

# JOHNBURGH LOOP

SELF DRIVE TOUR • 80KMS • SUITABLE FOR 2WD



## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Carrieton Township
- Carrieton Cemetery Est 1832 & Oladdie Lonely Graves
- Oladdie Ruins
- Johnburgh Ruins
- Johnburgh Cemetery Est 1879
- Bendleby Ranges
- Sandal Park
- Settlers Monument
- Belton Ruins & Lonely Graves
- McKenna Creek
- Almerita Station

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Leaving from Carrieton head towards Orroroo 1 km Turn left onto Oladdie Road.	
3.2kms	Carrieton Cemetery is on the right. The oldest marked grave stone 1882. Unfortunately cemetery records were destroyed in the Carrieton Council Office fire in 1933 and information on the earliest graves can only be gleaned from the head stones.
5kms	Entering the Oladdie Hills, drive with caution on the winding road, keeping to the left on the bends and being watchful for kangaroos.
9kms	Goldfinch’s Hill, the highest point in the Oladdie Road, is named after the earliest landholders in the area.
10.1kms	Oladdie is a farming enterprise. Oladdie shearing shed is on the right. Note the windmill with the large fan span on the left in front of main homestead. Originally installed at the Quorn Railway Station, the windmill was bought at a clearing sale in the middle of last century and erected at half its original height. The windmill is governed so that, regardless of wind speed, the mill operates at the same speed all the time, pumping water when required.
13.3kms	<p>The ruins of an early Oladdie homestead are situated on the bank of the Oladdie creek. The homestead was the northern outstation of the Pekina Station Run in the mid-19th century.</p> <p>A slate mine operated on the banks of the Oladdie creek in the 1980’s when slate was a popular flooring option. The decreased demand for slate and cost of very labour-intensive work saw the operation operate for only a few years.</p> <p>The early stock and transport routes had to be planned with regular watering points for stock. The northern route went from Pekina Station to Oladdie and onto Yanyarrie Station (an outpost of Coonatto station) and then further north. In the chronicle of 21st April 1877, a reader described the coach trip he made passing through Oladdie before the arrival of selectors. He wrote:</p> <p><i>“After leaving Pekina, we travelled over a most horrible road before getting to Oladdie Whim. The Government Whim in the creek is completely broken and shattered. Some portions of the road from the whim to Yanyarrie are very good and the scenery beautiful. The road lies for some distance between two creeks, from which magnificent gums grow and the hills behind formed a beautiful background. Towards the end of the stage we found the track uncommonly rough, and the water having completely altered the track.”</i> (extracts from Carrieton in the Gum Creek Country).</p>
13.4kms	After the first Oladdie Creek crossing, the level sheltered area on the right in the bend of the creek was the site for many local school and church picnics in early times. As you enter mallee scrub, to your left is the Oladdie Barytes mine, last operated in the 1950’s. Floods in recent years have washed away evidence of mining activity but the dozer cuts in the creek banks can still be seen. Barytes is a naturally occurring mineral of barium sulphate.
15.5kms	Stop and enjoy the panorama as you leave the Oladdie Hills. The Oladdie Plain and Warna Plain expands the whole width of the horizon before you with the Hungry and Bendleby Ranges as a colourful backdrop. After nearly 2 years of drought, pastoralists demanded rent relief, and George Goyder – SA Surveyor-General from 1861 to 1894 – was sent north “to lay down on a map, the line of demarcation between that portion of the country where the rainfall has extended, and that where the

drought prevails”. Johnburgh was outside the line but the fever for wheat country in late 1870s was relentless. After a Royal Commission in 1875 the Government broke up the massive pastoral runs for farming and the land-hungry immigrants headed north hoping to fulfill their expectations of rich farming returns from cropping. The Hundred of Oladdie was proclaimed in 1876 and the township of Johnburgh, named after Governor Jervois’s son, was proclaimed in 1879. However severe droughts in the 1880s proved the validity of Goyder’s Line. The Margins of the Good Earth by DW Meinig details this part of history.

If you have commenced the Johnburgh Loop from Orroroo, Johnburgh is 30km from Orroroo.



