

Experience Western Downs

**It's the
people that
make it.**

Travel tips | Town information
Itineraries | Events
Drive Trails & Maps
Accommodation Directory



Dalby | Chinchilla | Tara | Miles | Jandowae | Wandoan

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MAYOR'S WELCOME

It is my pleasure to welcome travellers to the Western Downs.

We are very proud to share our region as you explore its rich history, big skies, local characters and sunsets you'll return for.

Our Visitor's Guide highlights the many experiences to enjoy while exploring the great open spaces of this region and our iconic attractions such as historic Jimbour House, the Condamine Bell, Possum Park, the Big Melon and Miles Historical Village Museum to name a few.

If you are adventurous, take a drive to the Bunya Mountains and marvel at the ancient Bunya Pine trees which tower in the mist above the many hiking trails.

Enjoy great hospitality at one of our many country pubs and meet the locals, picnic on the banks of Brigalow Creek or the Condamine River, discover the many heritage-listed sites that tell a story of early settlement, walk amongst the bush wildflowers in spring, or simply relax on the lawn in the award-winning Chinchilla Botanic Parkland.

Enjoy your stay in our region and before leaving, capture your memory with a photo in front of the famous Big Melon slice on the highway in Chinchilla.

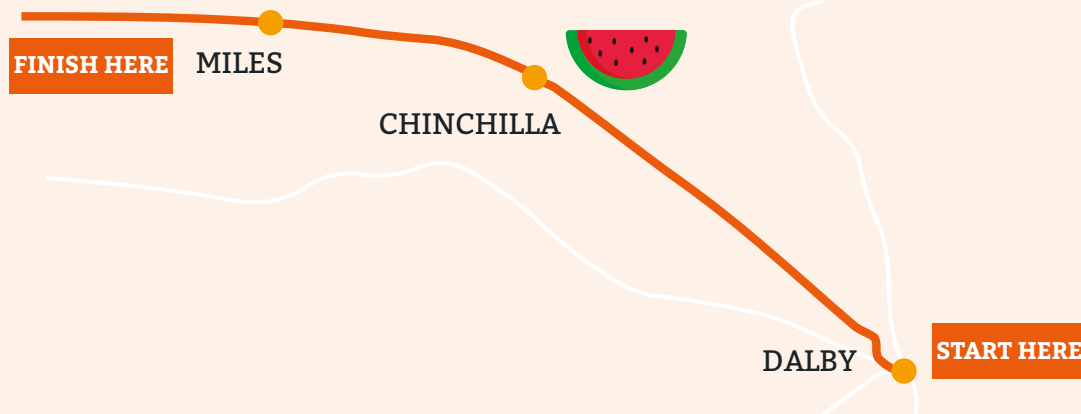
I'm sure you'll find it's the people that make it in the Western Downs.

Paul McVeigh

Western Downs Mayor



3 DAYS IN THE WESTERN DOWNS



Day 1: Dalby

9am: Set off from the city

Proving everything the coast can do, inland Queensland can do better, point your bonnet 209km west of Brisbane to Experience Western Downs.

12noon: Arrive in Dalby

Lunch at Urban Paddock Cafe in Dalby is nothing short of delicious – with a homewares and clothing store out the front and coffee shop out the back.

2pm: Discover hidden treasures



The Dalby Antiques Store is a Pandora's box of treasures – packing everything from antiques to Australianana, with quirky items hiding behind every corner.

3pm: Check-in somewhere local

If your recipe for holiday success looks like eating, sleeping and drinking without leaving a city block, book into one of Dalby's 4-star accommodation options.

Sunset:



Take a short 30-minute drive out of town to Lake Broadwater Conservation Park, for a sunset over the only freshwater lake in the Western Downs.

Overnight: Dalby

Day 2: Chinchilla

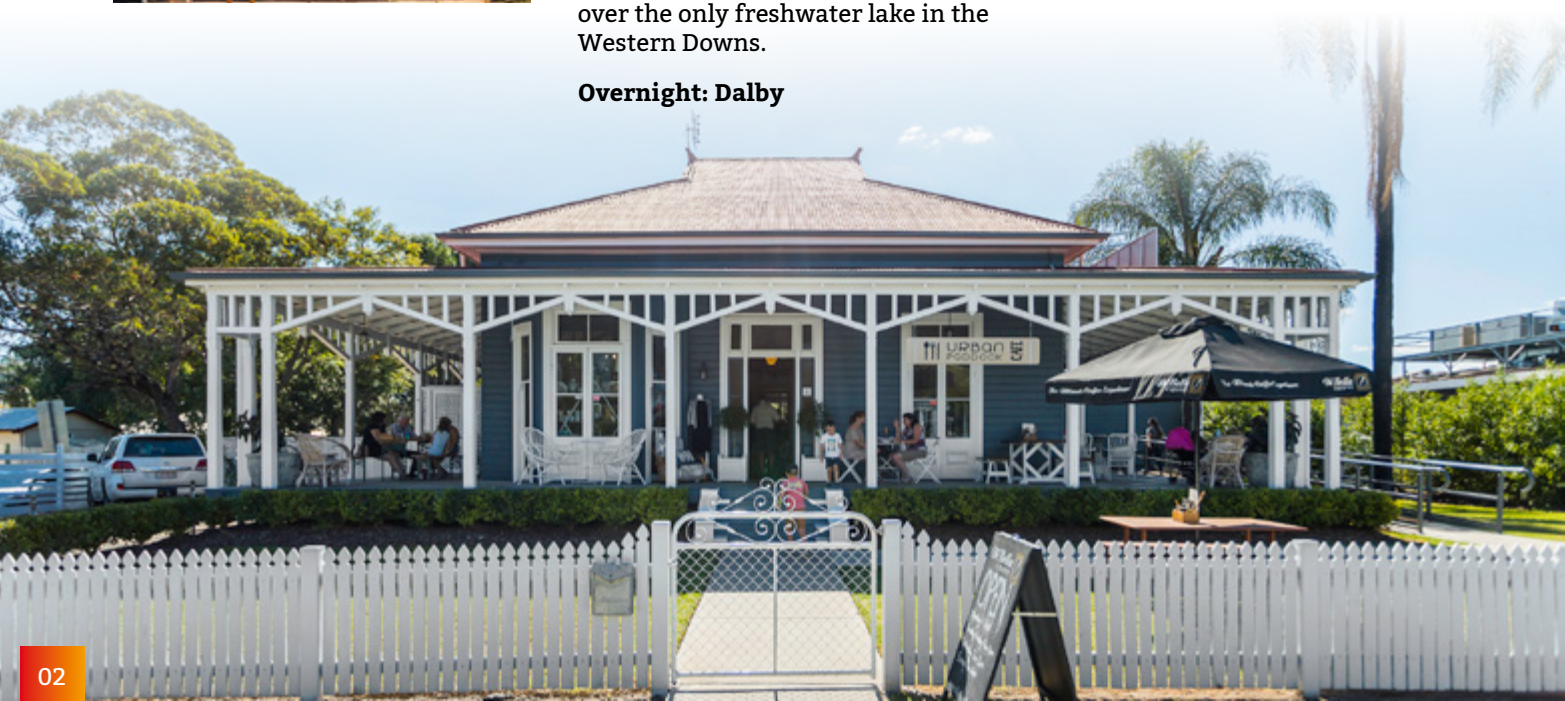
9am: Drive between two centres

Hit the road for 80km driving between Dalby and Chinchilla.

Every two years, the Chinchilla Melon Festival sees the small town swell to 20,000 people to celebrate the humble melon.



Fun Fact: The largest watermelon on record at the Chinchilla Melon Fest tipped the scales at 87.5kg!





10am: Pit stop at the Visitor Information Centre

Make a pit stop at the hexagonal shaped Visitor Information Centre, built from local cypress pine in the 1980s.

Inside the centre, you'll also find displays of the famous Chinchilla Red petrified wood.

Tip: Explore the collection of local and regional artist goods for sale before heading outside to take a selfie with The Big Melon!

12pm: Discover another world of history at Chinchilla Museum

Chinchilla Museum gives a firm nod to the region's natural resources and the industries it supports,

with displays covering everything from cypress pine milling to melon farming and a prickly pear plague in between.

Before you leave the area, make your way to the Chinchilla Botanic Parkland, awarded Australia's Park of the Year at National Parks & Leisure Awards for 2020.

Overnight: Chinchilla

Day 3: Miles

9am: Hit the road

It's a short 35-minute drive connecting Chinchilla and Miles, two of the main town players on the Warrego Way.

10am: View the art collection

With coffee in hand from one of the local cafes, make your way to Dogwood Crossing, the artfully designed regional gallery in the centre of Miles.

2pm: Step back in time

The year might as well be 1910 at the Miles Historical Village Museum.

Take a self-guided tour of the 34 buildings which give a nod to a bygone era, with exhibitions that immerse you in the past rather than just reading about it through static information boards.

Overnight: Miles



"My favourite thing about living in Miles is the lovely and warm welcoming people. You always get a smile or a nod which makes day to day life so much nicer."

Carla Ramos-Skinner



48 HOURS IN THE BUNYA MOUNTAINS

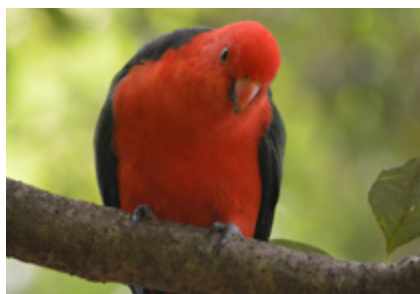
It's no surprise the Bunya Mountains can draw a crowd. This is a destination that's been in the business of bringing communities together for 40 thousand years.

Until the 1870s you would have found crowds of 3000 plus Indigenous people flocking to the Bunyas for the Boyne Festival to celebrate feasting, law making and trading.

If you're wondering how to see the Bunya Mountains, use this weekend itinerary as your guide.

Friday

12pm: Escape the city for the country



Every good road trip needs a name – and the Bunya Mountains Scenic Drive drops a serious clue about what you can expect.

Follow the brown Bunya Pine signs which start from Toowoomba, if you're driving to the Bunyas via the Dalby route.

3pm: Check into your home-away-from-home

Tucked behind the gates of the Bunya Mountains Accommodation Centre, you'll find 104 holiday homes, which are privately let.

Houses come in all shapes and sizes (although you can expect plenty of A-frame architecture) from studio cabins right through to accommodation that sleeps up to 22 people.

Inside most you'll find multiple bathrooms, kitchens to self-cater and the all-important fireplace for those chilly Bunya nights where temperatures frequently drop below zero.

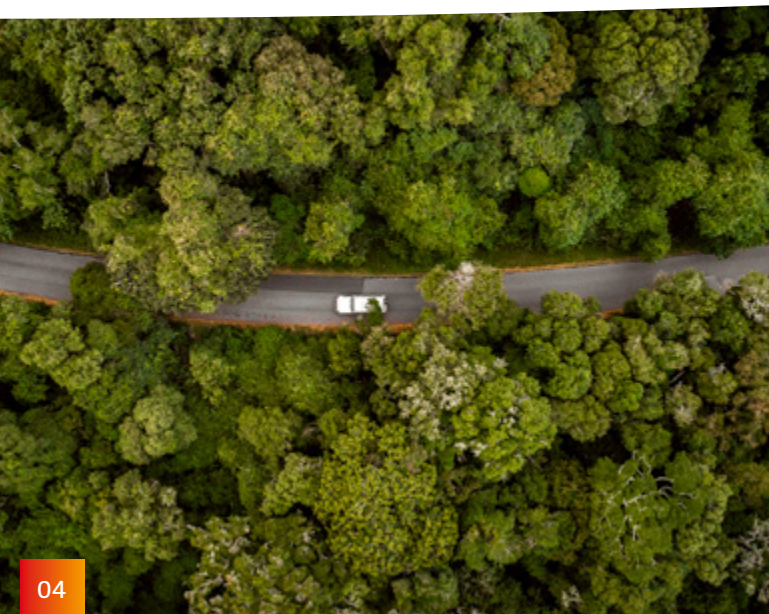
5.30pm: Catch sunset from Fishers Lookout

For one of the best sunset shows on the Western Downs, toss down a picnic blanket at Fishers Lookout.

A sundial bearing coordinates to the nearest towns will be all the tour guiding you need up here.

7pm: Become a master chef of the mountain

Cook in your self-contained kitchen tonight – you'll find most houses have a five-burner stove, full oven (if not dual) and all the kitchen mod-cons to whip up more than just a bowl of pasta, alternatively, Lyric Restaurant dishes up dinner from 6pm, seven nights a week.





