

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**

**2026 EDITION**

**VISITASHBURTON.AU**

## Contents

Introduction	2-3
Karijini National Park	4-11
Tom Price	12-19
Onslow	20-27
Old Onslow	28-33
Shire of Ashburton Map	34-35
Mackerel Islands	36-38
Thevenard Island	39
Paraburdoo	40-45
Pannawonica	46-49
Millstream Chichester National Park	50-55
Station Stays	56-57
Western Australia's Ultimate Road Trip – Reef To Range	58-59
Karijini National Park	60-61
Warlu Way	61
The Ultimate 4WD Adventure	62-63
Transport	64
Travel Tips	65
Best Time to Travel	66
Cyclones	67
Major Events	68-69

Visit Ashburton

[visitashburton.au](http://visitashburton.au)

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



Visit

**Ashburton**

*reef to range*

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

# 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 First Nations 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 First Nations 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](http://VisitAshburton.au)**

**Cover Photo:** Dales Gorge | Karijini National Park

**Photo Credits:** Shire of Ashburton, Tourism Western Australia, L.E.'s Photography, 4WD Adventure Show, Travel Shooters, Travis Hayto, SoCo Studios, Mackerel Islands PL, Salty Davenport, Atlas of Living Australia, Clodagh Gildea, Amy Bishop, Marg Bertling, Diana Abeleda, David Atkins, Robe River Rodeo, Salty Eyes Photography, CJ Maddock, Bradley Roberts, Jamieleigh Elliott, Tyler Stewart and Anton Wilk.

# 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 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, 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 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, you may bear witness to one of the most magnificent Staircase to the Moon experiences.

**Onslow** is an adventure-seeker's paradise, a haven 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 Jarndunmunha/Mt Nameless – where you can 4WD to the summit and experience breathtaking views of the Hamersley Range.

**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**.

Our National Parks are true natural wonders of epic proportions. They offer an impressive array of stunning gorges, waterfalls and rock pools, sheer canyons and exhilarating walk trails and look outs. 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)

# *Karrijini* NATIONAL PARK

## AN ADVENTURE TO REMEMBER

DALES GORGE



**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 yourself 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.

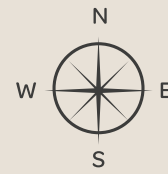
Karijini is truly an Australian adventure of epic proportions.

---

The Shire of Ashburton acknowledges the Banjima, Kurrama 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
Paraburadoo	80km	Onslow (via Paraburadoo)	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 Paraburadoo)	629km
Pannawonica (via access road)	268km	Carnarvon (via Paraburadoo)	711km
Newman	280km	Broome (via Port Hedland)	1042km
Karratha (via access road)	290km	Geraldton (via Paraburadoo)	1182km
Nanutarra Roadhouse (48 km unsealed)	291km	Perth (via Meekatharra)	1469km
Nanutarra Roadhouse (via Paraburadoo)	353km	Perth (via Paraburadoo)	1607km
Port Hedland (via Great Northern Hwy)	416km		



**Mt Sheila**  
Height 987m  
10 KM from turnoff  
(look for drum on the right)  
(4WD only)

**Kings Valley Mine Site**  
No Public Access

**Fire Tail Mine Site**  
No Public Access

**Hamersley Gorge**  
Spa Pool

**Karijini Eco Retreat**  
All bookings: 08 9425 5591  
Information: 08 9189 8013

**Silvergrass Nammuldi**  
No Public Access

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

**Marandoo Mine Site**  
No Public Access

**Tom Price Tourist Park**  
08 9189 1515  
(4 KM from town)

**Mt Nameless/ Jarndunmunha**  
Height 1128m  
(4WD only)

**Tom Price Mine Site**  
No Public Access

**Paraburadoo - 80 KM**  
**Paraburadoo Airport - 71 KM**  
**Nanutarra - 354 KM**



# Karijini NATIONAL PARK



Entry Station  
(fees apply, EFT available)

Entry Station  
(fees apply, EFT available)

**P** **P**  
**Mt Bruce/Punurrunga**  
 Height 1235m  
 2WD accessible to carpark  
 (unsealed road, weather permitting)  
 Walk to the summit is approx  
 9 km return trip from the car park

**Mt Meharry/Wirlibiwiribi**  
 Highest peak in WA  
 Height 1249m (4WD only)  
 Access via Juna Downs Station from GNH  
 Follow the Packsaddle Rd for 15.7 km  
 then turn left at the Mt Meharry sign.

## LEGEND

- |  |                            |  |                         |  |                     |
|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | Sealed road                |  | Karijini Visitor Centre |  | Caravan Area        |
|  | Unsealed road              |  | Public toilets          |  | Dump Point          |
|  | Railway line               |  | Drinking water          |  | Camping             |
|  | Waterways / Gorges         |  | Non-Potable Water       |  | Barbecue            |
|  | National Park              |  | Telephone               |  | Hiking              |
|  | Entry station (fees apply) |  | Ranger's station        |  | Swimming            |
|  | Locations of interest      |  | Lookout                 |  | Wheelchair friendly |
|  |                            |  | Parking                 |  | Shower facilities   |



## *Spectacular* waterholes, hikes and views

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

### **Mount Bruce | Punurrunha**

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.

### **Honey Hakea Track**

4.6 km | Full Day | Class 3

This return trail following the same path as the Mt Bruce Summit Trail and provides views down into the Marandoo iron ore mining operations and stunning views of the surrounding Hamersley Ranges.

### **Hamersley Gorge**

#### **Spa Pool**

1 km | 1-3 hrs | Class 5

**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. This dramatic gorge is full of colour, texture and reflections. **Spa Pool** is an amazing spot for a refreshing swim.

#### **Joffre Falls**

1.3 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 (seasonal) 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 short 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**

2 km | 2 hrs | Class 5

Not for the faint hearted, **Knox Gorge** is 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.



DALES GORGE

## Weano Recreation Area

### 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 junction of Weano, Red, Hancock and Joffre Gorges.

### 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**.

### Handrail Pool

1.2 km | 1-2 hrs | Class 5

1.2 km return **Handrail Pool** is situated in **Lower Weano Gorge Trail**. 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, Kermit's Pool

1.5 km | 2 hrs | Class 5

This exhilarating descent into **Hancock Gorge** is described as a "journey to the centre of the earth". After climbing a 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 make a choice between performing a "spider walk" along the walls of a narrow channel, or swimming through a refreshing body of water at the bottom.

### Dales Gorge

3.5 km | Half Day | Class 3/4

From the **Fortescue Falls Carpark** several walk options are available. Enjoy an easy stroll to the **Fortescue Falls** lookout, then structured steps down to the falls (Class 3) and resting areas along the way to relax and enjoy the views.

From Fortescue Falls, you can take a further short walk to **Fern Pool**.

For a more rewarding challenge, continue past Fortescue Falls and walk through **Dales Gorge**, (Class 4) following the creek at the bottom of the gorge. This section is rougher, with pools, rocky crossings, ladders and steep stairs, offering close-up views of gorge wildlife and scenery.

To complete the loop, return to the car park via the **Gorge Rim Walk**, (class 3) which follows the top of the gorge and provides sweeping views, shady trees, and a gentler walking surface.



## 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/karjini-national-park](https://www.exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park/karjini-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 located alongside the stunning Joffre Gorge.

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@karijini.ecoretreat.com.au](mailto:reservations@karijini.ecoretreat.com.au)

 [karijini.ecoretreat.com.au](http://karijini.ecoretreat.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](http://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](mailto:info@auskiroadhouse.com.au)

 [auskiroadhouse.com.au](http://auskiroadhouse.com.au)

## FURRY FRIENDS



Dogs and other pets are not permitted in Karijini National Park. See page 18 for information on travelling with pets throughout Ashburton.

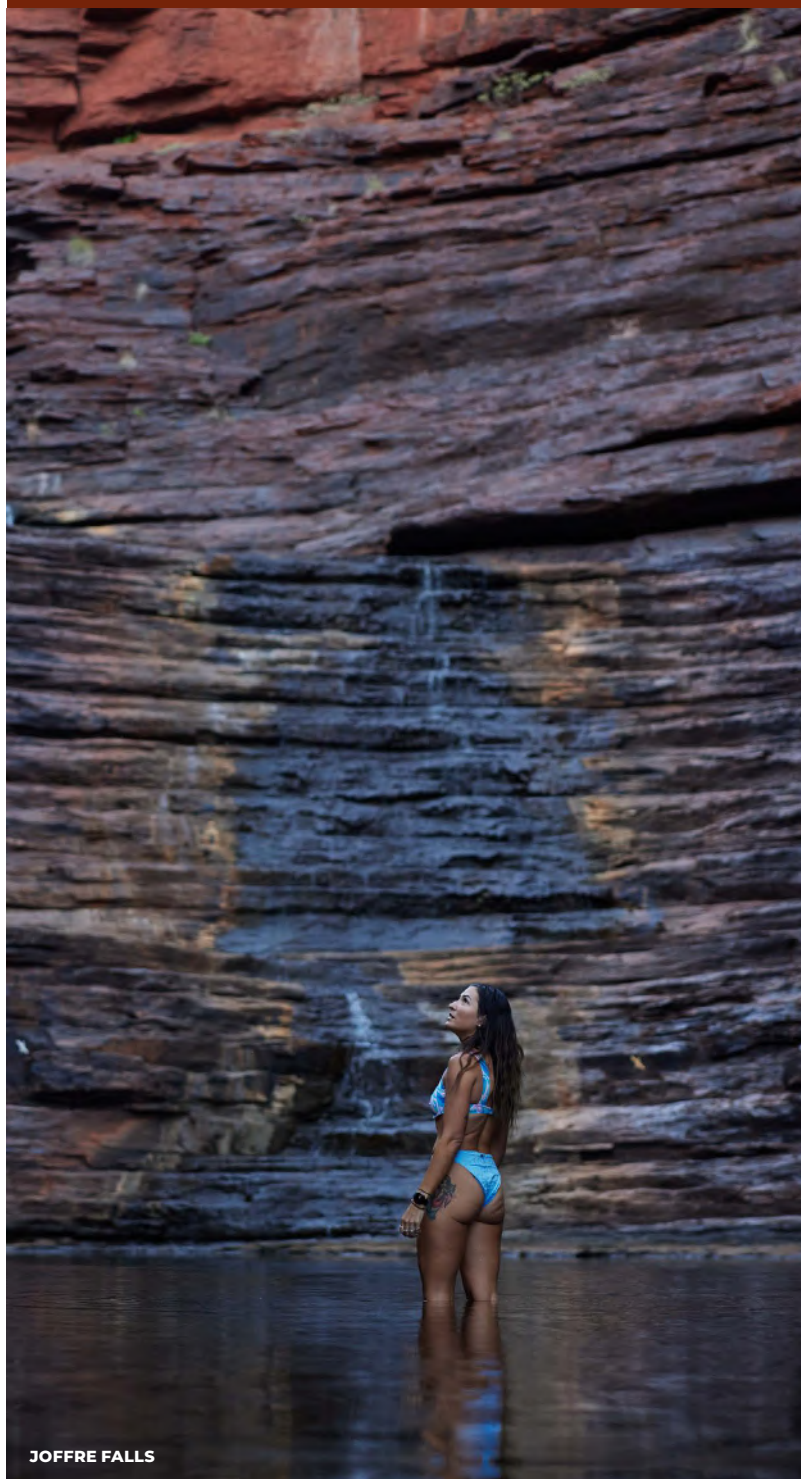


The **Tom Price Kennel Facility** provides overnight or longer stays for your furry friends. Book online at [www.spacetoco.com/space/tom-price-kennel-facility](http://www.spacetoco.com/space/tom-price-kennel-facility)

## 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



## 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. Immerse yourself in the rich storytelling of the Custodians of the region, hearing directly from them their stories of culture, people and place central to the Karijini story.

Visitor Centre staff have a wealth of knowledge and can help you navigate 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 Adventure Co

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.

 [www.spacechameleonadventureco.com](http://www.spacechameleonadventureco.com)

### Inspiration Outdoors

A camping adventure. Swim, snorkel and hike your way through the Australian Outback. Minimise the driving time and maximise the adventure on this 10-day camping trip in Western Australia. Take a dip in secluded swimming holes fed by tumbling waterfalls, explore the rugged landscapes of Karijini National Park.

 [www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au](http://www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au)

### The Hike Collective

Experience guided hikes through a collection of Karijini's most renowned gorges and serene swimming holes, including the celebrated Fern Pool and Dales Gorge. The journey is your chance to connect and share. Daily journaling sessions and mindfulness practices are integrated into the itinerary, enhancing your connection to self. Includes meals and snacks, alongside four nights of accommodation at Karijini Eco Retreat.

 [www.hikecollective.com.au](http://www.hikecollective.com.au)

### Karijini Walking Holidays

A captivating journey exploring the dramatic gorges of Karijini National Park and the Ningaloo Reef, striking the perfect balance between adventure and relaxation. This expedition commences in Paraburdoo, heading northward to Karijini. Four nights in Karijini, hiking, swimming, exploration, and relaxation, before venturing across to Exmouth. Package includes food accommodation and transport during the trip and National Park fees.

