

Australia's most complete dinosaur, the *Mimi*. Ask about Krono's Kids Club and stop for a coffee in the Moon Rock Café. Got 'fossil fever'? Then ask our friendly staff for a map of the free fossicking sites. There's a little bit of Outback in everyone's backyard and a whole lot more in Richmond.

**Julia Creek – Gateway to the Gulf**  
Next is Julia Creek, one of the friendliest towns on the Overlander's Way. The town comes alive each year in April, when the annual Dirt n' Dust Festival takes place, including events such as a triathlon, horse races, PBR Bull Ride, Australia's Best Butt Competition and Bog Snorkelling.

The 30m wineglass-shaped water tower can be seen up to 20 kilometres away. The tower stands above one of four bores supplying water to the town from the Great Artesian Basin. Only found in the Mitchell grass downs of North West Queensland, the Julia Creek Dunnart (*Sminthopsis douglasii*) is a small nocturnal insect-eating marsupial thought to be extinct until 1992, now considered to be an endangered species.

Obtain a map from the Information Centre and walk the 38 signposted sites reading their interesting and colourful history. While visiting Julia Creek why not try something different and visit the Proa Redclaw Farm. The 12 ponds use artesian water, some containing up to 16,000 redclaw.

**Cloncurry – Home of the Royal Flying Doctor Service**  
Cloncurry is best known as the destination of the first Qantas flight and the birthplace of the famous Royal Flying Doctor Service. Local museums, including John Flynn Place pay tribute to the town's fascinating legends and copper mining heritage.

The Art Deco-style Cloncurry Shire Hall and Library Complex in Scarr Street is the social heart of town. Take a seat and view "Portrait of Cloncurry", a visitor orientation exhibition with videos, maps and guide brochures that present an overview of the history, heritage and local characters.

Other features of Cloncurry include the historic streetscape, airport, the cemeteries of Chinese and Afghan graves and a Memorial Park and Museum with memorabilia from the former uranium mine, Mary Kathleen. See the splendid rock and gem display and history of Burke and Wills, including Burke's water bottle. Visit a working mine with Ernest Henry Mine Tours. These depart from Mary Kathleen Park every Wednesday and Friday at 10.00am. Bookings for tours are taken at the Information Centre.

**Mount Isa – Underground Mines and Aboriginal Heritage**  
From Cloncurry, the Overlander's Way winds its way through the spectacular Selwyn Ranges where rugged red hills contrast with huge white gum trees to Mount Isa, one of the world's great mining cities.

Mount Isa's newest attraction, Outback at Isa, is a one-stop-shop for the visitor. The precinct includes wonderful displays on the history and development of the city as well as the area's prehistory that is unlocked at the Riverleigh Fossil Centre interpretive exhibit and laboratory.

An underground mine experience has always been high on the list of the visitors to the Isa, and at Outback at Isa's Hard Times Mine you'll be guided underground by a real Mount Isa miner, who'll take you through the 1.2km of tunnels to experience what it's like to be a miner down below.

The excellent visitor information staff at Outback at Isa will assist you to discover the city's many attractions, such as the Kalkadon Tribal Centre where you'll discover the area's earliest inhabitants, the Kalkadon tribe – proud warriors and primitive miners – and the nearby indigenous enterprise, the Arilla Paper Mill.

Other must-see attractions include the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the School of the Air, the unique Underground Hospital built during World War II, the National Trust Tent



House, the ever popular mine surface tours, Lake Moondarra and Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park.

**Camooweal – Tennant Creek**  
From "the Isa" it's a further 188km west to the historic droving township of Camooweal, gateway to the Northern Territory. The remaining 443km over the Overlander's Way takes travellers across the mighty Barkly Tablelands and through some spectacular Outback landscapes. The first major fuel and rest stop is the Barkly Homestead Wayside Inn which offers a full range of fuel and motoring services as well as comfortable motel accommodation and caravan and camping facilities including a swimming pool.

