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# Two Rivers Route



## Details

 Circuit

 Distance taken - 509km

 Pub Stops - 6

 Time taken - 1-3

The 'Two Rivers Loop' takes you from the Pubs of Cobar and Shindy's Inn at Louth to the Warrego Hotel at Fords Bridge then onto 'The Northy' and Port of Bourke Hotel.

The road out of Cobar takes you through the undulating fringe of the Penepplain, and through some significant mineral-bearing ranges before arriving in the historic river village of Louth, on the Darling-Barka.

## Two Rivers Route

Louth is a hotspot for history and hospitality which can be found at all the farm-stays and of course at the local hotel, Shindy's Inn.

There's accommodation aplenty as well as many options for caravans and camping and a night or two in the area is highly recommended.

Crossing the river at Louth you take the 'back-road' through the historic Toorale National Park and, via a couple of turns on and off the 'Wanaaring Road' follow the Warrego River upstream into Fords Bridge, a sleepy hamlet with a much-loved pub

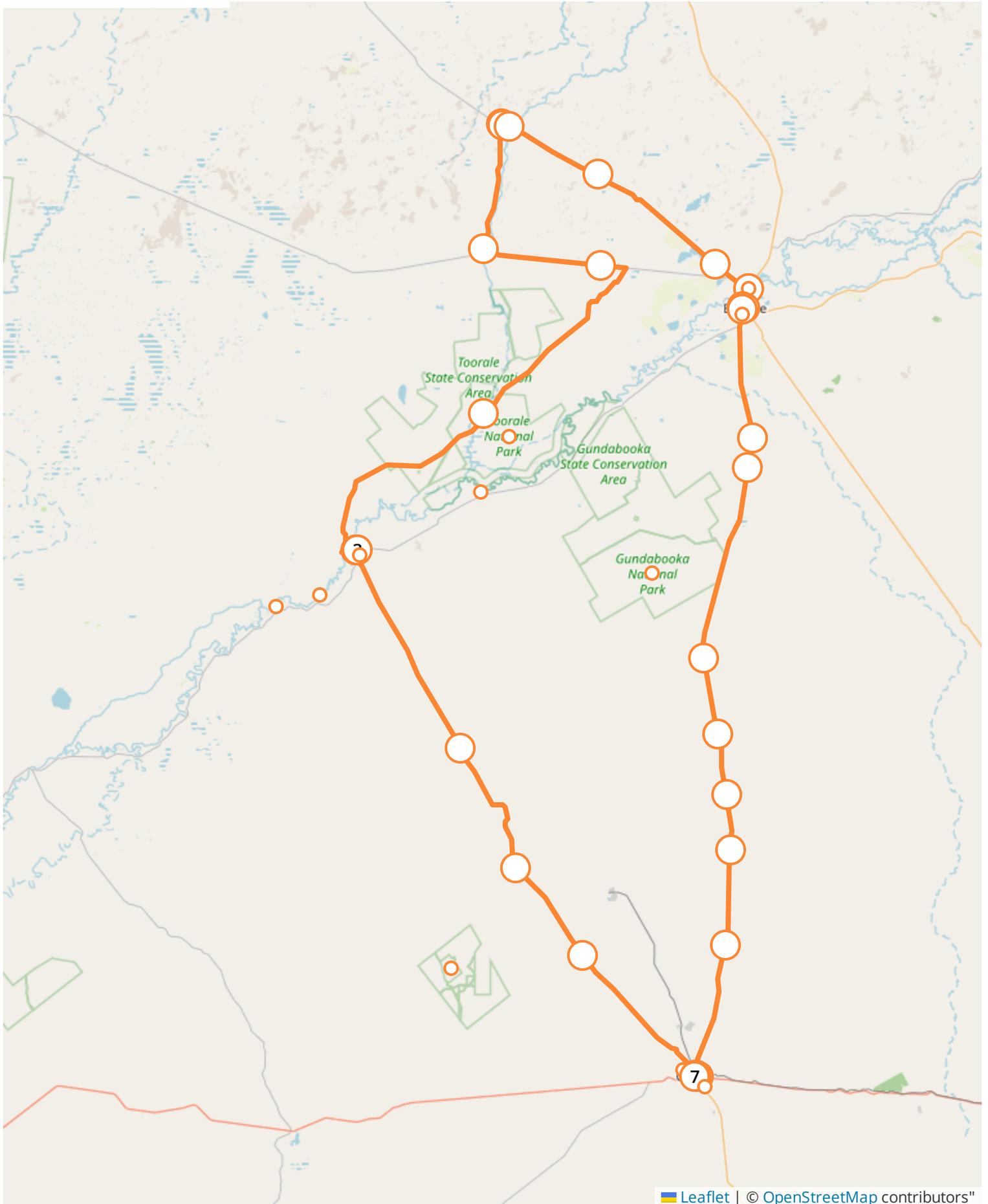
It's mostly sealed back to Bourke as you travel through gidgee forests, pass through old lakes and enter Bourke through extensive irrigation fields where the first hotel you'll connect with is 'The Northy'.