 [www.australianwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.australianwalkingholidays.com.au)



## TIPS FOR 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 make off-track routes 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.

# Tom Price

## GATEWAY TO KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK

MT NAMELESS/JARNDUNMUNHA

**MAJOR ATTRACTION:**

Mt Nameless/  
Jarndunmunha

**DISTANCE:**

55km from Karijini National Park  
70km from Paraburdoo Airport  
1400km from Perth

**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 mining  
town offering a variety of accommodation  
options ranging from a fully equipped Hotel  
Motel to a pet-friendly caravan park. Visitors can  
enjoy a diverse selection of dining opportunities,  
including local cafes and restaurants.

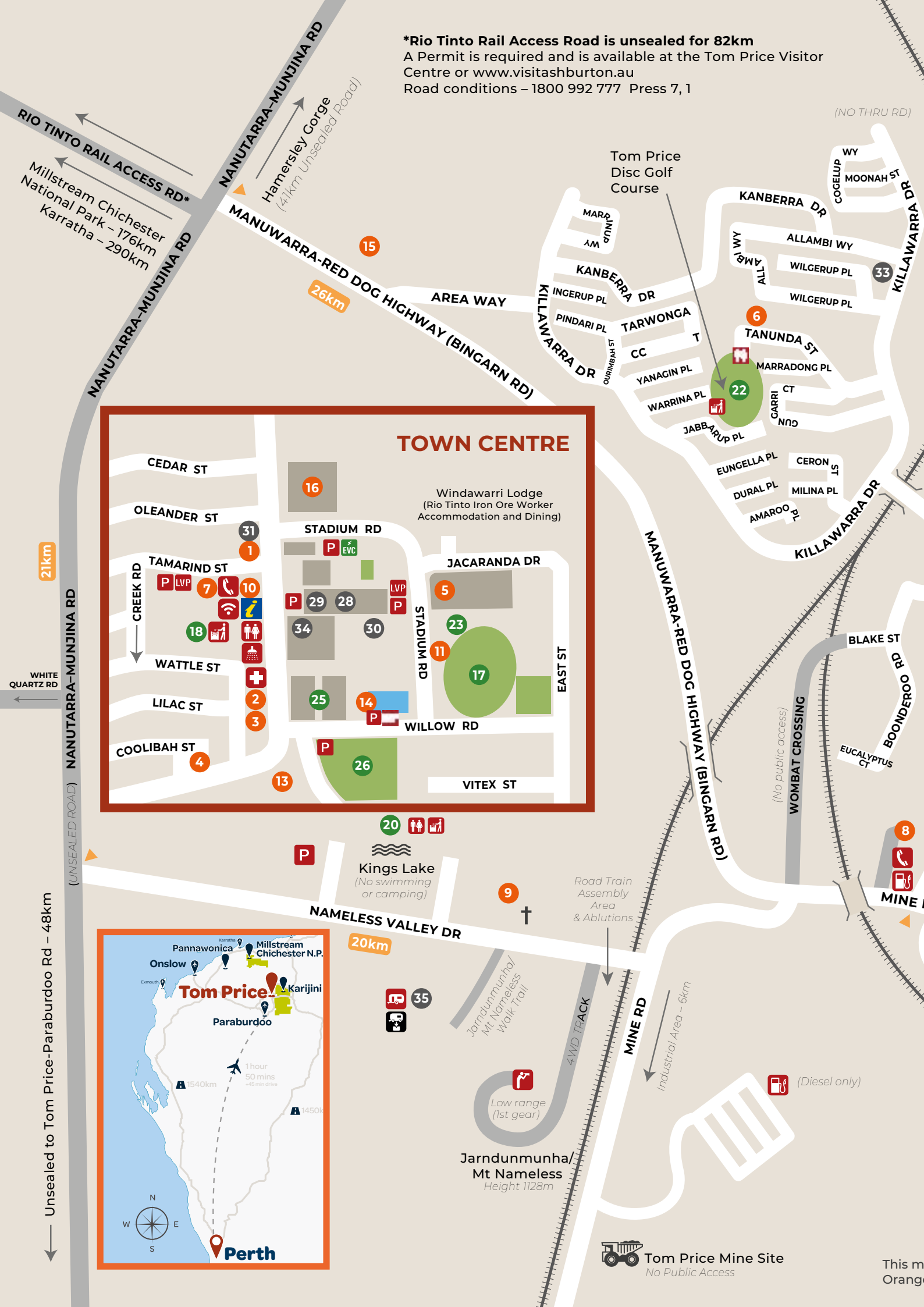
**How to get to Tom Price****By Air:**

Fly direct from Perth to Paraburdoo  
Airport, where rental vehicles are available  
and bus transfers to Tom Price can be booked  
in advance.

**By Road:**

From Perth, travel north along the North  
West Coastal Highway and turn east onto  
Nanutarra–Munjina Road, or take the inland  
route via the Great Northern Highway through  
Newman, then head west along Karijini Drive.

**\*Rio Tinto Rail Access Road is unsealed for 82km**  
 A Permit is required and is available at the Tom Price Visitor Centre or [www.visitashburton.au](http://www.visitashburton.au)  
 Road conditions – 1800 992 777 Press 7, 1



21km

26km

20km

Unsealed to Tom Price-Paraburdoo Rd – 48km

(UNSEALED ROAD) NANUTARRA-MUNJINA RD

RIO TINTO RAIL ACCESS RD\*  
 NANUTARRA-MUNJINA RD  
 Hamesley Gorge (47km Unsealed Road)

MANUWARRA-RED DOG HIGHWAY (BINGARN RD)

**TOWN CENTRE**

Windawarri Lodge  
 (Rio Tinto Iron Ore Worker Accommodation and Dining)

Kings Lake  
 (No swimming or camping)

Jarndunmunha Mt Nameless  
 Height 1128m

4WD TRACK

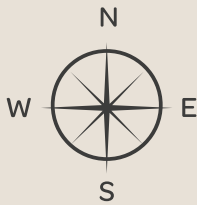
MINE RD

Industrial Area – 6km

Tom Price Mine Site  
 No Public Access

This m  
 Orang

# Tom Price



## Emergency Services (Dial 000)

- 1 Ambulance (08) 9188 1795
- 2 Fire Brigade (08) 9188 1333
- 3 Police Station (08) 9188 0222
- Hospital (08) 9159 5222
- Medical Centre (08) 9189 1901
- State Emergency Services 132 500

## Town Amenities

### Town Services

- 4 Post Office
- 5 Drive-In Cinema
- 6 Civic Centre
- 7 Community Centre
- 8 Arts & Cultural Centre, Men's Shed, Tom Price Community Garden
- 9 Dog Pound & Kennels (08) 9188 4444
- 10 Library (08) 9159 5600
- 11 Clem Thompson Pavilion
- 12 Recreation Centre
- 13 Shire Office
- 14 Swimming Pool (08) 9189 1062
- Visitor Centre (08) 9188 5488
- 15 Waste Disposal Site (08) 9188 5505
- 16 Vet, Nintirri Centre, Op Shop
- † Cemetery

### Parks & Playgrounds

- 17 Clem Thompson Memorial Oval
- 18 Doug Talbot Park & Playground
- 19 Golf Course
- 20 Kings Lake
- 21 Lions Park & Pump Track
- 22 Minna Oval & Sports Club
- 23 Nature Playground
- 24 RSL Park & ANZAC Memorial
- 25 Skate Park & Tennis Courts
- 26 Tjiluna Oval and Playground
- 27 Dog Park (fenced)

### Essential Retail

- 28 Chemist
- 29 Coles Supermarket
- 30 Hardware

### Churches

- 31 Baptist
- 32 Catholic
- 33 Jehovah's Witness

### Accommodation

- 34 Tom Price Hotel/Motel - 9189 1101
- 35 Tom Price Tourist Park - 9189 1515

\*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
- Public Wifi
- Bins
- Public Showers



## Must-See Attractions in Tom Price

### Mount Nameless/Jarndunmunha

Standing at 1,128 metres above sea level, Mount Nameless, also known as Jarndunmunha by the Eastern Guruma people, meaning “place of rock wallabies”—it is the highest vehicle-accessible peak in Western Australia and a must-visit for anyone exploring Tom Price.

From its summit, you'll enjoy spectacular panoramic views of the Tom Price township, nearby Rio Tinto iron ore mine, and the surrounding ranges.

For adventurers, the hike to the summit takes around 2–3 hours return, offering a rewarding and exhilarating experience. Prefer to skip the hike? Experienced drivers can tackle the 4WD track to the peak, where breathtaking views await.

### 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 unwinding in nature.

### Mount Sheila

For the 4WD enthusiasts, Mount Sheila is another great spot to explore, located under an hour from Tom Price. Offering breathtaking views of the Hamersley Range, 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

Talk with one of our friendly local team members on all things Tom Price, Karijini and Millstream Chichester National Parks, Onslow, Mackerel Islands and the greater Ashburton Region.

- Tour bookings, accommodation and get the most recent and up-to-date travel information.
- Retail Therapy - Select from local souvenirs for your own perfect memory or as a gift.
- Get your permit for the Rio Tinto Rail Access Road
- Showers and toilets available
- Free public Wi-Fi



The Tom Price Visitor Centre is located on Central Road, next to the Tom Price Library, across from the Tom Price Shopping precinct.

✉ [visitor.centre@ashburton.wa.gov.au](mailto: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](https://facebook.com/visitashburton)



[instagram.com/visitashburton](https://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 at Tom Price Visitor Centre or online at [VisitAshburton.au](http://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.

📞 0423 182 663

🌐 [spacechameleonadventureco.com](http://spacechameleonadventureco.com)

## Dining Options

### Tom Price Hotel Motel

Enjoy a meal and grab a beer in this classic centrally located Aussie pub. A great place to grab a bite to eat and a cold beer after a day exploring the outback in the beer garden or restaurant with licensed bar and TAB facilities.

#### Opening Hours:

Open from 11am Monday to Saturday  
12 noon Sundays  
Central Road, Tom Price  
Ph: (08) 9189 1101

### Red Breeze Restaurant

Known for its vibrant and inviting atmosphere that captures the essence of Asian cuisine, located in central Tom Price (opposite the Drive In). Red Breeze is a licensed restaurant serving Asian dishes and a great choice for both casual meals, take-away and special occasions.

#### Opening Hours:

Open Tuesday to Sunday. Closed Monday's.  
Lunch: 10.30am to 2.30. Dinner: 5pm – 9pm.  
21 Stadium Road, Tom Price.  
Phone: (08) 9189 3461.

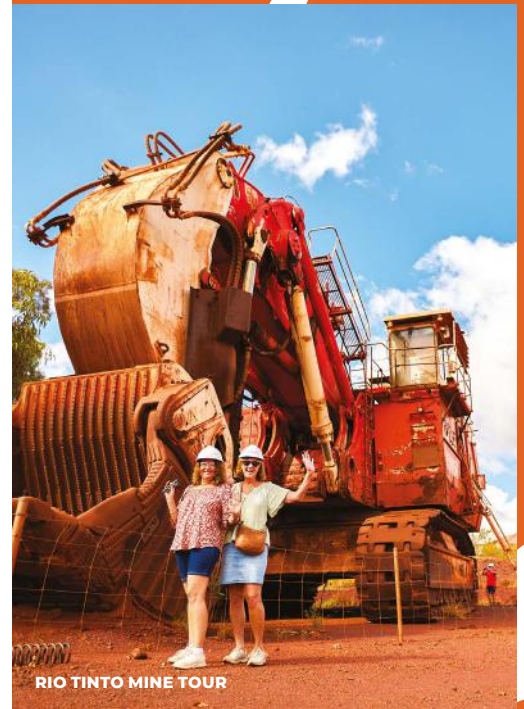
### Windawarri Lodge

An inviting mine site canteen with an on-site tavern. Windawarri is open to locals and visitors alike and offers well priced and good range of buffet options, with the odd food theme night (specialist international chef). Windawarri is staffed with friendly and courteous mine crew who will show you through the restaurant if it's your first time. The Lodge is children friendly and a dress code is required. Short to long sleeves are required, no singlets, tank tops, or string shoulder tops (including dresses).

#### Opening Hours:

7 days 4pm – 8pm\*  
1 Stadium Road Tom Price  
Phone: (08) 9189 1110

\*Times are subject to change due to seasonality



## 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 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

## Pet Friendly Accommodation

### Tom Price Tourist Park

(08) 9189 1515

info@tompricetouristpark.com.au

summerstar.com.au/caravan-parks/tom-price

### Shire of Ashburton Overnight Kennel Facility

The Shire of Ashburton Kennel Facility provides overnight and daily stays for dogs, allowing you to explore freely, and responsibly. The kennel provides basic care including dry food and exercise; however owners must supply special diet food. Cost is \$35 per dog per day (includes dry food).

