

York & Surrounding Districts

SCENIC SELF-DRIVE TOUR

Tour No. 2

Railway Road Route

This route explores tree-lined roads and mountain scenery east of York.

Distance: 12km trip (without optional additions)

6.5km sealed, 5.5km formed but not sealed.

Note: Unsealed roads may not be in good condition following heavy rain.



For further information on this and other
Self-drive tours please contact

York Information Services info@york.wa.gov.au

www.york.wa.gov.au

9641 1301

BE PART OF "HISTORY STILL IN THE MAKING"

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This route explores tree-lined roads and mountain scenery east of York.

Commence in Avon Terrace at the York Town Hall Toilets available here.

Set odometer to **0** at start. Proceed south **250 metres** to Gull Service Station at crossroads.

As you turn left into Balladong Street, named after the Barllardong aboriginal group who roamed this area before white-man came, you will see a small park on the right. *This was the site of the first church in the district, once surrounded by graves in its churchyard. Some of the early headstones are still there.* Proceed east, crossing Avon River to T junction. Left is to Northam.

Turn right onto the Quairading Road. *The Residency Museum and the Old Hospital (1890's) can be seen down the street on your right in passing.*

Cold Harbour Bridge. The road is now passing through what was originally a large holding called "Cold Harbour". It was farmed from 1842 by John and Stanley Parker who had come out with their families from England, Northbourne in Kent, where their farm was called "Cold Harbour". *The name had nothing to do with the sea but was a term used for an area protected from cold weather. These brothers were among those who initiated the building of the district's first church the site of which you passed on the corner of Avon Terrace and Balladong Road.*

At 2.5.km. just before a railway crossing, **turn left** into Railway Road which is unsealed. This road can be slippery in the wet and not good after heavy rain.

Railway road formed part of the course for the Rally Australia motoring event. Traffic regulations and speed limits always apply. Big trees line the road on either side and meet overhead. These are mainly very large York Gums recognized by the rough dark bark. While among the smaller species Jam (*Acacia acuminata*) predominates. *The common name comes from the fact that the wood smells like raspberry jam when cut open. It is a very hard wood and was used extensively by early settlers for fencing. In fact lots of Jam fence posts are still in use and could be about 100 years old. Patches of pink everlasting grow on either side of the road in springtime.*

At 3.5 km on the right the large iron sheds seen in the middle distance are the premises of Mackie Hay. *About 80,000 tonnes of hay plus straw are prepared here annually, largely for export in containers which makes it a major local industry.*

At 4 km on left is a plantation of wattle trees planted as hosts for sandalwood trees. The road runs parallel with the railway line which soon makes a long loop as it climbs out of the valley of the Avon River and heads off to Quairading and Bruce Rock.

At 5.6 km on left the remains of a farm building made from local stone. You are traversing the eastern foot of Mt. Brown which is 310 m high on the left.

At 6 km Railway Road terminates where it intersects Buckingham Road.

OPTION 1 Turn left into Buckingham Road, this is a ½ km of unsealed road and 2 kms of sealed road offering dramatic views of Mt. Bakewell which is 417m high and the Dyott Range. When this road

comes to a T Junction, you are at the Northam–York Road. Right leads to Northam – 26kms. Left leads back to York 4 kms.

OPTION 2 Turn right into Buckingham Road, this is a 3 ½ km unsealed road. At **7.3 km** bear left at a point where the road forks without signposts. Large York Gums (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*) continue to line both sides of the road, mingling overhead, but as the road leads on to higher ground, these mix with majestic Salmon Gums note their pale smooth bark, salmon coloured in January. The scenery is more open here than it was in Railway Road and occasional distant vistas can be had to the eastward. To the west panoramic views over farmland to Mt. Bakewell and the Dyott Range are to be seen throughout this route.

At 9.7km turn left on to Marwick Road which is sealed and named after pioneering settlers of York.

At 11.5 km you will see revegetation plantings with Tamarisks.

At 12.4 km turn left into Goldfields Road which is sealed. When travelled in full the Goldfields Road is a 500km long heritage trail following the route of the gold seekers of the 1890s ending in Coolgardie.

At 13.5 km are prickly Hakea shrubs (*Hakea preissii*) with flowers like pale wattle blossom flowering in late November/December.

At 14.5 km T junction you are at the York–Northam Road which is sealed. Turn right for Northam, 30 km. Or turn left for York, 6 km.

OPTION 3 Turn right

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE A NUMBER OF CAPTIVE EMUS – THESE ARE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITH NO ENTRY, BUT ARE VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD

After turning right into Buckingham Road **at 7.3 km turn right** at the fork in the road which is not signposted. White trunked Wandoo trees and majestic Salmon Gums line both sides of this unsealed road.

At 8km cross the Railway line. On the left you will see a high fence to contain the emus. You are in Lott Road.

At 8.4 km the T junction intersects with the Quairading Road which is sealed. **Turn right** for York 6 km. Turn left will take you to Quairading.

At 11km on the right are the massive sheds of the Mackie Hay enterprise that you saw in the distance near the beginning of this Railway Road journey. The Top Beverley Road comes in on the left. Continue on to York.

We hope you have enjoyed your Self Drive Tour today and have learnt much about our district. If you would like to participate in other interesting and informative self–drive or walk tours please ask at York Information Services.

As our comment on the first page states we are all amongst “History Still in the Making”

Save Our Trees – please recycle this pamphlet



I am pleased to be able to sponsor the York & Surrounding Districts Scenic Self-Drive Routes. The tours are an excellent initiative that allows people to explore and discover the natural beauty of the Shire of York. Those who take the time to visit this magnificent region will be enchanted with the diversity of the flora and fauna.

Learning about the diversity of the York District provides greater appreciation for the urgent need to conserve and protect the local environment.



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