Saturday

8am: Breakfast at The Bunyas

Enjoy breakfast at the onsite cafe, The Bunyas at the Bunya Mountains Village. The local wildlife, such as crimson rosellas will join you out the front of the cafe between 9.15-10.15am.

9am: Go from market to market

If you can, time your visit for the last Sunday of the month and shop local with a visit to the Bunya Mountains markets.



11am: Take a hike

Whether you like a bush walk of half marathon proportions or something much smaller, there's a track with your hiking boots' name on it.

While you're walking, keep your eyes peeled for the 210 recorded species of bird found in this national park.

7pm: Have a nip at Shackleton's

This evening pay a visit to Australia's highest whiskey bar, Shackleton's.

With over 113 whiskeys on the menu and an alternating whiskey of the week, there's no shortage of choice when it comes to price and country of origin for your nip.

Sunday

8am: Breakfast at Poppy's

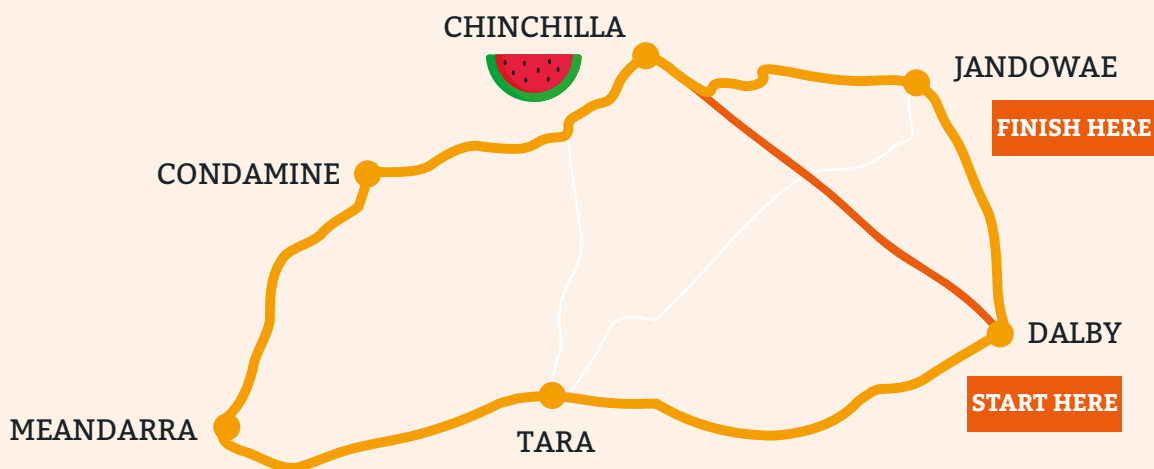
For breakfast so close to the forest it could only be rivalled by a treehouse, choose Poppy's on the Hill for your morning jolt.



"This is my people's homeland, that's why I've got so much pride. It's the story and significance of this region according to our traditional ways."
Shannon Bauwens



5 DAY EXPLORER ITINERARY



Day 1: Dalby

The commercial heart of the Western Downs, Dalby, is the starting point of this five-day itinerary.



Fuel up at Urban Paddock Café, Dalby, where you'll find a play area for kids out the back and a comprehensive kids menu including the likes of loaded milkshakes, burgers and fries.

With everyone sated, you'll have enough bargaining chips to explore some of Dalby's main attractions, including the collection of tractors and agricultural machinery at Pioneer Park Museum.

For a true country experience, don't pass up the chance to visit the cattle auctions held every Wednesday at the Dalby Saleyards.

They are the second largest in Queensland, with every year over 200,000 cattle going under the hammer.

Stay the night choosing between one of the many camping, caravan, hotel or motels across town.

Day 2: Dalby to Tara

Only an hour of driving separates Dalby and Tara, your next stop on this itinerary.

Games of I Spy on your drive will be punctuated by the colourful crops that define the paddocks of the Western Downs.

Arrive at Tara, the unofficial camel capital of the region, home to the iconic Tara Festival of Culture and Camel Races every second year.



If you're not visiting in festival season, spend your day exploring the Tara Lagoon Parklands or step back in time at the Tara District Historical Museum.

Take your meals at the Commercial Hotel on the main street for the chance to see Australian, legendary artist Hugh Sawrey's artworks lining the walls.

Check into the local motel or try your hand at camping by the Tara Lagoon (camping fees apply).

Day 3: Tara to Meandarra

Shy of 65km of scenic country driving stands between the towns of Tara and Meandarra, where we suggest you explore today.

Push onto Meandarra for a history lesson that will pique the interest of military enthusiasts, at the Meandarra ANZAC Memorial Museum.

In the cool of the afternoon, you might like to let the little ones burn off some energy along the banks of Brigalow Creek before checking into accommodation at the Royal Hotel for the evening.

"I love the country lifestyle and the people - it's the chance to really have the time to enjoy the land and nature around you, it's the fresh air and sunshine, the peace and quiet."
Gale McKelvie





Day 4: Meandarra to Condamine

Take a scenic 35 minutes drive to Condamine this morning where you're greeted into town by a giant replica of the Condamine or Bullfrog Bell.

Set on the banks of the famous Condamine River, the township is best known for its fishing and for good reason.

Wet a line for your chance at catching Murray cod and yellowbelly, or take a stroll along its banks to spend the afternoon like a local.

Fish isn't the only thing on the menu for dinner tonight, Condamine is

cattle country, and you'll find local beef on the grill at the Condamine Hotel.

Day 5: Condamine to Dalby via Jandowae

Swap cattle for crops, driving today from Condamine to Dalby via Jandowae.

Make your first pitstop on this 1.5-hour journey a detour into the home of watermelons, Chinchilla, even if only for a photo with the giant four-tonne, nine-metre-long watermelon statue on the entry to town.



Head further east along the scenic backroads rather than the Warrego Highway to Jandowae, home to the second longest man-made structure in the world, the Dingo Barrier Fence and stop for a photo with the dingo statue.

"Our region boasts some of the best inland waterways and free camp sites in Queensland. Bring your mates, otherwise no one will believe the fishing stories you have when you return!"
Peter Delaforce



6 THINGS TO DO IN DALBY

Welcome to the capital of the Western Downs, Dalby. It's the largest urban centre on the map, with 13,000 residents calling it home.

It might be best known for its agriculture, with Dalby crowned Australia's richest cotton and grain growing area – but there's so much more to see and do than explore its farming countryside.

Discover Dalby's natural beauty, city-like amenities and urban foodie gems within this guide.



1. Stroll the main street

Take a wander along Cunningham Street in Dalby's town centre. This tree-lined street is packed with shops and eateries which will fill your day (and stomach) with hours of exploring.

For women's clothing, The Shop, Millie & Robe, Nikki J, Riot and Bella & Spice are just a few of the stores where you can dress head-to-toe for the races.

2. Catch the sunrise (twice!) over Lake Broadwater Conservation Park

The half hour drive from Dalby to Lake Broadwater Conservation Park gives you enough time to brace yourself for the raw beauty of the only naturally occurring freshwater lake in the Western Downs.

3. Take a stroll through Myall Creek Parklands

Connecting to the Condamine River, follow Myall Creek along a 4km (approx.) loop, which includes picnic and playground areas, information plaques, and scenic views of the river and the flocks of white cockatoos who call it home.

For parkrun enthusiasts, join the locals who run it every Saturday.

If pooch came along on your travels, stretch their paws with a walk around the parkland.

4. Fill your tummy at the Dalby Delicious and DeLIGHTful Festival

Time your visit for August to see the town lit up by the Dalby Delicious and DeLIGHTful Festival – a multicultural food extravaganza.

A lantern parade is a much-loved feature of the festival, leading to the parkland filled with food and market stalls, topped with live music and entertainment.

5. Get up close to the cows at the Dalby Regional Saleyards

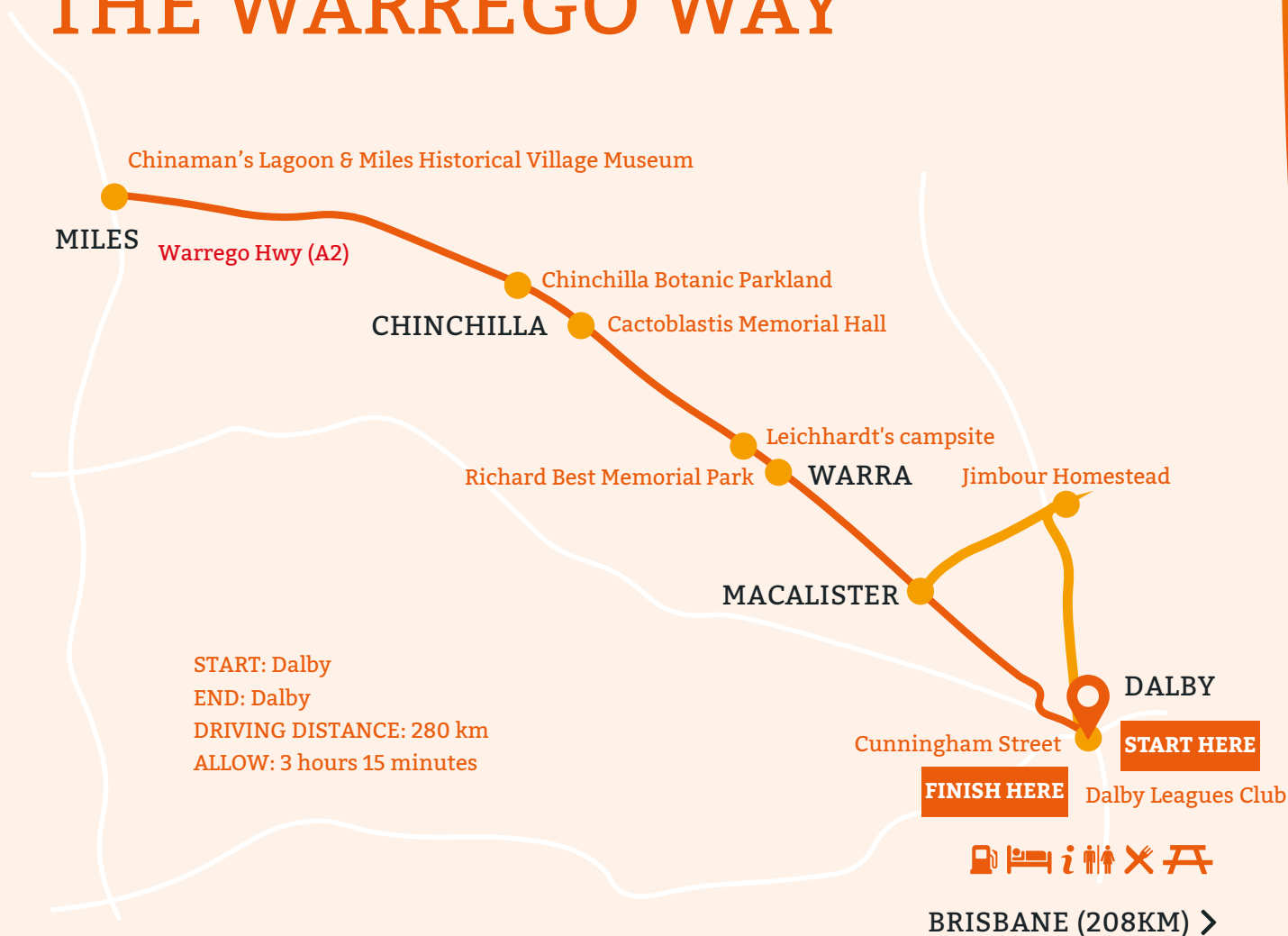
Get amongst the auction-action with a Wednesday morning visit to the Dalby Regional Saleyards, the second largest in Australia. Here you'll get a glimpse of why this is the cattle capital of the Western Downs.

6. Take a trip down memory lane at the Dalby Pioneer Park Museum

If you love to explore the history of each town you visit, Pioneer Park Museum is a must-do attraction in Dalby, housing the largest working tractor and agricultural machinery displays in Queensland, as well as an original letter from Ned Kelly written to his mother from his jail cell.



