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## BRISBANE TO ST GEORGE, QLD

St George, and not a dragon in sight! 520kms west south west of Brisbane, St George is the inland fishing capital of Queensland. This was the very first town we visited on our travels and the Pelican's Rest Tourist Park our first ever campsite. And what a place to camp! With



grassed and well-lit sites and modern, clean amenities, it spoiled us for other campgrounds. This was our campsite when we stayed there in April 2003.

No visit to St George would be complete without a stop at the Community and Visitor Information

Centre where you can purchase, among other things, a bottle of Dragon's Breath Sauce. If you like your sauce hot, this will blow your socks off! Where else in the world would you expect to get a sauce called Dragon's Breath but in a town called St George!

A visit to Riversands Winery and Vineyards is also a must. From their rich, robust reds to the clean, crisp whites, Riversands Wines are terrific. There is wine tasting and cellar door sales in a pleasantly appointed area, where you can also purchase jams and chutneys made from the grapes, and their range of gifts is quite extensive. Even if you don't care for wine, there's something for everyone at Riversands. Take a stroll through the vineyard and its acres and acres of grapes, enjoy a light lunch in the garden café, have a picnic or barbecue on the banks of the Balonne River, even throw in a line and catch your lunch. The owners, David and Allison, will go out of their way to ensure that your visit to Riversands is a memorable one.

The Beardmore Dam and The Jack Taylor Weir are just two of the many places to fish in St George; dig for your own bait at "The Wormpatch" if you're feeling energetic.



Or visit the St George Heritage Centre and see a fascinating exhibition on the town's heritage, including the historical courthouse and the old gaol, Moon Rocks farm, 24kms south east of town, the home of the famous Moon Rocks Rockmelons, or The Unique Egg, a display of carved emu eggs at the Balonne Sports Store.



For those who would like to explore a little further afield, the town of Surat is only an hour north of St George. Visit the Cobb & Co Changing Station with its museum, the Balonne Gallery, and a tank with the largest Murray Cod we had ever seen. This photo shows a fully restored coach that is on

display in the museum.

A few days break in St George is like being on another world. Leave your cares behind and recharge your batteries in this charming little town on the edge of the outback; it could be the best break you'll ever have. You can read more about our stay in St George and other towns we visited on this trip in our journal, *Beyond The Black Stump*.

