

Discover

*Ancient lands
Brilliant skies*



**murchison
georegion**
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Trail Guidebook



Geological Survey of Western Australia

The Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) is pleased to support the Murchison GeoRegion. We hope that you enjoy discovering its Ancient lands and Brilliant skies.

Since 1888, GSWA has provided quality geoscience information and advice to government, industry, and the general public, to encourage and support responsible resource exploration and facilitate informed land use planning and State development for the benefit of all Western Australians.

Find out more about the Geological Survey at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/gswa or contact geological.survey@dmirs.wa.gov.au for information.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**

Make the most of your Murchison GeoRegion experience!

Visit www.murchisongeoregion.com to download the free app and Trail Guide before your travel.

App Store: Murchison GeoRegion | Google Play: Murchison GeoRegion

Follow @murchisongeoregion on Facebook and Instagram and include our hashtags so we can share your journey!

#murchisongeoregion #ancientlandsbrilliant skies



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The ABC of geotourism

The Murchison GeoRegion is Australia's first major geotourism development. It highlights the abiotic, biotic and cultural features of significant sites in the region to encourage a deeper understanding of, and connection with, the land.

Abiotic (non-living) elements include the climate and landforms, as well as the geological formations and processes that created what you've come to see.

Ancient landscapes, meteorite craters, remnant volcanos and seasonal lakes

Biotic (living) elements include the site's biodiversity (its animals and plants) and how the site's unique abiotic features have created a place for them to thrive.

Unique flora and fauna

Cultural (human) elements emerge out of a site's abiotic and biotic features (what drew people here) and describe how people have engaged with the natural environment over time.

Oldest living Aboriginal culture, ochre mine and rock art, pastoralism (from 1865) and gold mining (from 1887)

While visiting the 21 sites along the GeoRegion trail, we encourage you to take a moment to consider how each element works together.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Murchison GeoRegion participants acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land throughout the Murchison region and their continuing connection to the land, skies, waters and culture. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal peoples and Elders past, present and future.



Discover an ancient land from the ground up...

The Murchison GeoRegion takes you on a journey through a unique and ancient landscape full of stories that reach back almost to the Earth's beginning some **4.54 billion years ago**. The GeoRegion's self-drive trail visits **21 sites of national and international, natural and cultural significance**.

Witness the effect on the land of the massive geological forces of colliding continents, long-gone oceans and destructive meteorites. Learn about Jack Hills and the oldest terrestrial material ever found and marvel at spectacular rock formations including Errabiddy Bluff, Mount Yagahong, The Granites and London Bridge.

Discover the unique native flora and fauna of the Mulga Shrublands. Spot an array of birdlife at Wooleen Lake or Bilung Pool, track emus, kangaroos and reptiles, and be treated to the dazzling annual display of wildflowers most years, from July to September.

Connect with culture, stories and legends that map thousands of years of human history.

Learn about Western Australia's largest gallery of Aboriginal rock art, the world's oldest underground mining operation at Wilgie Mia, see WA's only remaining gold battery in action at Paynes Find, or the remains of a fine brewery in Sandstone.

All this and more awaits you when you explore the Murchison GeoRegion.



Things to Know

Weather

April to October is the best time of year to visit the Murchison. Temperatures range from 20–33°C during the day and 6–17°C at night. The winter months have the most rainy days, which sees spring bursting with colour.

From November to March the temperature often exceeds 40°C. The days are typically dry but tropical cyclones can bring torrential rain. Some sites may be closed during these months due to the extreme weather so please book ahead if you require access or accommodation.

Road Conditions

Most of the sites on the Murchison GeoRegion are accessible for all vehicles. However, a few should only be attempted if you have a 4WD and are marked with a 4WD symbol. Check road conditions with local Shires before travelling as the condition of unsealed roads varies according to weather, usage and grading.

Restricted Sites

Due to cultural, conservation and/or safety reasons, some of the Murchison GeoRegion sites are closed to visitors without prior booking. Please check the information on each site for any booking requirements or call into a local Visitor Information Centre.

Food and Fuel

Food and fuel are generally available every 100–300km. When travelling in remote locations it is suggested that you carry enough food and water to last at least 48 hours.

Mobile Phone Coverage

Please be aware that mobile phone coverage in the Murchison region is limited. Telstra is the main service provider in very remote locations and some providers have no coverage.



Plan your Trip

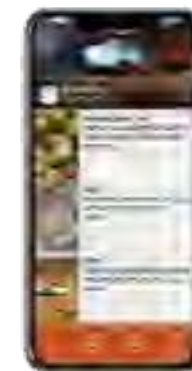
The Murchison GeoRegion covers some remote areas so it's important to plan ahead.

Download the free Murchison GeoRegion app

The free app is your guide to this unique self-drive trail that focuses on some of the ancient natural and cultural wonders of WA.

Download the app to plan out your trip before your leave, learn more about the sites along the trail, and keep a record of your day with photos, videos, audio and written notes while you're discovering the Murchison GeoRegion.

Go to www.murchisongeoregion.com to download from Google Play or the App Store



Ask a local!

Need help, advice or directions on your travels? Call in to the local Visitor Information Centres in Cue, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Murchison, Sandstone, Wiluna and Yalgoo to find out more about the Murchison GeoRegion, local attractions and things to see and do in the area.

You can also pick up a copy of the Murchison GeoRegion Trail Guide and Map to take on your travels.



CUE

Known as the 'Queen of the Murchison' due to its importance in gold production, Cue's dark red backdrop has amazing heritage assets, rich biodiversity, Aboriginal culture and attractions.

Cue has five incredible Murchison GeoRegion sites:

Site 1: Walga Rock (No camping)

Site 2: Wilgie Mia (No access without permission)

Site 3: Poona Emeralds (No camping, visits by arrangement only)

Site 4: Afghan Rock (No camping)

Site 5: Garden Granite Rock (Camping allowed, no facilities)

Cue was named after a prospector who registered the first gold claim in 1892 but the first gold discovery was by an Aboriginal prospector named Governor. Soon after the first claim a reef of gold was found in Day Dawn, however, all that remains is the Great Fingal Mine Office on the edge of the open cut.

The Cue Heritage Trail retraces the early development of the district and includes many of the town's heritage buildings, including the Cue Courthouse, Police Station and Bell's Emporium which are still being used for their original purpose.

Learn more about the history of the area at the Cue Heritage Discovery Centre.

Tours, Events and Attractions

Masonic Lodge – built in 1899
Dowley St, Cue

Great Fingal Mine Site office
Day Dawn townsite

Cue Heritage Discovery Centre
Rear of Visitor Centre

Visitor Centre & Information

Cue Visitor Centre
72 Austin St, Cue 6640
(08) 9963 1198 | info@cuecra.net.au
www.cue.wa.gov.au/tourism
Mon–Fri, 8:30am–3:30pm
Closed weekends & public holidays

Top things to see and do

Try your luck at gold prospecting

Take a drive to the ghost town of Big Bell

Visit Nallan Lake Nature Reserve



Cue–Dalgaranga Rd, 47km south–west of Cue | Latitude: -27.402960, Longitude: 117.462742

1. Walga Rock

Walga Rock, also known as Walgahna, is arguably Australia's second largest monolith after Uluru and is a site of deep cultural and spiritual significance.

