



**Immerse yourself in country living at York, the perfect base to discover regional Western Australia.** A haven of rural tranquillity located right on Perth's doorstep, York is famed for its historic buildings, museums, galleries and collectables shops.

Leisurely journeys exploring quiet country roads, national park landscapes and rolling farmland enable you to relax and rediscover the real Australia still found in the Avon Valley and Wheatbelt.

**Escape from the pressures of the everyday grind** and rediscover the simple pleasures of hearty home cooking and local produce found in the region. York's yummy bakery treats, pub meals and sweet gastronomic delights cater for the appetite you've worked up in all that fresh country air!



**Golden sunsets turn into starlit nights** where the stunning Milky Way stretches from horizon to horizon. Take a picnic to the top of Mt. Brown (Wongborel) and experience crystal clear stargazing skies. York's Cemetery provides a unique Gothic setting for keen astrophotographers.

**Feeling daring?** From freefalling at Skydive York to paragliding, mountain bike riding and hot air ballooning, adrenaline lovers are spoilt for choice in and around York!

Whitegum Farm & Air Park also offer trial helicopter flights, four wheel driving tracks, caravan park, and weekend bar and grill, all nestled in a beautiful bush setting.



These four easy self-drives through the Avon Valley uncover the regions' rich heritage, stunning scenery, nature reserves, wildflower hotspots and all the rural character and charm of country towns. Each tranquil drive reveals undiscovered gems and beckons you to the next

**- one trip is never enough!**

# Northam, Toodyay & Beverley



**Northam** boasts a new youth precinct and an aquatic centre with waterslides. Bilya Koort Budja Aboriginal Cultural Centre [www.bilyakoortbudja.com](http://www.bilyakoortbudja.com) makes a perfect day out beside the Avon. Art comes out of the gallery onto the silo in the FORM public silo trail - see [www.publicsilotrail.com](http://www.publicsilotrail.com)

Northam Visitor Centre  
[www.northam.wa.gov.au/recreation-attractions/facilities/tourism.aspx](http://www.northam.wa.gov.au/recreation-attractions/facilities/tourism.aspx)

Phone: 9622 2100  
7 Days (excluding major public holidays)  
9am to 4pm



In Toodyay, try archery, see Roos and Emus, take the family on a miniature railway ride or transport yourselves back in time at Newcastle Gaol Museum or Connors Mill with its real working steam engine. Duidgee Park beside the Avon has great play equipment, facilities and a skatepark area.

Toodyay Visitors Centre  
[www.toodyay.com](http://www.toodyay.com)

Phone: 9574 9380  
Mon - Fri 9am to 4pm  
Sat & Sun 9am to 3.30pm



Experience gliding as free as a bird in Beverley - see [www.beverley-soaring.org.au](http://www.beverley-soaring.org.au) or check out the interactive exhibition and the replica Silver Centenary biplane at the Visitor Centre if you prefer to keep your feet on the ground. Wander amongst the Art Deco buildings to find the mural paintings in Vincent Street amongst quirky small shops.

Beverley Visitor Centre  
[www.beverleywa.com/visitor-centre.html](http://www.beverleywa.com/visitor-centre.html)

Phone: 9646 1555  
Mon - Fri 8.30am to 4pm  
Sat & Sun 10am to 3pm

**Essential Driving Tip - Go Slow!**

Please take care and drive **SLOWLY** on country roads, beware of livestock, kangaroos & large farm machinery.

On narrow bitumen roads, **SLOW RIGHT DOWN BEFORE** moving onto the gravel hard shoulder.

**GRAVEL ROADS** are included on all routes except South route. Surface conditions can be changeable, so **SLOW RIGHT DOWN, ESPECIALLY WHEN CORNERING/BRAKING** and enjoy the ride!

**SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES**  
#YORKWA #SHIREOFYORK

Ngala Kaaditj Ballardong Noongar Moort Keyen Kaadak Nidja Boodje  
We acknowledge the Ballardong Noongar People as the Traditional Custodians of the land in this area.

