



Photograph
Sturt National Park (Sally Mayman)

Visitor safety tips

Outback roads

Road conditions in NSW can vary from multi-lane motorways to single-lane roads. Some roads may be gravel or compacted earth, with narrow and unstable edges. Be sure to drive slowly on narrow bridges and be aware of hazards such as flooded roads. Be on the alert for livestock that may wander onto the roads and take extra care around sunrise and sunset when native animals are active.

Drive safely

In NSW, seatbelt-wearing is compulsory as are child restraints and baby capsules. It is illegal to leave a child unattended in a vehicle. For motorcyclists, crash helmets are mandatory.

The signposted speed limit is the maximum driving speed allowable. Reduced speeds at school zones, road works and other special areas apply. The blood alcohol limit for drivers is 0.05% and zero for L- and P-plate drivers.

Always check road and weather conditions prior to travelling into remote areas and advise local authorities of your intended itinerary. Storms and heavy rains can occur during summer and flooding may isolate towns. Two-way radios, satellite or CDMA mobile phones are strongly recommended when travelling in the region as normal mobile phones may not work.

Visitors need to take extra care when driving in NSW Outback – drive at a safe speed, especially on unsealed roads, and when passing other vehicles. Slow down for oncoming vehicles, moving off to the left when large vehicles such as road trains approach.

A major cause of death and injury is driving while fatigued. Avoid driving between midnight and

dawn and ensure you are well rested before undertaking a long trip. Remember: stop, revive and survive. Take a break every two hours and share the driving whenever possible.

Always check distances that need to be travelled and carry appropriate levels of fuel and water with you. On major highways fuel stops are rarely more than 200 km apart and it should not be necessary to carry spare fuel (check the services grid on page 38 for fuel stops). However, if you carry extra fuel, ensure that it is kept securely outside the vehicle and stored in approved containers.

Ensure your vehicle is mechanically sound and that your spare tyre is at the correct pressure. You may want to carry other spares, including radiator hoses and fanbelts, along with a good tool kit.

If your vehicle breaks down, do not leave it. Your vehicle will provide you with shelter until help arrives and will be easier for a search party to spot.

Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone

As a way of protecting valuable crops, NSW Outback has a Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone. Road signs will tell you when you are approaching the zone. Please be sure to dispose of all fruit and vegetables before entering the zone.

Weather conditions

When travelling in the Outback, always take clothing that's appropriate for changeable weather conditions. Summer temperatures can be very high, but you may also experience low temperatures, particularly overnight. It is easy to get sunburnt in the Outback. In some areas shade is scarce and extra sun protection is required – wearing a broad-brimmed hat and sunscreen is recommended year-round.

In the bush

If embarking on a bushwalk, always tell someone where you are going and be prepared for unexpected weather. Seek information on conditions from the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service or visitor information centres prior to departure.

Water safety

Be careful when swimming in isolated locations in rivers, creeks and waterholes, especially if you have children with you. Do not dive off rocks into natural pools that may be too shallow or you may sustain permanent spinal injuries. Don't swim after dark, or when under the influence of alcohol.

More information

National Parks and Wildlife Service Visitor Centres, visitor information centres and local police can provide up-to-date information on park rules and regulations, road and weather conditions and fire bans. Telephone the National Parks and Wildlife Service on 1300 361 967.

Outback etiquette

Many roads in the Outback cross station properties and you may need to use station gates on your travels. The rule of the Outback is to leave gates in the same way you find them. If the gate is closed, ensure you close it after you drive through – it's important for the protection of valuable livestock.

Be aware that not all station owners are amenable to visitors travelling through or camping on their properties. Call into the homestead and ask the owner's permission before setting up camp, and never take firearms or pets onto properties without permission.

In an emergency, telephone 000.

Getting there

Sydney to Broken Hill

Distance: 1,167 km west of Sydney

Car: approx. 14 hours

Train: 13.5 hours from Sydney. CountryLink offers a direct service from Sydney to Broken Hill every Monday. The service from Broken Hill to Sydney operates on Tuesday. CountryLink also operates a daily service from Sydney to Dubbo. Transfers from Dubbo to Broken Hill are via coach. The Indian Pacific operates twice a week (in both directions) – an 18-hour trip.

Air: Regional Express operate flights to Broken Hill via Dubbo daily.

Melbourne to Broken Hill

Distance: 834 km north-west of Melbourne

Car: approx. 9 hours

Air: Qantas and Regional Express operate flights from Melbourne to Mildura. Transfers from Mildura are via coach.

Bus: Victorian Government V/Line Bus runs from Melbourne to Mildura Sunday to Friday. Connecting buses run three times a week from Mildura to Broken Hill.

Adelaide to Broken Hill

Distance: 512 km north-east of Adelaide

Car: approx. 5.5 hours

Train: The Indian Pacific operates twice a week – a 7-hour trip.