The Overlander's Way joins the Explorer's Way at Three Ways, 187km from the Barkly Homestead where travellers can take a break, have a meal and refuel at this popular truck stop. Just 25km south is the mining township of Tennant Creek. One of this historic town's main attractions is the Nyinkka Nyunyu Centre which showcases the culture of the local Waramungu people. Their culture can be experienced through personalised guided tours. Visitors can wander through the art gallery or relax in the Jajjikari Café.

The Creek, 11km north from what is now the township of Tennant Creek, was named by one of the Territory's early explorers, John McDouall Stuart during an expedition in 1860. The Creek later became a vital link in the Overland Telegraph Line during the 1870s and the gold rush era of the early 1900's before the Tennant Creek township was established as a gold mining settlement in 1934. Today it's a lively hub that offers visitors a fascinating range of local attractions. These include the famous Devils Marbles, the historic Tennant Creek Telegraph Station, Battery Hill Mining Centre with its mining and mineral exhibits, and the new Social History Museum that documents women's and children's stories of daily life on the goldfields. There are also plenty of opportunities to relax at the nearby Lake Mary Ann.

**Visitor Information Centres**  
Visitor Information Centres are conveniently situated along the Overlander's Way in each town or major centre. Their friendly staff can provide you with more information and maps.

**TOWNSVILLE**  
TOWNSVILLE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE  
70 - 102 Flinders Street  
Townsville Qld 4810  
Tel: (07) 4721 1116  
Fax: (07) 4721 1116  
Email: tel@tel.com.au  
Website: www.townsvilleholidays.info

**CHARTERS TOWERS**  
CHARTERS TOWERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE  
74 Mosman Street  
Charters Towers Qld 4820  
Tel: (07) 4761 5533  
Fax: (07) 4761 5536  
Email: tourinfo@charterstowers.qld.gov.au  
Website: www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au

**HUGHENDEN**  
FLINDERS DISCOVERY CENTRE  
37 Gray Street  
Hughenden Qld 4821  
Tel: (07) 4741 1021  
Fax: (07) 4741 1029  
Email: info@flinders.qld.gov.au  
Web: www.hughenden.com

**RICHMOND**  
KRONOSAURUS KORNER  
91 - 93 Goldring Street  
Richmond Qld 4822  
Tel: 1300 KRONOK (1300 576 655)  
Fax: (07) 4741 3802  
Email: enquiries@kronosauruskornor.com.au  
Web: www.kronosauruskornor.com.au

**JULIA CREEK**  
CHARTERS TOWERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE  
Burke Street  
Julia Creek Qld 4823  
Tel: (07) 4746 7690  
Fax: (07) 4746 7956  
Email: tourism@mckinlay.qld.gov.au  
Web: www.mckinlay.qld.gov.au

**CLONCURRY**  
MARY KATHLEEN PARK INFORMATION CENTRE  
Mdlwraith Street  
Cloncurry Qld 4824  
Tel: (07) 4742 1361  
Fax: (07) 4742 1361  
Email: gail\_mkparkcloncurry@bigpond.com  
Web: www.cloncurry.qld.gov.au

**MOUNT ISA**  
OUTBACK AT ISA  
19 Marian Street  
Mount Isa Qld 4735  
Tel: 1300 659 660  
Fax: (07) 4743 6296  
Email: info@outbackatisa.com.au  
Web: www.outbackatisa.com.au

**CAMOOWEAL**  
THE BARKLY TABLELAND AND HERITAGE CENTRE  
Barkly Highway  
Camooweal Qld 4828  
Tel: (07) 4748 2160  
Fax: (07) 4743 7913

**TENNANT CREEK**  
TENNANT CREEK VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE  
within Battery Hill Mining Centre Complex  
Peko Road  
Tennant Creek NT 0860  
Tel: (08) 8962 1281  
Fax: (08) 8962 2022  
Email: info@barklytourism.com.au  
Web: www.barklytourism.com.au

For a copy of Queensland's Outback Travellers' Guide please contact:

**Outback Queensland Tourism Association**  
Level 7, Northpoint, 231 North Quay, BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Tel: 1800 247 966  
Fax: (07) 3236 4640  
Email: info@outbackqld.com.au  
Web: www.outbackholidays.info

# Townsville to Tennant Creek

# OVERLANDER'S Way



For over 100 years our pioneers have been discovering the Overlander's Way. Today, travellers can follow in their footsteps on a 1550 kilometre driving adventure across the breadth of Queensland and the Northern Territory, linking the wonders of the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef to the rugged Aussie Outback.

