



Warrumbungle region Coonabarabran Accommodation for Groups

- ★★★★ **Acacia Motor Lodge** P: 02 6842 1922
John Street, Coonabarabran. 22 units, disabled facilities, conference venue, lic'd restaurant. Tour packages available. E: acacia10@tpg.com.au
- ★★★★★ **All Travellers Motor Inn** P: 02 6842 1133
John Street, Coonabarabran. 30 ground floor units, opposite restaurants and clubs. Tour packages available. E: alltrav@hwy.com.au
- ★★★★★ **Amber Court Motel** P: 02 6842 1188
Newell Hwy (nth), Coonabarabran. 21 units, Lic'd restaurant. Tour packages available. E: cccreservation@bigpond.com
- ★★★ **Castlereagh Village** P: 02 6842 1706
Newell Hwy (nth) Coonabarabran. 10 motel units and 5 1 and 2 bedroom cottages. Tour packages available. E: castlereagh.village@tpg.com.au
- ★★★★★ **Clock Tower Motor Inn** P: 02 6842 2444
Dalgarno St, Coonabarabran. 17 units, close to hotels and shops. Tour packages available.
- ★★★★★ **Coachmans Rest** P: 02 6842 2111
Newell Hwy (sth), Coonabarabran. 20 units, lic'd restaurant. Tour packages available. E: dunmores@bigpond.net.au
- ★★★★★ **Country Gardens Motel** P: 02 6842 1711
John Street, Coonabarabran. 35 units, lic'd restaurant, close to clubs and restaurants. Tour packages available. E: countrygardensmotel@hotmail.com
- ★★★★★ **El Paso Motel** P: 02 6842 1722
Newell Hwy (sth), Coonabarabran. 21 units, restaurant. Tour packages available. E: elpaso@tpg.com.au
- ★★★★★ **Matthew Flinders Motor Inn** P: 02 6842 1766
Newell Hwy (sth), Coonabarabran. 40 units, lic'd restaurant. Tour packages available. E: matflind@bigpond.net.au
- ★★★★★ **Poplars Motor Inn** P: 02 6842 1522
Newell Hwy (nth), Coonabarabran. 33 Units, conference venue, lic'd restaurant. Tour packages available. E: pminn@bigpond.com
- ★★★ **Wagon Wheel Motel and Units** P: 02 6842 1860
Newell Hwy (sth), Coonabarabran. 18-20 rooms. Tour packages available. E: wagonwheel@bigpond.com
- ★★★ **John Oxley Caravan Park and Cabins** P: 02 6842 1635
Newell Hwy (nth), Coonabarabran. 16 cabins of varying capacities, bbq's and self catering, close to hotels and clubs.
- ★★★ **Getaway Tourist Park** P: 02 6842 1773
Newell Hwy (sth) Coonabarabran. 8 cabins varying capacities, bbq's and self catering, easy walk to clubs.
- Imperial Hotel** P: 02 6842 1023
John Street, Coonabarabran. 31 rooms + 2 ensuite units, bistro on site, breakfasts, small conference room.
- Royal Hotel** P: 02 6842 1816
John Street, Coonabarabran. 14 rooms, pub style meals.
- Coonabarabran Hotel** P: 02 6842 2640
John Street, Coonabarabran. 17 rooms, lic'd dining room, breakfast available.
- Warrumbungles Holiday Camp** P: 02 6842 3300
Timor Rd, Coonabarabran (12km W). 45 bunkhouse rooms, 3 self contained cabins, mess hall with kitchen, self catering or catered functions and groups.
- Warrumbungle Mountain Motel** P: 02 6842 1832
Timor Rd, Coonabarabran (9kmW). Self contained motel and bunkhouse to accommodate up to 150, conf facilities, lic'd restaurant. Tour packages available. E: warrumbunglelodge@bigpond.com

Other Regional Accommodation for Groups:

