Turn off the Barrier Highway at Wilcannia, midway between Broken Hill and Cobar. Travel on a fully sealed road one hour north to White Cliffs. Travel back in time and discover the secrets and history of this unique town. Fossick for the elusive opal, inspect the solar power station, sleep above or underground, visit the showrooms and galleries, be inspired by the sunsets and night sky. Experience the old fashioned hospitality and friendliness of outback Australia.

www.whitecliffsopalfield.com
PJ’s Underground Bed & Breakfast

An Underground Experience you’ll never forget – sleeping where a century ago the old timers gouged for opal! Now renovated with taste, 6 cool B&B rooms in an award winning home that’s yours for the night. Ask about our ensuite room – and book your Prospector’s Parcel meal if you’d like to eat in for the night after your complimentary mine tour.

www.outbackbeds.com.au ★★★☆ AAAT

White Cliffs Hotel – Motel

CALL MAXINA or GRAHAM
ph 08 8091 6606 fax 08 8091 6782

White Cliffs Underground Motel & Restaurant

Magic sleeping in the world's largest underground motel. Be inspired by the vast night sky while swimming in the pool. Laugh the evening away with friends in the unique underground bar. Mouth watering, old fashioned, three course meals. Tour with an outback ‘character’ in the air-conditioned motel bus.

To book ph 08 8091 6677 info@undergroundmotel.com.au

Caravan & camping area-powered sites. Amenities with coin operated hot showers. Facilities for disabl Laundry (coin operated). FREE electric BBQ’s. Children’s Playground. Pets allowed under contro FEE CHARGED FOR USE OF AREA.
ph/fax 08 8091 6688 ★★ AAAT
Whilst visiting White Cliffs ponder for a moment and realise, that millions of years ago, the ground on which you are standing now was under the sea! Swimming around here back in the Cretaceous period were Plesiosaurs and Ichthyosaurs. The Plesiosaurs were 3 to 12 metres tall with long necks and small heads. The Ichthyosaurs were similar in but were more fish like. These opalised fossil reptiles have been found here at White Cliffs.

Other fossils that can be found here include Crinoids, also called Sea Lilies, that are related to the Starfish and Sea Urchin; Belemnites, that are very similar to the modern Squid; various Brachiopods, Bivalve shells and Gastropods, the snail-like animal with coiled shell, are also to be found here opalised as well as various Plants and Cycads... and not to forget THE DINOSAURS!

White Cliffs has the distinction of being Australia’s first commercial opal field and its story is no less distinctive. It is known that opal was found in the region from as early as 1884 but there was little interest in the gem at that time.

In 1889 while culling kangaroos on the vast Momba Station four kangaroo shooters picked up samples of opal. Specimens were sent to Adelaide to an ex surveyor colleague of one of the shooters. He quickly confirmed the find to be quality opal and made his way to White Cliffs to investigate the discovery.

Within the year White Cliffs Opal was available on markets in Britain, the Continent and the USA.

By 1890 the ‘boom’ was on as overseas manufacturers were quick to see the quality of the White Cliffs gem. The first Opal mining lease was taken out in March 1890 and as news of rich finds was advertised the rush was on and within a few months the population rose rapidly from around 30 to 500.

At its height around 1898-1900, White Cliffs was home to an estimated 5000 people and in today’s terms sold millions of dollars worth of opal.

Then drought, dwindling markets, epidemics caused by bad water all took their toll and the downward slide began. By 1914 the European markets had closed, men left to enlist for World War 1 and it has been estimated that White Cliffs was left with about 30 people the same population as at its beginnings.

This unique area is famous for the White Cliffs PINEAPPLES, a pseudomorph of Glauberite or Ikaite crystal clusters that are replaced with Precious Opal. By some quirk of Mother Nature these opalised PINEAPPLES have only ever been found here in White Cliffs.
Gas bottle refills & fuel - EFTPOS.

For all your Takeaway food, sit down meals and groceries.

Open 7 Days  ph/fax 08 8091 6611

White Cliffs General Store

White Cliffs Opal Field

Information Centre

For information on what to see and do when visiting our town. Call into the White Cliffs GENERAL STORE.