- Requirements: Dogs must be vaccinated, and proof is required.
- What's Provided: Water, dry food, regular exercise.
- Owner's Responsibility: Provision of food for special dietary needs.
- Hours: Open daily, including holidays, with specific drop-off/pick-up times (e.g., 8-8:30 AM & 4-4:30 PM).

**Please Note:** Booking confirmations are only processed between normal office hours Monday to Friday 9am - 4pm. Booking confirmations cannot be processed on weekends or public holidays.

Bookings are essential.

Lot 324 Nameless Valley Road Tom Price

(08) 9188 4444

www.spacetoco.com/space/tom-price-kennel-facility

## Traveling with Pets

We love our pets in the Pilbara, and we know many of our visitors do too. That's why Tom Price makes travelling with pets easy and welcoming.

Staying in Tom Price allows visitors to bring their furry companions along, while still enjoying the region's many attractions. It also provides a comfortable base for exploring places where pets aren't permitted, such as National Parks.

Dogs are not allowed in National Parks to help protect native wildlife and delicate ecosystems. Pets can scare or stress animals, spread disease, and disturb natural habitats. They can also be exposed to risks such as poisonous baits, venomous wildlife, and other environmental dangers. These rules also help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors.

See above for information on the Shire of Ashburton Overnight Kennel Facility.

### Tom Price Off Leash Fenced Dog Exercise Area

A lovely grassed, fully fenced, off leash dog exercise area, pick-up bags provided, water available. Please respect other visitors and residents and pick-up after your pet, leaving behind only happy memories.





TIGER EYE POOL

Tom Price is also home to many amenities that are perfect for families, including several parks and playgrounds, Public swimming pool, plus a skate park and pump track.

### **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 and the mountain 'Mount Tom Price' was named after him.

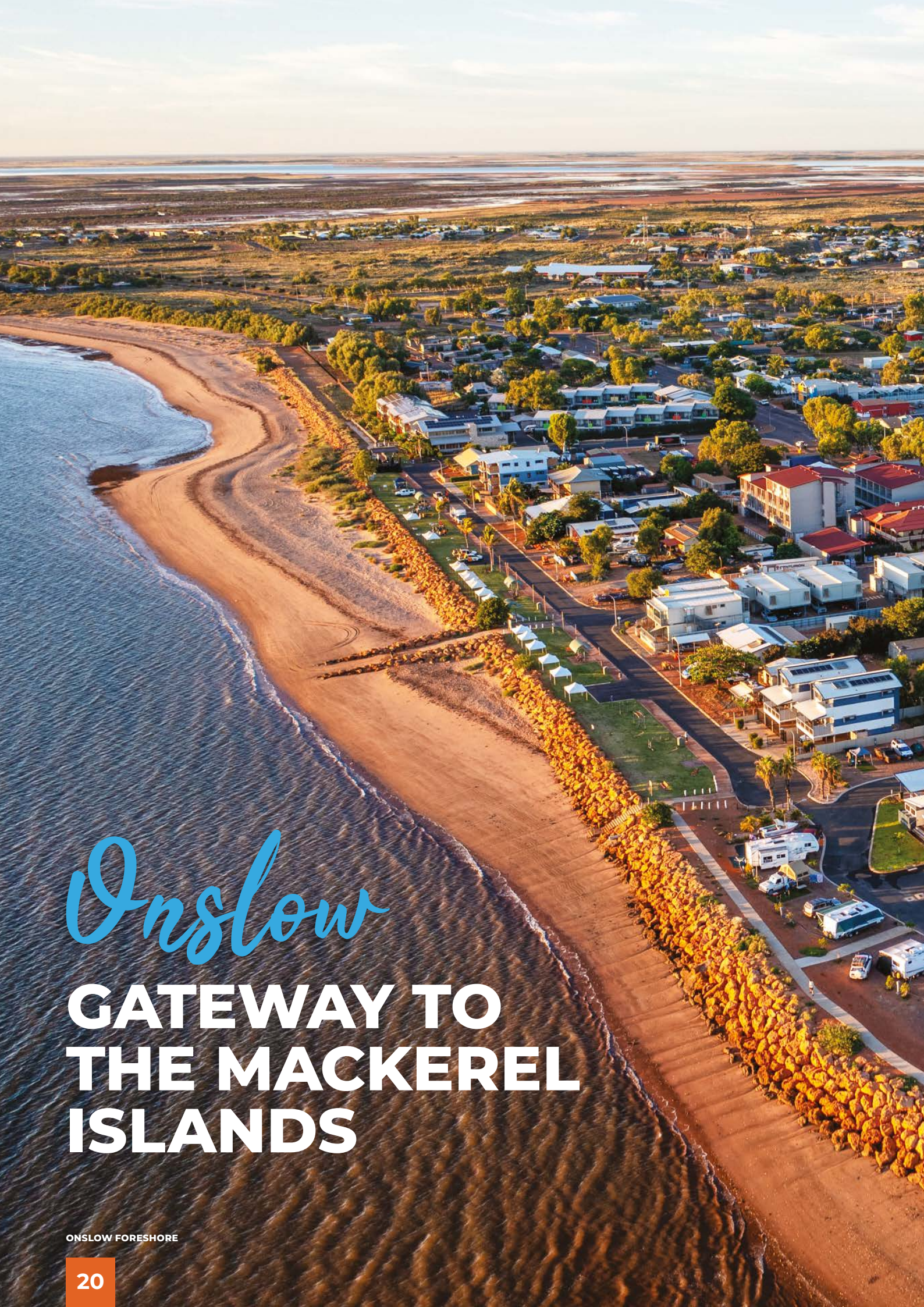
### **Unique Attractions and Activities**

#### **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 screening days and movies, inquire at the Tom Price Visitor Centre.

#### **Public Facilities for Everyone**

Tom Price has a wide selection of public parks and facilities. Get the heart pumping on the state-of-the-art skate park and pump track, take a refreshing dip in the public swimming pool, or let the kids play on the water splash pad in the town centre. The town also offers well-maintained ovals, undercover multi-purpose courts, tennis courts, nature playgrounds and a disc golf course.



*Onslow*

**GATEWAY TO  
THE MACKEREL  
ISLANDS**



### **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 nearby to 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 Region. 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.

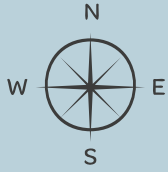
Whilst in Onslow, endeavour on a 4WD heritage drive trail to Old Onslow. Located approximately 40 minutes from town and nearby to the Ashburton River, here you can discover remnants like the stone gaol, courthouse, police station and parts of the refurbished cemetery offering a glimpse into the past.



## 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 National Park (via Paraburdoo)	550km
Paraburdoo (via Nanutarra Munjina Rd)	391km	Broome	1130km
Coral Bay	376km	Perth	1377km
Exmouth	400km		

Barrow & Montebello Islands



Mackerel Islands

Indian Ocean



Lookout - Turtles about!  
Always drive below the high tide line.

7km  
SEAVIEW DRIVE

ONSLOW ROAD  
To Northwest Coastal Highway  
& Old Onslow Historic Townsite



Onslow Rodeo Grounds



Onslow Water Tanks



McAULLAY RD  
2km To On...

# Onslow



## Emergencies (Dial 000)

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

## Town Amenities

### Town Services

- I** Visitor Centre & Museum (08) 9184 6644
- 4** Onslow Sports Club
- 5** Shire Pound (08) 9188 4444
- 6** Multi-Purpose Centre (Evacuation Centre)
- 7** Shire Office (08) 9188 4444  
Shire Library (08) 9159 5600
- 8** Swimming Pool (08) 9184 9306
- 9** St Nicholas Church

### Essential Retail

- 19** Chemist
- 20** Post Office
- 21** Supermarket
- 22** Op Shop

### Attractions & Amenities

- 10** ANZAC / War Memorial
- 11** Paparazzi Dogs
- 12** Community Garden
- 13** Ian Blair Board Walk (BBQ area)
- 14** Playground (BBQ area)
- 15** Thalanyji Oval (cold water showers)
- 16** Skate & Bike Park
- 17** Water Spray Park
- 18** Shell Museum

### Accommodation

- 23** Ocean View Caravan Park (08) 9184 6053
- 24** Beadon Bay Hotel (08) 9184 6002
- 25** Onslow Beach Resort (08) 9184 6586
- 26** Onslow Sun Chalets (08) 9184 6595
- 27** Discovery Parks (08) 9184 6007

### Food & Beverage

- 24** Beadon Bay Hotel
- 25** Onslow Beach Club
- 28** Food & Fuel Service Station
- 4** Onslow Sports Club

Beadon Bay



## LEGEND

Sealed Road	Lookout
Unsealed Road	Barbecue
Public Toilets	Shower Facilities
Drinking Water	Dump Point
Parking	Fishing
24 hour Fuel	Boat Ramp
Caravan Park	Fish Cleaning Station
Long Vehicle Parking	
Footpath/Pedestrian Access	

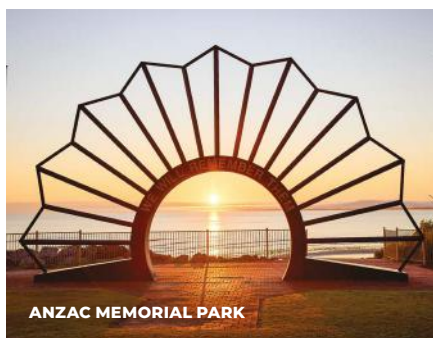
Road Train Assembly Area & Dump Point



No washing of vehicles at water refill station.



# Attractions



## ANZAC Memorial Park

As the sun rises on ANZAC Day, 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.

## Swimming and the Spray Park

Need to cool off? Check out the beautiful facilities at the Onslow Aquatic Centre (check online at the Shire of Ashburton for opening hours, fees and charges), or have a splash around at the Spray Park located near the Onslow Sporting Club (open year-round).

## The 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 22 – 33 of this book.



## Onslow Skate Park and Pump Track

The Onslow Skate Park and Pump Tracks are designed to cater to all ages and skill levels. The perfect stop for families needing to burn off some energy, the Skate Park includes an outdoor ping pong table, art features, hopscotch and foursquare courts. The Pump Track is beautifully landscaped and has a Learn to Ride Track with shade sails and BBQ area.

## 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 Onslow Visitor Centre.

## Onslow Salt

Spanning over 90km<sup>2</sup>, 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.



## Water Tanks and Paparazzi Dogs

The Onslow Water Tank Mural project transformed the town's water tanks into vibrant public art, created by the talented Jerome Davenport. The tanks showcase Onslow's unique history, culture, flora, and fauna through imagery of its heritage, pearling, agriculture, and local environment. For a photo opportunity, visit Gillie and Marc's Paparazzi Dogs on Onslow's foreshore. This custom designed replica of the world's most notorious photographers perfectly frames the daily sunrise and the spectacular Staircase to the Moon.

## 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.



## Onslow Visitors Centre, Goods Shed Museum & Gift Shop

### Onslow Visitors Centre

The Onslow Visitors Centre is your one-stop-shop for information, gifts and souvenirs. Located on the main street the Visitors 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](mailto:onslowtc@bigpond.com) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/OnslowVisitorsCentre) | [@OnslowVisitorsCentre](https://www.instagram.com/OnslowVisitorsCentre)

### SEASON OPEN

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

### SEASON CLOSE

Mid-November to 31 March

Please check Facebook page for updates.



GOODS SHED MUSEUM

### Goods Shed Museum, Visitors Centre and 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 Visitors 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.



FISHING MACKEREL ISLANDS

### 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

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.



SUNSET BEACH

### 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 leisurely walk or run. Or take off on your boat to one of the many islands near Onslow to discover your own private beach.



