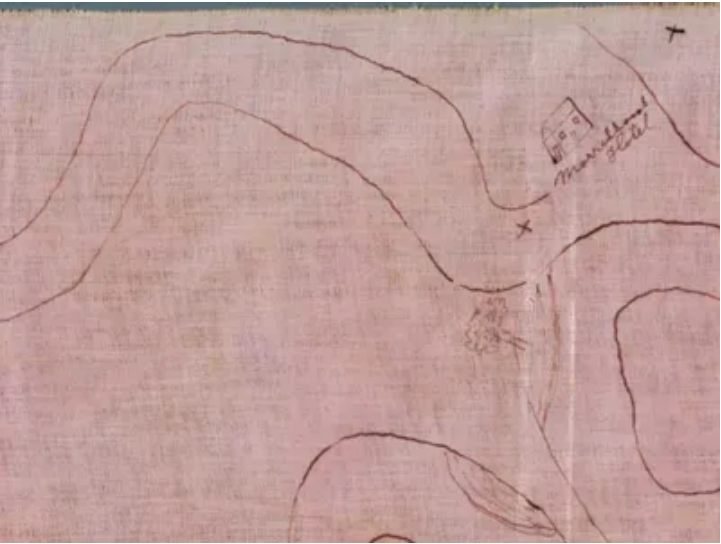
Arrive via Car from Pub Stop | Shindy's Inn  
92.6 km / 57.5 mi - 56 minutes



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## Exchange Hotel – Kallara

In 1878, William Morrison of Morrison Brothers Coaches established the Exchange Hotel on the eastern side of the river nearly opposite Kallara Station.



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## 21 Shamrock Inn – Newfoundland



When Andrew Murray opened The Shamrock in 1867, on the optimistically named Newfoundland Run, he intended it as a link to his native Ireland, where the local pub was an integral part of the culture.



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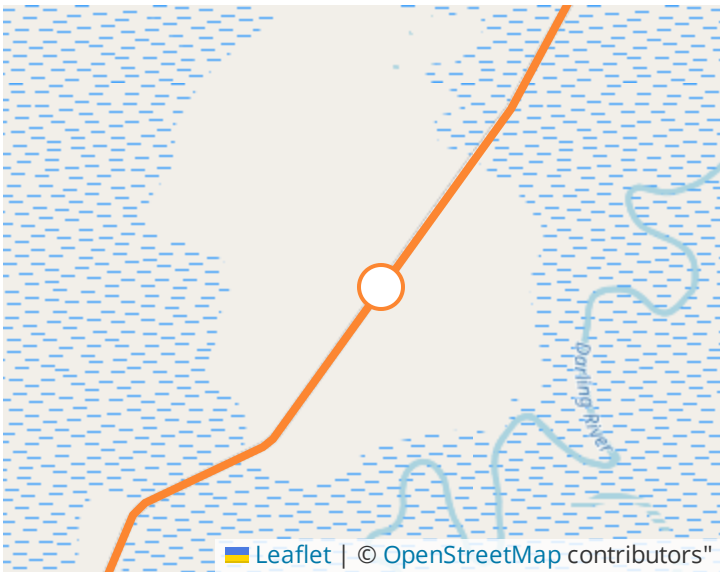


## 22 Dunlop Hotel

While there is local knowledge and existing remains of a hotel known as 'Fields Sandhill', there is virtually nothing in the historical record of this hotel.



The *Dunlop Hotel* is identified as being 'about half a mile towards Louth from the Dunlop wool scour' (well upstream from the main homestead) with a license being granted to Joseph Field on the 16th of July, 1878 – the license was renewed in 1881 (after having apparently lapsed for 2 years, the mistake being attributed to 'his agent') and finally refused in 1882. The story goes that the proprietors wife was burnt to death, causing the shanty to be delicensed and closed down.



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Louth



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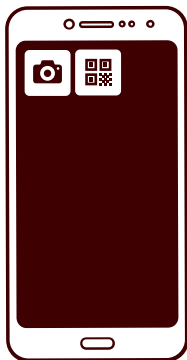


Arrive via Car from **Tilpa Hotel**  
89 km / 55.3 mi - 1 hour 31 minutes



GET DIRECTIONS

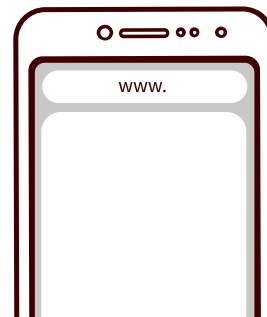
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