Beginning at either the tropical city of Townsville or Tennant Creek, the heart of the Northern Territory, the Overlander's Way offers sealed roads all the way for modern adventurers to travel with ease.

The Overlander's Way follows the paths of our droving heroes who brought vast herds of live cattle from the east Kimberley to the coast. The route, which later served as an important supply line during World War II, takes in the Outback towns of Charters Towers, Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek, Cloncurry, Mount Isa and Camooweal on the Queensland-Northern Territory border and Tennant Creek. From the vast rugged cattle plains to dramatic basalt landscapes, spectacular gorges and prolific wildlife, the Overlander's Way promises a journey rich with discovery, unspoilt natural beauty and friendly local characters.

Along the way, you'll also find a wide variety of attractions. Call in and experience these whilst travelling the Overlander's Way.

**DRIVING THE OVERLANDER'S WAY**  
**Townsville and the wonders of the Reef**  
Before starting off on the Overlander's Way, spend a few days in the city of Townsville. Townsville has come of age as the new "hot spot" for holidaying in the tropics! This progressive, modern and vibrant city is bustling with holiday ideas and experiences. The city has grown into a cosmopolitan hub of activity and ambience, from the magnificently restored heritage buildings, to the trendy outdoor cafés, restaurants, shops and galleries that add colour to the streetscapes. Get stranded! A visit to the Stand is essential when in Townsville. Undoubtedly one of the best inner-city beachfronts in Australia, the 2.5km of waterfront is sure to please everyone! Want to experience island life? A trip to Magnetic Island is a must. Only 8km from Townsville City Centre, visit this colourful and eclectic island retreat and relax, or join in the island's village life.

From Picnic Bay through Horseshoe Bay, the experience is friendly and delightfully tropical!

**Charters Towers – Discover "Ghosts of Gold"**  
Inland 130km lies Charters Towers, the site of a massive gold rush in the late 19th century which resulted in the area becoming known as "The World". This historic town boasts beautifully preserved architecture and a large number of parks and gardens.

The Charters Towers "ghosts of gold" Heritage Trail brings to life this historic gold rush era. Start at the Visitor Information Centre then follow through to the Stock Exchange Arcade to see the "Calling of the Card", an audio presentation re-enacting the trading of shares that once took place in this very arcade.

Then on to the Venus Battery, the largest surviving battery relic in Australia. Interactive audio-visuials tell the story of how the mill operated and how the equipment was used to extract gold from the ore.

In the evening visit Towers Hill to view a ½ hour film presentation of "ghosts after dark", which tells even more fascinating stories about the people who lived here in those days of gold, grandeur and greed.