# For Family Fun



**Less than an hour and a half from Perth CBD, York is a brilliant base to ease you gently into country time.** For families who love the camping life, a free 24hr Recreational Vehicle rest stop is located a stone's throw from Avon Park - a great adventure filled, budget friendly option right in the heart of the town.

**Avon Park** offers good picnic and BBQ facilities along with a newly built nature playground and skate n' scooter park. Exploring walk and cycle trails along both sides of the **Avon River**, venturing across fords in summer for the slightly more adventurous and a wander across the famous **suspension swinging bridge** are all a must whilst in the area.

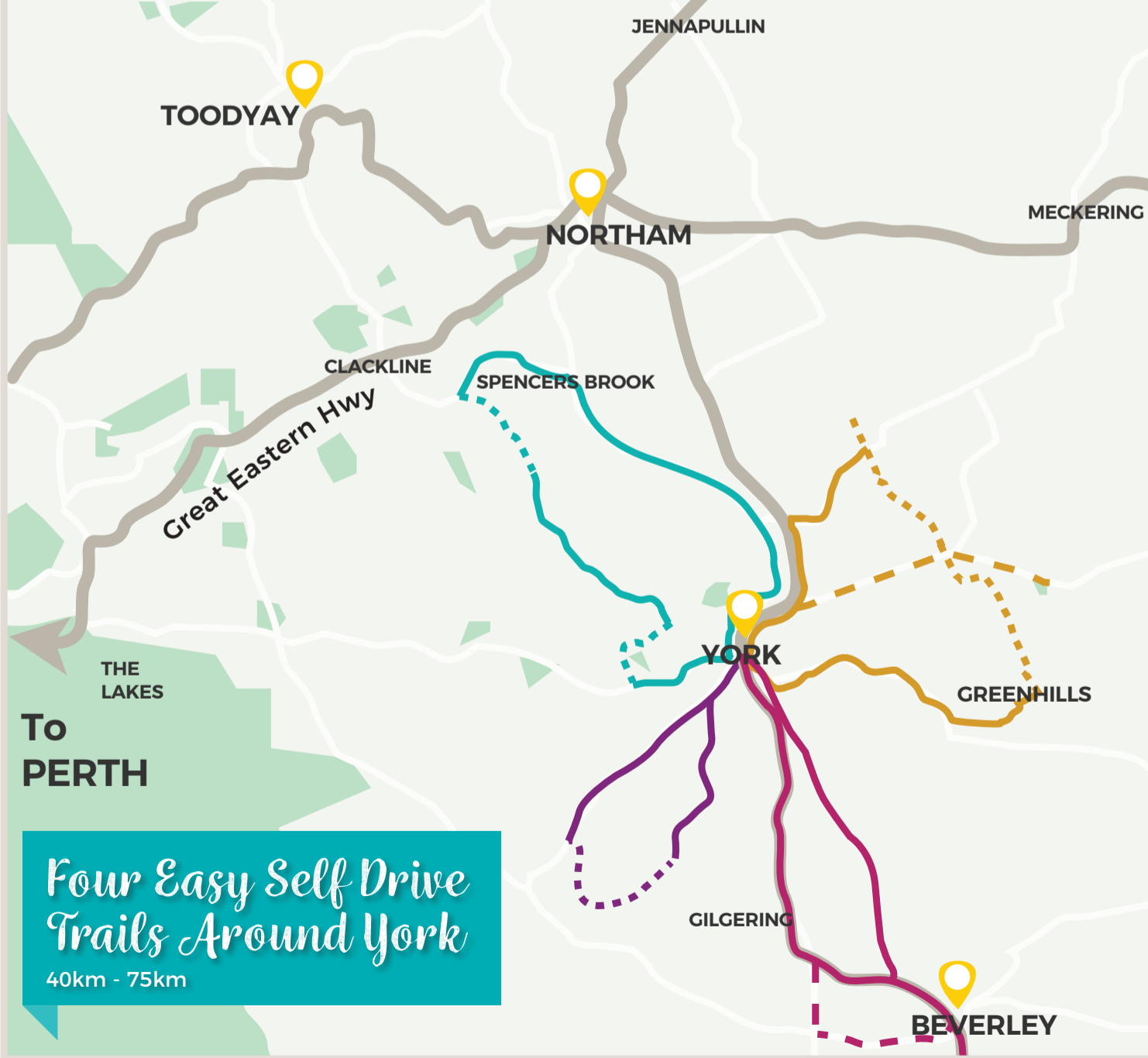


**Kids love the Residency Museum** with its hands-on activities, period dress-ups and interactive displays, or let them explore the gaol cells in **York Courthouse Complex**. There are plenty of other activities around the town for all ages including a visit to the **Motor Museum**, **Penny Farthing Sweets** shop and the giant straw sculptures on the **Wara Art Trail**.