- Pilliga Pottery** P: 02 6842 2239
off Newell Hwy(nth), Coonabarabran. Bunkhouse, cottage and cabins accommodation to suit 20+ visitors looking for something very different. Wood fired pizzas and Devonshire Teas—Blue Wren Café.
- Binnaway Railway Barracks** P: 02 6844 1593 George Street, Binnaway. 11 twin share rooms, dining hall, meeting rooms, light breakfast available, full kitchen.
- Exchange Hotel** P: 02 6844 1501 Yarran St, Binnaway.
- Baradine Hotel** P: 02 6843 1649 Wellington St, Baradine
- Tattersalls Hotel** P: 02 6843 1444 Wellington St, Baradine
- Camp Cypress** P: 02 6843 1035 Lachlan Street, Baradine
Self contained cabins to accommodate up to 80. Bistro style dining hall, tour packages available. E: cypress@hwy.com.au
- Blackstump Motel** P: 02 6377 1208 10 Campbell St, Coolah
- Coolah Valley Hotel** P: 02 6377 1210 28 Binnia St, Coolah.
- Black Stump Inn** P: 02 6377 1231 61 Binnia St, Coolah.
- Dunedoo Hotel** P: 02 6375 1403, 26 Bolaro St, Dunedoo
- Swan Motel** P: 02 6375 1112 58 Bolaro St, Dunedoo

Catering for the Group

While most of the accommodation providers listed above cater for groups, additional operators can also provide catering options for your tour group

- The Coonabarabran Bowling Club—bistro meals—lunch and dinner daily** P: 6842 1349
- The Lunch Box—eat in or packed lunches** P: 6842 2822
- The Coona Bakery—for packed lunches** P: 6842 1002
- Freckles—eat in or packed lunches** P: 6843 1008
- Tastebuds—eat in or packed lunches** P: 6377 1613

Travel planning information—attractions and events in Warrumbungle Region

Pilliga Pottery—terracotta pottery works offering Pottery Tour, Catered meals, Horse Riding, Bird Tours, Pottery and German Language Classes with opportunities to purchase product. Allow 30 minutes travel from Coonabarabran and then a tour can take from 40 minutes. Contact: Maria on 02 6842 2239 for a detailed tour package with costs.

Crystal Kingdom—display of rocks, minerals, fossils and crystals offering Self Guided Tours or an Interpretive Guide available and opportunities to purchase gifts. In Coonabarabran, allow an hour for interpretive tour. Contact: Wolfgang or Nola on 02 6842 1927 to book your group in.

Newcastle Hats—a working hat factory located in Coonabarabran, operating 9 to 3 on week days. Tours available and chance to purchase your own head protector. Allow 30-45 minutes. Phone: Rob on 02 6842 5014 to book tour.

Pandora Gallery—Coolah. Changing exhibitions throughout the year, museum and art collection. Free entry. Contact: Pandora Gallery on 02 6378 5030 or Jenny on 6377 1220 for details of exhibitions and to book your group in.

Australian Museum Diprotodon Exhibition—in the Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre; open daily 9 to 5. Self guided or free guided tours—must be pre-booked. Contact: Karen on 1800 242 881.

Regional wineries—offer a variety of styles with cellar door sales, opening hours vary. Contact Wattagan Winery 02 6842 2456, Coonandry Wines 6842 1649 or Warrumbungle Wines 6842 1228.

For information on Events across Warrumbungle Region please check the Calendar of Events in the tourism guide (page 14 of the Business Directory or go to www.warrumbungleregion.com.au/events.cfm This will give you a complete listing with details of events that you and your group might like to join us for.



Coonabarabran...Astronomy Capital of Australia

Points of interest:

- * Siding Spring Observatory
- * Warrumbungle National Park
- * Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre
- * Pandora Gallery
- * Pilliga Pottery
- * Crystal Kingdom
- * Sculptures in the Scrub
- * Coolah Tops National Park
- * Australian Museum—Diprotodon Exhibition
- * Warrumbungle Observatory
- * Newcastle Hats
- * Wineries
- * Baradine Keeping Place

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**Coonabarabran—Coolah—Dunedoo
Mendooran—Baradine—Binnaway
Coonabarabran—Coolah—Dunedoo
Mendooran—Baradine—Binnaway
Coonabarabran—Coolah—Dunedoo
Mendooran—Baradine—Binnaway
Coonabarabran—Coolah—Dunedoo
Mendooran—Baradine—Binnaway**



Taking a trip into Warrumbungle Region ...

