DarlingRiverRun
Discover where the Baaka takes you!

One of Australia's
great driving adventures
Discover the Baaka Darling River
and experience outback NSW

Joshua Smith/DPIE

Visit **Menindee**

Founded in the 1850s, Menindee was the first town to be established on the Darling River and is now a great base for exploring the attractions of far-west NSW.

GETTING THERE

From Wilcannia, drive 145km along unsealed Wilcannia-Menindee Road East or 153km along unsealed West Wilcannia Road to Menindee. Although slightly longer, West Wilcannia Road is more popular, and you'll have lake views at around the 90km mark.

THINGS TO DO

Menindee Visitor Information Centre

Menindee Visitor Centre is a great place to stop and plan your visit. Discover the town's fascinating history along the heritage trail and ask the staff about the day's tours before you head off to explore.

Kinchega National Park

Just over 30min from Menindee, Kinchega National Park boasts an incredible variety of birdlife, haunting river red gums and a landscape of ever-changing colours.

Explore historic Kinchega Woolshed, which saw 6 million sheep shorn during its 97 years of operation. Stop by the ruins of Old Kinchega Homestead to see what life was like for people living on this remote sheep station.

River Lady Cruise

Take a cruise on the celebrated River Lady and experience the beauty of Menindee's inland waterways from the unique perspective of the Darling River.

Visit **Pooncarie**

Pooncarie is a town with an interesting history. It was first settled by Europeans in the 1840s when they took up illegal grazing runs on crown land. In 1860, Burke and Wills stopped here on their ill-fated expedition to the north west. By 1889, the town was a thriving river port.

GETTING THERE

From Menindee, take Pooncarie Road for 123km. Around 85km of this journey is on unsealed road. Alternatively take the western route through Kinchega National Park. Unsealed road for 184kms (via Pooncarie Bridge).

Menindee Lake, reflections - John Turbill/DPIE

Walls of China - Pat Callinan

THINGS TO DO

Mungo National Park

Mungo National Park is part of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area. Covering most of an ancient dry lakebed, it's filled with breathtaking landscapes and Aboriginal artefacts dating back over 40,000 years.

See the park's dramatic formations, explore its pastoral heritage and book a tour with an Aboriginal guide to walk the Mungo lunette, also known as the Walls of China.

Visit **Wentworth**

Located where the Murray and Darling Rivers meet, Wentworth is the region's oldest European heritage settlement. It was here that Captain Charles Sturt named the Murray River after recognising the end of the Darling on 23 January 1830.

You can explore more of Wentworth's fascinating history by following the self-guided heritage trail from the Visitor Information Centre.

GETTING THERE

From Pooncarie, drive 123km along unsealed High Darling Road/Low Darling Road. Alternatively, you can take the East route along sealed Pooncarie Road for 118km.

THINGS TO DO

See the Murray-Darling River confluence

Visit Junction Park and climb the observation tower to see the impressive sight of the mighty Murray and Darling rivers converging.

Perry Sandhills

Formed by thousands of years of wind erosion, the continuously shifting red dunes of prehistoric Perry Sandhills are a sight to behold. In the dunes stands The God Tree, an ancient river red gum that has survived the centuries. Over time, sand has completely covered the trunk of the tree, so you can now stand within its grand canopy.

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Discover the majesty of the mighty Darling

Immerse yourself in the nature, history and culture of the NSW Outback on an unforgettable road trip along the Darling River Run.

Your adventure will take you from Brewarrina to Wentworth, following the mighty Darling for nearly 950km. As you meander along the river, you'll see incredible landscapes, encounter local wildlife and discover areas rich in Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Along the way you'll pass iconic outback towns brimming with friendly Aussie spirit and rich heritage. From Brewarrina, you'll travel to Bourke, Louth, Tilpa, Wilcannia, Menindee and Pooncarie before reaching the historic town of Wentworth where the Darling River meets the Murray River.

Be sure to call into the visitor information centre at each town to discover the best vantage points, local attractions and available tours.

OUTBACK CONTACT NUMBERS

Dial **Triple Zero (000)** in an emergency. Please note you'll need mobile reception to call Triple Zero (000).

24-hour medical assistance
Royal Flying Doctor Service (08) 8088 1188

Emergency rescue service
NSW State Emergency Service (SES) 132 500

Road information
Visit council websites or Live traffic NSW.

Wildlife rescue
RSPCA Broken Hill Vet (08) 8087 7753
Wildlife Rescue (RRANA) 0429 204 416

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Baaka** is the Aboriginal name for the Darling River.
- **Fish can climb ladders**
  Fishways (or fish ladders) help increase native fish numbers by letting fish move along rivers to feed and breed.
- **The Darling River was originally called Salt River**
  Charles Sturt initially called this river Salt River after he tried to water his horses in 1829 and found that the water was salty. Salty water enters the Darling River at several points from natural salty underground flows.
- **Tilpa means 'floodwaters' in the local Aboriginal Baarkindji language**
  Floodplains fill when the river breaks its banks. The floodwaters here can slowly spread for tens of kilometres due to the flat nature of the western catchment. They rejuvenate plant and animal life and allow fish to breed.
- **80% of Murray cod are found within 1m of a snag**
  Snags are trees or branches that have fallen into the river. Fish use them as habitats, feeding and spawning sites, and shaded rest areas. Snags that were removed during the days of the paddle steamers are now being reintroduced to restore native fish numbers.
- **471 animal species and 1351 plant species live in the western catchment**
  One species is the iconic red-tailed black cockatoo, which is listed as vulnerable. They nest in the hollows of mature river red gums along the Darling.

thedarlingriverrun.com.au

Discover our comprehensive directory of over 150 locations for accommodation, where to eat, attractions, activities, supplies, services and more.

Outback Beds Accommodation & Farm Stays
A. Food & Huts by Mt Oxley
B. Trilby Station
C. Kallara Station
D. Nella Gaari Station
E. Bindara Station
F. Garraways Cottage

1. Goodooga Great Artesian Springs
2. Culgoa National Park
3. Fish Traps - Brewarrina Aboriginal Cultural Tours
4. Four Mile Camping Reserve
5. PV Jandra
6. Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre
7. Toorale National Park
8. Gundabooka National Park
9. Mary Mathews Monument
10. Peery Lake, Paroo-Darling National Park
11. Wilcannia Sandstone Architecture
12. Menindee Lakes
13. Kinchega National Park
14. Mungo National Park
15. Murray & Darling River confluence

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N

km distances in blue indicate the Darling River Run route for both sides of the Darling River.

Map labels

To Hebel (40km) — Goodooga
To Walgett (134km)
121km
Culgoa National Park
BREWARRINA
To Byrock (65km)
139km
98km
To Weilmoringle (200km)
BOURKE
To Nyngan (213km)
To Cobar (160km)
To Cunnamulla (256km)
99km
Gundabooka National Park
To Hungerford (213km)
92km
To Wanaaring (190km)
Toorale National Park
126km
LOUTH
91km
TILPA
147km
Paroo-Darling National Park
128km
To Cobar (260km)
WILCANNIA
154km
To Broken Hill (197km)
White Cliffs
94km
151km
MENINDEE
125km
Mungo National Park
Menindee Lakes
Kinchega National Park
184km
POONCARIE
118km
123km
To Balranald (211km)
Yanga National Park
WENTWORTH