DRIVE ROUTE 1: THE WARREGO WAY



1. Start your Warrego Way Trail in **DALBY** - lace up your sneakers and take an early morning stroll along the **Myall Creek Parklands** before rewarding yourself with a Di Bella coffee at Urban Paddock or a pancake stack at Stellarossa.
2. Continue your journey on Warrego Hwy/State Route A2, 50km east to **WARRA**. The **Richard Best Memorial Park** on the Warrego Highway is home to the old **Warra Jail**, **Homebush Windmill**, **heritage tractor**, **historic Haystack School** and within walking distance, **Ludwig Leichhardt's 1844 Campsite**.
3. Before arriving in **CHINCHILLA**, make a stop on the highway to see the only memorial hall dedicated to an insect at Boonarga.
4. Staying on the Warrego Way travel 40km north west to **CHINCHILLA** for a selfie at the **Big Melon** before making your way to the **Chinchilla Botanic Parkland**. This award-winning park includes a megafauna discovery centre, watermelon themed water play area, parkour space as well as shady grounds for a picnic lunch.
5. Back on the A2, travel the short 48km to **MILES**. Stop in at the **Miles Historical Village Museum** to view the latest display, the **Great Artesian Basin Interpretive Centre** before heading west to **Chinaman's Lagoon**. From the Warrego Hwy turn left onto Dawson Street/Leichhardt Hwy/A5 make your way to Chinaman's Lagoon, destination on the right.
6. For your final pitstop, visit the gardens and experience the grandeur of **Jimbour House**. Returning east along the Warrego Hwy (101km) turn left onto Macalister Bell Road (17.5 km), continue straight onto Jimbour Station Road (850m) and turn off on right hand side (260 m). Entry fees apply.
7. The last leg of the journey has you arrive back in the largest town in the Western Downs, **DALBY**. Known for its **antique and boutique shopping and paddock to plate experiences**, immerse yourself in the CBD and get to know some of the locals. For a night out with the kids be sure to visit the **Dalby Leagues Club**. Take Jimbour Station Rd & MacAlister Bell Rd to Jandowae Rd/State Route 82, follow State Route 82 to **DALBY** (25km).



EXPLORE BEAUTIFUL BELL



The Bell Bunya region may just be one of the prettiest in Queensland with leafy, hilly scenic driving conditions - it's one of the best places within our region to get off the beaten track.

Sample locally made scones and rosella jam at the Bell Bunya Community Centre

Nestled in the foothills of the Bunya Mountains you'll find a foodie's paradise at the Bell Bunya Community Centre.

Serving morning tea and lunch daily, the local scones with homemade rosella jam are not to be missed.

Lunch at Pips 'n' Cherries

Step back in time with a coffee and cake at Pips 'n' Cherries, the vintage-style cafe in Bell's main street.

Make your breaky or lunch choice from a range of sandwiches, salads and wraps, or switch over to sweets territory with scones, slices, pancakes, or a two-tiered pavlova topped with local seasonal fruit.

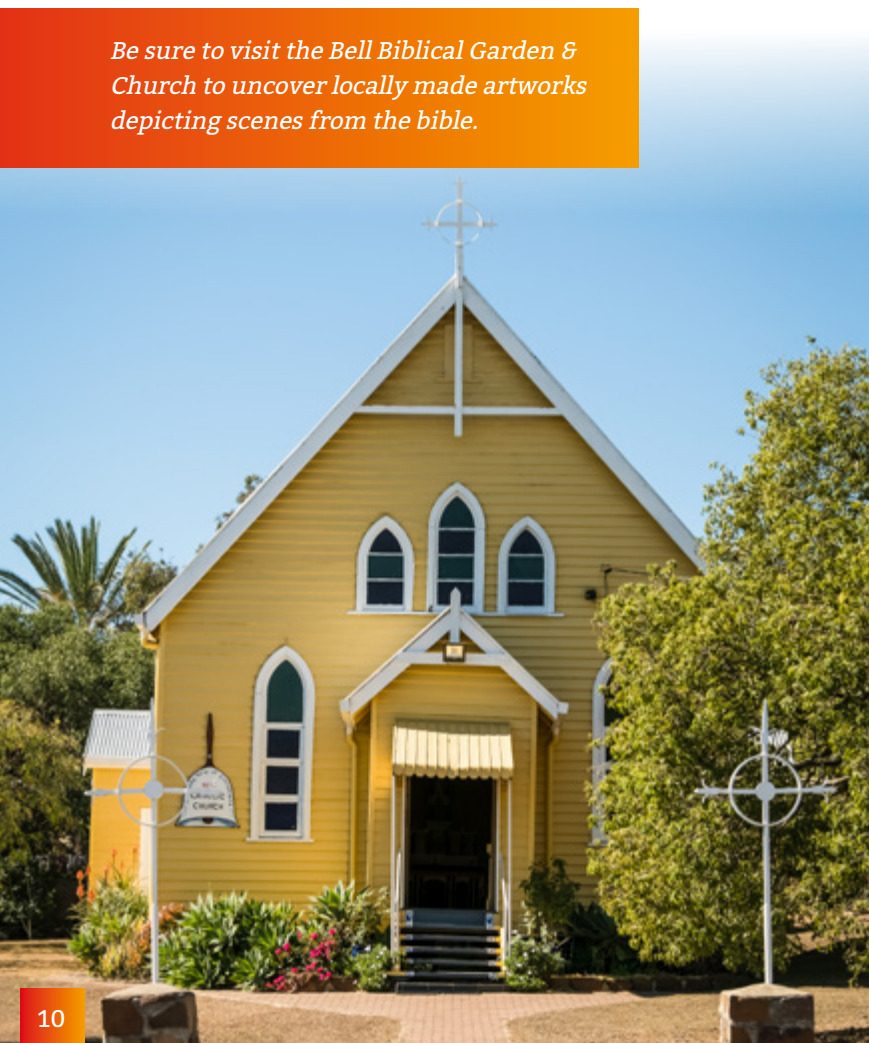
Spend the night in the old bakery

Sleep in its tiny shopfront, which was built in 1912 out of local sandstone, standing on the main street of Bell like a slice of Australian history.

Pick up spices from Rusty's Spice Market

Located in one of Bell's historic buildings, The Old Bell Butcher Shop, immerse yourself in the aroma of whole spices, curry blends, and condiments.

Be sure to visit the Bell Biblical Garden & Church to uncover locally made artworks depicting scenes from the bible.



"I love the small town community of Bell. I love the temperate zone for growing, the views and the sunsets. There is something magical here in the foothills of the Bunya Mountains."
Leslie Brice

DISCOVER A CHAPTER OF HISTORY IN JANDOWAE & JIMBOUR

For history and heritage in abundance, swap Dalby for its smaller neighbouring towns, Jandowae and Jimbour.

You'll find them less than 30 minutes north of Dalby, with the Bunya Mountains as your backdrop.

Classic Queenslander architecture captures attention in these two towns, giving both centres an unmistakable country charm.



Visit the iconic Jimbour House

Downton Abbey meets country Queensland with a visit to Jimbour House, the iconic heritage-listed homestead in Jimbour.

While the house is a private residence, visitors are welcome to visit the gardens and living history walk for a small fee.

Discover the world's longest fence

No trip to Jandowae is complete without a visit to the dingo sculpture on the corner of George and High Streets, marking the start of the 5,614km Dingo Barrier Fence – the longest fence in the world.

Taste local produce on Jandowae's market day

Don't miss the Jandowae Lions Markets on the fourth Sunday of the month, for freshly made coffee, donuts and hot food as well as locally grown fruit and vegetables and artisan goods.

Explore Athlone Cottage

Visit Athlone Cottage on the corner of High and Dalby Streets for a dose of history and heritage of the Western Downs.



YOUR GUIDE TO MILES

Perched 360km west of Brisbane, Miles is a town worth going the extra mile to find.

Only 4.5 hours lay between big city Brisbane lights and Miles country nights, where you can fill your days with history, culture, and the natural beauty of the Western Downs.

From flowers and festivals to cafes and coldies, plan your time in Miles with this guide.

Step back in time at the Miles Historical Village Museum



Leave modern day life behind and enter an old-fashioned town centre at the Miles Historical Village Museum, exploring the museum buildings which have been set up like living dioramas.

The newest addition to the museum is the air-conditioned Great Artesian Basin Interpretive Centre which displays the life the artesian basin provides the Western Downs region, from agriculture through to industry.

No need to leave your best pal at home in Miles with the local caravan park, the Miles Historical Village Museum and many motels pet-friendly!

Take a stroll along Dogwood Creek

Your afternoon walk is sorted with the 5km Dogwood Creek track, circling the western and northern perimeters of the town.

Learn about Miles at Dogwood Crossing

If you can't get enough of this town's history, make tracks to the arts and cultural hub – Dogwood Crossing.

You can't miss it with eye-catching, giant metal bottle trees standing tall at the front of the building.

Relax by Chinaman's Lagoon

Treat your eyes to an Australian version of Monet's garden at Chinaman's Lagoon on the southern edge of town.

Each spring/summer, hundreds of pink and purple water lilies float atop three long lagoons.

Discover history in ANZAC Park

Explore ANZAC Park in Miles and pay your respects at the Remembrance Wall.

Make sure you don't leave before visiting the rare German artillery field gun. The 7.7-centimetre Nahkampfkane was captured during WWI in Messines and is believed to be one of only three in the world.

Hide out at Possum Park

If you're after a one-of-a-kind accommodation experience, check into Possum Park, 20 kilometres from town.

Take your pick from camping, caravanning, carriages (restored train carriages that is) or wartime underground bunkers, which were once used as ammunition storage before being transformed into self-contained units.

Attend the Miles Back to the Bush Festival

Time your visit to celebrate country life with a long weekend at the Miles Back to the Bush Festival.

Every two years the festival takes over the town to showcase the best of rural living, with a street parade, markets, bush poetry and performances, and vintage car displays.

"Miles is such a supportive community to have grown up in and now raise my own family in. There are so many passionate people within the district - passionate about providing opportunities, bringing new experiences and progress."
Tonita Gray

FIND YOUR CHILL IN CHINCHILLA

The melon capital is known for its colourful countryside, with fishing, festivals, history, arts and culture bursting from its 81,000m² seams.

Find your chill in Chinchilla with this guide.



Discover an old world at Chinchilla Museum

Take a step back in time and visit the Chinchilla Museum to experience the town just as it was in its pioneering days.

Explore the old dancing hall (Goombi Hall), an ANZAC memorial exhibition, local sawmill history with the Cypress Pine Interpretive Centre and cactoblastis story, school classrooms, workshops and homesteads.

On the first Sunday of the month, let the kids slip back to yesteryear riding the miniature train that snakes through the museum grounds.

Get fruity at the Chinchilla Melon Festival

Wearing the title 'watermelon capital of Australia', you'd expect nothing less than melon-mania at the biennial Chinchilla Melon Festival.

Fossick for Chinchilla Red

Visit the Chinchilla Museum to observe shelves of petrified wood, known as Chinchilla Red. The display is considered one of Australia's most diverse collections of the polished possession.

To have a go digging some up yourself, you can purchase a permit online from the Department of Resources or at the Chinchilla Visitor Information Centre to fossick on private property for your own chance of uncovering Chinchilla Red. Be sure to pop into the Visitor Information Centre to pay your fees of \$5 per person, per site before heading out to the allocating fossicking sites as well.

Cast off at the Chinchilla Weir

Don't forget to pack your rod and reel in Chinchilla, you're heading to an inland fishing oasis – commonly known as the Chinchilla Weir.

Note: Fishing is not permitted within 200m of the weir wall, but the rest is fair game.

Take a stroll along Charley's Creek Track

You don't have to head out of town to get your nature fix. Charley's Creek winds its way across town and there's a walking track beside the watercourse to hug its journey.

Your best entry is via Middle or Bell Street in town or just off the Warrego Highway next to Charley's Creek Bridge.

"My passion for our Aussie farmers struggling with drought and other natural disasters saw me, with the help and support of my friends establish a charity called Drought Angels here in Chinchilla. The people, their caring and compassionate nature, is why I call Chinchilla home."
Natasha Johnson



ROAD TRIP: HOW TO DO THE LEICHHARDT HIGHWAY

Stretching close to 700 kilometres from Goondiwindi to Yeppoon and running through the Western Downs from south to north, European explorer Ludwig Leichhardt of whom the Leichhardt Highway was named after has a strong history with our region.

Retrace the steps of the highway's namesake and explore the heritage and history of the Western Downs with this guide.

"We love the tight knit community and friendly people of Meandarra. People are more than happy to help out. We love it."
Jason and Leanne Corcoran

Start here: Moonie

Known as the oil capital of Australia and the site of Australia's first commercial oil field, no trip along the Leichhardt Highway is complete without a stop in Moonie.



Plan your trip for the one-of-a-kind Moonie Yabbie Races, the town's equivalent of the Melbourne Cup – only it's not a flurry of hooves on turf but nippers as locally caught yabbies race to the finish line.

Meandarra

Between Moonie and Meandarra, pay a visit to The Gums, a town with a population of fewer than 200 people on the junction of the Leichardt Highway and Surat Development road.

Push further north to Meandarra to find one of only a few museums that can legally call itself an 'ANZAC Museum', the Meandarra ANZAC Memorial Museum.