Air: Regional Express operate a daily direct service to Broken Hill – a one-hour flight.

Brisbane to Broken Hill

Distance: 1,546 km south-west of Brisbane

Car: approx. 16.5 hours

Train: Services from Brisbane to Sydney operate twice a week. Refer to Sydney information for connections to Broken Hill.

Air: Daily flights from Brisbane to Sydney. Refer to Sydney information for connections to Broken Hill.

Travelling time and distance table

	ADELAIDE	Albury	Bateman's Bay	Bathurst	Bourke	BRISBANE	Broken Hill	CANBERRA	Coffs Harbour	Cooma	Cowra	Dubbo	Eden	Gosford	Goulburn	Griffith	Katoomba	MELBOURNE	Moree	Narrandera	Newcastle	Nowra	Port Macquarie	SYDNEY	Tamworth	Tenterfield	Tweed Heads	Wagga Wagga	Wentworth	Wollongong
ADELAIDE	.	94	143	125	115	2205	535	123	202	125	113	1235	1405	16	124	85	14	805	164	85	1635	1405	1905	144	1625	1935	224	95	455	1405
Albury	868	.	54	53	1035	16	10.1	45	1545	52	4.1	7.5	54	7	505	3.15	6.5	3	123	2.1	10.1	6.5	134	8	125	1325	2035	145	6.3	655
Bateman's Bay	1306	489	.	425	105	142	1325	205	925	235	42	63	205	46	155	6.5	42	82	1035	5.5	5	12	73	3.1	805	11.3	13	44	11	205
Bathurst	1174	472	333	.	6.5	115	10.4	3.1	835	43	12	23	62	325	23	4.5	12	835	635	43	42	335	6.5	3	505	83	1135	42	9.1	335
Bourke	1042	871	867	574	.	10.5	705	905	12.1	103	63	415	1155	925	93	7.1	805	1155	55	8	955	11	114	1005	745	84	134	915	855	10.1
BRISBANE	2024	1393	1216	974	928	.	16.5	14.1	5	153	122	935	163	103	132	14.1	122	1835	53	135	945	133	74	11.15	645	32	125	142	11835	1215
Broken Hill	512	830	1135	958	619	1546	.	13.15	162	1345	92	825	1335	132	133	825	12	855	121	75	14	1515	155	1415	1155	14.1	195	95	245	152
CANBERRA	1164	347	151	257	748	1208	1103	.	12	125	2.2	5.1	305	44	12	455	4	6.5	95	3.5	625	305	955	4.15	935	11.2	165	325	92	3.1
Coffs Harbour	1808	1102	816	699	951	404	1337	821	.	1325	9.5	8.5	113	535	104	16.1	73	15.1	54	1205	545	1025	225	8.05	425	33	4.5	1445	1645	945
Cooma	1199	385	245	366	859	1316	1141	111	932	.	3.4	635	1.5	52	245	62	52	655	11.15	405	735	43	112	54	11	1235	1815	355	9.15	435
Cowra	1068	366	336	106	542	1070	873	194	804	305	.	24	52	44	23	33	235	72	6.5	3.1	535	355	805	42	6.1	935	124	3	755	355
Dubbo	1167	575	498	205	369	859	755	398	650	509	212	.	805	53	525	5	3.5	9	44	425	54	625	82	55	425	7	122	525	9.1	555
Eden	1279	454	206	534	1015	1421	1309	284	1020	169	473	684	.	6.15	4	7	625	605	121	555	7.1	325	94	52	102	1335	1505	455	11.5	42
Gosford	1431	614	350	235	793	869	1178	342	470	455	341	425	556	.	37	82	215	105	7.1	72	1.1	25	345	1	42	745	95	6	12.1	2
Goulburn	1180	375	146	187	776	1114	1137	94	727	205	210	426	372	252	.	5.1	3	7	1005	4	505	145	835	255	815	1025	153	34	95	15
Griffith	803	262	505	421	526	1272	738	349	1131	479	315	390	639	630	377	.	605	52	94	1.1	1035	655	1405	835	925	1135	17.15	225	5.1	7
Katoomba	1273	571	328	98	672	1007	1057	318	612	427	204	304	533	148	224	520	.	9.5	705	5.5	3.1	3	54	14	535	9	11.1	535	103	22
MELBOURNE	727	310	759	775	976	1680	834	656	1386	620	675	821	554	923	672	457	880	.	1305	435	1055	825	132	9	125	16	1905	455	655	825
Moree	1545	953	877	540	457	479	1065	776	458	887	591	378	1063	556	804	768	573	1120	.	83	7	11	655	845	325	325	82	1005	135	10.1
Narrandera	825	71	486	402	664	1252	767	343	1036	379	296	394	548	611	340	97	501	428	773	.	755	525	1025	6	8.1	112	1425	105	5.15	525
Newcastle	1516	706	437	320	777	797	1163	425	402	536	426	408	642	91	331	735	234	1008	503	695	.	4.5	34	23	4	7.1	1035	845	134	4
Nowra	1306	506	119	287	892	1095	1262	225	709	336	336	523	324	232	131	508	211	798	800	485	313	.	82	235	8	10.1	1515	525	103	105
Port Macquarie	1750	952	672	555	930	560	1316	671	170	782	661	629	876	326	577	981	468	1242	495	930	252	559	.	6.1	355	455	7.15	1215	1535	73
SYDNEY	1370	572	275	201	781	937	1167	291	552	402	307	412	479	74	197	607	103	862	633	549	156	159	402	.	6	825	124	635	11.1	13
Tamworth	1508	922	666	403	648	575	1034	693	303	804	498	347	870	336	59	737	436	1163	273	736	284	581	282	414	.	325	755	95	125	7.1
Tenterfield	1778	1147	963	700	747	275	1299	954	285	1063	797	613	1168	635	860	1025	733	1434	299	1006	525	845	439	685	299	.	305	114	162	925
Tweed Heads	2034	1427	1115	955	1019	104	1588	1146	325	1257	1052	901	1320	767	1052	1296	911	1689	593	1262	727	1034	495	877	554	256	.	1745	19	142
Wagga Wagga	919	130	389	329	665	1274	858	254	1014	283	223	390	451	514	273	196	428	457	768	99	604	404	850	470	737	1030	1291	.	6.15	53
Wentworth	402	571	985	840	797	1689	266	824	1473	863	735	831	1034	1097	844	468	941	572	1209	492	1177	969	1411	1034	1172	1446	1696	583	.	1035
Wollongong	1317	519	196	246	818	1020	1275	238	635	349	347	449	401	157	144	521	148	810	726	497	239	79	485	80	507	770	960	417	982	.

