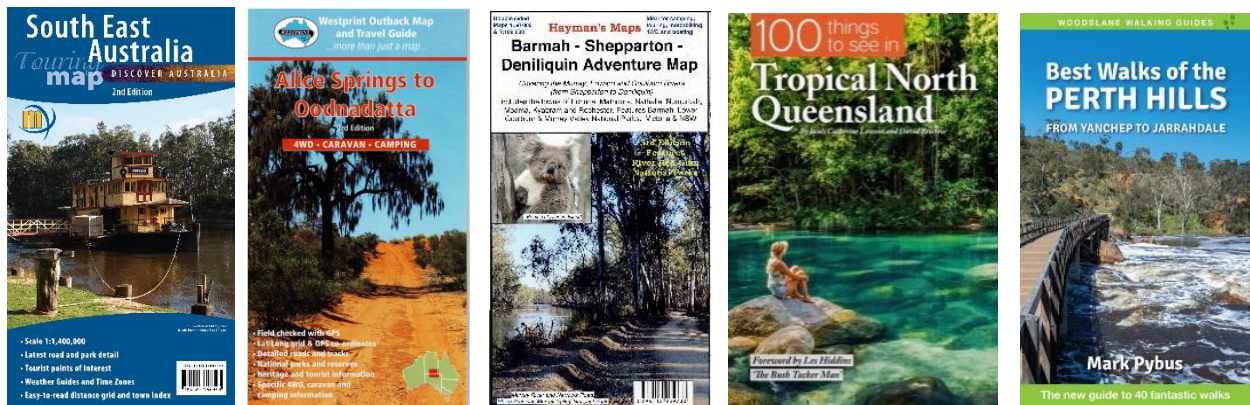


The Meridian Line - Sunday 19.07.2026

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act; the rest is merely tenacity." —Amelia Earhart



Focus on Five

South East Australia Touring Map – from \$14.95

This 1:1,400,000 scale wall map of South East Australia covers the country's most populated region, stretching from Port Augusta in the west to Newcastle in the north, and encompassing all of Victoria. Large in both size and coverage, it has been designed for businesses and travellers who regularly move between the state capitals, providing clear and detailed mapping across the entire region. The map also features a Major Town Index, Distance Grid, Time Zones and Weather Charts, making it a practical reference for businesses, homes and schools alike. Ideal for planning travel routes, identifying customer locations and measuring distances, it is a useful resource for anyone needing an overview of South East Australia.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/south-east-australia-touring-map/>

Alice Springs to Oodnadatta – from \$15.95

This detailed tourist map covers the region from Oodnadatta and Marla in the south to Alice Springs, Glen Helen and Ross River Homestead in the north, including the Old Ghan Route, Old Andado and the Stuart Highway. At a scale of 1:1 million, the map shows public access roads, outback tracks, parks, attractions, points of interest, camping areas, explorers' routes and permit information where required. Designed for outback travellers and explorers, the map combines detailed touring information with GPS co-ordinates to help users confidently navigate remote regions. It includes coverage of Andado Station, one of the most isolated cattle stations bordering the Simpson Desert, along with the historic Old Ghan Railway Line where travellers can see remnants of the Overland Telegraph Line and experience a diverse range of landscapes. Westprint Maps maps are well regarded for desert travel and are packed with useful touring information, including notes on history, explorers, flora and fauna, as well as photographs of significant landmarks. Clear mapping, road distances, fuel stops, rest areas, caravan parks and camping locations are all highlighted for easy trip planning. This heritage map features the route between Oodnadatta and Alice Springs on one side, with extensive historical and tourist information on the reverse. Numbered symbols throughout the map are cross-referenced with detailed site information, while fuel locations, rest areas, caravan parks and campsites are clearly marked. Explorer routes are colour-coded, and both intermediate and major distances are shown, making the map a valuable companion for outback travel.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/alice-springs-to-oodnadatta/>

Barmah – Shepparton-Deniliquin Adventure Map – from \$12.95

Hayman Maps map covering sections of the Murray River, Edward River and Goulburn River, extending from Shepparton in the south to Deniliquin in the north, and from Tocumwal in the east to Murrabit west of Barham. Packed with tourist information, the map highlights points of interest, national parks, picnic and camping areas, walking tracks and accommodation throughout the region.