ONSLOW WATER TANK MURALS

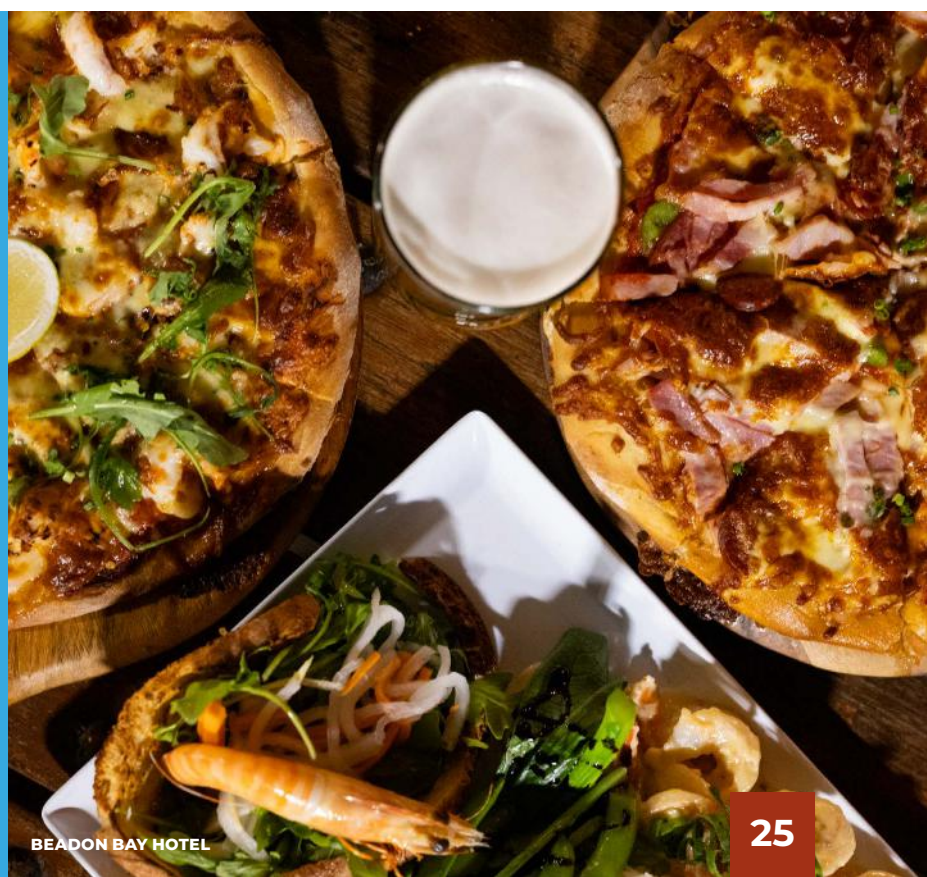
## Feeling Hungry?

### 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 beer garden, the perfect spot to sit and relax. Open every day for breakfast, lunch and dinner.



BEADON BAY HOTEL

## 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](https://onslowbeachresort.com.au)

 (08) 9184 6586


 [bookings@onslowbeachresort.com.au](mailto: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 walking distance to the beach.

 [beadonbayhotel.com.au](https://beadonbayhotel.com.au)

 (08) 9184 6002

 [info@beadonbayhotel.com.au](mailto:info@beadonbayhotel.com.au)



OCEAN VIEW CARAVAN PARK



TERMITE MOUNDS BY NIGHT

### Ocean View Caravan Park 🏠 📍 📞

Stage 3 of the Ocean View Caravan Park is now complete, giving visitors the chance to stay at Onslow’s highest vantage point. The new upper level offers campsites with sweeping panoramic ocean views from the northernmost point of town, where guests can enjoy both sunrise and sunset — a rare experience in Western Australia.

The lower level is located on Sunrise Beach and features powered and unpowered sites. The extension features self-contained cabins, modern amenities, playgrounds and BBQ facilities, with ocean views that are rarely found in caravan parks across WA.

Located only short five-minute walk from the Onslow town centre and situated alongside the ANZAC Memorial Park and Ian Blair Memorial Boardwalk, it’s the perfect location to sit back and relax after a day’s adventuring.

Pet Friendly. Bookings are highly recommended.

- 🌐 [visitashburton.au/oceanviewcaravanpark](http://visitashburton.au/oceanviewcaravanpark)
- ☎️ 0408 590 865
- ✉️ [oceanview@ashburton.wa.gov.au](mailto:oceanview@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](http://discoveryholidayparks.com.au/caravan-parks/western-australia/beadon-creek-onslow)
- ☎️ (08) 9184 6007

### Peedamulla Campground 🏠 📍

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

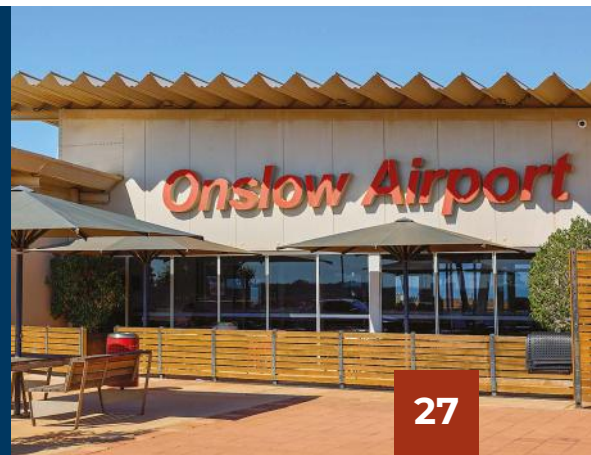
The campground offers 20 campsites (5 powered and 15 unpowered), lighting, hot showers, unisex toilets, communal fire pit, drinking water, a covered BBQ area, and expansive views.

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

- 🌐 [peedamulla.com.au](http://peedamulla.com.au)
- ✉️ [camping@peedamulla.com.au](mailto:camping@peedamulla.com.au)

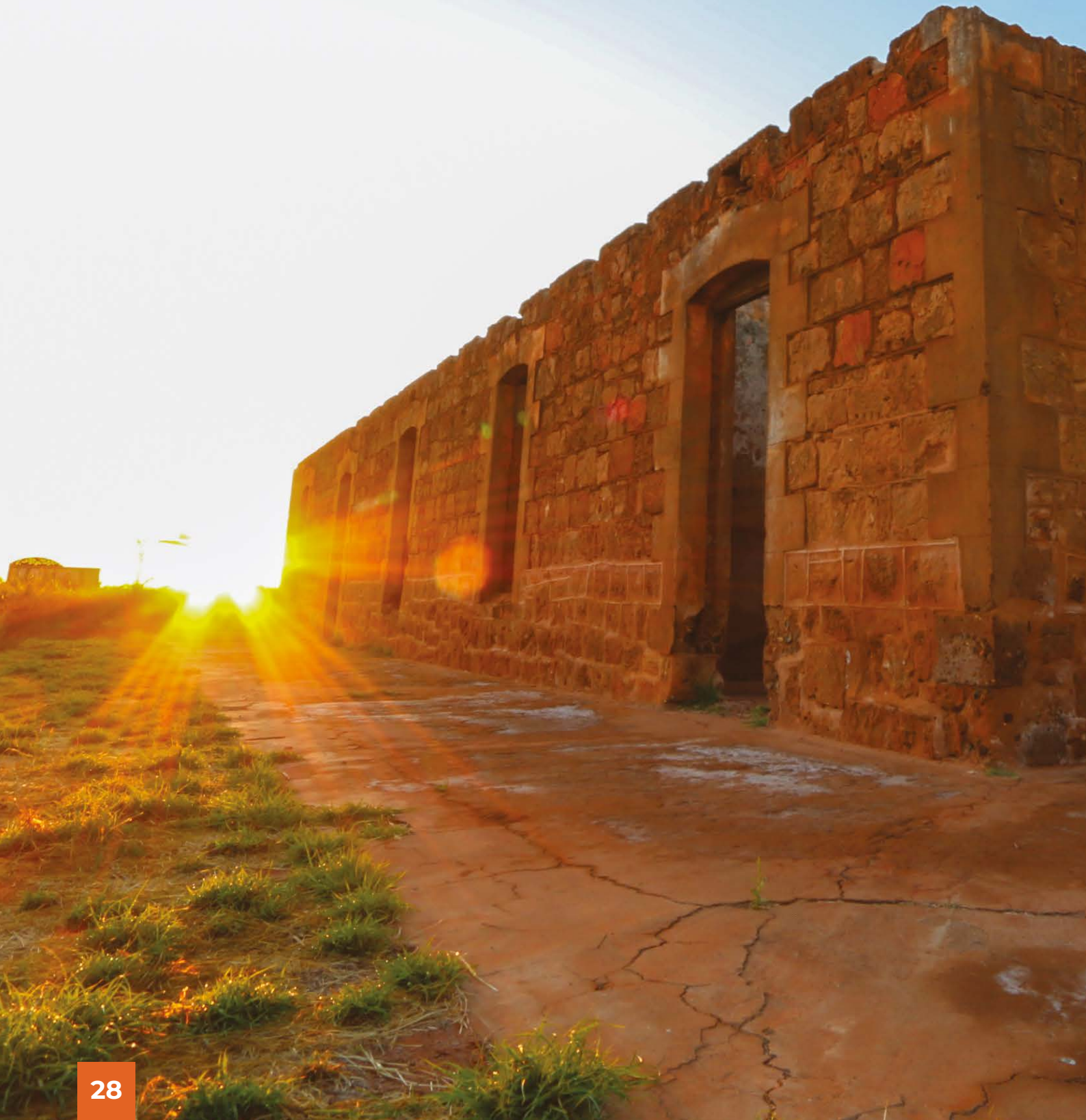
## How to get to Onslow

- 🚗 Access to Onslow is via the North West Coastal Highway
- ✈️ The Onslow Airport provides direct commercial flights between Perth and Onslow.
- 🚗 Car hire is available. Booking is necessary.





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 10 January 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.



# OLD Onslow

TOWNSITE

## Discover 'Old Onslow'

Enjoy 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 (1847-1918) and Alexander Forrest (1849-1901) and Septimus Burt (1847-1919) leased a large property in the area. John and Alexander's brother David Forrest (1852-1917) 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 pastoral 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's 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.

## Minderoo Station

Despite a good capital base Minderoo 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 marked 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.

Go to [VisitAshburton.au](http://VisitAshburton.au) for up-to-date information on events and activities in Onslow.

# Wanthaya: Hello and Welcome to Thalanyji Country

The Shire of Ashburton respects and honours the Traditional Owners, Custodians, Native Land titles and Elders past and present. 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 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 such as; 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.

## Sea Jetty

In 1886, a river landing was established on the Ashburton River, near to this location, by James Clark and his brother-in-law, John McKenzie, to facilitate the loading and unloading of goods.

Port facilities at Old Onslow enabled the direct export of wool from the river to the textile factories of Liverpool and Manchester, which were a lucrative market for station owners.

In 1892, the river landing was lengthened and widened, and a Bond Store was built at the river landing. Over time, overgrazing of 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, built in 1896, was 843 m long and cost £12,695. It lasted just over 12 months before it collapsed in a cyclone.

*“The new jetty is a thing of the past, as it is completely collapsed”*

— *The Daily Mail, 30 December 1897*

In 1899–1901, a replacement Sea Jetty was constructed along with the new tramway and Terminus.

The new jetty and tramway resulted in business and trading activities migrating south to the Anketell Street Tram Terminus.

Shorter in length and situated closer to the river estuary, the new Sea Jetty suffered from further silting and therefore only lighter ships, nicknamed “lighters,” could be utilised. In the absence of a jetty that was long enough to reach larger ships, lighters were employed to shift cargo out to vessels that could no longer dock at the inadequate jetty.

It took considerable skill in pitching seas to bring in the lighters to the River Jetty and to the Sea Jetty. It was also difficult to load and unload cargo of pearls, pearl shell, timber, gold, and wool. Needing a solution, the State Government decided it would be better to construct a new jetty at Beadon Point (new Onslow), rather than lengthen the one at Old Onslow.

A new jetty was completed at Beadon Point (new Onslow) on 20 May 1925, and over the next two years the township of Old Onslow was gradually relocated to the new Onslow we know today.

## 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.

In 1925, a new jetty opened at Beadon Point (new Onslow), almost 20 km 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.





