

COOLGARDIE

MOTHER OF THE GOLDFIELDS



2 DAY VISITOR ITINERARY



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Coolgardie is known for its gold mining history and is suitably identified as "The Mother Of The Goldfields". Much of the early opulence from the 1890's can be seen in the grand historic buildings that are still standing today. Following this itinerary will take you travelling back through history to the early pioneering days. Get to know this historic town site and view the vast colourful landscapes. Be sure to bring your camera and take lots of photos, there's nothing like the changing colours of the goldfields and you'll need the photos to prove it to your friends!

YOUR TRIP OVERVIEW

DAY ONE

- Goldfields Exhibition Museum
- * Ben Prior Park *
- Pioneer Cemetery
- Varischetti Rescue Site *
- Warden Finnerty's Residence
- Camel farm ^
- Lions Lookout

ACCOMMODATION

- Goldrush Motel

DAY TWO

- Coolgardie Pioneer Mini Golf ^
- Coolgardie's Historic Railway Station *
- Coolgardie Cemetery *
- Glory Days Trail heritage markers & ARted installations
- Coolgardie Bluff Cultural & Heritage Trail
- Coolgardie Gorge *

* QR code information panels available at these locations

^ Bookings required at these venues





DAY ONE

Today is all about exploring the history of Coolgardie, see how tough life was for the early pioneers in the 1890's with a visit to the Goldfields Exhibition Museum, visit the site of the history making Varischetti Mine Rescue and take a step back in time with afternoon tea at the Warden Finnerty's Residence. Delve into the town's mining history with a wander through Ben Prior Park

Goldfields Exhibition Museum*

Housed in the grand Wardens Court building, built in 1898, this Museum will take you on a journey through the achievements and hardships faced by the early pioneering men, women and children of the Goldfields.

Learn about the rescue of Modesto Varischetti who, in 1907 spent nine days trapped underground in a flooded mine. Reminisce about your childhood as you view the pharmacy collection, with many of the bottles and boxes still containing their original contents.

Be wowed by the array of colours, shapes and sizes of the famous, award winning, Waghorn Bottle Collection.

This Museum is one not to be missed!

Ben Prior Park

This unique air museum was created by its namesake Mr Benjamin Austin Prior, who moved to Coolgardie with his family in the 1930's.

Free to enter, this park contains a large array of mining, earthworks and farming equipment along with vintage cars and horse drawn carts all of which were found by Mr. Prior during his gold prospecting adventures.

Relocated to Ben Prior Park, Jack Carins camp gives an insight into the life of prospectors of the Goldfields. Jack lived in this humpy he created from materials he salvaged from the bush until his death in the 1970's.

With the new additions of gazebo's and a kids nature playground, this park caters for all who enter.



Pioneer Cemetery

Unmarked graves are not uncommon in outback cemeteries and Coolgardie Pioneer Cemetery is no different, used from 1892 -1894 this cemetery provides an insight into the often tragic stories of the early Goldfields Pioneers. Among the graves here you will find explorer John Holland - of the Holland Track, and his wife Agnes, their shared grave is one of only three marked graves in this cemetery of over 40 burials.



DAY ONE - CONTINUED

Varischetti Rescue Site*

After seeing the Museum display and learning about the history of this once world famous mine rescue, visit the location of this incredible achievement and gain an understanding of the remoteness of this significant historical location. While here take a photo with the metal cut out of a diver to remember your visit.

Warden Finnerty's Residence

This beautiful house was tendered by the Western Australian Government in 1895, to be built for the first Resident Magistrate and Mining Warden of the Goldfields, Irishman John Michael Finnerty and his family.

It was built of local stone and timber by the Bunnings Brothers, who later went on to create the building supply company we all know as Bunnings.

While there is no Bunnings sausage sizzle here, you should take the time to enjoy a delicious Devonshire tea while sitting on the verandah enjoying the view.

A look inside this beautiful Homestead Museum will give you an insight to life as it was lived in the early Goldfields days.

Coolgardie Camel Farm ^

Visit (by appointment) Coolgardie's Camel Farm and meet "The Camel Man" Noel. Listen to his camel tales whilst learning about the history of the major role camels played in the development of the Goldfields to the early pioneers, while viewing the extensive collection of camel related items. Experience a close encounter with these soft coated beasts and fall in love with their long eyelashes and friendly nature.

Lions Lookout

Take in the view explorers William Ford and Arthur Bayley first experienced when they arrived in Coolgardie, before their discovery of gold created the largest movement of people in Western Australia's history and went on to found the town you see today.

See the first headframe from Bayley's Reward, the mine that started it all and watch as the sunset changes the colours of the surrounding landscape.

Gold Rush Motel

End your first day of exploration with a night at the Gold Rush Motel. Here you will find quality accommodation and great outback hospitality. With a licensed restaurant on site, you will be glad for this comfortable, home away from home to recharge and ready yourself for the adventures of day two.