Coonabarabran is the administrative centre of the Warrumbungle Shire and a great launching point for your visit. The amazing contrasts within our shire can be packaged to suit the interests of your tour group whether your plans are to spend a few hours or a few days.

This package contains appealing things to do in Warrumbungle Shire, with a special focus on Coonabarabran and includes astronomy and stargazing, visits to not one but three national parks with bushwalking—easy walks are a specialty, great picnic and barbecue areas or simply the opportunity to meet up with Australia's wildlife right where it lives. Our wineries, museums, pottery, galleries and indigenous cultural experiences are all very accessible and show another side to what makes our part of the world so special. They provide an insight for visitors to observe and experience simple country lifestyles. Tour guides are available to ensure you gain the most from your visit to many of our attractions. Visitors can even take the opportunity for a round of golf, a few ends of bowls or even horse-riding and motocross. Our variety of events will satisfy the entertainment needs of all visitors.

Across the shire there are many interesting choices to dine: a warming, locally baked pie; latte atop the Warrumbungles or in the tranquility of the vast Pilliga; a modern café; a hearty country style roast; bistro-style meals; Chinese, Thai and Malaysian restaurants; a pizza; or a yummy a la carte menu to choose from, all served up with a great dose of Warrumbungle warmth and country hospitality.

Coonabarabran is located in northern NSW, strategically on the Newell and Oxley Highways and the Castlereagh and Golden Highways pass through our shire as well; so we can justifiably boast that all roads lead our way. Within a two hour trip from Tamworth, Mudgee and Dubbo, Coonabarabran is often used as the hub point for tour groups—arrive, unpack once and tour the region, all from one location. This not only makes it easier for the traveller but also the coach driver, who on most trips, has to load and unload suitcases daily. Using Coonabarabran as your hub point is a great way to discover new horizons while also minimizing effort.

Our motels provide good quality group accommodation and dining and are also located close to clubs and shops. There are other accommodation options for those seeking something a little different.

Please use this collection of ideas to select the activities that suit your group. Likewise choose your accommodation and dining options—mix and match if you like—the opportunities are there for you to have an exciting, interesting and enjoyable trip into Warrumbungle Region to

... discover new horizons.

Please check www.warrumbungleregion.com.au for further details or call the Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre on 1800 242 881



By day a visit to Siding Spring Observatory will set the pace for an evening exploring the night skies at Warrumbungle Observatory.



Pilliga Pottery is an artisans colony that encourages the visitor to explore their own artistic talents.

For further information or assistance contact the Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre on 1800 242 881

discover new horizons

Looking at themes ...

A place of many contrasts, Warrumbungle Region offers the tour group a variety of experiences—educational, inspirational, relaxing or challenging.

While most of our activities are accessible by free and independent travellers, a pre-booked tour guide will ensure that personalized experience with input from a local in the know. Each of the described tours can be extended to include morning or afternoon tea and lunch based on the needs of your group.

On some tours, participants stay on the coach for the tour; this is particularly useful if your tour group is less mobile.

Some suggested themes:

Astronomy. Coonabarabran is the Astronomy Capital of Australia. Hurtle along the World's Largest Virtual Solar System Drive to the final destination "The Sun" which in this case is the giant AAO telescope atop Siding Spring. A day visit to Siding Spring Observatory, Australia's largest optical astronomy research centre can include a trip to The Exploratory Centre and Café with a guided tour of the observatory site. In the evening explore the night sky at Warrumbungle Observatory with telescopes, guided by Peter Starr—yes that's his real name!

Natural Landscapes—a visit to Warrumbungle National Park—a picnic or barbecue lunch, with a guided walk. Short walks from 30 minutes to three hours. Pandora's Pass and Norfolk Falls in the Coolah Tops National Park are great lookout opportunities and introduce you to one of Australia's best kept secrets. The

Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre and the Warrumbungle Visitor Centre each have interpretive displays that tell the stories of the work of national parks and the importance of preserving the landscape. The hands on displays provide opportunities to learn more about Australian wildlife and European inhabitation. A visit to Crystal Kingdom will enhance your understanding of the geology of the region and the Australian Museum Diprotodon Exhibition shows just what roamed our land before we arrived here.

