

Scenic & Historic Drives

ROUTE



LAGGAN/PEELWOOD/TUENA/CROOKWELL VIA BINDA

APPROXIMATELY 2.5 HOURS DRIVING TIME-446km

From Crookwell Visitors' Centre - Travel west and turn right onto Laggan Rd and travel approximately 9 kilometres

1 LAGGAN: The old Presbyterian Church, on your left as you enter Laggan is now a shearing shed. The Laggan Hotel offers pies, toasted sandwiches etc or they have BBQ facilities available. Hatherleigh Cafe and Raspberry Farm has fine food and is open from December to May. Willowvale Mill, on your right, has accommodation and an excellent restaurant. Please book first. Continue about 10 kilometres towards Thalaba and Peelwood, just as you reach the Fullerton turnoff pull off to your right for a wonderful view from the top of Treacy's Hill over

2 FULLERTON VALLEY: This was one of the proposed sites for the city of Canberra. Keep travelling straight ahead towards Peelwood and approximately 5 kilometres on the left is

3 GRANT SPRINGS ANGLICAN CHURCH St Luke's: entry via Thalaba Station. Built in 1914 and constructed of corrugated iron on stumps and lined with pine boarding. Most of the route to Tuena (45 kilometres) is now dirt road but don't be put off. It's not a bad road and well worth the drive. Continue over Phil's River Bridge to Cuddlyong Road on the left. This is the site of the Limerick Races Hotel where Bushranger Lowry was shot in 1864. Lowry's terrible fate, shot down as he was in the bloom of life was most regrettable but was provoked by his own reckless hardihood. Sgt. Stephenson who's shot it was killed Lowry, was himself wounded in the encounter with the outlaw, who came out of the hotel armed with two revolvers and rashly challenged the police to a duel to the death. Lowry's last words were "Tell them I died game".

3 kilometres further on and you will be in Limerick with lovely views over the Peelwood area. Continue to:

4 PEELWOOD: once a mining town for silver, zinc and lead. The mine chimney is still standing as is Maguire's Post Office (now restored) and the derelict Fardy's Store Hotel. As you approach Tuena you will pass Mount Costigan Road on your right and go over the Tuena Creek. You are now in one of the old gold mining areas of this region. When you reach the Binda Road junction turn right for Tuena Village (1.5 kilometres).

5 TUENA: Gold was discovered in Tuena in 1851 but it was 1859 before it was officially recognised and named. Call at the local store (open Monday to Saturday, but afternoons only Tuesday and Thursday) and take a look at some of Tuena's 19th Century buildings. Pay a visit to the Goldfields Inn for a leisurely drink and they can also tell you about trying your hand at some gold panning!

Camping and caravanning facilities are available. If you would like to extend your drive a little further, another 10 kilometres past Tuena will take you to the Shire boundary and:

6 ABERCROMBIE RIVER: camping and fishing are possible here. Otherwise take the Binda Road for your route back to Crookwell (about 60 kilometres - gravel road for the first 24 kilometres).

RETURN JOURNEY

36 kilometres will bring you to Junction Point and the Tuena Creek crossing. Thousands of small mine shafts were dug in proximity to Tuena Creek. Be careful if you decide to go walking! Continue on to Dog Trap Hill and you are back on metalled road. As you approach Binda you pass Funny Hill Station (Please respect the owners privacy) and the Funny Hill Racecourse, this is the second oldest country racecourse in NSW and has held an annual race meeting since 1848.

7 BINDA: originally the main administration centre for the Abercrombie District and boasts the first Post Office, Police Station, Court House and the first Government School in the Crookwell Shire. Note the stone houses and St James Church, built in 1863. Binda store is open daily from 8.30 am to 7.00 pm - petrol, telephone, tourist information and toilets.

There are many Bushranger stories from this area but perhaps the best is that of Ben Hall, John Dunn and John Gilbert who rode into town with three local girls on Boxing Day 1864 to go to the Christmas Ball! First they held up Morriss's Store, took the takings of 100 pounds, rounded up all the village folk and forced them to come to the dance, where they locked them all in. Mr Morriss, a retired policeman, escaped and tried to get police help but a furious Ben Hall burnt down the store in retribution.

Now it's time to return to Crookwell (about 22 kilometres). Don't miss the delightful view over the town as you wind your way down Wades Hill.

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