



suggested itinerary

Spires & Stars with Rocks & Rugs

	Day 1	ARRIVAL into Coonabarabran,
	2.15pm	Take a tour of NEWCASTLE HATS —a hat factory with great specials and a chance to purchase a hat for the days of wandering Warrumbungle Region. Allow 30 minutes for Rob to guide you around and show the work of the hatmakers. FREE TOUR...MUST BE BOOKED...Call Rob on 02 6842 5014
	3pm	ARRIVAL at your accommodation and take a stroll to the COONABARABRAN VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE for the AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM DIPROTODON EXHIBITION . Allow 30-45 minutes for interpreted tour FREE but MUST BE PRE BOOKED...Call 1800 242 881 Evening Meal at your motel, club, hotel or restaurant— MUST BE PRE BOOKED.
Costs		
Day 1		
Free tours at Hat Factory and Diprotodon.	Day 2	Breakfast
Dinner, Accom	7.30	Depart Coonabarabran for Siding Spring Observatory
Day 2	8.45	Arrive at SIDING SPRING OBSERVATORY , visit the EXPLORATORY CENTRE and meet your Tour Guide . Your guide can join the coach and show you around the site allowing time at Trig Point and the AAT (Australia's largest optical telescope). Alternatively, the guide will walk your tour group to the Trig Point and the AAT, with some time to drop into another telescope or two...and maybe bump into an astronomer.
SSOb	9.30	Morning Tea at the Exploratory Café . (This can be costed into the tour or your visitors can pay individually). Opportunities to purchase science related gifts. TOUR COST: \$7.50 per person PRE-BOOK your tour and morning tea. Ring SSO on 02 6842 6211.
\$13.50/pax... incl entry, tour & morning tea	11.45	Depart Siding Spring for Warrumbungle National Park
WNP Entry \$3.30/pax	12.05	Arrival at WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTRE ; see the INTERPRETIVE DISPLAY and take the easy access GOORIANAWA TRACK a 20 minute circuit. Time to purchase gifts.
Wool Studio \$7/pax	1pm	Return to coach and travel on to the CANYON PICNIC AREA for Lunch ...this can be a packed or bbq lunch. (Free electric bbq's, tables, toilets and water supply). Entry to Park is \$3.30 per person—payable at the Visitor Centre.
Crystal Kingdom \$2.20/pax	2.15pm	Return to coach and begin your return to Coonabarabran.
Warrumbungle Observatory \$15/pax	2.35	Arrival at THE WOOL STUDIO —an opportunity to see wool taken from its just shawn state to the finished product. Opportunities to purchase woollen products. COST: \$7.00 PER PERSON plus afternoon tea PRE BOOK on 02 6842 1019
Lunch, Dinner, Accom	4pm	Return to coach to continue into Coonabarabran
	4.30	Arrival at CRYSTAL KINGDOM ...guided tour with Wolfgang or Nola and time to browse the crystals and gifts. COST: \$2.20/pax for guide PRE BOOK on 02 6842 1927
	5.15	Return to accommodation
	6pm	Dinner at your chosen place—PRE BOOKED
	7pm	Depart Coonabarabran
	7.15	Arrival at WARRUMBUNGLE OBSERVATORY for an evening of STAR GAZING ...Peter Starr will take you on a journey through the night sky with his powerful telescopes. Cost: \$15 per person

PRE-BOOK on 0488 425 112



suggested itinerary

People & Pots of The Pilliga

Day 3

7.30

Breakfast

8.45

Depart Coonabarabran for a day in the Pilliga

9.30

Meet your Discovery Ranger who will lead you into **DANDRY GORGE** in the **PILLIGA FOREST** for an exploration and interpretive walk to the **SCULPTURES IN THE SCRUB**. This walk is graded as medium but has excellent walking tracks and is very accessible.

Cost: \$180-\$220 for a half day guided tour.

PRE BOOK with Pilliga Discovery Centre at Baradine on 02 6843 4000.

12.30

Lunch break—a catered picnic lunch in the Pilliga Forest...keep an eye out for yowies!

1.15

Continue on from the Gorge to **BARADINE**

1.45

Arrive in Baradine at the **NPWS PILLIGA FOREST DISCOVERY CENTRE**. Take time to explore the Centre and learn more about the history of the Pilliga.