Tara

While the town of Tara may only have a population of 2,000, it's home to one of our region's major biennial events, Tara Festival of Culture and Camel Races, that sees the town swell to over 16,000 people.

Stop by the Commercial Hotel for a coldie, meal and art tour, with paintings from the famous bush artist, Hugh Sawrey, hanging in the dining room.

Glenmorgan

Get to know the history of the Glenmorgan Branch Line, which was abandoned during the depression in the 1930s, at the old railway station now turned museum.

Swap a history lesson for a nature lesson and pick up a brochure from the Garden Office for a self-guided walk around the Myall Park Botanic Gardens.

Condamine

Continue on to Condamine to see the town's most iconic claim to fame – the Condamine Bell or "Bullfrog" Bell – an invention by local blacksmith, Samuel William Jones in the late 1800s that became so popular they were sought by graziers from as far as Western Australia.



"There's always something happening in the background. If you don't turn off the highway, you won't know what you've missed."
Julie Walz



Miles

Head to the Miles Historical Village Museum and step it out along a streetscape of restored and original buildings dating back to early pioneering years along with the largest collection (read: 4000 pieces) of lapidary items in regional Queensland.

Wandoan

En route between Wandoan and Miles, be sure to stop in the blink-and-you-miss-it town of Guluguba which backs onto the Barakula State Forest. This area is best known for its sea of wildflowers which burst into bloom in each spring.

Drop into the local Visitor Information Centre to pick up a copy of the Miles & Gurulmundi Wildflower brochure and take a self-guided tour of the flower trail.

Arrive at the north-west pocket of the Western Downs, Wandoan, and start with a history lesson at the old Juandah Historical Site.

Tummy grumbling? Pop into the Wandoan Cafe to satisfy your cravings.

Head to O'Sullivan Park to meet Mick the dog's statue, along with the town's most distinguishing feature, the Wandoan Windmill.

CUTE COUNTRY CHARMERS

In between the major centres of the Western Downs, smaller towns beg to be discovered.

Swap the main arterials for smaller sealed country roads to discover these cute country charmers of the Western Downs.

"Our goal is to highlight the history of our town, and to create a better environment for people living here and people travelling through."
Anne Wunsch



Warra

The towns of the Western Downs don't get much older than Warra which was settled in the 1840s.

The history of the railway through the region is best told in Warra, whose restored railway station in the centre of town is the perfect spot for a cuppa and picnic while passing through.

While there, explore the Haystack School Building in the Warra Park, which celebrates the many small one teacher schools in the district.

If you're thinking of staying and playing a while, local produce can be purchased at the Warra markets held on the second Sunday of the month.

For your early Australian explorer fix, visit Lytton Street, where you'll find the campsite of Ludwig Leichhardt and his party, which they passed through on 4 October 1844.

Time your visit for July if you can when the town of 200 people swells to 700 for the Warra Country Race Club meet.

Kogan

There's plenty of reasons to pay a visit to Kogan, and the legendary artist Hugh Sawrey who grew up here is just one of them.

You'll also find a bronze sculpture of two men playing cards, which captures the essence of friendship in the bush with Kogan publican Darkie Dwyer.

If the walking around and exploring has got you thirsty, the Kogan Hotel has you covered for ice-cold beers and a bite to eat.

"It's the art and culture displayed throughout town that brings both the locals and visitors together. A town proud of its history."
Sue Mantell



Follow the interpretive panels located at the start of the town walk which tell the story of Kogan.

PITCH PERFECT: WHERE TO CAMP IN WESTERN DOWNS

If your regular campsite has you sleeping in conditions that resemble a sardine tin rather than the escape to nature you were hoping for, it's time to start a different pitch-list.

With waterfront campsites, forest-surrounded campgrounds, and showgrounds for when the first two become too crowded for your liking, the Western Downs delivers more camping space than you can poke a tent peg at.

Sound like bliss? Stake your claim at one of these Western Downs campsites.

Bunya Mountains National Park

Camping doesn't get more scenic than the Bunya Mountains, a national park defined by its towering Bunya Pines.

With allocated campsites, you can expect your neighbours to be a mob of red-necked wallabies, along with 120 different species of bird who won't ever forget your wake-up call.

By day, it's all about the hiking – Mount Kianagrow's summit hike (2.3km) takes off from where Westcott campsite begins, promising vistas over the plateau of the Western Downs.

Lake Broadwater Conservation Park

If you like water views with your campsite, pitch like a pro at Lake Broadwater Conservation Park.

You'll find it 30km outside of Dalby, nestled on the banks of Lake Broadwater, the only naturally occurring freshwater lake on the Darling Downs.

BYOW – that's bring your own wood – because fires are allowed in the designated fireplaces (except when fire bans or prohibitions apply).

Your neighbours might be a bit noisy – flocks of sulphur-crested cockatoos and corellas are likely to be your only co-habitants at this specky site.

Chinchilla Weir

Located on the Condamine River, 10km south of Chinchilla, the weir is a freshwater playground for locals and visitors.

Camping is available with toilets, limited powered sites, BBQ and picnic facilities.

Donations for camping are accepted at the Chinchilla Visitor Information Centre.





Wake up with a view

Choose to camp at one of these waterfront sites:

- Caliguel Lagoon
- Lake Broadwater
- Tara Lagoon
- Chinchilla Weir
- Wandoan Waterloo Plains Environmental Park
- Gil Weir
- Archers Crossing South

*For more information, pick up our **Camping, Caravanning & Fishing Under Big Skies** brochure at your nearest Visitor Information Centre.*

Waterloo Plains Environmental Park

You won't need an alarm clock at this camping site best known for birdlife. Waterloo Plains, 70km north of Miles in Wandoan, is teeming with all things feathered (for more birds of the region, flick forward to page 36).

Set up your tent amongst 11-hectares of parkland hugging the man-made, water lily-clad lake.

When you're not birdwatching, there's a self-guided heritage trail

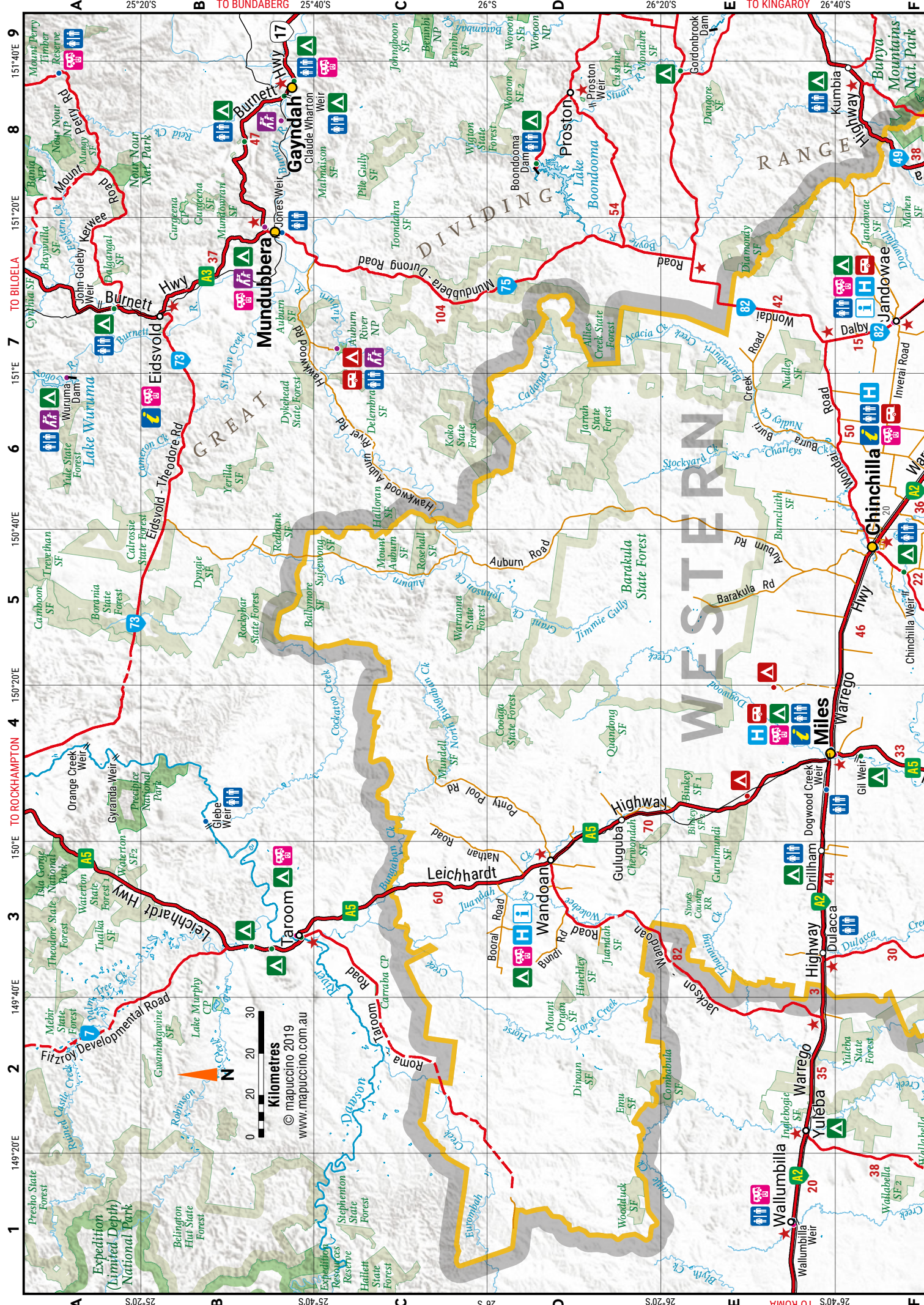
through the park, complete with walkways and bridges, so you don't need to wade through any wetlands to get around.

Caliguel Lagoon

If camping and fishing go hand-in-hand for you, set your sights on the campsites at Caliguel Lagoon, seven clicks south of Condamine.

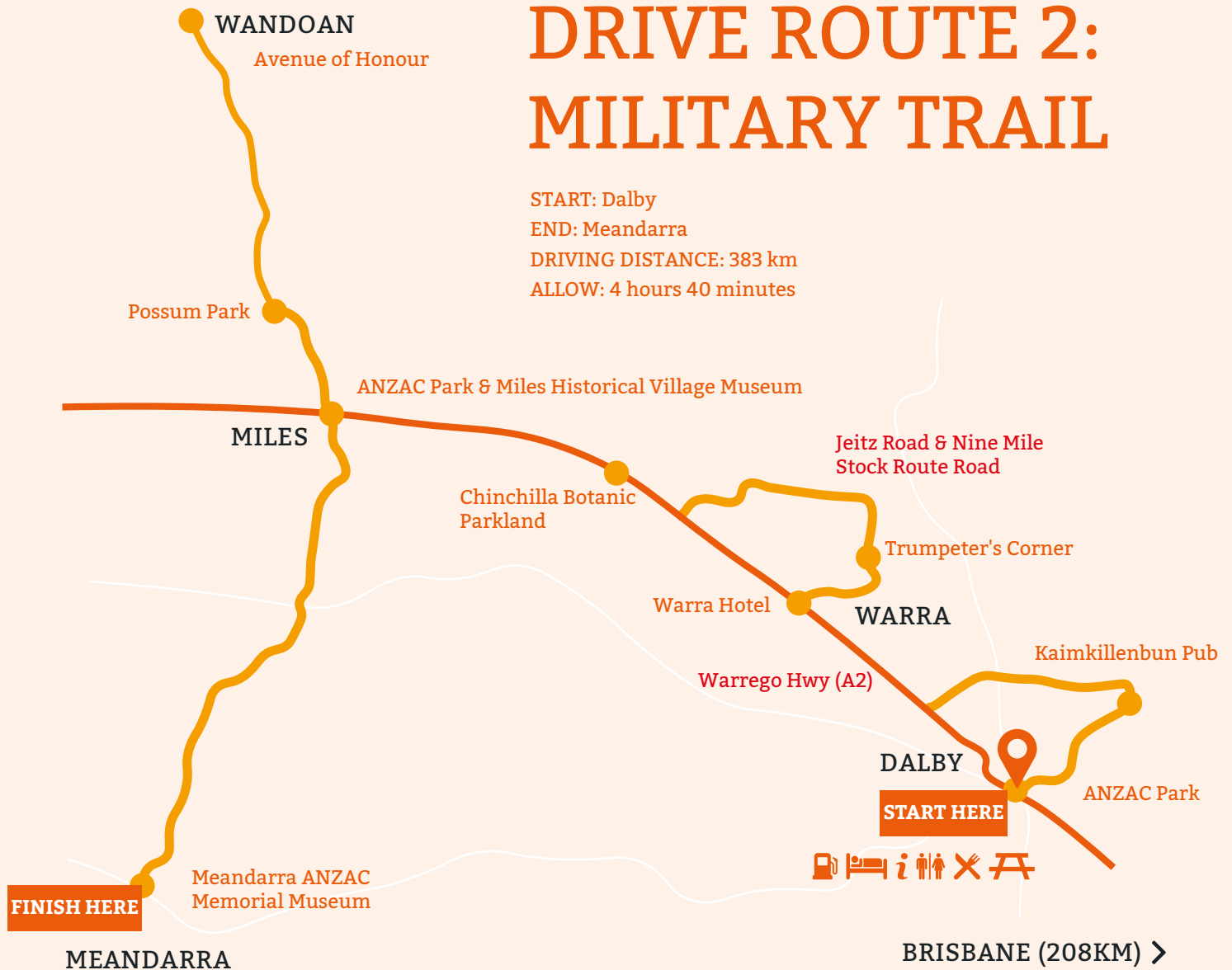
Everything about this camping destination centres on the water – promising a good spot for kayaking, swimming and fishing.





