

VISIT ASHBURTON

KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK MACKEREL ISLANDS

Western Australia's Ultimate Road Trip

*reef to
range*



Visit
Ashburton
reef to range

KARIJINI & MILLSTREAM CHICHESTER | MACKEREL ISLANDS
ONSLOW | PANNAWONICA | PARABURDOO | TOM PRICE

2025 EDITION

Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country

Aboriginal Peoples have inhabited the Pilbara area for tens of thousands of years and continue to share a deep and meaningful connection to the land and seas. The Shire of Ashburton would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which we are situated.

For an insight into the world’s oldest continuous living culture, you’re welcome to travel the Warlu Way (see page 61), a captivating stretch of rich Australian outback. This epic road journey will introduce you to the Dreaming. An age-old philosophical belief system, Dreaming is a word the Indigenous people used to explain how life came to be. The Dreaming explains the origin of the universe and the workings of nature and humanity.

The Warlu Way transports you back in time to when a powerful, mystical serpent emerged from within the sea and travelled through the pulsing red heart of the outback, forming magnificent waterways as it moved.

A magical insight into the first people to step foot on Pilbara lands, this once-in-a-lifetime journey shines a light on the Indigenous people’s unbreakable relationship and binding bond to the land and acknowledges the ongoing connection that local Aboriginal groups have to this country.

As you explore our region, take the time to connect and learn about its rich Aboriginal heritage and culture, please travel respectfully and thoughtfully and leave no trace.

Discover more at VisitAshburton.au

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Cover Photo: Joffre Gorge | Karijini National Park

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[f](#) [@visitashburton](#)

Join the conversation online by using the hashtags
#VisitAshburton #ReeftoRange



Visit
Ashburton
reef to range

Reef to Range

There is nothing quite like experiencing the raw beauty and undeniable power of Mother Nature.

Here, in the Shire of Ashburton, you can experience both her hidden sparkling coastal jewels and her sacred, ancient and rugged countryside on an epic scale.

In the mighty Shire of Ashburton, you are truly navigating through a world of natural and ancient wonder that stretches across the expanse of the beating heart of the Pilbara.

From the pristine Mackerel Islands set amongst sparkling blue waters and clear skies, along roads that weave through the ancient ranges set amongst the red dirt, taking you to the serene waterfalls and billabongs of Karijini National Park.

We hope this guide gives you the best of Western Australia's Ultimate Reef to Range adventures.

Western Australia's Ultimate road trip

Be stunned when you reach the beautiful, resource bustling, coastal jewel town of **Onslow**, gateway to the **Mackerel Islands**. A place where you can watch the sunset and the full moon rise over the Indian Ocean and bear witness to one of the most magnificent Staircase to the Moon experiences you could ever encounter.

Onslow is an adventure-seeker's paradise, a sanctuary for world-renown fishing, whale watching, diving and snorkelling amongst remote islands, atolls and magnificent clear blue waters. Go wild and explore the winding red riverside tracks, mangroves and creek networks where barramundi and mud crabs are found in abundance.

Explore the inland, quintessential Aussie towns of **Tom Price**, **Paraburdoo** and **Pannawonica**. Discover historic and working homesteads and stations, and reminisce amongst rustic architectural remnants on a Western Australian road trip of massive proportions.

Tom Price, gateway to **Karijini National Park**, is the highest town above sea level in Western Australia and is located next to Mount Nameless (Jarndunmunha) – where you can 4WD to the summit and experience breathtaking views of the Hamersley Ranges.

Tom Price is the perfect stop to rest and relax before embarking on an epic journey to the glorious **Karijini** and **Millstream Chichester National Parks**.

Karijini and Millstream Chichester National Parks are true natural wonders of epic proportions, offering a feast of stunning gorges and waterfalls, native animals, shimmering rock pools flanked by eucalypts, sheer canyons, and exhilarating walk trails and lookouts. Watch the orange glow from your campsite as the sun rises and sets through the ghost gums and spinifex, listening to the serene sounds of the birds, wildlife and the Australian bush.

 [VisitAshburton.au](https://www.VisitAshburton.au)

Karijini NATIONAL PARK

AN ADVENTURE TO REMEMBER



MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:
Spa Pool – Hamersley Gorge
Fern Pool – Dales Gorge



DISTANCE:
72km from Tom Price



BEST TIME TO VISIT:
April to September

Karijini National Park covers 627,422 hectares and is Western Australia's second largest National Park.

Set in the Hamersley Range in the beating heart of the Pilbara, Karijini National Park is a true Australian 'bucket list' destination. The Park has a diverse network of walking trails catering to all levels of fitness, and there are a number of easily accessible locations where you can look down into the deep canyons below.

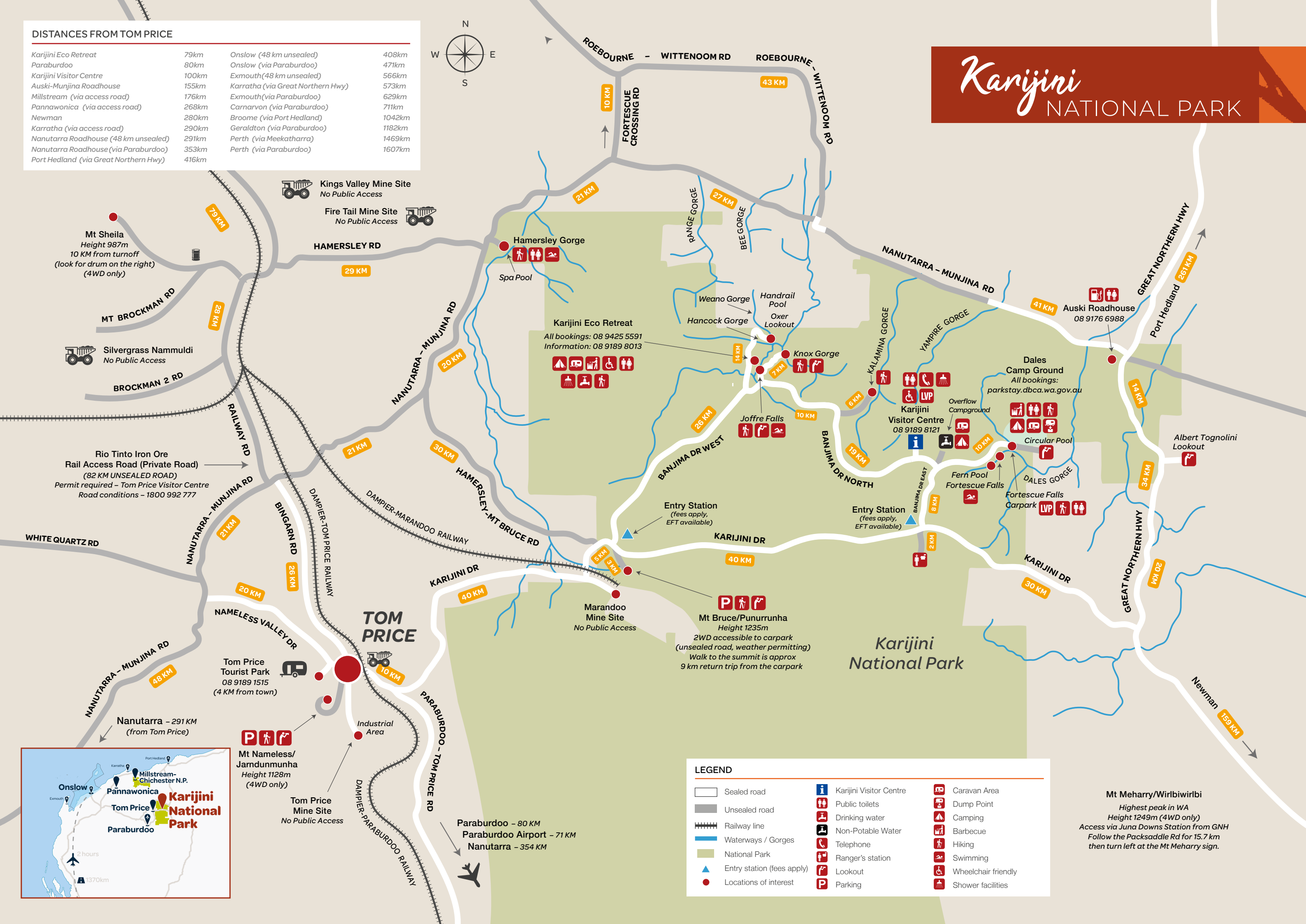
Karijini harbours ancient culture and history. It is a place where you are surrounded by stunning yet rugged scenery, where you will be spellbound by the impressive geological formations. It is a place where you can truly connect with nature, explore and discover the deep subterranean gorges and immerse in the pristine cool waters and cascading waterfalls. Fall in love with Karijini's awe-inspiring scenery, otherworldly sunrises and sunsets amongst the serenity of golden spinifex and gnarly ghost gums whilst observing the native wildlife in their natural habitat.

Karijini is truly an Australian adventure of epic proportions.

The Shire of Ashburton acknowledges the Banjima, Kurruma and Innawonga Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Karijini National Park.

DISTANCES FROM TOM PRICE

Karijini Eco Retreat	79km	Onslow (48 km unsealed)	408km
Paraburdoo	80km	Onslow (via Paraburdoo)	471km
Karijini Visitor Centre	100km	Exmouth(48 km unsealed)	566km
Auski-Munjina Roadhouse	155km	Karratha (via Great Northern Hwy)	573km
Millstream (via access road)	176km	Exmouth(via Paraburdoo)	629km
Pannawonica (via access road)	268km	Carnarvon (via Paraburdoo)	711km
Newman	280km	Broome (via Port Hedland)	1042km
Karratha (via access road)	290km	Geraldton (via Paraburdoo)	1182km
Nanutarra Roadhouse (48 km unsealed)	291km	Perth (via Meekatharra)	1469km
Nanutarra Roadhouse (via Paraburdoo)	353km	Perth (via Paraburdoo)	1607km
Port Hedland (via Great Northern Hwy)	416km		





Spectacular waterholes, hikes and views.

Explore Karijini's unmissable gorges for a refreshing escape from the arid plains.

Mount Bruce | Punurrunha Summit

9 km | Full Day | Class 3 to 5

Known as Punurrunha by the Banjima People, the Traditional Custodians, this Class 3 to 5 trail explores the second-highest mountain in Western Australia. Standing at 1,235 metres, it offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Hamersley Range and Marandoo Mine Site, providing a unique perspective on the WA resource industry.

The moderately steep trail follows a marked path along the ridge with a few challenging rocky climbs. It is recommended to undertake this hike early in the morning.

Hamersley Gorge Spa Pool

1 km | 1-3 hrs | Class 4

This dramatic gorge is full of colour, texture and reflections. **Spa Pool** is an amazing spot for refreshing swim. **Hamersley Gorge** is in the north-west of Karijini, further afield than the other gorges. Swirls of rock sweep down through the Gorge and waterfalls rush into tranquil pools. Accessible via an unsealed road, there is also a lookout, toilets and various shady options.

Joffre Falls

1.5 km | 2 hrs | Class 5

From the Joffre Falls Lookout on the west side of the gorge, take in the full beauty of the stunning **Joffre Gorge** and stand in awe of its scale. The spectacular curved waterfall creates the shape of a natural amphitheatre with water cascading down the cliff face over natural steps to the dark, inviting pool.

Following rain, you will witness the rushing white water tumbling over smooth rock further into the Gorge. Most of the Joffre Falls trail is class 4 (moderately difficult) with the last 150 metres descent via ladders into the gorge class 5 (difficult, a high level of fitness is required).

Kalamina Gorge

3 km | 3 hrs | Class 4

Descend a steep track to reach the base of the gorge at **Kalamina Gorge**, where a small permanent pool and waterfall await. Follow the trail downstream past rock pools and beautiful rock walls into the main gorge where you will find the reflection pool and rock arch. Ideal for a short walk and picnicking, Kalamina Gorge offers a delightful introduction to the gorge system.

Knox Gorge

3 km | 2 hrs | Class 5

Knox Gorge, a geological wonder millions of years in the making, offers a deeply fascinating chasm.



Visit the Knox Lookout in the late afternoon or early morning to experience the enhanced beauty of this spectacular panorama under the slanting sun rays.

Weano Recreation Area

Upper Weano Gorge

1 km | 45 min | Class 4

From the Weano car park, follow the formed trail for 450m before descending the slope to the valley floor. Make your way along the bottom of the Gorge until you reach a large pool, popular for swimming. Take a break before climbing the steps up out of the gorge to reach the **Oxer Lookout Trail**.

Oxer Lookout

800 m | 30 min | Class 3

Oxer Lookout is a great starting point for seeing the gorges in one sweeping view. It features an astounding view over the **Weano Gorge**.

Handrail Pool

1.2 km | 1-2 hrs | Class 5

1.2 km return **Handrail Pool** is situated in **Weano Gorge**. A high level of fitness and agility is required. After hiking downstream use both hands on the handrail to descend down into **Handrail Pool**.

Hancock Gorge, Kermits Pool

1.5 km | Half Day | Class 5

The exhilarating descent into **Hancock Gorge** has been described as a "journey to the centre of the earth". After climbing down a ladder, you wander further into the gorge which then narrows into a huge chamber with small rock pools and marbled walls. Caution must be taken when entering **Hancock Gorge** via the ladder. Once inside, visitors can choose to venture to the end of the trail by performing a "spider walk", where you stretch your arms and legs out to straddle the gaps and move along the walls or swimming through a body of water.

Dales Gorge

3.5 km | Half Day | Class 3/4

This loop trail in Karijini National Park connects the **Gorge Rim Walk** to **Dales Gorge Walk Trail**. The Gorge Rim Walk offers stunning views along **Dales Gorge**, leading to **Three Ways** and **Circular Pool Lookouts**. Descend into the gorge, follow the **Dales Gorge Trail** to **Fortescue Falls** and **Fern Pool**, and then climb back up to the Fortescue Falls car park.



CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Easiest
2. Easy
3. Moderate
4. Difficult
5. Extreme

Walk trail distances, times and classifications have been sourced from the Parks and Wildlife Service website and Walking Trail Classification System.

exploreparks.
dbca.wa.gov.au/park/
karijini-national-park

Accommodation

Karijini Eco Retreat



Nestled in the heart of the world-class Karijini National Park, this environmentally-friendly eco retreat is the only glamping accommodation in the Park.

Guests can enjoy breakfast and dinner at the restaurant. Accommodation includes unpowered campsites, dorm-style cabins, standard eco tents and deluxe eco tents with ensuite.

Karijini Eco Retreat Campground



The campground is located within the grounds of Karijini Eco Retreat and has 82 unpowered sites available, with generator use permitted between **4pm – 8pm** daily. Campers have access to the shared bathroom amenities (flushing toilets and solar hot water showers), as well as an undercover bush kitchen (gas BBQ, sink, preparation area and seating). Camping guests are also welcome to use the onsite restaurant and bar.

☎ (08) 9286 1731
✉ reservations@karijiniecoretreat.com.au
🌐 karijiniecoretreat.com.au

Dales Gorge Camping Ground



Dales Gorge Camping Ground is an ideal base for exploring the park's eastern end. Equipped with bush toilets, picnic tables, and gas barbecues, it offers a great camping experience with fees applicable.

Bookings: Online only at
🌐 parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au

Auski Tourist Village & Roadhouse



Located just over half an hour drive from the closest entrance to Karijini National Park, Auski offers a range of clean, comfortable and air-conditioned accommodation options to suit all travellers as well as a well-stocked roadhouse and a licensed restaurant.

☎ (08) 9176 6988
✉ info@auskiroadhouse.com.au
🌐 auskiroadhouse.com.au

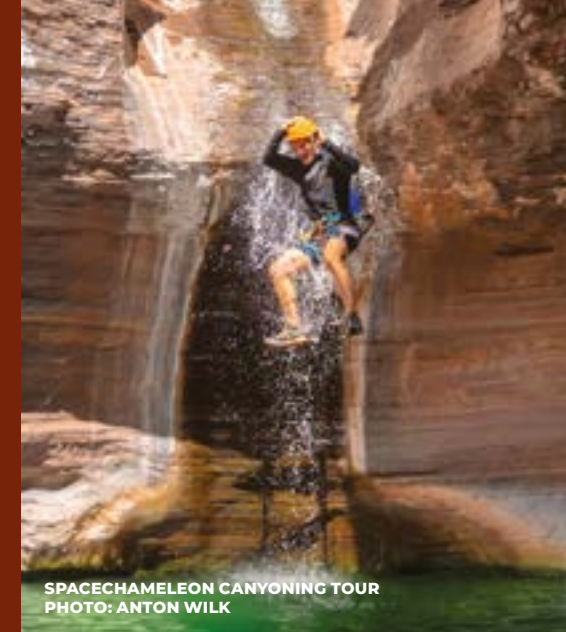
How to get to Karijini National Park

Travellers can access the park from Tom Price, Paraburdoo or Newman via sealed roads. Qantas provides daily flights to the town of Paraburdoo, just 100 kilometres from Karijini National Park, and car hire is available from Paraburdoo Airport.

The ideal time to visit Karijini National Park is during Australia's late autumn, winter and early spring (April to September).



JOFFRE FALLS



SPACECHAMELEON CANYONING TOUR
PHOTO: ANTON WILK

Karijini Visitor Centre

The Karijini Visitor Centre is located off Banjima Drive (eastern section). It is open everyday 9am to 4pm March to December.

A standout, architectural statement, the innovative building design also proudly tells a unique cultural story. Cleverly designed to look like a goanna moving through Country, the building's layout is highly symbolic to the local Banjima Traditional Owners. The tail of the goanna is a reflection of Aboriginal cultural history: it demonstrates how age-old traditions remain vitally connected to the now. The middle of the structure – forever central and stable – represents Aboriginal Law. And the goanna's head leads to a proud and dynamic future.

Inside the building, a range of fascinating stories and useful information is shared through a series of interactive displays. By watching and listening to intriguing yarns about Aboriginal culture, people and places – both past and present – visitors can discover just how integral the local Aboriginal people are to the Karijini story.

Visitor Centre staff have a wealth of knowledge and can help you discover the natural and cultural history of the park. The Visitor Centre also provides maps and tour information to help you get the most out of your Karijini Experience.

Park entry fees apply at Karijini National Park available through day passes, multi-day options or annual passes which you can purchase at the Karijini Visitor Centre, Tom Price Visitor Centre or online.

☎ (08) 9189 8121

Karijini Adventures

Spacechameleon

Join Spacechameleon for an adventure past the public access areas of Karijini National Park. Delve deep into the depths of the ancient Karijini landscape. The canyons you will be travelling through are only accessible with Spacechameleon and are even more stunning the deeper you go into the wild heart of Karijini.

Go West Tours full day guided tour

You will be mesmerised by Karijini National Parks ancient land formations as we explore the Weano, Joffre and Dales Gorge areas including Oxer Lookout, a towering but safe cliff face overlooking the junction of Weano, Joffre, Hancock and Red gorges. Visit the renowned Karijini Visitors Interpretive Centre which tells the stories of Aboriginal culture and heritage, pastoral and mining histories, geology, fauna and flora. Tour highlights include: swimming opportunities at the spectacular Handrail and Fern Pool and Fortescue Falls. Morning tea and lunch is provided on this tour.

Flying Sandgroper

The Flying Sandgroper operates the Karijini Hopper Bus, which connects Karijini National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park and also connecting Exmouth and Paraburdoo airports.

The flying Sandgroper offers 9 different tickets on the Karijini Hoppa bus, ranging from 5 day tours to half day tours.



TIPS TO KARIJINI

WARNING: It's very important that you do not wander near the edges of the gorges and stay on the paths marked. Loose and crumbling rocks can make it very dangerous.

When visiting Karijini please ensure that you:

- Carry enough water for rehydration – 5 litres per person per day is recommended.
- Wear sturdy footwear, even in the water.
- If it starts to rain, leave the gorges immediately as flash flooding can occur.
- Never walk near the edge of the gorges.
- Obey all signs and listen to warnings.

FURRY FRIENDS



Dogs and other pets are not permitted in Karijini National Park.



The **Tom Price Kennel Facility** provides overnight or longer stays for your furry friends. Book online at www.spacetoco.com/space/tom-price-kennel-facility

Tom Price

GATEWAY TO KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK



MAJOR ATTRACTION:

Mt Nameless/
Jarndunmunha



DISTANCE:

55km from Karijini National Park
70km from Paraburdoo Airport



PEAK SEASON:

April to September

Nestled at the base of Mt Nameless/
Jarndunmunha this picturesque and bustling
mining town is the perfect location for
travellers seeking to rest up and replenish
supplies before exploring the awe-inspiring
beauty of the Pilbara.

Standing 747 meters above sea level, Tom
Price holds the title of the highest town in
Western Australia and offers a perfect blend
of natural attractions, family-friendly activities,
services and modern amenities.

Tom Price is more than just a base for
exploring the rugged Pilbara outback,
it's a vibrant town offering a variety of
accommodation options ranging from fully
equipped Hotel Motel to a pet-friendly caravan
park. Visitors can enjoy a diverse selection of
dining opportunities, including local cafes
and restaurants.

How to get to Tom Price

By Air:

Fly into Paraburdoo, catch the bus transfer
(71km) to Tom Price or hire your own car.

By Road:

Head North from Perth via the Northwest
Coastal Highway and the Nanutarra – Munjina
Road or the great Northern Highway and
across Karijini Drive.

Tom Price



Emergencies (Dial 000)

1 Ambulance	000	(non emergency 9188 1795)
2 Fire Brigade	000	(non emergency 9188 1333)
H Hospital	9159 5222	
Medical Centre	9189 1901	
3 Police Station	000	(non emergency 9188 0222)
4 Post Office	13 13 18	(non emergency 9188 1712)
SES State Emergency Services	132 500	

Town Amenities

Town Services	Parks & Playgrounds
5 Cinema - Outdoor	17 Clem Thompson Memorial Oval
6 Civic Centre	18 Doug Talbot Park & Playground
7 Community Centre	19 Golf Course
8 Arts & Cultural Centre, Mens Shed, Tom Price Community Garden	20 Kings Lake
9 Dog Pound/Kennel	21 Lions Park, Playground & Pump Track
10 Library	22 Minna Oval - Area W
11 Pavilion	23 Nature Playground
12 Recreation Centre	24 RSL Park
13 Shire Office	25 Skate Park
14 Swimming Pool	26 Tjiluna Oval
Visitor Centre	27 Dog Park (fenced)
15 Waste Disposal Site	
† Cemetery	
16 Vet, Nintirri Centre, Op Shop, Arts Hub	
Essential Retail	
28 Chemist	
29 Coles Supermarket	
30 Hardware	
Churches	
31 Baptist	
32 Catholic	
33 Jehovahs Witness	
Accommodation	
34 Tom Price Hotel/Motel - 9189 1101	
35 Tom Price Tourist Park - 9189 1515	
36 Windawarri Lodge - 9189 3641	

*Please contact the Tom Price Visitor Centre for more details on clubs, cafés and schools.

LEGEND

- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Railway line
- Public toilets
- Drinking water
- Caravan Park
- Public telephone
- Parking
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- Long Vehicle Parking
- Barbecue
- Petrol Station
- Lookout
- Dump Point
- Welcome Wifi
- Bins



KINGS LAKE AT THE FOOT MT NAMELESS/JARNDUNMUNHA

Must-See Attractions in Tom Price

Mount Nameless/Jarndunmunha

Stunning Panoramic Views Galore!

Mount Nameless stands at 1128m above sea level, also known as Jarndunmunha by the local Indigenous community, and means the place of rock wallabies. It is the highest accessible peak by vehicle in Western Australia, a must-visit for any visitor to Tom Price.

Mount Nameless/Jarndunmunha offers perfect panoramic views of Tom Price, the nearby Rio Tinto iron ore mine, and the surrounding ranges, this mountain is a magnet for visitors. The hike to the summit is a 2-3 hour return trip, providing a rewarding and exhilarating experience for those who are up for the challenge. If you're not into hiking, a 4WD drive to the peak offers stunning views for those experienced with rough terrain.

Kings Lake

For a relaxing day out, head to Kings Lake, a tranquil spot perfect for birdwatching and enjoying the natural beauty of the area. Complete with barbecues and gazebos, it's the ideal place for a picnic or just unwinding in nature.

Mount Sheila

For the 4WD enthusiasts, Mount Sheila is another great spot to explore, located just under an hour from Tom Price. Offering breathtaking views of the Hamersley Ranges, this destination is perfect for those looking to enjoy the remote outback scenery. Permits can be obtained from the Tom Price Visitor Centre for access to the Rio Tinto Rail Access Road.



Tom Price Visitor Centre

The Tom Price Visitor Centre is located on Central Road, next to the Tom Price Library, right in the centre of town. This is the place to go for information about Tom Price, Karijini and Millstream Chichester National Parks, tours and accommodation. Permits for the Rio Tinto Rail Access Road are available here, as well as showers and toilets next door. Free public Wi-Fi is also available.

✉ visitor.centre@ashburton.wa.gov.au

☎ (08) 9188 5488



Monday to Friday: 8:30am to 5:00pm

Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays: 8:30am to 12:30pm

November to March: Closed Sundays and Public Holidays



facebook.com/visitashburton



instagram.com/visitashburton



Tours and Experiences

Rio Tinto Iron Ore Mine Site Tour (April – October)

A tour to the Rio Tinto open-cut iron ore mine is a must for anyone interested in learning about the mining operations that power Tom Price's town and economy. One of the largest open-cut iron ore mines in the world, the Rio Tinto mine offers visitors an up-close look at its working trucks, shovels, drills, crushing plants and train loading areas.

Tours run from April to October and depart from the Tom Price Visitor Centre.

Book online at **VisitAshburton.au**

Karijini National Park Day Tours

The natural wonder of Karijini National Park is renowned for its rugged beauty, incredible canyons, gorges and waterfalls, unique landscapes and stunning sunrises and sunsets. It is the true hero of the Pilbara region.

Day tours to the park are available, with options of guided tours provided by Go West Tours or the flexibility of the Hoppa bus, which offers a self-walk option provided by the Flying Sandgroper.