2.30

It's a short walk to the **BARADINE PILLIGA LAND COUNCIL KEEPING PLACE** to learn a little more about the Gamilaroi people and their presence in the area.

PRE BOOK visit to The Keeping Place...02 6843 1171

3.30

A few steps further on to **Afternoon Tea** at **FRECKLES** (can be included in package or pay individually)

PRE BOOK Freckles on 02 6843 1008 .

Costs

4.30

Return to Coonabarabran

Day 3

5pm

Arrive back into **Coonabarabran** with time to browse the shops

6pm

Dinner

Gorge Tour
\$220.00

Day 4

7.30

Breakfast

8.45

Depart Coonabarabran for **THE SANDSTONE CAVES IN THE PILLIGA NATURE RESERVE** (located along the Newell Highway—watch for the Yaminbah Trail sign and the NPWS Discovery Ranger)

9.30

Arrive at **SANDSTONE CAVES** for a **GUIDED INTERPRETIVE WALK**—the walking track to the caves is relatively easy but once scrambling into and through the caves this may be a little difficult for older visitors.

Cost: \$180-\$220 for guided tour

PRE BOOK...Pilliga Discovery Centre at Baradine on 02 6843 4000

Afternoon
Tea @
(Freckles) \$7/
pax

Day 4

11am

Depart Sandstone Caves and travel back to **PILLIGA POTTERY**

11.30

Morning Tea at **Pilliga Pottery**

GUIDED TOUR of the **Pottery** and a chance to observe the artisans at work

Lunch at **Pilliga Pottery** before departure

Cost: Lunch, Tour, Afternoon Tea \$30/pax

PRE BOOK Tour and meals ...call Pilliga Pottery on 02 6842 2239

Caves Tour
\$220.00

Pilliga Pottery
\$30/pax

2pm

Depart Pilliga Pottery

2.40

Arrive back into **Coonabarabran** at the **FLIX IN THE STIX THEATRE**— a community cinema experience with afternoon tea provided. Laura will help select your film.

PRE BOOK with Flix in the Stix—call Laura on 02 6842 1168 for prices and film.

Flix in the
Stix \$12/pax

4.30

Browse time again...Return to accommodation

6pm

Dinner



suggested itinerary

To the Coolah Valley & Back

Why not take a day to explore the southern end of Warrumbungle Shire.

From Coonabarabran head south and continue along **THE WARRUMBUNGLES WAY** to **BINNAWAY**, following the flow of the Castlereagh River.

Allow 30 minutes for this part of your trip.

BINNAWAY is a former **STEAM RAIL CENTRE** and the railway signals in the main street are a lasting memorial to the industry that moved Binnaway and the rest of the west along for so many years. The town was also the home of the **WHITE ROSE ORCHESTRA** that travelled the north west providing fabulous nights of old time dancing. You might even hear the dulcet tones of Frank Bourke calling *gentlemen take your partners please...* someone might arrange that for you in Binnaway if your group is into dancing. Binnaway was the site for much of the filming of that great epic Australian film—**THE SHIRALEE** and the **ROYAL HOTEL** in Binnaway runs the film regularly—why not make this time for a tea break—they'll cater that for you and give your passengers a reminder of the spirit of the rural people.

Allow two hours for a visit to the old railway centre, time to stroll through the street and to have morning tea and the movie.

Be sure to book in though so they will be ready for you with morning tea and the film showing at the Royal. Phone: 02 6844 1928

Binnaway
Coolah and on
to Dunedoo

Time now to move on...

Continue your trip to **COOLAH**, travelling through open fields and into the rolling hills and **THE VALLEY OF THE WINDS**. As you turn onto the Coolah Road you will pass the **BLACK STUMP REST AREA**...yes Coolah lays claim to the original Black Stump which was once the indicator of the edge of civilization, but continue on into the welcoming little town of **COOLAH** and take time to admire the work of an active community working as one.

This part of your trip has taken a further 40 minutes from Binnaway to Coolah. Now its time to visit **PANDORA GALLERY** with its changing exhibition of local history and artworks. There are interesting little craft shops and a local **BLACKSMITH** who uses old machinery to make the most amazing sculptural pieces—David can be seen working most days in his workshop. So while the ladies look at craft shops and galleries, there's local history and the workshop for the fellows.