# OLD Onslow DOWNSITE

## LEGEND

-  Historical Road Location
-  Unsealed Track
-  Suggested Route
-  Public Toilet
-  Free Wifi Hotspot
-  Dump Point
-  Boat Ramp
-  Date Palm/other tree
-  Police Precinct
-  Point of Interest

20 Chains

OLD SEAWARD JETTY LOCATION  
(INACCESSIBLE)



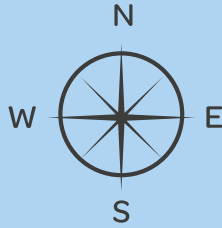
ative  
nsite

# Shire of Ashburton

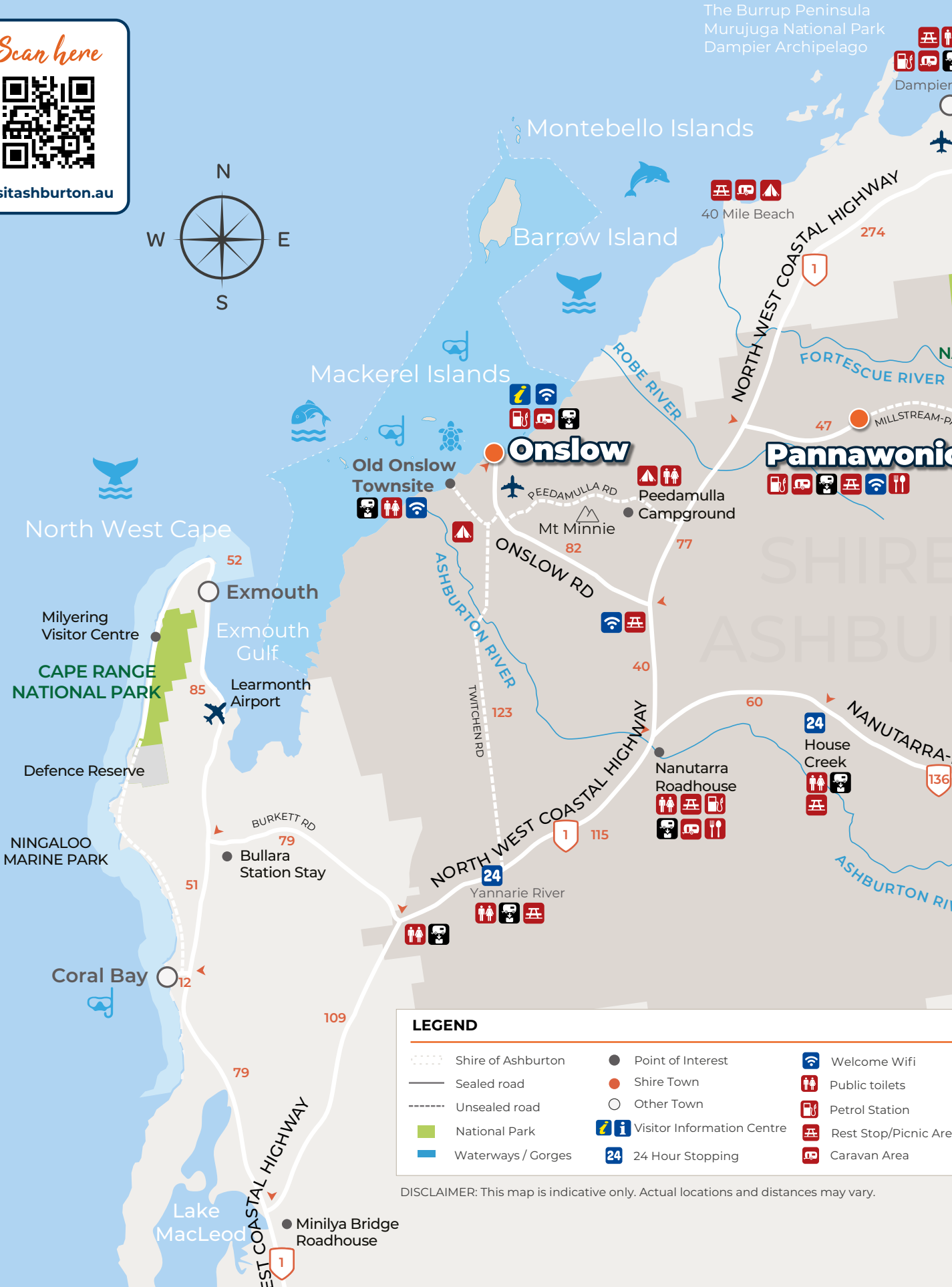
Scan here



visitashburton.au



The Burrup Peninsula  
Murujuga National Park  
Dampier Archipelago



## LEGEND

- |                    |                            |                       |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Shire of Ashburton | Point of Interest          | Welcome Wifi          |
| Sealed road        | Shire Town                 | Public toilets        |
| Unsealed road      | Other Town                 | Petrol Station        |
| National Park      | Visitor Information Centre | Rest Stop/Picnic Area |
| Waterways / Gorges | 24 Hour Stopping           | Caravan Area          |

DISCLAIMER: This map is indicative only. Actual locations and distances may vary.



# Mackerel Islands

**AN OCEAN PARADISE**

THEVENARD ISLAND

**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](mailto:turtles@dbca.wa.gov.au) by end of August each year.



SERRURIER ISLAND

# Mackerel Islands AND BEYOND

Off the coast of Onslow lies stunning blue waters, reef structures, secluded bays and beautiful sandy beaches of ten pristine, known as the Mackerel Islands, or further beyond to Airlie Island, Barrow Island or the incredible Montebello 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 or kayak in the clear waters, keeping an eye out for the playful dolphins that frequent the area, along with a vibrant mix of fish, stingrays and crabs weaving their way through the coral reefs.

Relax in your own exclusive cabin overlooking the sandy white beach and 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 and take their own boat across to the Islands. Thevenard Island (accommodation island) has an airstrip access for private light planes or charter flights. You can take your own vessel and hire a boat mooring at the islands. These must be booked in advance (guests only).

Visit [www.mackerelislands.com.au](http://www.mackerelislands.com.au) for more details.

## 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

Most visitors travel to Onslow by road and take their own boat across to the Islands. Thevenard Island (accommodation island) has an airstrip access for private light planes or charter flights.

You can take your own vessel and hire a boat mooring at the islands. These must be booked in advance (guests only).

Visit [www.mackerelislands.com.au](http://www.mackerelislands.com.au) for more details.

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. Female turtles 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](http://ExploreParks.dbca.wa.gov.au))

# Thevenard Island

## A BAREFOOT PARADISE



If you're looking for a fishing holiday, family fun, group getaway or island adventure, 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. Raw, rugged and easy to reach, Thevenard Island is home to a fringing reef, sandy beaches, wildlife encounters and bucket list fishing experiences.

## New FOR 2026 – MACKEREL ISLANDS SIGNATURE FISHING CHARTER OR SEAFARI

The Mackerel Islands are regarded as one of Australia's premier fishing destinations and remain a popular stop for visitors to the Pilbara. The area provides access to diverse fishing grounds where anglers can target species such as mackerel, trevally, and coral trout.

### Fishing Charter

Get to the best fishing grounds in the Pilbara with expert guides, all the gear you need and fish in comfort and style whilst putting your fishing skills to the test, on a signature charter.

Includes accommodation on the island, self-cook meal supplies, private charter on a 7.6m centre console vessel with expert skipper and more.

### Seafari Adventure

Bring your own boat and join one of Mackerel Islands week-long Seafari tag-a-long events. Seafaris offer a fun, social and safe way to explore the Mackerel Islands with like-minded people, led by fishing guides and local experts to fast track your chance of fishing success. Includes accommodation on the island in a choice of 2, 3 or 5 bedroom beachfront cabins, boat mooring, fuel, ice, bait, tackle, filleting station, bbq's and a communal freezer to store your fishing catch.

### Bookings essential:

- ✉ [bookings@mackerelislands.com.au](mailto:bookings@mackerelislands.com.au)
- 🌐 [mackerelislands.com.au/fish](https://mackerelislands.com.au/fish)



PHOTO CREDIT: MACKEREL ISLANDS

## Where to Stay

Thevenard Island has a range of spacious, air-conditioned beachfront cabins dotted along the main bay and designed for relaxation. Simple but comfortable, each one features a kitchen, dining and lounge, plus 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.

A range of activities and tours have been designed to captivate and entertain guests during their stay at Thevenard Island, from marine-based snorkelling, fishing, turtle and whale watching, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding, to land-based 4WD sunset trips, bird watching, beachcombing, beach sports and stargazing.

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](https://mackerelislands.com.au)



WHALE WATCHING



THEVENARD ISLAND ACCOMMODATION

# Paraburadoo

**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'.

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

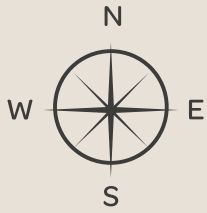
Paraburdoo Airport offers convenient connections to Perth with daily flights and on-site vehicle hire services.

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



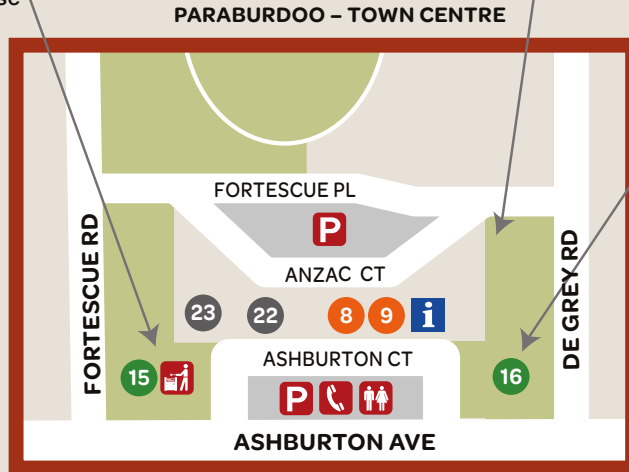
### DISTANCES FROM PARABURDOO

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 Disc Golf Course

Anzac Memorial



12

14

21

10

27

**Paraburdoo Caravan Park**  
 (08) 9189 6976 or  
 Mobile 0409 662 254  
 (limited sites)

**DUMP POINT**



(No public access)

(No public access)

Gun Club

Golf Course

Industrial Area

Paraburdoo Riders



Nanutarra & N.W. Coastal Hwy  
**BEASLEY RD**

Horse Club  
 EL CABELLO RD  
 Motor Cross

WEANO CR  
 WEANO CR  
 HOWIES CL  
**MUCHAMARY ST**

CHANNAR AVE  
 PILBARA AVE  
 WHALEBACK AVE  
 JOFFRE AVE

**ASHBURTON AVE**

MURCHISON AVE  
 ROEBURNE AVE  
 BARROW AVE  
 EXMOUTH AVE  
 CHICHESTER AVE  
 WITTENOOM AVE

CAPRICORN AVE  
 HARDY AVE  
 WYLOO RD  
 GASCOYNE AVE

**CAMP RD**

**CAMP RD**

**CAMP RD**  
 TUREE WAY  
 TUREE WAY  
 METTAWANDY PL

**BEASLEY RD**

**KAZPUT RD**

**ROCKLEA RD**

# Paraburdoo



## Emergencies (Dial 000)

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

## Town Amenities

### Town Services

- i** 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



RESILIENCE SCULPTURE

## 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 is located at the tourist information bay on Camp Road.

### Parks and 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 ENTRY





CHEELA PLAINS

## Accommodation


### Paraburdoo Inn


 (08) 9189 5303

### Rocklea Palms

 (08) 9189 6976  
 0409 662 254

### 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



NORTH WEST COASTAL HIGHWAY TURN-OFF



**MAJOR ATTRACTION:**

Robe River Rodeo



**DISTANCE:**

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



**PEAK SEASON:**

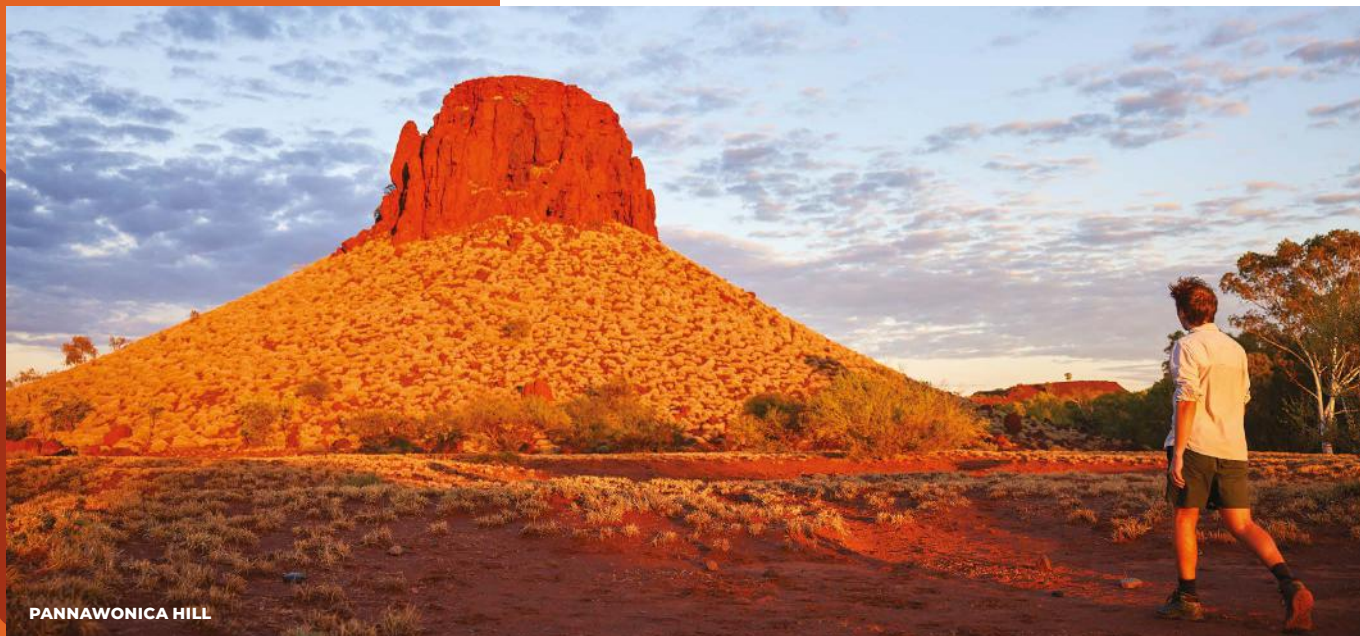
April to September

Pannawonica is a town 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).