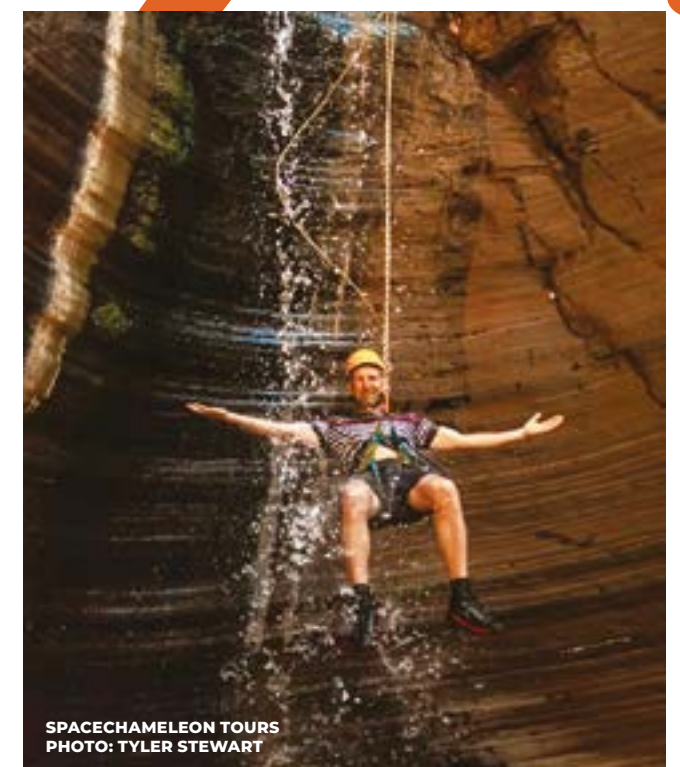
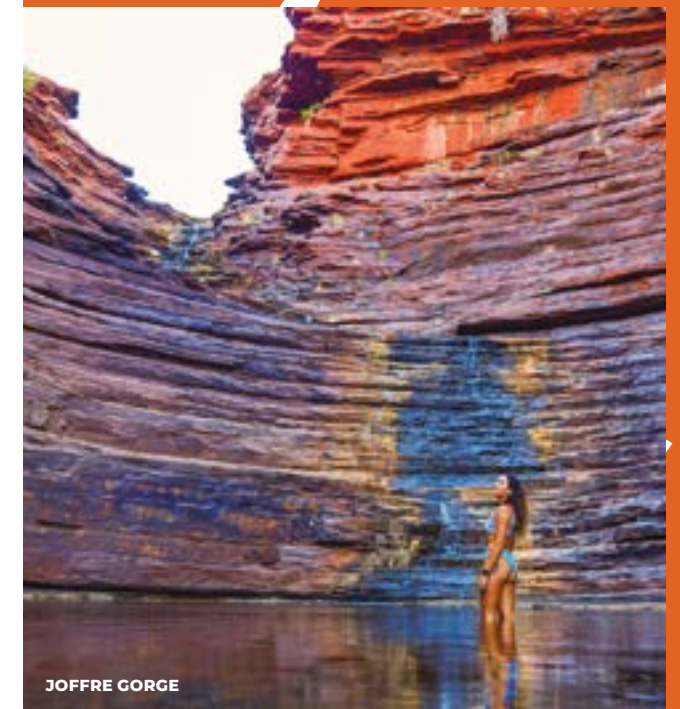
The Tom Price Visitor Centre can assist you with further information regarding departure times and bookings, or book online at **VisitAshburton.au**

Karijini Adventure Tours

Canyoning Adventure tours are also available in Karijini National Park with tour company Spacechameleon offering a range of tours from single day tours to multi day adventures. Canyoning tours offer a unique and adventurous way to explore further into the stunning heart of Karijini National Park taking you into the Restricted class 6 areas.

Enjoy a rewarding and spectacular day abseiling, paddling, climbing and hiking through the depths of Karijini.

Bookings essential.



Accommodation in Tom Price

Tom Price offers a range of accommodation options for visitors, including both budget-friendly and more luxurious choices.

Tom Price Tourist Park



Located at the foot of Mount Nameless/Jarndunmunha, Tom Price Tourist Park is an award-winning facility offering fully air-conditioned cabins, and shady powered and unpowered campsites. The Park features amenities such as a swimming pool, camp kitchen, and laundry facilities. It's located just 4km from the town centre, making it a convenient option for those wishing to explore both Tom Price and the surrounding areas.

☎ (08) 9189 1515
✉ info@tompricetouristpark.com.au
🌐 summerstar.com.au/caravan-parks/tom-price

Tom Price Hotel Motel

For those seeking comfort and convenience, the Tom Price Hotel Motel offers a central location within walking distance of the town centre. Providing a mix of value, comfort, and accessibility, the Hotel is perfect for those who prefer a more traditional accommodation option.

☎ (08) 9189 1101
✉ reception@tompricehotel.com.au
🌐 tompricehotel.com.au



Traveling with Pets

Traveling with pets is made easy in Tom Price, with pet-friendly accommodation available at Tom Price Tourist Park. The Shire of Ashburton Kennel Facility also provides overnight and daily stays for pets, allowing you to explore Karijini National Park without worrying about your furry friends.

Whether you're in town to explore the wonders of Karijini National Park, learn about the area's mining heritage, or simply to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of Tom Price, there's no shortage of activities and attractions. With a variety of accommodation, dining options, and family-friendly amenities, Tom Price is the perfect base for discovering one of Western Australia's most beautiful and rugged regions.

☎ (08) 9188 4444
Book Online: spacetoco.com/space/tom-price-kennel-facility

Tom Price is also home to several parks and playgrounds, skate park and pump track, all perfect for families. Relax in the shady recreation areas, complete with picnic tables and BBQs, laze in the Olympic-sized swimming pool or conquer the 18-hole golf course.

Who Was Tom Price?

The town of Tom Price is named after Thomas Moore Price, a key figure in the development of the region's mining industry. In the early 1960s, Price, working for the American company Kaiser Steel, played an instrumental role in convincing mining companies to tap into the area's rich iron ore deposits. He also persuaded the Western Australian government to allow the mining operations to proceed. Tragically, Price passed away from a heart attack just hours after hearing about the rich ore deposit discovered near the town. In his honour, both the town and the mountain were named after him.

Unique Attractions and Activities

Drive-In Outdoor Movie Cinema

For a nostalgic experience, head to the town's much-loved and historic drive-in movie theatre – one of the oldest in Australia. Established in the late 1960s, the drive-in operates from April to October, providing a charming outdoor cinema experience. For those preferring outdoor seating, fixed seating is available.

Disc Golf Course

Tom Price is home to a nine-hole Disc Golf course located at Minna Oval. This fast-growing sport, similar to traditional golf but played with flying discs, provides hours of fun for all ages and skill levels. Players navigate their discs around natural obstacles, challenging their skills on a scenic course. Best of all, it's free to play, making it an excellent activity for visitors looking for something fun and affordable. Discs can be purchased at the Tom Price Visitor centre.



Onslow

GATEWAY TO THE MACKEREL ISLANDS

ONSLow FORESHORE



MAJOR ATTRACTIONS:
Gateway to Mackerel Islands
Old Onslow Heritage Site
ANZAC Memorial Park



DISTANCE:
470km from Tom Price
1376km from Perth



PEAK SEASON:
April to September

Located on the breathtaking north western Australian coastline, Onslow is renowned for its fishing opportunities and laidback lifestyle. It's conveniently located just a stone's throw away from the picturesque Mackerel Islands.

As you drive into town you will pass over the eye-catching salt evaporation ponds which cover 87 square kilometres.

In 2023, the town joined the thriving regional art scene, featuring two captivating murals by Jerome Davenport adorning the town's water tanks. These beautiful works of art capture the essence of what makes Onslow a uniquely special place to live.

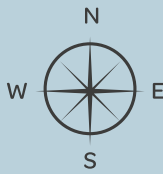
Established at the mouth of the Ashburton River in 1885, Onslow was originally a hub for exporting sheep, wool, and pearl shell from the Pilbara. However, due to challenges such as bad weather and river silting, the town relocated 18 kilometres up the coast in 1925 to its present location near Beadon Creek.

The history of Onslow begins in 'Old Onslow,' where remnants like the stone gaol, courthouse, police station and parts of the refurbished cemetery offer a glimpse into the past. Visiting Onslow provides tourists with endless opportunities to explore both the new and the old.



DISTANCES FROM ONSLOW

Pannawonica	204km	Tom Price (via 48km unsealed)	408km
Millstream (via Pannawonica)	296km	Tom Price (via Paraburdoo)	471km
Karratha (via North West Coastal Hwy)	311km	Karijini Visitor Centre	
Paraburdoo (via Nanutarra Munjina Rd)	391km	(via Millstream/Access Rd/Hamersley Gorge)	551km
Coral Bay	382km	Broome	1130km
Exmouth	402km	Perth	1377km



Onslow

Emergencies (Dial 000)

H Hospital	9184 3200
1 Police	9159 9100
2 Volunteer Emergency Services	000
3 Volunteer Marine Rescue Group	0429 688 714

Town Amenities

Town Services	Attractions & Amenities
1 Visitor Centre & Museum	9 ANZAC / War Memorial
4 Onslow Sports Club (Tennis, Bowls, etc)	10 Paparazzi Dogs
5 Dog Pound - 0417 949 661 (Shire Depot)	11 Community Garden
6 Multi-Purpose Centre (Evacuation Centre)	12 Ian Blair Boardwalk (BBQ area)
7 Shire Office - (08) 9184 9301	13 Playground (BBQ area)
8 Swimming Pool	14 Thalanyji Oval (cold water showers)
	15 Skate Park
	16 Water Park
	17 Shell Museum
	Accommodation
18 Chemist	22 Beadon Bay Hotel - 9184 6002
19 Post Office	23 Discovery Parks - 9184 6007
20 Supermarket	24 Onslow Beach Resort - 9184 6586
21 Op Shop	25 Ocean View Caravan Park - 0408 590 865
	26 Onslow Sun Chalets - 9184 6595
	27 Mackerel Islands - 9184 6444
	Food & Beverage
	28 Onslow Beach Club
	29 Onslow Sports Club
	22 Beadon Bay Hotel
	31 Food & Fuel

LEGEND

	Sealed Road		Lookout
	Unsealed Road		Barbecue
	Public Toilets		Shower Facilities
	Drinking Water		Dump Point
	Parking		Fishing
	Petrol Station		Boat Ramp
	Caravan		
	Footpath/Pedestrian Access		

Attractions



ANZAC Memorial Park

As the sun rises on ANZAC Day, you can watch it shine through the Onslow War Memorial. A must see.

Ian Blair Memorial Boardwalk (1km)

A popular boardwalk, winding through natural vegetation beginning at Memorial Park and ending at Sunset Beach.

Old Onslow Heritage Trail

A leisurely stroll that provides insight into Old Onslow's history. Heritage Trail maps for a self-guided walk around the old townsite are available from the Onslow Visitor Centre.

Swimming and the Spray Park

Needing to cool off? Check out the beautiful facilities at the Onslow Aquatic Centre (open September to May), or the Onslow Spray Park (open year-round). Sunset or Sunrise beaches are also great locations to cool off and enjoy a relaxing walk along the shore line collecting shells.



The Mighty Ashburton River and Old Onslow

Enjoy a day trip out exploring Old Onslow Heritage site and sit by the riverbank under the shady ghost gums. See pages 30 – 35 of this book.

Onslow Skate Park

The Onslow Skate Park is designed to cater to all ages and skill levels. A perfect stop for families, the Skate Park includes an outdoor ping pong table, art features, hopscotch and foursquare courts.

Chevron Wheatstone Project

The Chevron Wheatstone Project is located 12 kilometres west of Onslow, near Old Onslow, and is one of Australia's largest resource developments. Accessible only via a guided tour, bookable at the Visitor Centre.



Onslow Salt

Spanning over 90km², the Onslow Salt facility processes, stores and exports approximately 2.5 million tonnes of sodium chloride each year. The impressive salt jetty, extending nearly 1.3 kilometres, is a prominent feature at Sunset Beach. There is a salt pile overlook on Back Beach Road, halfway to 4 Mile Creek.

Neil and Judy Baker Shell Museum

Accumulated for over 60 years, most of the shells have been collected from the waters and islands surrounding Onslow. Those wishing to view the Museum can visit on Saturdays, or through the Hidden Treasure Tours run by the Onslow Visitor Centre.

Opening Hours Mid April to mid September 10am to 2pm.



Goods Shed Museum, Visitor Centre & Gift Shop

Explore the rich history of Onslow at the Old Goods Shed Museum, situated on Second Avenue. This Museum, which also serves as the Onslow Visitor Centre, offers a captivating collection of old machinery and memorabilia. Originally refurbished after cyclone damage in the 1960s, the Goods Shed features a display of railway rolling stock, including the 1928 petrol locomotive from the Onslow tramway system, on the goods loading platform. Dive into Onslow's early years and significant events, such as cyclones and the WWII bomb incident, through engaging exhibits inside. Entry is \$3 cash only.



Boating, fishing, snorkelling, whale watching and crabbing

Onslow is a fishing paradise renowned for its exceptional fishing amongst the plethora of remote islands, atolls and magnificent clear blue waters of the nearby Mackerel Islands.

Staircase to the Moon – or the Sun

The Onslow Foreshore is one of the best places in WA to view this beautiful, optical phenomenon when the full moon rises across exposed tidal flats of Sunrise Beach, creating the impression of a staircase leading to the moon – or a magical sunrise.



Sunrise and Sunset Beach

The shell lined beaches that surround Onslow are always at an agreeable temperature and perfect for a dip, a fish or that leisurely walk or run. Or take off on your boat to one of the many islands near Onslow to your own private beach.



Water Tank Murals



Onslow Visitor Centre, Good Shed Museum & Gift Shop

Onslow Visitor Centre

The Onslow Visitor Centre is your one-stop-shop for information, gifts and souvenirs. Located in the main street the Visitor Centre has ample parking for caravans and large vehicles along the front of the building. Our friendly and knowledgeable information officers can assist you with local advice and directions, maps and brochures, and a range of gifts and souvenirs.

52 Second Avenue, Onslow | (08) 9184 6644 onslowtc@bigpond.com | [f](#) @Onslow Visitors Centre

SEASON OPEN

1 April to Mid-November
Open daily: 10am till 3pm
(CLOSED PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)

SEASON CLOSE

Mid-November to 31 March

Please check Facebook page for updates.

Feeling hungry?

Onslow Beach Resort

Located on the Onslow foreshore overlooking Beadon Bay, The Beach Club restaurant, bar and function venue serves up delicious food, great cocktails, spectacular views and good times. Open every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner (seasonal).

Beadon Bay Hotel

The ground level at Beadon Bay Hotel is a popular choice for both visitors and locals of Onslow. Choose from the delicious range of Australian pub style meals in the new look beer garden, the perfect spot to sit and relax. Open every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner (seasonal).



Accommodation

Situated on the coast, Onslow offers a wide variety of accommodation options, including self-contained units, caravan parks, camping spots and 4-star luxury accommodation.