Covering about 50 hectares, this 2.6 billion year old monzogranite has eroded in parts to form a series of rock overhangs which provided shelter for Aboriginal people over thousands of years.

One of these shallow caves contains more than 980 motifs depicting snakes, emus, kangaroo tracks and hands drawn with ochre from Wilgie Mia and white clay tones from the nearby breakaways.

Most intriguing of all is a painting of what appears to be a square-rigged sailing ship – its origin baffling people for nearly 100 years.

Walga Rock holds great significance to the Wajarri Yamatji People and visitors are asked to show respect for the site.



No camping



Visits to Wilgie Mia are restricted and cannot be undertaken without permission.

2. Wilgie Mia

With 30,000 years of activity, Wilgie Mia is the oldest continuous mining operation in the world.

Known also as Thuwarri Thaa – The Place of Red Ochre – Wilgie Mia holds the honour of being the largest and deepest underground Aboriginal ochre mine in Australia. Ochre is a natural earth pigment containing iron oxide and was formed in the Weld Range millions of years ago. It comes in various colours including red, yellow and green. When used as body paint the red ochre sparkles against the light from a fire and is seen as 'magical'.

Ochre was and still is an important part of Aboriginal culture used in ceremonies, medicines, and rock and body paintings.

The red ochre from Wilgie Mia was traded across Australia as far as Ravensthorpe, the Kimberley and Queensland, as well as into Indonesia in what is believed to be the first example of international trade.

Wilgie Mia was declared a protected and restricted site in 1973, acknowledging the importance it has to Aboriginal culture.

Wilgie Mia holds great significance to the Wajarri Yamatji People and is a protected Aboriginal Heritage site. Under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, it is prohibited to enter Wilgie Mia.

For more information please contact the Shire of Cue or the Cue Visitor Centre.



Permission required



via Beringarra – Kalli Rd, approx 70 km north-west of Cue | Visits are by arrangement only.

3. Poona

Poona is the home of WA emeralds.

Most of Western Australia's emerald production comes from Poona. It is the best known and highest quality emerald deposit in the State but emeralds haven't been found in sufficient numbers to sustain large-scale mining.

As such Poona is dotted with the signs of several former emerald mines ever since the precious gem was discovered there in 1912. Occasional mining continues to take place.

Visits to Poona are by arrangement only. Contact the Cue Visitor Centre for details.

Please take care when visiting Poona as there are a number of abandoned and unmarked mine shafts.

Note that fossicking and prospecting requires a Miner's Right, which must be obtained from the WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Minerals/Prospectors-fossickers-1525.aspx

Fossicking is not permitted on active mineral leases without permission from the lease holder.



Permission required



No camping



4WD suggested



Beringarra-Cue Rd, 36km north-west of Cue | **Latitude:** -27.130105, **Longitude:** 117.721615

4. Afghan Rock

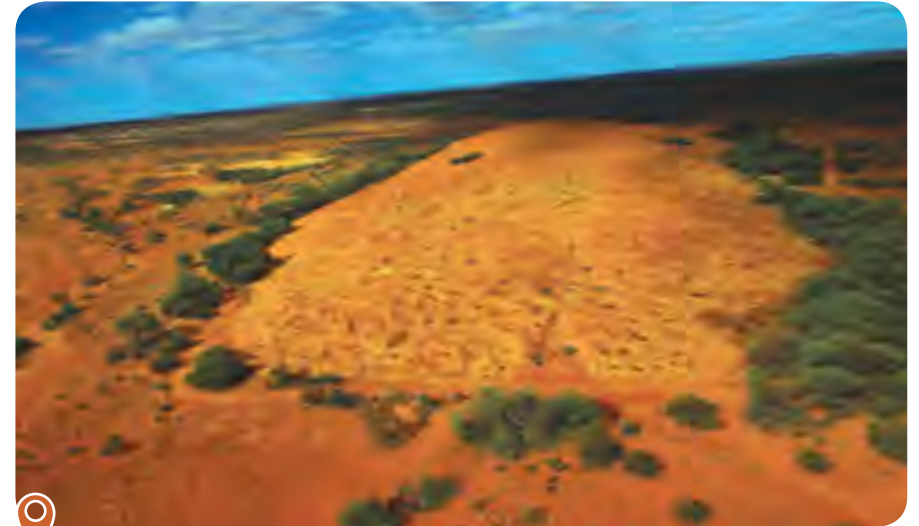
Rest a moment at Afghan Rock and follow in the tradition of gold rush cameleers between 1894 and around 1905.

This easily accessible granite outcrop measures about 100m across and rises to 447m above sea level. It features natural pools and was once the site of a well, which made it a popular stop for Afghan cameleers transporting their wares across the parched and unforgiving Murchison.

While the cameleers' trade has ended, it continues to be a watering hole for wildlife with the natural pools fed by rain and the nearby Berring Creek through most of the year. Known as gnammas, these pools attract honeyeaters, thornbills, emus and kangaroos.



No camping



Cue-Wandinong Rd, 18km south east of Cue | **Latitude:** -27.488797, **Longitude:** 118.024509

5. Garden Granite Rock

Take a packed lunch and visit the site of former gold rush market gardens at Garden Granite Rock.

Garden Granite Rock rises about 20m above the sandplain and has a circumference of 1km. This monzogranite is approximately 2.6 billion years old but its weathered domed surface is probably only millions of years old.

As you walk over the rock, look for the white/pink feldspar crystals; this mineral has a number of uses, including ceramics, tiles and cleaning powders.

While it's hard to imagine today, Garden Granite Rock was once the site of one of a number of market gardens in and around Cue, established in 1894 to supply the gold rush population with fruit and vegetables.



Camping allowed
(no facilities)

Garden Granite Rock has areas of significance to the Yamatji people, and visitors are asked to respect the site.

MEEKATHARRA

Meekatharra is a golden prospect for visitors to the Murchison GeoRegion, with the gold mining riches of yesteryear leaving a rich legacy for the town and the region. Explore the rocky outcrops, look for native animals and experience the glorious display of colourful wildflowers which bring Meekatharra to life in winter and spring.

Meekatharra has four incredible Murchison GeoRegion sites:

Site 6: Jack Hills (No access)

Site 7: Mount Yagahong (No camping, no facilities)

Site 8: Peace Gorge (Camping allowed, no facilities)

Site 9: Barlangi Rock (No camping, no collecting)

Originally a gold prospecting town first settled in 1896, the area around Meekatharra is rich in history and culture. Take some time to explore the Meeka Discovery Trail which winds around the town and includes a lookout where you can see a 'superpit' mine and the township.