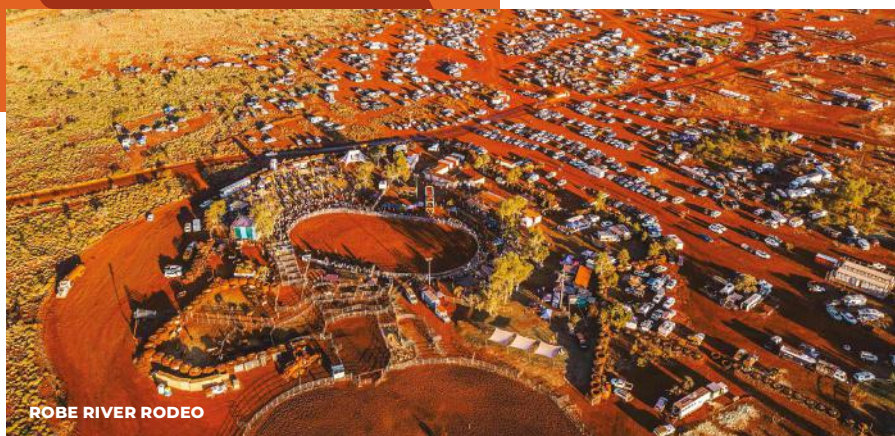
The town boasts a range of amenities, including a library, supermarket, tavern, hotel, and a service station. During the warmer months, the public swimming pool is a popular spot. The open-air cinema is another highlight—when movies are scheduled, entry is free.

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!

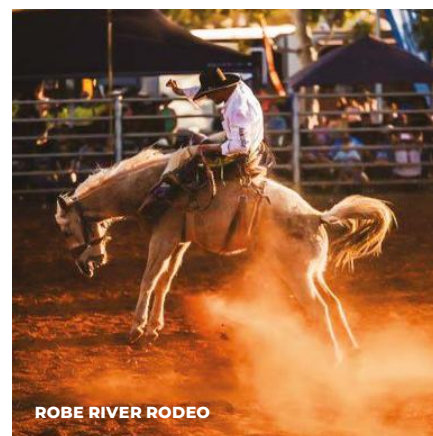
As you pass through, make sure to stop at the Boot Tree – a local tradition embraced by both passing travellers and locals. Feel free to leave a boot behind as a unique memento of your journey.



PANNAWONICA HILL



ROBE RIVER RODEO



ROBE RIVER RODEO

## History

Established in 1970 to accommodate iron ore mine employees, the town of Pannawonica carries with it a rich history. According to local Law, 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.

## Robe River 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](http://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](http://www.spacetoco.com/space/pannawonica-transit-park-site)



# Pannawonica



### LEGEND

- SEALED ROAD
- UNSEALED ROAD
- RAILWAY LINE
- PUBLIC TOILETS
- TELEPHONE
- PARKING
- BARBECUE
- PETROL STATION
- DRINKING WATER

### DISTANCES FROM PANNAWONICA

Millstream	92km
Karratha	199km
Tom Price (via access road)	268km
Port Hedland	315km
Paraburdoo	348km
Karijini (via access road)	363km
Exmouth	444km
Broome	907km
Perth	1338km

### 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
- 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:**  
185km from Tom Price  
143km 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. Enjoy numerous BBQ spots and scenic walking trails throughout the Park.

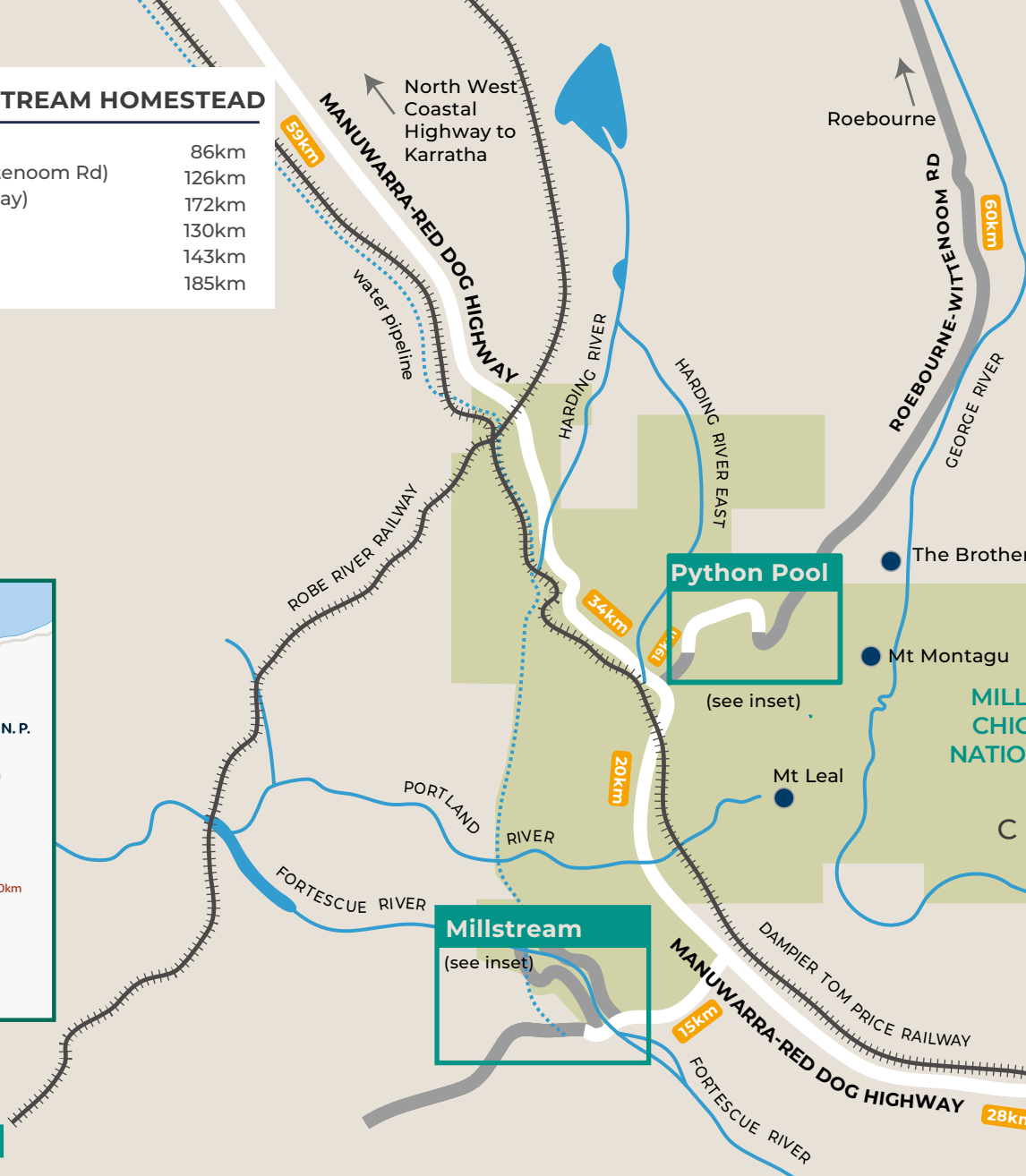
Discover the natural wonders that make Millstream Chichester a unique and unforgettable destination.

---

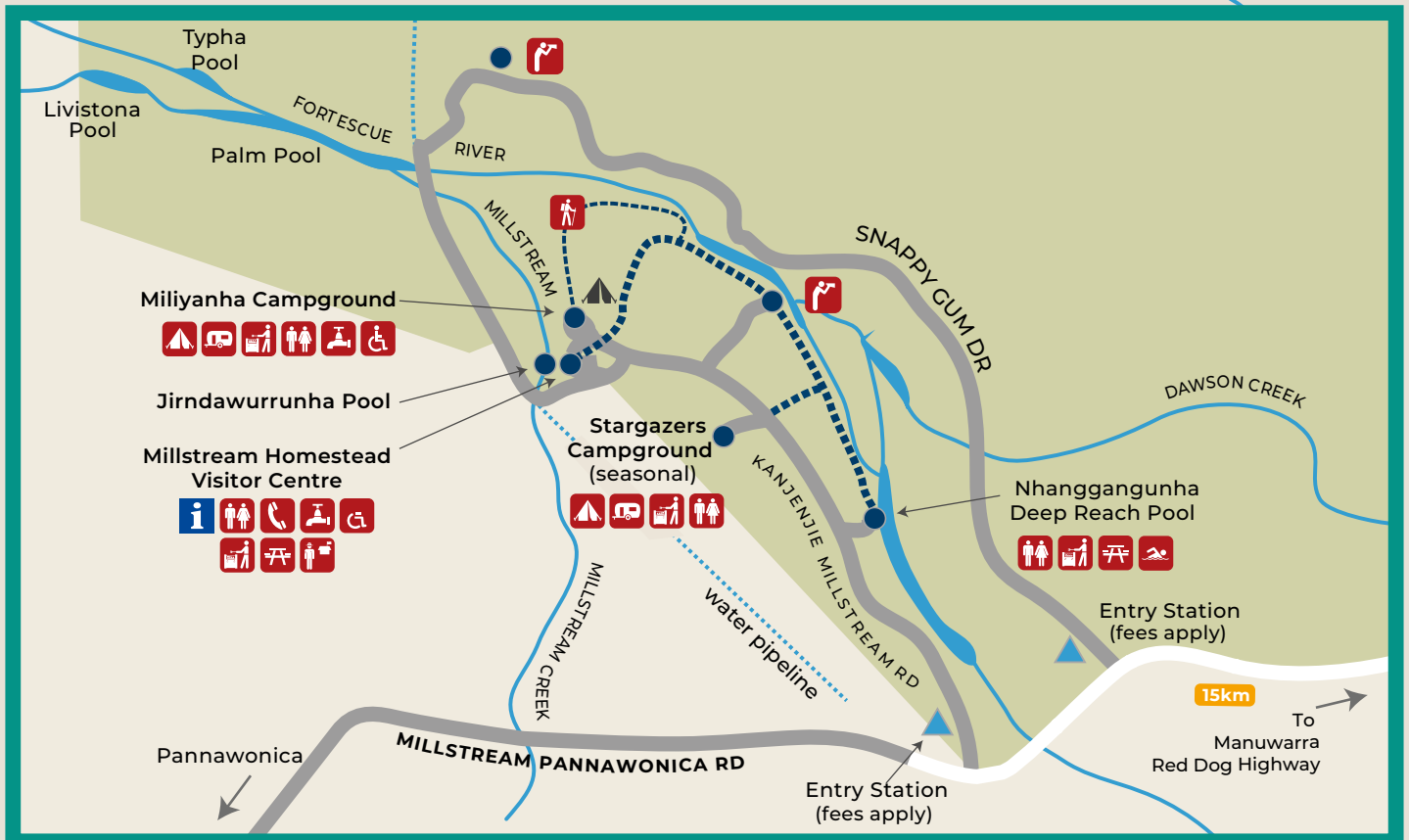
The Shire of Ashburton acknowledges the Yindjibarndi and Ngarluma Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Millstream Chichester National Park.

## DISTANCES FROM MILLSTREAM HOMESTEAD

Pannawonica	86km
Roebourne (via Roebourne Wittenoom Rd)	126km
Roebourne (via Red Dog Highway)	172km
North West Coastal Highway	130km
Karratha	143km
Tom Price	185km



