



ATTRACTIONS GUIDE



Coolah · Mendooran · Dunedoo

COOLAH

Coolah Tops National Park

With its tall strands of Eucalypt forest and spectacular views across the Liverpool Plains, Coolah Tops National Park is one of New South Wales best kept secrets.

Enjoy unspoilt features of panoramic lookouts, waterfalls, giant grass trees and the largest snow gums ever recorded.

Gazetted as a national park as recently as 1997, there are great opportunities for bushwalking, peaceful bush camping and seeing wildlife such as grey kangaroos, wombats, wedge-tailed eagles, echidnas and reptiles in their natural habitat. Coolah Tops also supports a delightful species of possum, the nocturnal Greater Glider – Australia's largest gliding possum with a wingspan of up to one metre.

Highlights include:

- Giant Grass Trees** – wander through towering ancient grass trees on a 2 km walk near Barracks camping area;
- Norfolk Falls Picnic Area** – cascading waterfalls after rain;
- Bundella Lookout** – panoramic views extending across the Liverpool Ranges and north to Mt Kaputar;
- Shepherds Peak** – basalt outcrop reached by short but rugged walk (accessible from eastern forest drive);
- Pinnacle Lookout** – stunning views of surrounding escarpment short walk from Bundella Lookout. (Be careful of rocky edges at this lookout).

Camping is un-powered only. A rustic bush hut is available (BYO everything), but must be pre-booked with NPWS.



Brochures on Coolah Tops are available from Coolah Library and Coonabarabran Visitor Centre.

How to get there

Coolah Tops is 30 km north-east of Coolah. The road leading to Coolah Tops includes 20 km unsealed road. All roads within the park are unsealed. Towing caravans is not recommended although campervans & 2WD vehicles are ok – though not after rain. Some trails are 4WD only. These are marked.

Further information & hut bookings: Mudgee NPWS Office.
Ph (02) 6372 7199
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Coolah Crafts

Browse the lovely selection of locally made country hand-crafts including woodwork, patchwork and exquisite jewellery designed by local artisan Annette Piper. Or sample delicious home made condiments. Thursday-cake day.

37 Binnia Street, Coolah

Open Mon – Fri 10am – 4.30pm.
Sat 10am – 12.30am
Ph (02) 6377 1166

Black Stump Rest Area

Have you ever heard of the expression 'beyond the black stump'? Coolah lays claim to being the original site where this iconic Australian phrase, meaning beyond the limits of civilisation was first coined.

A rest area has been established, near the location where the former Black Stump and Black Stump Wine Saloon stood (prior to fire). To strengthen Coolah's claim, the Aboriginal name for the area is said to mean 'place where the fire went out and left a black stump.' The locality names of Black Stump Run & Black Stump Creek are also located nearby.

How to get there

10 km north of Coolah on the Gunnedah/ Coonabarabran road.

King Togee's Headstone

King Togee's headstone marks the site of a notable Aboriginal leader and friend to the early white settlers.

He was speared to death by a jealous young Aboriginal man named Cuttabush who later became king of a Coonabarabran sub-tribe. Visit the weather-worn sandstone headstone with interpretation, telling the story of 'Togee – King of the Butheroe Tribe.' Free entry. Accessible all times.

How to get there

Located 29 km west along the Neilrex Road, just past 'Langdon' homestead.

Black Stump Nursery Rhyme Village & Camel Farm

The 'village' features 17 nursery rhyme characters, reminding you of childhood memories. Wander through the gnome village complete with 174 quirky gnome characters, each with their own personality. There is also a playground, BBQ area, log chapel, matchstick display & souvenir shop.

How to get there

96 Scully Road, Coolah. Drive 5km south on Scully Rd (Mudgee direction), take signed turn-off on your right. Drive 1 km and it is your first tarred entrance.

Open 9am – 5pm, 7 days.
\$7 Adults, \$6 pens., \$3 child (5-16).
Includes Devonshire tea with scones.
Ph (02) 6377 1375

MENDOORAN Mendooran Mural Town

The village of Mendooran is the oldest settlement on the Castlereagh River and NSW premier mural town. Artist Karin Duce has painted the main street with colourful murals reflecting country life and Mendooran's history. Don't miss the great horseracing scene on the parallel to the Community centre or the giant black glossy cockatoos mural, which inhabit the Goonoo Forest nearby. Free.