The map also reflects recent changes to the River Red Gum forests, including the addition of Barmah National Park and the Murray Valley National Park and Regional Parks. Precincts within Murray Valley National Park, including Gulpa Island, Millewa and Moira, are clearly shown. This large double-sided map includes photographs and detailed notes throughout. Side one features mapping at 1:100,000 scale covering the broader region around Shepparton, Echuca, Deniliquin, Mathoura, Moama, Nathalia, Barmah and surrounding towns and forests. Side two provides more detailed 1:50,000 scale mapping of Barmah National Park, Millewa, Moira, Gulpa Island, Ulupna Island and

Tocumwal forests, along with camping and picnic areas, waterways and forest tracks. Suitable for camping, touring, 4WD travel, fishing, boating, horse riding and bushwalking, the map includes extensive 4WD coverage, walking tracks, campsites and GPS compatibility. Produced in full colour with contours, photographs and notes, the map measures 100cm x 70cm and features a double-sided overlapping panel design.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/barmah-adventure-map/>

100 Things to do in Tropical North Queensland - \$29.95

100 Things to See in Tropical North Queensland is a guide to some of the very best experiences across Tropical North Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef, as recommended by the locals who know the region best. This extraordinary part of Australia is home to the world's oldest rainforest, the planet's largest living organism and three World Heritage-listed areas, offering an incredible mix of natural beauty, history and adventure. Written by travel journalist Catherine Lawson and photographer David Bristow, the guide explores the hidden corners of Tropical North Queensland beyond the usual tourist routes. After more than two decades travelling the region by foot, 4WD, train, bicycle and even aboard their sailing yacht *Storyteller*, the pair share their favourite local discoveries and unforgettable experiences. Inside are 100 handpicked places and experiences across far north Queensland, from crystal-clear swimming holes and ancient rock-art galleries to remote outback adventures and lesser-known natural attractions. It's an inspiring companion for travellers wanting to experience Tropical North Queensland like a local.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/100-things-tropical-north-queensland/>

Best Walks of the Perth Hills – \$24.95

Stretching east of the Swan Coastal Plain, the Darling Range extends for almost 350 kilometres and is home to the diverse and biodiverse Northern Jarrah Forests. One of the best ways to experience the region is through its extensive network of walking trails, which lead visitors to ancient granite outcrops, waterfalls, forests, reservoirs and sections of the renowned Bibbulmun Track. Recently published in 2026, this guide showcases some of the best walks in the Perth Hills, with detailed track descriptions and clear maps to help walkers confidently explore the region's ranges and wildflower country. Covering areas from Yanchep to Jarrahdale, the book includes both popular trails and lesser-known hidden gems. Richly illustrated with more than 150 full-colour photographs, the guide also features a handy summary table of walks, including distances, highlights and nearby cafés, making it easy to choose the right walk for any occasion.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/ag-campoutdoor-family/>

Meridian Musings

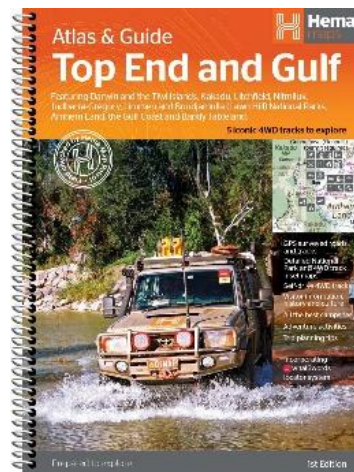
We've been busy over the past week preparing for the **Caravan and Camping Show at Caulfield Racecourse**. This will be the first time the show has been held at this location, and we're looking forward to what promises to be a great weekend.

Hopefully the weather is kind to us and plenty of outdoor enthusiasts come along to enjoy the event. If you're in the area, make sure you drop by and say hello — we'd love to see you!

What's New to the Website

Top End and Gulf - \$59.95

Combining detailed regional mapping with practical travel information, this comprehensive atlas is an essential companion for discovering the Top End and Gulf Country. From tropical coastlines and national parks to remote outback tracks, it helps plan and navigate the journey. The guide features detailed maps, touring routes, campground information, national parks, and cultural and historical insights.



<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/top-end-atlas-guide/>

Seasonal Updates

Please be aware that road and park closures are constantly changing and it is always best to check for changes before you set out.

For more regular updates on closures, please check our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MeridianWestprintMaps> as we try to include

warnings and advice as we become aware of them. **The** latest Desert Parks Bulletin has been uploaded to our website. For this and other Desert Pass updates, please go to <https://meridianmaps.com.au/deserts-pass-update/>

Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre National Park: Public Access Route 13 Halligan Bay Point is closed.

Public Access Route 2 Level Post Bay is closed due to extensive water damage.

Significant falls of rain and flooding in the far north have resulted in the closures of Innamincka Regional Reserve and Malkumba – Coongie Lakes National Park.