Open on weekdays, the Meekatharra Museum contains over 100 photographs and memorabilia of life through the years.

Explore the Meeka Heritage Trail and State Battery, discover some local art or call into the Visitor Centre to find out where you can search for your next gold find!

Tours, Events and Attractions

Meekatharra Museum
Main Street, Meekatharra

Gold Mining Pits

Meeka Outback Festival and Races
September

Visitor Centre & Information

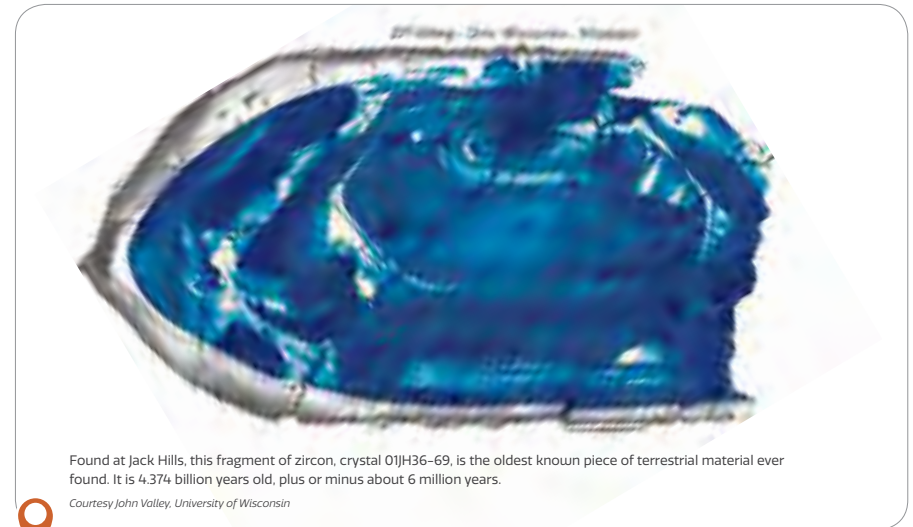
Meekatharra Visitor Centre
66 Main St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9980 1811
welcome@meekatharracrc.com.au
www.meekacrc.net.au
Mon-Fri, 9am-3:30pm
Closed weekends & public holidays

Top things to see and do

Try your luck prospecting

Pack a picnic and enjoy a day out at Bilyuin Pool

Explore one of the many trails



Found at Jack Hills, this fragment of zircon, crystal 01JH36-69, is the oldest known piece of terrestrial material ever found. It is 4.374 billion years old, plus or minus about 6 million years.

Courtesy John Valley, University of Wisconsin



Visits to Jack Hills are restricted and cannot be undertaken without permission.

6. Jack Hills

Jack Hills is home to the world's oldest terrestrial material ever found.



No Access


Zircon crystals found at Jack Hills, 130km west-north-west of Meekatharra date back to 4.4 billion years ago making them the oldest material substance ever found on Earth and so durable they have been recycled through countless generations of rock (Earth is about 4.54 billion years old).

While the zircon crystals are small, the discovery has helped shape our understanding of the Earth's early development and were most likely formed in the presence of abundant water.

Access to this site is restricted (for scientific purposes only) due to the need to preserve the outcrops.

Please visit the Meekatharra Community Resource and Visitor Centre to learn more about Jack Hills.



 Meekatharra-Sandstone Rd, 40km south-east of Meekatharra | **Latitude:** -26.904682, **Longitude:** 118.663404

7. Mount Yagahong

Mount Yagahong stands 150m above the surrounding landscape, a beacon in an otherwise flat land.

Mount Yagahong's soil and elevation provides fertile ground for over 70 species of native plants including bush tucker such as the wild pear or cogla (which can be eaten like an apple or cooked like a potato), the mulga with its edible gum or seeds for grinding into an edible paste, or the curara tree whose seeds can be turned into flour.


This bounty brings animals such as goannas, birds and bardi grubs and also makes it an important site for the Yugunga-Nya people.

Said to resemble an emu lying down, Mount Yagahong is sacred to the Yugunga-Nya who ask that you respect this site and refrain from climbing the mount.



No camping



 Landor-Meekatharra Rd, 3km west of Meekatharra | **Latitude:** -26.580207, **Longitude:** 118.478686

8. Peace Gorge

Peace Gorge's scattered piles of golden granite boulders have made it a special place for locals and visitors alike.

Once called the Devil's Playground, these stunning rock formations and large boulders were chosen as the site of a picnic that celebrated the end of the First World War in 1919. Since then it has been known as Peace Gorge.

It's not just a popular spot for visitors but also for birds such as honeyeaters, thornbills and emus, as well as geckos, lizards and kangaroos. They are drawn here for the food and shelter available from a wide variety of Acacia and Eremophila, but you'll be drawn to the tranquil surroundings and the stunning view, particularly at sunset.



Camping allowed (no facilities)



Meekatharra–Sandstone Rd, 75km south–west of Meekatharra | Latitude: -27.183637, Longitude: 118.835141

9. Barlangi Rock

Barlangi Rock is centred on one of Australia's 27 confirmed meteorite craters. The rock was formed when a meteorite slammed into the Earth about 2.23 billion years ago.

The meteorite's impact violently altered the landscape and smashed a massive hole in the ground, creating the Yarrabubba Impact Structure. Counter-intuitively the granite outcrop that is Barlangi Rock rises 30m out of the ground.

Despite an initial diameter of between 30 and 70km, and a severe shock to the Earth, evidence of the impact isn't immediately easy to see. But it's there if you know what to look for. Since the impact, the crater has filled with soil but evidence of its existence can be found in shatter cones, xenoliths and xenocrysts.

Please do not collect shatter cones.



No camping



No collecting

MOUNT MAGNET

Mount Magnet is the oldest continuous gold mining centre in Western Australia and has an ancient geological and rich cultural history that is at the heart of the town's story. Mount Magnet is home to three incredible Murchison GeoRegion sites:

Site 10: The Granites (No camping)

Site 11: Boogardie Orbicular Granite (Permission is required for access.)

Site 12: The Amphitheatre (No camping)

The Heritage Walk is a leisurely stroll through town and with its wide roads and old shop fronts, has a feeling of days gone by. You'll pass the Old School House, Post Office and Residence, Outdoor Picture Theatre and public art.

Immerse yourself in the Mining and Pastoral Museum and its vast collection from the town's rich past that provides an insight into early pastoral and gold mining activities. You'll also see the rebuilt Boogardie State Battery and an outstanding Rabbit Proof Fence story and film set exhibit.

The Wirnda Barna Art Centre showcases artworks depicting the rich landscape and important cultural sites in the area by Aboriginal artists from Mount Magnet and the surrounding region.

