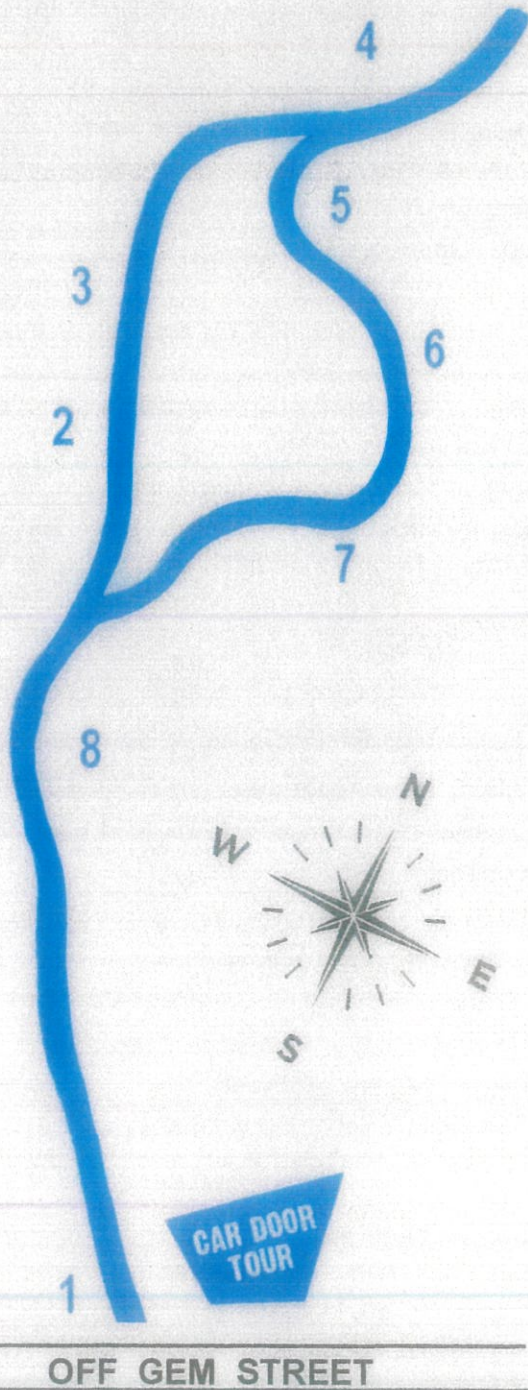


BLUE CAR DOOR EXPLORER TOUR

Drive Time 10 minutes



1. (0.0km) Turn right onto the gravel road & make your way up Bald Hill. This was the only ridge without tree lines.

Miners know that the strength of trees means the roots have found cracks & crevices seeking water. A line of trees is an indicator that water has reached the sandstone level & found the opal clay level.

2. (0.3km) Proceed toward the **Opal Mine Adventure Walk-in-Mine**.

3. (0.4km) The Opal Fields around town, are 'the suburbs'. People can stretch their resources by living simply on residential claims. They pay rents & rates on a 20 year lease that measures 50 x 50 metres. The dimensions of a mining claim are the same but it is registered annually with the Mines Department. A transportable camp is the only option.

4. (0.6km) **The Opal Mine Adventure Walk-in-Mine** was dug by hand by Sandy Randall in the early 1960's. He opened his Walk-in-Mine as the first Tourist Attraction. He was a founding father of the Lightning Ridge Miners' Association.

5. (0.9km) Turn left to **Bevan's Cactus Nursery**.

6. (1.1km) The open basin on the left is a source of gravels & apparently, not opal bearing.

7. (1.2km) **Bevan's Black Opal & Cactus Nursery** has over 2300 species! Largest collection of Cacti in the Southern Hemisphere. Over 48 varieties of Bougainvillea in full bloom are stunning.

