

SCENIC AND HISTORIC DRIVES

ROUTE 2 EXPLORERS AND BUSHRANGERS

DRIVE DESCRIPTION

Hamilton Hume famously began his trek south from his property near Gunning in 1824, however he also explored extensive parts of the Goulburn Plains. Likewise, bushrangers including Ben Hall terrorized travelers along these key transport routes. Explore from Gunning to Collector and get a sense of this history.

POINTS OF INTEREST

• Gunning

Your journey back to the time of the explorers and bushrangers starts in the historic village of Gunning. Explorer Hamilton Hume established a sheep property here in 1821, and soon after the area became an official settlement. In 1824 Hume and Captain William Hovell set off on their famous expedition south to what is now Melbourne. In 1840, bushrangers Thomas Whitton and his ruthless gang held up the town. Hamilton Hume's brother, John Kennedy Hume and a group of local men faced up to the bushrangers, but John Hume was killed. You can find his grave, and those of others from this time, in the Gunning General Cemetery at the end of Wombat Street. Gunning features a whole range of interesting historical buildings and sites dating from this time onwards, featured in the self-guided Heritage Walk of Gunning.

• Fish River

After exploring Gunning's rich history, and maybe enjoying refreshments in one of the delightful cafés, it is time to head east out of town on the Cullerin Road. Around 5 km out of Gunning you will find a commemorative memorial erected in 1924, marking the start of Hume and Hovell's expedition in 1824. The road from here takes you over the Cullerin Range to Breadalbane, intertwining with the Main Southern Railway line, through breathtaking and picturesque scenery. Driving distance is around 23 km and it will take you approximately 25 minutes.

• Breadalbane

Breadalbane is a tranquil little village these days, but back in the 1860's it was one of the haunts of notorious bushranger Ben Hall and his gang. As you come into Breadalbane, turn left at the Mutmutbilly Road and you will find Brigid's Roman Catholic Church (which was constructed in 1865). The cemetery is the resting place of one of Ben Hall's associates, Tom Byrne, who was buried here in 1888.

• Collector

From Breadalbane, take the Breadalbane to Collector road, heading south. The drive to Collector is around 20 km through more exquisite countryside and takes around 25 minutes. Like Gunning, Collector dates back to the 1820s. The village features many historical buildings and is also famous for bushranger history. Ben Hall and his comrades John Dunn and John Gilbert held up the town in 1865. They were confronted by the town's Constable Sam Nelson, who bravely faced the gang armed only with a single shot, muzzle loading carbine. John Dunn shot the constable in the chest with a shotgun, then callously finished him off with a revolver shot to the face. Constable Nelson's memorial stands by the heritage listed Bushranger Hotel.

DISTANCE

48 km

Driving Time

Approximately 1 hour (remember to take it easy on country roads!)



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