Aboriginal Heritage. A chance to explore the stories of the Gamilaroi peoples. A walking tour to Tara Cave in the Warrumbungles guided by an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger. Visit the newly unveiled Sculptures in the Scrub or the Sandstone Caves in the Pilliga Nature Reserve. A trip to BurraBeeDee Mission should be undertaken with the guidance of an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger or an Elder of the Gamilaroi. The Keeping Place in Baradine has a collection of Aboriginal artefacts. The importance of respecting the land of the Gamilaroi is reflected in each of these interpretive activities.

Arts and Culture. The opportunities to visit some of our arts and heritage venues include Pandora Gallery in Coolah, where the museum and art exhibitions change on a regular basis to profile stories and artistic achievement. A visit to Pilliga Pottery, on the edge of a nature reserve is a contrasting experience. A German family fell in love with the forest and decided

to establish their pottery there. The pottery is set within beautiful gardens and the site is a fine example of alternative building styles—a mix of Australian and European design—using mud-brick, straw bales, rammed earth and recycled products, along with a solar power source. Guided bird tours can be arranged and the Blue Wren Café provides wood fired pizzas and Devonshire teas. Pilliga Pottery visitors have the chance to see artisans bring life to clay as they build, engrave and glaze the variety of articles. Local parks and gardens make a great stop-over for a lunch break or a browse. Wineries and cafes also add to the cultural experience of our area.

Events in Warrumbungle Region are many and varied. Open Days at Siding Spring Observatory, Country Race Meetings and Rodeos, Bush Poetry Festival, Open Gardens, Local Shows, The Equestrian Expo, Art Exhibitions (ArtUnlimited in Dunedoo and WACCI in Coonabarabran), Discovery Tours, Townlife Markets, Bike Rides, Bunny Bazaar, Lions Billy Cart Derby, Rockin at the Race Course or the Warrumbungle Crooked Mountain Concert... the list goes on...there really is something for everyone!

Time to walk—time to shop—time to unwind—each town in the shire has pleasant walks that showcase our towns and give the traveller a stretch break. A browse in our locally owned shops might just unearth that special gift.

Suggested itineraries and costs are included in this pack.

in Warrumbungle Region

Travel planning...

The following information is provided to give an indication of the activities and time required to gain the most from the experiences on offer—when you are planning touring to Warrumbungle Region it is important to contact the provider for the latest information and to book your activity in advance..

Discovering the new horizons of astronomy. All aboard the World's Largest Virtual Solar System Drive to Coonabarabran and beyond. Hurtle through space and discover the mysteries of the southern skies. The Virtual Solar System Drive is marked by large billboards depicting the planets along the way, all scaled in size and distance to replicate our solar system but **38 million times smaller!** Prepare for your own *out of this world* discovery...you'll think everyone has their own private observatory.

Siding Spring Observatory. Your arrival at "The Sun", Siding Spring Observatory means time for a guided tour of the site—this can be a walking tour or your group can stay on the coach and the guide join you to take you to the Trig Point Lookout and to several observatory sites, giving a history of the site and an outline of the work undertaken here. On your return, visit the Exploratory Centre. Take time for morning or afternoon tea in the café.

Costs: Guided Tour includes Exploratory Centre admission - \$7.50/person.

Time: Walking Tour and Exploratory—3 hours; On Coach Tour and Exploratory - 2 hours.
Contact: Siding Spring Observatory on 02 6842 6211 for further details or to book your group.

Warrumbungle Observatory Night Sky Tour— your chance to explore the night sky through telescopes set up to show you stars, planets and the mysteries of what is out there; astrophotographers are catered for as well. Peter Starr can take his telescopes to

some accommodation complexes to reduce the night driving.

Costs: Night Sky Viewing at Warrumbungle Observatory \$15.00/person.

Time: Allow 2 hours for a tour group—the Warrumbungle Observatory is 9kms from Coonabarabran on the National Park Road.