Both Bourke and Cobar are major centres with many attractions and anything you require as far as supplies, and many options as far as pubs to explore.

The road to Cobar is the fully sealed Kidman Way which takes you past the amazing Gundabooka National Park and back into the mineral-rich landscape of Cobar to complete the loop.



# Two Rivers Route

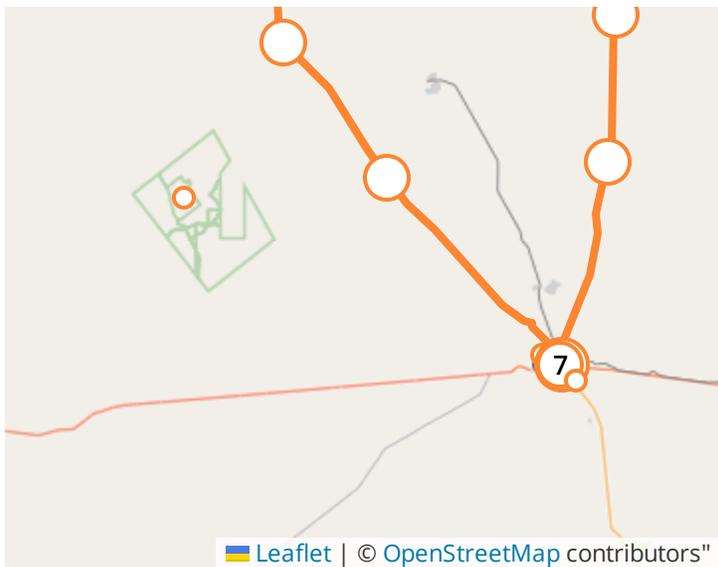


# 1 Cobar

Cobar, aka 'The Copper City', was once the largest producer of the copper in Australia. Situated in the heart of outback NSW the town today pays homage to this history through fascinating museums and colonial buildings, preserved open-cut mines and memorials. After the discovery of copper in 1879 and an influx of miners to the area many hotels started to appear adding to rich tapestry of history of the town. Today the Great Western and Empire Hotels remain where you can have a beer, enjoy a meal and meet the locals.



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Australia

## Cobar Attractions

### The Great Cobar Museum & Information Centre

Cobar, NSW, Australia



The Great Cobar Museum is located in the former offices of the Great Cobar Copper Mine. Visitors can explore the deep history of Cobar in the all-new exhibitions while admiring the restored beauty of the grand old building.



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### Fort Bourke Hill Lookout

Off Kidman Way S of Cobar, Cobar, NSW, Australia



Located only 2km from town, take a sealed road up to Fort Bourke Lookout and view Cobar and its surroundings. See the open pit and entrance to the underground mine from a well constructed viewing platform.



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### Cobar Sound Chapel

The Cobar Sound Chapel is a permanent sound installation artwork located in Cobar. It was completed in early 2022 and is a creation by composer / sound artist Georges Lentz in collaboration with architect Glenn Murcutt. The Cobar Sound Chapel is an intimate sound space, a marriage of music, architecture, art, poetry and nature.



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### Cobar Miners Heritage Walk

The Cobar Miner's Heritage Park was built August 2002 and is located directly across from The Great Cobar Museum on the Barrier Highway, Cobar.



GET DIRECTIONS

## Cobar Miners Memorial



GET DIRECTIONS



### Mount Grenfell Historic Site

Mount Grenfell Historic Site in Cubba protects Ngiyampaa rock art. It's a short walk to this important Aboriginal site, and a more challenging one to a scenic lookout.



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## 2 Historical Pubs & Breweries of Cobar

Eighteen hotels are known to have existed in Cobar. Fortunately, they did not all exist at the same time as it may have been harder to get things done.



The Grand Hotel

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### 3 PUB STOP | The Great Western Hotel



The Great Western Hotel a great place to stop and soak up some of the ambience of 'Old Cobar' and have a yarn with the locals. The hotel is family friendly with accommodation, dining facilities and coffee shop open for lunch & dinner seven days a week.



