

WHITE CLIFFS OPAL FIELD

www.whitecliffsnsw.com.au



White Cliffs Outback Store & Visitor Information

01

- Accredited Tourist Information Centre
- Gas bottles.
- For all your takeaway food, sit down meals and groceries.
- Diesel and petroleum supplies.
- Centrelink Access Point.
- Community Postal Agency.

EFTPOS.

Open 7 days.

Phone / Fax: (08) 8091 6611
www.whitecliffsnsw.com.au



Paroo-Darling National Park Visitor Centre

02

The visitor display will help you discover the artesian mound springs, tree lined creeks, spectacular landscapes and ephemeral lakes. Display open most days. Ask us about our Discovery Tours during school holidays (excluding summer).

Camp under the unblemished night sky at the Coach and Horses camp ground at Wilga on the Darling River. You'll need to bring drinking water & your food. We supply gas BBQs, pit toilets & the night sky.

Phone: (08) 8083 7900
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au



White Cliffs Underground Motel & Restaurant & Underground History & Culture Centre

03

Eat, sleep relax, explore and enjoy the magic of the largest Underground Motel in the world. Singles, families, groups and conferences. Experience it all and then sleep deep. Accommodation, Restaurant, Bar & Beer garden, in ground pool and games, Art Gallery and Shop, Coffee, Meals, Star Gazing, History and Culture Centre.

Soak up the ambiance in the History and Culture Centre and learn about who and what makes this community so totally unique and so special. Open 10am till 5pm daily. Lunch meals - School holidays and group bookings. Smiley Ray's tours & tyre repairs.

To book phone 08 8091 6677
Email: info@undergroundmotel.com.au
www.undergroundmotel.com.au



Paroo-Darling National Park

04

The Paroo-Darling National Park Visitor Centre focuses on the cycle of water and wildlife as well as information about National Parks in the area. The largest section of Paroo-Darling National Park is east of White Cliffs, the main feature being Peery Lake. A drive through the park showcases the variety of arid vegetation and wildlife.

Phone: (08) 8083 7900
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au



White Cliffs Sporting Club

05

- Golf anytime or 8am Sunday
- Club and Buggy Hire Available
- Tennis
- Pool Table
- Darts
- Airconditioned Club House
- Conference Facilities
- Catering and Venue Hire Available

SUNDAY DINNER 7pm

Mid Feb - Mid December
BAR OPEN 6pm
Beer, Wine, Cocktails, Softdrink

Visitors Welcome

Phone: 0403 178 730
Email: wcsc2836.secretary@gmail.com
www.whitecliffsnsw.com

SAFETY MESSAGE

Provided by the White Cliffs Miners Association

Tourists, Visitors & Fossickers:

The White Cliffs Miners acknowledge the right to fossick anywhere on the Reserve under the auspices of the mining act of 1992 and no licence is required. However permission is required from the holder of a claim to fossick on any registered claim.

A Registered Claim is usually square in shape and 50x50 metres in size with a wooden or steel post at each corner. On the NE post is a datum board, which contains the details of the claim holder.

There is a vast amount of unregistered ground on the Historic Mining Reserve; but please remember SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT and is the responsibility of the visitor. Children are especially vulnerable and need to be carefully supervised at all times as there are many hidden hazards.

Good luck and enjoy your stay!

Telstra NextG service available.

Emergency Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY	000
HOSPITAL	08 8091 6605
POLICE (Wilcannia)	08 8083 8099
Royal Flying Doctor	08 8088 1188

Local Road Condition Information
08 8091 5155



www.whitecliffsnsw.com.au



White Cliffs Hotel - Motel

06

- Air-conditioned Accommodation with ensuites
- Pub stay rooms.
- Ice
- Av Gas
- Kleenheat Gas
- Diesel.

EFTPOS. Friendly Service, UHF 32.

