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Travelling safely in the Great Western Woodlands

The best time to visit is between April and October, when winds are lightest and temperatures average in the mid 20s.


Planning your visit

- Always carry plenty of water in case you get lost or your vehicle breaks down.
- Always tell someone where you're going, when you plan to be back and contact them when you've returned safely.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good working order.
- If your vehicle does break down, **do not** leave it to search for help.
- Don't venture anywhere without the right maps. RAC road maps are sufficient if staying on recognised roads. Off the beaten track, you'll discover the bush is criss-crossed with tracks that can confuse you.
- Mobile phone coverage is limited so if you are going off bitumen roads carry a satellite phone.

Campfires

- Bring your own firewood—collecting in conservation reserves is prohibited and damages habitat.
- Light campfires only in fireplaces provided.
- Clear away all leaf litter and dead branches at least three metres around and above fires.
- Bring your own portable fuel stove for cooking. It is more reliable and reduces the risk of accidental bushfires.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving.
- Campfires are prohibited on days of 'very high', 'extreme' or 'catastrophic' fire danger.

Other considerations

-  Please do not bring dogs into national parks, reserves or former pastoral stations. Many reserves are baited with 1080 baits to control feral animals and these baits may kill pets.
- Take your rubbish home.
- Please leave rocks and cultural artefacts as you find them.

More information

Parks and Wildlife Service offices
parks.dbca.wa.gov.au

Kalgoorlie (08) 9080 5555

Esperance (08) 9083 2100

Merredin (08) 9041 6000

Local government offices

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
(08) 9021 9600, kalbould.wa.gov.au

Shire of Coolgardie
(08) 9025 0300, coolgardie.wa.gov.au

Shire of Dundas
(08) 9039 1205, dundas.wa.gov.au

Shire of Esperance
(08) 9071 0666, esperance.wa.gov.au

Shire of Kondinin
(08) 9889 1006, kondinin.wa.gov.au

Shire of Lake Grace
(08) 9890 2500, lakegrace.wa.gov.au

Shire of Menzies
(08) 9024 2041, menzies.wa.gov.au

Shire of Mount Marshall
(08) 9685 1202, mtmarshall.wa.gov.au

Shire of Mukinbudin
(08) 9047 1102, muginbudin.wa.gov.au

Shire of Ravensthorpe
(08) 9839 0000, ravensthorpe.wa.gov.au

Shire of Westonia
(08) 9046 7063, westonia.wa.gov.au

Shire of Yilgarn
(08) 9049 1001, yilgarn.wa.gov.au



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Community and conservation organisations

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group
0418 935 498, kbulg.org.au

Great Western Woodlands Collaboration
(08) 6460 4936, greatwesternwoodlands.org.au

The Wilderness Society
(08) 9420 7255, wilderness.org.au

Visitor centres and tourism associations

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Visitor Centre
(08) 9021 1966, kalgoorlietourism.com

Coolgardie Visitor Centre
(08) 9026 6090

Norseman Visitor Centre
(08) 9039 1071, norseman.info

Esperance Visitor Centre
(08) 9083 1555, visitesperance.com

Ravensthorpe Visitor Centre
(08) 9838 1277

Kambalda Tourist Information Centre
(08) 9080 2115

Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre
(08) 9041 1666, wheatbelttourism.com

Menzies Visitor Centre
(08) 9024 2702, menzies.wa.gov.au/tourism

Dryandra Country Visitor Centre
(08) 9881 2064, dryandratourism.org.au

Australia's Golden Outback
(08) 9325 1511, australiasgoldenoutback.com

Goldfields Tourism Network
goldfieldstourism.com.au

Information current at February 2020.

This publication is available in alternative formats on request.