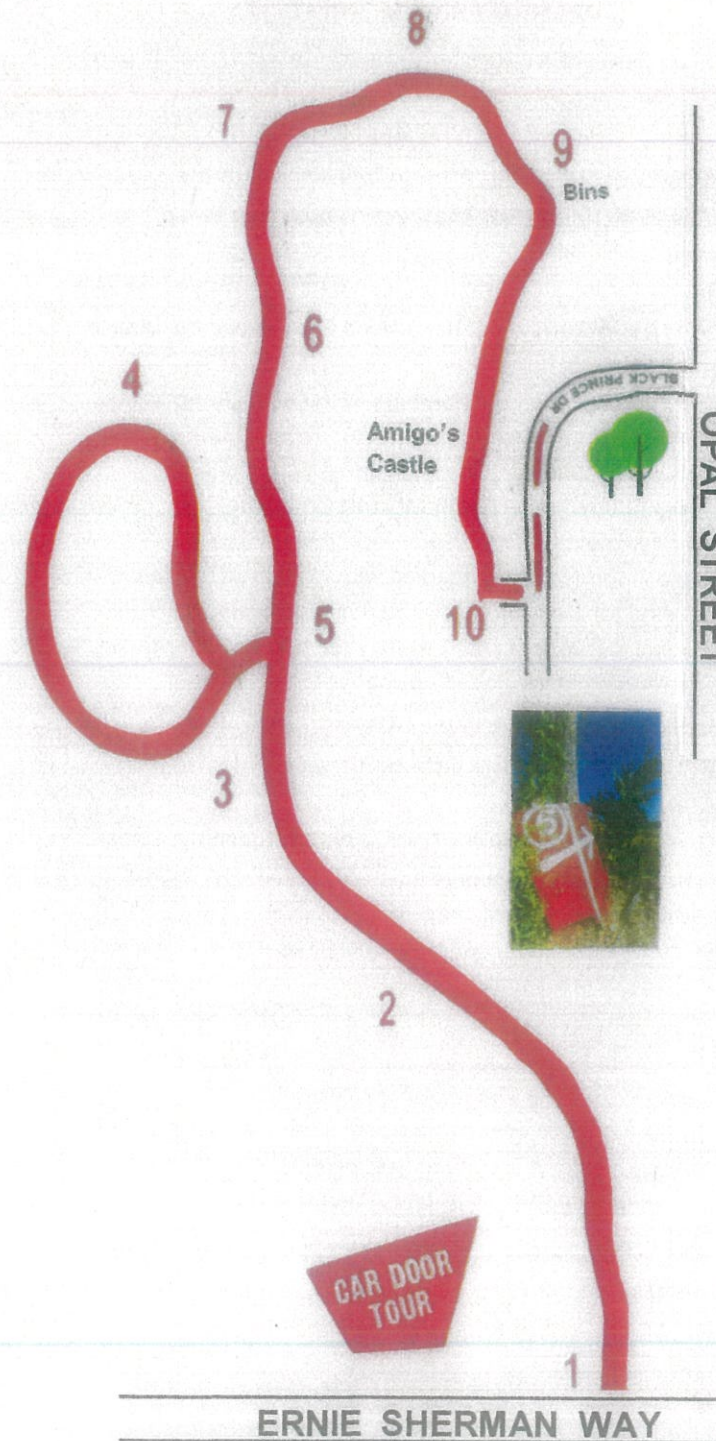
8. (1.5km) Turn left back to the bitumen.

**** DRIVE WITH CAUTION ****

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RED CAR DOOR EXPLORER TOUR

Drive Time 20 minutes



1. (0.0km) First stop **The Plaque** for information On the first settlement site. The hill called Sim's Hill Opal Field, was the site of the first 1906 settlement, **Wallangulla or Old Town**. The first opal rush boomed Here in 1905.

2. (0.1km) drive straight ahead.

3. (0.2km) Turn left at door.

PASSING PRIVATE HOMES
****Please DO NOT approach homes****

On the left is a home built from stone & bottles.

4. (0.3km) The **Ridge Castle** on the left.

An unusual home from stone & flagons.

5. (1.4km) Turn left.

This takes you to Sim's Hill highest point in district - 170 metres above sea level.

6. (1.5km) Continue driving.

