

4 Wheel Driving

In the Bathurst Region & Surrounds



Bathurst
step beyond



For exploration, adventure, and memorable experiences there is nothing quite like 4 Wheel Driving (4WD). Whether you plan on setting out on a long trip through the wilderness of the Central West or would like to take a day trip on a guided tour, there's something for everyone in Bathurst when it comes to 4WD adventures.

Four Wheel Drive Safety

Tyre Pressure

Be sure to adjust tyre pressure to match conditions. Ensuring you have the correct tyre pressure can increase grip, reduce tyre damage and make sure you don't get stuck in

Sealed road	30-35psi
Sand	26-30psi
Gravel	26-30psi
Rocky Terrain	22-28psi
Snow	30-35psi

Stay on Established Trails

Four wheel driving can damage landscapes and erode sections of native ecosystems. By staying on established roads you reduce the impact of your travel, reduce the risk to yourself and your vehicle, and are less likely to trespass accidentally.

First Aid Kits

When traveling in remote areas always keep a first aid kit for unexpected emergencies.,

Water Crossings

Always walk the crossing first checking for depth, hidden rocks or unexpected dips in the track. Know your vehicles wading depth and be prepared to use a snorkel if needed. When attempting the crossing drive with windows down and seatbelts unbuckled.

Recovery Gear

Shovels, winches, snap straps, recovery boards are all advisable when four wheel driving.

Emergency Radio Channels

If regular emergency contacts are not available by phone. UHF Channels 5 & 35 are reserved for emergency use. Misuse of these channels can result in fines.

Additionally channels 22, 23, 61, 62 and 63 are restricted channels and should be avoided.

Channel 10 is designated for 4x4 convoys and clubs and can be a good channel to notify prior to entering narrow bends along the Bridle Track.

Learn your vehicle

If you are new to four wheel driving or have recently purchased a new car and would like some guidance. Simmo's Offroad Tours can Know Your Vehicle tours where he can inspect your vehicle and educate you about all the features and techniques you should be aware of, while taking you on a tour that is adequate for your experience level.

Private Property

Respect property owners and do not attempt to access private property.

Rubbish & Fires

Many of the campsites in the Bathurst region have a leave only foot prints policy with no bins provided. When accessing any of the reserves in Bathurst plan ahead, by leaving space in your vehicle for your own rubbish. When leaving a site ensure that all fires have been doused, **do not** leave fires to burn themselves out. This is a fire risk and can cause bush fires especially during the dryer months.

