

BANANA
DRIVE
TRAILS

Baralaba History Loop

★ **BARALABA** ★ **BANANA** ★ **BILOELA** ★ **DIXALEA**
★ **WOWAN** ★ **RANNES**

225kms



sandstone
WONDERS

Baralaba History Loop



225 kms (allow 4-6 hrs depending on stops)

Start in Stopford Street, Baralaba, across the street from Majors Convenience Store (GPS -24.179381, 149.812358). Drive south along Stopford Street 200m and then left onto Dunstan Street (GPS -24.181287, 149.811321).

Approximately 1.8km along Dunstan Street, turn right onto Moura-Baralaba Road (GPS -24.187174, 149.827430). Follow for 14km before the road name changes to Baralaba-Banana Road. Follow until you reach Banana (50km/35min) (GPS -24.471480, 150.128235).

Banana, Biloela, Dixalea, Wowan

From Banana, follow the Dawson highway to Biloela (46.5km/30 mins).

Biloela is the commercial centre of the Shire. If you fancy a coffee or some morning tea, head into Biloela to one of the Cafes or perhaps even a spot of shopping. If you're a bit of a history buff, get along to the Queensland Heritage Park on Exhibition Avenue to explore their heritage displays and historic buildings.

If not heading into Biloela, turn left onto the Burnett Highway just outside of town (GPS -24.406683, 150.499011). Follow to Jambin, approximately 30km/25min and continue through an additional 33km until you reach Dixalea-Deeford Road (GPS -23.943460, 150.282568).

Turn left onto Dixalea-Deeford Road and you'll notice a historically significant site on the right, a large stone and dedication to the pioneers of Dixalea. Follow approximately 7km before crossing over the Dee River. The road will via around a right hand bend and then left until it meets an intersection with Dee River Road. Turn left onto Dee River Road and follow into Wowan.

Wowan is home to a beautiful and very intriguing Museum. Open from Monday to Thursday (9am until 1pm), Dot Nutley, the Museum curator would be delighted to show you around the many gems hidden inside.

Wowan to Rannes

Continue along the Leichhardt Highway 24km to Rannes. Rannes does not have a town signpost as it is considered a locality, rather than a town. While it may now be small, it was once a major railway town that once housed the Shire Office from 1930 until 1946.

Approximately 870m before the Goovigen-Rannes Road turn-off is a dirt road off the right hand side of the Leichhardt Highway (GPS -24.098426, 150.118278). This road is suitable for 4WD vehicles only. If you follow the road for a short distance, you will arrive at the bank of the Don River. A great spot to throw in a line.

Continue south along the Leichhardt Highway. 6km past the Goovigen-Rannes Road is a stone monument on the left hand side of the road. You'll have to look carefully to spot it as it is only small. The monument commemorates the first settlement in the Dawson Valley.

Perform a u-turn and drive 3km north along the Leichhardt Highway to the Baralaba Rannes Road turn-off.

Turn left onto the Baralaba-Rannes Road and follow for 34km back to Baralaba.

The Baralaba Hotel in Stopford Street (GPS -24.181565, 149.811501) is a great little spot to grab a meal or cold drink to finish the day. The hotel was built in 1927, however, the oldest building in Baralaba is located at the Historical Village and was built in 1911. The village is open by appointment so you'll need to book ahead - phone 4998 1163 or 4998 1351.