Mendooran Old Wares Shop Sticky Beak

Eclectic second hand furniture and collectable bric-a-brac.

Open weekends 9am - 5pm & public holidays.
25 Cobra Street, Mendooran.

DUNEDOO Dunedoo Local Museum

A comprehensive collection of materials covering the military history of the area and other local history and treasures. Family history resources also available.

Open 10.00am – 3pm, Wed, or by appointment.

Bolaro St, part of Dunedoo Library complex, near newsagency.

Ph (02) 6375 1457

Talbragar Country Antiques

Huge collection of early Australian furniture – restored and unrestored. A treasure trove of interesting bits and pieces, large and small.

Open 6 days 10am – 4pm
(closed Tue)

62-66 Bolaro St, Dunedoo

Ph (02) 6375 1595

Dunedoo Art and Craft

Locally made arts and crafts. Gifts for all occasions.

Opening times Mon – Fri 10am - 4pm,
Sat 9am - 12pm

38 Bolaro St, Dunedoo

Ph (02) 6375 1585

PICNIC AREA'S COOLAH

Cunninghams Campsite and Pandora's Pass

A memorial plaque marks the site where explorer Allan Cunningham and his party camped the night before moving further up the valley and discovering Pandora Pass. The picturesque camp site is adjacent to Coolah Creek about 20 km east of Coolah.

Just beyond, Cunningham's Campsite, a gradual climb will take you to Pandora Pass, 815m above sea level. From here you get magnificent views of the Coolah Valley & Liverpool Plains.

How to get there

Travel east from Coolah on the Cassilis Road for 2 km and then turn left onto Coolah Creek Road. Continue for 23 km to Norfolk Falls turnoff. Do not take the Falls road, but continue for approx 3 km. Across from Coolah Creek is the memorial. Pandora Pass is 4 km further on.

Beni Crossing

A peaceful picnic spot on the sandy banks of the Castlereagh River. This area holds almost mythical connotations for shearers and drovers working in the area at the end of the 19th Century.

How to get there

Located 13km east of Mendooran – unsealed shortcut between Dunedoo and Coonabarabran.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Coolah McMaster Park

Pleasant garden and lawn area with a visitor map, BBQ facilities and play equipment.

Cnr of Binnia St & Booyamurra St.

Bowen Oval Playground Coolah

Enjoy this new playground with exciting new equipment for the children. The park is undercover with picnic table and chairs and is situated next door to The Sporting Club.

Mendooran Lions Park

Relax under the shade of a large shelter with BBQ, rainwater and toilet facilities and children's playground nearby.

Bandulla St, Mendooran

Mendooran River Junction Camping Area

Picturesque, peaceful free camping area with amenities including cold shower and basic wood BBQ pits.

Junction of Castlereagh River and Merrygoen Ck, behind Police Station.



Dunedoo OL Milling Lions Park

A lovely landscaped park and recreation area that extends almost the entire length of the main street. Features a safe playground area, with sheltered BBQ & amenities.

SCENIC DRIVES

Scenic Drives – 234 km loop

*Coolah – Dunedoo – Mendooran –
Coonabarabran – Binnaway – Coolah*

Starting at any point in this circuit allows you to take in five of the six towns in the Warrumbungle Shire as a day trip or extended stay.

After exploring Coolah Tops National Park, depart Coolah and head south east to Dunedoo, passing through Leadville where mining for silver lead occurred in the early 1900's. After browsing Dunedoo's wares, continue north to admire the murals of Mendooran's and enjoy morning tea in the pretty picnic area or a cuppa at the local café. Then onwards to Coonabarabran. Drop into the Visitor Centre to find out about the area's highlights including Warrumbungle National Park & Siding Spring Observatory. Return via Binnaway, stopping at Black Stump.

Coolah Library

Open Mon, Tues & Thurs 10am – 5.30pm,
Wed – Fri 1pm – 5.30pm.
Sat 10am – 12pm

(closed 1-2 Mon & Thur for lunch)

Ph (02) 6377 1910

White Rose Café Dunedoo

Open 8am – 9pm, 7 days

Ph. (02) 6375 1017

Mendooran Post Office

Open Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm

Ph (02) 6886 1239

Coonabarabran

Visitor Information Centre



*Information on Coonabarabran,
Coolah, Baradine, Binnaway,
Mendooran and Dunedoo.*

Open 7 days, 9am – 5pm

FREECALL: 1800 242 881

Email coonavic@hwy.com.au