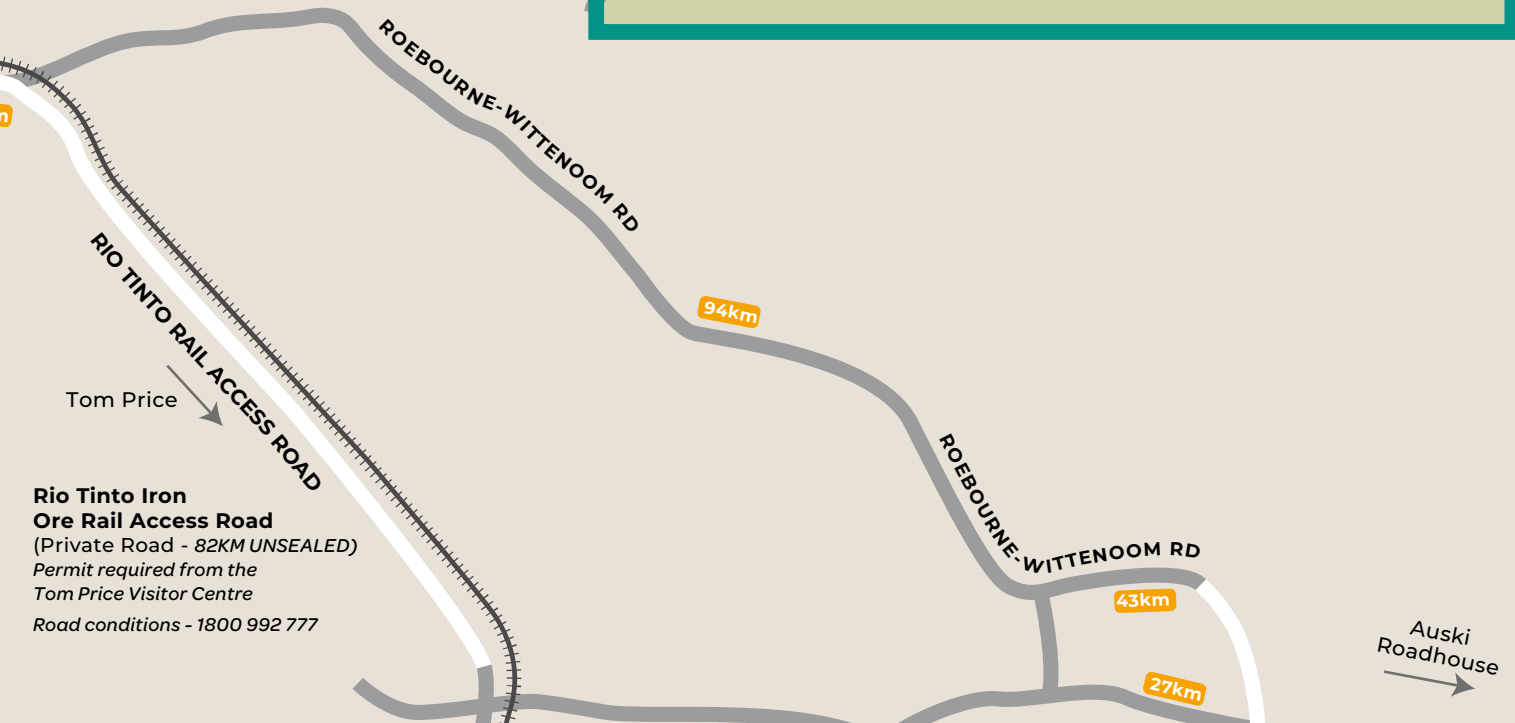
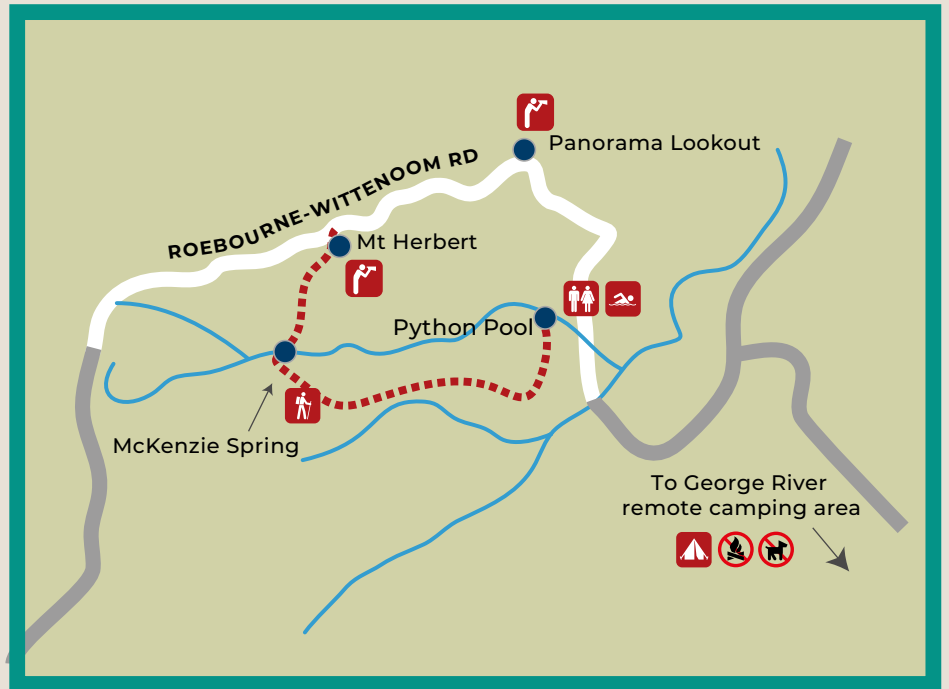
## MILLSTREAM



# Millstream Chichester

## NATIONAL PARK

### PYTHON POOL



#### 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 and rugged cliffs. Python Pool is accessible by gravel road, best suited to 4WD vehicles.

### Deep Reach Pool

Located in Millstream National Park and sacred to the Yindjibarndi people, this is a peaceful place for a tranquil swim. As a sign of respect, please keep noise 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

### 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) (One way)

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) (One way)

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, dish washing facilities and picnic tables.

Book online:

[parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au](https://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](https://parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au)





## HOW TO GET TO MILLSTREAM CHICHESTER

Millstream Chichester National Park is 176km 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 permit. Permits are available from the **Tom Price Visitor Centre** or online at:

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

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](https://www.dashboard.ashburton.wa.gov.au)



PYTHON POOL



ROEBOURNE-WITTENOOM ROAD

# 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 base for exploring the Pilbara, offering a range of camping and accommodation options. Guests can enjoy comfortable, air-conditioned rooms with access to amenities, including the Red Plains Café and Restaurant, a camp kitchen and a communal BBQ area.

Choose from a variety of wilderness and standard camping sites, where you can set up camp under a blanket of stars, surrounded by the breathtaking Pilbara landscape.

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

### How To Get There

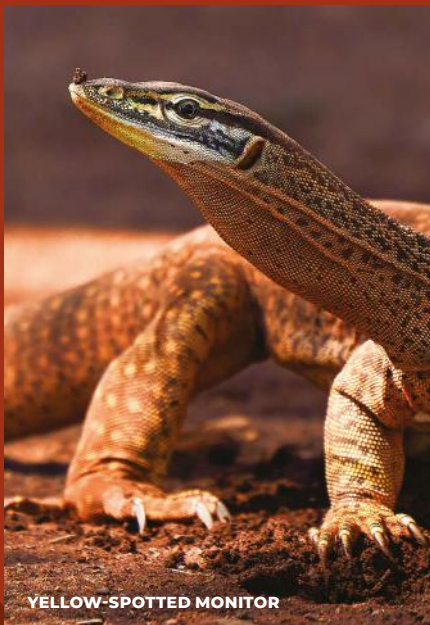
Travel down the Nanutarra-Munjina Road between the North West Coastal Highway turn off, inland towards Paraburdoo, Tom Price and Karijini National Park. The Station Campground is situated 1km off the main highway and is accessible by 2-wheel drive. This Station Stay is a must for anyone travelling through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

### Tourist Open Season

April – October annually

**OPEN** for corporate accommodation year round

**BOOKINGS:** Essential to avoid disappointment.  
[cheelaplains.com.au](http://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. The Parker family have done an incredible job of highlighting the region through their warm hospitality and dedication to Country or reach out to them for a quote.

Peedamulla Campground was developed as part of Tourism Western Australia's Camping with Custodians program. This pioneering initiative allows visitors to stay on Aboriginal lands and engage with Aboriginal people. The site also operates as a working cattle station and an occasional training facility for Aboriginal people.

Visitors camping in mid-July may be lucky enough to witness the annual muster, where hundreds of cattle are herded in preparation for market.

## How To Get There

Peedamulla Station is located 75km east of Onslow and 80km north of Nanutarra Roadhouse. Located 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. Road conditions can be found at: [www.ashburton.wa.gov.au/road-report](http://www.ashburton.wa.gov.au/road-report)

## Tourist Open Season

April – October

## Accommodation Options

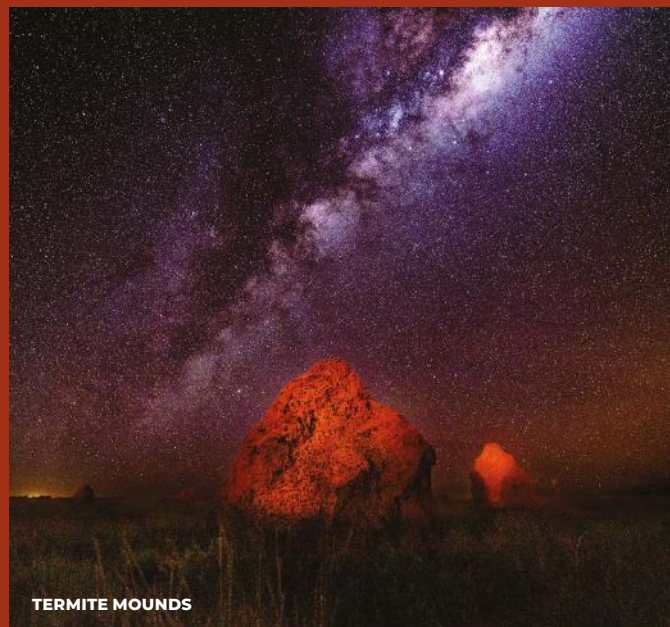
Peedamulla Station has 20 campsites (5 powered and 15 unpowered), lighting, hot showers, unisex toilets, communal fire pit, drinking water, a covered BBQ area, dog friendly.

**BOOKINGS:** Essential to avoid disappointment.

 [peedamulla.com.au](http://peedamulla.com.au)



WILDERNESS CAMPING



TERMITE MOUNDS



PEEDAMULLA CAMPGROUNDS

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP ITINERARY

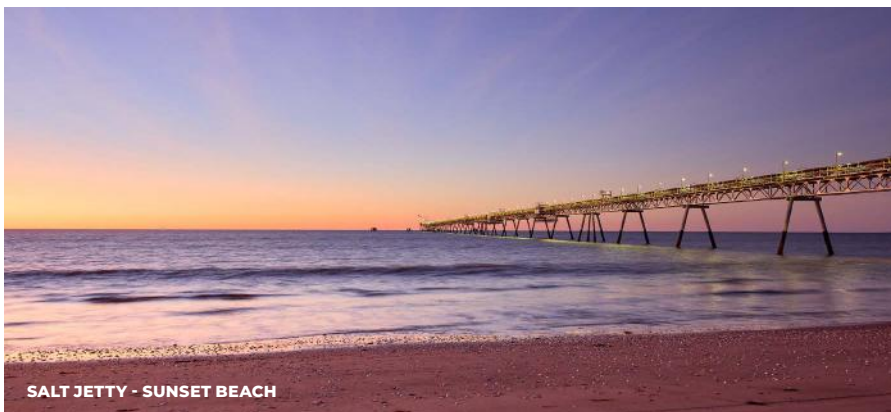
## Reef to Range

### 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 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 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:** Go to [VisitAshburton.au](http://VisitAshburton.au)  
Bookings are essential to avoid disappointment





HAMERSELY RANGE

## 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 checking in and collecting your access key, set up camp or settle into the comfort of a cabin, then set off to explore the Station's gorges. Take a 4WD adventure or head out on a hike before enjoying a star-filled night sky by the campfire - either at the homestead campground or at your own wilderness camp.

Bookings are essential with Cheela Plains Station Stay.



CHEELA PLAINS

## Paraburdoo - Connecting You to Karijini

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

## Tom Price - Gateway to Karijini National Park

- ▶ Visit the Tom Price Visitor Centre in the town centre for friendly local knowledge, to purchase Pilbara memorabilia, and to book a Rio Tinto Iron Ore Mine Tour, where you can explore one of the world's largest open-cut iron ore mines. Alternatively, join a guided tour of Karijini National Park.
- ▶ Take time to explore town whilst refuelling mind, body and car, and stock up on supplies at the local Coles.
- ▶ Have kids? The Skate Park and state-of-the-art Pump Track are sure to be favourites or cool down at Vic Hayton Memorial Swimming Pool.
- ▶ 4WD or hike up Mount Nameless/Jarndunmunha, the second highest accessible mountain by four wheel drive in Western Australia. (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.

Bookings are essential with Tom Price Tourist Park.



# 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 Tour. Hike, abseil, tube, swim. Enquire with the Tom Price Visitor Centre for more details.
- ▶ Discover the awe at **Hamersley Gorge**. This is a dramatic gorge, full of colour texture and reflections. **Spa Pool** (access is Class 5), is a 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 is on the west side of the gorge with the walk trail easiest from the west side leaving from Karijini Eco Retreat. The spectacular curved waterfall creates the shape of a natural amphitheatre, and at the right time of year water cascades down the cliff face over natural steps to the dark, inviting pool.
- ▶ Spend the day exploring **Mt Bruce/Punurrunha**. **Marandoo View** is only a 500m return walk the Summit walk is a challenging 6 hour return hike.
- ▶ Head to **Dales Gorge**, and take an afternoon swim at **Fortescue Falls** and **Fern Pool**. Don't forget your pool noodle! This is one of the most popular places in **Karijini National Park**.
- ▶ Book dinner at the serene 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 at Explore Parks WA.

## 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 Tom Price Visitor Centre, Karijini Visitor Centre or online at Explore Parks WA:

[exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park-passes](http://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park-passes)

## 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 7 days

9am - 4pm

March to December



KARIJINI ECO RETREAT

# Warlu Way

**To experience the best of the Pilbara region, follow the way of the Dreaming 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 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](http://warluway.com.au)**

# 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 in Tom Price.

**(Refer to the 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 2 hours from 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 road** is 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).