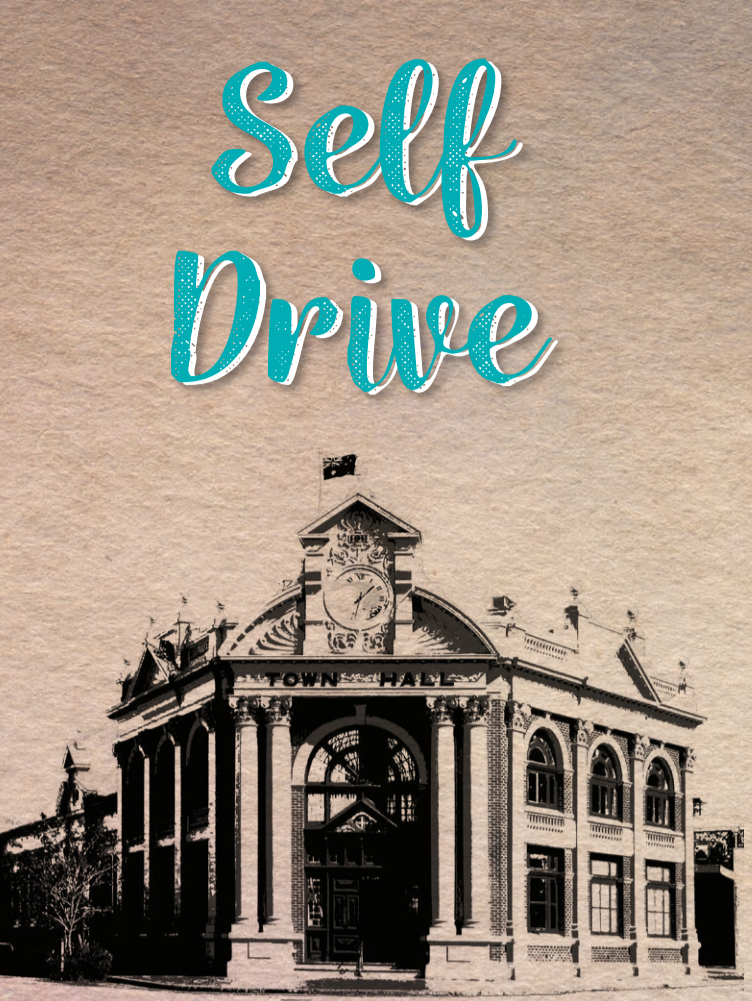
Check out no.6 sculpture, Percy the Western Ground Parrot at **York Olive Oil and Ice Creamery** [www.yorkoliveoil.com.au](http://www.yorkoliveoil.com.au) where the speciality icecream has been described as "a magical experience..... just fun to eat".

The Avon Valley and its unspoilt countryside is the perfect antidote to too much 'screen time,' so on with the outdoor clothes and set off on your family's next adventure!

More information about everything York at York Visitor Centre  
[www.visit.york.wa.gov.au](http://www.visit.york.wa.gov.au)  
Phone: 9641 1301  
7 days 9.30am to 4.00pm



**Four Easy Self Drive Trails Around York**  
40km - 75km



# Self Drive

# York Trails

[VISIT.YORK.WA.GOV.AU](http://VISIT.YORK.WA.GOV.AU)



**BLANDSTOWN** is the oldest part of York, named after Revett Henry Bland, Resident Magistrate in 1834. **SPOT** historic former pubs the Albion Inn and King's Head.