Tours, Events and Attractions

AstroRocks Fest – September
astrorocks-mtmagnet.com.au

Mining and Pastoral Museum
 22 – 34 Hepburn Street, Mount Magnet

Mount Magnet Races – Spring

Wirnda Barna Arts Centre
 79 Hepburn Street, Mount Magnet

Visitor Centre & Information

Mount Magnet Visitor Centre
 22-34 Hepburn Street Mount Magnet 6638
 (08) 9963 4172

visitor@mtmagnet.wa.gov.au

www.mtmagnet.wa.gov.au

Please refer to website for opening hours

Top things to see and do

Visitor Centre exhibits:

Treasures of the Earth Rock Collection

Genestreams Songlines Mural

The famous Hill 50 gold mine winder





Great Northern Hwy, 9km north of Mount Magnet | Latitude: -28.007767, Longitude: 117.852900

10. The Granites

The magnificent breakaways of The Granites share a connection with the Badimia people that stretches back 20,000 years.

With driving, cycling and walking trails and picnic sites, these granite outcrops rise to 20m and are spread over several hectares. Erosion has sculpted the soft white granite beneath the laterite to form ridges and caves and huge rounded boulders.

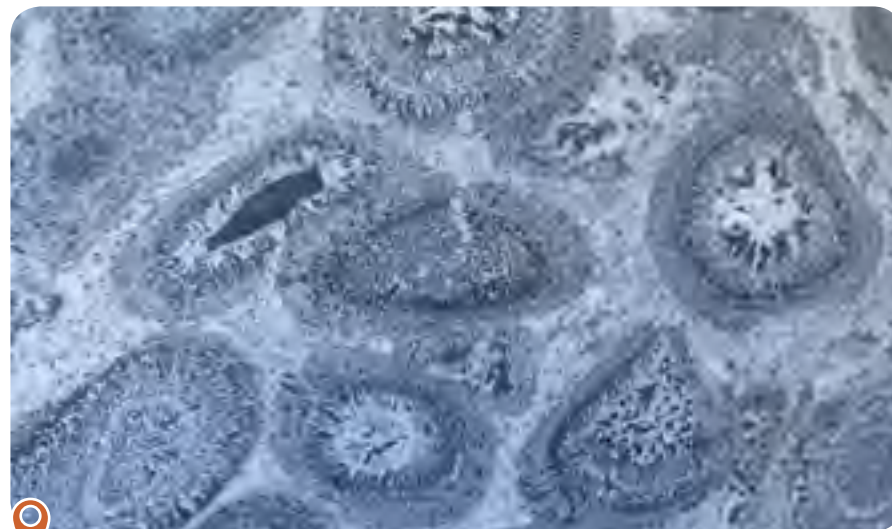
The Granites is a popular camping site for the Badimia people and is an important part of their ceremonies, with rock art of wallaby and emu tracks and hand prints dating back 9,000 years. The Badimia were also drawn here for The Granites' shelter and the abundant flora and fauna including sand goannas, kangaroos, emus, echidnas, saltbush and mulga.

The Granites holds great significance to the Badimia people, so please treat it with respect.

Most roads are suitable for all vehicles but some tracks require 4WD.



No camping



Permission is essential for access..

11. Boogardie Orbicular Granite

Orbicular granite is only found in a few locations around the world – and one of them is on Boogardie Station.

This rare and attractive type of granite rock features light-grey to dark-grey orbs that measure 5–15cm across. Each of the orbs is made up of fine-to medium-grained minerals including hornblende, biotite, plagioclase feldspar, opaque oxide and titanite. The rarity of this rock and ability to take a hard polish makes orbicular granite highly prized for ornamental masonry.

The site is also home to two bald granite rocks – Warroan Rock and Two Rocks – which dominate the landscape. While they're obvious drawcards, keep an eye out for the pebble-mimic dragons, which are small lizards that resemble stones, as well as the purple, yellow and green of flannel bush along the roadsides.

Permission is essential to access the Boogardie Orbicular Granite, which is located on private property and mining lease. Fragments may not be collected at site but can be purchased from the Mount Magnet Visitor Centre or through the owner.

Advance tagalong tour bookings essential. Contact Paul Jones on 0427 634 187.



Permission required



4WD suggested



No camping



No collecting



Mount Magnet Tourist Trail, 8km north of Mount Magnet | Latitude: -27.998933 , Longitude: 117.815517

12. The Amphitheatre

This beautiful ridge of granite soars above the surrounding landscape and is particularly beautiful in the glow of sunset.

Weather and erosion have worn parts of the granite rock away to create the caverns and caves. These shelters have provided a safe haven for countless animals over thousands of years including ones that have become extinct such as the lesser stick-nest rat.

There is evidence to suggest the Amphitheatre was the site of an ancient waterfall. The unusual 'dip' in front of the rock face is not seen at other eroding breakaways, suggesting the presence of large volumes of water over time.

The Amphitheatre's many nooks and crannies make it a popular place for animals including birds of prey, honeyeaters, bungarra and kangaroos. If you look carefully, you'll find evidence of all these animals and more around the Amphitheatre.

And don't forget to let off a 'Coo-ee' to hear the sound echoed back to you.



No camping

MURCHISON

The Shire's tagline, 'Ancient Land Under Brilliant Skies' captures the essence of the Murchison perfectly. It is home to sprawling pastoral stations, spectacular wildflower displays, rugged breakaways and cool river pools. Also, the Murchison Radio Observatory is the Australian home of the international science project, the Square Kilometre Array. Murchison has three incredible Murchison GeoRegion sites:

Site 13: Errabiddy Bluff (No camping)

Site 14: Wooleen Lake. (Accessible to guests of Wooleen Station, or visitors paying daily access fee)

Site 15: Bilung Pool (Camping allowed, barbecue facilities, Picnic shelter)

The cooler months are the perfect time to explore the rangeland Botanical Walk, go bird watching, take in the amazing night sky or enjoy a barbecue picnic at the restored stock well 55kms south of the Settlement.

Visit the Murchison Museum, constructed from rammed earth in the mid-1980s. The museum collects, preserves, and houses a fascinating display of historical items, as well as an herbarium of rangeland plant species.

If you're lucky enough to time your visit with the annual Polocrosse event, you're in for a treat with clubs travelling from across the State to attend.

Tours, Events and Attractions

2 Day Polocrosse Tournament

Second weekend of the July school holidays

Murchison Museum

Rear of Shire offices, Carnarvon Mullewa Road

Visitor Centre & Information

Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park

Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd, Murchison 6630

(08) 9961 3875

murchisonoasis@westnet.com.au

www.murchison.wa.gov.au

Fuel available 24 hours with credit card

Mon-Fri, 9am-3:30pm

Closed weekends & public holidays

Top things to see and do

Explore the Wooramel River gorges

Camp on the banks of the mighty Murchison River

Experience outback hospitality with a nearby Station Stay





Carnarvon–Mullewa Rd, 15km west of Murchison Settlement | Latitude: -26.881260, Longitude: 115.855580

13. Errabiddy Bluff

Errabiddy Bluff's steep rocky slopes rise up to 100m high and can be seen from over 30km away.