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20 Marshall Street, Cobar, Australia

## 4 PUB STOP | Empire Hotel

While it no longer features that grand old facade that was the face of the Empire Hotel for so many years, the pub itself is still a welcoming, comfortable and very popular place to eat and drink in Cobar.



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Arrive via Foot from PUB STOP | The Great Western Hotel  
293 m / 960 ft - 4 minutes



## 5 Pub Spot | Doughty's Hotel



Doughty's Hotel at Elouera just outside of Cobar was a wooden structure which included detached accommodation with three bedrooms. In 1918 the pub was destroyed by fire as there was little water at the location to put out the flames. This may or may not have been the end of the pub at Eloura.



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## 6 Pub Spot | Wattagoona Hotel



The Wattagoona Hotel was possibly also known as 'The Smith O'Brien Hotel'. The location of the pub is at, or near the Wattagoona Homestead, where according to The Sydney Evening News in 1877 the 'Dreadful Occurrence' took place.



Wattagoona Homestead

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## 7 Pub Spot | Kerrigundi Hotel

While a public watering place is identified close to this location, little is known of the mysterious Kerrigundi Hotel



Kerrigundi Hotel

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## 8 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.



Located 132 km northwest of Cobar, 100 km southwest of Bourke and 836km northwest of Sydney, Louth was established in 1862 when an Irishman named Thomas A Matthews selected 40 acres from the Toorale holding (where he was employed as a shipwright and wheelwright) and built a pub to cater for the passing river and land-based trade.

At one stage the town grew to have three hotels, a cordial factory, three bakeries, two butchers, a post office, three churches, a Chinese garden, a general store, and a police station.

Today, Louth is a small and friendly village which has one remaining pub (Shindy's Inn) which is situated on the banks of the Darling River and is renowned for its fishing, yabbing, birdlife and great camping experiences.



Australia

## Sights & Activities

### Toorale National Park

Explore the vast floodplain, historical buildings and the beautiful river locations of Toorale National Park and State Conservation Area. Summary ends



GET DIRECTIONS

### Gundabooka National Park

Visit Gundabooka National Park and State Conservation Area, to witness the imposing Mount Gunderbooka, go camping in the outback and see Aboriginal rock art.



GET DIRECTIONS

### Trilby Station



A 5th generation sheep station situated near Louth on the Darling River offering guests a unique outback experience with fantastic camping and accommodation options.



GET DIRECTIONS

### Rose Isle Station



Bourke Wilcannia Road, Louth, Australia

A grazing property located 70km downstream of Bourke with beautiful river views, campsites, accommodation and homestyle hospitality.



GET DIRECTIONS

### Mary Mathews Monument



Visit the historic cemetery and the emotive "Celtic Cross" an 8 metre high polished granite cross that memorialises Mary Mathews the wife of Louth's founder. For three minutes at sunset, the sun catches the monument and shines bright.



GET DIRECTIONS

### Dunlop Station

10045 Toorale Road, Louth, NSW, Australia

Take a tour of historic Dunlop Station, 14km downstream from Louth. Established in 1880 and once a million acres, it was the first sheep station in the world to use mechanical shears.



GET DIRECTIONS

### Louth Races



The iconic Louth races are held in August each year, drawing a massive crowd keen to capture the magic of the outback races!



GET DIRECTIONS

## 9 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).



Royal Hotel Great Flood 1890

 State Library of New South Wales

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## 10 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 | Empire Hotel  
132 km / 81.9 mi - 1 hour 22 minutes



## 11 Pub Spot | Traveller's Rest Hotel



The Traveller's Rest Hotel, also known as the Kearnie Hotel, or Kearnies situated close to Toorale and the Toorale shearing shed. It is slightly upstream of the homestead on the opposite side of the river, a grave is nearby.



Travellers Rest Hotel - Toorale

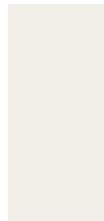
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## 12 Pub Spot | Cooly Arbor

Cooly Arbor was located on the Bourke-Wanaaring Road, near the turn-off from Toorale, now a Stock Watering Place known as 'Sibraas Bore'.



Bourke-Wanaaring Road, near the turn-off from Toorale



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## 13 Pub Spot | Gumbalie Hotel



The Gumbalie Hotel was a popular watering place along the Warrego at the junction of the river and the Wanaaring Road, and was thought to be a location where Henry Lawson stopped along his walk to Hungerford.



