



PETERBOROUGH

Northern Areas Scenic Drive

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR
DETAILED MAP INFO

The following trip will take about 2.5 hours and will consist of 100km of dirt roads. Even though you will be travelling on public roads please remember that the area beyond the fences on each side of these roads are private property and that the owners do not take very kindly to people who enter their property without first asking. Please make sure that you have adequate petrol, water and a serviceable spare tyre just in case. The best speed for travelling on dirt roads is between 60 and 80km/h. The trip can be terminated at various places on the route if you so desire. To return to Peterborough just follow the signposts.

Other Scenic Drives are also available contact:

PETERBOROUGH VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

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Email: enquiries@visitpeterboroughsa.com.au | Open: 9am – 5pm daily

OR OUR WEBSITE www.maketrackstopeterborough.com.au

This trip starts from the Peterborough Post Office heading east towards Broken Hill.

3km On the left is the Pipelines Authority of South Australia Northern Depot Head Quarters which used to service the Moomba to Adelaide Natural Gas Pipeline. This complex was closed down in February 2000. All work is now based out of Adelaide.

5km The train line on the right hand side is used by the Indian Pacific which is the Sydney to Perth transcontinental passenger train.

6.5km Dowd's Hill is on the right. It was named after Andrew Dowd who farmed in the area in the early 1900's.

6.7km You are now travelling over Tunnel Hill. This is where the train line crosses from one side of the road to the other. The narrow gauge tunnel is on the left hand side in the cutting. The railway line was changed from narrow to standard gauge in 1970.

7.4km Ranges to the right. Ruins, of which you will see quite a lot of in the next couple of hours are in the foreground. There is an interesting story behind the reason there are so many ruins in the area. Originally the land was surveyed into units of approximately 100 square miles and then subdivided into blocks of 80 acres. Those blocks were then sold at cash auctions. The legal minimum price was one pound per acre but the auctions often ran the prices up far and beyond what the average farmer could afford. Thus the speculators snapped up all of the land.

The Waste Land Amendment Act, popularly known as the Strangeways Act resulted in January 1869. Under this Act a few carefully chosen localities suitable for agriculture were surveyed and sold in small lots. The terms for the sale were that a maximum of 640 acres in one block, a payment of 20 percent on the fall of the hammer with the balance due at the end of four years and that the purchaser was legally bound to occupy the land within six months and reside there until the purchase was finalised. The other reason for this Act was that it gave everyone a fair chance and that it would help to populate the State. Unfortunately the new farmers found that after a few good years in which they had good rains a couple of lean years which followed meant that they had to leave the farm because of the hardships they were experiencing, hence the ruins.

9km Left hand side. Note the railway track use to have it's own telephone network.

11.1km On the right hand side is Amelia Park Homestead. On the left is Amelia Park Picnic Grounds. Back in the heyday of the railway boom in Peterborough, there used to be one day a year which was set aside for the Railway Picnic. A special train which usually consisted of five carriages and was jam-packed with the railway workers and their families would travel out to Amelia Park early in the morning and return at about 5pm that night.

11.5km Turn onto the dirt road on the left hand side. Follow the road over the railway crossing (watch out for trains) and drive straight ahead.

11.8km To the right about 1km away is the old railway siding of Ucolta. Ucolta was first recorded by Surveyor Brooks in 1862. Note the old water tank which was used to replenish the stocks of the steam engines.

12.5km To the right is the power line which will end up at the Nantabebie Telecom repeater station. The electricity was supplied by the Peterborough Power House. The Power House closed down in the early 1990's.

15.4km Creek bed.

16.7km To the right about 500m is a creek. Note how eroded the side of it has become due to wind and water erosion.

17km The surrounding land originally formed part of Eldoratrilla Station which was one of the biggest grazing acres in the north in the 1850's.

18.5km Windmill on the right. Many windmills will be seen in this area as it is the chief source of water for the stock.

19.2km Many of the trees in the he area dying because of a mistletoe parasitic plant which sucks all the moisture out of the tree; The mistletoe is the yellowy green plant which is hanging straight down.

20.5km The hills in this region form part of the Olary Ridges which extend to the Olary area in the North East of South Australia.

23.8km On the left is Merowie Hall which is 650m above sea level.

24.8km On the left is Parekendula, this was originally Rentons. This was originally home of the Murundie Merino Ram Stud.

28km Entering the ghost town of Dawson. This town was established in 1881 and was originally known as Coglin.

28.8km Intersection. Turn left. The road to the right leads to Oodlawirra. The Dawson Hall is the cream building; the hotel is the old building on the left. The Gymkhana and Racetrack is across the road from the hall and attracts crowds of about 500 people every year for their annual Gymkhana. The Red and Yellow building is the school. In 1898 there were 55 students enrolled at the school.