Onslow Beach Resort

Stay in a modern, self-contained apartment with ocean or pool views. The Beach Club restaurant and bar provides delicious food and drink while you sit overlooking Sunrise Beach. Resort facilities include BBQs, a pool and stand-up paddle board hire.

onslowbeachresort.com.au
(08) 9184 6586
bookings@onslowbeachresort.com.au



Beadon Bay Hotel

The Beadon Bay Hotel is an iconic hotel in Onslow. A comfortable accommodation solution whether you are staying for one night or a week. The Hotel is conveniently located in the heart of town and is close to the beach.

beadonbayhotel.com.au
(08) 9184 6002
info@beadonbayhotel.com.au



Peedamulla Campground

Just off the North West Coastal Highway, Peedamulla is the perfect place to stop, camp and relax between Exmouth, Carnarvon and Karratha.

The campground offers 20 campsites (5 powered & 15 unpowered), lighting, hot showers, unisex toilets, communal fire pit, drinking water, a covered BBQ area, friendly dogs welcome and expansive views.

Peedamulla is open March to October annually. Bookings are highly recommended.

peedamulla.com.au
camping@peedamulla.com.au

Ocean View Caravan Park

Situated on Second Avenue, the Ocean View Caravan Park is located directly on Sunrise Beach and offers powered and unpowered sites as well as self-contained cabins. The Park provides a relaxing atmosphere with sweeping ocean views.

Located adjacent to the ANZAC Memorial Park and Ian Blair Memorial Boardwalk, which runs from Sunrise to Sunset Beach, the Park offers great views of the ocean and the Onslow Salt Jetty.


visitashburton.au/oceanviewcaravanpark
(08) 9184 6053
oceanviewmanagers@ashburton.wa.gov.au

Discovery Parks – Beadon Creek

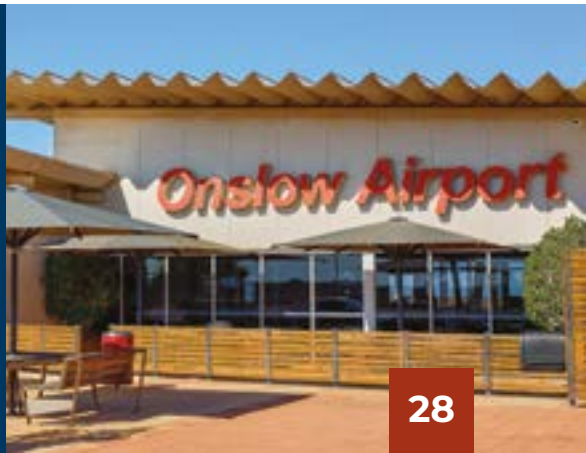
Discovery Parks offers studio and cabin style accommodation as well as powered caravan sites.

discoveryholidayparks.com.au/caravan-parks/western-australia/beadon-creek-onslow
(08) 9184 6007

How to get to Onslow

 Access to Onslow is via the North West Coastal Highway, with visitors usually coming from Karratha (307kms), Exmouth (400kms) or Tom Price (470kms).

 The Onslow Airport provides direct commercial flights between Perth and Onslow.





OLD Onslow TOWNSITE

A History of Old Onslow

A short drive from Onslow, you will find the remains of the original townsite, 'Old Onslow', at the mouth of the Ashburton River.

The original townsite of Onslow was gazetted in October 1885 and named after Sir Alexander Onslow, the Chief Justice of Western Australia at the time. The townsite supported the nearby stations that had been established along the Ashburton River.

Minderoo, established in 1882, stands as one of the earliest recorded pastoral stations. By 1890, the majority of land along the Ashburton River had been claimed by stations, primarily engaged in sheep farming, with a few also involved in running cattle.

In the early settlement days, pearls were found in Exmouth Gulf and Onslow became the home port for a fleet of pearling luggers. These luggers stayed in local water up until World War II when most were commandeered by the armed forces or destroyed.

The town and port facilities suffered from many cyclones that hit the area and by 1923 the decision was made to relocate the town some 18 kilometres up the coast. On January 10, 1924 the town of Beadon was gazetted and shortly thereafter renamed to Onslow, which is the town we know today.

In 1925 the old town, its buildings and all of the inhabitants were moved via camel and donkey-drawn wagons to the location where it is today.

Visitors today travel to the old townsite to see the stone remains of the gaol, the courthouse, the police station and police quarters. Some of the old town's buildings and artefacts can also be seen at the Onslow Visitor Centre and Goods Shed Museum.



Discover 'Old Onslow'

Only a short drive from Onslow, you will find the remains of the original townsite, 'Old Onslow', at the mouth of the Ashburton River.

Visitors today travel to the old townsite to see the stone remains of the gaol, the courthouse, the police station and police quarters.

Some of the old town's buildings and artefacts can also be seen at the Onslow Visitor Centre and Goods Shed Museum.

A great day out exploring Onslow's stunning backyard. Old Onslow has directional signage, toilet and shade facilities located at the Old Police Station and Quarters.

Pack supplies for a great day seeking out history and perhaps a picnic beside the Ashburton River under the shady ghost gums on the grassy banks.

The makings of a region

The establishment of Old Onslow is inextricably linked with the growth and development of the Swan River Colony and its need for more pastures for its cattle and sheep. As the Colony grew, its northward expansion contributed to the growth of Australia's pastoral industry.

During the 1860s Edward Timothy Hooley (1842–1903), constructed a shearing shed on the Ashburton River near the site of today's Minderoo Homestead.

After a survey of the Ashburton region in 1878, John Forrest and Alexander Forrest (1940–1901) and Septimus Burt (1847–1919) leased a large property in the area. John and Alexander's brother David Forrest (2 Jan 1852 – 5 Jan 1917) also managed the station with his wife and went on to be influential in the development of Old Onslow. Three years after the establishment of the port facilities at Old Onslow, it was reported that 'Minderoo', the first station was to be established.

In February 1882, the coastal steamship Rob Roy was severely damaged by a cyclone, while at anchor in Butcher's Inlet near Cossack, and was towed by its owners to Melbourne. The ship's engineer, James Clark, resigned and purchased a horse with the intention to ride South, while other crew members headed to Fremantle aboard another ship. During these travels, Clark stopped in at Minderoo Station to pay a visit to David Forrest, great-grandfather to Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest. Forrest explained to Clark that pastoralists and pearlers in the region were in urgent need of a general agent at the mouth of the Ashburton River and suggested Clark open a trading post at the port. Once arriving down south in Albany, Clark proposed the idea of the trading post to his wife Emmeline Clark née McKenzies (m. 1881) prosperous family. The McKenzies recognised the potential to provide a service to the pastoralists and the pearlers of the region.

James Clark and his brother-in-law John McKenzie purchased a 21-tonne ketch which they named 'Ashburton'. Clark and McKenzie arrived at the mouth of the Ashburton River on 23 August 1883 and a trading post was established.

The trading post soon became successful with the port providing a point for the export of wool, gold, timber, pearls and pearl shell and the import of other goods for surrounding sheep and cattle stations. The town was then gazetted in 1885, with the water supply provided by an existing Aboriginal soak (or well), an essential resource in such a harsh environment and the primary reason for the location of the town's early foundations.

Despite a good capital base Minderoo still suffered heavily in times of flood, cyclone or drought. In the Great Drought of 1911, which lasted between 4 and 6 years, much stock was lost. In 1998 after four generations and 120 years on the property, the Forrests sold Minderoo Station following years of drought and mounting debt. In 2009 the Forrests bought back Minderoo Station, with Fortescue Metals Group and Minderoo Foundation Chairman Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest AO (David Forrest's great-grandson), purchasing the station for its pastoral and mining potential.



Prior to visiting Old Onslow, download the Visit Ashburton app for the Old Onslow map and locations of significance.

2025 marks a momentous milestone – 100 years since Onslow relocated from the original townsite.

Located on the breathtaking north western Australian coastline, Onslow in its new location is renowned for its thriving and lucrative mining, minerals and resource industry, fishing and recreational boating lifestyle due to its close proximity to the stunning and pristine Mackerel Islands, and its quintessentially laid-back Australian lifestyle.

Onslow will be celebrating throughout 2025 this important milestone – go to VisitAshburton.au for up-to-date information on events and activities.

Wanthaya: Hello and Welcome to Thalanyji Country

The Shire of Ashburton respect and honour the Traditional Owners, custodians, Native Land titles and Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together.

The Ashburton River, or Mindarru, the traditional Indigenous name given by the first Custodians of this region – the Thalanyji People, provided travel routes, food, and resources for Aboriginal people, long before Europeans arrived on the continent.

The Wanamankurra created the rivers and still lives in the freshwater pools at Ten Mile and Five Mile Pools on the Ashburton River. The site for Old Onslow was chosen because of the existence of an Aboriginal freshwater soak or well, demonstrating to colonists' Aboriginal knowledge and water management skills.

Dozens of Aboriginal archaeological sites; shell middens, stone artefact scatters and other signs of life, are found in and around the townsite. This includes registered Aboriginal Site ID 7362 – Old Onslow Midden located within the townsite, indicating that Aboriginal people occupied the area for many years prior to settlers arriving.

Mindarru itself is still an important cultural site to the Thalanyji People today. When a Thalanyji person visits Old Onslow they see the Dreaming (Mardulba) at work, a world created by the Wanamankurra (Water Serpent), and other Dreaming Spirits, as they travelled across Country creating the natural environment, the plants and animals and Aboriginal society before changing themselves into features in the landscape or in sky where they continue to reside.

History of the Sea Jetty and River Landings

In 1886 a river landing was established on the Ashburton River and in 1892, the river landing was lengthened and widened, and a Bond Store the fragile riverbank, cyclones with attendant high tides and silting, caused a change in the course of the Ashburton River making it no longer suitable for use. The new seaward jetty (which was located nearby today's Chevron Wheatstone Project) was built in 1896, at 843m long and cost £12,695. It lasted just over 12 months before it collapsed in a cyclone. Between 1899-1901 a replacement Sea Jetty was constructed along with the new Tramway and Terminus.

At the liberty of the elements

The forces of nature however made Onslow's time on this site short-lived. With frequent cyclones and a rapidly silting river, dock access became an issue for large ships, signifying economic doom for the town.

On 10 January 1924 the town of Beadon was gazetted and shortly thereafter renamed to Onslow, which is the town we know today. In 1925, a new jetty opened at Beadon Point almost 20km away (as the crow flies). Government surveyors chose this location due to the deeper waters and suitability for building the jetty which allowed easier access for large ships.



Onslow's people and many of its buildings relocated via horse, camel and donkey drawn wagons, leaving Old Onslow to be the ghost town it is today.





Shire of Ashburton

Scan here



visitashburton.au

INDIAN
OCEAN

**Thevenard Island,
Mackerel Islands**

**Old Onslow
Historic Townsite**

**Python Pool
Millstream Chichester
National Park**

**Cheela Plains
Station Stay**

**Iron Ore Mine Tour
Tom Price**

**ANZAC Memorial
Park Onslow**

Karijini National Park

LEGEND

**Shire of
Ashburton**



• PERTH

Mackerel Islands

AN OCEAN PARADISE



MAJOR ATTRACTION:
Thevenard Island
Whale Watching
Fishing and water activities



DISTANCE:
45 minutes by boat
from Onslow



PEAK SEASON:
April to September

Discover the remarkable Mackerel Islands, a group of 10 pristine islands off the coast of Onslow.

Immerse yourself in world-class fishing, diving, swimming, boating, snorkelling, whale and nature watching. Stay on accommodation island 'Thevenard Island' for the ultimate island adventure escape.

The Mackerel Islands are a popular breeding ground during turtle nesting season. The Department of Biodiversity and Conservation run turtle monitoring programs each year with volunteers from all over. To register your interest or for more information, email turtles@dbca.wa.gov.au by end of August each year.



Mackerel Islands AND BEYOND

Off the coast of Onslow lies stunning blue waters, reef structures, secluded bays and white sandy beaches of ten pristine islands, locally known as the Mackerel Islands.

If you have access to a boat, navigate out to the Mackerel Islands or further beyond to the incredible Montebello Islands. Discover some of the most beautiful and secluded bays and beaches, explore the reefs, snorkel, dive, whale and nature watch. Here you will find some of the best offshore fishing Western Australia has to offer.

Humpback whale migration season is between July to August and there is an abundance of opportunities for whale watching (please be careful when boating).

If you really want to immerse into island lifestyle, book a few nights on Thevenard Island (via Mackerel Islands Pty Ltd) for an unforgettable island experience. Swim, snorkel, kayak in the waters and lookout for playful dolphins that frequent the area, the plethora of fish, stingrays and crabs weaving their way amongst the coral reefs.

Relax in your own exclusive cabin overlooking the sandy white beach, crystal blue waters, marvel at the incredible sunrises and sunset each day and when night falls, bask in the quietness, admiring the perfect night sky – a truly unmissable stargazing experience.

How to get to the Mackerel Islands

Most visitors travel to Onslow by road or by air, and then take their own boat or book a ferry to enjoy the collection of islands. Mackerel Islands Pty Ltd operate a ferry to Thevenard Island for accommodation guests twice a week. Thevenard Island also has airstrip access for private light planes or charter flights.

Airlie Island Nature Reserve

Airlie Island lies approximately 35km off the coast of Onslow and is one of the most accessible of the Pilbara Inshore Islands. The island is approximately 800m by 400m in size and was used as an oil storage and processing facility until 2002. It is now uninhabited and is surrounded by pristine coral reef and turquoise waters.

Visitors are asked not to venture onto the island, but admire from the waters as not to disturb the native flora and fauna.

Barrow Island Marine Park

The 4,100 hectare park is on the western side of Barrow Island. A highlight is Biggada Reef. It's one of two significant fringing reefs in the Montebello/Barrow Island reserve system. Dive, snorkel and swim in this tropical reef of life. Camping is not permitted.

The Park is a breeding area for green turtles. From the end of July, large numbers of these threatened creatures begin to congregate in Turtle Bay. Females lay their eggs on the beach. She'll repeat this on a fortnightly basis up to six or even eight times in a season. Turtle Bay is sometimes used by hawksbill and flatback turtles too.