Gumbalie Hotel

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## 14 Fords Bridge



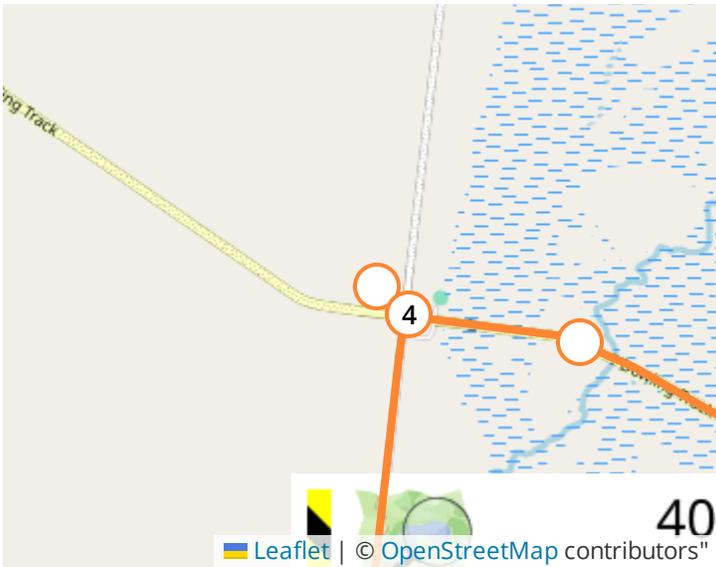
The village of Fords Bridge, located on the Warrego River, was once a tiny flourishing town with a butcher shop, post office, school and race track. Today "Fordsie" is a sleepy town of four!



A little-known or understood geological oddity occurs in the Fords Bridge area - northeast of the town is a location known as the "Sounding Mound". It's a 30-metre by 12-metre area, which sounds hollow when jumped upon, although hard on top. The region contains many such curiosities, which may be 'mound springs'.

### Attractions:

- Call into the historical Warrego Hotel, built in 1913 from mud brick and thought to be the only pub in Australia still standing constructed of mud bricks. The pub also rests on the Cobb and Co changing station site, where the legendary stage coaches swapped their horses for a new team.
- Camp and catch a few yabbies' on the Warrego River.
- Take a selfie with the Big Yabby!
- Visit the historic cemetery.



Australia

## 15 PUB STOP | Warrego Hotel

Call into the historical Warrego Hotel, built in 1913 from mud brick, thought to be the only pub in Australia still standing constructed of mud bricks. The pub also rests on the site of the Cobb and Co changing station where the legendary stage coaches swapped out their horses for a fresh team.



 Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors"



Arrive via Car from PUB STOP | Shindy's Inn  
150 km / 93.2 mi - 1 hour 31 minutes



## 16 Pub Spot | Salmonford Hotel



The Salmonford Hotel was located on the East side of the Warrego. It's Licence moved across to the village in 1913 as the current Warrego Hotel.



Salmonford Hotel - Fords Bridge

 Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors"

## 17 Pub Spot | Sutherlands Lake Hotel



Known as 'Sutherland's Lake House', and also 'Lauradale Lake' or 'Lauradale Hotel' – the pub appears to have been a simple construction with an earth floor in the dining room.



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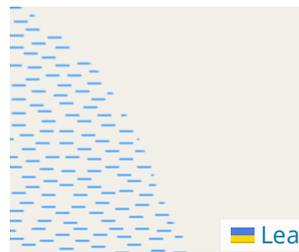
## 18 Pub Spot | Kelly's Camp



Kelly's Camp was originally as a wine shanty and later a became a hotel. The site is on a regular supply of artesian water, and catagorised as 'a farm' by 15 year old R. Stretton in his published correspondence to Dame Durden.



Kelly's Camp Bore



Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors

# 19 PUB STOP | The 'Northy' Back O' Bourke Hotel



Known to locals simply as 'Northy' the current hotel is on the site of the former 'Riverview Hotel, which is likely to have been relocated from Gumbalie, and is one of at least 5 hotels in North Bourke at different times.