7. (0.06km) Look to the right.

The only Fast Food Drive Through in town, **KFC**. Alas or not, it is NEVER OPEN.

8. (0.8km) Continue past various camps to number 9.

9. (1.0km) Slow down & turn right past the Yellow Rubbish Bins to Amigo's Castle.

(1.1km) On the right is **Amigo's Castle**, a private home Single-handedly built of Ironstone. Started in 1981, The scaffolding consisted off 44 gallon drums, with planks. Arranged one above the other. Entrance Fee

10. (1.2km) Turn to the left back to civilization onto **Black Prince Drive** & continue up to the intersection with **Opal Street**.

Turn right to the **Bottle House** or left to **Kangaroo Hill**.

Both attractions have various Antiques & Collectables.

Entrance Fees

NOT TO SCALE

SPECKING, FOSSICKING, NOODLING...

Call it what you like - it means looking for opal!

There are a number of places you can go to look for your own opal. Ask at the Visitor Information Centre, your place of accommodation, or the Department of Mineral Resources.

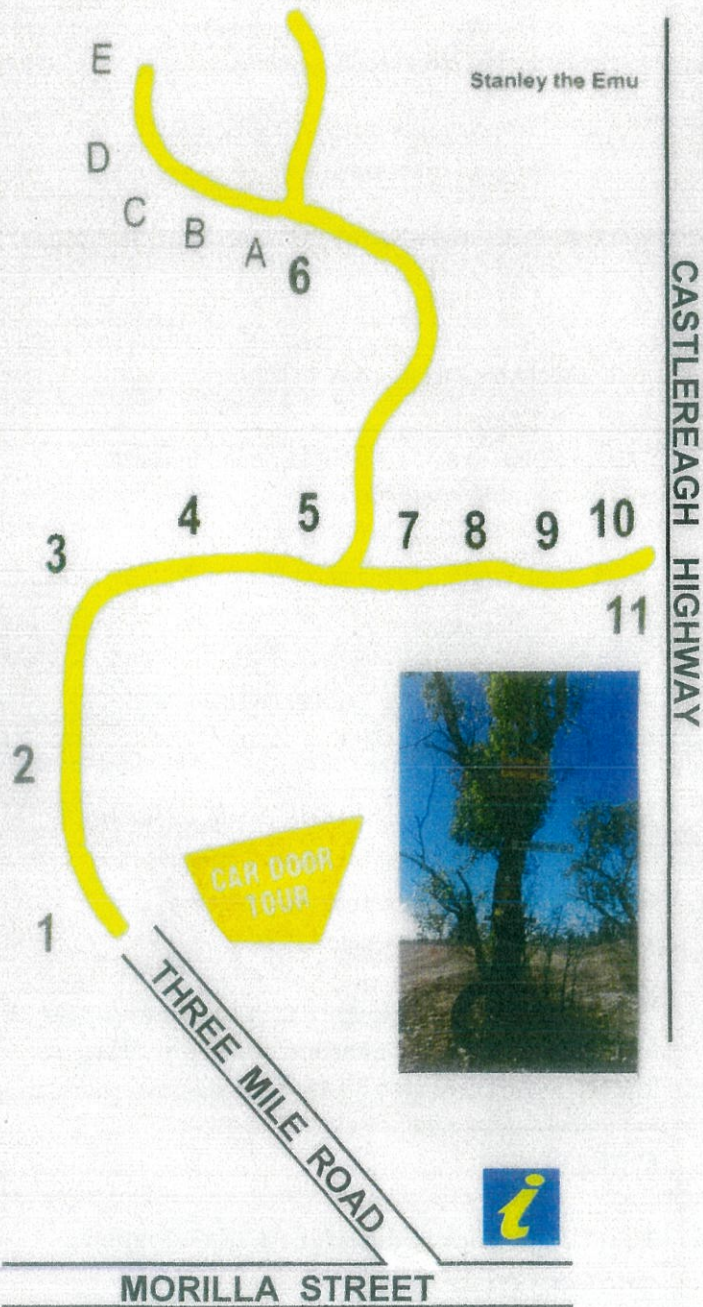
It is important that you don't wander uninvited onto mining areas. For a start it can be dangerous and secondly, you're trespassing. If a miner does invite you to noodle on his or her claim, then good luck!