The entire Barrow Island Marine Park is a sanctuary zone. It boasts the highest percentage of 'no take areas' of any marine park in Western Australia. This allows for optimal nature conservation and low-impact recreation and tourism.

(Reference: ExploreParks.dbca.wa.gov.au)

Thevenard Island

A BAREFOOT PARADISE



If you're looking for that perfect family holiday, a group getaway, a castaway-style adventure or romantic retreat, 22km and only a short 45-minute boat ride off the coast from Onslow, lies Thevenard Island, one of the ten Islands that make up the Mackerel Islands, it makes the perfect base to explore the amazing natural wonders of the beautiful waters of the Mackerel Islands.



New FOR 2025 – MACKEREL ISLANDS SIGNATURE FISHING CHARTER PACKAGE

As one of the best fishing destinations in Australia, the Mackerel Islands are an iconic bucket list experience for any fishing enthusiast or visitor to the spectacular Pilbara region in Western Australia. With 50 years experience fishing these waters we are the region's experts.

Get to the best fishing grounds in the Pilbara fast, in comfort and style, put your fishing skills to the test, catch a beauty and claim bragging rights among your mates!

Bookings essential:

✉ bookings@mackerelislands.com.au

Where to Stay

Thevenard Island has a range of two to five-bedroom beachfront cabins designed for relaxation. Cabins feature a kitchen, dining and lounge, a shaded outdoor beachfront area – perfect to enjoy a BBQ whilst taking in the spectacular ocean views and spotting the Island's wildlife after a day of adventure.

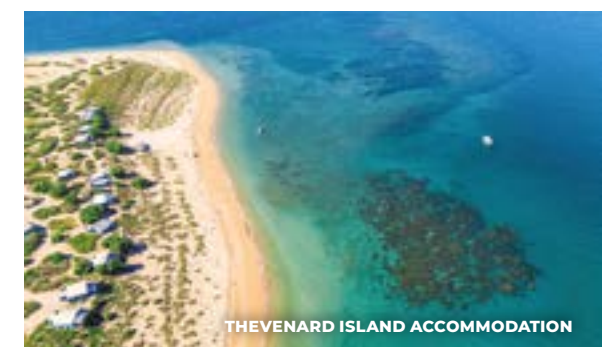
Tour the island by 4WD, hire a kayak or stand-up paddle board (SUP) and snorkelling and fishing equipment or book an Eco Snorkel tour, relax on a sunset cruise with drinks and nibbles and finish a day of adventure with freshly cooked and tasty casual dinner under the stars with other island guests.

There is something for everyone at Thevenard. Be as lazy or as adventurous as you like. The perfect island experience.

Bookings essential:

☎ (08) 9184 6444

🌐 mackerelislands.com.au



THEVENARD ISLAND ACCOMMODATION

Paraburdoo

CONNECTING YOU TO KARIJINI



MAJOR ATTRACTION:
Birthplace of Red Dog
“The Pilbara Wanderer”
Resilience Sculpture



DISTANCE:
80km from Tom Price
1hr 50min flight from Perth



PEAK SEASON:
April to September

The origin of the name ‘Paraburdoo’ comes from the local Aboriginal word Pirupardu meaning ‘meat feathers’.

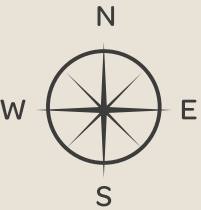
Originally built in the early 1960s as a mining town, Paraburdoo remains a small but lively hub of industry today.

Paraburdoo Airport offers convenient connections to Perth with daily flights and on-site vehicle hire services.

Paraburdoo has a fascinating history that includes visits from the Royal Family, the birthplace of Australian icon ‘Red Dog’ and even UFO sightings!

DISTANCES FROM PARABURDOO

Paraburdoo Airport	9km
Tom Price	80km
Karijini Retreat	136km
Karijini Visitor Centre	165km
Millstream Chichester National Park (via Tom Price)	256km
Nanutarra Roadhouse	274km
Pannawonica (via Tom Price)	348km
Karratha (via access road)	370km
Onslow	387km
Exmouth	540km
Broome	1069km
Perth	1390km



Paraburdoo

Emergencies (Dial 000)

Ambulance	000
2 Fire Brigade	000
Hospital	9159 8222
Medical Centre	9189 5069
5 Police	000 (non emergency 9159 8600)

Town Amenities

Town Services

- 1 Visitor Information / Library
- 7 Information Bay / Red Dog Statue / Toilets
- 8 Paraburdoo Ashburton Hall and Lesser Hall
- 9 Shire Office
- 10 Drive-in
- 11 Swimming Pool
- 12 Waste Disposal Site
- 13 Paraburdoo Community Complex

Parks & Playgrounds

- 14 Golf Course / Club
- 15 Skate Park
- 16 Anzac Memorial Garden
- 17 Peter Sutherland Oval
- 18 Meeka Park & Playground
- 19 Judy Woodvine Oval – T-Ball / Rugby / Soccer
- 20 Federation Park
- 21 Mininer Park

Essential Retail

- 22 Australia Post / Chemist
- 23 Shopping Centre

Churches

- 24 St Theresa Catholic Church
- 25 Anglican Church

Dining Out / Accommodation

- 26 Paraburdoo Inn – 9189 5303
- 27 Paraburdoo Caravan Park – 0409 662 254
- 28 Rocklea Palms – 0409 662 254

LEGEND

	SEALED ROAD		CARAVAN
	UNSEALED ROAD		LOOKOUT
	RAILWAY LINE		BARBECUE
	PUBLIC TOILETS		PETROL STATION
	DRINKING WATER		PARKING
	TELEPHONE		DUMP POINT





RED DOG STATUE



Attractions

Birthplace of Red Dog

Red Dog was born in Paraburdoo in 1971 and travelled thousands of kilometres across the Northwest, becoming a beloved friend and companion to the Pilbara community.

Stop by the **Red Dog Statue**, for a photo with a Western Australian icon. The statue was unveiled in 2023 and located at the tourist information bay on Camp Road.

Parks & Playgrounds

Federation Park was upgraded in 2011 and features two covered playgrounds and a fenced area for little ones. The Paraburdoo Skate Park is also located nearby.

Resilience Sculpture

Located 3 kilometres outside Paraburdoo on the road to Tom Price, this beautiful and imposing sculpture was created by WA sculptor Alex Micke in collaboration with the local community. The sculpture can be accessed by a meandering path at the top of a small hill.

The sculpture was created from steel plate, shaped during a series of controlled blasts and from banded iron formation stone, excavated on the mine site locally. It weighs almost nine tonnes.



CHEELA PLAINS



CHEELA PLAINS

Accommodation

Paraburdoo Inn

☎ (08) 9189 5303

Rocklea Palms

☎ (08) 9189 5018

Paraburdoo Caravan Park

🏠 (limited sites, bookings not taken)

Lot 1 Camp Road, Paraburdoo

Check-In at Rocklea Palms

☎ 0409 662 254

Cheela Plains Station Stay

Cheela Plains Station Stay is a quiet, scenic stay with full amenities conveniently located on the Nanutarra-Munjina Road between the World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef and Karijini National Park, 90 kilometres west of Paraburdoo.

The Station offers powered and unpowered campsites, accommodation and laundry facilities. Guests can enjoy breakfast or dinner at the Red Plains café. Dogs welcome on leads.

There are numerous walking trails as well as self-guided tours and water holes to explore. Campsites are available at the homestead or nearby wilderness camps along the Beasley River.

174 Nanutarra-Munjina Road

90 kms west of Paraburdoo

☎ (08) 9189 8251

✉ cheelaplains@gmail.com

🌐 cheelaplains.com.au

How to get to Paraburdoo

By Road

Paraburdoo is accessed via a sealed road linking Nanutarra Roadhouse and Tom Price, just over 80 kilometres from Tom Price.

By Air

Paraburdoo Airport is the closest airport to Karijini National Park and is located 9 kilometres from the township of Paraburdoo. There are daily flights from Perth to Paraburdoo and car hire is available at the airport.

Paraburdoo is an ideal place to refuel yourself and your vehicle before embarking on your Karijini adventure.



CHEELA PLAINS STATION STAY

Pannawonica

EXPERIENCE A MINING COMMUNITY



MAJOR ATTRACTION:
Robe River Rodeo



DISTANCE:
200km from Onslow
146km from Python Pool
& Millstream Chichester
National Park



PEAK SEASON:
April to September

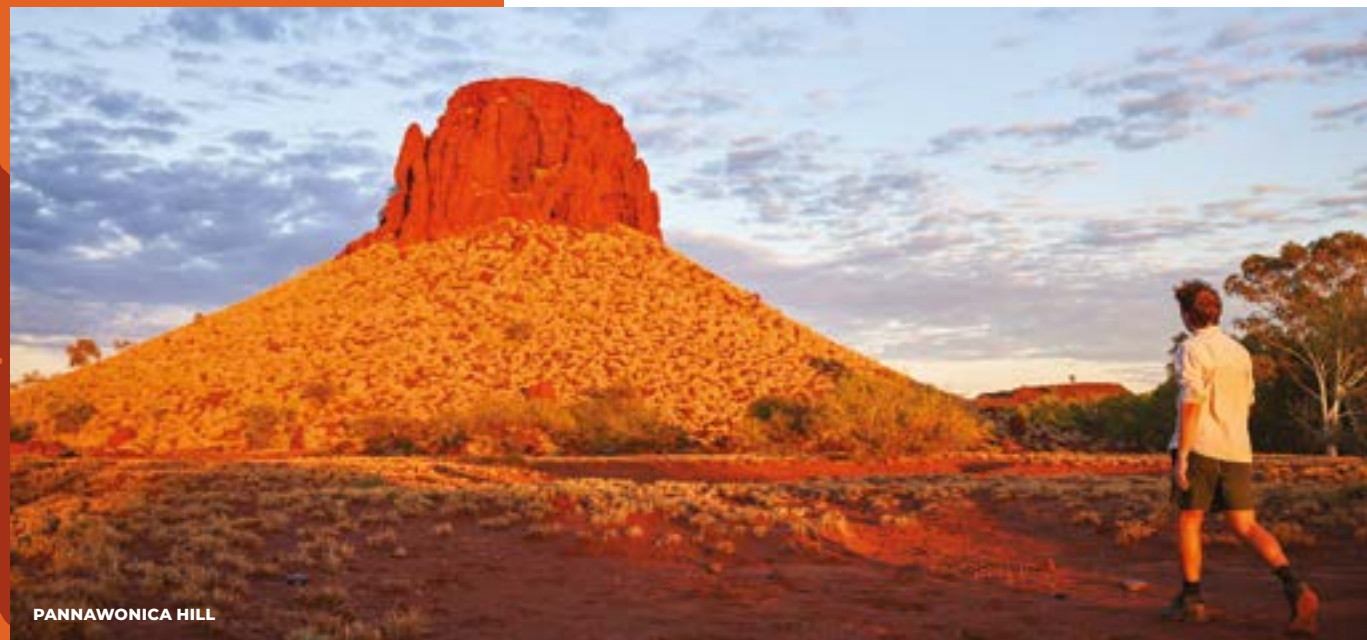
Pannawonica is a 'closed town,' meaning it's primarily designed for mining activities. Visitors are more than welcome, however please note that accommodation is often reserved for mining staff, and long-term or permanent stays for tourists may be limited (there is a 4 bay transit caravan park for visitors).

The town boasts a range of amenities, including a library, supermarket, tavern, hotel, and a service station. In the summer, the public swimming pool is a favourite spot and don't miss the open-air cinema – it's free when they're showing a movie!

Pannawonica is conveniently close to Robe River, offering ample space and shaded areas for a refreshing dip. Explore the stunning picnic spots, and don't forget to mark your calendar for the popular annual Robe River Rodeo!

As you pass through, make sure to stop at the Boot Tree – a local tradition embraced by both passing travellers and locals. Feel free to leave a boot behind as a unique memento of your journey.





History

Established in 1970 to accommodate iron ore mine employees, the town of Pannawonica carries with it a rich folktale. According to local lore, Pannawonica Hill was originally an island embroiled in a dispute between two Indigenous groups. To settle the conflict, a sea spirit decided to move the hill inland, creating a deep indentation or scar that would eventually become the Robe River. This is how Pannawonica received its distinctive landmark, Pannawonica Hill.

Pannawonica Rodeo

For a small town like Pannawonica, the Robe River Rodeo is the highlight of the year. In fact, the population more than doubles for this heart-pumping weekend every September. It's an authentic outback blockbuster with all the spontaneity, action and mayhem that only a hooves and horns event can muster.

A thoroughly entertaining show, quickly gaining Australia-wide notoriety, it's now considered an unmissable showcase on the Northwest calendar. With big hats, boots and a fearless attitude, rodeo riders from far and wide arrive to take on the tough and talented locals.

A good old-fashioned riding competition, there's nothing in the Northwest that compares with this event. Championed by the local community, the surrounding pastoral properties, cattle stations, mining companies and support businesses across WA, it attracts a bustling crowd.

The rodeo grounds are located on the outskirts of Pannawonica with free camping for visitors.

roberiverrodeo.com

How to get to Pannawonica

Pannawonica is approximately 2 hours from either Onslow or Karratha, located 47kms off the North West Coastal highway between the Onslow turn off and the Fortescue Roadhouse.