Witjira National Park -

Dalhousie Campground – Open

Three O’Clock Creek Campground – Open

Dalhousie Campground to Purni Bore – Open

The Dalhousie airstrip – Closed

Pedirka Track (on park) — Closed

Bloods Creek Ruin to Federal Waterhole Track – Closed

Binns Track – Open

Public Access Route Number 8 Pedirka – Open to 4WD

Munga-Thirri – Simpson Desert National Park –

Colson Track – Open

Poeppels Corner – Open

Public Access Route 15 K1 Warburton Crossing – Closed

Birdsville Inside Track – closed due to flooding until further notice.

What’s On

23 – 26 July: Childers Festival in Queensland. Childers comes alive with pop-up performances, local flavours, street-side surprises and community magic tucked into every corner.

<https://bundabergregionalcouncil.shorthandstories.com/childers-festival/index.html>

29 July – 1 August: Lightning Ridge Opal & Gem Festival in NSW.

Jewellers, buyers, wholesalers, miners, rock hounds, lapidary enthusiasts and tourists are invited to experience the best Lightning Ridge has to offer with this culmination of information, spectacular jewellery, collectables, great deals and fantastic networking opportunities.

<https://lightningridgeopalfestival.com.au/>

30 July – 2 August: Curry Merry Muster in NSW. A combination of rodeo-style competitions, family activities and classic country entertainment.

<https://www.currymerrymuster.com/>

31 July – 2 August: Tara Festival in Queensland. Professional camel races...served with a side of non-stop entertainment!

<https://tarafestival.com.au/>

1 – 2 August: Golden Oldies Truck, Tractor and Quilt Show in NSW. showcases some of the best displays of vintage trucks, tractors and buses from across the region, alongside the creativity and colour of a vibrant quilt show.

<https://dubboregion.com.au/events/vintage-truck-tractor-quilt-show-2026>

1 August: Port Pirie SALA Festival in South Australia. A regional celebration of the South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival, showcasing local art, exhibitions and creative installations across the community during winter.

<https://www.pirie.sa.gov.au/tourism/events/port-pirie-winter-festival>

2 August: Tassie Scallop Fiesta in Tasmania. Celebrating the fishing and maritime heritage, with fine local Tassie fare and beverages, Music and Chef demonstrations, kids entertainment and more, at the start of the scallop season.

<https://www.tassiescallopfiesta.com.au/>

6 – 9 August: Australian UFO Festival in Queensland. Celebrating UFO culture, unexplained phenomena and Australia's long fascination with strange lights and sightings.

<https://australianufofestival.com.au/>

7 – 9 August: Mt Isa Rodeo in Queensland. For three epic days, the arena will roar with the power of bulls, broncs and Australia's toughest rodeo athletes, delivering heart-pounding action and a true blue outback experience.

<https://www.mountisarodeo.com.au/>

7 – 9 August: Mungindi Show on the NSW/Queensland border. Celebrating rural life with livestock displays, local produce, competitions and community exhibits.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063510495605>

Do you have a story?

If you've got a trip or tips to share, we'd love to hear from you - rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au.

The Outback Way

The Outback Way is a transcontinental route linking Laverton in Western Australia with Winton in western Queensland, forming a 2,700-kilometre corridor across the centre of Australia. It provides a direct east–west connection through the heart of the continent and is promoted as Australia's longest shortcut. Rather than being a single road, the Outback Way is made up of seven interconnecting roads, that together form a continuous transcontinental route across central Australia. The journey begins at Laverton on the Great Central Road, which traverses much of Western Australia and continues into the Northern Territory, before joining the Tjukururu Road near the WA–NT border. Travellers then connect onto the Lasseter Highway, which provides access to Yulara and Uluru, and a short section of the Stuart Highway, serving as a link to the next stage. The route continues along the Plenty Highway, crossing the Northern Territory toward Queensland, before joining the Donohue Highway, which carries travellers further east into Queensland. Finally, the journey is completed via the Min Min Byway, which links to Boulia and the eastern terminus at Winton. Together, these seven roads create the route known as the Outback Way, providing a largely unbroken east–west corridor through the heart of Australia.



Along its length, the Outback Way passes through six Australian national parks, encompassing some of the country's most distinctive inland landscapes

such as Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, Bladensburg National Park near Winton, and Diamantina National Park near Boulia, including the Georgina Waterhole area. Beyond these protected areas, the route crosses 10 of Australia's 85 recognised biogeographic regions, offering a broad cross-section of ecosystems highlighting the natural environments and landscape diversity.