Photos - Ann Storrie



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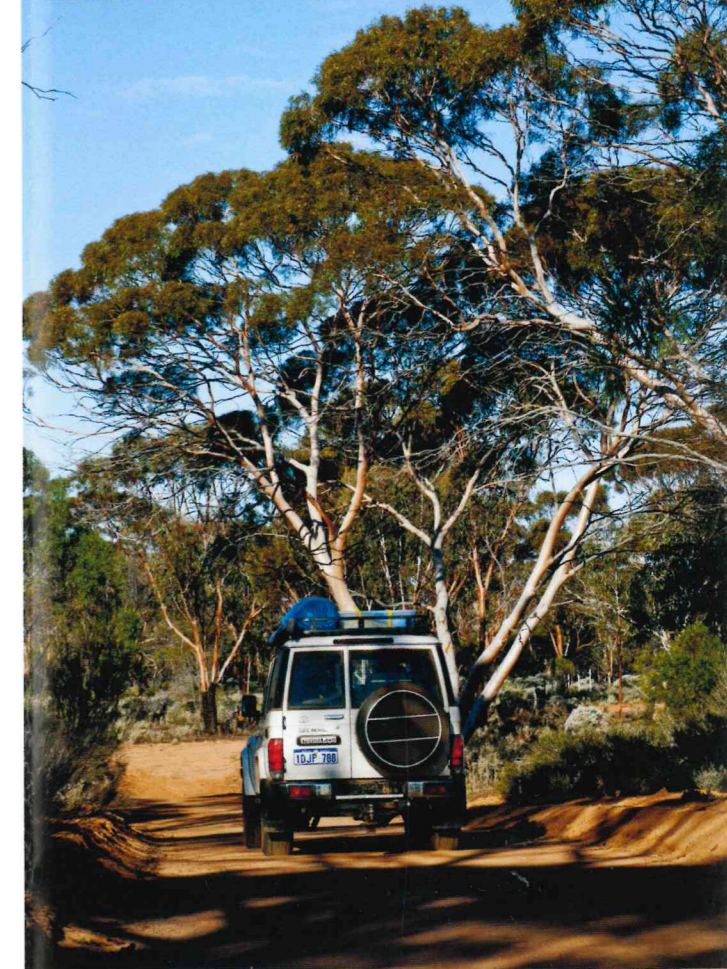


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The Great Western Woodlands



Visitor guide



What is the Great Western Woodlands?

The internationally significant Great Western Woodlands is the largest remaining area of intact Mediterranean-climate woodland on Earth. Covering almost 16 million hectares (about the size of England), this continuous band of native vegetation is a rich tapestry of woodlands, mallee and shrublands.

The woodlands are a refuge for many threatened and unique species found nowhere else on the planet. More than a fifth of Australia's native plant species (over 3,000 species) are found here, including 20 per cent of Australia's eucalypt species (more than 160 species).

Aboriginal occupation has been dated to at least 22,000 years and the region has immeasurable cultural significance, with Aboriginal people retaining strong links and responsibility for country. The Great Western Woodlands has a history of human survival, and often prosperity, in a landscape that challenges even the most resourceful of people. From Aboriginal ways of life that survived tens of thousands of years, to tales of discovery by early explorers, to the colossal scale of the Kalgoorlie gold rushes, to engineering feats that pipe water 600 kilometres inland from the coast, this region has been the stuff of both modern-day and ancient mythology.

Caring for our woodlands

The Great Western Woodlands stretches mostly across unallocated Crown lands, as well as pastoral areas and conservation reserves. The area is under increasing pressure from bushfires, pest animals and weeds and it is important for land managers to work together cooperatively to protect the woodlands.

As part of the Western Australian Government's commitment to better protect and manage the Great Western Woodlands, *A Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation Strategy for the Great Western Woodlands* was released in November 2010.

The conservation strategy was developed with the help of a Stakeholder Reference Group and provides a framework to manage the different uses of the woodlands to ensure the long-term protection of its natural and cultural values. The conservation strategy is available at dbca.wa.gov.au/greatwesternwoodlands

The Great Western Woodlands is a fantastic place to visit, with numerous granite outcrops, secluded bush camping areas and historic attractions scattered across this large area of Western Australia's heartland.

Tracks and trails

The 730-kilometre historic Holland Track from Broomehill to Coolgardie provides four-wheel drivers with an ideal opportunity to discover the wild country of the Great Western Woodlands. Visit wheatbelttourism.com for more information about the track.