At the right time of the year there are opportunities to visit beautiful gardens in the Coolah Valley—residents proudly present for **OPEN GARDENS** each four years so it is important to check for details of these springtime events.

Coolah has a variety of eating places—**COUNTRY PUBS, CAFES & COFFEE SHOPS** or the **SPORTING CLUB**...and there is a great **PIE SHOP** where you can really get stuck into a **LOCALLY MADE FRESH COUNTRY BAKERY PIE...Yummmm!**

Now you have spent another couple of hours in Coolah...

PRE BOOK your tour into **PANDORA GALLERY**—call **02 6378 5030**, and with Blacksmith, **DAVID SHERLOCK** on **6377 1077** (call before 9am or in the evening)

Let the eating house know to expect you—

Your choices include: Tastebuds Café on **6377 1613**, Josie's Coffee Shop on **6377 1313**, the Coolah Valley Hotel on **6377 1210**, or the Black Stump Inn on **6377 1231**.

From Coolah, travel on to Dunedoo, another rail town, allow half an hour travel.



suggested itinerary

To the Coolah Valley & Back

DUNEDOO hosts the famous **AUSTRALIAN BUSH POETRY COMPETITION** so March would be a great time to venture Dunedoo way. In May each year Dunedoo also hosts **ARTUNLIMITED**, an **ART EXHIBITION** that attracts artists from across Australia, each vying for top prize money. A **MUSEUM** is open each day and there is always time to simply browse and meet the people...Dunedoo claims to be the town *where the people make a difference*. **TALBRAGAR COUNTRY ANTIQUES** is worth a visit and you might just unearth a precious piece to take home, there's also a great **PIE SHOP**... they serve other bites as well...

Another an hour gone and time to return to your coach and continue on to MENDOORAN...Allow 20 minutes between towns.

MENDOORAN is the **OLDEST TOWN ON THE CASTLEREAGH** and you will see how much the river has grown from its trickling beginnings in the Warrumbungles, just below Siding Spring. Spend some time meandering the quiet streets and absorbing the stories of rural life through the **MURALS** on the buildings—a country race meeting, a woolshed scene and the tennis party are just a few of the stories in pictures.

This stop has taken about 45 minutes and then its onto the coach to return to Coonabarabran which is about 45 minutes away.

Arrival back at your accommodation.

Dunedoo
Mendooran
Coolah Tops
and the Coolah
area

Some other points of interest you might like to add to your trip to the south...

COOLAH TOPS NATIONAL PARK is something of a secret place with amazing scenery and wild-life. The cascading **NORFOLK FALLS** and the views from **BUNDELLA LOOKOUT** across the **LIVERPOOL PLAINS** and to **MT KAPUTAR** make this a great day out. Each site has picnic areas and the ancient grass trees will fascinate the visitor.

Coolah Tops National Park is 30km north-east of Coolah and includes 20km of unsealed road. It is important that you contact the National Parks office in Mudgee before planning your trip to the park, they will be able to advise on current conditions of the road.

Allow 30 minutes to get to Coolah Tops National Park from Coolah.

Entry to the park is free. NPWS OFFICE MUDGE—02 6372 7199

KING TOGEE'S HEADSTONE. King Togee was a notable leader of the Butherroe Tribe. 29km west of Neilrex.

Contact the Coolah Visitor Service for details and a local history guide—02 63 78 5030

Still want more...

Within each of our towns there are **BIKE TRACKS AND WALKING PATHS**. Collect information from the Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre on the trails...they can be a great way to get the feel of a town—the local history, the housing, the industry and lifestyles, and of course it's a way to get the blood circulating.



suggested itinerary

Our Own Wine Country

Many tour groups enjoy the opportunity to taste the offerings of the different regions they visit. Warrumbungle Region is located on the edge of the volcanic northern slopes and experiences a somewhat continental climate so our wines are quite quirky...Blowfly, BlueBottle, Pilliga Bubbles and the round of Chardonnays and Cab Sauvignons as well as a warming Pilliga Port. Our vineyards are spread across the shire and operate on different days. It is essential when you are planning a visit and wanting a wine tasting that you call the operator in advance to ascertain their availability.

