

## BROKEN HILL



Broken Hill is a colossus of mining history and a true oasis of culture in tough, outback country. In January 2015, the entire city was National Heritage Listed – the first and only entire city or town to be included on the list.

Visit the Albert Kersten Mining and Minerals Museum in the beautifully restored former Bond Store to see what it's all about. Tour the Sulphide St Railway and Historical Museum for exhibits from the remarkable Silverton Tramway – one of the richest railway enterprises of its time. Try your hand at a game of two-up and explore the broad streets lined with stunning period architecture (no small number of them pubs!).

When the mines began to close in the 1950s, the artists moved in. Today you can tour galleries of sculpture and art inspired by the solace, or go further afield to explore the locations embraced by movie directors setting the scene for characters like Mad Max, *Mission Impossible's* Ethan Hunt and the 'girls' of *Priscilla*.

Broken Hill is the largest of the Heritage Rail Trail towns, home to some 18,000 people. It's where you'll discover popular community markets, a flourishing café (and coffee) culture as well as the kind of comfortable accommodation you'd expect in a city that has been welcoming visitors for generations.

### Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre

Bromide Street, Broken Hill, NSW 2880  
(08) 8080 3560  
Open 7 days, 8.30am to 4pm (may vary with season)  
www.brokenhillaustralia.com.au

## SILVERTON



Silverton sprang up around the discovery of silver deposits in 1875, eight years before the Broken Hill deposits were found.

In 1885 the editor of the local newspaper got together with early BHP directors and began agitating to build a rail line to the South Australian border. They wanted a way of carting ore to Port Pirie.

Politicians in Sydney were reluctant to build a NSW line to the border and denied South Australian engineers permission to cross into NSW. So the ideas men formed 'The Silverton Tramway Company' and took a private line 50km from Silverton to the SA border.

Today Silverton is an essential outback experience, a ghost town that is paradoxically filled with life and colour.

Do the walking tour of the old streets with photo-signs showing how much – and in some instances how little – has changed in 150 years. Visit what remains of the train station and see one of the very few sections of the existing narrow gauge steel rails. Drive out to the Historic Day Dream Mine to descend the shafts worked for their precious silver.

The town and surrounds have been used as locations for *Mad Max*, *Razorback* and *Breaker Morant*, and artists with vibrant visions of their own have also established galleries here. Be sure to enjoy a beer in the Silverton Hotel – one of Australia's truly great outback pubs.

### Beyond 39 Dips Tourist Information Centre

19 Stirling Street, Silverton, NSW 2880  
(08) 8088 7566  
Open 7 days, 8am to 4.30pm  
www.silverton.org.au

## BARRIER HIGHWAY



Today's Barrier Highway makes short work of what the early miners and railway engineers had to contend with – a plain of dry, barren, flood-prone country flanked with low ranges. It was quite literally a barrier they had to overcome.

But don't be in a hurry to cross it.

The highway follows the remains of the narrow gauge rail line that opened in 1888 (look for the low embankment close to the bitumen as well as numerous low bridges to thwart flash floods). Freightng ore to Port Pirie by steam train required huge amounts of logistical, material and human support – and inevitably, small agricultural outposts like Yunta, Oodla Wirra, Manna Hill, Olary and Cockburn grew into substantial railway townships.

Some are a shadow of their former selves but all contribute to the story and all are worth exploring. Look for the beautiful steel water tanks (some with period advertising), and the occasional railway station sporting gorgeous late Victorian design. A few pubs continue to serve – great places to unearth a story or two and enjoy some outback hospitality.

You might see emus, hawks and kangaroos on the drive across these haunting plains, but keep an eye out also for the Indian Pacific making its transcontinental odyssey between Perth and Sydney. It's another contemporary achievement made possible by the engineers of the little train line.

## PETERBOROUGH



Peterborough was a hero of the 20th century, a hissing, steaming hub of mighty locomotives sitting with – a plain of dry, barren, flood-prone country flanked with low ranges. It was quite literally a barrier they had to overcome.

Today, the spring skies are china blue, the kids no longer have to wipe the clotheslines clean of soot and the only whistles are from birds among the wildflowers. But Peterborough is still a large town and something of a crossroads for travellers towing caravans from all points of the compass.