DAY TWO

Gain an understanding of the hardships faced by early pioneers with a walk through the Coolgardie Cemetery. Learn about the Dream-time story of the Bluff and visit some of the historic sites throughout the town with a walk along the Glory Days Trail.

Coolgardie Pioneer Mini Golf^

Whether you are a beginner, or advanced putter looking to play a round or just looking to do something a little different, then Coolgardie's Pioneer Mini Golf awaits you. Enjoy a fun filled afternoon at this unique themed course dedicated to the early Goldfields Pioneers.

Alternatively, you could try your hand at gold panning and experience the thrill of finding your own souvenir to take home.

Coolgardie Historic Railway Station*

Built in 1896 of local stone, this was once considered one of the busiest stations in Western Australia, with daily trains travelling between Coolgardie and Perth. The last passenger train passed through here in 1971.

See the old steam train on the track at the platform and imagine life in the early days watching the trains arrive.

The building has since been repurposed by Barefoot Bands as a recording studio for local artists, but also attracts artists from around regional WA.

Coolgardie Cemetery

Wander through this cemetery and read the headstones of the many early pioneering men, women and children who lost their lives. Reflect on the hardships these people faced as they tried to make it in the early goldfields. Containing several famous burials including explorer - Earnest Giles, Bertha Finnerty - Wife of the first magistrate and warden on the Goldfields, William Faahan -Coolgardie's first publican and last Mayor.

A free cemetery guide, including map and information is available from the Coolgardie Visitors Centre.





DAY TWO - CONTINUED

Glory Days Walk Trail

As you stroll along the main street, discover the history of some of the more significant sites around you. With 65 markers along this self guided walk trail, each displaying descriptions and imagery which give you a feel for the early days of this historic town.

At its peak, Coolgardie was the third largest town in Western Australia and boasted an impressive 2 stock exchanges, 25 stockbrokers, 26 hotels, 3 breweries, 7 newspapers and 14 churches!!!

All of this means there are plenty of sites to see!

Pick up a copy of the trail marker map, available at the Coolgardie Visitors Centre

ARted installations

As you follow the Glory Days Trail you will also come across five ARted installations. These pieces of art will come alive when viewed through your smart phone camera

Coolgardie Bluff Cultural & Heritage Trail

Here you will find a lookout over this unusual rocky outcrop and read of the Aboriginal Dream-time story for this place where the crow and the eagle proudly stand.

At the peak of the gold rush era this whole valley and surrounding hill side was full of houses, businesses and bustling streets.

Coolgardie Gorge*

This delightful little spot is the ideal place for a picnic or to watch the sunset. Emus, kangaroos, ducks and Western Australia's iconic black swans can often be found around the gorge after seasonal rain, this can be a bird watchers paradise and photographers delight.

Itinerary locations



TOWN FACILITIES

- Outdoor Aquatic
- Facilities Recreation
- Facility Library
- Supermarket

WHERE TO EAT

- Gold Rush Motel Restaurant
- Denver City Hotel
- Open Pit Cafe - Vibe service Station



TRIP TIPS

- Most popular time to visit is between June - November when the local weather is cooler. You may even find some of our unique wildflowers during this time of year.
- To witness a unique Goldfields sunset, visit the Lions Lookout - take your camera, you wont be disappointed.
- Do you have ancestral links to the Goldfields? The team at the Goldfields Exhibition Museum may be able to help you find information or related local sites for you to visit during your trip
- Regular Makers Markets are held in Coolgardie, showcasing our local artisans. Check out our Coolgardie Visitors Centre & Museum Facebook page for dates!
- If you have a little more time to explore, talk to the team at the Visitors Centre about some of our surrounding natural wonders, you wont regret it!
- If you time your visit for the third Sunday in September, you will have the opportunity to experience our Coolgardie Day Celebrations. This massive street party has a sideshow alley, street parade, market stalls, live entertainment, family fun and much, much more.
- Coolgardie is the starting point for both the Golden Quest Discovery and Green Trails, and the end destination for the Holland Track and John Holland Way. Coolgardie is also one of the links in the Golden Pipeline Trail. Speak to the Coolgardie Visitors Centre staff for more information on these drive trails.



Contact Coolgardie Visitors Centre for more
information 62 Bayley St Coolgardie WA 6429
visitors.centre@coolgardie.wa.gov.au
08 9026 6090



www.facebook.com/coolgardievisitorscentre



www.instagram.com/coolgardievisitorscentre/



www.coolgardie.wa.gov.au/visit



With your days exploring some of what Coolgardie has to offer

behind you

Reflect on the hardships faced by early pioneers

Remember the beauty of the outback

Reminise while looking upon those happy snaps you took
and think

..... until next time