

FREE ROAD TRIP GUIDE

Driving to Mataranka Homestead

Routes from every state, must-see stops, and what to do when you get here.

SWIPE TO PLAN YOUR TRIP →



EVERY ROAD LEADS HERE

Routes from every state

Darwin Stuart Hwy, a night in Katherine	**425 km** 1–2 DAYS
Adelaide Port Augusta, then the Stuart Hwy	**2,600 km** 7 DAYS
Brisbane Roma, Winton, Mount Isa	**3,000 km** 7 DAYS
Melbourne Mildura, Port Augusta, Alice Springs	**3,400 km** 8 DAYS
Tasmania Spirit of Tasmania, then via Victoria	**3,400 km + ferry** 9 DAYS
Sydney & Canberra Dubbo, Bourke, outback Queensland	**3,600 km** 9 DAYS
Perth Pilbara and the Kimberley	**3,900 km** 10 DAYS

Approximate distances. The full guide has a map and a day-by-day plan for each route.

MUST-SEE STOPS ALONG THE WAY

Down the Stuart Highway

FROM MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE & TASMANIA

1. **Lake Tyrrell, Sea Lake**
   Victoria's largest salt lake, a mirror at sunset
2. **Burra**
   Heritage copper town and the Monster Mine
3. **Woomera & Lake Hart**
   Rocket park and a vast white salt lake
4. **Coober Pedy**
   Underground churches and opal mines
5. **The Breakaways**
   Painted desert hills and the Dog Fence
6. **Uluru & Kata Tjuta**
   The big detour from Erldunda
7. **Alice Springs**
   Desert Park and the West MacDonnell Ranges
8. **Karlu Karlu**
   The Devils Marbles, magic at sunset
9. **Daly Waters Pub**
   The famous outback pub and WWII aerodrome
10. **Larrimah**
    The Pink Panther Hotel and WWII museum

Support the small towns along the way

Stop for fuel, a meal or a coffee. Full maps and day-by-day plans in the guide

MUST-SEE STOPS ALONG THE WAY

Across outback Queensland

FROM SYDNEY, CANBERRA & BRISBANE

1. **Dubbo**
   Taronga Western Plains Zoo
2. **Bourke**
   The Back O' Bourke Exhibition Centre
3. **Roma**
   The Big Rig oil and gas museum
4. **Charleville**
   Night sky shows at the Cosmos Centre
5. **Blackall**
   The historic Woolscour
6. **Longreach**
   Stockman's Hall of Fame and Qantas Founders Museum
7. **Winton**
   The Australian Age of Dinosaurs
8. **Mount Isa**
   Outback at Isa and the underground mine tour
9. **Camooweal**
   The caves and the last Queensland town
10. **Tennant Creek**
    Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre

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MUST-SEE STOPS ALONG THE WAY

The Kimberley & Top End

FROM PERTH & FROM DARWIN

1. **Karijini National Park**
   Gorges and swimming holes near Newman
2. **Eighty Mile Beach**
   Endless sand, shells and sunsets
3. **Broome**
   Camels at sunset on Cable Beach
4. **Danggu Geikie Gorge**
   River cruises at Fitzroy Crossing
5. **Purnululu**
   The striped domes of the Bungle Bungles
6. **Lake Argyle**
   Sunset cruises near Kununurra
7. **Edith Falls (Leliyn)**
   A swim on the way down from Darwin
8. **Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge)**
   Gorge cruises and canoeing
9. **Katherine Hot Springs**
   A warm-up for Mataranka's thermal pool
10. **Cutta Cutta Caves**
    Limestone caves south of Katherine

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CAPITAL OF THE NEVER NEVER

Things to do in Mataranka



Soak in the 34°C thermal pool



Chase barra on the Roper



Rodeo and campdraft



Live music and dinner

2027 EVENTS

What's on in Mataranka

OCT–MAR

Million Dollar Fish

Australia's richest fishing comp. Register free and chase barra

DRY SEASON

Mataranka Markets

Local stalls, food and crafts through the dry

MAY

Never Never Festival

Rodeo, markets, movie nights and campdraft

12 JUNE

Never Never Big Freeze

At the Homestead, freezing to fight MND

JUN–AUG

Nathan "Whippy" Griggs

World-record whip cracker, free family show

1 JULY

Territory Day

Celebrate at the Homestead

OCTOBER

Mataranka Duck Race

Fundraiser for Mataranka School. Check dates with the school

MAR–SEP

Live music every night

5.30 to 8 pm at the Homestead, free entry

EVERY DAY

Homestead bar & bistro

Dry: breakfast, lunch, dinner & wood-fired pizzas · Wet: dinner



EVERY NIGHT OF THE DRY SEASON

Live music, 5.30 – 8 pm

FREE ENTRY

THE 2027 LINE-UP

Darren "Daz" Griffis	26 Mar – 25 Apr & 3 – 29 May
Ian "Ferg" Ferguson	30 May – 1 Aug
Steve Case	2 – 29 Aug
Jaemie Page	30 Aug – 5 Sep
Mem Davis Duo	6 – 19 Sep

More musicians coming soon! STAY TUNED

Plus weekend lunch music, Saturdays and Sundays 12 – 2 pm, late March to August.

SHOP LOCAL, KEEP MATARANKA THRIVING

Support our local businesses

Outback Hair Retreat by Maxine

Haircuts and dog sitting, right here at the Homestead

Mataranka Hotel

The town pub: cold drinks, meals, open mic and karaoke

Mataranka Central Roadhouse

Fuel and supplies, 5c a litre off for Homestead guests

Mataranka Bakery at BP

Fresh bakery treats for the road

Supermarket & Never Never Cafe

Groceries, bottle shop, coffee and famous vanilla slices

Mataranka Post Office

Send postcards home and pick up your mail

Stockyard Gallery

Local Aboriginal art, bought direct from the artists

Never Never Museum

Railway, telegraph and WWII history, 36 Roper Terrace

Every dollar spent in town keeps Mataranka going.

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING LOCAL

THE MUST-STAY STOP

Stay at Mataranka Homestead



- ✔ Powered and unpowered sites, cabins and motel rooms
- ✔ A short walk to the thermal pool in Elsey National Park
- ✔ Maluka's Bar, bistro and happy hour 5 – 6 pm
- ✔ Pet-friendly cabins and dog-friendly sites
- ✔ **5c a litre off fuel** at Mataranka Central Roadhouse for guests

BOOK YOUR SITE ONLINE

matarankahomestead.com.au

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