The 'Northy'. The North Bourke Hotel

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Arrive via Car from PUB STOP | Warrego Hotel  
61.3 km / 38.1 mi - 50 minutes



# 20 Bourke

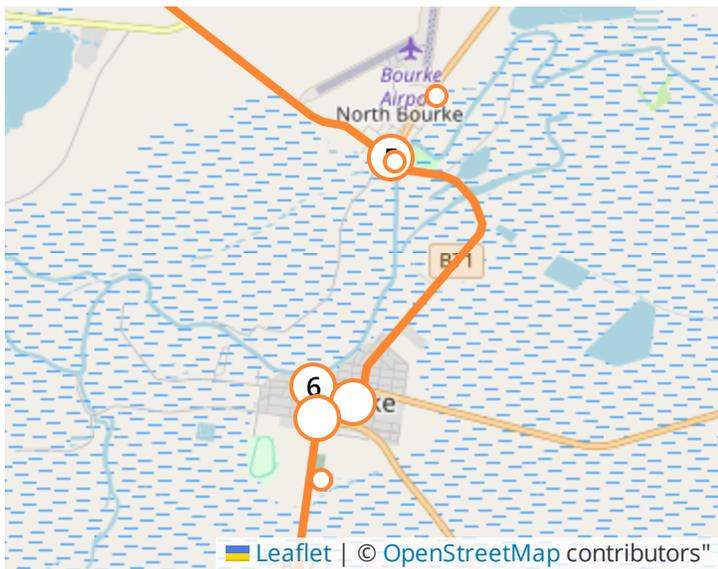


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While only two hotels remain operational in Bourke, the outback town is synonymous with the outback, pioneering adventure, and the associated hotels that are scattered throughout the shire. Probably one of the most iconic towns in Australia, synonymous 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.



Bourke NSW



Australia

## Attractions & Accommodation



### Kidman's Camp

Nestled in the heart of the Australian outback, Kidman's Camp offers a rugged oasis with a rich history, providing a true taste of outback life.



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### Bourke General Cemetery

Kidman Way, Australia

Nestled in Bourke, the General Cemetery tells silent stories of the Outback's past, a place of reflection and history.



GET DIRECTIONS



### Bourke Bridge Inn

Nestled in Bourke, Bourke Bridge Inn offers a serene escape. Immerse in outback charm and rich history at this cozy inn.



GET DIRECTIONS

## 21 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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## 22 PUB SPOT | 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.



Port of Bourke Hotel



Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors



Arrive via Car from PUB STOP | The 'Northy'  
Back O' Bourke Hotel  
6.42 km / 3.99 mi - 6 minutes



## 23 Pub Spot | Two Water Holes



A Colonial Wine License appears to have been granted and renewed several times for the Two Water Holes site. There is still a cricket club in the Bourke competition called Two Waterholes, and up until recently, games were being scheduled on the bush pitch near to the site of the hotel.



Two Water Holes

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## 24 Pub Spot | Corella Wine Shanty

The Corella Wine Shanty was a wooden building of 6 rooms licensed to Thomas Meadows under a Colonial Wine License.



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## 25 Pub Spot | Curraweena Hotel



The Curraweena Hotel which was situated half way between Bourke and Cobar was also known as 'Yellow Water Holes'. There was also known to be a Royal Mail Hotel near to a major pastoral station which indicates it could be the same place.



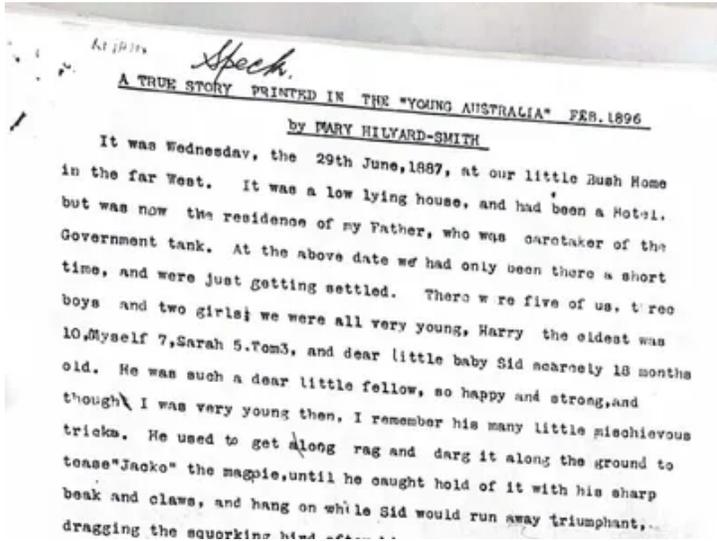
Royal Hotel - Curraweena - 1882

 Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors"

