

York & Surrounding Districts

SCENIC SELF-DRIVE TOUR

Tour No 6

A. York to York via
The Talbot 66km (Loop)

B. The Lakes via
The Talbot 67km (Perth)



A. 66km loop drive from York through fertile farming land and the natural vegetation of a National Forrest.

B. 67 km Route as a different way to The Lakes through the fertile farming lands of The Talbot compared with 47km by the shortest route on the Great Southern Highway.

- Through Farmland and National Park



For Further information on this or 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"

Commence at the York Town Hall (1911) (toilets, and parking nearby)

Set odometer at 0

Head south in Avon Terrace through the crossroads at .02 km on the left the Shire has created a pleasant green park on the site of the earliest Church in York (1840). The position of the former Church is marked with a cross and some of the early tomb stones from the graveyard that once surrounded the Church, are laid in the ground in the shape of the former building, which was moved in 1905 brick by brick across the Avon River to stand adjacent to Holy Trinity for use as the Parish Hall.

On the right is an excellent craftsman working in a building that once housed a bakery (the oven is still visible today). *He creates all sorts of goods in pine wood from beautiful furniture to Folk Art and 'Welcome signs' and also stocks an amazing range of model cars.*

At .04 km pass Redmile Rd on the left. *This used to go down to an early bridge over the Avon to the convict Depot.* Opposite Redmile Rd on your right is the former King's Head Hotel (1848) now a private dwelling. *It was once a bustling hotel with its coach house, stables etc.* Also on the right is a white private house on the Wheeler St corner which was also once a bakery from the 1860s. A detour down Wheeler St would show you workmen's cottages from the 1800s in various stages of restoration. Calculate your mileage and adjust accordingly if you decide to take a look at this extra section.

At 0.5 km cross over Bland Brook on the old bridge named after one of York's early Resident Magistrates, you are in a heritage listed precinct, steeped in early Western Australian history, called Blandstown. *There is a walk trail pamphlet available at YIS if you are interested to explore this whole area on foot, also a booklet containing 4 Heritage Walk Trails.* Historically this was the important southern entrance to York.

Just past the bridge on the left is historic Wansbrough House (c.1800s) now National Trust registered. *It was once the home of one of York's early builders who often used a distinctive castellated front section on his houses.*

Next is the privately owned grand two storey Langsford House (1873).

On the right on the corner of Bland Street, is Brook Cottage. An early section from the 1860s is at the rear with a Victorian era addition in front.

On the left is Parker Road that leads down to Balladong Farm. *This farm was the first inland farm in Western Australia dating from the 1830s. It is private property. Many important exploration trips into Western Australia's hinterland left from this Farm.*

On the right is the former Albion Inn (1861) with its distinctive balustrade on the upper storey verandah. *It is now a B & B and Beauty Retreat.*

At 0.6 km – 0.8 km you will see several of the original small cottages from the 1860s. In the one next to the Old Albion Inn on its south side, the midwife, Nurse Duckham, ran a Maternity Home where many of York's early residents first saw the light of day.

At 0.9 km turn right into Knott's Road which is sealed. As you turn, see the small building on your left. It is the old Boot maker's workshop and adjacent is Bygrave's Cottage (1800s) in the grounds of which is a grape vine estimated to be over 100 years old. *Knott's Road is named after Edwin Knott a very early settler in the area who came to a tragic end. See Arnold Park further on.*

At 1.1 km Cross over the Railway line – right takes trains through York, Northam to Perth and left goes through the CBH bulk grain handling facility and east on to Bruce Rock or southwards to the port of Albany. *The buildings, weighbridge etc are a hive of industry in the summer harvesting seasons.*

You are now traveling through the fertile valley of Bland Brook. The tree line following the brook can be seen on the right. Also on the right observe the interesting formations of the rocky escarpment.

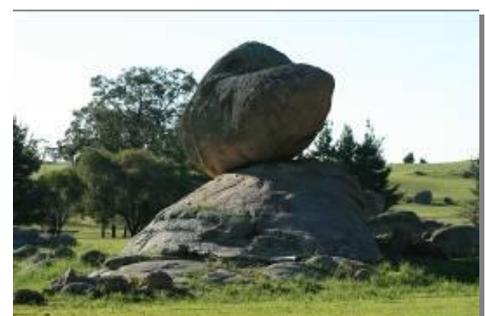
Pass the entrance to the private property of Arnold Park on the left. *This farm, now subdivided into smaller holdings, was amongst the earliest settled farms in the District. About 1836 it was the scene of an aboriginal 'pay back' killing. One aborigine had been shot dead and two others wounded for stealing flour at Mr Bland's farm. As was their custom, the aborigines waited for an opportunity to find any white person alone, to kill, and to avenge the death of one of their own. Sadly for Edwin Knott, they watched him return alone to his hut. Then three of them speared him in the back. He was not missed for several days. The police report of the incident held at the York Archives has various gruesome details. The offenders were tracked down to the river near Pinjarra where they were hiding under the water. As each one surfaced for air, they were shot by the Perth Mounted Police. The last to die was said to have uttered a curse on Arnold Park which did in fact suffer the most dreadful bad luck over the next few decades. Mr. Knott was buried at Arnold Park and a rough headstone was raised.*

At 5.5 km pass Cut Hill Road on the right.