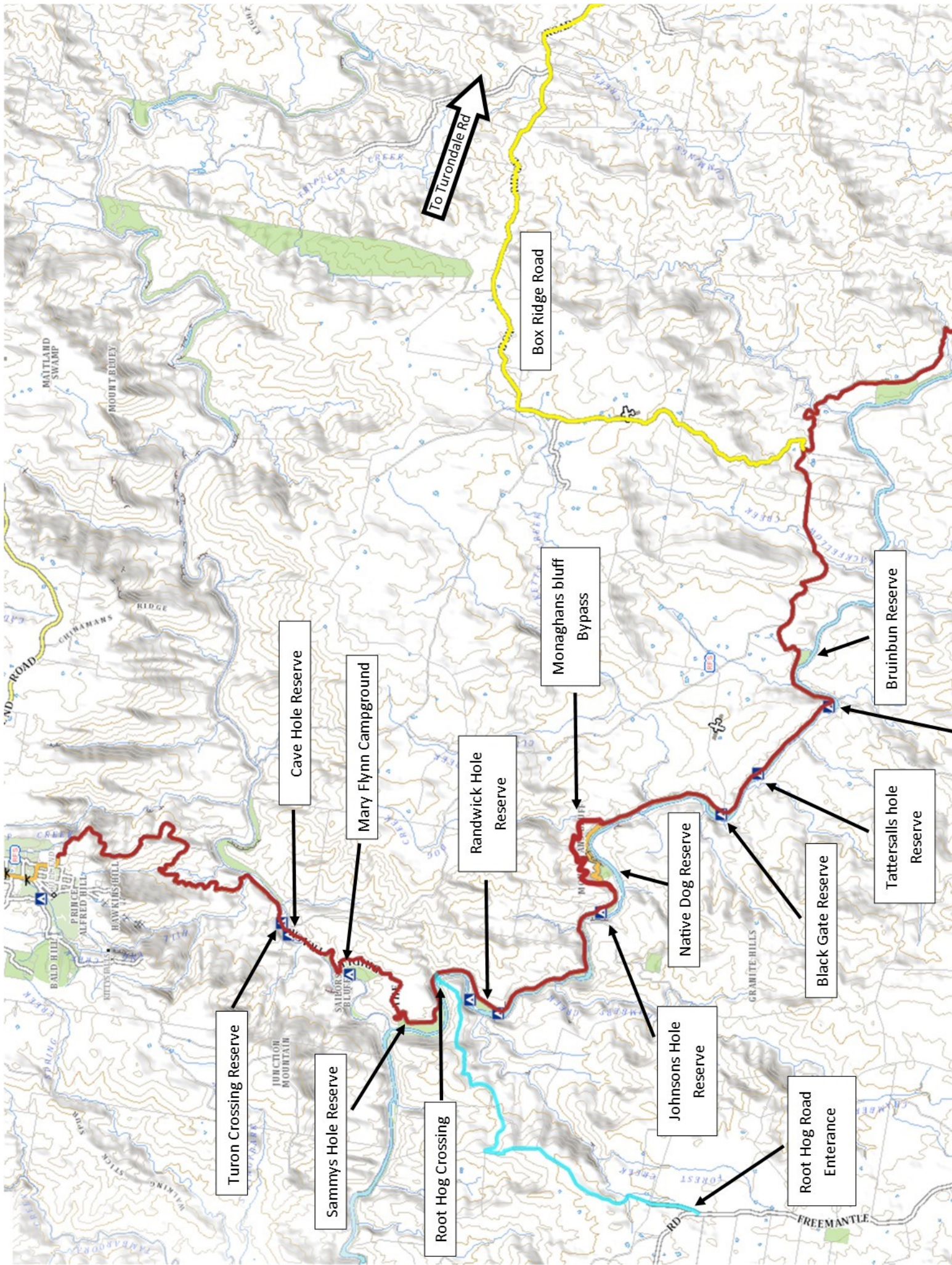
The Bridle Track

One of the premier 4WD tracks in the Bathurst region, the Bridle Track is an adventure for sure. First established as the road between Bathurst and Hill End in 1870's. The Bridle Track earned its name from the hopeful miners and travellers who had to lead their horses by the bridle to pass the narrowest points. Following rockslides in 2011 the track was cut in half only accessible up to Monaghans Bluff from either side. The track remained closed at Monaghans Bluff for almost 13 years until a bypass track was established in 2023. The Track is now passable from one end to the other without significant water crossings or diversions.

Safety Advice on the Bridle Track:

- 4WD Only
- No trailers or caravans.
- No guard rail in sections.
- Steep edges.
- Steep inclines along the track, lower tire pressure if necessary.
- Beware falling rocks
- Sound horn on narrow bends to alert oncoming traffic.
- At the Turon Crossing causeway pay attention to the concrete blocks, if the water is above these blocks the river is too high to cross.





Bridle Track to Hill End via the Root Hog Road (Moderate to hard)

This track follows the Freemantle Road onto the Root Hog Road, crossing the Macquarie/Wambuul River onto the Bridle Track, towards Hill End. Prior to the establishment of the Monaghans Bluff Bypass, this trail was the only way to travel from Bathurst to Hill End via the northern section of the Bridle Track. With the new bypass it is no longer necessary to use this trail however drivers looking for a challenge may find the information below useful.

This track is recommended only for **experienced 4WD drivers** as it involves a water crossing, tyre depressurising and traversing steep trails that can be difficult or unsuitable during and after rain. Please note water can be fast flowing do not drive across if you can not walk the crossing. The trail also passes through private property, please do not detour from the established road to avoid trespassing.

