

# York & Surrounding Districts

## SCENIC SELF-DRIVE TOUR

Tour No 5b

### Alternative route to York via Mt. Observation

**Note:** This tour is not recommended in winter unless in a 4 WD vehicle

**Distance:**28km all on unsealed roads.



Trip Approx 50 mins at a careful speed  
for the condition of the road.

For bird watchers a Shire of York Bird  
Brochure is available from York  
Information Services

A wildflower brochure is also available  
from York Information Services in  
season (August – October)

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

[info@york.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@york.wa.gov.au) [www.york.wa.gov.au](http://www.york.wa.gov.au)

9641 1301

**BE PART OF “HISTORY STILL IN THE MAKING”**

## Commence on Great Southern Highway at entrance to Mt. Observation for an alternative way into York



Set odometer at 0 as you turn south into the Mt. Observation Reserve.

At 1.4km you arrive at the picnic area with BBQs, seats, tables, toilet and a walkway where you will see wildflowers in the Aug–Oct season. The white trunked gum trees are Eucalyptus wandoo.

### BIRD HIDE

This is a high point in the district with sweeping views over the forests. There is a bird hide a couple of hundred metres from the picnic area.

Turn into Catchment Road. *This area is so called because it is at the headwaters of the Helena River catchment for Mundaring Weir which is the dam for the Goldfields/Wheatbelt water supply.*

You will soon see farming land on your left at 3.7 km.

At 5.6 km there is bush in the farm property and on your right.

At 6.2 km pass the Pony Rd track. You are in a CATCHMENT RESERVE so **NO FIRES PLEASE.**

At 7.2 km take particular care as the track can be a bit rough.

At 8.5 km pass Drabble Road. The main trees in the bush are the white trunked Wandoos with understorey of Parrot Bush (Dryandra), Grass Trees, Acacias (wattles) and some wildflowers in season. Leave any gates as you find them.

At 9.7km **Bush** on both sides of fence, emus may be seen around here.

At 12.3 km National Park sign shows Catchment Road crossing Helena Road. Turn left into Helena Road with farmland on right. The big gum trees here are the dark rough-barked Red Gums (Eucalyptus callophylla) with the big “honky nuts”). These trees are also called Marri from the Nyungar language. You can also see she-oaks (Casuarinas), and some Wandoo. Possums feed on the exuding red gum and nightly scrape at the scars to keep them flowing with gum.

At 14.3km there is farmland on both sides now.

At 15.8 km a good view of Mt. Bakewell near York from here as the land becomes hillier.

At 17km over arching Eucalyptus trees.

At 18.1 km a cattle grid and on right, farm gates to Faristurn Farm, where the road takes a right-angled turn to the left.

At 18.3km you will see salt flats with some revegetation plantings. A farm gate here may be closed or open. **PLEASE LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT.** If it is closed, beware of stock as you enter the next paddock.

At 20.6 km is a derelict windmill on right and then at 21.6 km there is a farm gate to go through which may be closed or open – it is essential that you leave it as you find it. This brings you back onto the Great Southern Highway (sealed) just past the parking bay on your left at the road into the Golf Links. Turn right for York – 6.5km.

As stated on the front you are amongst  
“History Still in the Making”

Save Our Trees – please recycle this pamphlet

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