- TOWN HALL
- 14 CEMETERY
- 15 WONGBOREL (MT BROWN)
- 16 C19TH TOWN WELL
- 25 RESIDENCY MUSEUM
- 28 KINGS HEAD HOTEL
- 29 ALBION INN

**York Visitor Centre**  
81 Avon Terrace, York, Western Australia  
p: (08) 9641 1301 e: [info@york.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@york.wa.gov.au)  
[www.visit.york.wa.gov.au](http://www.visit.york.wa.gov.au)

PHOTO CREDITS: Page 1, Column 1: 1&2 Take the roads less travelled/Escape from the pressures: Swift Hound Films, 3&4 Golden sunsets: Perth Shutterbug, 5 Feeling daring: Skydive Australia, Column 2: Northam: Northam Visitor Centre, Toodyay: Toodyay Visitor Centre, Beverley: Greg Davis. For family fun: Family & ducks: Swift Hound Films, Girl with hat: York Residency Museum, Bridge: Karina Leonhardt, York Places: Heritageintelligencewa.com.au, Page 2, numbered places: 1. Audrey Sole, 2. Ilsa Bennion, 4. Gaye Lummis, 5. Northam Visitor Centre, 7. Skydive Australia, Alternate routes flower pic: Eric Ayling, 14. Debbie Matthews, 21. Audrey Sole, 22. White Gum Farm, 23. Ronja Dirksen, 24. Bernie Wagner, 34. Hollie Smith, 35. Beverley Visitor Centre.



# North Route

'Sky o' the North that's vast and still, with a single star to cheer me.....'  
Robert Service

Total distance 70km

Set off along the Gt Southern Hwy towards Perth.



In wildflower season don't miss **1 OSWALD SARGENT RESERVE**, near the Golf Course on Fairways road.



Look out for the rare sight of hundreds of **3 GRASS TREES** (Bor or Balga in Noongar language) on an open hillside to your right.

Turn right at Spencers Brook Rd for Spencers Brook Tavern. Cross the river at Burges Siding to take another adventure eastwards, or return to York along Spencers Brook Road.



**5 BILYA KOORT BOODJA ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE** www.bilyakoortboodja.com makes a perfect day out beside the Avon in Northam.

**7 SKYDIVE YORK** For the ultimate adrenalin rush. www.skydive.com.au/york/

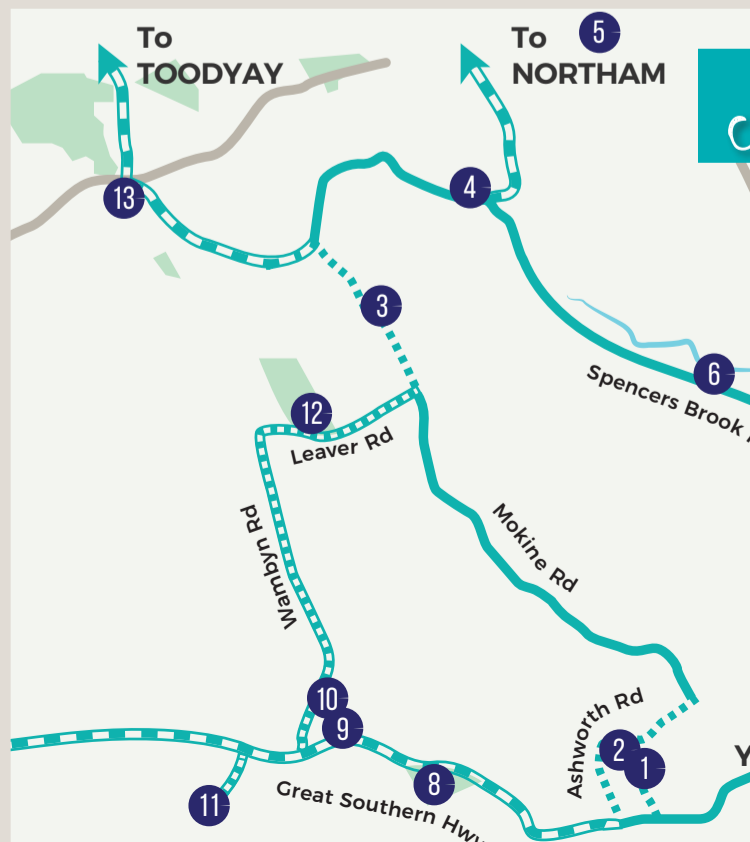
## Alternate Routes

- 8 WAMBYN RESERVE**  
**9 ST. RONAN'S WELL**  
**10 ST. RONANS RESERVE**  
**11 WANDOO NATIONAL PARK**  
**12 MOKINE RESERVE**