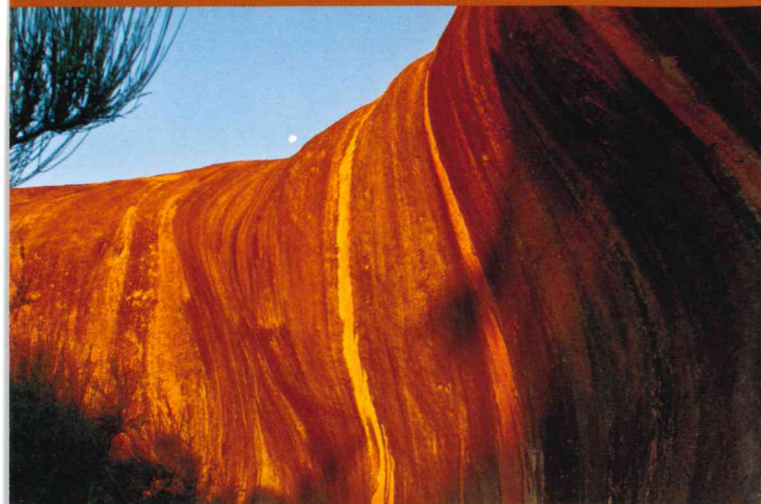
The 300-kilometre Granite and Woodlands Discovery Trail between Hyden and Norseman provides a wonderful alternative to the Holland Track, as a gravel road suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles and caravans in dry weather. A detailed trail guide can be obtained from information centres, visitor centres and many accommodation places in the Goldfields and in Hyden. The trail includes interpretive signs and walk trails.

The 965-kilometre Golden Quest Discovery Trail from Coolgardie to Laverton has 25 designated stopping points, with interpretive signs. A guide book for the trail, with a wealth of information about each location and audio accompaniment, can be purchased through WA visitor centres and RAC centres. For more information visit goldenquesttrail.com



Linking in with the Golden Quest Discovery Trail, the Green Trail highlights sites in the Coolgardie Region including Karlkurla Bushland Park in Kalgoorlie-Boulder; Red Hill at Kambalda; Cave Hill Nature Reserve, Burra Conservation Park and Victoria Rock Nature Reserve; and Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park. The National Trust of Australia (WA) developed the Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail, between Perth and Kalgoorlie, to commemorate the pipeline that became operational in 1902. A trail guide is available from a number of bookshops, tourist information centres, newsagents and the National Trust of Australia (WA).





Great places to visit

Elachbutting Rock

Elachbutting Rock is a spectacular natural towering rock formation with a walk trail to a colourful rock wave formation and an echoing cave. The site includes a campground with toilet facilities. Other rocks and nature reserves in the area also worth visiting are Berringbooding Rock, north-west of Elachbutting, Chiddarcooping Reserve to the south and Baladjie Nature Reserve to the south-east.

100 kilometres north of Westonia, 50 kilometres north-east of Mukinbudin

Mount Palmer

The ghost town of Mount Palmer, named after Augustus Palmer who found gold here in 1934, provides a poignant detour for those interested in the mining industry of the Great Western Woodlands. Interpretive information is provided on the town's gold mining history.

415 kilometres east of Perth, 46 kilometres east of Southern Cross

Karalee Rock and Dam

A picturesque camping area is nestled beneath gimlets and other eucalypts near a dam built at Karalee in 1897 to provide water for steam trains using the Southern Cross to Coolgardie

Cave Hill Nature Reserve

This reserve is dominated by a spectacular granite outcrop, with a large cave formation. An excellent camping spot, it is also suitable for longer day trips from Kalgoorlie-Boulder or Coolgardie, and has picnic tables, barbecues and toilets.

90 kilometres south of Coolgardie, 50 kilometres south-west of Widgiemooltha

Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park

When full, Rowles Lagoon offers excellent opportunities for water-based recreation and is a birdwatcher's paradise. There are barbecues and picnic tables in shaded areas around the lagoon, and toilets and camp sites are provided.