To access this track:

1. From the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre follow Durham Street into Eglinton Road for 2km.
2. Turn right on Hamilton Street across Rankens Bridge.
3. Follow for 1 km and turn left onto Wellington Street, following through into the Freemantle Road.
4. Continue on the Freemantle Road for 40 km until you reach a fork in the road, turn right at the fork onto the Root Hog Road. (There may be signs present indicating that the road traverses private property, please respect these signs by sticking to the road and closing any farm gates you have to open along the way)
5. Follow the Root Hog Road until you get to the Macquarie river. (On the Root Hog Road you will reach a steep decline, it is advised that you release some air in your tires to provide more surface area and stability).
6. Cross the river and turn left onto the Bridle Track, and follow through to Hill End. (Please note river depth and flow speed may change with heavy rain and caution is advised for crossings. Drive to your ability and always let someone know about your trip before leaving)

Bridle Track - Bathurst to Hill End


This trail follows the Bridle Track directly from Bathurst. With an optional turn off before the blockage at Monaghans Bluff onto Box Ridge Road towards the Turondale Road. Please note that there are continued road works on the northern side of the Bridle Track around several of the reserves.

To access this track:

1. From the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre follow Durham Street into Eglinton Road for 2 km.
2. Turn right on Hamilton Street across Ranken's Bridge.
3. Follow for 1 km and turn left onto Wellington Street at the second roundabout.
4. Take the second right turn onto Duramana Road and continue on for 7.5 km until you reach the left hand turn for the Bridle Track.
5. (Optional shortened route) Continue along the Bridle Track for 22 km until you reach the right hand turn for Box Ridge Road. Turn onto Box Ridge road and continue to the Turondale road. Turn right to return to Bathurst and finish the track. Or turn left to continue on to Hill End or Sofala on sealed roads.
6. Continue along the Bridle Track for 53km to Hill End. Be wary of narrow sections and other drivers.

Bridle Track Sites

(Ordered by distance from Bathurst)

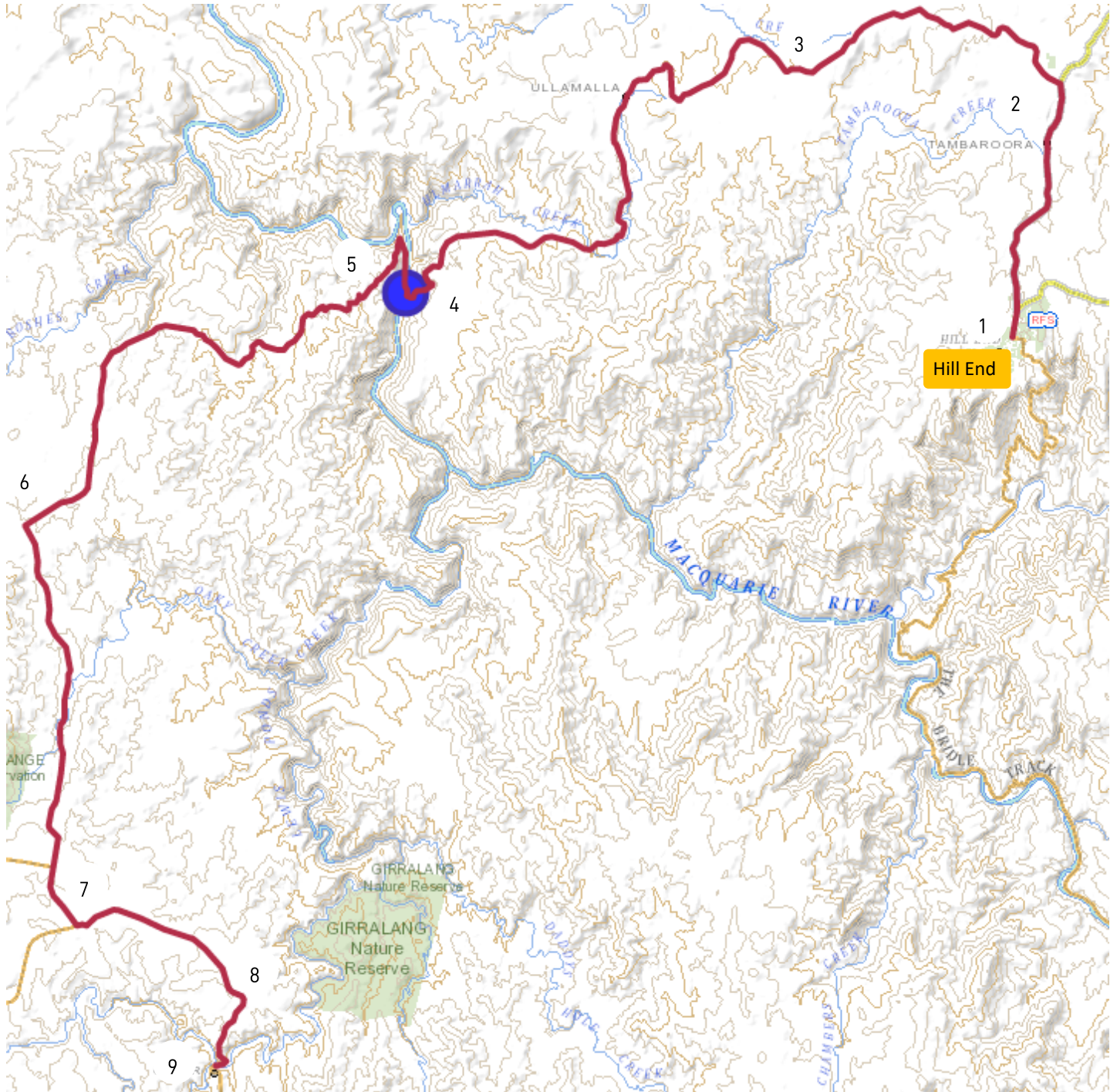
	\$											Notes
Bruinbun Reserve 41km, 57min.		●				●	●		●	●		
Amy Anderson Reserve 42.7km, 1hr 3min.		●				●	●		●	●		
Tattersalls Hole Reserve 44km, 1hr 10min.		●				●	●		●	●		
Black Gate Reserve 45km 1hr 15min.		●				●	●		●	●		
Native Dog Reserve 57km, 1hr 30min.		●					●		●	●		
Johnson's Hole Reserve 59.5km, 1hr 40min.		●				●	●		●	●		
Randwick Hole Reserve 62.4km, 1hr 45min.		●				●	●		●	●		
Grimley's Hotel Reserve 62.6km, 1hr 45min.		●					●		●	●		
Root Hog Road Reserve 63.8, 1hr 48min.		●					●		●	●		River crossing required.
Sammy's Hole Reserve 64km, 1hr 50min.		●					●		●	●		
Mary Flynn Campground 74km, 2hr.		●				●	●		●	●		
Cave Hole Reserve 74.6km, 2hr 5min.		●					●		●	●		
Turon Crossing Reserve 74.9km, 2hr 7min.		●				●	●		●	●		