See the link to York Wildflower brochure <http://visit.york.wa.gov.au/play/york-wildflowers-and-canola.aspx>

**13 CLACKLINE** offers a great picnic rest stop with toilets, BBQ's, heritage information, a scenic rocky gully - and even a majestic lion!

From Clackline, take Eadine road then left into the Toodyay/Clackline road which will take you past Hoddywell Archery Park and an Emu Farm to Toodyay.



# East Route

Total distance 70km

'To the east, I grant my happiness and all I hold beloved...'  
Sandra Jacks



**14 YORK CEMETERY** is worth exploring by daylight for tales of tragedy and treasured love amongst the early settlers. A Cemetery Walk Trail booklet is available from the Town Hall Visitor Centre.



**16 C19TH STONE-LINED TOWN WELL.** (nr sign for Craig St) Take a moment to make a wish.....and feel for the residents of York who were advised in 1896 'the waters are absolutely unfit for human consumption... and should be boiled before using'.



Don't miss **20 MALEBELLING HALL (1908)** en route, once the thriving hub of the local agricultural community and let your imagination ponder on the mystery of the little red-gate-to-nowhere.... seen opposite. (private property, view from roadside only).



**15 WONGBOREL (MT BROWN)** Panoramic views from the top of **Wongborel (Mt Brown)** set the scene for an unrivalled introduction to York and view of **Walwalying (Mt Bakewell)**, opposite; both mountains are significant places for the Ballardong people.

Short route: turn right into Goldfields Road, following the footsteps of goldrush prospectors. Choose the upper or lower loop at the Sees/Cameron Road junction.

Long route: Continue towards Northam. Just past **17 TIPPERARY CHURCH (1892)** (private property, view from roadside only), turn right down Quellington Road.



**18 QUELLINGTON HALL (1896)** Turn left down the gravel Grass Valley South road to Quellington Hall. A champagne dinner, Sports Day and evening Ball marked its opening in 1896.



In wildflower season, detour to **21 WALLABY HILLS NATURE RESERVE.**



Stop off at **22 WHITE GUM FARM.** Flying School, caravans & camping, fishing, swimming, 4WD Park, with a bar/restaurant open at weekends. www.whitegumfarm.com.au



**23 GREENHILLS INN (1906)** Time to take a break at one of the most authentic country pubs you're ever likely to find. Allow extra time here to explore the Greenhills Heritage Trail.



**24 ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (1912)** York-Quairading Road. Don't miss this quaint wooden Church, an undiscovered gem on the way back to York.



Visit the TARDIS-like **25 RESIDENCY MUSEUM** with fascinating exhibitions of Ballardong Noongar culture, convict and settler stories. Open 1-3pm Tue/Wed/Thu, 11am-3.30pm weekends.

# West Route

Total distance 40km

'The wonder of the West burst open: under dark and rushing cloud...'  
Robert Binyon

Leave York via Blandstown and turn right at Knotts Rd for a scenic tour of undulating farmland. Spectacular granite outcrops are crowned by Wandoo and Salmon Gums.

