

CARAVAN PARKS AND CAMPING FROM PORT AUGUSTA TO NORSEMAN

Written by Colin & Margaret Brown - updated 15 April 2017

Port Augusta – Town Caravan parks are OK but not ideal.

Suggest using **Spear Creek CP (lovely spot)** access is about 8Kms north on Spear Creek Rd from Horrocks Pass Road, coming from Wilmington this corner is at the base of the Ranges, after you come out of the pass, 8km before you reach the Princes Hwy. Horrocks Pass Road ends at Princes Hwy 24Km south of Port Augusta. If you have passed through Port Augusta there is the **Nutbush Retreat** on the Eyre Hwy about 34 Km from town.

Pt Germain CP is quite good which is on the bay between Pt Augusta and Pt Pirie (good meals available at hotel).

Kimba – 24 Hr Park on north end of town is maintained by a local service group. Gold Coin donation. Has basic Camp Kitchen and Toilet. Water is available. Hot showers at Rec Ground \$1 coin in the slot.

Ceduna – Good Park is Shelly Beach Caravan Park (FPA) in Decres Bay Rd. Excellent facilities, Drive through sites. Very quiet Location. More secure and quieter than Ceduna town site parks. Good TV reception. Best to book ahead as it is very popular, ask for drive through site if only staying overnight.

Penong Caravan Park - Nice Small Park with good clean facilities on north side of town. Drive through sites.

Fowlers Bay (on coast near Nundroo) – Small Caravan Park near the ocean, nice spot, quiet and protected, fair/good facilities. Roads mostly gravel off Highway and were in good condition (80kph with van on) 20km additional distance.

Nundroo – very noisy from trucks – There is a small Caravan Park at the road house, facilities were poor, Park was poor. There is another Caravan Park on the next corner after road house condition unknown.

Nullarbor Caravan Park (alongside road house) – very near road, very noisy from trucks – facilities fair, but shared with all travellers. Showers are available.

Eucla Caravan Park (book in at Eucla garage). Sites fair but fairly good facilities, well back from highway, therefore quiet. TV channels available and mobile phone coverage. Has Camping area as well as Caravan sites – quite basic on natural dirt and powdered limestone ground base. If you're thinking of moving on and camping off road you can have a shower at Eucla CP for about \$2 each (coin in the slot, ask at petrol garage)

Cocklebiddy and Caiguna Caravan Parks are fairly average.

Balladonia Caravan Park is fair with some facilities but still fairly close to road.

Fraser Range Caravan Park (90km west of Balladonia) - (Farm style park) – approx. 90km West of Balladonia, on south side of highway (well signposted). Good facilities (\$30 per night with showers \$1 coins), 2 km off highway on good gravel road, therefore very quiet. Open fires in drums allowed. Loose Blue metal ground cover for powered sites. They do have cabins. Good Buffet style meals available for dinner - 2 courses approx. \$25 to \$30. Good idea to book your site at least a day ahead as it is quite popular.

Norseman Caravan Park Fair to Average with reasonable facilities.

Off Road Camping and Sight Seeing

You can have a shower at most road houses for a small fee usually about \$2 or at some by using \$1 coins in the slot to switch on the hot water.

South Australia

The Parking and Rest Areas in South Australia are very basic some now have roofed tables and seats but none have toilets so you have to rely on the road houses for facilities.

Overnight Parking Area West of Penong near Yalata (no Toilet) on North side of road. You can get well off the road and it is suitable for overnight stay. There are rubbish bins but nothing else.

Whale Watching at the Head of the Bight – May to October

14km east of Nullarbor Road House there is a good sealed road running South off the Eyre Hwy, it is 12km out to the Head of the Bight where there are wooden walkways and lookouts where you can spot the Whales if they are in the bay. The Whales usually come to the area to calve between May and October each year and there is usually a notice at the Eyre Highway entrance stating if the whales are there and how many have been sighted. Well worth the deviation if they are in the bay. There is a fee involved if you wish to drive out there. No camping is allowed.

Great Australia Bight Lookouts

Some travelers stop overnight at the lookouts along the Great Australian Bight but they are very exposed with no facilities and you may be buffeted by strong winds. There is a lookout about 66km west of Nullarbor, which is good and also another 100km west of Nullarbor. They are both worth stopping at to have a look at the view. The lookouts are close to the parking areas, which can be accessed off the Eyre Hwy on limestone tracks usually only a few hundred metres in length. It is suitable to tow your Avan into the parking areas.

Western Australia

There are quite a few Rest Areas in Western Australia which have eco type toilets and are suitable for overnight camps. We noticed they were gradually improving facilities starting from the Norseman end.

The only Rest Area site that was still using the old drop toilet that had not been upgraded was the one about 10km west of Mundrabilla Road House, plenty of space, natural dirt tracks but it could be muddy if wet.

There is a Rest Area about 157km west of Eucla called Moondine Bluff, plenty of space, natural dirt tracks with a newer toilet, could be muddy if wet.

There is a 24hr Rest Area 67km west of Caiguna on south side of road with toilet and tables and plenty of space to get well back off the road on dirt tracks to camp overnight. The slip road running off the highway is sealed.

There is a 24hr Rest Area 130km west of Caiguna on south side of road with toilet and tables and plenty of space to get well back off the road to camp overnight. The slip road running off the highway is sealed.

There are Rest Areas on both sides of road after you pass Fraser Range Station turnoff (20km and 24km) both have more recent eco drop toilets. You can get a long way off road at the second one on the Northern side of the Highway by using the dirt tracks. The slip roads running off the highway are sealed.

Golf

If you are keen on Golf you may like to tackle the Nullarbor Golf course, the holes are spaced out with one at each of the road houses and settlements all the way across from Ceduna to Kalgoorlie.

Quarantine Check Point on **WA border** when going **West** – usually very strict, you will have to open up van. Most fresh fruit, vegies, honey and raw nuts will be taken.

Check Point going back into South Australia from WA is just before Ceduna. If you have a fridge in your car you may not have to open your van for inspection.

We hope this gives you some idea of what it is available when driving across the Nullarbor. Not all Rest areas have been listed, only the ones we have used or have seen as suitable, but we are sure there are many more out there. Remember there is **very little fresh water** across the Nullarbor so carry all that you will need.

We have done this trip many times and we always really enjoy it. On our trip in March 2017 we found the Eyre Highway to be in very good condition with no roadworks. The roads are wide enough not to be worried by the road trains when they pass you and we saw very little live wildlife in daylight hours, while we were travelling. Just watch out for any Eagles that may be feeding on the road as they can be very slow when taking off, as you are approaching them.

If you want a free brochure including a map, the one produced by the South Australian Government is very good and should be readily available.

It is called: Adelaide – Perth Adventure The Nullarbor Australia's Great Road Journey

Or you can see it all on line at nullarbormap.com.au