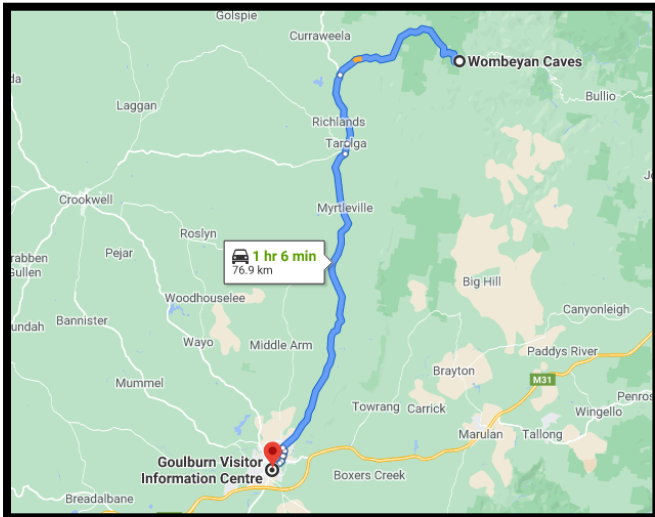


tourist drive

goulburn to wombeyan caves

via tarlo, chatsbury, myrtleville, taralga and richlands



Length: 77km

This tourist drive commences in Goulburn. Start your journey after visiting the Goulburn Visitor Information Centre and finding out what there is to see and do in Australia's First Inland City. The Visitor Information Centre offers an extensive range of local produce, arts, crafts, and local & regional wines all available for purchase.

Travelling along Tarlo Road then onto Taralga Road you will pass spectacular sheep and cattle grazing country, dotted with historic farms.

44km after departing Goulburn you will see the Taralga Wind Farm perched atop the hills running down the right-hand countryside. Starting in 2012 and

completed in 2015 the project saw the construction of 51 wind turbines generating 106.8 Megawatts of electricity on the ridges to the east of Taralga. Electricity generated by the project is fed into the national power grid through a 38km transmission line to the Marulan Substation. The project created up to 200 local jobs during the construction phase.

Only 1km further down the road you will be pleasantly surprised to find the beautiful and picturesque town of Taralga. There were approximately 100 residents in 1863, growing to over 700 by the 1890's. Immediately after the depression of the 1890's the population shrank to half this size, but recovered by the mid-1950's, almost to its peak level. Today the town and its surroundings are home to around 400 people.

In Taralga you will find the heritage listed Catholic Church of Christ the King, located on Macarthur Street. It was designed by Sydney Smith of Ogg & Serpell and built in 1934 by R. M. Bowcock. The property is owned by the Archdiocese of Canberra – Goulburn and was added to the New South Wales State Heritage Register on 30 April 2004.

Continuing beyond Taralga you will then turn right onto Wombeyan Caves Road, the final leg of the beautiful countryside drive before Wombeyan Caves. The Wombeyan Caves are marble formed caves in the Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve and is a tourist attraction and local holiday area, as well as a reserve for endangered species, such as several wildlife species of wallaby, bird, possum, and wombat.

The area was protected as a reserve in 1865. The main site includes several camping grounds, a kiosk, a public phone, a kitchen, and other public facilities. A ranger station is also positioned near the camping site to collect camping fees from visitors, prevent unsafe human-wildlife association, protect local flora and fauna, and investigate any queries or complaints.

Caves found in this reserve include the Victoria Arch, one of the most popular due to its proximity to the camping grounds, and Fig Tree Cave. Other caves include Junction, Wollondilly, Mulwaree and Kooringa caves. Several NSW caving groups run regular trips to Wombeyan Caves, these are official caving groups that obtain permits for various cave related expeditions.

Other interesting sites are the creek, the waterfall and the various smaller caves found while traversing the extensive forest in the area.



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