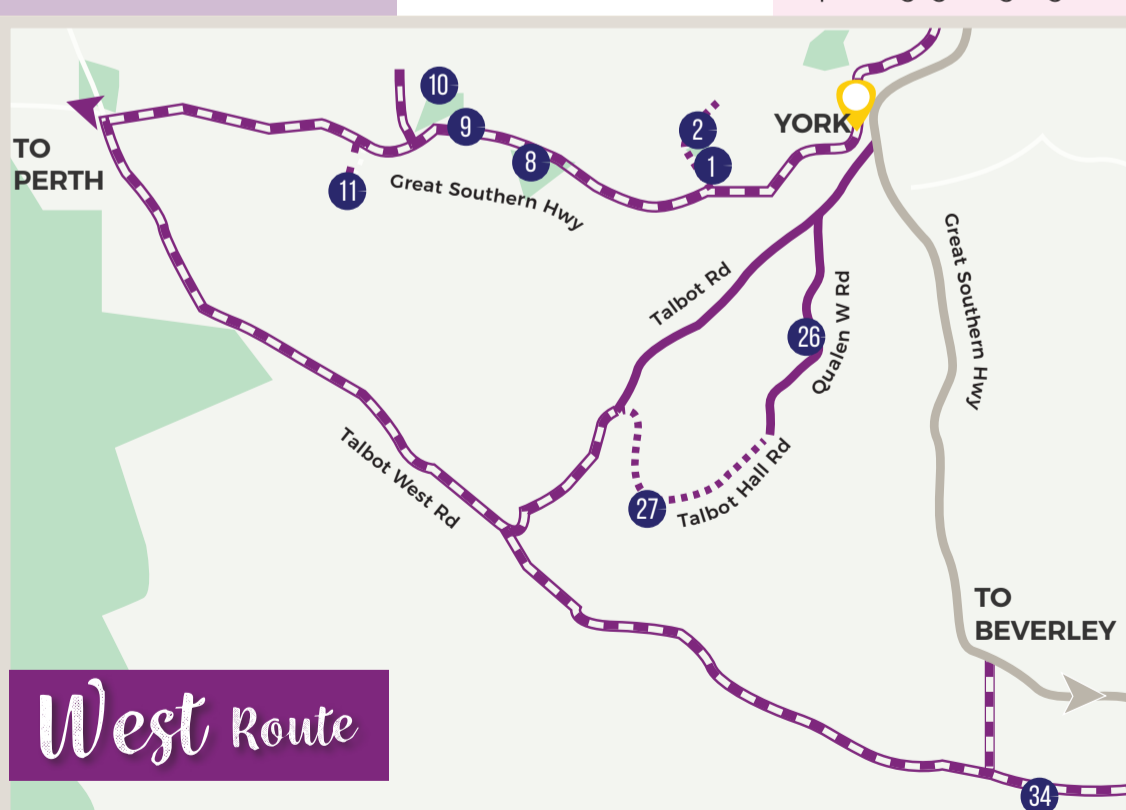


**26 BALANCING ROCK** (private property, please view from roadside) Qualen West Rd. Timeless, unchanging natural landmarks were often used as waymarkers by the Ballardong Noongar people and still hold significant meanings in traditional culture. Sometimes called 'the Balancing Boot' today - what do you see?



**27 TALBOT HALL RESERVE** Turn right onto Talbot Hall road (unsealed gravel road for 7.5km). A relatively intact Wandoo woodland with an understorey of flowers and shrubs, a pure delight in spring and one of the most enchanting Reserves at any time of year. Nearby is Talbot Hall, an enlargement of an early C20th school.

Turn left after leaving Talbot Hall. Ignore McDougal Road & take care on the sharp right turn. At T junction, turn right to return to York via Talbot Road. Turning left will bring you to Talbot West Road, leading to a route to Beverley, Perth, or back to York via Gt Eastern Hwy.



## MAP KEY

- Bitumen
- Bitumen (alternate route)
- Gravel
- Gravel (alternate route)
- Points of Interest
- Site of Noongar significance

# South Route

Total distance 75km

'South of my days' circle.... the high lean country full of old stories...'  
Judith Wright



Follow the river through some of the earliest settled farmland to Beverley.

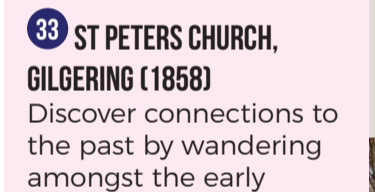
**30 WARGYL (RAINBOW SERPENT) TRACK** Much older than the farming landscape are the surrounding hills, which speak of Ballardong Noongar cultural heritage. Look out for the **Wargyl (Rainbow Serpent)** track to your right; bare land in a distinct trail up the hillside.