Accommodation

Pannawonica Caravan Transit Park
[\(limited sites\)](#)

Fortescue Place, Pannawonica
Book Online: www.spacetoco.com/space/pannawonica-transit-park-site



Emergencies (Dial 000)

Ambulance	000
2 Fire Brigade	000
Medical Centre	9184 1586
4 Police Station	000
	non emergency 9184 2444

Town Amenities

Town Services
6 Visitor Information / Library / Shire Office
6 Pannawonica Sports Club
7 Pannawonica Village
8 Sodexo Admin Village & Town Services
9 Barry Lang Centre
10 Mayu Maya Centre
11 Community Hall
12 Wandoo Village
13 Drive-in
14 Anzac Memorial
15 Community Garden & Leisure Centre
16 Kiosk
17 Pilbara Fleet Service

Parks & Playgrounds

18 BMX track
19 Sports Oval
20 Tony Lyons Park
21 The Rocks Picnic & Playground
22 Skate Park
23 Tennis Courts
24 Swimming Pool
25 Golf Course

Essential Retail

26 Australia Post
27 Shopping Centre
Churches
28 Catholic Church – Church of Our Lady
Dining Out / Accommodation
29 Pannawonica Tavern – 08 9184 1360
30 Pannawonica Transit Caravan Park
31 Pannawonica Mess & Bus Drop Point (Panna / Karratha / Panna)
32 Cafe

Millstream Chichester

NATIONAL PARK

AN OASIS AWAITS



MAJOR ATTRACTION:
Python Pool
Deep Reach Pool



DISTANCE:
242km from Tom Price
144km from Karratha



PEAK SEASON:
April to September

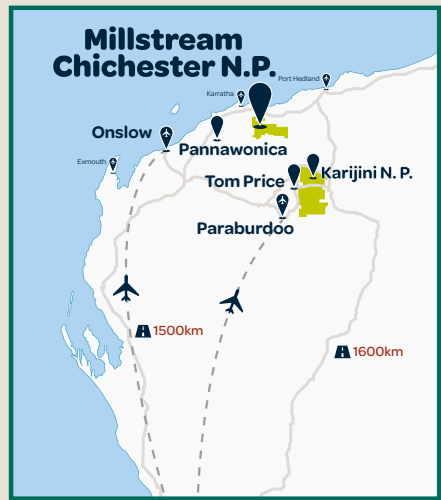
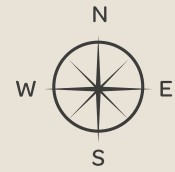
Explore the vast beauty of Millstream Chichester National Park, spanning nearly 200,000 hectares along the Fortescue River. Immerse yourself in deep gorges and natural pools, where the Warlu (Serpent) calls home amongst the lush flora and fauna.

This Pilbara gem provides excellent camping options, with Python Pool, a favourite swimming spot, as a must-see attraction. Enjoy numerous BBQ spots and scenic walking trails throughout the Park.

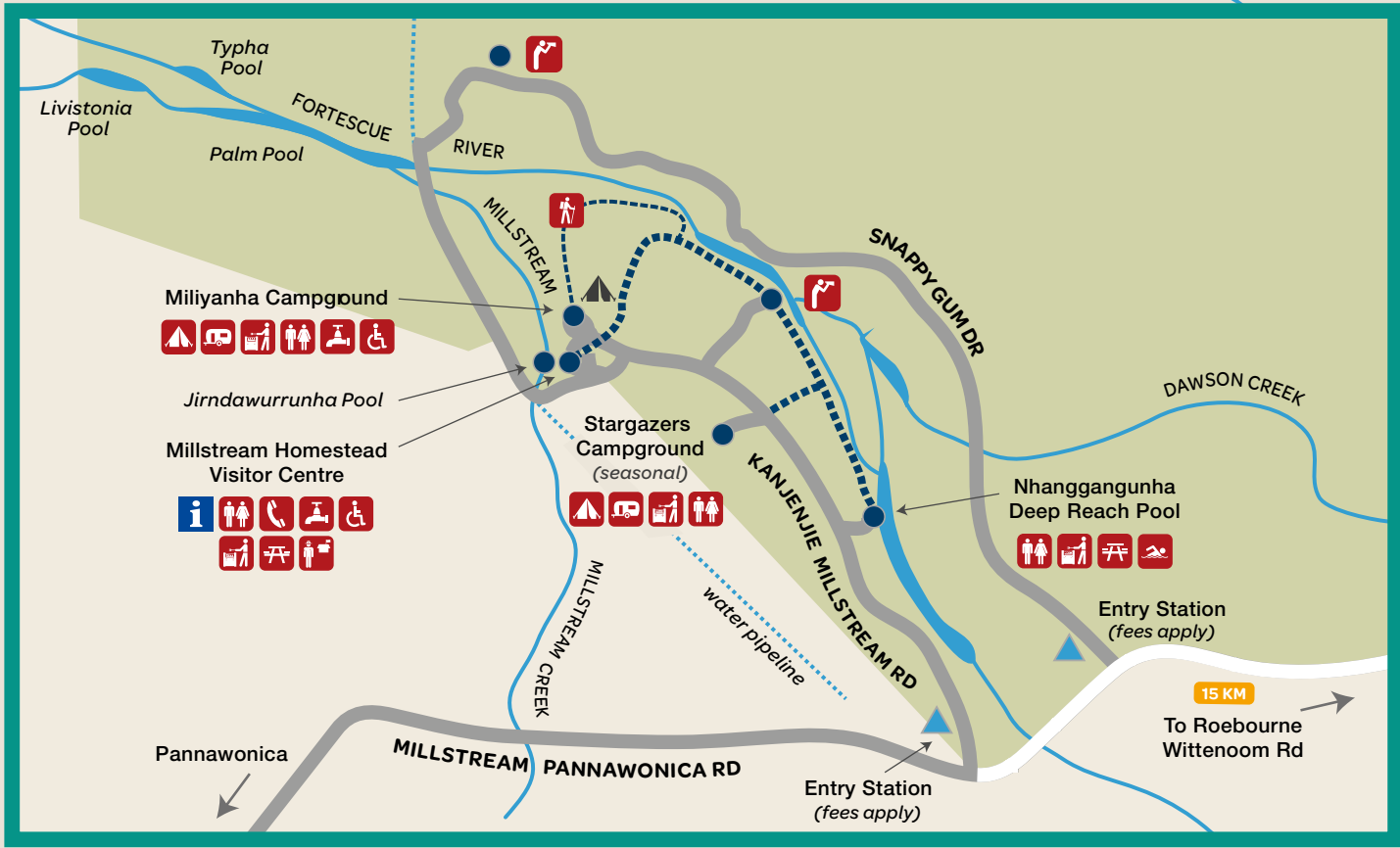
Discover the natural wonders that make Millstream Chichester a unique and unforgettable destination.

DISTANCES FROM MILLSTREAM CHICHESTER

Roebourne to Karratha	39km
Pannawonica	92km
Roebourne(via Roebourne Wittenoom Rd)	122km
North West Coastal Highway	128km
Karratha	144km
Tom Price	176km



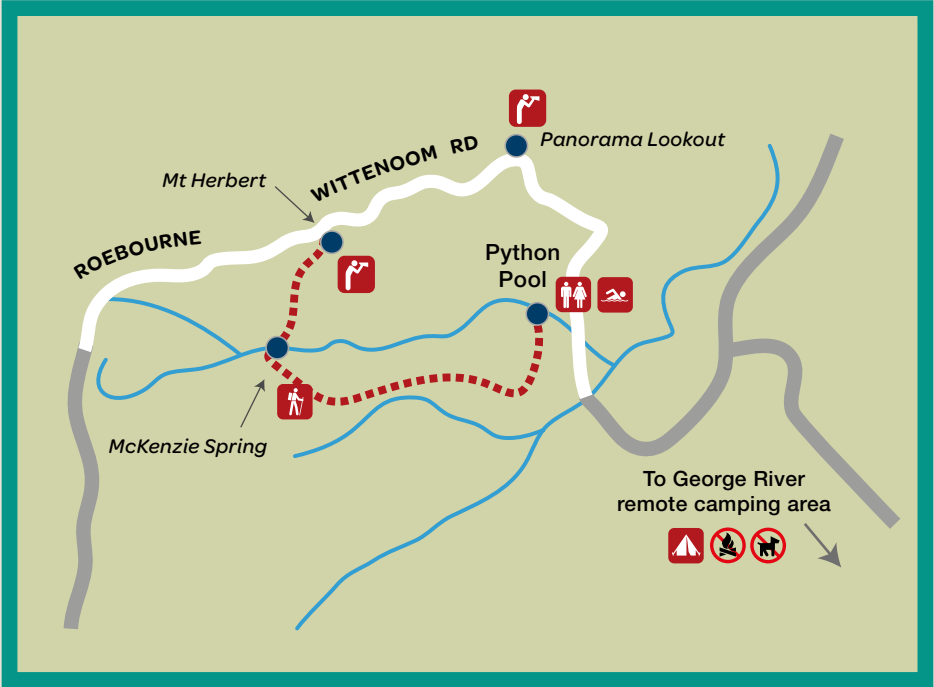
MILLSTREAM CHICHESTER



Millstream Chichester

NATIONAL PARK

PYTHON POOL



Rio Tinto Iron
Ore Rail Access Road
(Private Road - 82KM UNSEALED)
Permit required from the
Tom Price Visitor Centre
Road conditions - 1800 992 777

LEGEND

Sealed Road	Chichester Range Cameleers Trail	Telephone (Card Only)	Swimming
Unsealed Road	Walk And Cycle Trails	Ranger's Station	Universal Access
Railway Line	Walk Trail Only	Lookout	No Fires
Waterways / Gorges	Water Pipeline	Caravan	No Dogs
National Park	Visitor Centre	Camping	
ENTRY STATION (FEES APPLY)	Public Toilets	Barbecue	
Locations Of Interest	Drinking Water	Hiking	

Waterholes

Python Pool

A great spot for a swim in a cool, refreshing rock pool against the stunning backdrop of ancient, rugged cliffs. Python Pool is accessible by gravel road, best suited to 4WD vehicles.

Deep Reach Pool

Located in Millstream and sacred to the Yindjibarndi People. A peaceful place for a tranquil swim. As a sign of respect, please ensure noise is kept to a minimum.

Jirndawurrunha Pool

Swimming is not permitted at Jirndawurrunha Pool or surrounding streams because of this site's deep cultural significance to the Yindjibarndi People.

Trails & Hiking

Walking trails within the park include:

Cliff Top Walk (600m, Class 2)

Offers a stunning view of Fortescue River.

The Warrungunha Trail (8km, Class 3)

This hike takes you through woodlands and is dotted with iconic Australian flora.

The Red Roo Trail (7.5km, Class 3)

This is both a walk and cycle trail which starts at the Millstream Homestead car park and ends at the Deep Reach Pool car park.

Python Pool (200m, Class 3)

Python Pool is the shortest trail in the park.

Chichester Range Cameleer Trail (8km, Class 4)

This 8 kilometre bush walk (or 16 kilometre return), will take you all day to complete, and is best suited for advanced hikers. The trail follows part of the old camel trail and features steep slopes, natural obstacles and loose rocks.

Homestead Walk (750m, Class 1)

This family-friendly bush walk takes less than an hour to complete at just 750 metres in length. The walk trail begins at the historic Millstream Station homestead and meanders through towering paperbark trees, introduced date palms and pools of freshwater.

Accommodation

Miliyanha Campground



Located in the Millstream Chichester National Park, Miliyanha Camp is close to Millstream Creek and the Millstream Homestead.

It is a generator-friendly campground and suitable for all vehicles. The campground itself sits within a bush setting and has non-flush toilets, sheltered gas barbecues including dish washing facilities and picnic tables.

Book online:

 parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au

Stargazers Campground



Located in the Millstream Chichester National Park, Stargazers Camp is close to Deep Reach Pool on the Fortescue River (2.5kms away), where campers can enjoy swimming, canoeing and kayaking.

Stargazers is strictly a non-generator site with 15 campsites available that can accommodate caravans, camper trailers, campervans and tents. The campground has non-flush toilets, picnic tables and gas barbecues. Campfires are not permitted and campers are advised to bring enough drinking water for the duration of their stay.

Book online:

 parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au



HOW TO GET TO MILLSTREAM CHICHESTER

Millstream Chichester National Park is 182km from Tom Price and is accessible via the unsealed Rio Tinto Access Road (82km) plus a sealed section of the Manuwarra-Red Dog Hwy, or one hour via the Manuwarra-Red Dog Hwy (sealed) from Karratha.

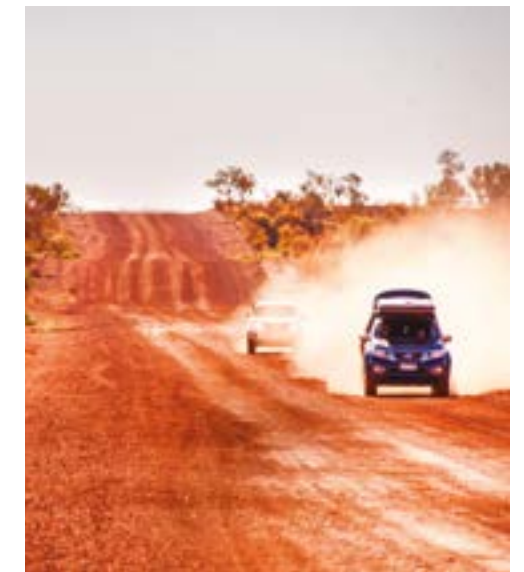
Park entry fees apply, multi-day or annual passes are also available.

The Rio Tinto Access Road requires a permits. Permits are available from the **Tom Price Visitor Centre** or online at:

 pilbararailaccessroad.riotinto.com

Please note the Millstream-Pannawonica Road may close or be restricted during wet weather. Please check the Shire of Ashburton Roads Report prior to commencing your trip.

 dashboard.ashburton.wa.gov.au



Station Stays

CHEELA PLAINS

Cheela Plains Station, affectionately known as 'A Pilbara Oasis' is a family owned and managed working cattle station nestled in the semi-arid, pastoral rangelands of the Pilbara in northern Western Australia.

This stunning station stay is the perfect place to explore Pilbara country and provides a variation of camping and accommodation options with comfortable air-conditioned rooms with access to amenities, including the Red Plains Café and Restaurant, access to a camp kitchen and communal BBQ area. Choose from a variation of wilderness and standard camping options at locations where you can set up camp under a blanket of stars, surrounded by the stunning Pilbara landscape.

