

from Katunga Lookout. From Kalgoorlie, travel north (approx.40km) to Broad Arrow: Broad Arrow is a 'Ghost Town' located 38 kilometres north of Kalgoorlie on the road to Leonora. The town was gazetted in 1896, and at its peak during the gold rush, it had 15,000 residents, eight hotels, a soft drink factory, two breweries, a hospital and a stock exchange. By the mid- 1920s the rush was over and the town was virtually abandoned. Significant finds of gold came out of Broad Arrow and it is rumoured that you can still find gold there today. Known originally as Kurawah, it is said that Broad Arrow changed its name when a prospector found gold and marked his way back to the spot with Broad Arrows. While you are in town, stop into the Broad Arrow Tavern, built in 1896, this quintessential Aussie outback pub now provides food and accommodation to visitors. Broad Arrow is around a seven hour drive east of Perth via Kalgoorlie. Moving north west (approx. 30kms) to Ora Banda: the historical Ora Banda Inn is only a 40 minute drive from Kalgoorlie, where you can still discover gold, whether it's the golden sunsets, the golden gimlet trees or the old gold mines in the region or the nuggets that are still in the ground. Relax in a choice of two beer gardens while watching spectacular sunsets. The pub offers a menu or you can cook your own barbecue. If you're especially lucky, you might meet thirsty prospectors and see and touch real gold nuggets! Nearby explore the original Ora Banda ghost town and old battery, the original gold treatment works damaged in the blast of 2000, examine old workings across the road or walk down to the old station homestead or the Rowles Lagoon and enjoy the abundant bird life as well as water sports.

Day 2 » Ora Banda to Coolgardie 85km

Approximately 40km south west of Ora Banda lies, Rowles Lagoon. Rowles Lagoon Conservation Park contains a semi-permanent freshwater wetland, unusual in this arid environment. It has been a popular recreation site for many years and provides a special opportunity for bird watching. Continue on south through Kintore approximately 45kms north of Coolgardie (abandoned site), Kunanalling (abandoned site and hotel ruins), to Coolgardie: Coolgardie is world-famous for two major events in Western Australia's mining history. It's the birthplace of the great gold rush of 1892 and the site of Varischetti's amazing mine rescue after nine days trapped in a flooded underground mine. It was once the third largest town in Western Australia with 2 stock exchanges, 3 breweries, 7 newspapers and 26 hotels. Today, reminders of Coolgardie's colourful gold rush history can be found in its charming grand heritage buildings and wide main street.

Day 3 » Coolgardie to Kambalda 290km

From Coolgardie travel via the granite outcrops and nature reserves along the way. Stopping in

to have a look at Gnarlbine Rock, and Victoria Rock Reserve (50 kms south west of Coolgardie): Victoria Rock Nature Reserve lies approximately 70kms west of Coolgardie. It is dominated by a large granite outcrop that offers panoramic views of the surrounding woodlands. Here you will learn about geological rock formations and aboriginal rock holes or "gnammas" and their cultural significance in the region. The remaining road between Victoria Rock (south) and Cave Hill (south east) and Burra Rock (east) is a 4WD track - unpaved; and requires 4WD experience and preparation.

- » An alternate route to take is to back track from Victoria Rock via Coolgardie, before heading south again via Quairnie Rock and Durgulyie Rock on Burra Rock Road. This will take you via Burra Rock and then on a stretch of 4WD track to Cave Hill Reserve. This track continues via Widgiemooltha and onto Kambalda via paved roads.
- » Widgiemooltha: Widgiemooltha Tavern, Roadhouse, Motel & Caravan Park, home of the Golden Eagle Nugget.
- » 18 Motel Units, Caravan Park with powered and unpowered sites available.
- » Licensed Tavern, restaurant meals and take away available.

Along paved road, 60 kms south of Coolgardie lies Burra Rock: Explore the historical dam and water catchment on Burra Rock. A short climb to the summit of the rock rewards you with a great view over regrowth woodlands. Amongst the woodlands of salmon gum, gimlet and redwood look for evidence of the timber cutters' camps and bush railways. Burra Rock is an important cultural site. The indigenous traditional owners of this area, welcome you to their country. Following the 4WD track from Victoria Rock Reserve, travel south and then east to Cave Hill Reserve (101 kms south of Coolgardie on paved road) Cave Hill is one of the largest and highest granite outcrops in the Goldfields Region. At this site, you can explore the spectacular ancient cave formations and historic woodland dams on the granite outcrop. You will discover a myriad of sights and sounds in the surrounding woodlands on the bushwalking trails. Picnic and camping facilities are provided at several sites around the edge of the rock. Last stop before returning north to Kalgoorlie is Kambalda and Red Hill 88km north east of Cave Hill Reserve. Kambalda's best attraction is the Red Hill Lookout. Accessed via Gordon Adams Road, Red Hill will give travelers a spectacular view of Lake Lefroy, part of an ancient river system in the Goldfields region of Western Australia.

Highlights

- » Birdwatching
- » Freshwater wetlands
- » Historical pubs, taverns and hotels
- » Gold prospecting
- » Ghost towns
- » Australia's largest outback city
- » Lookout points
- » Indigenous sites, and gnamma holes
- » Picnic and camp sites

RAC Recommends

Inattention affects all drivers, especially in rural WA. Fatalities in the Wheatbelt are 6x higher than that of the WA state average. RAC recommends rest, before driving, stopping regularly, sharing the drive and allowing enough travel time.

Visitor Centres

Kalgoorlie Boulder (08) 9021 1966
Coolgardie (08) 9026 6090

Road condition:
www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

Accommodation

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