



INTRODUCTION: **THE GREAT SOUTHERN ROAD**

The United States is home to Route 66, the first of the US highway system, also known as The Will Rogers Highway. It originates from Chicago, Illinois, and passes through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and ends at Santa Monica. Covering a staggering 2,448 miles (3,939.7 km). It is a challenge for tourists to complete the route and to explore and reminisce on the history of events that have occurred across this pioneering highway.

Australia can boast of its own pioneering Highway adventure that crosses the continent from Perth in WA to Sydney, NSW, a distance of 3,932 km (2,443.2 miles), almost equal distance to that of Route 66 with a comparable history of events and attractions along the way for tourists to explore.

The Eyre Highway, also referred to as The Nullarbor Plain, starts at Norseman (722 km E of Perth) and finishes on the SA state border at Ceduna some 1,675 km distant. From there it becomes the Great Ocean Road to Cann River in the Gippsland region and then the Monaro Highway. Only another 285 km to the Australian capital, Canberra, and a further 286 km to the NSW capital, Sydney, home of the famous Sydney Opera House.

This publication aims to provide facts, useful information, rumours, hidden agendas, hear-say, gossip and the truth (as told with fingers crossed behind backs) of the incidents, accidents, invasions, lifestyles and habits of people and their stories as passed down by explorers and weary travellers since

Francis Birtles first rode his bike in a general easterly direction in 1912 to map a route. What happened on the Nullarbor stays on the Nullarbor. Don't you agree Las Vegas?

Many sites are unique to Australia from the longest straight stretch of road in the world (146.6km), to the mind blowing and longest cliffs in the world holding back the Great Australian Bight. The track of the 1968 and 1993 London to Sydney car rallies and the incredible stories and incidents that happened along the old and original track from Norseman in the west to Ceduna in the east, the last town of the Nullarbor before the final and somewhat more comfortable leg to Sydney (2016 km).

We have attempted to keep this publication light and user friendly with useful and important information regarding distances between towns and roadhouses, fuel stops and what facilities you can muster along the way are a priority. The facts of incidents such as the falling of the space station, Skylab, and questionable facts regarding the Nullarbor Nymph are there for your inquiring minds whereas the tourist attractions have been included to entice you to slow your journey down and take in all of the pleasures that the Great Southern Road has to offer.

On behalf of the publishers and sponsors of this 'must have but where do we put it?' publication Enjoy