**WARNING: DRIVE WITH CAUTION
ON ALL ROADS & AREAS**

YELLOW CAR DOOR EXPLORER TOUR

Drive Time 45 minutes



Visit the HISTORICAL SOCIETY for further Information & Memorabilia on Lightning Ridge

The Historical Society & Lightning Ridge Visitor Information Centre Have provided the information contained herein.

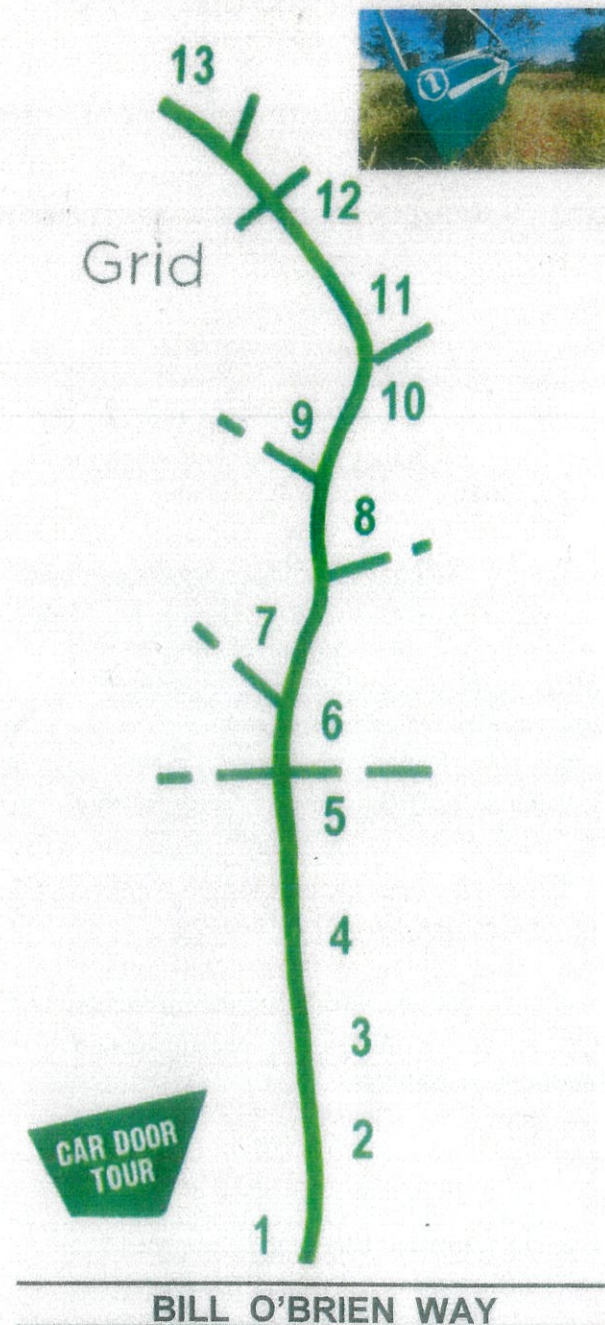
\$1 Fee per Sheet
Red, Yellow, Green & Blue Car Door Explorer Tours