With teeth-like rocks, Errabiddy's name comes from a Wajarri word meaning 'mouth of bucked teeth'. When you see it, you'll understand why its name is so well suited. The large sandstone formations make it an excellent picnic spot – and many local animals would agree as it's a great place to see wildlife such as birds, kangaroos and lizards.

Errabiddy Bluff is also home to a population of Gascoyne or spreading gidgee (*Acacia subtessarogona*), a tree that is usually only found north of Carnarvon, some 530km north-west from Errabiddy Bluff.

Take a drive to the top of the hill opposite Errabiddy Bluff where you'll find a great picnic spot and a spectacular view.

Access to Errabiddy Bluff is subject to road conditions. Please check Murchison Shire's Road Condition Reports to determine status.



No camping
(camping available at Murchison Roadhouse)



4WD suggested



Twin Peaks–Wooleen Rd, 30km south-east of Murchison Settlement | Latitude: -27.087276, Longitude: 116.160402

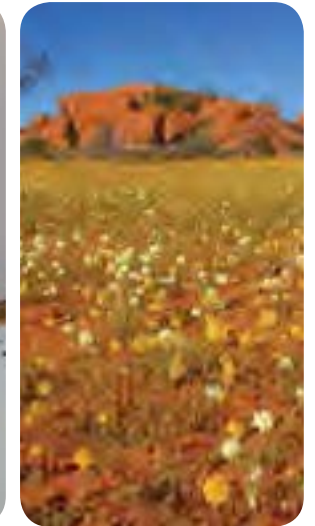
14. Wooleen Lake

Stand on the shores of one of Australia's few inland freshwater lakes.

The release of geological stress along the Mount Narryer fault some 60,000 years ago altered the flow of the Murchison, Roderick and Sanford Rivers, leading to the creation of Wooleen Lake. This 5,500-hectare land system receives water on average only once every four years, fills once every 10 years and overfills once every 30 years.

Over 140 bird, 60 reptile, 14 mammal, four fish and six frog species are known to visit Wooleen Station and Wooleen Lake for food, water, shelter and breeding. The lake is also sacred to the Wajarri Yamatji and it is part of a songline, which also includes the Murchison River, Errabiddy Bluff and Budara Rock.

Wooleen Lake is only accessible to guests of Wooleen Station or visitors who pay a daily access fee. Please contact (08) 9963 7973 for further information or bookings. It is also a good idea to phone ahead before planning your visit as the lake does not always have water.





Carnarvon–Mullewa Rd, 150km north of Murchison Settlement | Latitude: -25.706446, Longitude: 115.984947

15. Bilung Pool

One of only a few permanent water holes on the seasonal Wooramel River, Bilung Pool makes a great spot for bird-watching.

The Wooramel River carved Bilung Pool out of the red ochre on its 363km journey towards the coast. During heavy rains a small waterfall tumbles into the pool, which is surrounded by white-barked river gums. Plentiful birds, mammals and reptiles are drawn to the promise of water or prey on which to feast.

Bilung Pool is also a sacred place for Wajarri people who know it as Birlungardi and considered it the site of their bimada – the place from which ancient Dreamtime laws and customs originate. The Wajarri believe Birlungardi is the resting place of the Gujida (Rainbow Snake). They throw sand into the water to appease the snake and show it respect – and advise visitors to do the same.



Camping allowed



Barbecue facilities



Picnic shelter

SANDSTONE

Sandstone is a brilliant location for stargazing and spectacular sunsets. Now a centre for the region's mining and pastoral industries, the wide streets and historic buildings of Sandstone are a reminder of its heyday following a major gold discovery in 1894. Sandstone has two incredible Murchison GeoRegion sites for you to visit:

Site 16: London Bridge (No camping, no climbing)

Site 17: The Brewery (No camping)

Built in the 1940s, The Sandstone Heritage Museum was once a grocery store but now houses a collection of photographs and items portraying life in Sandstone at the turn of the 20th century. A short walk from the Museum is The Heritage Cottage built in 1923 by a local pastoralist and furnished to reflect that era.

Pick up a brochure for the Sandstone Heritage Trail and explore the township's heritage buildings, several of which have been restored, including the Post and Telegraph Office, Warden's Court and Black Range Chapel.

Play a round on the 18-hole golf course (clubs are available for hire from the Visitor Centre), cool off at the Water Park or try your luck gold prospecting before a sunset picnic.

Tours, Events and Attractions

Astronomy dome 'Astrodome'

Viewings by arrangement, bookings can be made at the Heritage Museum and Visitor Centre

Visitor Centre & Information

Sandstone Heritage Museum and Visitor Centre
Corner of Oroya & Hack St, Sandstone 6639
(08) 9963 5061

www.sandstone.wa.gov.au

Mon–Sun, 9am–4pm (April–October)

Top things to see and do


Play a round of golf

Drive the Heritage Trail

Experience the brilliance of the night skies with a viewing at the new Astrodome





 Agnew–Sandstone Rd, 6km south–east of Sandstone | **Latitude:** -28.011390, **Longitude:** 119.314120

16. London Bridge

Come see this spectacular natural stone bridge – before it falls down.

London Bridge has been a popular destination for sunsets, stargazing and picnics for more than 100 years as visitors come to admire its unique shape.

Back in the early days of Sandstone's founding, the bridge was wide enough for a horse and buggy to cross. However, erosion and weathering continue to wear away the laterite and the bridge is getting thinner.

London Bridge is part of a longer breakaway that stretches for about 800m and varies in height from 3–10m. The breakaway is formed in laterite which overlies rocks estimated to be greater than 2 billion years old.

We do ask for your own safety and to preserve this natural wonder that you enjoy the view from ground level.




No camping



No climbing



 Sandstone–Leinster Rd, 4km east of Sandstone | **Latitude:** -28.007900, **Longitude:** 119.322280

17. The Brewery

What lengths would you go to for a cold brew

The Black Range Brewery was constructed in 1907 by Irishman J V Kearney, to provide for the demands of the many miners then working in the area. Built on built on top of the laterite breakaway, the brewery's elevated position made it visible up to 20km away – an alluring site for many a gold miner.

The beer was stored in barrels inside the cellar, which was a massive tunnel blasted deep into the rock with dynamite. With the opening of the railway line in 1910, regular supplies of beer from elsewhere became available and broke the brewery's monopoly. The tunnel is all that remains.



No camping

WILUNA

Sitting on the edge of the Western Desert, Wiluna is the gateway to the Canning Stock Route and the Gunbarrel Highway.

Site 18: Shoemaker Crater (No access)

Shoemaker Crater is one of Australia's largest and potentially oldest impact structures. While the site is not open to visitors, you can drop into the Canning-Gunbarrel Discovery Centre to learn more.

The best way to explore the heritage of Wiluna is to follow the Town Heritage Trail which takes you on a fascinating journey to 30 places of interest, with many stories about local characters that once lived there.

Visit the Tjurkurba Art Gallery, for an opportunity to meet and chat with local Aboriginal artists and view original artworks which embody a rich culture of country, history and lifestyle.