At 6.5 km turn left into Qualen Road (some maps show it called Qualen West Road) – sealed. This road crosses a line of stony hills and the massive boulders left on the surface by a long period of erosion become the dominant feature of the landscape.

At 9.9 km on the left pass another entrance to the subdivision of Arnold Park which is private property.

At 10.4 km on the right in a private paddock, one of the massive boulders has been left balancing on another looking as though a puff of wind would send it crashing down. It can be photographed easily from the road. Beyond the stony hills the landscape reverts to rolling farmland cleared and cultivated at lower levels while the hilltops are timbered with Wandoo and Salmon gum.



At 11 km on your right is the old Qualen School Site 1907 – 1927

At approx 12 km pass Ovens Road (unsealed) on left. **At 14.6 km** pass Kittlers Road (unsealed) on right.

At 15.4 km is a gravel pit and Powder Bark gums (*Eucalyptus accedens*). *These trees are distinguished by their beautiful apricot coloured trunks around autumn/winter.*

At 15.9 km turn right into Talbot Hall Road (unsealed).

At 16.4 km pass a Connemara Pony Stud called "Powder Bark" after the prevailing trees. Prickly Moses (*Acacia pulchella*) prickly shrubs along the road verges which flower profusely from July.

At approx 17.3 km Note the extensive Whittington contour banks, on the right and left, named after the man that first devised them. *These banks are dug to try and keep water up the landscape rather than letting it seep downhill to cause water logging and salinity on the lower areas. The Talbot Landcare Group are a very active group who have planted thousands of native trees and understorey in revegetation projects along creeklines and around waterlogged areas.*

At 18 km pass the Emin Farm – This family have farmed in The Talbot for several generations.

At 19.8 km is the Talbot Hall Reserve. *This is very important remnant bush land. This Wandoo woodland is a good example of the under storey with flowering plants and shrubs relatively undisturbed.*

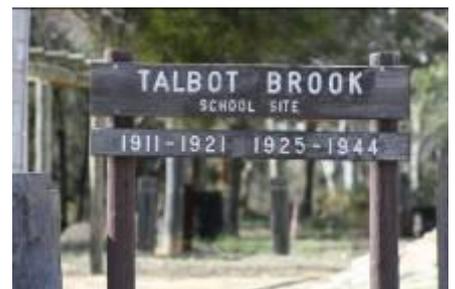
At 20 km turn left into the Reserve to Talbot Hall. *This site was once gazetted for a town and there was a proposed railway spur line planned to be built after the rail had gone through to Greenhills on the other side of the Avon Valley, but neither the town nor the railway eventuated. This is the focal point for a lively community in this rural area known as The Talbot. There is some children's play equipment and dances are held here. The Landcare group meets here and has undertaken research into acid sulphate soils and other environmental problems. In 2007 they planted 30,000 trees and shrubs along the Talbot Brook and in the Mercer Road area with a like number planned for 2008.*

There is a privately owned observatory in the bush.

The Talbot Brook School was formerly in operation here, in



use from 1911-1921 and 1925-1944. *In the past the government would provide a teacher if the local people provided a building and maintained certain numbers of children in attendance. A York*



resident remembers from his school days at Talbot Brook 10 - 12 pupils with one female teacher. So sometimes these little rural schools had to go into recess if student numbers dropped, hence the gap from 1922 -1924. In the 1950's the school building was added on to, to make the current Hall. Tennis courts were put down, and a 9hole golf course was laid out. Sadly the tennis courts seem to be no longer used.

Sports Days used to be held here, also cricket, and in the bush across the track from the Hall are several stout Y shaped posts still standing that were once the supports for a typical country bough shed for the spectators. See if you can find the concrete cricket pitch. Absence of tall trees will mark the space of the former oval.

Leaving Talbot Hall, follow the track around the Hall back to the road and turn left.

At 20.7 km turn right at a sharp right-angle turn, ignoring McDougal Road. Verge shrubs are largely Manna Gum Wattle (*Acacia microbotrya*). *The seeds of this early-flowering wattle were used for grinding into 'flour' by the indigenous people. The gum that oozes from the trunk was chewed for medicinal purposes.*



At 23.3 km pass “Clover Downs” the farm of the Boggs family. *They are dedicated tree planters.*

At 23.4 km you arrive at a T junction, turn left into Talbot Road (sealed).

At 27.9 km arrive at a T junction with Talbot West Road (sealed.) To the left would take you to Beverley 35 km, **turn right** for The Lakes 38km.

Take care as there are sometimes kangaroos on the road in this area.