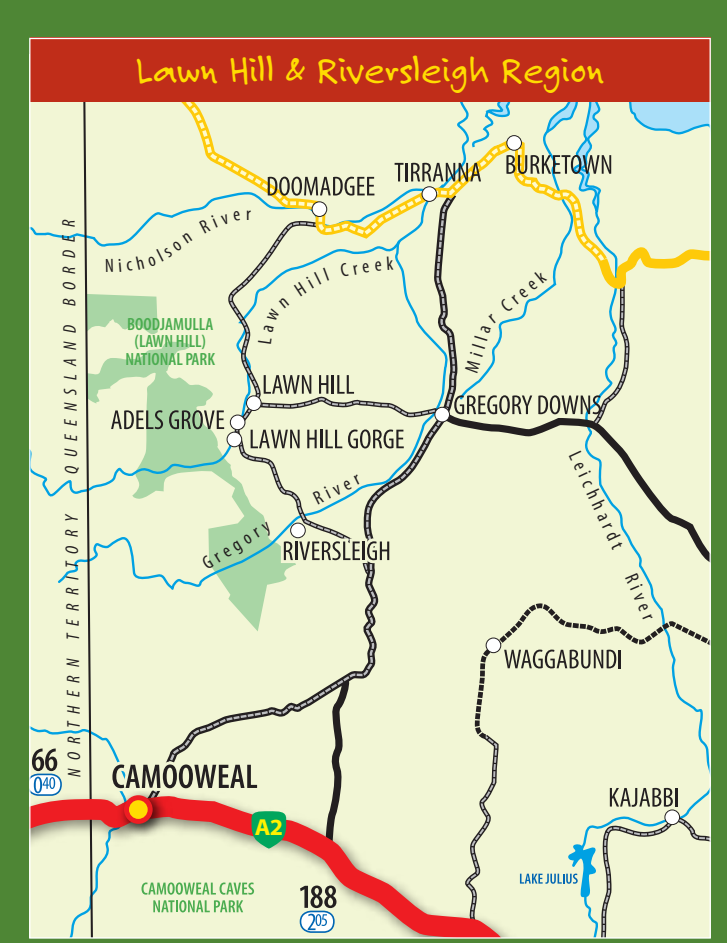
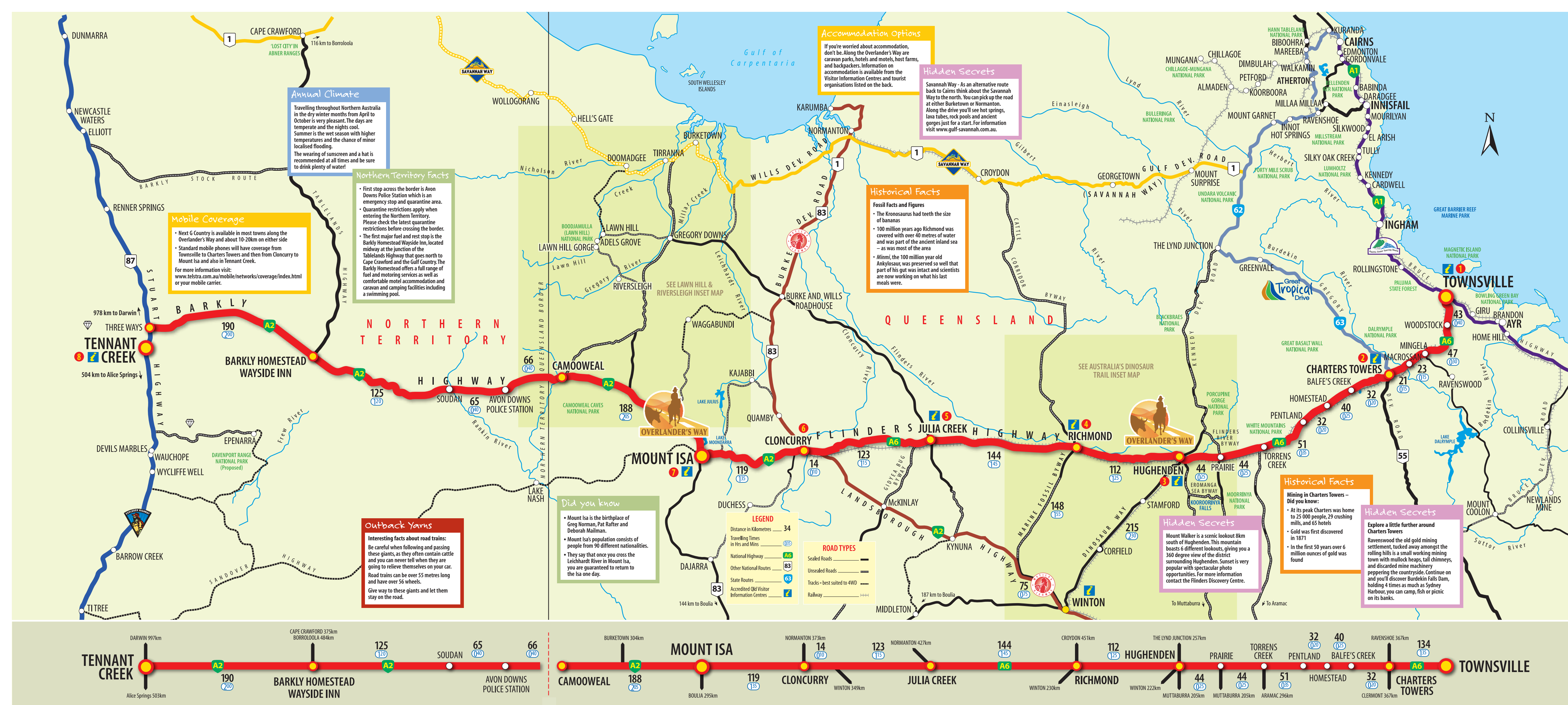
Along the way to Charters Towers you can turn off the highway at Mingela and drive just 40km to Ravenswood, a heritage-listed, working mining town with old mullock heaps, tall chimneys and 19th century pubs and other buildings. View the operations at the open cut mine from the lookout, or do a walking tour.

