

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

DEC offices www.dec.wa.gov.au

Kalgoorlie, (08) 9080 5555
Esperance, (08) 9083 2100
Merredin, (08) 9041 2488

Visitor centres and tourism associations

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Visitor Centre, (08) 9021 1966
www.kalgoorlietourism.com
Coolgardie Visitor Centre, (08) 9026 6090
Norseman Visitor Centre, (08) 9039 1071
www.norseman.info
Esperance Visitor Centre, (08) 9083 1555
www.visitesperance.com
Ravensthorpe Visitor Centre, (08) 9838 1277
Kambalda Tourist Information Centre, (08) 9080 2115
Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre, (08) 9041 1666
www.wheatbelttourism.com
Menzies Visitor Centre, (08) 9024 2702
www.menzies.wa.gov.au/tourism
Dryandra Country Visitor Centre, (08) 9881 2064
www.dryandratourism.org.au
Australia's Golden Outback, (08) 9325 1511
www.australiasgoldenoutback.com
Goldfields Tourism Network
www.goldfieldstourism.com.au



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Community and conservation organisations

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group, (08) 9091 6233
www.kbulg.org.au
Great Western Woodlands Collaboration, (08) 6460 4936
www.greatwesternwoodlands.org.au
The Wilderness Society, (08) 9420 7255
www.wilderness.org.au

Local government offices

City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, (08) 9021 9600
www.kalbould.wa.gov.au
Shire of Coolgardie, (08) 9025 0300
www.coolgardie.wa.gov.au
Shire of Dundas, (08) 9039 1205
www.dundas.wa.gov.au
Shire of Esperance, (08) 9071 0666
www.esperance.wa.gov.au
Shire of Kondinin, (08) 9889 1006
www.kondinin.wa.gov.au
Shire of Lake Grace, (08) 9890 2500
www.lakegrace.wa.gov.au
Shire of Menzies, (08) 9024 2041
www.menzies.wa.gov.au
Shire of Mount Marshall, (08) 9685 1202
www.mtmarshall.wa.gov.au
Shire of Mukinbudin, (08) 9047 1102
www.mukinbudin.wa.gov.au
Shire of Ravensthorpe, (08) 9839 0000
www.ravensthorpe.wa.gov.au
Shire of Westonia, (08) 9046 7063
www.westonia.wa.gov.au
Shire of Yilgarn, (08) 9049 1001
www.yilgarn.wa.gov.au

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This publication is available in alternative formats on request.
Photos - Ann Storrie



Department of Environment and Conservation



The Great Western Woodlands



The largest remaining area of intact Mediterranean-climate woodland on Earth



Department of Environment and Conservation



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 www.dec.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. Download a free phone app from everytrail.com/guide/holland-track-drive-trail to help you explore the area.

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.

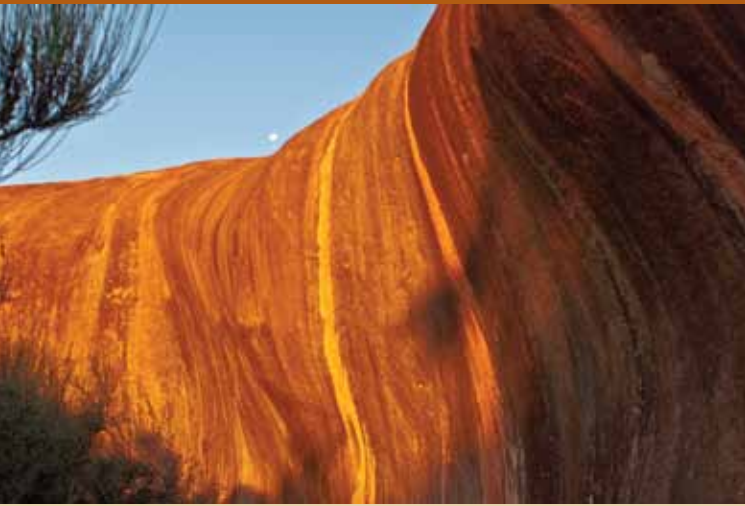
The 965-kilometre Golden Quest Discovery Trail from Coolgardie to Laverton has 25 designated stopping points, with interpretive signs. A guide book for the trail, with a wealth of information about each location and audio accompaniment, can be purchased through WA visitor centres and RAC centres. For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

Proposed Jaurdi conservation reserve

Jaurdi pastoral station was purchased by the state government in 1989 because of its high conservation values. Visitors to the proposed 289,000-hectare reserve can enjoy four-wheel driving, walking, nature observation, picnicking, camping and fishing for yabbies. Bookings to camp at the old homestead site can be made through the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) Kalgoorlie office.

138 kilometres west of Coolgardie via Great Eastern Highway and Ryan's Find Road

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

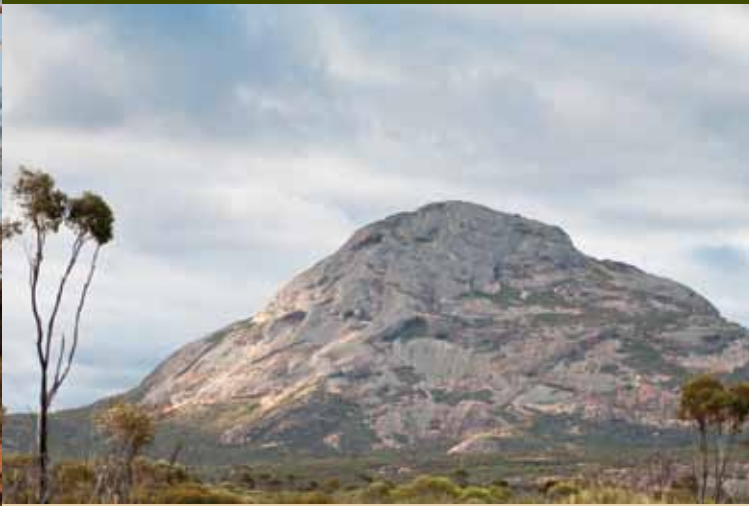
A picturesque camping area is nestled beneath gimlets and other eucalypts near a dam built at Karalee in 1897 to provide water for steam trains using the Southern Cross to Coolgardie railway. Facilities include toilets and barbecue pits (bring your own drinking water and wood supplies).

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 walktrails. 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 site 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 camp sites, picnic tables, barbecues and toilets.

60 kilometres south of Coolgardie on Burra Rock Road

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

Proposed Credo conservation reserve

This is an important water catchment area for Rowles Lagoon. Pastimes at Credo include yabbing, four-wheel driving through the eucalypt woodland, relaxing at the homestead or exploring breakaways and historic townsites. Bookings can be made to stay in the old shearers' quarters at DEC Kalgoorlie or with the caretakers onsite.

75 kilometres north of Coolgardie on Coolgardie North Road adjacent to Rowles Lagoon

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 Hannon 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

