

COOLGARDIE

Mother of the Goldfields



3 DAY SELF-DRIVE TRAIL
ITINERARY





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Coolgardie is known for its gold mining history and is suitably known 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 the historic town sites and take a day to explore the pristine outback while enjoying a night camping under the vast starry skies. 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
- Glory Days Trail heritage markers
- Ben Prior Park
- Coolgardie's Historic Railway Station
- Lions Lookout
- Warden Finnerty's Residence
- Coolgardie Bluff Cultural & Heritage Trail
- Pioneer Cemeteries

DAY TWO

- Burra Rock Conservation Park
- Cave Hill Nature Reserve

DAY THREE

- Cave Hill Nature Reserve
- Widgiemooltha
- Red Hill Lookout
- Lake Lefroy
- Kambalda Memorial Park
- Coolgardie Gorge





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, Learn about some of the historic sites throughout the town with a walk along the Glory Days Trail. Delve into the mining history with a wander through Ben Prior Park and take a step back in time with a visit to Warden Finnerty's Residence.

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!

Glory Days Walk Trail

As you wander the main street, the width of which was to accommodate to the early camel trains, discover the history of the town around you on this walk trail.

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

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

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.



Coolgardie Bluff Cultural and Heritage Trail



Day one - continued

Ben Prior Park

This recently refurbished open 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. With the new additions of a gazebo and a kids nature playground, this park caters for all who enter.

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.

Coolgardie Pioneer Cemetery & Coolgardie Cemetery

Wander through these cemeteries and read the headstones of the many early pioneering men, women and children who lost their lives, reflect on the hardships these people faced

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 Bluff Cultural & Heritage Trail

Here you will find a lookout over this unusual rocky outcrop and read of the Aboriginal Dreamtime story for this place where the crow and the eagle proudly stand. At the peak of the goldrush era this whole valley and surrounding hill side was full of houses, businesses and bustling streets.



Day two

Okay, so you have explored the townsite of Coolgardie, now it's time to venture into the great beyond for the outback adventure portion of this tour. So pack your camping gear, today you're heading bush.

Burra Rock Conservation Park

This granite outcrop is a beautiful spot for a day trip and a popular camping site. As you climb to the top, see how early pioneers used slabs of granite taken from the rock on which you stand, to create walls to channel water runoff into a natural dam formation on the rock.



Cave Hill Nature Reserve

The beautiful camp ground at the base of this granite outcrop will be your home for the night. Set up camp and explore this amazing site. With three dams, that as with Burra Rock, had assistance from the early pioneers and granite slabs to channel the water into the dams.

Do the cave walk trail and see the fascinating natural rock formations and caves that make up this unique place.

As you cook your campfire dinner enjoy the changing colours of the surrounding bush, there's nothing like a Goldfields sunset!

Camp out under the stars and marvel at the vastness of our outback skies, you won't see anything like this in the cities!



Lake Lefroy, Kambalda



Day three

A big gold nugget, a vast salt lake, a beautiful green memorial garden and local wildlife are all on today's agenda.

Cave Hill Nature Reserve

Enjoy waking up surrounded by nature before packing up camp and heading to your next destination.

Widgiemooltha

"Widgie" as it is affectionately called, is known for the Golden Eagle, a gold nugget that was found just down the road at the Larkinville mine site. This nugget was found by 16yo Jim Larcombe in January 1931, it weighed in at a whopping 1135oz, or 35.3kgs and was the largest nugget ever found in Western Australia.

Red Hill & Lake Lefroy - Kambalda East

During your visit to Red Hill and Lake Lefroy, take the time to explore, follow the walk trail and enjoy the views over the ethereal Lake Lefroy. Spanning over 512 square kilometres, this beautiful salt lake appears to change colours throughout the day.

Memorial Gardens- Kambalda West

Stop for a break at the Kambalda Memorial Gardens and enjoy this little piece of lush greenery amongst the Goldfields red dirt. Created to commemorate those who have lost their lives in mining accidents around Kambalda, take a while to reflect on the harsh mining history of the area.

Coolgardie Gorge

A nice place for a picnic, this delightful little spot is a great place to see local wildlife. Emus, kangaroos, ducks and swans can often be found around the gorge after rain.