Hill End to Ophir (Goldfields to Goldfields trail)

For fossickers, campers and gold history enthusiasts this goldfields to goldfields 4wd tour will take you from Hill End to Ophir with beautiful views and adventure to spare. Most of this trail is on unsealed roads and drivers should be aware of conditions before heading out.

Goldfields to Goldfields trail



— Goldfields to Goldfields Trail (mostly unsealed)



River crossing. (generally quite shallow, check level before attempting to cross)

Hill End to Ophir trail (Easy to moderate)

To access this track:

1. Trail starts 1 hour & 15 minutes from Bathurst in Hill End.
2. Head north from Hill End past the Tambaroora Fossicking Area, take the left turn at Ullamalla Road.
3. Continue 22 km on Ullamalla Road until you reach the Macquarie/Wambuul River Crossing.
4. Cross the river and continue until you get to the junction of Long Point road.
5. U turn left onto Long Point Road and continue for 14 km.
6. Turn left onto Oaky Lane.
7. Continue for 9 km and turn left onto Ophir Road.
8. Continue on the Ophir Road into Lower Lewis Ponds Road.
9. Follow Lower Lewis Ponds Road until you reach the Ophir Reserve Camping area.

Due to poor cell reception on this trail we recommend downloading the map data or plotting out the trail on your own GPS device prior to your trip.

Scan here for an online google maps version.