20.2kms	<p><b>Johnburgh Historic Town</b></p> <p>Many of the historic buildings can be explored and the history is highlighted on the new interpretive sign located at the Johnburgh Hall.</p> <p>The cemetery lies 5 km east of the town in a very lonely isolated place. The oldest readable gravestones are those of Henry and Annie Napper of Bendleby; 1879.</p>
30kms	<p>Leaving Johnburgh head north to Belton.</p> <p>Bendleby Ranges is a very impressive outback stay for visitors offering accommodation, bush camping, walking, biking and self-drive 4WD tours.</p>
30.5kms	<p>Sandal Park is a rural working property. Its name is derived from the false Sandalwood tree which was a prominent feature of the plains.</p> <p>The Bendleby Post Office was opened in 1891 at Sandal Park, the home of Mr G. Dunn, the first Postmaster. The mail coach came from Orroroo three times a week, arrived in the early evening and stayed overnight, returning next morning. Mrs Irene Whitehouse, nee Dunn, had this to tell us: <i>“mail night was always a great get-together for the farmers who would quite often bring their family with them and the young people would sing around the piano. Two of my sisters played the violin and piano. On Sunday we would sing hymns and father played the accordion with the piano and violin.”</i></p> <p>Another visitor to Sandal Park in1892 writes: <i>“The garden is watered by an ingenious system of drains built under the surface and the soil will grow anything which is planted. Mr Dunn is a tiller of the soil, butcher, patentee, coach-builder, blacksmith, sheep farmer, Post master, doctor, and worst of all a Councillor.”</i></p>
34kms	On your left is a memorial stone dedicated to the early settlers of the Bendleby district. It is also the site where the Catholic Church was built, which incorporated the Bendleby School.
36.2kms	The Wiera Downs signpost, a quick return to Carrieton can be taken by turning left over the cattle grid and turning left again at the next intersection. Or, continue on the Monday – Wednesday mail run tour and travel another 10 km to Belton.
46kms	<p>Arrive at Belton, proclaimed a town in 1882.</p> <p>Belton provided a resting point for the growing Prince Alfred Copper Mine in the late 1860s. It became an important service centre for the local residents and the Prince Alfred Mine and pastoral runs through to the north east. Prince Alfred produced ore from 1871 on and off until 1907, providing much needed employment during drought times.</p>

The stone ruins on your right are all that remains of the old Belton Store. Behind the store are the remains of a cricket shelter. The Belton Hall was dismantled and the flooring was used in the building of the Carrieton Recreation Hall at the Rodeo Grounds. A stone memorial was placed on the main road during the Carrieton Centenary in 1978 recognising Belton’s early history.

At the entrance to Belton turn left at the Belton Well Road and stop in the creek to examine the early road works of a retaining wall built with natural stone – well-crafted and standing the test of time and many floods. Continue through the Wiera Creek to the road junction and turn sharp left and follow the sign to return to Carrieton (28km).

*On the 27 March 1946 Belton Hall was crowded when a welcome was given to George Hardy, Jim Smith, Jack and Enid Retallick, Dick Thurlburn, Brian Probert and Jack Luckraft. What a relief it was to have all those enlisted from here safely back home.”* (Carrieton In Gum Creek Country extract).

53kms	Oldman Salt bush (Atriplex Nummularia) plantation on the left was planted in 1996 on Glenroy Estate. The purpose of the planting was to increase production in an environmental and financially sustainable manner. A total of 2000 acres has been planted on Glenroy Estate with results better than anticipated. Glenroy Estate is a pastoral property held by the Heaslip family over three generations.
55kms	After Glenroy the road surface changes in colour significantly. Some parts are pink where rubble was taken from a nearby source. Author Fleur McDonald named one of her books Purple Roads after her childhood experience in this area.
51.3kms	Further on is a dense growth of Acacia Victoriae (locally called cassia bush), a very common plant Australia wide. Its seed is collected for wattle seed flour and condiments in bush foods.
73kms	McKenna’s Creek shows the power and might of floods with some sizable trees deposited quite a distance from the creek bed.
80kms	Short Cut Road follows the coach road to Yanyarrie from Oladdie, mentioned earlier. This is part of the very early pastoral history of the north.
73kms	On your right is the Williams Cattle Company feedlot and home base for a farming and cattle enterprise, comprising 5 Williams families.
80kms	Shortly you will come to the bitumen entry to Carrieton.



Whilst in town take your time to visit the local community owned and operated general store and Carrieton Hotel. Your recommendation about your trip & stay to friends would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for visiting our district.

References: Meinig DW (1962) ‘On the Margins of the Good Earth’ Hong Kong, Rigby Limited Australia. Carrieton Centenary Book Committee (1978) ‘Carrieton in Gum Creek Country’ Adelaide Carrieton Centenary Committee.