Matching a passion for the past with a zest for today, the people of Peterborough welcome you with one of the nation's finest heritage experiences, Steamtown rail museum. This is where you'll discover the remarkable 'Roundhouse' and its powerful collection of diesels and locos – amazing by day and strangely moving at night when it's the setting for an unmissable Sound and Light Show.

Be sure to enjoy Peterborough's other historic collections as well as artists' galleries, stunning private gardens, superb locally-sourced food, love of country and fondness for a good yarn. There's also plenty of accommodation including one of Australia's most lovely caravan parks. All reasons to stay a little longer in Peterborough.

### Visitor Information Carriage

Main Street, Peterborough, SA 5422  
(08) 8651 2708  
Open 7 days, 9am to 5pm (may vary with season)  
www.visitpeterboroughhsa.com.au

## SOUTHERN FLINDERS



As the land begins its long, steady descent from Peterborough towards the Gulf St Vincent, a sudden change occurs: the climate cools, the rains become more reliable and agriculture intensifies.

The five railway townships on the route between Peterborough and Port Pirie look noticeably more prosperous, with grain production having sustained them long after the ore trucks stopped rolling.

Today, towns like Gladstone, Jamestown and Caltowie are prim and lush with their creeks and green parklands – places that bring to mind days of picnics, feeding ducks and fishing for yabbies.

These townships are still home to their railway legacies, including period stations (don't miss the Jamestown museum in the lovely old railway station), railyards and pubs that watered many a thirsty crew. But you'll also discover agricultural heritage (R.M. Williams was born near Jamestown) and the superb example of a Victorian gaol at Gladstone, which can be toured.

There's fine country hospitality (and cooking!) available as well as places to overnight. F.C. Grubb has been selling its boutique cordials for over 140 years – still available from a rather quirky tin shed in Gladstone!

### Southern Flinders Discovery Centre

14 Gladstone Street, Gladstone, SA 5473  
(08) 8662 2226  
Open 7 days, 10am to 2pm (may vary with season)  
www.southernflindersranges.com.au

## PORT PIRIE



Port Pirie can rightly lay claim to being part of the remarkable industrial legacy born of BHP and the narrow gauge railway line: it was here that the ore was turned into ingots before being shipped to all corners of the British Empire.

Pirie is a town of parks and gardens on lovely gulf waters and although often overlooked, it easily rewards a visitor with an eye for something fresh and unusual.

Its maritime story is well told in the excellent Tourism and Arts Centre and beautiful museum but the legacy is clearly visible thanks to an extraordinary collection of late-Victorian port architecture lining the Main Road.

A highlight of your visit is the two-hour 'Outside the Gates' bus tour, telling the story of the town and the 125-year-old smelter – which is now the largest of its kind in the world. Former employees conduct the tour three times a week, weaving a fascinating story while visiting local icons including Fisherman's Wharf, Church Circle, the Bridge to Nowhere and Memorial Park.

The townsfolk are friendly and the atmosphere relaxed. Fishing is huge in these parts; if you don't want to wet a line, simply head to Caputo's to sample the catch of the day and some of the best smoked fish you'll ever taste.

### Port Pirie Regional Tourism and Arts Centre

3 Mary Ellie Street, Port Pirie, SA 5540  
(08) 8633 8700  
Open 7 days, 9am to 5pm  
(Saturday 9am to 4pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm)  
www.pirie.sa.gov.au

## Put away the Sudoku and exercise your grey matter with the Heritage Rail Trail Scavenger hunt!

In the early 20th century, 14 townships flourished as they supported the mighty ore trains on their journey from the mines of Broken Hill to the docks of Port Pirie.

Today, each town is dedicated to supporting a different journey – yours! They have stories to tell, heritage to share and more than a little country hospitality to help you break up your travels.

Here are 14 questions, one for each township. The answers are waiting to be uncovered in the historic main streets. They're fun and they're challenging. They're also your perfect excuse to say g'day to the locals!

### BROKEN HILL

How many millions of tonnes of ore were carried by the Silverton Tramway Co between 1888 and 1970 according to the information plaque outside the Sulphide St Rail Museum in Broken Hill?

### SILVERTON

What is the date on the cornerstone of the Municipal Chambers building in Silverton?

### COCKBURN

What former brand of soap is advertised on the overhead cast iron water tank at Cockburn?

### OLARY

What is the colour of the old railway crane at Olary?

### MANNA HILL

What is written on the white box situated under the verandah of the old Manna Hill Railway Station?