Or search <https://goo.gl/maps/DtUuoraaV6kNVHEc7>

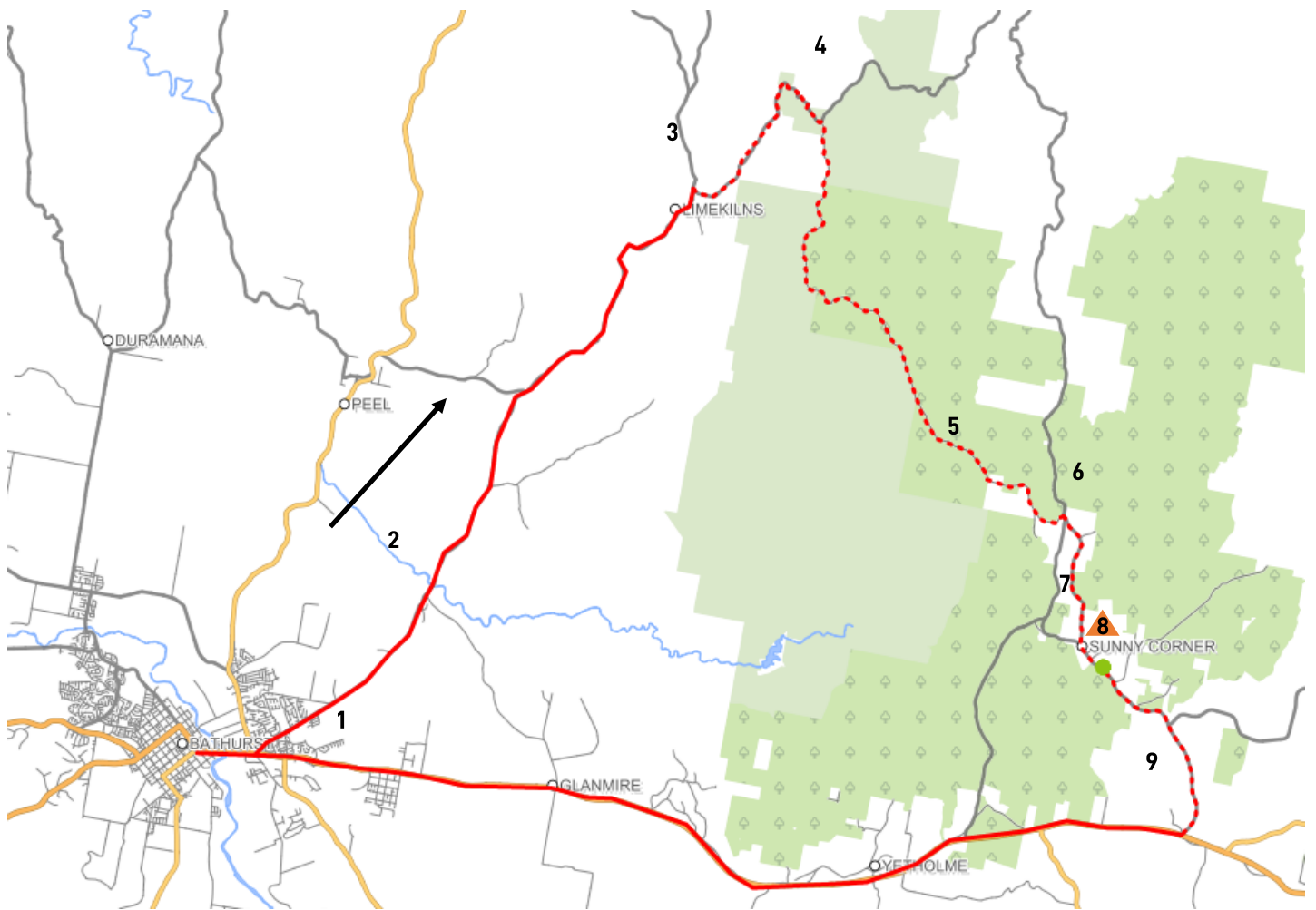


Sunny Corner Circuit

Enjoy an adventurous drive through 3 separate forests, ranging from Australian native bushland to working pine forests in historic Sunny Corner.

This track takes about 2 hour —3 hours driving through Turon State forest, along the edge of Winburndale Nature Reserve and into Sunny Corner State Forest. Stopping at the Sunny Corner Recreation Reserve towards the end of the trip and returning to Bathurst via the Great Western Highway.

Sunny Corner Circuit



- Sealed Roads
- Unsealed Roads
- ▲ Sunny Corner Recreation Reserve

Sunny Corner Circuit (Easy)

To access this track:

1. Leave Bathurst via the Great Western Highway, turning left onto Boyd Street.
2. Follow Boyd Street into Limekilns Road.
3. Drive on Limekilns Road for 20 minutes and turn right onto Mount Horrible Road.
4. Follow Mount Horrible Road for 12 minutes and turn right onto Eskdale Road.
5. Enjoy the drive through Turon State forest and continue on Eskdale Road for 30 minutes into Culpitts Lane follow through until you reach the T intersection.
6. Turn right onto Dark Corner Road and stay right to continue onto Dark Corner Road.
7. Follow Dark Corner Road for 5 minutes to the T intersection of Sunny Corner Road and Bathurst Street.
8. Turn Left onto Bathurst street and pass through the town of Sunny Corner. On the left just after the town you will see the Sunny Corner Recreation Reserve. A great spot for picnic's or camping if you are looking to stay the night.
9. Continue on Sunny Corner Road until you reach the Great Western Highway. Turn right and follow back to Bathurst.