DRIVE ROUTE 2: MILITARY TRAIL

START: Dalby
END: Meandarra
DRIVING DISTANCE: 383 km
ALLOW: 4 hours 40 minutes



1. Start your Military Trail in Dalby at the **ANZAC Park War Memorial**, Patrick Street.
2. Drive from **DALBY** to Kaimkillenbun Pub via the Dalby Cooyar Road (27.5km) to view secret **WW1 Digger signatures**.
3. Proceed east along Bell Kaimkillenbun Road to Malakoff Kaimkillenbun Road. Continue (14.7km) to the Pirrinuan Malakoff Road, Pirrinuan Apunyal Road to the Warrego Highway/A2. Turn right and continue on Highway to Warra (45.5km) stopping in at the **Warra Pub**.
4. From **WARRA** make your way to **Trumpeter's Corner**. Continue along Best Street, turn left into Taylor Street, head north-east along Warra Marnhull Road (9.9km) to Jeitz Road. Turn left and drive (3.2km) to the Nine Mile Stock Route Road intersection to the location of Trumpeter's Corner.
5. Drive on to **CHINCHILLA** to see the **Cenotaph** at the award-winning **Botanic Parkland**. Continue north along Jeitz Road (5.8km) to Inverai Road, turn left and drive (20.5km) to Brigalow Canaga Road. Turn left and drive (10.7km) to Brigalow. Cross railway line. Turn right and head north-west onto Warrego Highway to **CHINCHILLA** (15.5km)]
6. From **CHINCHILLA**, make your way to the **Miles Historical Village Museum**. Follow Warrego Highway/A2 through **CHINCHILLA** and head north-west to **MILES** (44km)].
7. Next, continue along the Warrego Highway through **MILES** to **ANZAC Park** to see the very rare German field gun, Nahkampfanone.
8. From **MILES**, you will need to book your stay to experience our invasion friendly **Possum Park**, travelling just (20km) further west along the A5 Leichhardt Highway towards **WANDOAN**.
9. Next, make your way to either to **MEANDARRA** or **WANDOAN**. In Wandoan, stop and commemorate the 103 families who came to Wandoan through the Soldier Settler Scheme between 1952 and 1954 and read their stories at the **Avenue of Honour** memorial site. You can either conclude your Military Trail here or continue on to Meandarra.
10. Make your way to the **Meandarra ANZAC Memorial Museum**. Driving back to **MILES** turn right at Dawson St/Leichhardt/A5 in Miles and continue onto the township of **CONDAMINE** (33km). Turn right onto Caliguel Street/Leichhardt/A5 and in (3kms) turn right onto Condamine Meandarra Road/State Route 74. Drive (51km) towards **MEANDARRA**.

TURN THE PAGES OF HISTORY WITH EVERY TOWN YOU VISIT

The townships of the Western Downs echo the past, and with each one you discover you'll find the true meaning of the Australian pioneering spirit.

Retrace the footsteps of early explorers through original buildings, imagine life as an early settler in well-preserved slab huts and visit the past, preserved in authentic bush museums.

Start turning the pages of history, with these must-see historical attractions across our region.



Athlone Cottage, Jandowae

When in Jandowae, stop by Athlone Cottage to see architecture of another time. The original slab hut which was originally built circa. 1890.

Trumpeters Corner, Jandowae

Make your way to the corner of Jeitz Road and Nine Mile Road, halfway between Warra and Jandowae to learn the true meaning of a Trumpeter.

Juandah Historical Site, Wandoan

The town of Wandoan wasn't always known by this name, and you can discover its history at the Juandah Historical Site – located on Windeyer Road.

Its location is the original site of the Juandah Head Station established in the late 1840s and is the heart of a settlement you now recognise as Wandoan.

Meandarra ANZAC Memorial Museum, Meandarra

While any museum can show ANZAC memorabilia, not every museum can call itself an ANZAC museum.

Awarded the privilege by the Australian Government in 2003 for showcasing the bravery and sacrifice of the first ANZACs, the Meandarra ANZAC Memorial Museum can.

Inside you'll find military artefacts from various conflicts to a full-sized Canberra Bomber and stories of veterans from the local town and region.

Dingo Barrier Fence, Jandowae

You'll need to drive a little outside of the Jandowae main street to spot the start of the Dingo Barrier Fence.

In town, you can celebrate the fence on the corner of George and Hickey Streets, where a dingo monument marks the start of the 5,400km Dingo Barrier Fence – the longest fence in the world.

Dalby War Memorial Gates and Digger Park

In the centre of Dalby town, pay your respects at the Dalby War Memorial Gates and Digger Park, which features sandstone memorial gate pillars and a bronze, larger-than-life statue of an Australian Infantry Soldier.



Not to be confused with the brass musical instrument, the term 'trumpeter' was given to returned soldiers who had taken up land under the Government's soldier settlement scheme.

To commemorate these men, a plaque was erected at the corner of two blocks, which had been drawn by soldiers during this scheme.



For more information, pick up a copy of the History & Heritage Trail brochure from your nearest Visitor Information Centre.

WELCOME TO TARA

Only 3.5 hours from the city lights of Brisbane, you'll find yourself in the heart of camel country, Tara.

Home to the Tara Festival of Culture & Camel Races, this town of 2,000 people sure knows how to draw a crowd with 16,000 festival attendees descending on the town every second August.

Don't dismiss Tara as an August only destination though – there is always something on the go. Map out your Tara itinerary with this guide.

Have a drink in an iconic pub

You can't go past the Commercial Hotel when it comes to downing a coldie. After all, this iconic establishment has been pouring beers since 1912.

From the outside, it's easy to notice the town's icon, with camel cartoons plastered over the pub's windows.

Inside you might be pleasantly surprised to see Hugh Sawrey's art hung on the walls. The very same Hugh Sawrey whose work hangs in the Queensland Art Gallery and National Museum of Australia, is also on show in the dining room at the Commercial Hotel in Tara.

Did you know? Sawrey was a Tara resident in the 1960s, and the town became his muse for Australian life and its people, now so famously depicted with oil brushstrokes on canvas.

Take a scenic drive, The Sunset Way

The clue is in this road trip's name,

so expect a serious sunset show along the Sunset Way, which kicks off in Tara.

Starting in Tara and finishing in Surat, there's four hours of picturesque highway, with four towns sprinkled in between.

You don't have to tackle the entire trip in one go either, take a return trip from Tara to either Glenmorgan, Meandarra, Hannaford, or The Gums.

Feeling peckish? Stop by the Tara Cafe or Tara Woolshed Bakery for a bite to eat.

Watch the sun go down over the Tara Lagoon

Believe it or not, the Moonie Highway, about 4km from Tara along the eastern entrance to town holds one of the best sunset views in town.

Pack a picnic to enjoy in Grevillea Park

After a picnic lunch in Grevillea Park, work it off with a short stroll through the landscaped gardens,

"My favourite thing is the people - friendly, honest people."
Graham McCulloch

which have been built around emu and camel sculptures in the park in a nod to Tara's local wildlife.

Take a squiz at the new public artwork

You won't need to step inside an art gallery to see public art. The corner of Fry and Day Streets in Tara have been transformed with an eye-catching mural, created by well known artist Graham McCulloch, who grew up in the area.

Step back and take in this work of art, which immortalises what Tara is so famous for – sunsets.

"We've lived here for 45 years and it's the local, friendly people that make it. It's a safe environment and everyone keeps an eye out for each other."
Joe & Jenny Abbott



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR BIG SKIES FESTIVAL

Name another festival with a heritage-listed French colonial home as your backdrop that serves up a five-course lunch and can be found within three hours' drive from Brisbane? We'll wait.

Mark Big Skies Festival in the Western Downs in your diary and get ready to dance up a storm on the grounds of a cattle-station that dates back to 1842.

To get you excited, here's a taste of what you can expect.

What's on?

With a program that changes annually, be sure to check out the Big Skies website for a full event program (bigskiesevents.com.au).

From a camp kitchen breakfast to a tour of Jimbour House and Happy Hour in the Hangar, the Big Skies Festival program will keep you entertained from sunrise to sunset.

No need to spend every festival hour on the grounds of Jimbour House either. Join one of the regional tours or farm tours to learn more about the Western Downs region in-between headline acts.

Where to sleep?

If you're towing your accommodation, put down the campervan legs on the grounds of Jimbour Station in the camping zone to stay amidst the festival action.

Prefer a soft-top to your overnight digs? Secure the pegs into the ground or book Tent City and let the Big Skies team do the hard yards for you.

For accommodation with four walls, book a hotel, motel, or pub room in Dalby, Jandowae, Bell or Kaimkillenbun to be less than 30 minutes' drive from all the festival action.



What to eat?

Whoever said camping can't include a five-course gourmet luncheon has never been to Big Skies.

Book a seat at 'The Chef's Table' for an afternoon of fresh Western Downs produce coupled with matching wines.

For an authentic country spread, don't miss the Camp Kitchen Experience, for a two-course meal featuring home-grown Jimbour beef and lamb.

Prefer something lower key? You'll find food trucks serving cuisines from around the world.

What to wear?

Expect to enjoy warm autumn days and cool evenings.

With the Western Downs region experiencing on average 255 sunshine days each year – you'll want to make sure you pack sunscreen and a hat to protect yourself during the day as well as a jacket to keep you warm at night.



Experience Western Downs

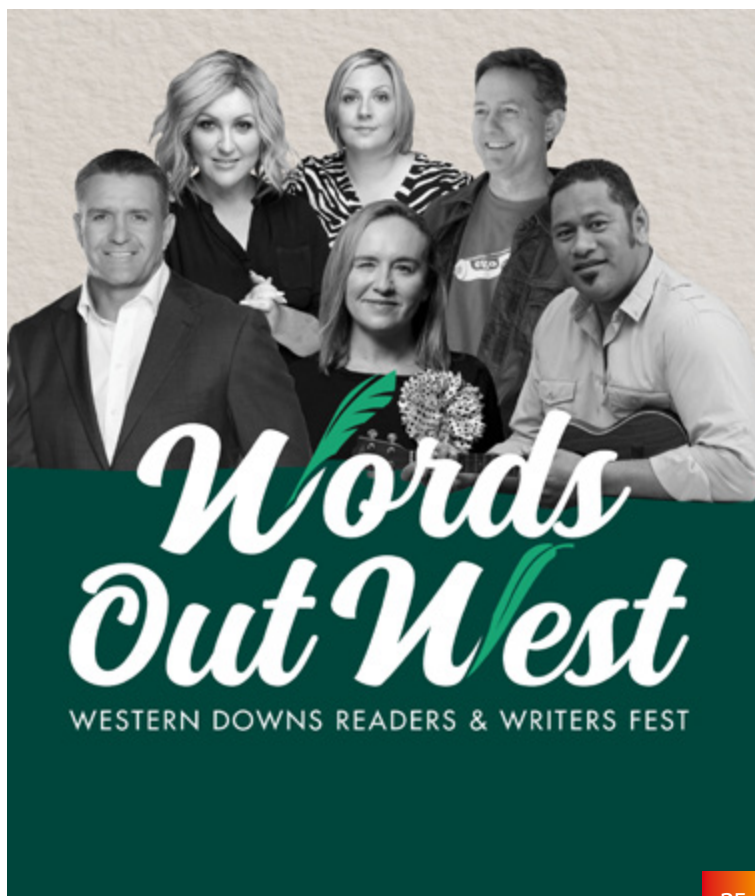
It's the
people that
make it.



Want to know more
about our events?

Then head to
westerndownsqueensland.com.au
or follow us
[@westerndownsqueensland](https://www.instagram.com/westerndownsqueensland)





WHY NOT STAY SOMEWHERE DIFFERENT THIS HOLIDAY?