Learn the story of Australia's last desert nomads, Warri and Yatungka who lead a traditional lifestyle in the Gibson Desert until 1977. A statue at the town's entrance commemorates their life.

Drop into the Discovery Centre, located in the old Wiluna Hospital to learn about more about the fascinating history of Wiluna, the Canning Stock Route and Gunbarrel Highway.

Tours, Events and Attractions

Tjurkurba Art Gallery
28 Scotia St, Wiluna 6646
(08) 9981 8080
Mon-Fri, 9.00am -4:00pm
www.tjukurbagallery.com.au

Visitor Centre & Information

Canning-Gunbarrel Discovery Centre
28 Scotia St, Wiluna 6646
(08) 9981 8009
Mon - Fri, 9.00am - 4.00pm

Top things to see and do

North Pool for bird watching in winter
Red Hill Lookout
World War II bomb shelter



110km north-east of Wiluna | No access to site

18. Shoemaker Crater

Shoemaker Crater is one of Australia's largest and potentially oldest impact structures.



No Access

Estimates for Shoemaker Crater's age range from 1,300 to 568 million years but it happened so long ago that, from ground level, you might be forgiven for thinking a meteorite never landed here. Satellite imagery, however, shows a different view..

The central part of the crater is about 12km in diameter. It is surrounded by an inner ring and an outer ring that extends to a diameter of about 30km. Between these rings are three seasonal salt lakes: Lake Nabberu, Lake Shoemaker and Lake Teague.

The crater is named after esteemed planetary geologist, Eugene Shoemaker and his wife Carolyn, who were critical in scientifically assessing Australia's impact craters. Originally named Lake Teague, the impact crater was renamed in 1998 to honour the legacy of their work..

Shoemaker Crater is situated on private land and is not open to visitors. Please visit the Canning-Gunbarrel Discovery Centre to learn more about Shoemaker Crater.

YALGOO

Yalgoo – where the outback begins and an ideal place to start (or finish) your Murchison GeoRegion adventure. Founded in the 1890s, Yalgoo has plenty of reminders of the town's wild gold rush days, which can be relived at the Court House Museum, showcasing over 80 years of history through old photographs and artefacts

Yalgoo has three incredible Murchison GeoRegion sites:

Site 19: Jokers Tunnel (No camping)

Site 20: Dalgara Crater (Permission required)

Site 21: Paynes Find Battery (Open daily from 1 August to mid-October)

Wildflower season changes the dramatic landscape into a carpet of colour between July and September, and the Karara Rangeland Park is one of the many places you can experience this. Camping is allowed through Park Stay WA (fees apply).

Explore the Yalgoo Heritage Trail, a self-guided walk/drive through the town giving you a glimpse of the town's past, colonial architecture and a chance to see the Dominican Chapel, one of the most interesting and unusual buildings constructed by architect and priest, Monsignor John Hawes in 1922.

Tours, Events and Attractions

Yalgoo Arts and Cultural Centre

Yagu Artists Group

Cnr Gibbons & Milligan Street, Yalgoo

Court House Museum

Gibbons Street, Yalgoo

Yalgoo Races (annually)

Visitor Centre & Information

Yalgoo Visitor Information

Shire Office, 37 Gibbons Street

08 99 62 8042

www.yalgoo.wa.gov.au

Paynes Find Gold Battery and Information Centre

08 9963 6513

Top things to see and do

Visit the Court House Museum

Take a look at the Dominican Chapel of St Hyacinth

Experience outback hospitality with a nearby Station Stay



Yalgoo-Paynes Find Rd, 10km south of Yalgoo | Latitude: -28.439538, Longitude: 116.751658

19. Jokers Tunnel

This 100m long tunnel was dug in search of gold with only pick, shovels and rudimentary blasting skills – but all that effort didn't lead to much of a payoff.

Five hundred and fifty tonnes of rock was excavated in 1896 but only three kilograms of gold were found in the area. No one is quite certain where the tunnel got its name from. Some believe it was named after William Nottle's nearby gold mine, popularly known as Joker. Others believe it was named after the Jokers Mining Syndicate who dug it. And then there are those who think the whole thing was just one big joke on investors.

Most of the gold mines in Yalgoo have shut down but you can find gold of a different kind in the area. At least seven species of golden coloured wattle grow here. Not only do they draw nature-lovers, but also brightly coloured birds like thornbills, honeyeaters and fairy-wrens to feed and nest in their branches.



No camping



Dalgaranga Pastoral Station off Dalgaranga Rd, 100km north of Yalgoo.

20. Dalgaranga Crater

At 24m in diameter and 3m deep, Dalgaranga Crater is the smallest of Australia's 27 confirmed impact craters.

Discovered in 1921, Dalgaranga Crater was one of the first impact structures recognised in Australia and the only one to be formed on land by a mesosiderite (stony-iron) meteorite.

The crater's age is not known but it could be as young as 3,000 years, which would make it the youngest crater in Australia and among the ten youngest known craters in the world. The size of the original meteorite has been greatly debated in the scientific literature, with estimates varying from 500 to 20 000 kg.

Dalgaranga Crater is a State Geoheritage Reserve (R28497). Visitors are asked to consult with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety before visiting the site - www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Geoheritage.

For conservation and safety reasons, please do not walk down into the crater.



No camping



No collecting



No climbing



Great Northern Hwy, Paynes Find, 1km from Paynes Find Tavern | Latitude: -29.254913, Longitude: 117.684492

21. Paynes Find Battery

Come see WA's only working gold battery!

Paynes Find Battery was commissioned in 1911 as a State-run facility. It operated until 1986, crushing 70,000 tonnes of ore for 70,000 ounces of gold, before changing to private hands. You can still visit the gold-crushing plant and explore the display centre next door to learn about the gold mining process in the early 1900s.

Gold is not the only treasure to be found in and around Paynes Find. From late July to September, the region's wildflowers burst out in a vibrant display of colour. Brightly coloured everlastings, native foxgloves, wild pomegranate and blue cornflowers make Paynes Find a goldmine for nature lovers.