Trail Map

Travel distances

Coolgardie (A) to Burra Rock Conservation Reserve (B) 56km

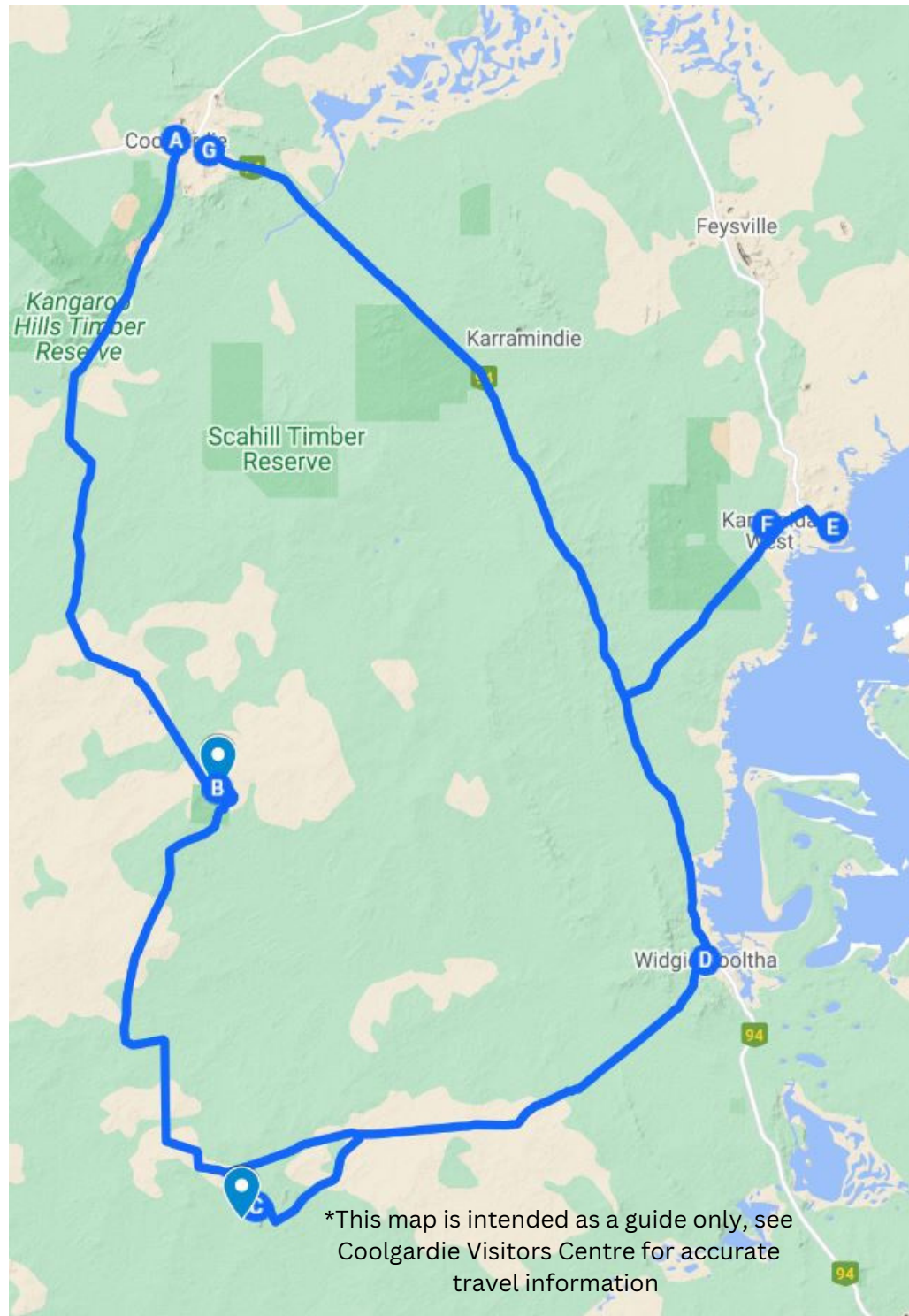
Burra Rock Conservation Reserve to Cave Hill Nature Reserve (C) 39km

Cave Hill Nature Reserve to Widgiemooltha (D) 42km

Widgiemooltha to Red Hill Lookout (E) 43km

Red Hill Lookout to Kambalda Memorial Gardens (F) 6km

Kambalda Memorial Gardens to The Gorge Coolgardie (G) 76km



TRIP TIPS

WHERE TO STAY

- Gold Rush Motel - 9026 6080
- Coolgardie Safari Inn - 0484 086 994 or 0439 270 814
- Devner City Hotel - 9026 6031
- Coolgardie Tourist Village Caravan Park - 9026 6009
- Kambalda Hotel - 9027 1333
- Widgiemooltha Tavern & Roadhouse - 9020 8030

WHERE TO EAT

Coolgardie

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

Widgiemooltha

- Widgiemooltha Tavern & Roadhouse - try their famous "Widgie Burger"

Kambalda

- Cafe 312 - located at the Kambalda Recreation Facility
- East Deli
- Kambalda Hotel

TOWN FACILITIES - Coolgardie & Kambalda

- Outdoor Aquatic Facilities
- Recreation Facilities
- Libraries
- Skate parks
- Supermarkets



Further information

No dogs are permitted in either Burra Rock Conservation Park or Cave Hill Nature Reserves.

Please be aware of current fire restrictions if you plan to light a fire in the provided firepits, and bring your own firewood as collecting from the reserves is prohibited.



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 while
thinking
..... until next time



@coolgardievisitorscentre



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