Whether you're embarking on a long road trip out west, or escaping for just a weekend, choosing where to stay the night is just as important as choosing how you're going to spend your days.

Pack your nightgown and slippers and hit the snooze button with this Western Downs accommodation guide.

For a holiday home for the whole family, Bunya Mountains Accommodation Centre

With over 100 holiday homes to choose from, the Bunya Mountains Accommodation Centre is rife with rentals waiting for both cosied up couples and large families to check out of the city and into a 30-million-year-old landscape.

On their holiday house menu, you'll find everything from cosy one-bedroom cottages to spacious lodges that accommodate up to 22 people.

For a rural escape like no other, Possum Park



If you're after a country hideaway, then Possum Park is the place to seek.

You're not limited for accommodation choice with 360 hectares of privately owned grounds with camping and caravan sites, cabins, underground bunkers and even a train carriage available for the night.

For a romantic retreat, The Laurels of Chinchilla

Perched on the banks of Charley's Creek in the melon capital, the Laurels of Chinchilla is the only waterfront accommodation in town.

Check into one of 12 boutique-style bungalows and garden cottages, which feature custom made furniture, woodwork and rustic farm finds on the property.

Dial up the romance with a stay in the Chookery room, where a private deck and outdoor bath looking over the creek begs for a wine and cheeseboard for the perfect happy hour.

For a transformative holiday, Jubri's Hideaway

The threshold of Jubri's Hideaway in Dalby has a transformative property.

From the minute you cross it, you might as well be transported to Bali with its stunningly landscaped gardens which have piqued the interest of inner-city brides looking for a country wedding escape.



When it's not booked out with weddings, special events and conferences, the team at Jubris welcome guests, with a range of accommodation to choose from including a three-bedroom guest house and two hideaway cabins.

For a horse-lover in your life, Rubern Lodge

Check into accommodation which also doubles as an equestrian centre at Rubern Lodge in Chinchilla.

It's easy to feel your shoulders drop when you're surrounded by horses and scenic country views.

For a true country escape, Rosebank Homestead and Farmstay

Nestled in the foothills of the Bunya Mountains, it's nothing but clean country air when you check into Rosebank Homestead and Farmstay.

If you're keen to learn to ride a horse, join your host Eleanor Bellgrove who can take you for a lesson on her majestic Friesian horses.



For a taste of life on the land, "Arts Hut"

Stay inside a 1930s charming, country cottage, "Arts Hut", for a taste of life on the land on a working Limousin and Angus cattle stud.

You'll find it near the quaint town of Bell where you can exhale city stress and inhale country charm in this cottage perfectly set up for two.



When you're not participating in farm activities, explore the nearby attractions including the Bunya Mountains and historic Jimbour House.

For a farm stay that's big on size and experience, Little Hollows and Bimbimbi Farm Stay

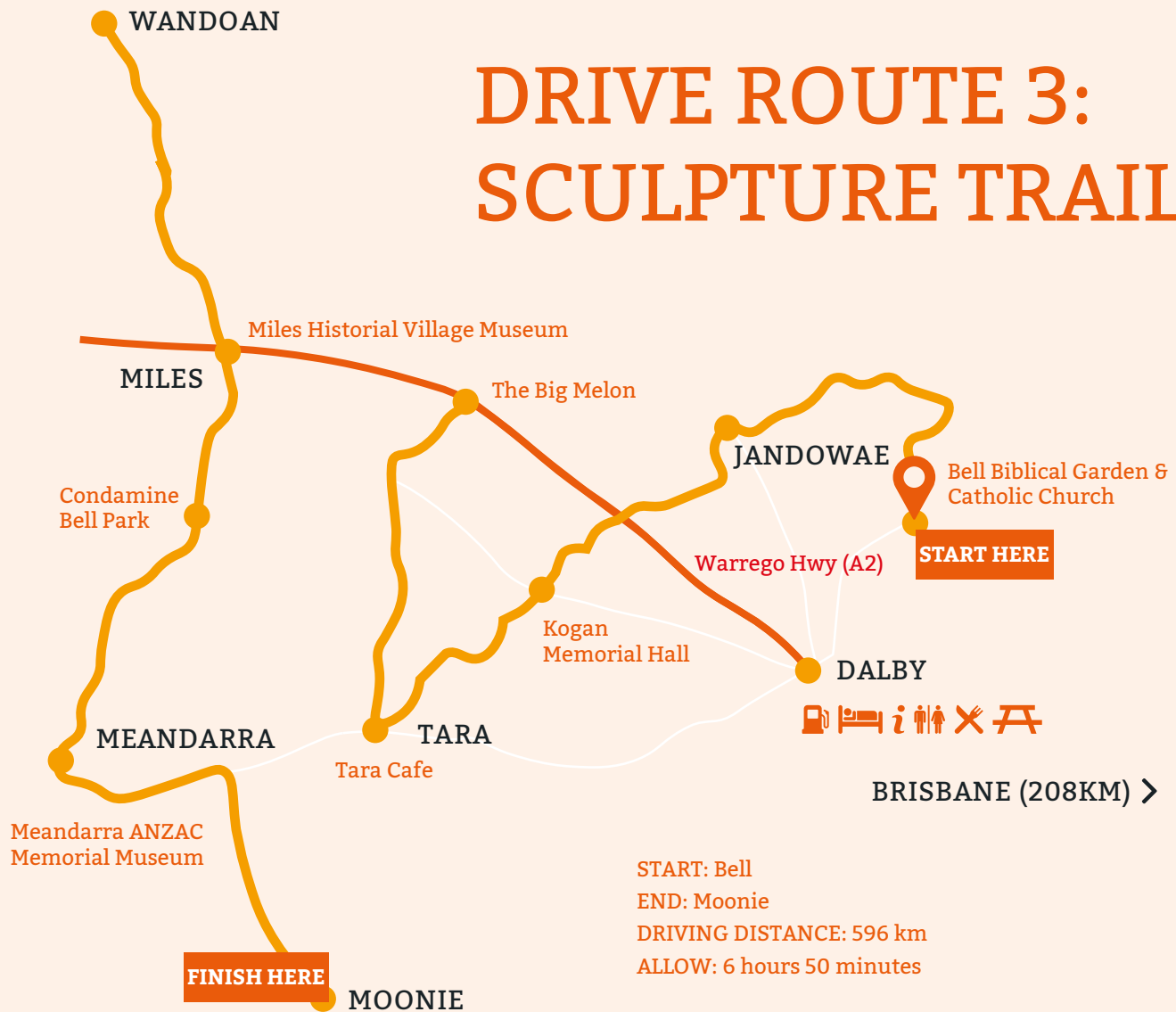
Ever wondered what a 2500-acre Hereford grazing property looks like? Find out by checking into Bimbimbi Homestead and the Little Hollow self-contained Homestead, near Chinchilla.

For a modern home-stay experience, choose The Bimbimbi Homestead, which sleeps four. Alternatively, there's the country charmer, The Little Hollow Homestead which is almost 100 years old.

Either way you go, you'll have panoramic views of the countryside and endless entertainment watching the Hereford cows and calves graze in the fields around you.



DRIVE ROUTE 3: SCULPTURE TRAIL



1. Start your Sculpture Trail at the **Bell Biblical Gardens & Catholic Church** in the town of **BELL**.
2. Continue to the township **JANDOWAE** via Coopers Gap Wind Farm. Head north on the Bunya Hwy (25.7 km), turn left onto Niagara Road (13.4km), then turn left to stay on Niagara Road (21.7km) continue onto Coxen Street (450m), turn left into George Street to see the two-metre-tall **dingo sculpture**.
3. Drive on to **KOGAN** to see the **Hugh Sawrey Art Walk and Sculptures** – head south-east on Sydney Street towards Dalby Street (400m). Turn right into Inverai Road (2km). Turn left onto Jandowae MacAlister Rd (8.8km). Turn right onto Warra Marnhull Road and travel (18km) to the township of **WARRA**. At **WARRA** turn right onto Warrego Hwy and left onto Robinson Street and follow Warra Kogan Road to High Street, **KOGAN** (24km).
4. Next head south-east on High Street towards Thorn Street (190m). Continue onto Dalby Kogan Road (550m). Turn right onto Tara Kogan Road and travel (43km) to the Chinchilla Tara Road. Turn left and continue into Day Street and relax amongst the **chainsaw artwork** in Grevillia Park.
5. From **TARA**, it's off to see the **Big Melon**. Head towards **CHINCHILLA** on the Chinchilla Tara Road (42km) to the Kogan Condamine Road. Turn left and in (61m) turn right onto Chinchilla Tara Road. Follow road to **CHINCHILLA** (28km).
6. Make your way to the **Miles Historical Village Museum** and **Dogwood Crossing**. Follow Warrego Highway/A2 through **CHINCHILLA** and head north-west to Miles (44km).
7. **Mick the Cattle Dog** awaits in **WANDOAN** - turn right onto Murilla Street/Warrego Hwy/A2 and continue through **MILES** to the Leichhardt Hwy/A5 turnoff just after crossing over Dogwood Creek (1km). Travel (67.3km) to **WANDOAN**. Turn right into Zupps Road and in (100m) turn left into Henderson Road.
8. From **WANDOAN**, discover the **Condamine Bell** - turn left back onto Leichhardt Hwy/A5 and travel (67km) back to **MILES**. Turn slight left onto Leichhardt/Warrego Hwy and travel (1.2km). Turn right onto Dawson St/Leichhardt Hwy/A5.
9. Next, uncover how **MEANDARRA** got its name at the **Me and Darra statue** - head east on Leichhardt Hwy/Wambo St/A5 towards Caliguell Street (63m). Continue to follow Leichhardt Hwy/A5 (3km). Turn right onto Condamine Meandarra Road/State 74 and travel (51.4km) to **MEANDARRA**. Turn left into Dillon Street and in (140m) turn right into Sara Street.
10. The last stop on the Sculpture Trail is the **Moonie Big Yabbie**. Drive from **MEANDARRA** to **MOONIE** - head south-west on Condamine-Meandarra Road/State Route 74 towards Dillon Street (4.6km). Turn left onto Surat Development Road/State Route 87 (32.7km). Turn right onto Leichhardt Hwy/A5 (46.3km) and the Moonie Rural Transaction Centre (RTC) will be on your left.

THE WESTERN DOWNS; A MUSE FOR MANY

Calling all culture vultures, there's another side to the Western Downs you might not have discovered just yet.

There's a vibrant arts community that thrives in the Western Downs, inspired by life on the land.

Start working your way around a few of our favourites.

Bell Biblical Gardens

Said to be the only one of its kind in the world, a visit to Bell's Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, reveals a garden encyclopedia of as many plants (as possible) mentioned in the bible.

Within the garden you'll find artworks, including quirky pieces fashioned from disused materials like timber, steel and barbed wire along with colourful mosaics.

Kogan Art Trail

Proving the colours of the Western Downs have played muse to more than one artist, take a tour of the Kogan Art Trail.

Renowned artist, Hugh Sawrey called Kogan home and a selection of his artwork lives on to tell the tale.



Dogwood Crossing and John Mullins Memorial Art Gallery

With changing exhibitions every six to eight weeks, there's always something new to see at the John Mullins Memorial Art Gallery in Miles.

Part of Dogwood Crossing – the gallery displays a mixture of in-house curated works as well as collections from touring exhibitions.

Lapunyah Art Gallery, Chinchilla

When in the melon capital, pay a visit to the Lapunyah Art Gallery, which features over 20 changing exhibitions across the year from a mixture of local and touring artists.

With exhibitions changing regularly, stay up to date on the gallery's Facebook page for what's on.

Gallery 107, Dalby

Gallery 107 showcases local artists and creatives, with work inspired and curated across the Western Downs region.

While you're exploring the centre, take in a film at the Dalby Civic Centre or turn the pages of a good book at the Dalby Library.



Want to make the Western Downs your muse?

Share your photos of the region with us on Instagram tagging @experiencewesterndowns and #experiencewesterndowns.

If you're looking for the top spots to take a pic, could we suggest keeping your camera handy for:

1. The Big Melon in Chinchilla
2. The reflections of Caliguel Lagoon in Condamine
3. The grandeur and Downton Abbey-esq architecture of Jimbour House in Jimbour
4. The Big Yabbie in Moonie
5. Kogan's Bush Friendship sculptures

YOUR ULTIMATE COUNTRY PUB GUIDE

Forget fine dining and vineyard valleys – there's no place more iconic to sip a cold beer than a classic country pub.

They're sprinkled across the Western Downs, and you can bet your bottom dollar they're one of the most popular places in town, especially if you time your visit for Friday or Saturday night.