Open daily from 1 August to mid-October. Call Paynes Find Gold Battery and Museum on (08) 9963 6513 for more information.



murchison
georegion
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Information & Accommodation

Cue

Walga Rock | Wilgie Mia | Poona | Afghan Rock | Garden Granite Rock

Visitor Centre & information

Cue Community and Visitor Centre

72 Austin St, Cue 6640
(08) 9963 1198 | info@cuecrc.net.au
www.cue.wa.gov.au/tourism
Mon–Fri, 8:30am–3:30pm
Closed weekends & public holidays

Accommodation

Cue Tourist Park

Adjacent to the RV Parking area at the northern end of Great Northern Hwy, Cue
(08) 9963 1107 | touristpark@cue.wa.gov.au
www.facebook.com/cuetouristpark

Murchison Club Hotel

66 Austin St, Cue 6640
(08) 9963 1020 | murchc@westnet.com.au
www.murchisonclubhotelcue.com.au

Queen of the Murchison Guest House & Café

53 Austin St, Cue 6640
(08) 9963 1625
info@queenofthemurchison.com.au
www.queenofthemurchison.com.au

Fuel

Cue Roadhouse/General Store

12 Austin St, Cue 6640
(08) 9963 1218
Mon–Sun, 5am–9pm

Station Stays

Nallan Station

Cogla Downs–Taincrow Rd, Reedy 6640
(08) 9963 1054 | visitnallan@outlook.com
www.nallanstation.com

Meekatharra

Jack Hills | Mount Yagahong | Peace Gorge | Barlangi Rock

Visitor Centre & information

Meekatharra Visitor Centre

66 Main St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9980 1811
welcome@meekatharracrc.com.au
www.meekacrc.net.au
Mon–Fri, 9am–3:30pm
Closed weekends & public holidays

Mining Registrar

(fossicking and site access information)
Savage Street, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9980 1453

Fuel

BP Meekatharra

16 Main St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9981 1151
Mon–Fri, 6am–5pm; Sat, 6am–12:30pm

BP OPT Meekatharra

Cnr Connaughton St & Main St,
Meekatharra 6642
1300 130 027
Open 24/7

Caltex Meekatharra

Lot 831 Oliver St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9920 8000
Open 24/7

Caltex Roadhouse

119 Main St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9981 1253
Mon–Fri, 6am–9pm

Coles Express

Lot 821 Main St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9981 1033
Open 24/7

Accommodation

Auski Inland Motel

Lot 190 Roberts St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9981 1433 | auskimotel@gmail.com
www.auskiinlandmotel.com.au

Commercial Hotel

77 Main St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9981 1020 | commieh@westnet.com.au
www.commercialmeeka.com.au

Karalundi Caravan Park

Karalundi Dr, Karalundi 6642
(08) 9981 2933 | cafe@karalundi.wa.edu.au
www.karalundi.wa.edu.au

Meekatharra Accommodation Centre (Caravan Park)

119 Main St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9981 1253
bookings@meekatharraaccommodation.com.au
www.meekatharraaccommodation.com.au

Meekatharra Hotel

34 Main St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9981 1134

Paddy's Flat

McCleary St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9980 1220 | 0407 174 843

Royal Mail Hotel

Main St, Meekatharra 6642
(08) 9981 1148
royalmailmeekatharra@gmail.com
www.royalmailhotel.com.au



Mount Magnet

The Granites | Boogardie Orbicular Granite | The Amphitheatre

Visitor Centre & information

Mount Magnet Visitor Centre

22–34 Hepburn St, Mount Magnet 6638
(08) 9963 4172 | visitor@mtmagnet.wa.gov.au
www.mtmagnet.wa.gov.au
Please refer to website for opening hours

Accommodation

Commercial Club Hotel

63 Hepburn St, Mount Magnet 6638
(08) 9963 4021
commercialclubhotel@bigpond.com

Gekkos Mount Magnet

39 Laurie St, Mount Magnet 6638
0460 869 506
gekkosaccommodation@gmail.com
www.gekkosatmountmagnet.com

Grand Hotel

65 Hepburn St, Mount Magnet 6638
(08) 9963 4110
commercialclubhotel@bigpond.com

Miners Rest Units

552E Thurkle Cove, Mount Magnet 6638
(08) 9963 4380 | 0408 996 346
admin@goldenoutback.com

Mount Magnet Caravan Park

100 Hepburn St, Mount Magnet 6638
(08) 9963 4198
caravanpark@mtmagnet.wa.gov.au

Outback Gold Accommodation

6 Scott Cl, Mount Magnet 6638
(08) 9963 4433
outbackgoldmagnet@bigpond.com
www.outbackgoldaccommodationmountmagnet.com.au

Fuel

Caltex Swagman Roadhouse

599 Hepburn St, Mount Magnet 6638
(08) 9963 4844 | www.swagmanrh.com.au
Open 24/7

Station Stays

Nalbarra Station

63km south of Mount Magnet
on Great Northern Hwy, then 17km west
on Burnerbinmah–Nalbarra Rd
(08) 9963 5829
nalbarrastationstays@gmail.com
www.nalbarra.com.au

Narndee Station

40km north of Paynes Find on Great Northern Hwy, then 30km
east on unsealed road
(08) 9963 5414 | narndee@outlook.com
www.narndee.com

Murchison Settlement

Errabiddy Bluff | Wooleen Lake | Bilung Pool

Visitor Centre & Fuel

Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park

Carnarvon–Mullewa Rd, Murchison 6630
(08) 9961 3875
murchisonoasis@westnet.com.au
www.murchison.wa.gov.au
[Fuel available 24 hours with credit card](#)

Accommodation

Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park

Carnarvon–Mullewa Rd, Murchison 6630
(08) 9961 3875
murchisonoasis@westnet.com.au
www.murchison.wa.gov.au/accommodation

Station Stays

Wooleen Station

Twin Peaks–Wooleen Rd, Murchison 6630
(08) 9963 7973
info@wooleen.com.au
www.wooleen.com.au

Sandstone

London Bridge | The Brewery

Visitor Centre & Information

Sandstone Heritage Museum and Visitor Centre

Corner of Oroya & Hack St, Sandstone 6639
(08) 9963 5061 | visitus@sandstone.wa.gov.au
www.sandstone.wa.gov.au
Mon–Sun, 9am–4pm (April–October)

Fuel

Sandstone Self-Serve Fuel Station

(requires EFTPOS/Credit Card with PIN)
Corner of Oroya & Payne St, Sandstone 6639
(08) 9963 5802
www.sandstone.wa.gov.au/facilities

Accommodation

Alice Atkinson Caravan Park

Irvine St, Sandstone 6639
(08) 9963 5859 | stay@sandstone.wa.gov.au
www.sandstone.wa.gov.au/accommodation

National Hotel Sandstone

17 Payne St, Sandstone 6639
(08) 9963 5801 | sandstonepub@gmail.com

Outback Accommodation

Thaduna St, Sandstone 6639
(08) 9963 5869 | outbackaccom@bigpond.com

The Breakaway

Payne St, Sandstone 6639
Bookable via AirBnB at [abnb.me/dnBFt6x0LV](https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/123456789)

Wiluna

Shoemaker Crater

Visitor Centre & Information

Canning–Gunbarrel Discovery Centre

28 Scotia St, Wiluna 6646
(08) 9981 8009
Mon – Fri, 9.00am – 4.00pm
www.australiasgoldenoutback.com/business/attractions/canning-gunbarrel-discovery-centre

Tjukurba Art Gallery

28 Scotia St, Wiluna 6646
(08) 9981 8080
Mon – Fri, 9.00am – 4.00pm
<https://tjukurbagallery.com.au/>

Fuel

Mantjiljarra Store

51 Wotton St, Wiluna WA 6646

Wiluna Traders

37 Wotton St, Wiluna 6646
(08) 9980 6011
admin@wilunatraders.com
www.wilunatraders.com

Accommodation

Gunbarrel Laager

Wongawol Rd, Wiluna 6646
(08) 9981 7161
gunbarrel.laager@riverblueholdings.com.au
www.riverblueholdings.com.au