### YUNTA

When was Yunta "proclaimed" according to the plaque in the Yunta Centenary Park?

### OODLA WIRRA

What is the name of the only pub at Oodla Wirra?

### PETERBOROUGH

What "class" of locomotive, numbered 907, is on display outside the Steamtown rail museum in Peterborough?

### YONGALA

Who served as the Yongala postmaster between 1916 and 1922? His surname is the first name on the Yongala Heritage Wall.

### JAMESTOWN

Who unveiled the commemorative bust of R.M. Williams situated in Jamestown?

### CALTOWIE

What is the licence number written above the front door of the Caltowie Hotel?

### GLADSTONE

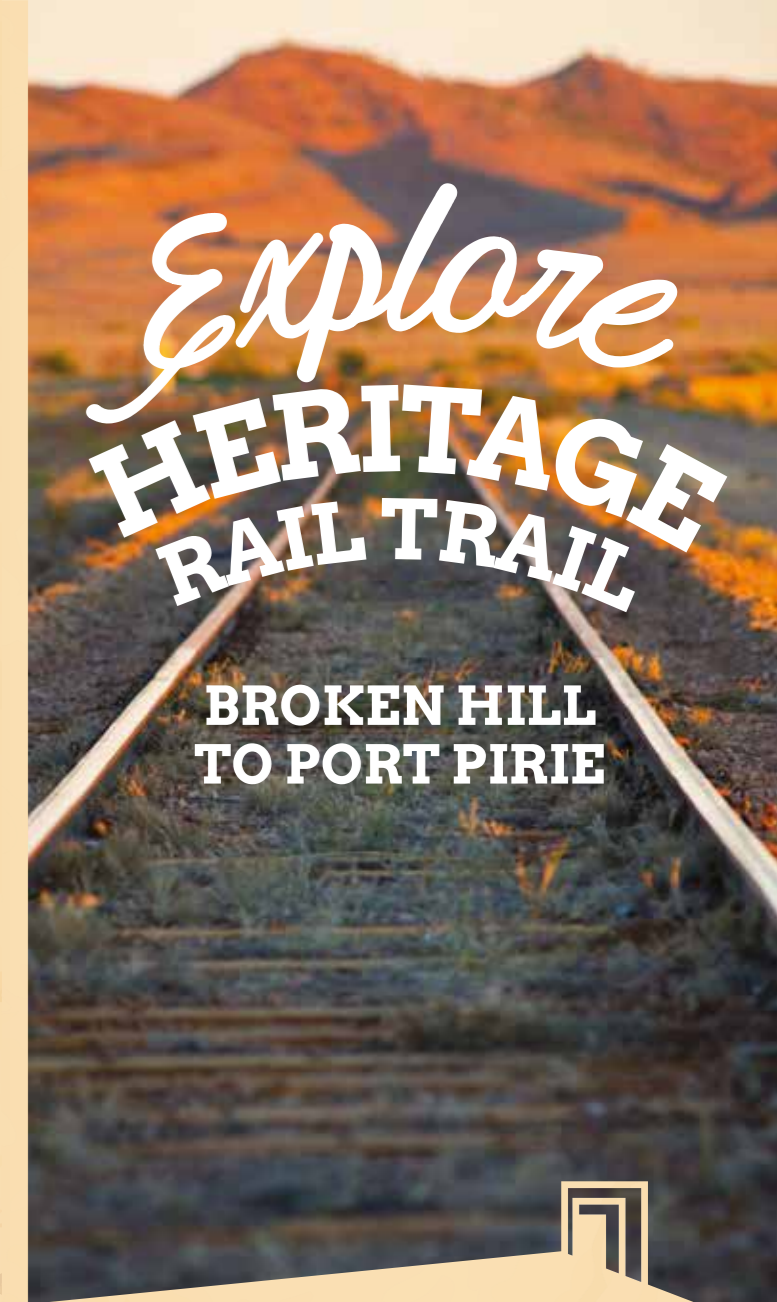
According to the information displayed outside the Trend Drinks factory in Gladstone, who changed the name from F.C. Grubb to Trend Drinks in 1965?

### CRYSTAL BROOK

Which street in Crystal Brook celebrates the early explorers of Sturt, Horricks and Giles with a dedicated Explorers Trail?

### PORT PIRIE

Who reopened the Port Pirie railway station as a museum on October 28, 1972?