Whether you're looking to quench your thirst after a long day of exploring, down a few brewskis with the locals, or simply kick back and enjoy the view, map your own pub crawl through the Western Downs.



Dulacca Hotel, Dulacca



Affectionately known as the 'Waterhole on the Hill', the Dulacca Hotel aka The Pink Pub has stood the test of time (est. 1908) and still serves the best coldies in town.

Take a seat in a comfy leather stool and listen to the stories of the bartenders – this is what country hospitality is all about.

Club Hotel, Chinchilla



According to Club Hotel Chinchilla, there's no strangers, just friends you haven't met.

The restored hotel sits grandly on the corner of the main drag, Heeney Street, with polished wooden steps and railings framing the light-yellow timber palings of this two-storey Queenslander.

Condamine Bell Hotel, Condamine

For a quiet drink in a countryside charmer, pull up a stool in the Condamine Bell Hotel.

If you're not from around here, expect to be asked 'where are you from' closely followed by 'where are you going' – it's just the local's way of being friendly.

Commercial Hotel, Tara



You know you're in for a good time (and maybe a long time) when a pub has a beer garden this good.

Pop on a tune at the jukebox, play a round of pool, darts, or ping pong while the rest of your mates kick back at a nearby table and watch you take a win or two.

The Bun Pub, Kaimkillenbun

Add a bit of history to your afternoon coldie with a visit to The Bun Pub, Kaimkillenbun.

The town was the setting of a television mini-series starring Nicole Kidman in the early 1980s, which you can read about in the pub's dedicated history room.

Did you know?

The Western Downs region has 11 one-pub towns!





If you're a wartime buff, take a look at the Hidden Signatures display, which contains the signatures of 18 diggers from World War I, found on the inside of a linen cupboard.

Exchange Hotel, Jandowae

With enough seating to host the entire town at once (all 1,000 of them), the Exchange Hotel in Jandowae isn't running out of room to move any time soon.

Relax out the front as you watch the hustle and bustle of the town or take advantage of the air-conditioning (and the proximity to round two and three) inside at the bar.

Shackleton's Whiskey Bar, Bunya Mountains

Switch your amber ale for a beverage of darker proportions at Shackleton's, the bar inside Lyric Restaurant atop the Bunya Mountains.

Perched approximately 1,000m above sea level, Shackleton's takes the title as Australia's highest whiskey bar, serving over 113 different types of peaty goodness from all corners of the world.

Warra Hotel, Warra



The tiny town of Warra might now only support a population that's 80 people strong, but it's hotel which covers a whole corner block, points to a population much larger when it first started trading in 1876.

Don't go looking to the menu for the usual pub grub finds. The Warra Hotel prides itself on its pies made from all Queensland ingredients with eight different pastry parcels on offer.

The Warra Hotel also happens to have the most extensive rum collection in Western Queensland on its menu too. Cheers to that!

Psst – Want the ultimate pub crawl? Download our Western Downs Visitor App and take the Off the Beaten Track pub trail through our countryside. BYO designated driver!



FOR LITTLE TRAVELLERS

Travelling with little ones and looking to burn off some of that road trip energy?

We've rounded up the best parks, playgrounds and kid-friendly activities across the region for our smallest Western Downs travellers.

Chinchilla Botanic Gardens, Chinchilla

There's plenty of room to move at the Chinchilla Botanic Parkland, spanning 4.2 hectares between Canaga and Wambo Street in Chinchilla's town centre.

Earning the top gong at the Queensland Parks and Leisure Australia Annual Awards for 2020 Park of the Year, be sure to pack the swimmers to cool off at the watermelon themed water play area, complete with watermelon water tipping bucket.

Tip: Time your visit for the first Sunday of the month where next door to the parkland at the Chinchilla Historical Museum, a rideable miniature train snakes through the museum grounds.

Miles Historical Village Museum

For a geography lesson that's more interactive than the classroom, discover where water comes from in the bush with a visit to the Great Artesian Basin Interpretive Centre at the Miles Historical Village Museum.

Tip: Ask the friendly museum staff about the search for 'William'



Hoofprints of Change, Chinchilla

For an activity the whole family can take by the reins, book into Hoofprints of Change, an equine day out with a difference.

The premise of Hoofprints of Change is simple – to teach you how to disconnect from digital devices and engage more with the natural world.

Scoot, skate or cycle

If you've got wheels, we've got pavements.

Pay a visit to Myall Parklands in Dalby to scoot, skate and cycle the 4km (approx.) loop, which hugs Myall Creek.

Outside of Dalby, for a wheely good time take the kids to Central Park in Jandowae, Jubilee Park in Chinchilla, Morgan Place in Miles or Zupps Park in Wandoan.

Head to Miles 4x4 & Outdoors on Murilla Street and hire a kayak or paddle boat to enjoy at Dogwood Creek.

Have a picnic



The recipe for a good picnic has little to do with what you eat, but where you eat it. And if your picnic includes a beautiful Western Downs setting – we think you're on the right track.

Mountain bike trails

Keep an eye out for the trails in development for the Bunya Mountains (due to open in 2022).

For more kid-friendly activities, be sure to pick up our Western Downs Activity Book at local Visitor Information Centres across the region.

Where to cool off in the Western Downs?

Chinchilla Aquatic and Fitness Centre
97 Middle Street Chinchilla

Dalby Aquatic Centre
58 Patrick Street Dalby

Jandowae Swimming Pool
110 High Street Jandowae

Miles Swimming Pool
27 Marian Street Miles

Tara Swimming Pool
42 Smallacombe Street Tara

Wandoan Swimming Pool
9 Henderson Street Wandoan

Check individual pool centres for opening hours.

Travelling with teenagers who need a little more action?

Every Saturday you'll find four different parkrun groups taking to the tracks in Dalby, Miles, Chinchilla and Wandoan. Visit parkrun.com.au for course details.



WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?



DOWNLOAD THE
Western Downs
Tourism App
to plan your adventure



Our friendly
Visitor
Information
Centres
are always
happy to
help

During your
visit, drop in for
friendly advice
on where to
stay, what to do
or chat to one
of our Tourism
Ambassadors
at the following
Visitor
Information
Centres in region.



Dalby

Visitor Information Centre
Thomas Jack Park
Warrego Highway
(07) 4679 4461
dalby.vic@wdrc.qld.gov.au

*Keep an eye out for the ready-made Bunya nut relish
and jams available to purchase as well as raw Bunya
nuts for cooking.*



Chinchilla

Visitor Information Centre
Warrego Highway
(07) 4660 7291
chinchilla.vic@wdrc.qld.gov.au

*Pick up a souvenir from your visit to Chinchilla from
the locally made arts and crafts for sale.*



Miles

Visitor Information Centre
Miles Historical Village Museum
Murilla Street
(07) 4627 1492
miles.vic@wdrc.qld.gov.au

*Time it with your visit to the Miles Historical Village
Museum, open 364 days of the year.*



Tara

Customer Service Centre
19 Fry Street
(07) 4678 7804
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



Bell

Visitor Information Centre
Bell Bunya Community Centre
71 Maxwell Street
(07) 4663 1087
bellbunyacommunitycentre@gmail.com



Jandowae

Community and Cultural Centre
Corner George and High Streets
(07) 4668 4480
jandowae.ccc@wdrc.qld.gov.au



Wandoan

Visitor Information Centre
O'Sullivan Park
Zupp Road
(07) 4627 5227
info@wdrc.qld.gov.au



Moonie

Rural Transaction Centre
Corner Moonie and Leichhardt Highways
(07) 4665 0189
moonie.rtc@wdrc.qld.gov.au

Visitor
Information



TOP PLACES TO SEE A FEATHERED FRIEND

Birds of a feather flock to the Western Downs together, with over 342 species known to annually migrate or live in the foliage of our region.

To help decipher what you're looking at, pick up a free copy of *Birds of the Western Downs* at your nearest Visitor Information Centre.

Get started with these birding hot spots:

*Pick up a free copy of *Birds of the Western Downs* at your nearest Visitor Information Centre.*

Bunya Mountains National Park, Bunya Mountains

You know the twitching is good when 215 of the region's 342 bird species are all found in one rainforest environment alone, Bunya Mountains National Park.

Perhaps the most famous feathered faces of the Bunyas are the brilliantly coloured king parrots and crimson rosellas, which you can hand feed every morning.

Lake Broadwater Conservation Park, Dalby

The only natural lake on the Darling Downs attracts waterbirds and wildlife to its waters edge and surrounding vegetation.

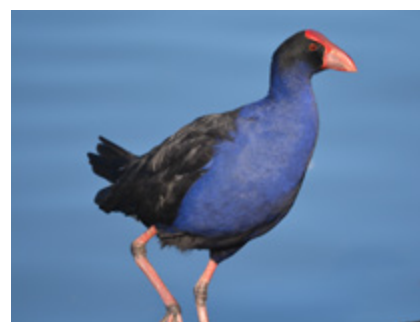
To see them, take the two-kilometre track connecting the two camping areas or take the five-kilometre (return) self-guided drive.

Brigalow Creek, Meandarra

Take a wander along Brigalow Creek and keep your eyes peeled for birdlife drawn to these parts for its rich vegetation and marine life.

If you time your visit for spring or summer, you'll also see the creek's waterlilies in full bloom.

Tip: Make your birdwatching experience a two-day adventure. Camping is permitted beside Brigalow Creek.



Tara Lagoon, Tara

For birdwatching with a view, pay a visit to Tara Lagoon.

Located just outside town, pack a picnic from the local Foodworks, to sit by the waters' edge to see the abundant birdlife who nest here.

When you're not spotting birds, go fishing, cycling or take the interpretive walk around the lagoon. Be sure to look up at the trees which are noted to be some of Queensland's best examples of ironbark, spotted gum and cypress pine trees.



Myall Botanical Park, Glenmorgan

A short 20-minute drive from Meandarra, you'll find the town of Glenmorgan, home to the Myall Botanical Park which is a birdwatchers' paradise.

From its forest environment you can tick off the following species regularly from your bird book: red tailed black cockatoo, fan-tail cockatoo, spiny-cheeked honey eater and pink eared ducks.

I think it's the beautiful countryside that I love so much. It's so diverse, ranging from fertile farming lands to some of the best cattle grazing country to be found in Queensland.

Bernice Seton

Waterloo Plains Environmental Park, Wandoan

Pack a picnic to enjoy while birdwatching the peaceful lakes and wetland areas, keeping your eyes peeled for the likes of whistling kite, white-necked heron, rainbow bee-eater and shining bronze cuckoos.

Twitchers tip: Mounted on display in Bell at the Bell Bunya Community Centre, be sure to see the very rare Bell bird first discovered in 1874, believed to be a natural hybrid of the King Parrot x Red-Winged Parrot.



LOOKING FOR LOCAL PRODUCE?

A quick drive through region will reveal the landscape of the Western Downs tells a produce story, as one section of crop-country seamlessly blends into the next.

If the way you like to discover a region is through your tastebuds, get to know the local produce.

FRESH PRODUCE

Chinchilla Farmers Market, Chinchilla



To sample the array of local fresh produce, pop into the Chinchilla Farmers Market off the Warrego Highway.

Here you can buy farm-fresh produce, including local garlic, melons fresh from the picking (in season) and dragon fruit, either fresh, or served in a juice or smoothie.

Pastry Lovers

Local bakeries punch well above their weight with drool worthy baked treats in Dalby, Tara, Chinchilla & Miles.

Get your hands on some freshly baked bread or a mouth-watering pie. Don't miss the "Camel Pie" available during Tara Festival of Culture & Camel Races.

Want to know more about the produce of the region?



When you're travelling, keep your eyes peeled for stickers that look like this in participating retailers to mark where local produce is used.

FOR THE CARNIVORES

Clover Hill Meats, Chinchilla

If you fancy yourself a steak connoisseur, the trip to Chinchilla is worth it for Clover Hill Meats alone.

Here you'll find Warregold Wagyu that's processed packed and prepared entirely in Chinchilla.

Taste the difference of low food miles – these cattle don't have to move far, hailing from Condamine grazing the grassy banks of the Condamine River before being fed in local Chinchilla feedlots.

Southside Quality Meats & Butchers Pantry Coffee & Takeaway, Dalby

With nearly two decades butchering experience, the team at Southside Quality Meats know a thing or two about the protein of the Western Downs.

To taste the region, purchase their range of local produce including pork from Western Downs piggeries, lamb from Kupun and beef from the Chinchilla, Hopelands and Ranges Bridge areas.

If you'd rather sample the meat, without having to prepare it yourself, pop next door to the Butchers Pantry Coffee & Takeaway where you can order an antipasto platter with a selection of their wares.