Monday to Saturday 11am - Close
Sunday 4pm - Close

Phone: (08) 8091 6606
Fax: (08) 8091 6782
Email: whihotel@bigbond.com
www.whitecliffshotelmotel.com.au



White Cliffs Opal Pioneer Tourist Park

07

- Caravan & Camping Area.
- Powered sites .
- Amenities with coin operated hot showers.
- Facilities for disabled. Laundry (coin operated).
- FREE electric BBQ's.
- Children's Playground.
- Pets allowed under control.

Phone/Fax: (08) 8091 6688
After Hours: 0408 792 405



Other Attractions

Fossickers Den, Southern Cross Opals & The Stubbie House

White Cliffs Opal Field

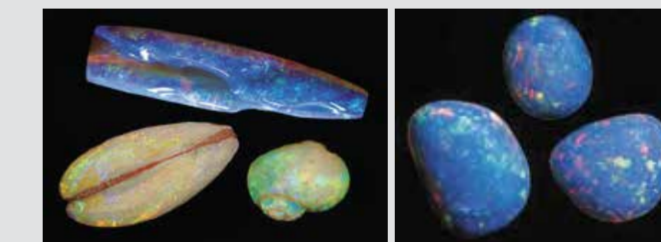
The town of White Cliffs belies its physical appearance; small, dusty, a bit ramshackle. Look deeper and you'll find the beauty of opal, the gritty reality of mining, the chance to fossick for your own opal, and the fascination of underground living. The locals are friendly, quirky and drawn to White Cliffs from a surprisingly wide range of backgrounds and life experiences.

Opalised Fossils

Whilst visiting White Cliffs ponder for a moment and realise, that millions of years ago, the ground on which you are standing now was under the sea! Swimming around here back in the Cretaceous period were Plesiosaurs and Ichthyosaurs. The Plesiosaurs were 3 to 12 metres tall with long necks and small heads. The Ichthyosaurs were similar in size but were more fish like. These opalised fossil reptiles have been found here at White Cliffs.

Other fossils that can be found here include Crinoids, also called Sea Lilies, that are related to the Starfish and Sea Urchin; Belemnites, that are very similar to the modern Squid; various

Brachiopods, Bivalve shells and Gastropods, the snail like animal with the coiled shell, are also to be found here opalised as well as various Plants and Cycads... and not to forget... THE DINOSAURS!



White Cliffs History

White Cliffs has the distinction of being Australia's first commercial opal field and its story is no less distinctive.

It is known that opal was found in the region from as early as 1884 but there was little interest in the gem at that time. In 1889 while culling kangaroos on the vast Momba Station four kangaroo shooters picked up samples of opal. Specimens were sent to Adelaide to an ex surveyor colleague of one of the shooters. He quickly confirmed the find to be quality opal and made his way to White Cliffs to investigate the discovery.

Within the year White Cliffs Opal was available on markets in Britain, the Continent and the USA.

By 1890 the 'boom' was on as overseas manufacturers were quick to see the quality of the White Cliffs gem. The first Opal mining lease was taken out in March 1890 and as news of rich finds was advertised the rush was on and within a few months the population rose rapidly from around 30 to 500. At its height around 1898-1900, White Cliffs was home to an estimated 5000 people and in today's terms sold millions of dollars worth of opal.

Then drought, dwindling markets, epidemics caused by bad water all took their toll and the downward slide began. By 1914 the European markets had closed, men left to enlist for World War 1 and it has been estimated that White Cliffs was left with about 30 people - the same population as at its beginnings.

Opal Pineapples

This unique area is famous for the White Cliffs Pineapples, a pseudomorph of Glauberite or Ikaite crystal clusters that are replaced with Precious Opal. By some quirk of Mother Nature these opalised Pineapples have only ever been found here in White Cliffs.