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# THE JOURNEY

In September 1883, seven ordinary working men pooled their cash to peg seven mineral leases on a remote, ragged-looking hill. They set to work on the 'broken hill' with pick and shovel, unaware that within two years their endeavours would give rise to BHP and open up the largest deposit of lead, zinc and silver ever found.

The world was hungry for these commodities but there was a problem: how to get them out of the middle of the driest continent on the planet...?

The new Heritage Rail Trail offers an outback journey like no other. You'll follow the remains of the Broken Hill to Port Pirie railway line – a relic of the steam age, a 400km piece of history that descends from the red dusts of New South Wales to the shimmering gulf waters of South Australia.

The little line was only 3'6" wide but it overcame droughts, floods, locust plagues, derailments and political ill-will to become one of the busiest stretches of railway in the world. It helped to transform Australia from an agricultural outpost to an industrial economy.

This barely-known chapter of our nation's history comes to life as you journey through the 14 Heritage Rail Trail townships.

Some are thriving, others are mere shadows of their past glory. All look forward to welcoming you and sharing their tales...

## MAP OF THE BROKEN HILL TO PORT PIRIE RAIL LINE

395 KM | 245 MILES



### Bring the Heritage Rail Trail to life using your mobile device!

Enjoy a series of interviews from the original rail workers as you travel this world-class journey across South Australia.  
[www.daytrippa.com.au](http://www.daytrippa.com.au)



*"I had a pinch bar and would give a 50 tonne truck of wheat a tap and away the horses would pull it."*  
Maurice Buttfield – train guard  
Listen to Maurice discussing the use of horses to shunt rolling stock at Crystal Brook and the curious moneymaking sideline that resulted.



*"Yeah, I liked the Garratt... God, you could thump them!"*  
Ron Seaton – engine driver

Listen to Ron describe his experiences on the Garratt locomotive outside of Gladstone, working to shake up the townships along the line.



Peterborough's Steamtown is one of Australia's most evocative rail museums and a must for the traveller of the Heritage Rail Trail. In the company of passionate guides you'll tour the remarkable Roundhouse (where up to 35 steam locomotives were once stabled), enter magnificent carriages and of course get up close to the stars of the show, the mighty steam engines themselves. At dusk, be sure to settle in for the Sound and Light Show – a Tourism Hall of Fame winner that captures the power and beauty of a bygone era.

Continuous tours run daily 9am-5pm (last tour departs at 3.30pm). Sound and Light Show every evening (except Christmas Day). Bookings essential. Low season conditions apply.  
[www.visitpeterboroughsa.com.au](http://www.visitpeterboroughsa.com.au) | (08) 8651 3355



*"The tradesmen we were working with, we grew up with, and they were called 'Mister'."*  
Don Wilcox – loco foreman

Listen to Don describing his apprenticeship in the Peterborough maintenance yards, how far seven and sixpence could take him, and how he was taught to swear by the senior tradies.



*"There would always be a tin of baked beans and a tin of creamed rice in the tucker box."*  
Audrey Rann – railwayman's wife

Listen to Audrey talk about the life of a railway driver's wife, recalling how her husband used to cook his meals on a shovel over hot coals while driving the Broken Hill to Port Pirie line.



Maanna Hill

Yunta

Olary



*"We did have a train examiner who, when the mood took him, could be a bit awkward."*  
David Whittle – road car driver

Listen to David as he describes pranks played around the shunting yard to teach a difficult superintendant a lesson.



Cockburn

Broken Hill



*"Well, I couldn't say to the train controller, I'm sorry but my Bluebird is gone."*  
Brian Parry – train guard

More hijinks on the line, as Maurice describes being left behind on the Bluebird line and having to scramble in a borrowed Valiant to get to the next stop to rejoin the train.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES



*"He was always there to help you out, a good bloke in all ways."*  
Doug Perrot – engine fireman

Listen to driver Doug describe his time with master of the yards, inspector and renowned ventriloquist, Lionel Noble. Noble served the rail line from the age of 16 until his retirement, and documented the development of the line through his photographic collection, [www.lionelnoble.com](http://www.lionelnoble.com).



*"Through the dust I could see the end of the fuel tanker sticking out... that is all I could see."*  
Brian Parry – engine driver

Listen to Brian discuss his role as a fireman working to clear a de-railed train and cattle truck outside of Thackaringa, close to the NSW border.