Contact: Peter Starr at Warrumbungle Observatory to book your exploration of the night sky 0488 425 112

Walking on the Wild Side.

The spectacular landscapes of our national parks call visitors to take a closer look. Get close to the wildlife, explore the trails or simply to enjoy lunch or a break in a beautiful valley, overshadowed by craggy spires...or grass trees or massive ironbarks. Each national park offers a unique experience for the visitor who may simply want to capture that once in a lifetime photo or feel the wind in their face.

Warrumbungle National Park Visitor Centre is in the centre of the park and presents an interpretive display and walking track information. Its a great way to explore the park and learn about the wildlife before stepping out. The Centre is open daily 9am to 4pm.
Costs: Park entry is \$3.30 / pax on tours and includes free access to electric bbq's; payable at the Visitor Centre.

Time: Allow an hour.

The Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre at Baradine has an interpretive display with a special focus on woodland birds. Information on the Pilliga and the bird drives available; can arrange a Discovery Guide for a Bird Tour.

Costs: free entry; Bird Tour Discovery Guide: \$180 - \$220.

Time: Allow an hour to go through the Discovery Centre; Bird Tours take 3 hours.

Contact: Baradine Discovery Centre on 02 6843 4000.

Guided Walks in the Warrumbungles. With a Discovery Ranger to point out the various aspects of wildlife, flora and birdlife, this experience can be relaxing, educational and varied. Easy walks along sealed trails can take 20 minutes and still provide magnificent views while a walk along a valley floor to the lookout points of Spirey View, Fans Horizon or Macha Tor will give breathtaking views of The Breadknife and Beloungery Spire.

Costs: Park Entry—\$3.30/pax and a further \$180 - \$200 for the Discovery Guide.

Time: Allow 30 minutes to travel from Coonabarabran to the park and then short walks to White Gum or Goorianawa Trail will require another 30 minutes—visit requires total of 2 hours; if you choose the longer walks then Spirey View is an hour and a half return and easy walking; Fans Horizon is 2 hours return and Macha Tor 3 hours return—note Fans and Macha Tor are steep and require a good levels of fitness.

Contact: Warrumbungle Visitor Centre 02 6825 4364.

Exploring Indigenous History. Much of the Warrumbungle Region is the traditional land of the Gamilaroi and Wiradjuri people.

Sculptures in the Scrub. Take a journey into the Dandery Gorge in the Pilliga to observe creative sculptures which depict aspects of the Aboriginal dreamtime.



A Discovery Ranger will guide you through the area and interpret the landscape and stories of the people. Although graded as medium, this area is accessible with good walking trails.

Costs: \$180-\$220 for a tour group of up to 40 people. Time: Allow 30 minutes to travel to the Gorge and then a further 2 hours for the tour—a total of 3 hours.

The Sandstone Caves Tour. This beautiful sandstone outcrop, eroded by wind and rain over the years has a number of artefacts that indicate Aboriginal occupation. The Discovery Ranger will guide you around the area and explain the landuse and wildlife. Parts of this walk are steep and those not so fit may decide not to go into the caves, but the interpretive track is worth the walk alone.

Costs: Tour Guide \$180-\$220. Time: Allow 30 minutes to travel to Yaminbah Trail and then 1.5 hours to do the walk... a total of 2.5 hours.

Contact: Baradine Discovery Centre on 02 6843 4000 for enquiries and tour bookings.
Tara Cave. In the Warrumbungle National Park is a powerful place used by the Gamilaroi dating back more than 7000 years. A Discovery Ranger guided tour to Tara Cave will provide opportunities to explore bush tucker and Aboriginal culture. The walk is graded at medium with a paved walking track most of the way.

Costs: Park Entry \$3.30/pax then \$165-\$180 for the Discovery Ranger.

Time: This tour commences in the Warrumbungle National Park so allow at least 30 minutes to get to the park and then 2.5 hours for the tour; a total of 3.5 hours for Tara Cave Tour.

Contact: Warrumbungle National Park Discovery Coordinator on 02 6825 4364 for further information and to book the Tara Cave Tour.