Cheela is a place where you can completely appreciate the serenity of being on country, surrounded by the native flora and fauna whilst being a guest at this phenomenally beautiful and quintessentially Australian working station.

How to get there

Travel down the Nanutarra-Munjina Road between the North West Highway turn off inland towards Paraburdoo, Tom Price and Karijini National Park. The Station Campground is situated 1km off the main highway and is accessible by 2-wheel drive car. This Station Stay is a must stop for anyone travelling through the Pilbara.

Tourist Open Season

1st April – 12th October 2025

OPEN for Corporate Accommodation year round

Accommodation Options

31 rooms, 14 powered sites, 14 unpowered sites, 7 overflow sites, 14 wilderness sites, 17 semi-permanent tents, 2 amenities blocks, a cafe, restaurant.

BOOKINGS: Essential to avoid disappointment.

 cheelaplains.com.au



PEEDAMULLA CAMP GROUND

Peedamulla, means 'plenty water', where the Cane River runs through 226,000 hectares of cattle station. Here you can bask in the stunning views of the expansive countryside, savour the warm hospitality of local Aboriginal owners (the Parker family) and have access to modern amenities and powered and unpowered sites.

Peedamulla Campground was developed under Tourism Western Australia's Camping with Custodians program. Camping with Custodians is an Australian first initiative which allows visitors to stay on Aboriginal lands and engage with Aboriginal people and operates as a cattle station and an occasional training facility for Aboriginal people. Visitors to the campground in mid-July may be lucky enough to see the annual muster herding hundreds of cattle ready for market.

How to get there

Peedamulla Station is located 75km east of Onslow and 80km north of Nanutarra Roadhouse. Located just 7km off the North West Coastal highway along the Peedamulla-Onslow road.

Note – it is advisable to check during the storm season to ensure the roads are passable.

Tourist Open Season

April – October 2025

Accommodation Options

Peedamulla Station has 20 campsites (5 powered and 15 unpowered), lighting, hot showers, unisex toilets, communal fire pit, drinking water, a covered BBQ area, dog friendly and expansive views.

BOOKINGS: Essential to avoid disappointment.

 peedamulla.com.au



WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP

Reef to Range

Onslow – Gateway to the Mackerel Islands

Located on the breathtaking north western Australian coastline, Onslow is renowned for its fishing, nearby Mackerel Islands and laid-back lifestyle.

- Relax and wander along the foreshore, find the Paparazzi Dogs, have a hearty breakfast, lunch or dinner at either the Beadon Bay Hotel or Onslow Beach Resort
- Book in an Onslow Hidden Treasures or Chevron Wheatstone Plant Tour with one of the friendly team at the Onslow Visitors Centre and take a wander through the incredible historical collection of Good Shed Museum
- Marvel at one of the largest Shell collections in Australia at the Neil and Judy Baker Shell Museum
- Spend a day exploring Old Onslow and have a picnic under the shady ghost gums on the banks of the Ashburton River at 5 Mile Pool
- Enjoy a morning or evening at Four Mile Creek and Recreational area, with modern facilities it's a great spot to have a BBQ and cast a line around
- Experience a magnificent sunrise at ANZAC Memorial Park and sunset by the Salt Jetty on Sunset [Back] Beach
- Enjoy a leisurely walk along the Ian Blair Memorial Walkway
- Time your visit with a Staircase to the Moon event
- If you have a boat or jet ski, navigate out to the Mackerel Islands for a some of the most beautiful and secluded islands Western Australia has to offer. Explore the reefs, nature watching and some of the best offshore fishing, snorkelling and whale watching. For an unforgettable island experience, book a few nights on Thevenard Island
- Experience the incredible Starry Night Skies at the Termite viewing area and camp a night with local Aboriginal owners at Peedamulla Campground, with modern facilities and amenities, powered and unpowered sites

Accommodation options: Go to VisitAshburton.au
Bookings are essential to avoid disappointment



Cheela Plains – A Pilbara Oasis

Cheela Plains Station Stay is a family owned and managed working cattle station and is approximately a 3 hour drive, (265km) from Onslow. Open annually April to October.

Stay at a remote wilderness campsite surrounded by the Station's gorges, or opt for some more comfy accommodation (with aircon) and enjoy a feast at the Red Plains Café.

After check in and getting your access key, set up camp or enjoy the luxury of a cabin and then set off to explore of the Station's gorges, do some 4WD or a hike, enjoy a star-filled night sky by the campfire either at the homestead campground or at your own wilderness camp (visitors opting for wilderness camping need to be fully self-sufficient for most locations).

Bookings are essential with Cheela Plains Station Stay.

Paraburdoo and Tom Price

Pay tribute to the 'Pilbara Wanderer' Red Dog at Paraburdoo and Reload and Refresh in Tom Price

Enjoy the magnificent Pilbara scenery as you make your way through to Paraburdoo, the birthplace of 'Red Dog'.

- Visit the Red Dog statue in honour of the famous 'Pilbara Wanderer' and fuel up at one of the local cafes
- Discover the Resilience Sculpture before soaking in the panoramic views of the Hamersley Ranges enroute to Tom Price

- Visit the Tom Price Visitor Centre in the town centre for local knowledge, purchase some Pilbara memorabilia and book either a Rio Tinto Iron Ore Mine Tour and explore one of the world's largest open-cut iron ore mines or a Karijini National Park tour
- Take time to explore town whilst refuelling mind, body and car, and stock up on supplies
- Have kids? The skate park and state of the art pump track are sure to be favourites or cool down at Vic Hayton Memorial Pool
- 4WD or Hike up Mount Nameless/Jarndunmunha (check with the Tom Price Visitor Centre for road conditions and information in interest of your safety)
- Spend a relaxing day discovering Hamersley Gorge. Immerse yourself in the ancient landscape, enjoy a picnic by the water, and explore the picturesque Spa Pool
- Mount Sheila is a great drive and viewpoint. Located less than an hour from Tom Price on the Rio Tinto Rail Access Road (permits may be obtained from the Tom Price Visitor Centre). Mount Sheila offers spectacular views looking out over the Hamersley Ranges. Access is by 4WD only
- Prepare a picnic and venture to Kings Lake, a well-loved recreational space nestled in a natural bush environment, complete with barbecues and gazebos. This idyllic spot is favoured for bird watching and provides a tranquil setting to relax and unwind
- Tom Price has a wide variety of dining options to choose from

Accommodation: Tom Price Tourist Park
– bookings essential



Karijini National Park

A true Australian adventure to remember, get ready to explore deep into the subterranean gorges, wade through water and swim beneath cascading waterfalls.

With so many amazing places to see, it's an experience you'll remember for a lifetime.

Karijini National Park covers 627,422 hectares and is Western Australia's second largest National Park. Set in the Hamersley Range in the heart of the Pilbara, the expansive Karijini National Park offers rugged scenery, ancient geological formations, and a massive range of recreational experiences. A few of the top must do's are below:

- ▶ The **Karijini Visitor Centre** has a range of fascinating stories and useful information which is shared through a series of interactive displays. Visitor Centre staff have a wealth of knowledge and can help you discover the natural and cultural history of the park. The Visitor Centre also provides maps and tour information to help you get the most out of your Karijini Experience. Located off Banjima Drive (eastern section). Open from 9am to 4pm daily, March to December.
- ▶ Book a **Guided Karijini** or **Canyoning Day Tour**. Hike, tube, abseil, swim – so much fun to be had.
- ▶ Discover the awe at **Hamersley Gorge**: This is a dramatic gorge, full of colour texture and reflections. **Spa Pool** (access is Class 5), is an breathtaking spot for a swim. Accessible via an unsealed road, there is also a lookout and toilet facilities.
- ▶ Explore **Weano Gorge** and Recreation area spend the day at Handrail Pool and the Spider Walk at **Hancock Gorge**, spoil yourself and pre-order a picnic lunch from the **Karijini Eco Retreat**.

- ▶ **Knox Gorge**, a geological wonder millions of years in the making, offers a deeply fascinating chasm. Visit the lookout in the late afternoon or early morning to experience the enhanced beauty of this spectacular panorama under the slanting sun rays.
- ▶ **Joffre Falls** lookout on the west side of the gorge. The spectacular curved waterfall creates the shape of a natural amphitheatre with water cascading down the cliff face over natural steps to the dark, inviting pool.
- ▶ Spend the day exploring **Mount Bruce – Punurrunha**, hike to the summit early morning and find the **Marandoo View** lookout.
- ▶ Head to **Dales Gorge**, and take an afternoon swim at **Fortescue Falls** and **Fern Pool**. Don't forget your pool noodle!
- ▶ Book dinner at the stunning alfresco style **Karijini Outback Restaurant**. Watch the sunset through the ghost gums and golden spinifex whilst sipping on a wine and savouring a freshly delicious dinner made with traditional bush tucker ingredients (bookings are essential).
- ▶ Stargazing in Karijini is simply spectacular, with little to no light pollution you will be blanketed by the stunning Milky Way in the clear night skies.

▶ Accommodation and Camping options:

Karijini Eco Retreat – Eco tents and camp sites – bookings essential

Karijini National Park – Dales Campground or Karijini Overflow Campgrounds

Park Stay – bookings essential

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Park entry fees apply at Karijini National Park, available through day passes, multi-day options, or annual passes, which you can purchase at the Karijini Visitor Centre or online with Explore Parks WA.

Facilities include Visitor information and interpretative centre, toilet facilities, shade/shelter.

SAFETY TIPS WARNING:

It's very important that you do not wander near the edges of the gorges and stay on the paths marked. Loose and crumbling rocks can make it very dangerous.

When visiting Karijini please ensure that you:

- ▶ Carry enough water for rehydration – 5 litres per person per day is recommended.
- ▶ Wear sturdy footwear, even in the water.
- ▶ If it starts to rain, leave the gorges immediately as flash flooding can occur.
- ▶ Never walk near the edge of the gorges.
- ▶ Obey all signs and listen to warnings.

KARIJINI VISITOR CENTRE

OPEN Monday to Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm

Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays 8:30am – 12:30pm

CLOSED Sundays and Public Holidays, November – March



SALTY EYES PHOTOGRAPHY

Warlu Way

To experience the best of the Pilbara region, follow the way of the Dreamtime Sea Serpent on a road trip known as the Warlu Way.

The Warlu Way follows the path of the Warlu Dreaming serpent as it traverses Western Australia's epic Pilbara region – ancient and sacred landscapes rich in natural beauty and enchanting stories. Your journey takes you back to the Dreaming when the Warlu emerged from the sea and travelled through the pulsing red heart of the outback.

The Warlu Way leads you almost 3,000km from sapphire seas and offshore islands, to lush oases, plunging gorges, soaring ranges and the ancient Aboriginal culture of Australia's North West. Choose to explore the Warlu Way in its entirety, or do it in sections by following the four interconnected routes.

The Warlu Way has 4 Routes:

- ▶ **Coastal Route** include coastal towns and offshore islands with remarkable fishing and diving, ancient petroglyphs in the world's oldest art gallery, historic ghost towns and buzzing industrial ports – this is a coast of contrasts. Onslow and the Mackerel Islands, Karratha and the Dampier Archipelago, Cossack and Port Hedland all feature on this route.
- ▶ **Inland Route** highlights plunging gorges and soaring mountain peaks carved from the landscape over millennia, punctuated by idyllic swimming holes and waterfalls, and accommodation from camping to luxury eco-resorts. This route includes the jewel in the Pilbara's crown, Karijini National Park, as well as Tom Price, Paraburdoo and more.
- ▶ **Manuwarra 'Red Dog' Highway Route**, named in honour of the famed Kelpie cattle dog 'Red Dog' who frequented the region this drive route traverses the heart of the Pilbara, including the magnificent Millstream Chichester National Park.
- ▶ **Geoheritage Route** is a journey back in time to when the Earth began, from preserved remnants of ancient crust more than 3.5 billion years old and fossilised stromatolites, through to early gold rush days and now Australia's resources heartland.

Discover more at warluway.com.au

We know that you will just love our Reef to Range adventure. An iconic Western Australian Road Trip that will long be remembered and treasured.

The ultimate

4WD ADVENTURE

The Shire of Ashburton is a four wheel driver's paradise! There is something to suit all experience levels from the coastal beaches around Onslow to extreme mountain trails.

(See Centre map of the region for locations)

Mount Meharry is the highest mountain in Western Australia, 1248m above sea level, located in the Hamersley Range within the southeastern part of Karijini National Park, approximately 87 kilometres east-southeast of Tom Price.

Mount Nameless/Jarndunmunha located in Tom Price, is the second highest accessible mountain by 4WD in Western Australia, just a little smaller than Mount Meharry at 1128m above sea level and offers all of the rewards of a challenging 4WD track with spectacular mountain views. If you're feeling energetic, there is also a walk trail to the summit (approximately 2-3 hours return – medium to high fitness level).

Mount Sheila is a great drive and viewpoint. Located less than an 1 hour from Tom Price, on the Rio Tinto Rail Access Road (permits may be obtained from the Tom Price Visitor Centre). Mount Sheila offers spectacular views looking out over the Hamersley Ranges. Access is by 4WD only.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Rio Tinto's rail access roads are privately-owned and run parallel to the train network throughout the Pilbara, providing maintenance access to the railway. Rio Tinto allow the public access to the rail access roads as long as you hold a valid permit.

The rail access road from Tom Price to Red Dog/Manuwarra Highway turnoff is unsealed and can be rough at various times of the year. For current road conditions contact Rio Tinto's recorded information service on **1800 992 777 – option 7**.

Park Passes for Karijini and Millstream National Parks can be purchased from the Tom Price Visitor Centre or online at Explore Parks WA (Park Passes).

There are many **24 hour FREE rest and camp** options between Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Pannawonica and Onslow. Go to Main Roads Travel Map, find rest areas and amenities on the menu (click the Overnight Stopping button) for locations.

Or if you're would like to book your accommodation at any one of the great accommodation providers – go to **VisitAshburton.au** to book online.