Due to poor cell reception on this trail we recommend downloading the map data or plotting out the trail on your own GPS device prior to your trip.

Scan here for an online google maps version.

Or search <https://goo.gl/maps/8Q1L6HV9oTgkikbp6>



4WD Localities

If you are looking to go on a self led adventure, there are plenty of great four wheel drive tracks and localities in Bathurst and the surrounding regions. Before undertaking any trips on your own, it is advisable to do some research on the specific area/trail and notify someone of your trip intentions.

Abercrombie River National Park

1 hr 45 min south from Bathurst on the Abercrombie Road.

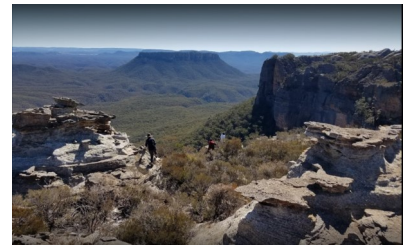
If you are looking to combine camping with a 4wd adventure, Abercrombie River National Park has lots to offer a total of 4 campsites, of which 2 are only accessible by 4wd. Camping is free, however bookings through National Parks NSW are required and a \$6 booking fee applies. Facilities vary, for more information visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 072 757.



Gardens of Stone National Park

1 hour 35 minutes from Bathurst.

Rough and rugged terrain offering plenty of opportunities for adventure with scenic views, and exquisite rock formation for which the national park is named. Much of the Gardens of Stone National Park requires a 4wd to access. There are also 2 established tracks: the Ben Bullen Trail and the Bicentennial Trail: Fire Creek Trail.



Kanangra-Boyd National Park

1 hour 5 minutes from Bathurst, south of the Jenolan Caves.

Home to the Kanangra Walls lookout and Mount Cloudmaker. Kanangra-Boyd National Park also has several fire trails accessible to the public that can be used for 4wd exploration. Camping is available at the Boyd River Campground. Camping is free, however bookings through National Parks NSW are required and a \$6 booking fee applies. Facilities vary, for more information visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 072 757.



Sunny Corner State Forest

25 minutes from Bathurst left off the Great Western Highway.

One of the closest State forest to Bathurst. Sunny corner has a long history of settlement with gold and silver mining operations occurring in the 1800s and early 20th century. There are plenty of rough tracks and trails to explore. Being a state forest the area is part pine plantation and part native woodland with opportunities for licenced fossicking throughout the forest and free camping at the Sunny Corner Recreation Reserve.



Turon National Park

1 hour 50 minutes from Bathurst accessible via Bar Ridge Road, north through Sunny Corner.

East of the historic gold mining town of Sofala, the Turon National Park holds a wealth of adventure. With two Campgrounds run by National Parks NSW, access to the park is by 4wd only. Be aware river crossings, steep slopes and rough trails may be present in the park. Access to the campgrounds may require river crossings and drivers are advised to be wary of conditions. Camping is free, however bookings through National Parks NSW are required and a \$6 booking fee applies. Facilities vary, for more information visit www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 072 757.



Take a Tour

There is no better way to explore the great outdoors in the Bathurst region than with an experienced local guide. If you don't have your own 4WD, or would like a guide to the region in a tag along tour there are some fantastic tours on offer in Bathurst.

Ride along or Tag along

Ride along tours: A ride along tour is undertaken in the drivers car. You get to join along as a passenger enjoying all the sights and experiences without having to do any of the work yourself.

Tag along tours: A tag along tour sees you following a 4WD tour guide with your own car receiving instruction or commentary via walkie talkies. This can be a 1 on 1 experience or in a small 4wd convoy. This is a great option if you are looking to meet 4WD enthusiast or would like to experience the excitement of driving for yourself while still receiving an authentic guided experience.