Events

March 26th - Yabby races
Lots of family fun at the White Cliffs Hotel



April 2nd - The Mikado Opera in the Outback



April 23rd & 24th - White Cliffs Gymkhana & Rodeo

A very popular and exciting, true blue bush event which has been running annually for over 100 years. Gymkhana on Saturday, followed by a twilight tug of war and live band. The Rodeo will be on Sunday. For more info www.whitecliffsgymkhanarodeo.com



May 20- 22 - White Cliffs Music Festival

World class music on the stage and the street in the outback. Featuring a variety of musicians from Bluegrass to Country to Rock as well as our talented locals, workshops and a poets breakfast. For more info contact: Anne Baker annebaker1@gmail.com www.facebook.com/WhiteCliffsMusicFestival/



September - White Cliffs Underground Art Festival



"Show & Tell"

Art Competition (in any media), Photography Competition, Short Film Fest, Concert, Stalls and Workshops
Contact: Cree 0497268971
email: linz46@activ8.net.au



The Opal Mine Tour

Venture underground to view 'old timers diggings' and be part of Graham's modern day working opal mine. The highlight of your visit to White Cliffs!

Tag-a-long Mine Tour

Leaving from Red Earth Opal Showroom/café @3pm most days. Duration 1-2hrs
Bookings @ Red Earth Opal Showroom/café
Adults \$20 10-16yrs \$15 U/10 \$10
Other times by appointment (4+Adults) subject to availability. COACHES WELCOME.

Be among the growing list of people to discover opals in this mine. Comment on TripAdvisor- Red Earth Opal- The Opal Mine Tour

Seasonal- 1st April to 30th Nov -----Out of season IF available.

Phone: (08) 8091 6900
Mobile: 0488 965 282



Red Earth Opal Showroom & Café

'An Unexpected Oasis'
Your first stop
Cappuccino, Opals and friendly local information. White Cliffs FINEST opal jewellery, souvenirs and rare Opal Pineapple display. Cappuccino and freshly made cakes.

Open Wed-Sun 10am-3pm.
Daily during school holidays
'Opal Mine Tour' starts 3pm - most days

EFTPOS available
COACHES WELCOME

Seasonal 1st April to 30th Nov - Out of season IF available.

Phone: (08) 8091 6900
Mobile: 0488 965 282



WHITE CLIFFS VISITOR INFORMATION MAP



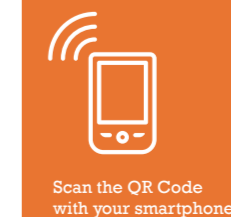
WHITE CLIFFS OPAL FIELD

How to find White Cliffs Opal Field

Turn off the Barrier Highway at Wilcannia, midway between Broken Hill and Cobar. Travel on a fully sealed road one hour north to White Cliffs and discover the secrets and history of this unique town. Fossick for the elusive opal, inspect the solar power station, sleep above or 'underground', visit the showrooms and galleries, be inspired by the sunsets and night sky. Experience excellent hospitality and open friendliness of outback Australia.

Find us online!

www.whitecliffsnsw.com.au



Linda George Jewellery

Drop in to Linda George's Open studio between 10 and 11am daily or phone for an alternative time to visit. Linda will show you her dugout studio where she crafts her unique creations and talk you through the process: from noodling rough opal and other treasures from the past, to cutting and polishing, designing the piece of jewellery and then making it by hand, into a one off artwork to wear. View the displays of finished jewellery, drilled pendants and specimen boulder opals from Queensland, something for everyone and all a little bit unusual and interesting. Entry \$5pp - refundable upon purchase.

Phone: 0437 063 660
Email: lgjewellery@jollymac.com.au
Facebook: [LindaGeorgeJewellery](https://www.facebook.com/LindaGeorgeJewellery)
www.lindageorgejewellery.com

GOODWOOD STATIONSTAY A Family Owned & Run Working Sheep Station For Three Generations



Goodwood Stationstay

- Outstanding Geology, Plant & Animal Life; great spot to stay for artists and photographers.

- Next door to Paroo Darling NP and a 45 minute drive to Peery Lake.

- Bird watching, Bushwalking and Yabbing.

- Experience the Australian night with stunning big clear skies.

Phone: (08) 8091 6728
Email: louise@goodwoodstationstay.com.au
www.goodwoodstationstay.com.au
www.outbackbeds.com.au