Culberts Meats & Criterion Hotel, Dalby

If you prefer to have your local produce cooked for you, pay a visit to the Criterion Hotel in Dalby.



For a real paddock to plate experience, keep an eye out for cuts from local producer, Culberts Meats on the menu – they've been serving locals for over three decades.

Like what you taste? Pop down to see the team at Culberts Meats to takeaway a piece of the Western Downs through fresh meats and premade gourmet meals.

Nelson Family Meats, Jandowae

It doesn't get more paddock to plate than the butchery on Jandowae's main street, Nelson Family Meats.

When purchasing, keep an eye out for their 5CN brand. This is the Nelson's own beef and lamb brand – they breed it, process it and sell it, guaranteeing not just lip service to their tagline "it doesn't leave our hands until it's in yours."

"My number one reason for living in Jandowae is the sense of community."
Clint Nelson



ACCOMMODATION DIRECTORY

Locality	Accomm Type	Name	Website	Address	Phone	Pet Friendly
BELL	BnB	Bellaire	www.airbnb.com.au	43 Koondaii Road Bell	0467 231 346	
BELL	BnB	Bell Bijou	www.airbnb.com.au	35 Dennis Street, Bell	0406 473 601	
BELL	BnB	Arts Hut	www.airbnb.com.au	Glendale Homestead 348 Bell-Kaimkillenbun Road, Bell	0467 231 346	
BELL	Caravan Park	Bell Tourist Park	belltouristpark.com.au	40 Cedarvale Road, Bell	07 4663 1265	
BUNYA MOUNTAINS	Apartments	Bunya Accommodation Centre	bunyamountains.com.au	Bunya Mountains	07 4668 3126	
BUNYA MOUNTAINS	Farm Stay	Rosebank Homestead & Farmstay	www.airbnb.com.au	1462 Bunya Mountains Road, Moola	07 4663 4770	Y
CHINCHILLA	Boutique	Laurels of Chinchilla (The)	laurelsofchinchilla.com.au	11 Downes Road (15 Warrego Highway), Chinchilla	07 4669 1021	Y
CHINCHILLA	Caravan Park	Chinchilla Tourist Park	chinchillatouristpark.com.au	264 Zeller Street, Chinchilla	07 4669 1465	Y
CHINCHILLA	Farm Stay	Clover Hill Accommodation & Camping	cloverhillcamping.com.au	1 Braithwaite Street, Chinchilla	0437 149 610 0457 007 050	
CHINCHILLA	Farm Stay	Chinchilla Country Camping	hipcamp.com/discover/au/chinchilla-country-camping	200 Auburn Road, Chinchilla	0434 666 130	Y
CHINCHILLA	Farm Stay	Little Hollows & Bimbimbi Farm Stay	https://wikiaustralia.com/product/9033833/	Greenswamp Road, Chinchilla	07 4665 8289	
CHINCHILLA	Farm Stay	Rubern Lodge	www.airbnb.com.au	88 Gaske Lane, Chinchilla	0429 161 343	Y
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Acacia Motel	acaciamotel.com	96 Glasson Street, Chinchilla	07 4662 7379	Y
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Central Motor Inn and Club Hotel	clubhotelchinchilla.com.au	131 Heeney Street, Chinchilla	07 4669 1100	
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Chinchilla Downtown Motor Inn	chinchilladmi.com.au	60 Heeney Street, Chinchilla	07 4669 1080	
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Chinchilla Great Western Motor Inn	chinchillagreatwestern.com.au	52-62 Warrego Highway, Chinchilla	07 4662 8288	
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Chinchilla Motel	chinchillamotel.net.au	65-69 Downes Road (Warrego Highway West), Chinchilla	07 4665 5373	
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Chinchilla Motor Inn	chinchillamotorinn.com.au	45-51 Park Street, Chinchilla	07 4662 7314	
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Chinchilla White Gums Motor Inn	whitegumsmotorinn.com.au	cnr Warrego Highway and King Street, Chinchilla	07 4669 1560	
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Kings Park Motel	kingsparkaccommodation.com.au	48 Park Street, Chinchilla	07 4662 7733	
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Stonewood Villas	stonewoodvillas.com.au	91 Oak Street, Chinchilla	0447 760 753	
CHINCHILLA	Motel	Chinchilla Palms Motor Inn	southerncrossmotelgroup.com.au	68-70 Warrego Highway, Chinchilla	07 4672 9888	
CHINCHILLA	Hotel	Commercial Hotel Motel	thecommercialchinchilla.com.au	17 Chinchilla Street, Chinchilla	07 4662 7524	
CONDAMINE	Caravan Park	Condamine River Caravan park	condaminerivercaravanpark.com.au	8 Wambo Street, Condamine	07 4627 7174	
CONDAMINE	Motel	Bullockys Rest Motel	bullockysrest.com.au	5 Wambo Street, Condamine	0418 961 929	
CONDAMINE	Hotel	Condamine Bell Hotel	condaminehotel.com.au	1 Wambo Street, Condamine	07 4627 7219	
DALBY	Apartments	Dalby Apartments and Homestay	https://dalby-apartments-self-contained-motel.business.site/haydenhouse.com.au	9 Coolibah Street, Dalby	0447 501 772	
DALBY	Apartments	Hayden House	haydenhouse.com.au	164 Hayden Street, Dalby	0419 700 757	
DALBY	BnB	Leslie House		2 New Street Dalby	07 4669 7183	
DALBY	Boutique	Bunya Vista Boutique Accommodation	bunyavista.com.au	4/56 Bunya Street, Dalby	07 4662 2578 0412 240 818	
DALBY	Boutique	Jubri Hideaway	jubrishideaway.com.au	63 Chelldan Avenue, Dalby	0429 025 591	
DALBY	Caravan Park	Dalby Tourist Park	dalbytouristpark.com.au	32 Myall Street, Dalby	07 4662 4793	Y
DALBY	Caravan Park	Pioneer Caravan Park	Pioneervillagedalby.com.au	28 Black Street, Dalby	07 4662 1811	
DALBY	Motel	Country Pathfinder Motor Inn	countrypathfinder.com.au	62 Condamine Street, Dalby	07 4662 4433	
DALBY	Motel	Dalby Fairway Motor Inn	dalbyfairwaymotorinn.com.au	34 Myall Street, Dalby	07 4662 2255	
DALBY	Motel	Dalby Homestead Motel	dalbyhomestead.com.au	27 Drayton Street, Dalby	07 4662 5722	


Locality	Accomm Type	Name	Website	Address	Phone	Pet Friendly
DALBY	Motel	Dalby Hotel Motel	dalbyhotelmotel.com.au	2 Cunningham Street, Dalby	07 4662 5020	
DALBY	Motel	Dalby Manor Motor Inn	dmmi.com.au	18 Drayton Street, Dalby	07 4662 1011	Y
DALBY	Motel	Dalby Mid Town Motor Inn	dalbymidtown.com.au	60 Condamine Street, Dalby	07 4662 6400	
DALBY	Motel	Dalby Parkview Motel	parkviewmoteldalby.com.au	31 Drayton Street, Dalby	07 4662 3222	Y
DALBY	Motel	Drovers Motor Inn	droversmotorinn.com.au	87 Drayton Street, Dalby	07 4669 0444	
DALBY	Motel	The Gallery Motor Inn	thegallerymotorinn.com.au	128 Drayton Street, Dalby	07 4662 2300	Y
DALBY	Motel	Kobbers Motor Inn	kobbersmotorinn.com.au	37a Nicholson Street, Dalby	07 4669 7488	
DALBY	Motel	Motel Myall	motelmayll.com.au	79-81 Drayton Street, Dalby	07 4662 3399	
DALBY	Hotel	Australian Hotel Motel	australianhoteldalby.com.au	38 Cunningham Street, Dalby	07 4662 2980	
DALBY	Hotel	O'Shea's Windsor Hotel	osheaswindsor.com	32 Patrick Street, Dalby	07 4662 2911	
DULACCA	BnB	Henderson House	https://hendersonhouse.com.au/	39 Glynn Avenue, Dulacca	0414 253 936	
DULACCA	Hotel	Dulacca Hotel	dulaccahotel.com	Cnr Glynn Ave (Warrego Hwy) and Bell Street, Dulacca	07 4627 6101	
GLENMORGAN	Hotel	Glenmorgan Bottle Tree Inn		Cnr Godfrey & Lorna Streets, Glenmorgan	07 4665 6727	
JANDOWAE	Caravan Park	Jandowae Accommodation Park	jandowaeaccommodationpark.com.au	104 High Street, Jandowae	07 4668 5071	
JANDOWAE	Hotel	Jandowae Hotel Motel		32 High Street, Jandowae	07 4668 5206	
JANDOWAE	Hotel	Exchange Hotel Jandowae		41 High Street, Jandowae	07 4668 5139	
KAIMKILLENBUN	Caravan Park	Glasby's Caravan Park Kaimkillenbun		82 Moffatt Street, Kaimkillenbun	07 4663 4228	
KAIMKILLENBUN	Hotel	The Bun Pub	http://publocation.com.au/pubs/qld/kaimkillenbun/the-bun-hotel	72 Moffatt Street, Kaimkillenbun	07 4663 4108	
MEANDARRA	Motel	Meandarra Motel	meandarramotel.com.au	Sara Street, Meandarra	07 4665 6121	
MEANDARRA	Hotel	Meandarra Royal Hotel	meandarra.com.au	3 Sara Street, Meandarra	07 4665 6183	
MILES	BnB	Vivs on the Bend	airbnb.com.au	Leichhardt Highway, Miles		Y
MILES	BnB	Milestone Lodge	http://www.milestonelodge.net	89 Marian Street, Miles	0428 637 110	
MILES	Caravan Park	Miles Crossroads Caravan Park		132 Murilla, Street, Miles	07 4627 2165	
MILES	Caravan Park	Possum Park	possumpark.com.au	36865 Leichhardt Highway, Miles	07 4627 1651	
MILES	Caravan Park	Columboola Country	columboolacountry.com.au	LOT 233 Ryall's Road, Hookwood	07 4665 8293	Y
MILES	Motel	Golden West Motor Inn	goldenwestmiles.com.au	50 Murilla Street, Miles	07 4627 1688	
MILES	Motel	Miles Outback Motel	milesoutbackmotel.com.au	11 Murilla Street, Miles	07 4627 2100	Y
MILES	Motel	Royal Motel	theroyalmotel.com.au	60 McNulty Street, Miles	07 4627 1517	
MILES	Motel	Starline Motor Inn	starlinemotorinn.com.au	97 Murilla Street, Miles	07 4627 1322	Y
MILES	Motel	Swagsman Motel	swagsmanmotelmiles.com.au	1-9 Marian Street, Miles	07 4627 2663	
MILES	Motel	Western Downs Motor Inn	westerndownsmotorinn.com.au	115-119 Murilla Street, Miles	07 4627 1211	
MILES	Hotel	Hotel Australia		55 Murrilla Street, Miles	07 4627 1106	
MILES	Hotel	Miles Windsor Hotel Motel	windsorhotelmiles.com.au	39 Murilla Street, Miles	07 4627 1159	
MILES	Hotel	Queensland Hotel	qldhotelmiles.com.au	29 Murilla Street, Miles	07 4627 1152	
MOONIE	Motel/Hotel	Moonie Crossroads Hotel/ Motel	mooniecrossroads.com.au	Cnr Moonie & Leichhardt Highways, Moonie	07 4665 0200	
TARA	Apartments	Tara Spa Apartments	taraspaapartments.com.au	18 Milne Street, Tara	07 4669 4001	
TARA	BnB	Beulah Retreat	airbnb.com.au	Undulla Creek Road, Tara	0427 560 258	
TARA	Hotel/Motel	Tara Hotel Motel (plus Commercial Hotel Tara)	commercialhoteltara.com.au	1 Baddleys Lane, Tara	07 4665 3410	
WANDOAN	Motel	Bushlander Motel	bushlander.com.au	17 Henderson Rd, Wandoan	07 4627 5500	
WANDOAN	Hotel/Motel	Juandah Hotel Motel	juandahhotel.com.au	Cnr Royd & Lawton Street, Wandoan	07 4627 4155	
WESTMAR	Hotel/Motel	Westmar Roadhouse Hotel/ Motel		18447 Moonie Highway, Westmar	07 4663 0751	


A close-up photograph of a watermelon smashing competition. Two people's legs are visible, each with a foot inside a watermelon. The watermelons are being crushed against a dark, wet surface, causing red watermelon flesh and juice to splatter everywhere. The scene is messy and energetic.

Experience Western Downs

It's the
people that
make it.

westerndownsqueensland.com.au

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