73 kilometres north of Coolgardie along Coolgardie North and Carbine Roads



Karlkurla Bushland Park

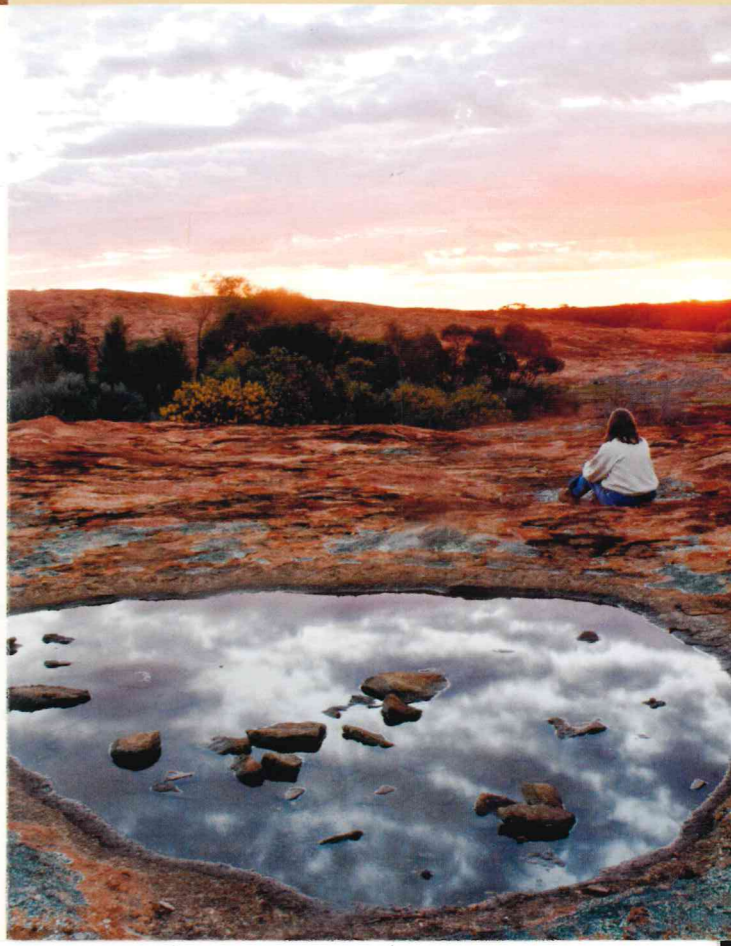
Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group (KBULG) has restored 206 hectares of natural bushland, providing recreation and education opportunities in a woodland setting. Interpretive signs on walk trails throughout the park contain information on many of the Goldfield's common, and often endemic, plant species. Picnic tables and chairs are dotted throughout the park. A rotunda at Katunga Lookout stands 411 metres above sea level, the highest natural point in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and provides sweeping views of the bushland and city.

4 kilometres north-west of Hannan Street in Kalgoorlie

Peak Charles National Park

Towering 500 metres above the surrounding plains, Peak Charles is visible for more than 50 kilometres in all directions and is the tallest hill of the Great Western Woodlands. Its mosaic of different vegetation types is unique in the woodlands, with a number of locally endemic species. A medium-to-hard two-kilometre, one-hour climb takes you to a summit with spectacular views over surrounding countryside. More than 30 different species of orchid can be found in the park. Peak Charles has a designated campground.

174 kilometres north-west of Esperance, 100 kilometres south-west of Norseman



railway. Facilities include toilets and barbecue pits (bring your own drinking water and wood supplies).

52 kilometres east of Southern Cross

Goldfields Woodlands National Park and Victoria Rock Nature Reserve

Part of a 152,500-hectare conservation reserve network, these parks have popular campgrounds at Boondi and Victoria Rock, with an information shelter, barbecues, picnic sites, toilets and walk trails. The Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail and historic Holland Track also cross the reserves.

60 kilometres west of Coolgardie on Great Eastern Highway and 50 kilometres south of Coolgardie on Victoria Rock Road

Burra Conservation Park

A welcoming sight on a hot day is the Burra Rock Dam and rock catchment area. A short climb to the rock's summit rewards visitors with great views over the woodlands that stretch as far as the eye can see. Facilities include campsites, picnic tables, barbecues and toilets.

60 kilometres south of Coolgardie on Burra Rock Road