WARRUMBUNGLE WINES is located about 30 minutes from Coonabarabran. Contact Gareth on 6842 1228. E: enquiries@warrumbunglewines.com W: www.warrumbunglewines.com

COONANDRY WINES is located within 10 minutes of Coonabarabran. Contact Debbie and Wayne on 6842 1649. E: coonandrywines@gmail.com

WATTAGAN WINES is about 20 minutes from Coonabarabran. Contact Graham on 02 6842 2456. E: wattwine@tpg.com.au

HIGH VALLEY VINEYARDS are located in the Dunedoo part of the shire; the cellar door outlet is located in Mudgee at High Valley Winery on the Cassilis Road.

Wineries
Farm visits
Walking Tours
Special Guides
Aboriginal
Tours
Bird Walks
Mountain Treks

FARM VISITS can also be arranged through the Visitor Information Centre with prior notice. Visitors are able to visit working farms, meet with the owners and learn about the work of an Australian farm and the lifestyle that goes with it.

TOUR GUIDES are also available in most small towns and are happy to join your group and share their town with you, but again these must be **PRE BOOKED** with the **Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre** on **1800 242 881**.

BURRABEEDEE MISSION, just 10 minutes from Coonabarabran, is a special place and was home to the local **Gamilaroi people** until recently. Tour groups can be guided through **the mission site by local Elders** but this must be **PRE BOOKED** through the Coonabarabran Visitor Centre who will then provide contact with the appropriate people. Coonabarabran VIC...**1800 242 881**.

Additional **NATIONAL PARK DISCOVERY TOURS** can be arranged for groups and include:

TARA CAVE WALK with a Gamilaroi Discovery Ranger. A three hour activity with 30 minute trip to the Warrumbungle National Park from Coonabarabran. Cost: \$180-\$220.00. **PRE-BOOK** with the **WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK DISCOVERY COORDINATOR** on **02 6825 4364**.

EARLY MORNING BIRD WALKS with a bird enthusiast in either the Warrumbungles or along the Bird Routes of Baradine and the Pilliga. Early morning walks can include breakfast and will take up to three hours. Again allow a half hour to arrive in the national park. Cost: \$220.00 **PREBOOK** with the **WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK DISCOVERY CO-ORDINATOR** on **02 6825 4364** or **PILLIGA DISCOVERY CENTRE** on **02 6843 4000**.