Simmo's Offroad Tours



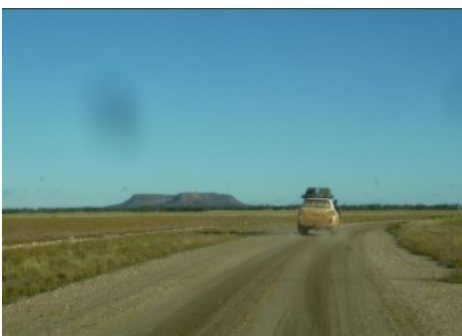
Get out and away from city life and traffic. Enjoy a day of exploration in the remote and beautiful destinations that make up the great outdoors in the Bathurst Region.

Simmo's Offroad Tours specialise in outdoor activities and creating memorable experiences through their fun and exiting four wheel drive tours. Suitable for individuals, couples, families and small groups, Simmo's Offroad Tours can cater to specific interests or destinations.

Tour activities and options

Simmo's Offroad Tours offers a wide variety of destinations and activities to choose from.

- Mount Canobolas
- Ophir Goldfields
- Hill End & Sofala
- Abercrombie Caves
- Jenolan Caves
- Blue Mountains
- Megalong Valley
- Kanangra Boyd National Park
- Glow Worm Tunnels
- Capertee Valley
- Wollemi National Park
- Overnight Camping Adventures
- Gold Panning & Gem Fossicking
- Fishing
- Bushwalking
- Seasonal Mushroom Foraging
- Wildlife Photography
- Winery Tours
- Farm Visits
- Aboriginal Site Visits



Simmo's Offroad Tag-A-Long Tours

Join Simmo for an authentic off road experience on one of his Tag-A-Long tours where you can join a group of like minded 4WD enthusiast's for a weekend of guided adventure. Simmo's Offrad Tours Tag-A-Long tours are run on a regular basis. Running from a single day to 10 day outback adventures, with tours available for any level of four wheel drive experience a Tag-A-Long tour is a great way to explore Bathurst and enjoy your own four wheel drive.

Contact Simmo's Offroad Tours on **0415641343** or visit **simmosoffroadtours.com** for more information.

Business and Community

4 Wheel Drive Stores in Bathurst

The 4wd Zone + Opposite Lock

263 Stewart Street, Bathurst NSW 2795 - 02 6331 1916

Offroad 4x4 Bathurst

5 Bradwardine Road, Robin Hill NSW 2795 - 02 6331 1311

Looking to meet other four wheel drive enthusiasts?

Central West Four Wheel Drive Club Inc.

The Central West Four Wheel Drive Club Inc. Is a local social group with a passion for four wheel driving, sharing experience and forming new social bonds. With regular meetings and club day outings you can expect to meet like minded 4wd enthusiasts, and explore the best of the Bathurst Region.



Scan to visit:

centralwest4x4club.com.au

Resources for Researching Your Next Trip

Topographic Maps:

Topographic maps are available for free online download and printing only for non commercial personal use. To access topographic maps for the Bathurst area and NSW visit:

1. In the Spatial Services Map Below select the **Layers Option** (the button that looks like 3 sheets of paper) and select the first option "**GeoPDF Download**".
2. This will display a grid of all the PDF Topographic maps available, select the area you are interested in and then click on the map cover image. You will then be able to view and download that area's topographic map for free. This file can be used on any computer or transferred to portable tablets.
3. Under the creative commons licence these maps are allowed to be printed for personal use. Spatial Services NSW recommends printing them at 1135mm x 580mm. If you are not able to print a page large enough, enquire with your local print shop to see if they can print to that size, or search online for the map TitleId for licensed retailers.



[bathurstregion.com.au/
topographic-maps/](http://bathurstregion.com.au/topographic-maps/)



Bathurst Visitor Information Centre

1 Kendall Avenue

02 6332 1444 / 1800 68 1000

www.bathurstregion.com.au

visitors@bathurst.nsw.gov.au

Open 7 Days

9.30am-4.30pm



Visit Bathurst NSW



@visitbathurst



@visit_bathurst

The information in this booklet was obtained from the websites of National parks NSW, State Forestry Corporation, and consultation with local businesses and the Central West 4x4 Club. All maps generated through local council resources or through Minview Geosciences NSW mapping tool and google maps. All information is correct at the time of print 24/04/21, and may be subject to change without notice.