**CAN YOU SPOT?** **31** To the left is a hillside cliff with deep brown-red streaks. A **massacre** took place near here in **1837** and these marks have become known as the symbolic blood of the Ballardong people killed in that attack.

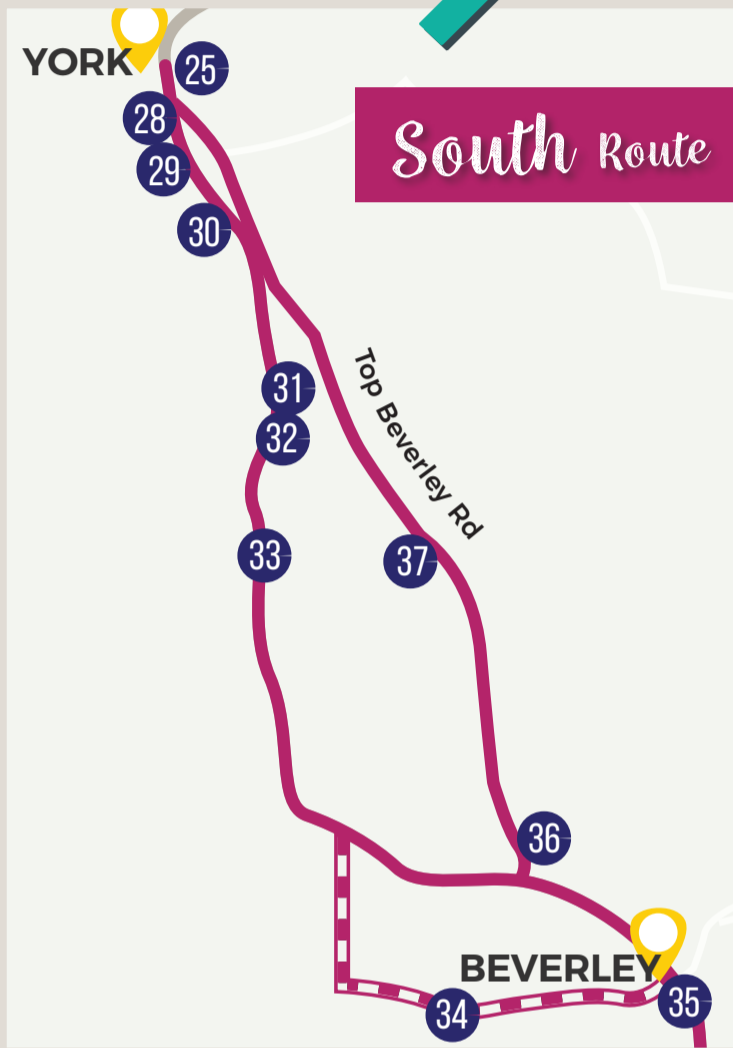


**32 GWAMBYGINE PARK** A great place to stay for those who love a natural bush setting but with modern amenities. Toilets, plenty of BBQ's and picnic facilities, an idyllic get away from it all in your RV, caravan or camping.

Glimpse **Gwambygin Homestead, (1836)** the oldest farmhouse in the district, as you head towards St Peters Church.



**33 ST PETERS CHURCH, GILGERING (1858)** Discover connections to the past by wandering amongst the early settlers' graves in this tranquil sanctuary beside the Avon. See: stpetersgilgering.org



**34 AVONDALE FARM** Agricultural Museum, historic settlement area, bush reserve walk and drive trails. For opening times see www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/avondale-farm/

Heading back towards York, turn right onto the scenic Top Beverley road to enjoy spectacular views of rolling farmland.



**36 ST PAUL'S CHURCH, EDWARDS CROSSING** A tiny Church with original bell outside; a poignant reminder of a rural past.



**37 YANGEDINE BARN (1873)** (Private property, please view from roadside). Built by early settler John Taylor, who arrived a poor shepherd and became a prosperous farmer.



**35 BEVERLEY VISITOR CENTRE** Stop off in Beverley where the Beverley Visitor Centre has superb new displays, information and friendly staff to help you enjoy your visit to the town.

Total distance 75km Follow the river through some of the earliest settled farmland to Beverley.