29.2km Church on the right.

29.3km Dawson cricket oval is on the right. This oval was used for cricket from the mid 1890's until 1999.

30.4km Passing between two hills which are 470 metres above sea level.

32.9km The hills on the horizon in front and to the left contain the sites of old copper mines and diggings. Black Rock peak which has a height of 830m is the dome like feature which can be seen on the centre left.

33.2km Muchra Creek. This creek has its beginnings at a place called Paradise and runs out 12 miles to the North.

33.9km The original stone tank is what remains of a Government Well. The Government Wells were constructed by the Government in the early years and consisted of a well and a stone tank. The purpose of these wells was to provide water for the shepherd's and their stock. The shepherds use to walk their stock to market or onto greener pastures. There are many such tanks and wells throughout northern South Australia.

35.4km To the right is the Pipelines Authority of South Australia Compressor Station 6. This is the sixth such compressor station from Moomba and is part of a huge network which maintains the natural gas pipelines. The tower is part of their communications systems.

35.5km T-Junction. This is known as "The Twelve Mile" Drive straight ahead.

37.3km "Black Rock" sign post. Turn right.

40km Ruins on the right.

40.9km Ruins on the left.

45.7km Native pine trees are on the left and right.

46.1km Cross roads. Straight ahead. This district is known as Erskine.

48.8km Caution S bend ahead you are now at Black Rock Lookout.

49.6km 'S' Hill - The Black Rock Hotel can be seen at the foothill due west. Take the left fork.

51.6km Cross roads - continue straight on.

56.9km On the left approximately 2km out is the longest narrow gauge railway bridge in South Australia.

58.6km The bitumen road leads to Orroroo to the right and Peterborough to the left. Drive straight ahead.

59.7km Bitumen road. Turn left onto the bitumen and follow it approx 500m. The town of Black Rock is on your left. The town was named after Black Rock Peak which is 22km away.

60km At the Magnetic Hill sign turn right off of the bitumen and head toward Pekina. To the right about 500m away is the site of the Black Rock Dirt Circuit racing car circuit. This is only operational during the winter months due to the high fire risks in summer. In 1990 Black Rock was the biggest in Australia in terms of driver participation. Racing starts at 10am and finishes at 5.30pm.

64.6km To the right is Mucra Hill. The people who own the hills alongside Mucra Hill do not need windmills as there are natural springs which provide water for their stock.

67.1km Through the creek. Fork in the road. Turn right.

68.2km Magnetic Hill. This is an optical illusion which appears to make it look as if your car rolls uphill. You can park your vehicle in the dip at the bottom of the hill or alongside the sign. Place your car in neutral and release the brake. Make sure that there are no other vehicles behind you.

70km Road junction. Turn left

73.4km Road junction. Turn left towards Yatina.

74.5km At the crest of this hill you can see Peterborough in the distance.

75.5km T-Junction. Turn right. There are old mine shafts in this area; some have shafts 400ft deep.

76.6km Windmill on the right.

81.5km Road junction. To the left is the Yatina cemetery. Drive straight ahead.

83.3km Main road. This road leads to Orroroo to the left and Jamestown to the right. The town on the left is Yatina which was founded in 1873. On the corner is a plaque which marks the site on which the now demolished school house was. The closest building is the Town Hall, then the hotel and across the road from that is a private dwelling which was once the Post Office. 5.2km down the road towards Orroroo there is a dirt road which heads West. Next to that there is a double gate leading into a paddock. 1km back is the ruins of White Rock. This area was mined and produced white modelling clay powder which was 98 percent pure. However it was not viable to mine. Drive across Orroroo - Jamestown main road and follow dirt road.

83.7km T-Junction. Turn right.

85.1km Fork in the road. Follow the middle one which goes around the right hand side of the windmill and heads for the hills.

86.7km Ruin on the left.

92.8km Y-Junction. Turn left towards Peterborough which is in the distance.

97km Y-Junction. Straight ahead to Peterborough. To the right about 7km away is Yongala which in winter is the coldest recorded place in South Australia.

98km Waste Water Management System commissioned in 2018.

99.1km On the left and right are what are left of the slaughter houses. These became redundant when the Metro Meat Works (which is on the other side of town) started killing sheep. Now the Meat Works are only licensed to kill horses so the local butchers have to take their stock to Jamestown for slaughtering. This is brought about due to legislation governing slaughtering houses. In 1990 it cost butchers \$17 per head to have their sheep slaughtered.

100km Peterborough. End of your journey.