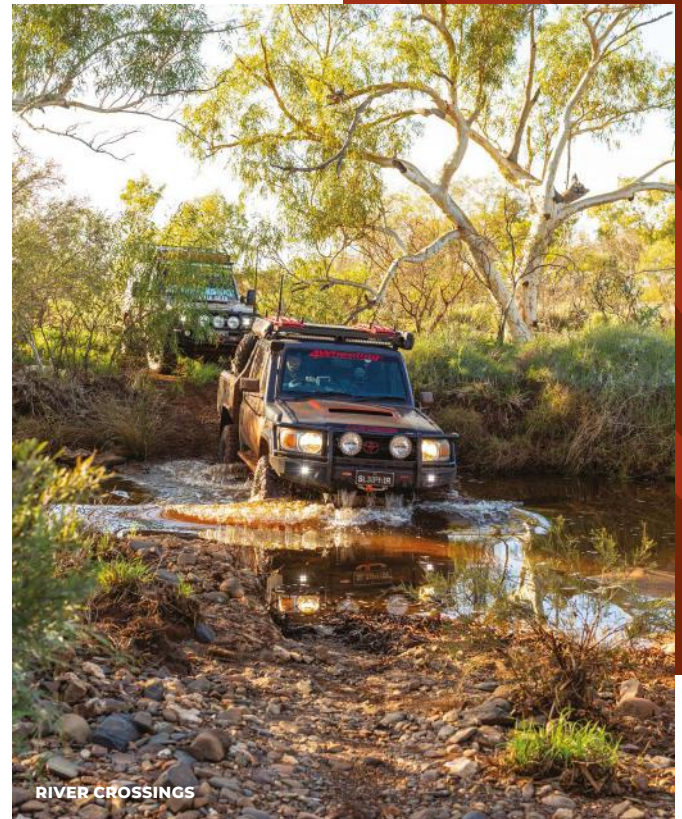
There are many **24 hour FREE rest and camp** options between Tom Price, Paraburdoo, Pannawonica and Onslow. Refer to the map on pages 36-37 for locations of rest stops and roadhouses.

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

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



MT MEHARRY



**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 the picturesque Sunrise and Sunset Beaches and the serene Ashburton River and it's nearby creeks surrounding the Old Onslow heritage site. Please be mindful of the native flora and fauna, especially during turtle nesting season, and remember to tread lightly, leaving only your footprints behind.

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.

See Page 66 for more detail.



# 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.

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

### Onslow Airport

A two hour direct flight operates between Perth and Onslow. For more information and to book tickets visit Virgin Australia or Qantas.

 [ashburton.wa.gov.au/onslow-airport](https://www.ashburton.wa.gov.au/onslow-airport)

## Car Hire

### Paraburdoo

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

Europcar: [europcar.com.au](https://www.europcar.com.au) - (08) 9189 6512

Thrifty: [thrifty.com.au](https://www.thrifty.com.au) - (08) 9189 6512

Avis: [avis.com.au](https://www.avis.com.au) - (08) 9189 5225


Hertz: [hertz.com.au](https://www.hertz.com.au) - (08) 9190 2490


Budget: [budget.com.au](https://www.budget.com.au) - (08) 9189 5414

### Onslow

#### Europcar Onslow

596 Beadon Creek Rd, Onslow WA 6710

 (08) 9181 3250

 [europcar.com.au](https://www.europcar.com.au)

## DISASTER DASHBOARD

When traveling through the Pilbara, it's essential to check the local weather report or the Shire of Ashburton's Disaster Dashboard before setting off. These provide up-to-date information and links to travel, weather, and road conditions across the region.



RIO TINTO ACCESS ROAD

# Travel Tips

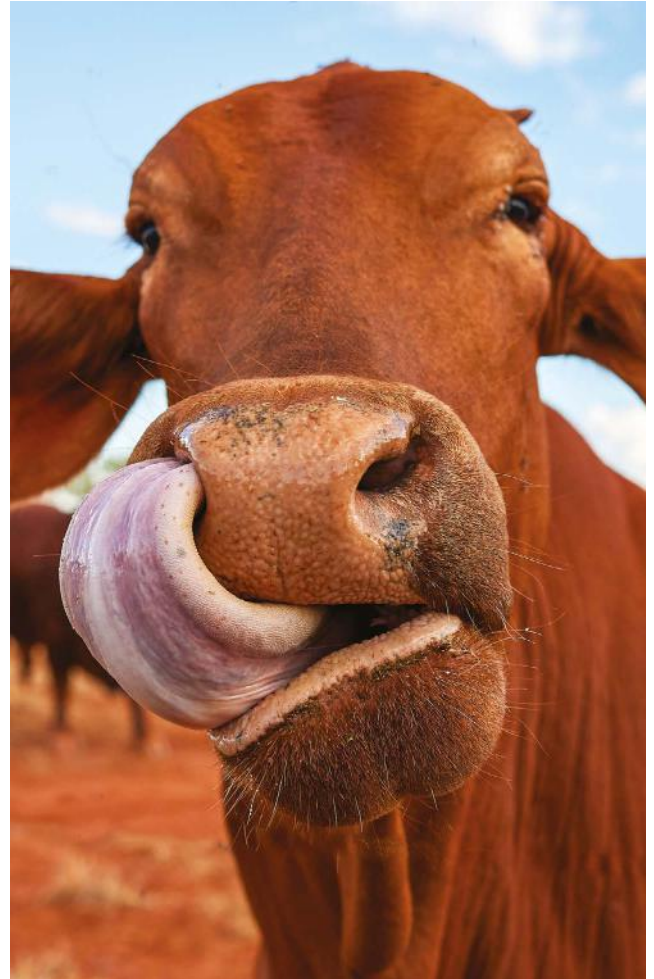
The Pilbara is beautiful country, but it can also be dangerous. When travelling such vast distances, you need to be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of others. Whilst traveling throughout the Pilbara, **mobile phone coverage** can often be unavailable, therefore 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. Travelers should carry a first aid kit and essential medications as distances between medical help can be quite large.



## BEWARE OF WILDLIFE AND STATION STOCK ON ROADS

Drivers should always be cautious when driving throughout the region for wildlife, stock and cattle that may be 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.
- Shell Reddy Express, located in Tom Price and Paraburdoo.
- 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).
- There are no petrol stations in Karijini or Millstream Chichester National Parks.

## Rio Tinto Access Road

The Rio Tinto Rail Access Road is 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 Access Road as long as you hold a valid permit which can be obtained from the Tom Price Visitor Centre. **4WD only.**

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

### Permits

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

 [pilbararailaccessroad.riotinto.com](http://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 often exceeding 40°C and occasionally reaching up to 45°C, particularly inland. Winter nights can be chilly, with temperatures inland dropping to around 0°C.

April to October is considered '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. We advise to bring warm clothing to reflect these temperatures

During the 'wet 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

**Fun Fact:** In January 2022, Onslow Airport reached 50.7°C, which equals the highest reliably recorded temperature in the Southern Hemisphere. That matches the 50.7°C recorded at Oodnadatta, South Australia, on 2 January 1960, a record that stood for decades.

summer months, influenced by cyclone activity along the North West coast.

Travellers, especially during the 'wet season' should monitor rain activity for potential flash flooding, road closures and cyclones. Please note that attractions and some accommodation within the region often close during the wet season due to extreme weather and road conditions (flash flooding etc.)

## 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)
- ▶ Stay informed and keep up to date at [dfes.wa.gov.au](https://www.dfes.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

## Turtle nesting season October to March

Follow these three rules to keep you and nesting turtles safe: **No glow, Move slow, Stay low.**

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.

Female turtles usually nest at night, crawling up the beach between two to three hours either side of the evening high tide.



Please adhere to the following guidelines to protect turtles during the nesting season:

- Check the tide times and heights before heading to the beach.
- Drive on the hard sand as close to the water's edge as possible (below that day's high tide line). This will reduce the risk of driving over turtles nests, which crush the eggs below, or leaving tyre tracks that become an obstacle and confuse hatchlings.
- If the tide is high and there is no hard sand to drive on, beachgoers are advised to refrain from driving and instead walk along the beach.
- Do not drive on the beach after sunset or before dawn.
- If you see a turtle on the beach, stop and turn back if possible, or wait for the turtle to be high on the beach and "bodypitting" (digging) before slowly passing.
- Follow the directional signs in the area that clearly indicate to all beachgoers where vehicles are allowed to drive.

For more information go to DBCA's website, Turtle watching Code of Conduct.

# 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, visit [dfes.wa.gov.au](https://dfes.wa.gov.au)**



## Visitor Centres and Websites

When visiting the Shire of Ashburton, you will get to experience some of Australia's most unique and stunning natural wonders, meet friendly and authentic locals on a road trip adventure of a lifetime.

To plan your next trip through the Shire of Ashburton in the Pilbara region, 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](mailto:visitor.centre@ashburton.wa.gov.au)



### Karijini Visitor Centre

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



### Onslow Visitors Centre

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

When traveling through the Pilbara, it's essential to check the local weather report or the Shire of Ashburton's Disaster Dashboard before setting off. These provide up-to-date information and links to travel, weather, and road conditions across the region.

**[dashboard.ashburton.wa.gov.au](https://dashboard.ashburton.wa.gov.au)**  
**In an emergency call 000**



## Websites

- 🌐 [visitashburton.au](https://visitashburton.au)
- 🌐 [warluway.com.au](https://warluway.com.au)
- 🌐 [australiasnorthwest.com.au](https://australiasnorthwest.com.au)

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



# Major Events 2026

## April



**ONSLow:** ANZAC Day Service  
Saturday 25 April 2026  
(5am – 8am)

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  
Friday 10 - Monday 13 April 2026

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 magnificent 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](http://karijiniexperience.com)

## May



**ONSLow:** Beadon Bay Bash  
Saturday 30 - Sunday 31 May 2026

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](http://ashburtonanglers.com)

## August

**TOM PRICE:** Jarndunmunha Festival

The Jarndunmunha Festival, historically known as the Nameless Festival, has been an integral part of the Tom Price community since 1969, playing a significant role in bringing residents together through celebration, culture and community spirit.



JARNDUNMUNHA (NAMELESS) FESTIVAL

**ONslow: Passion of the Pilbara 'POP' Festival**

Friday 7 - Saturday 8 August 2026

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!



PASSION OF THE PILBARA 'POP'

**ONslow: Onslow Rodeo 25th Anniversary**

Friday 31 July - Saturday 1 August 2026

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. A fun day and night for the whole family with live entertainment and basic camping options at the grounds. For more information go to the Onslow Rodeo facebook page.

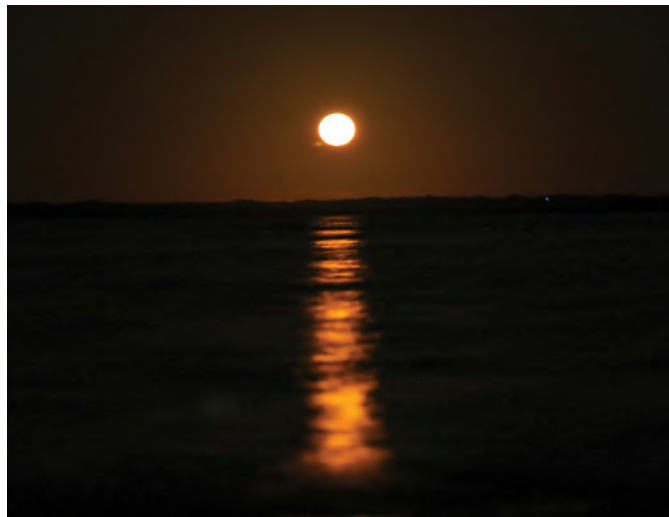
**ONslow: Munro's Mack10K - Fishing Competition**

Saturday 22 - Sunday 23 August 2026

The Mack10K stands out among the numerous WA fishing tournaments on the yearly calendar. With a very generous prize pool sponsored by local businesses, this is a fishing competition you don't want to miss! Register with **Ashburton Anglers Fishing Club** early as boat numbers are limited [ashburtonanglers.com](http://ashburtonanglers.com).



MUNRO'S MACK10



**April to October**

**STAIRCASE TO THE MOON**

The Onslow Foreshore is one of the best places in Western Australia to witness this stunning optical phenomenon. As the full moon rises over the exposed tidal flats of Sunrise Beach, it creates the illusion of a staircase leading up to the moon. On some full moons, you can even see the moon rising while the sun sets — an absolutely incredible sight!

*September*

**PANNAWONICA: Robe River Rodeo and Campdraft**

Friday 4 - Saturday 5 September 2026

The Biggest Rodeo in the North West hosting the thrill of bull riding, barrel racing and a huge line up of events, fantastic food, live music with true Australian country spirit. Get ready to kick up some dust and make some incredible memories! For more information go to [roberiverrodeo.com](http://roberiverrodeo.com)



ONslow & ROBE RIVER RODEO'S

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



2026 EDITION

VISITASHBURTON.AU