Cultural experiences are also a defining part of the journey. The Outback Way Art and Artisan Trail highlights creative work produced by artists living and working along the route, showcasing painting, weaving, printmaking, jewellery, sculpture and film. This is complemented by the Outback Way Outdoor Art Gallery, which features 28 large-scale artworks installed in the landscape between Atitjere and Engawala. Spanning approximately 110 kilometres along the Plenty Highway, these works form an open-air gallery that connects culture, country and travel. Visitors to the Outback Way can take part in the world's longest Geocache Trail, which features 45 hidden treasure boxes along the route. The treasure hunt involves using a handheld GPS to locate each box at its specified latitude and longitude. Typically, each "treasure" consists of a small container holding a few trinkets and a notebook for participants to sign or leave messages.

Because large sections of the Outback Way cross Aboriginal land, transit permits are legally required for travel through these areas. Aboriginal land is privately owned, and entering without permission constitutes trespass under Australian law. While there is no single permit that covers the entire route, travellers must hold the appropriate Aboriginal transit permits for each section they pass through, as well as any relevant national park entry passes for places they intend to visit. In some communities, additional entry, camping or activity fees may apply, particularly where visitors plan to stay or take part in activities such as fishing.

In Western Australia, the Outback Way follows the Great Central Road from Laverton to the Northern Territory border. This section typically requires two separate transit permits covering different landholding areas. These permits allow through-travel only, are generally free of charge, and are issued for a limited period suitable for crossing the region without extended stops. After entering the Northern Territory, a further transit permit is required for travel along the Tjukururu Road toward Yulara and Uluru. This permit is issued by the Central Land Council and, like the WA permits, is free and applies only to the main road.

These permits do not allow access to side tracks, communities or camping areas unless specific additional permission has been granted. Leaving the permitted route without authorisation may constitute trespass. Separate from Aboriginal land permits, travellers must also meet national park requirements.

For example, entry to Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park requires a paid park pass, which is not covered by transit permits and is only required if entering the park itself.

To date, approximately 1,500 kilometres of the Outback Way has been sealed, but sections remain unsealed, with road conditions varying depending on weather, maintenance and heavy-vehicle traffic. The sealing of the route developed gradually rather than as a single project. In 1997, Patrick Hill, then president of the Shire of Laverton, proposed the idea of a continuous east–west route across central Australia to better connect remote communities and improve access to services, tourism and freight. His advocacy led to the formation of a coordinating body in 1998 to promote the route and lobby for long-term upgrades. For many years progress was limited to planning and incremental improvements, with substantial sealing works only beginning in Queensland around 2018 and on the Great Central Road in Western Australia from about 2020. In 2022, significant federal funding accelerated sealing efforts across Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland, with completion targeted for the early 2030s.



In Western Australia, the Outback Way passes through a series of towns, Aboriginal communities and service settlements. The journey begins at Laverton, the western gateway and last fully serviced regional town. East of Laverton is Tjukayirla, primarily known for its roadhouse but also a small settlement offering fuel, accommodation and basic supplies. Further east is Warburton, one of the largest Aboriginal communities along the route and an important service hub, followed by Warakurna, another major community and roadhouse complex near the WA–NT border. Beyond Warakurna, the route crosses into the Northern Territory.

In the Northern Territory, the Outback Way passes through widely spaced Aboriginal communities and service points rather than conventional towns. After crossing the border, it reaches Kaltukatjara (Docker River), an Aboriginal

community just north of the Great Central Road. From there, travellers continue to Yulara, the accommodation and service hub for Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park. Although the route does not run directly through Alice Springs, the town is universally treated as part of the journey and serves as the main resupply, repair and service centre. East of Alice Springs, the Plenty Highway passes through Atitjere (Harts Range) and nearby outstations before reaching Jervois, the last Northern Territory settlement before the Queensland border.

In Queensland, the Outback Way enters near Tobermorey, primarily known as Tobermorey Station rather than a town, before continuing to Boulia. Boulia is a key service centre, providing fuel, accommodation and access to Diamantina National Park and the Georgina Waterhole. East of Boulia, the route passes through Dajarra, a small town with a strong pastoral and rail history, before finishing at Winton. Winton is widely regarded as the eastern end of the Outback Way and is a major destination in its own right, known for Bladensburg National Park, the Age of the Dinosaurs and its deep connections to Australian bush history.