**Hughenden – "Gorge and Dinosaur Country"**  
Call into the Flinders Discovery Centre and meet "Hughie", a life sized *Muttaburrasaurus*, step back in time to over 500 million years ago at the Porcupine Gorge Light and Sound Show. Relive the battles and history of the shearing industry through its highs and lows in "Shearing the Straggler". Wander the streets of Hughenden adorned with metal artwork or enjoy the new Eco Walk on Flinders with examples of different bioregions in the area.

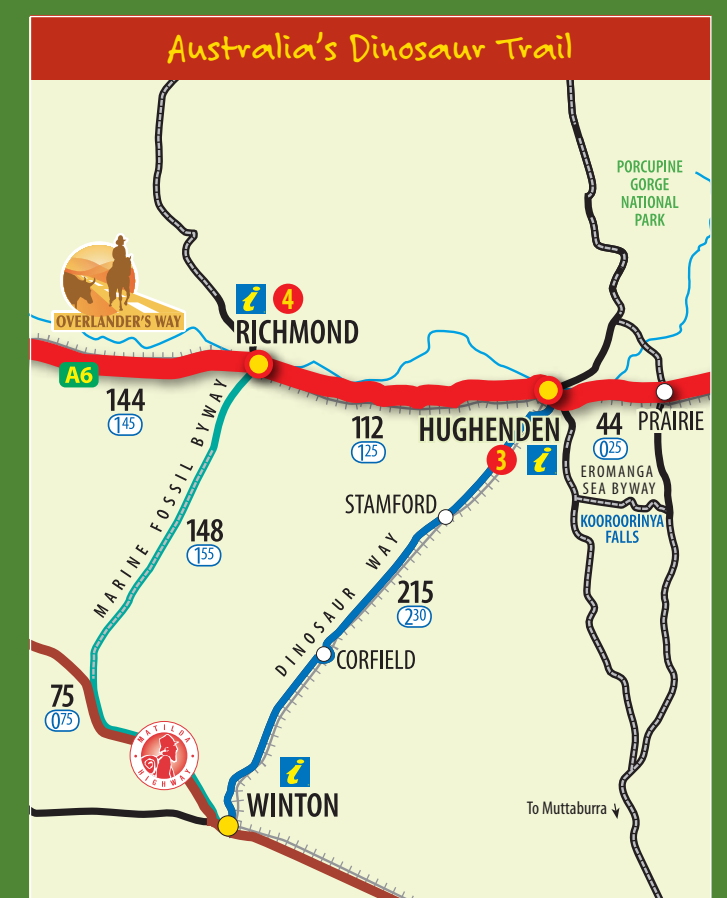
Get off the beaten track on one of many byway drives through sculptured landscapes, view the district a top of Mount Walker, promising a sunset you will never forget. Enjoy the variety of four national parks, visit Porcupine Gorge National Park, fondly known as Australia's little "Grand Canyon". Camp and relax in an idyllic bush setting at Kooroorina, a natural billabong with great bird watching and photographic opportunities.