Open 7 Days  ph/fax 08 8091 6611
Barbara & Doug’s Outback Treasures
Barbara Gasch’s famous ‘BUSH & PARADISE JEWELLERY’
Opals - Souvenirs - Gifts - Local Aboriginal Art...
Open: Tues-Sun 9am-5pm (closed Mondays)
MC/VISA/AMEX welcome.
Just follow the hand floating in the sky...
ph 08 8091 6634

Aussie Southern Cross Opals
White Cliffs Opal Jewellery.
Polished & rough specimen stones.
Pearl & Shell Jewellery, Carvings, Fossils & Shells.
Pineapples in season. Lapidary Supplies - EFTPOS
Open 7 Days ph 08 8091 6707. Box 43

Ottophoto.com
Underground Photo Galle
FREE ENTRY
Large display of photo murals, panoramas, prints
magnets and cards. Photography services.
Learn more about White Cliffs, mining, opals,
local animals and plants.
Explore Australia and other remote places from arou
the globe. From the Antarctic to the Amazon.
OPEN MOST DAYS – closed for lunch.
ph 08 8091 6713 otto@ottophoto.com
www.ottophoto.com

Jock’s Place
Dugout Home, Museum & Old Mine,
Opal Seam in Wall. Relics of the area’s past.
Tour Guide Available. OPEN 9 to 5 DAILY. ENTRY FEE.
ph JOCK 08 8091 6753

Brian Moores
Opal Showroom
Unique Opal Jewellery, Ornaments and Souvenirs
for all ages. Opal Books - EFTPOS available
Open 7 Days
See CAROL and GARRY at Lot 6, Opal Drive
ph 08 8091 6628

Barbara Gasch’s famous ‘BUSH & PARADISE JEWELLERY’
Opals - Souvenirs - Gifts - Local Aboriginal Art...
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Dugout Home, Museum & Old Mine,
Opal Seam in Wall. Relics of the area’s past.
Tour Guide Available. OPEN 9 to 5 DAILY. ENTRY FEE.
ph JOCK 08 8091 6753
Opal mine tour & Opal Showroom at PJ’s Underground

If you can’t stay at PJ’s Underground B&B for the night, visit our opal showroom, and enjoy a tour of the mine straight out of our back door. Showroom FREE, mine tour $5 person. Open most days.

Paroo Darling National Park Visitor Centre

The visitor display will help you discover the artesian mound springs, tree lined creeks, spectacular landscapes and ephemeral lakes. Display open most days. Camp under the unblemished night sky at the Coach and Horses camp ground at Wilga on the Darling River. You’ll need to bring drinking water & your food. We supply gas BBQs, pit toilets & the night sky.

Paroo Darling National Park Discovery Tours

Come, meet and interact with Paakantyi traditional owners. Learn about their history and living culture. Explore Wilcannia, life on the Darling River and ir Paruu. Enjoy a cup of tea, Johnny Cakes and a great chat. Leaving Wilcannia 10.30am & 2.30pm weekdays.$12 family, $7 adults, $2 children, $4 concession.

Donna-Lee at Top Level Opals

Our beautiful underground showroom is a must see! Ron has been mining since 1971, he cuts, polishes and sets our locally found opal into quality ‘Rhonan’ jewellery. Original design T Shirts by Donna-Lee, Rob Wellington paintings, Kids Corner, souvenirs, cards, pottery, opal insects, books, gum leaf art & gemstones. Friendly & informative talk.

‘Gems of the Earth’ at Top Level Opals - Smiths Hill

Gem stone crystal jewellery, crystal specimens from Australia & Brazil. Sterling silver bead jewellery, hematite, spheres, generators, wands, tumbled stones, chip bracelets, crystal clusters and palm stones.

Massage Therapist & Usui Reiki Practitioner

Donna-Lee Wynen – Dip Massage Therapy, Dip Anatomy & Physiology. Isis Seichem Level 1 Usui Reiki 1 & 2. Her expertise in therapeutic massage is renown & her Reiki healings sublime!

ph 08 8091 6623
TOURISTS, VISITORS and FOSSICKERS

The WCMA acknowledges the right to fossick anywhere on the Reserve under the auspices of the mining act of 1992, and no licence is required. However permission is required from the holder of a claim to fossick on any registered claim.

A Registered Claim is usually square in shape and 50x50 metres in size with a wooden or steel post at each corner. On the NE post is a datum board, which contains the details of the claim holder.

There is a vast amount of unregistered ground on the Historic Mining Reserve; but please remember SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT and is the responsibility of the visitor. Children are especially vulnerable and need to be carefully supervised at all times as there are many hidden hazards.

GOOD LUCK and ENJOY YOUR STAY

Emergency Phone Numbers

HOSPITAL 08 8091 6605
POLICE (Wilcannia) 08 8083 8099
Royal Flying Doctor 08 8088 1188
FIRE 000
SES 08 8091 6655

LOCAL ROAD CONDITION INFORMATION

ph 08 8091 5155

www.whitecliffsopalfield.com