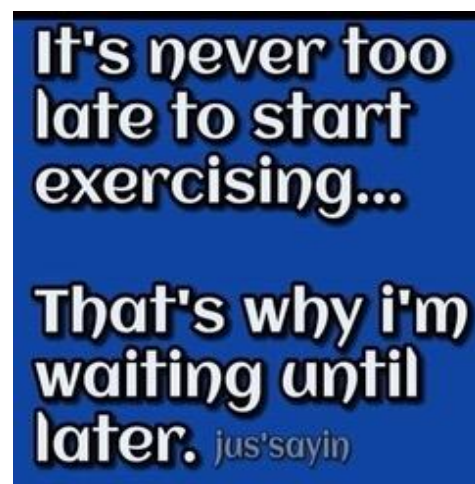
The Outback Way is more than just a road across central Australia—it's a journey through stunning landscapes, remote communities, and rich cultural experiences. From Western Australia to Queensland, travellers can explore national parks, discover local art, and experience the true spirit of the outback along this unique east–west corridor.

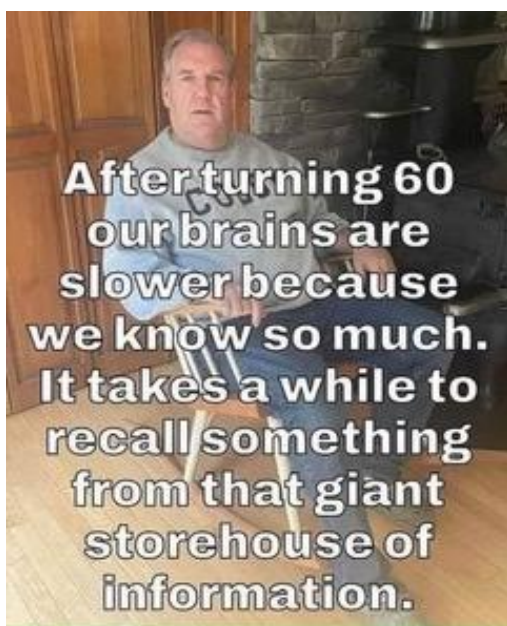
Check out our Outback Way Map Pack to help set you going on this great journey.

<https://meridianmaps.com.au/product/westprint-outback-way/>

Meridian Mirth

To share your jokes, please send them to rochelle@meridianmaps.com.au. Many thanks to Paul for his contributions!





A man dies and goes to Heaven, where he finds St. Peter standing in front of two huge signs. The first sign reads: "Men Who Were Bossed By Their Wives." "Under this sign, the line of men stretches as far as the eye can see. The second sign reads: "Men Who Were Not Bossed By Their Wives." "Only one man stands under that sign. St. Peter is intrigued and asks, how did you manage that. The man shrugs and says, "I don't know, my wife told me to stand here".

WIFE: "There is trouble with the car.
It has water in the carburetor."
HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor?
That's ridiculous "
WIFE: "I tell you the car has water
in the carburetor."
HUSBAND: "You don't even know what
a carburetor is. Where's the car?
WIFE: "In our pool"

Who's Guilty Here?
A wife is dreaming in
bed, she suddenly wakes
up and shouts, "quick my
husband is home!" Her
husband wakes up and
jumps out the window!
- Sarcastic Bad Bitchess

A farmer named Earl had a tractor accident and ended up in court. The trucking company's sharp lawyer started questioning him:
Lawyer: "Didn't you say at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine'?"
Earl: "Well now, I had just loaded my cow, Daisy, into the trailer..."
Lawyer: "Just answer the question! Did you or did you not say 'I'm fine'?"
Earl: "Like I was sayin', I had Daisy in the trailer behind my tractor when..."
Lawyer: "Your Honor, he's avoiding the question! He told the Highway Patrol he was fine, and now he's suing my client!"
The judge leaned forward, "I'd actually like to hear what he has to say about his cow."
Earl continued: "I had just loaded up Daisy - my favorite cow - and we were heading down the road when a big ol' semi ran a stop sign and plowed right into my tractor.
I landed in one ditch, and poor Daisy got thrown into the other. I was hurt bad and couldn't move. I could hear Daisy groaning, she was in real bad shape. A Highway Patrol officer showed up, heard her crying, walked over, took one look and shot her right between the eyes."
"Then he walked over to me, still holding the gun, and asked, 'How are you feeling?'
Now, Your Honor, If YOU were lying in a ditch, hurting, and just watched your favourite cow get shot...
What would YOU say??"



The Fine Print

At The Meridian Line

Wherever possible we try to acknowledge the source of all information contained in this newsletter. We offer no guarantees for accuracy, but we do our best.

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Feel free to forward this newsletter to any family or friends who you feel might enjoy a good read. If they would like to receive this newsletter on a regular basis they can register at: <https://meridianmaps.com.au/newsletter/>

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