**Richmond – Fossil Capital of Australia**  
Halfway between Townsville and Mount Isa you will find a clean and tidy town with lush green parks and Lake Fred Tritton. Stay at the Richmond Lakeview Caravan Park, overlooking the Richmond Community Bush Tucker Gardens – a Banksia Foundation Environmental Award Finalist. While the kids play on the lake's beach or water park, dad can do a spot of fishing, while mum takes a walk around the 1.2km walking path. Visit Kronosaurus Korner, and be amazed by marine fossils, the *Richmond Pliosaur* and





The world heritage-listed Riversleigh Fossils Fields are among the richest and extensive fossil vertebrate deposits in the world and are highlighted at Outback at Isa in the Riversleigh Fossil exhibition and laboratory. Take a trip through this area and incorporate Lawn Hill Gorge.



Follow Australia's Dinosaur Trail and discover a marvellous array of fossils dating back 130 million years. A great chance for you to discover them yourself!

**Points of Interest**

The Overlander's Way is rich with authentic heritage experiences that are linked together. The attractions explore the legends, characters, colourful tales and rich landscapes of our fascinating past, in a modern, interactive way.

- North Queensland Gateway, Townsville**  
The Discover Tropical Queensland Gallery at Townsville Museum of Tropical Queensland provides visitors to the region with a good introduction to life in the tropics, telling the stories of North Queensland through powerful interactive displays.
- Charters Towers - "Ghosts of Gold"**  
More than a century ago, the discovery of gold triggered a massive gold rush to Charters Towers, which grew to become the second largest city in Queensland. Charters Towers - *ghosts of gold* has breathed new life into the city's magnificent civic buildings, including the Stock Exchange and World Theatre, beautifully preserved within a historic mining precinct, as well as the nationally significant Venus Battery Mill site.
- Flinders Discovery Centre, Hughenden**  
Flinders Discovery Centre is home to Hughie, the skeletal *Muttaburrasaurus*, surrounded by a large fossil and gem display of international standards. The centre also boasts an exciting Porcupine Gorge light and sound show recounting the formation over 500 million years. The newest feature at the Centre is the 'Shearing the Stragglers', reminiscing the demise of the shearing industry in the Flinders Shire. Made from a shearing shed over 100 years old, audio stories tell of the first settlement through to the continual change and current state of the industry.
- Kronosaurus Komer, Richmond**  
Discover the fascinating pre-historic evidence of when Richmond was once part of the ancient inland sea. One hundred million years later, Kronosaurus Komer houses a world-renowned marine fossil collection, including two of the best examples of dinosaurs found anywhere in the world. Book online at [www.kronosauruskomer.com.au](http://www.kronosauruskomer.com.au)
- Julia Creek Visitor Information Centre, Julia Creek**  
Please call into the Visitor Information Centre and say hello as you pass through Julia Creek. While you are at the Centre take a look at the mounted Julia Creek Dunnart (*Sminthopsis douglasi*) Display. The Dunnart is a small nocturnal marsupial thought to be extinct until 1992. It is a feisty yet endearing endangered species.
- Mary Kathleen Memorial Park and Museum, Cloncurry**  
Mary Kathleen Memorial Park and Museum houses history and memorabilia of Cloncurry, Mary Kathleen and the surrounding district. A must-see is the Burke and Wills history display including Burke's water bottle in the Explorers Corner. The mineral and gem collection is ranked by experts as one of the most comprehensive in Australia. Also on display are Aboriginal artefacts and a portrait and breastplate of George, King of Friesland.
- Outback at Isa, Mount Isa**  
The exciting world of mining is a highlight of the Hard Times Mine, Outback at Isa. Guided tours descend the 1.2km of working mines directly below the tourist precinct. Meanwhile, above ground, after meeting the friendly staff at the information counter, you will soon discover what else the centre has to offer, such as the Riversleigh Fossil exhibition and laboratory, the Fools Gallery and the Outback Park, all of which interpret the history and development of the city.
- Battery Hill Mining Centre, Tennant Creek**  
At Battery Hill overlooking the township, the 1930's site echoes the soul and spirit of the miners and is named after the original working ten-head stamp battery. The Underground Gold Mine also has operational machinery, authentic sounds and lighting. Experience the past and present methods of mining with tours conducted daily. Meander past the historic machinery, visit the Social History Museum and Minerals Museum with its superlative McLaughlin Collection. Inspect the memorabilia in the Information Centre before undertaking gold panning.