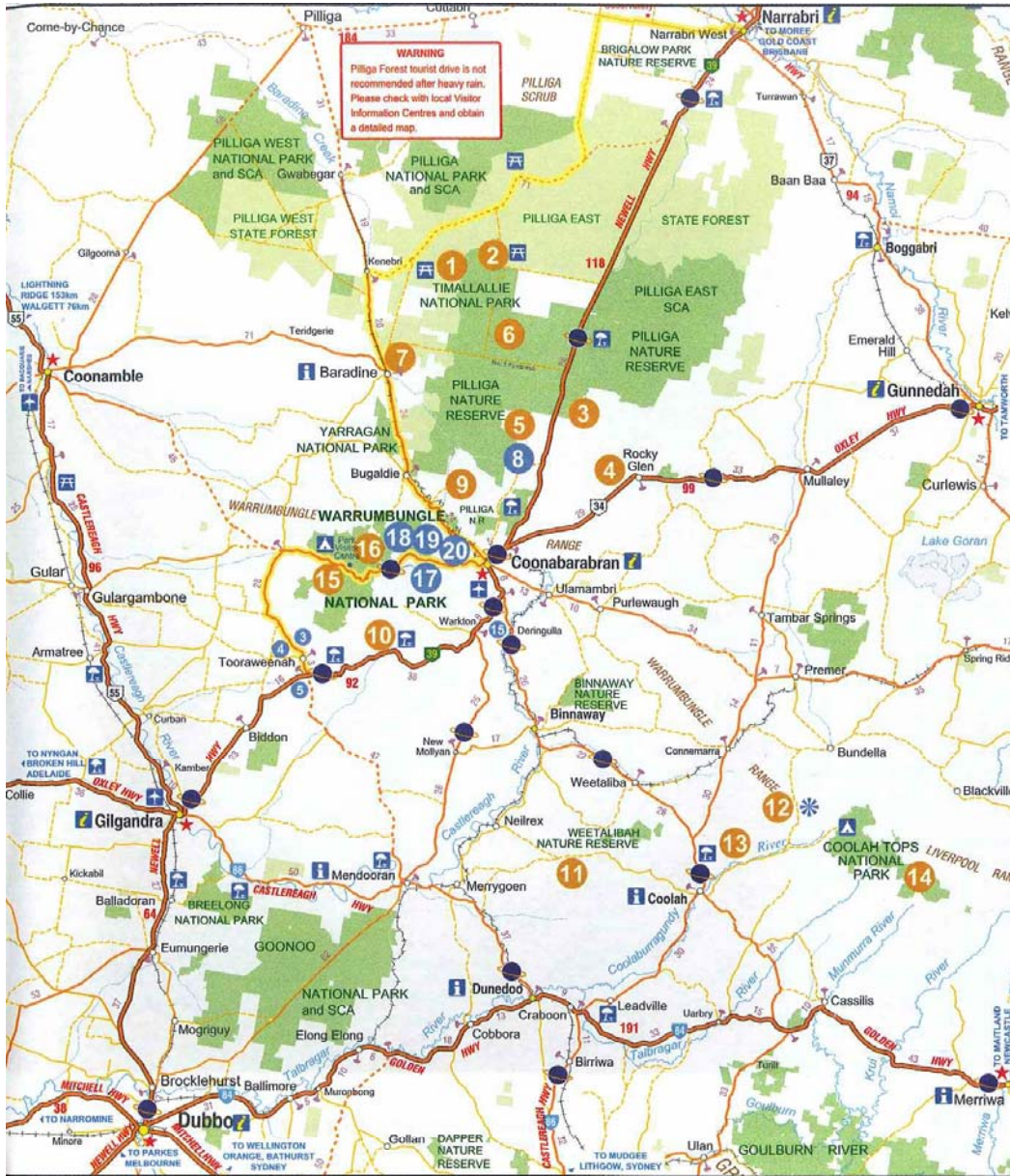
SPIREY VIEW LOOKOUT, WAMBELONG NATURE TRAIL, FANS HORIZON or THE BREAD-KNIFE AND GRAND HIGH TOPS WALKS...PREBOOK with the **WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK DISCOVERY CO-ORDINATOR** on **02 6825 4364**

By using Coonabarabran as your hub, look further afield to some great attractions in larger centres...Taronga Western Plains Zoo in DUBBO, TAMWORTH Country Music Capital and MUDGEE's thriving wine region are only a short two hour journey from Coonabarabran.

Stay in Coonabarabran and enjoy the luxury of only unpacking once...

discover new horizons
Warrumbungle
 region

Regional Map



While you're here...

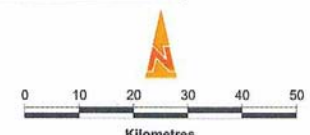
- 1 The Alocs Picnic Area
- 2 The Salt Caves
- 3 The Sandstone Caves
- 4 Oxley's Crossing
- 5 Pilliga Pottery
- 6 Pilliga National Park
- 7 Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre
- 8 The Old Schoolhouse / Poets Cottage
- 9 Goanna Tracks MotoX
- 10 Hickey's Falls
- 11 King Togie's Headstone
- 12 Pandoras Pass
- 13 The Black Stump
- 14 Coolah Tops National Park
- 15 Warrumbungle National Park
- 16 Siding Spring Observatory & Exploratory
- 17 Craggibungle Cabin
- 18 Timor Country Cottages
- 19 Warrumbungles Holiday Camp
- 20 Warrumbungles Mountain Motel
- World's Largest Virtual Solar System Drive

Explore Warrumbungle Region

Warrumbungle region

Legend

	National highway marker, National route marker		Airport
	Highway; State route marker		Camping
	Main road sealed, unsealed		Lookout
	Secondary road sealed, unsealed		Picnic area
	Minor road sealed, unsealed		Roadside rest area
	Cumulative distance		Visitor information
	Intermediate distance		Accredited visitor information centre
	Railway; Station		Attractions
	Scenic tourist drive		Accommodation
	National park (NP); State forest (SF)		
	Nature reserve (NR); State conservation area (SCA)		



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 www.maps.nsw.gov.au
 Department of Lands

STOP. REVIVE. SURVIVE.

New South Wales
 There's no place like it

An initiative of Warrumbungle Shire Council, RTA.