Yalgoo

Jokers Tunnel | Dalgaranga Crater | Paynes Find Battery

Visitor Centre & information

Paynes Find Gold Battery & Museum

08 9963 6513
Open daily from 1 August to mid-October

Shire of Yalgoo

37 Gibbons St, Yalgoo 6635
(08) 9962 8042
Open Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm

Yalgoo Arts & Cultural Centre

Corner of Gibson St & Milligan St, Yalgoo 6635
0419 325 964
Open Mon-Sat, 9am-3pm

Fuel

Caltex Self-Serve Fuel Station

(requires EFTPOS/Credit Card with PIN)
Old Railway Station, Piesse St, Yalgoo 6635
(08) 9962 8042 - Shire
(08) 9920 8000 - Refuel Australia
Open 24/7

Paynes Find Roadhouse & Tavern

Great Northern Hwy, Paynes Find 6612
(08) 9963 6111
www.paynesfind-roadhouse.com
Open 24/7

Accommodation

Paynes Find Roadhouse and Tavern

Great Northern Hwy, Paynes Find 6612
(08) 9963 6111
www.paynesfind-roadhouse.com

Yalgoo Caravan Park

Gibbons St, Yalgoo 6635
(08) 9962 8472 | cpark@yalgoo.wa.gov.au
www.yalgoo.wa.gov.au/yalgoo-caravan-park

Yalgoo Hotel Motel

37 Gibbons St, Yalgoo 6635
(08) 9962 8031 | suillock@hotmail.com
www.yalgoo.wa.gov.au/town-services/yalgoo-hotel

Station Stays

Gabyon Station

1 Gabyon-Tardie Rd, Yalgoo 6635
(08) 9963 7993
gabyonstationstay@gmail.com
www.gabyon.com.au

Melangata Station

Melangata Rd, Yalgoo 6635
(08) 9963 7777 / 0458 538 964
joclews889@gmail.com
www.joclewscooking.com

Mellenbye Station

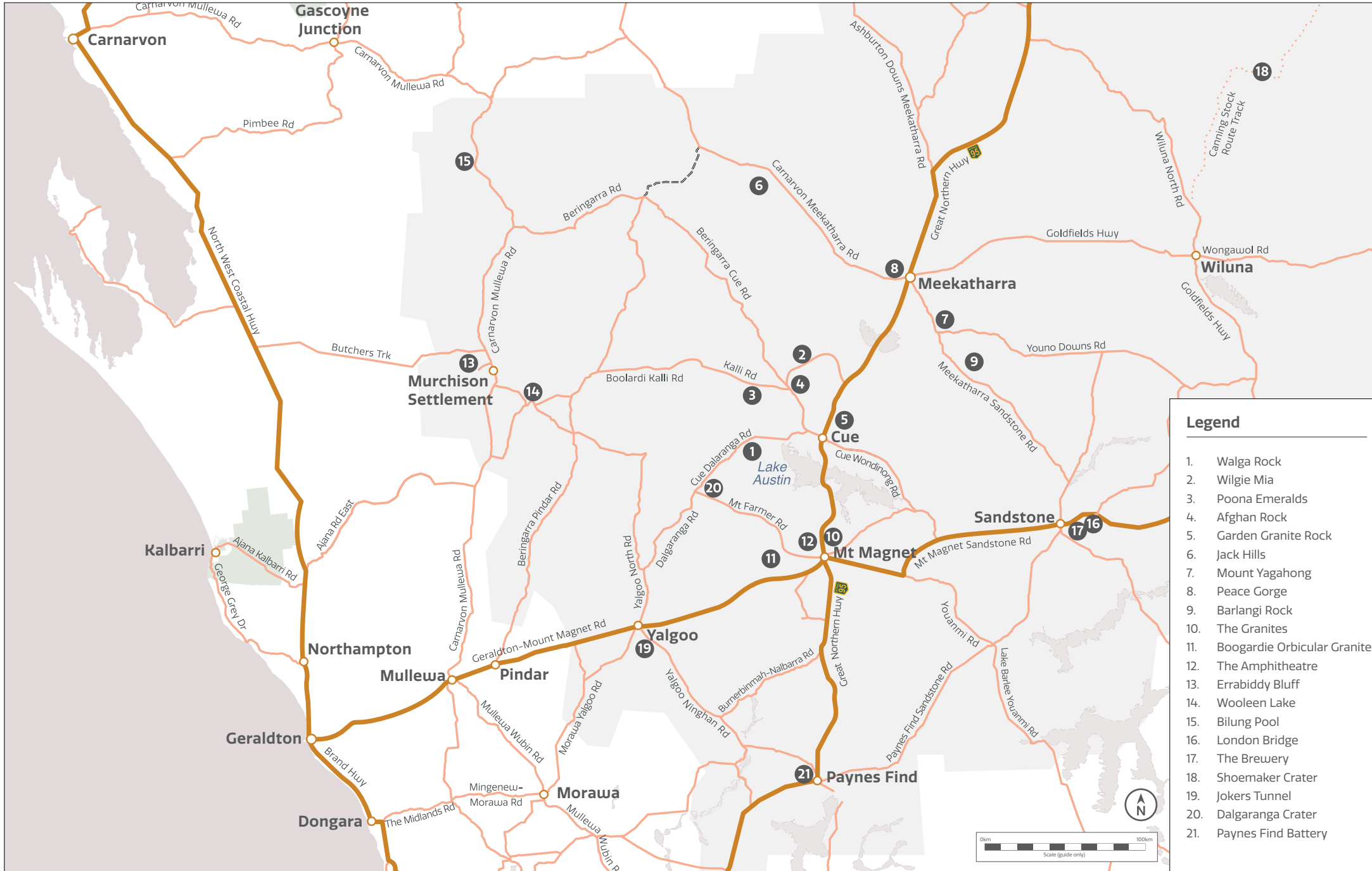
Morawa-Yalgoo Rd, Morawa 6623
(08) 9972 3072
bookings@mellenbye.com.au
www.mellenbye.com.au



murchison
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Trail Map

Murchison GeoRegion Trail Map



- ### Legend
1. Walga Rock
 2. Wilgie Mia
 3. Poona Emeralds
 4. Afghan Rock
 5. Garden Granite Rock
 6. Jack Hills
 7. Mount Yagahong
 8. Peace Gorge
 9. Barlangi Rock
 10. The Granites
 11. Boogardie Orbicular Granite
 12. The Amphitheatre
 13. Errabiddy Bluff
 14. Wooleen Lake
 15. Bilung Pool
 16. London Bridge
 17. The Brewery
 18. Shoemaker Crater
 19. Jokers Tunnel
 20. Dalgaranga Crater
 21. Paynes Find Battery



Thanks for visiting