1. (0.0km) **Three Mile Opal Fields** begin. On the left is the **Big Opal Mine**, a machine dug mine. Entrance Fee to Mine only. On display is **Migration Memories** curated 2007 by ANU & **The National Museum, Canberra** that tells our story of Settlement through Local Families.
2. (0.2km) Various Mining Equipment can be seen amongst the dumps of dirt from the opal mines.
PASSING PRIVATE HOMES
3. (0.5km) Notice the stone Miners Cottages from an earlier era when people took time to build their home.
****Please DO NOT approach homes****
4. (0.8km) The stone "Off Grid" miners' camps use solar power, fuel powered generators, wind power & even candle light. Watch for the OPEN sign at the **Bird of Paradise Art Gallery**.
5. (1.1km) Turn left at Black Hand Corner towards **Lunatic Hill**. This is the location of **Chambers of the Black Hand Mine**. On the left is the excavated site **Australian Opal Centre-AOC** by a self-sustaining, 2 storey in-the-ground building designed Architects **Glenn Murcutt** & his wife, **Wendy Lewin**. The abandoned shafts marked with manufactured fences Are safe for viewing. NOTE The rectangular shafts are original & sunk by hand. You may see hand & foot grips where the miner climbed up & down.
6. A. On left is more of the **AOC** excavation.
B. On right is the **Black Opal Heritage Shed** associated with the **AOC**.
C. On left is **Old Chum's Track**, a walk through the Opal Fields to the heritage precinct of **Nettleton**, the second settlement on the diggings.
D. Drive through regenerated opal fields. On the right is a **Graveyard of Rusty Treasures**.
E. Guides you to **Lunatic Hill**, read the information panels & the tribute to **Ion L. Idriess** author of "**Lightning Ridge**" (available at the **Visitor Information Centre**). On the return to your car notice the **2 air vents** to capture the breezes for mines 20 metres below the surface.
Go back to BLACK HAND CORNER
7. (2.0km) Turn left & continue passed the **Engineering Workshop**.
8. (2.4km) Everywhere you look there is evidence of **Camp life & mining**.
9. (2.9km) This is the **4 Mile Opal Field**.
10. (3.2km) Site of the **Corrugated Iron Church** on the right, purpose-built for the film "**Goddess of 1967**". Destroyed by mini tornado in December 2020.
11. (3.8km) The breakaway view overlooks the **Black Soil Plains**. At the **Castlereagh Highway** turn right to town or left to **Stanley the Emu**.

GREEN CAR DOOR EXPLORER TOUR

Drive Time 30 minutes

**** Dry Road Only ****



**** DRIVE WITH CAUTION ****

STARTS approx. 3kms out of town towards the **Castlereagh Highway**

1. (0.0km) You are heading toward **Nettleton's First Shaft Lookout Historical Reserve**.
2. (0.3km) This **Ironstone ridge** attracts **Lightning**. **Ironbark Trees** are prominent in this area.
3. (0.6km) Continue along the ridge through the **Mine Fields**.
4. (0.8km) Just pass under the power lines that come up the **Castlereagh Highway**.
5. (1.5km) You are travelling North toward the **Black Soil Plains**. Opal is found on the ridges.
(1.6km) **CAUTION** – Intersection. **The Old Goodooga Road**.
6. (1.7km) This is **Nebia Hill**. The gravel pit on the right supplies the district. Our gravels are colourful & include **Petrified Wood, Jasper, Quartz, Agates, Carnelian & even Clear Topaz**.
7. (1.9km) This Car Door is hanging on a **Wild Orange Tree** that has a 25metre root system. Some miners regard them as surface indicators of where to dig.

****WASHOUTS AHEAD on track****

8. (2.1km) Travelling through **rehabilitated landscape**.
9. (2.4km) Travelling through a **low area floodway**.
10. (2.6km) Please take care driving at all times on these **unsealed roads**.
11. (2.9km) Continue driving through the **unique landscape**.
12. (3.1km) On the right is a **3.7 metre Opal Tree**.
13. (3.4km) You have reached your destination **Nettleton's First Shaft Lookout**. Read **The Monument** on the left & go further to walk the **Stone Labyrinth** that was made by 4 people in 6 hours. If stones are out of place, please re-align them in this **spiritual place**. Before it gets too dark turn right & looking to your left is the **Beer Can House**. You are welcome to pop in & sign the **Guest Book** in the **Fridge**. Now go back, take a seat & watch the **Setting Sun** towards the **Coocoran Opal Fields** that were booming in the 1990's. Enjoy your experience & leave only **foot prints**, but not any rubbish.