Remember, please keep our part of the country beautiful and leave no trace.



Ashburton River rises approximately 100 kilometres south of Newman and flows in a west-north-westerly direction until discharging into the Indian Ocean approximately 20 kilometres south west of Onslow. The North West Coastal Highway crosses the river at Nanutarra. The river has a length of approximately 680 kilometres. The river basin covers an area of 66,850 square kilometres and includes the towns of Paraburdoo and Tom Price. The best place to experience the Ashburton River is at the Old Onslow heritage town site which sits within privately owned Minderoo Station (please leave only your footprints and be mindful of cattle).

Fortescue River is an ephemeral* river in the Pilbara region and is the third longest river in the state. (*An ephemeral stream is that which only exists following rain and are not the same as intermittent or seasonal waterbodies, which exist for longer periods, but not all year round).

Onslow has some beautiful beaches Sunrise and Sunset Beaches, rivers and creeks within Old Onslow heritage site to explore. Always be mindful of the native flora and fauna, especially during turtle nesting season.

If you have a boat (or have a friend with one) a must visit is the Mackerel Islands and reefs offshore from Onslow for incredible fishing, snorkelling and whale watching. Beadon Creek Marina has modern marina and boat launching facilities and amenities.

Beach driving during turtle season

The Mackerel Islands and Onslow are hot spots for turtle breeding and turtles are highly active in the area during turtle nesting season, **between October to March**.

Please adhere to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) guidelines to protect turtles during the nesting season if driving along beaches in the Ashburton region.



Transport

Airports

There are two public airports within the Shire of Ashburton with flights to and from Perth.

Paraburdoo Airport

Paraburdoo Airport is 70 kilometres from Tom Price, with bus transfers and car hire available from the airport. For those wanting to explore the beautiful Karijini National Park you can fly into Paraburdoo Airport and hire a car for a self-drive holiday, or transfer via bus to Tom Price where you can join a day tour through Karijini.

Qantas operate flights daily. For flight schedules and bookings visit the Qantas website, or visit the Onslow Airport page on the Shire of Ashburton website.

📍 [qantas.com.au](https://www.qantas.com.au)

Onslow Airport

For those seeking to travel to Onslow or visit the Mackerel Islands, you can fly directly to Onslow from Perth and then transfer via boat to the Island.

Public seats are now available on flights between Onslow and Perth, using the charter service for the Chevron operated Wheatstone Project. For more information and to book tickets visit Virgin Australia or Qantas.

📍 ashburton.wa.gov.au/onslow-airport

Car Hire

Paraburdoo

Car hire is available from Paraburdoo Airport (located approximately 70km from Tom Price).

Thrifty – (08) 9189 6512
Avis – (08) 9189 5225
Hertz – (08) 9190 2490
Budget – (08) 9189 5414
Europcar – (08) 9189 6512

Onslow

Europcar Onslow

596 Beadon Creek Rd, Onslow WA 6710
📞 (08) 9181 3250
🌐 europcar.com.au



Travel Tips

The Pilbara is beautiful country, but it can also be dangerous. When travelling such vast distances, you need to be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of others. Whilst traveling throughout the Pilbara, **mobile phone coverage** can often be unavailable, it's crucial for travellers to **download or seek out hard copy maps** and other essential information before leaving a mobile phone reception area. It is also highly recommended to have a UHF radio installed in your vehicle to enable communication with other drivers.

Travellers should carry an ample supply of water and plan for the next available fuel service when covering extensive distances.

In National Parks and reserves, sticking to existing tracks is advisable, and in the case of getting lost, staying put increases the chances of a faster rescue. In the event of a vehicle breakdown or becoming stranded, **it is recommended to stay with your vehicle**, as it is more visible from the air than an individual.

The Pilbara region poses changing conditions due to some extreme weather, bushfires, cyclones and roadworks, making it essential to continuously check road conditions before and during travel.

Being prepared, informed and taking precautions contribute significantly to a safer and more enjoyable journey throughout this magnificent part of Western Australia.



BEWARE OF WILDLIFE AND STATION STOCK ON ROADS

Drivers should always be cautious when driving through the Shire and throughout the Pilbara and the entire North West of Australia for wildlife, stock and cattle that may feeding roadside and can also venture onto the roads.

Fuel

There are a number of fuel points in and around the Shire of Ashburton:

- Onslow has a 24-hour fuel station and separate service station that serves food 7 days a week.
- Coles Express, located in Tom Price & Paraburdoo
- There are no petrol stations in Karijini or Millstream Chichester National Parks
- Auski Roadhouse located on the Great Northern Hwy (if heading North)
- Newman has fuel and roadhouses (if heading South East)
- Nanutarra Roadhouse is on the North West Coastal Hwy (if heading West)

Rio Tinto Access Road

Rio Tinto's rail access roads are privately-owned and run parallel to the train network throughout the Pilbara, providing maintenance access to the railway. Rio Tinto allow the public to drive on the rail access roads as long as you hold a valid permit which can be obtained from the Tom Price Visitor Centre and it is **4WD only**.

The road consists of 82km of gravel road. For current road conditions contact Rio Tinto on 1800 992 777, option 7.

Permits

30-day public permits can be obtained by visiting the Tom Price Visitor Centre or online at:

🌐 pilbararailaccessroad.riotinto.com



Best Time to Travel

The best time to travel throughout the Pilbara is during the 'dry' season from April to October.

Weather

The Pilbara region experiences a range of climates throughout the year. The region's climate features low humidity, with average maximum winter temperatures around 28°C and summer temperatures usually peaking at 40°C. Winter nights can be chilly, with temperatures inland dropping to around 0°C.

From April to October 'dry season', the weather is generally ideal, with daytime temperatures averaging between 25°C to 30°C. The tourist season typically runs from May to October, featuring sunny days at 28°C, although nights can be cold.

However, during the 'tropical season' from November to March, temperatures can soar in excess of 47°C. It's important to exercise caution during this time due to heavy tropical rains that can lead to flooding and road closures, dust storms and lightning. Most of the rainfall occurs in the summer months, influenced by cyclone activity along the North West coast.

When traveling in the Pilbara, it's essential to check the local weather report or the **Shire of Ashburton's Disaster Dashboard** before setting off and provides important, up to date information and links to travel, weather and road condition advice throughout the region.

dashboard.ashburton.wa.gov.au
In an emergency call 000

Travellers, especially during the 'wet season' should monitor rain activity for potential flash flooding, road closures and cyclones.

Cyclone Season (November to March)

Tropical cyclones are a natural hazard that can cause considerable damage. They are a feature of the climate in the Pilbara and can occur throughout the wet season (October to April). Should there be a cyclone alert during your stay, you should be aware of the following procedures.

- ▶ Pack a waterproof emergency kit
- ▶ Have supplies for 5 days
- ▶ Plan your route(s)
- ▶ Keep an eye on the weather via the Bureau of Meteorology at **bom.wa.gov.au**
- ▶ Keep your fuel tank topped up
- ▶ People with caravans will be told to leave
- ▶ Never drive through flood waters
- ▶ Tell someone about your travel plans
- ▶ Stay informed

Cyclones

Numerous cyclones have impacted Onslow over the years. Since its establishment in 1883, it has experienced major cyclones in 1909, 1918, 1926, 1934, 1953, 1958, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1975, 1995 and 1999. The first recorded by colonists was in 1880.

A History

On 28 March 1934, a severe cyclone hit the town, with the new jetty nearly destroyed. All the buildings suffered damage, with some demolished. Another severe cyclone crossed the coast at Onslow on 7 February 1963, damaging nearly every building in town. Destructive wind gusts of 231 kilometres per hour (144 mph; 64 m/s) were recorded during the cyclone, which bent telephone poles, leaving them parallel with the ground.

On 19 February 1975, Severe Tropical Cyclone Trixie crossed the coast near Onslow, with the cyclone's centre passing directly over nearby Mardie. A wind gust of 246 kilometres per hour (153 mph) was recorded at Onslow, whilst wind gusts of 259 kilometres per hour (161 mph) at Mardie (this was the limit of the recorder, so the gusts at Mardie may have been higher). At the time, the wind gust recorded at Onslow was the highest recorded in Australia.

21 February 1995, Cyclone Bobby travelled south along the west coast of Australia and passed near Onslow. Seven lives were lost when two fishing trawlers sunk off the coast from Onslow, and a motorist drowned while attempting to cross a flooded creek at Carnarvon. The highest recorded wind gust in Onslow was 183 kilometres per hour. Over 400 millimetres of rain falling in the area. In Onslow, the roofs of approximately 20 houses were damaged. The Insurance Council of Australia estimated the 1995 damage at \$11 million, with the 2012 estimated normalised cost of \$48 million.

22 March 1999, Cyclone Vance crossed the West Australian coast near Exmouth as a Category 5 system. Wind speeds were recorded at 267 km per hour at Learmonth and 174 km per hour at Onslow. Vance caused severe damage across the Western Australian coast. The hardest hit town was Exmouth where 70 percent of the buildings sustained severe damage. However, because of advance warnings there were no reports of fatalities.

For cyclone preparedness and access to the Australian Warning System, go to **dfes.wa.gov.au**



1995 CYCLONE BOBBY 'THE ADVANCER'
PHOTO: FLIC BRENNAN



1975 CYCLONE TRIXIE BEADON BAY PUB
PHOTO: THE ONSLOW VISITORS CENTRE

Visitor Centres & Websites

A visit to the Shire of Ashburton will take you through some of the world's most amazing untouched wilderness areas, giving you a real Australian outback experience.

To plan your next trip through the Pilbara, visit the following websites and visitor centres.



Tom Price Visitor Centre

Central Road, Tom Price WA 6751
☎ (08) 9188 5488
✉ visitor.centre@ashburton.wa.gov.au



Paraburdoo Shire Office

Ashburton Avenue, Paraburdoo WA 6754
☎ (08) 9190 2220



Karijini Visitor Centre

Banjima Drive, Karijini National Park
☎ (08) 9189 8121



Onslow Visitor Centre

Second Avenue, Onslow WA 6710
☎ (08) 9184 6644
✉ onslowtc@bigpond.com

Websites

🌐 visitashburton.au
🌐 warluway.com.au
🌐 australiasnorthwest.com.au

Follow these hashtags **#visitashburton** **#warluway** **#australiasnorthwest** to be a part of the conversation.





Major Events 2025

April



ONSLow: ANZAC Day Service
Friday 25 April

The ANZAC Day service in the Shire of Ashburton stands out as one of the most distinctive in Australia.

The sunrise filtering through the ANZAC Memorial adds a truly awe-inspiring and emotional dimension to the event.



KARIJINI: Karijini Experience
11 – 14 April 2025

Spend four spectacular days in the heart of Karijini National Park, where art, culture, music, food and community come together in an unforgettable celebration.

Set against the awe-inspiring landscapes of the Karijini National Park and the sacred Homeland of the Banjima People, the Karijini Experience offers a rare opportunity to connect with the land, its Custodians, and an incredible lineup of events designed to engage and inspire. For more information go to karijiniexperience.com



ONSLow: 100 Years of Onslow Celebrations Launch
Saturday 26 April 2025

2025 marks a momentous milestone – a century since Onslow relocated from the original townsite, now known as Old Onslow. The Shire of Ashburton is excited to commemorate this historic occasion with a year-long celebration of events and activities honouring the unique history and vibrant community of Onslow.

For more information, or to keep up to date with events dedicated to the Onslow 100 Year Celebrations, you can go to the Visit Ashburton website.

May



ONSLow: Beadon Bay Bash
Friday 30 May –
Sunday 1 June 2025

A fantastic weekend of fishing adventures can be had as a competitor of this multi species, fishing and spearing competition

heavily angled towards family participation. For more information go to Ashburton Anglers Club website ashburtonanglers.com

August



TOM PRICE: Inspire Festival
Saturday 9 August 2025

The Inspire event is a true celebration of life in the Pilbara.

The 1-day festival offers locals and visitors a fun carnival atmosphere with roaming performers, food trucks, carnival rides and headlining entertainment.

The Inspire event is collaboratively delivered by the Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto.

ONSLow: Passion of the Pilbara 'POP' Festival
16 August 2025

Held annually, this event is a celebration of life in the Pilbara. The 2-day festival offers locals a taste of big-city fun with headlining entertainment, roaming performers, food trucks, carnival rides and more!



ONSLow: Munro's Mack10 Fishing Competition
Friday 22 to
Sunday 24 August

The Mack10K stands out among the numerous WA fishing tournaments on the yearly calendar.

With a VERY generous prize money pool sponsored by local businesses, this is not a fishing competition to miss out on this year. Register with **Ashburton Anglers Fishing Club** early as boat numbers are limited ashburtonanglers.com

ONSLow: Onslow Rodeo 25th Anniversary
Saturday 2 August 2025

A highlight on the local calendar, the Onslow Rodeo is a major event that takes place every August, drawing talented riders from both near and far.



September

PANNAWONICA: Robe River Rodeo and Campdraft
Tuesday 2 September – Saturday 6 September

Celebrating their 30th Year, get ready to kick up some dust and make some incredible memories! The Biggest Rodeo in the North West hosts the thrill of bull riding, barrel racing and a huge line up of events, fantastic food, live music with true Australian country spirit. For more information go to roberiverrodeo.com



April to October
STAIRCASE TO THE MOON

The Onslow Foreshore is one of the best places in WA to view this beautiful, optical phenomenon when the full moon rises across exposed tidal flats of Sunrise Beach, creating the impression of a staircase leading to the moon. On some full moons, you can watch the moon rise and the sun set at the same time – simply incredible!

VISIT ASHBURTON

KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK MACKEREL ISLANDS

Western Australia's Ultimate Road Trip

*reef to
range*



Visit
Ashburton
reef to range

KARIJINI & MILLSTREAM CHICHESTER | MACKEREL ISLANDS
ONSLOW | PANNAWONICA | PARABURDOO | TOM PRICE

2025 EDITION