#### Trail highlights

- Viewing the copy of the BHP incorporation document on display inside the Silverton pub over a cold beer
- Going underground at the Day Dream Mine in Silverton
- Following a Daytrippa art trail in Broken Hill
- The big horizons of the Barrier Highway
- The unforgettable evening Sound and Light Show at Peterborough's Steamtown rail museum
- Learning of the R.M. Williams story at his birthplace near Jamestown
- Touring the old Gladstone Gaol
- The 'Explorers Trail' in Crystal Brook
- The 'Outside the Gates' bus tour in Port Pirie

#### Food and refreshment highlights

- An icy-cold beer at the Silverton Hotel
- An outback steak at the Mulga Hill tavern, Broken Hill
- The 'Mega Toastie' at the Cockburn Hotel
- Local Southern Flinders lamb from Mercer's butchers, Peterborough
- A pie at the Jamestown bakery
- A thirst quenching local F.G. Grubbs soft drink at Trend Drinks in Gladstone
- Fresh Spencer Gulf prawns in Port Pirie

## Open the door to a whole new Heritage Rail Trail experience using your mobile device.

We've created an exciting online presence for the Heritage Rail Trail which can be accessed from all smartphones and tablets free of charge.

Browse through rich photo galleries and listen to personal accounts from an array of colourful characters who contributed to the shaping of this great rail journey.

Simply search for "daytrippa rail trail" on Google or go straight to the website [www.daytrippa.com.au](http://www.daytrippa.com.au) to bring the Heritage Rail Trail to life.



Bring the Heritage Rail Trail to life with fascinating interviews from rail workers of the era – easily accessed from your mobile device.

Daytrippa is a self-drive travel website providing daytrip itineraries to help you explore the very best of South Australia. The site supports you as you travel from region to region, providing live GPS route maps to help you find your way to the best of a region's attractions and local businesses, including dining and accommodation providers.

### Proudly supported by



1875

The Port Pirie to Crystal Brook line begins development. It's the first section of a narrow gauge railway line intended to serve grain-growers and pastoralists in South Australia's mid-north.

December 1880

The line – already at Gladstone (1876) and Jamestown (1878) – reaches Petersburg (today called Peterborough).

5 September 1883

Boundary rider Charles Rasp discovers silver ore on Mount Gipps Station and pegs seven mineral leases. Joined by six other station workers, 'The Syndicate of Seven' is formed.

October 1884

Mining begins at Mount Gipps with the drilling of the Rasp shaft. The township of Broken Hill starts to grow.

November 1884

A Bill is passed by the South Australian Government outlining plans to extend the South Australian line from Peterborough to Cockburn on the NSW border.

May 1885

The NSW Minister for Mines holds out "no hope" that the government will extend the line from Cockburn to service the miners. South Australia is also forbidden from continuing their line into NSW territory.

30 May 1885

BHP mining interests at Silverton form the Silverton Tramway Company to build a 'private tramway' to Cockburn to connect Silverton and Broken Hill to the port at Port Pirie.

17 July 1885

Documents are signed at De Baun's pub in Silverton to establish and float Broken Hill Pty Ltd (BHP).

1887

The narrow gauge line reaches Cockburn from Peterborough in January. Shortly afterwards the first section of tramway connects to Cockburn to connect Silverton and Broken Hill with Silverton and Broken Hill.

12 January 1888

The Silverton Tramway line is officially opened allowing Broken Hill ore to be shipped by train across the border and all the way to Port Pirie – the train-line is complete.

1892

BHP acquires the British Broken Hill smelting works in Port Pirie; five years later it closes down its Broken Hill smelting works and erects new smelters in Port Pirie.

1911-1934

The line becomes the busiest single-track railway in the world, contributing over 10 million pounds in revenue to The South Australian Railways between 1911 and 1934.

1923

A record breaking 102 trains pass in and out of the Peterborough station during a single 24 hour period.

January 1970

From the 1950s, declining ore volumes and improvements in road transport sees traffic dwindle on the line. The last narrow gauge train leaves Broken Hill's Sulphide Street Station on January 9, farewellled by Tramway employees.

1970-present day

The course of the old narrow gauge line continues as a key artery in the modern standard gauge Australian Rail network. Only metres from the remains of the old line, some 50 trains travel the track each week – including the world-famous Indian Pacific passenger train connecting Sydney, Adelaide and Perth.

Photo courtesy of [www.lionelnoble.com](http://www.lionelnoble.com)