100 km = 62 miles 100 miles = 160 km

Approx. travelling time between towns

Approx. distance between towns (km)

Traveller Information

Use this services guide to plan your trip through towns in Outback NSW

	Balrarnald	Brewarrina	Bourke	Broken Hill	Cobar	Coolabah	Emmdale	Euston	Girilambone	Herrmidale	Hillston	Ivanhoe	Kyalite	Lightning Ridge	Little Topar	Louth	Menindee	Milparinka	Mount Hope	Nyngan	Pooncarie	Penarie	Silverton	Tibooburra	Tilpa	Walgett	Wanaaring	Wentworth	White Cliffs	Wilcannia
FUEL																														
Petrol	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LPG	•		•	•	•			•			•			•			•			•						•		•		•
Diesel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
VISITOR SERVICES																														
Visitor information	•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hotel	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Motel	•		•	•	•	•		•			•	•		•			•			•	•			•		•		•	•	•
Caravan park	•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•			•			•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Camping	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cabins	•		•	•	•			•			•	•	•	•		•	•	•		•		•	•	•		•		•	•	•
B&Bs	•	•	•	•	•								•		•				•	•						•		•	•	•
Farmstay	•	•	•	•	•										•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SERVICES																														
Mobile phone ¹	•	•	•	•	•	•	CDMA	CDMA			CDMA	•	CDMA	•	CDMA	•	CDMA	CDMA		•		CDMA	CDMA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Internet access	•	•	•	•	•						•			•						•							•		•	•
Churches	•	•	•	•	•			•		•	•	•		•		•	•			•				•		•		•	•	•
Post office	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•			•			•	•			•		•	•	•	•	•
Banking	•	•	•	•	•						•	•		•			•			•				•		•		•	•	•
ATM	•	•	•	•	•						•	•		•			•			•				•		•		•	•	•
EFTPOS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Motorhome dump	•			•	•			•					•														•		•	•
Mechanical repairs	•	•	•	•	•			•		•	•		•			•	Minor			•							•	•	•	•
Boat ramp	•	•	•					•					•							•								•		•
Food 7 days	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Take away	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Restaurant	•	•	•	•	•			•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•			•		•	•	•		•		•	•	•
Supplies	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•	•		•			•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
EMERGENCY																														
Hospital	•	•	•	•	•						•	•		•			•			•				•		•	•	•	•	•
RFDS	•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•		•	•	•	•			•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Police	•	•	•	•	•			•		•	•		•			•				•				•		•	•	•	•	•
NRMA	•	•	•	•	•						•	•		•						•						•		•	•	•

1. CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access): Wireless, ultra-high frequency digital telephone. Refer to your mobile carrier for details.

2. RFDS (Royal Flying Doctor Service) provides emergency medical services in the Outback.

All efforts were made to ensure this service directory was accurate at the time of printing. Always check with visitor information centres for current information (see page 39).