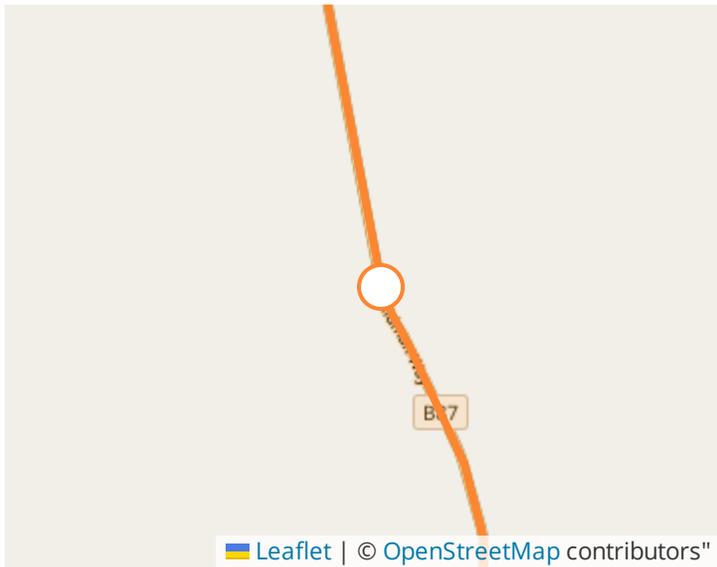
# 26 Pub Spot | Helman's Tank (Halfway House)



Helman's Tank was a public watering place enclosed by the current property 'Dijoe'. The site appears to have been established as a Hotel by Henry HILLMAN in 1882, however the premises seem to have been converted to a family home by 1887, as conveyed in the tragic story of Mary Hillard-Smith.



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## 27 Pub Spot | Tindarey Hotel



The Tindara Hotel was licensed in this location as early as 1873. The building is thought to have been built by Charles Campbell who along with Hartman and Gibbs are credited with identifying the original Copper deposit at Cobar. The Hotel is indicated to have had 2 sitting rooms and 3 bedrooms.



The Cobar copper mine in 1874.

ⓘ Source: J.E. Carne (1908) 6 , photo from Frank Lean.

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## 28 Pub Spot | Mt Drysdale Hotel



Three Hotels operated at different times in the small but dynamic mining village of Mt Drysdale; Tattersalls Hotel, Drysdale Hotel and The Globe Hotel are reported as large and commodious buildings.

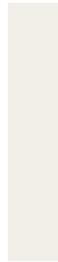
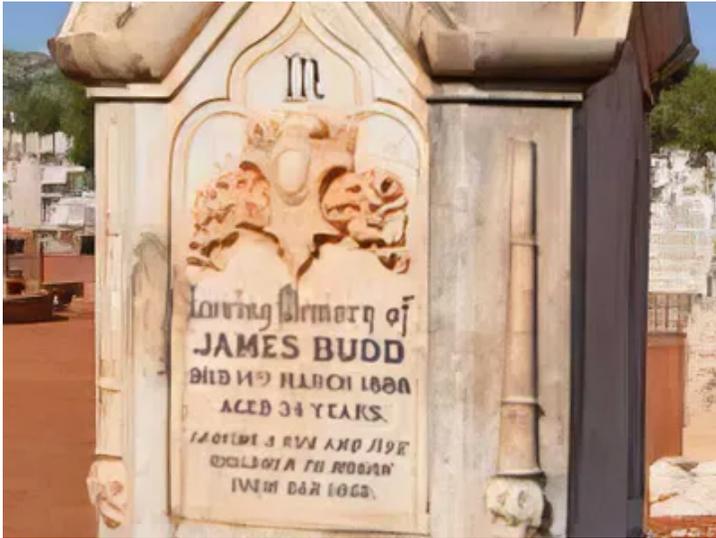


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## 29 Pub Spot | Yanda Creek Hotel



Licensed, during the 1880's to a much-storied James Budd, whose notice for application of insolvency was petitioned in 1880 where it appears he had less than 100 pounds he could claim in cash and assets.



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30 **Cobar**



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Cobar NSW

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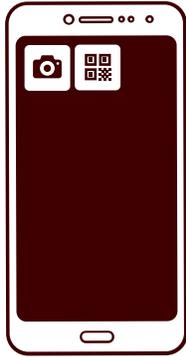


Arrive via Car from **PUB SPOT | Port of Bourke Hotel**  
160 km / 99.7 mi - 1 hour 30 minutes



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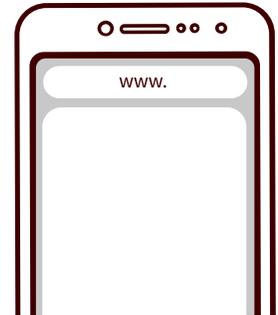
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