At approx 29.2 km the trees in the paddock on the left are mostly flooded gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*).

At 29.5 km pass Luelf’s Road (unsealed) on the left. The cleared farmland ends in this vicinity and throughout most of the remaining distance, the journey is through forested country.

At 36.9 km Note the vast amounts of Zamias (*Macrozamia riedlei*) in this area and the hundreds upon hundreds of Grass Trees (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*)

At approx 38.9 km the road becomes unsealed.

At 40.5 km **Option A**, back to York turn right into Helena Road (unsealed) and return to York mostly through National Park bush land (approx 26 km). The latter part of that drive goes through farmland although it is a public road, so you are asked to leave the two farm gates you pass through– either open or closed – just as you find them. This route also forms part of the Self Drive tour No 5a available from York Information Services.

At 40.5 km **Option B**, continue on to **The Lakes** and thence to Perth.

Following Option A - Having turned into Helena Road, at 44.2 km pass Manna Flat sign post leaning against a tree on your left and the wooden Helena Road sign on your right. This area is extensively Zamias (*Macrozamia riedlei*) on your left and Parrot Bush (*Dryandra sessilis*) on your right.

At 44.7 km you will pass the Helena Glade farm on the left.

At 47.1 km There is a resting bay on the left this is a nice spot to park and take a stroll if you wish to stretch your legs.

At 49.6 km you will cross over a creek which flows during the winter months. The drain which runs under the road is supported with an interesting dry stone wall. Listen for the beautiful sound made by the wind blowing through the sheoak trees (*Casuarina obesa*)



At 49.9 km on your right you will see good examples of Termite Mounds. Watch out for kangaroos throughout this natural forested area.

At 50.5 km pass through the intersection of Catchment Road and continue along Helena Road seeing farmland on your right and forest on your left.

At 52.5 km the surrounds become farmland on both sides.

At 56.5 km you will pass Faristurn Farm and you follow the road over an animal grid following a sharp left curve in the road.

At 56.7 km you will pass through the middle of salt affected land with revegetation planting and come to your first of two gates. Please leave these as you find them either open or shut. If the gates are shut take care as there will be livestock around.

At 59.5 km is the second gate just before you come out onto the highway.

At 59.6 km is the T junction of the York/Perth road **turn right** heading back to York.

At 59.7 km on your left you will pass the turn off to York's Golf Club. At 61.1 km pass Cutt Hill Road on your right and on your left at 62.8 km pass Morris Edwards Drive which was the original entrance into the town of York.

At 66 km you will be back at Avon Terrace the main street of York.

Following Option B. – continuing ahead to The Lakes and Perth.

At 42.6 km pass Kent Road on the left (unsealed). Everlasting flowers abound in the spring, and grass trees can be seen in the forest. You are in unfenced bush land – so beware of kangaroos. The large trees with the dark bark and the large 'honky nuts' are red gums (*Corymbia calophylla*) often called Marri from the aboriginal name; or Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*).



At approx 43.2 km see scattered native Christmas Trees (*Nuytsia floribunda*) in the bush on your left which displays large numbers of vivid orange flowers December/January. *These spectacular trees are parasitic, needing a host plant to attach their roots to.*

At 44.6 km pass Pony Road on the right then Ridley Road on your left (not sign posted as at 2006). You will also see on your left a section of land that is a declared a Jarrah die-back quarantine area. If you enter the bush here you must follow strict hygiene instructions.

At 45.4 km your road crosses either the shallow or dry bed of the headwaters of the Helena River which eventually feeds into the Mundaring Weir.

At 48.4 km see the big Red Gums in the paddocks on right and left.

At approx 48.8 km the road becomes sealed as you enter the Northam Shire. Pass Owen Road unsealed on the right. You are in a Conservation Reserve which is part of the Mundaring water catchment area.

At 51.6 km arrive at crossroads at Yarra Road (sealed) ahead is the old degraded exit to the Great Southern Highway, left would take you down to the Brookton Highway. **Turn right.**

At 53.3 km come to the crossroads at the York Chidlow Road or York Lakes road as most locals call it. Right is back to York (38 km). Ahead is Inkpen Road which would take you to the Great Eastern Highway. **Turn left** for The Lakes (approx 13 km)

At 62.6 km pass the big BGC Quarry entrance on the right; beware of heavy haulage vehicles entering here.

At 64.8 km Pass Horton Road on the right.

At 66.4 km Arrive at The Lakes road junction. Here are 24 hour supplies of petrol, gas, fast food, restaurant, toilets. If you turned right you would go through Northam, Kalgoorlie and on to South Australia and the Eastern States.

Turn left for Perth.

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

Save our Trees – Please recycle this brochure

Proudly Sponsored By
The Shire of York



York Information Services



81 Avon Tce
YORK WA 6302
Ph: 08 96411301
Fax: 08 96412202

E-mail: info@york.wa.gov.au

Web: www.york.wa.gov.au