

Suggested itinerary

Day 1 » Perth to Northam 100km

Mundaring Weir was constructed to dam the Helena River and provide the water for the Coolgardie Water Supply Scheme. Today it remains the Goldfields' primary source of drinking water.

Wooroloo Reserve While the route of the former railway line can easily be seen from the Reserve's picnic facilities and playground, the visitor's eye is equally drawn to the surrounding work of local artists and schoolchildren. **Poole Street Bridge** Over its 560 km length, the pipeline faced, and continues to face, many obstacles. The River Avon is one. The **Poole Street Bridge** was not the first, nor last, means of overcoming that particular obstacle. **Old Northam Railway Station** At its peak, the railways employed some 1200 people in the Northam district. The Old Northam Railway Station was often the scene of frenetic activity as over the years prospectors, settlers, servicemen and migrants have all waited on the platform for the next train. **Kep Track** Golden Pipeline sites between Mundaring Weir and Northam can be accessed via the Kep Track that stretches between the two. Like the Heritage Trail, Kep Track is a Golden Pipeline project to celebrate the goldfields water supply that has been operating for more than 100 years. However Kep is designed to be enjoyed by cyclists, walkers and riders.

Day 2 » Northam to Merredin 165km

Meckering Earthquake Centre Photographs, newspaper reports, twisted railway lines and mangled steel water pipes all bear witness to the destruction which a powerful earthquake can wreak, even on a small isolated community. **No 3 Pump Station** One of the original eight steam powered pumping stations. **No 3 Pump station** now houses the Cunderdin Museum and is open to the public. Visitors can see work, currently in progress, upgrading No 3 to enhance its social focus in the community with the former boiler house becoming a visitor information and interpretation centre. Some areas are closed and entry is by donation to support the Cunderdin volunteers. The redeveloped museum will include a machinery conservation workshop and a landcare project to protect endangered indigenous plants. It will promote topical water and farming issues, particularly dry land farming in the central wheatbelt. **Tammin Hydrology Model** Salinity is a major environmental and economic disaster which will only be overcome when people become fully aware of its extent, causes and remedies. The Hydrology Model at Tammin is one attempt to provide that information. **Kellerberrin Hill** The history of the region can be easily appreciated from the top of Kellerberrin Hill with its spectacular views over the farming lands which extend to the horizon. The hill is also a valuable source of local water, now used to

water the golf course. **Old Doodlakine Town Site & Hunt's Well** The well can still be seen, but gone are all the buildings of the once small but bustling town of old Doodlakine which grew up around it. **Baandee Lakes Lookout** From its vantage point on a ridge about 40 kilometres west of Merredin, the Baandee Lakes Lookout offers a panoramic view over a large area of low-lying ground and an extensive network of salt lakes. **Totadgin Rock** This large granite outcrop with its small "wave rock", and the surrounding Totadgin Conservation Park offer a haven for native plant, animal and bird species. **Pump Station Three** pumping stations and 100 years of Water Supply history can be seen at this one site. **Merredin Peak Rock Dam** A 2.25 km walk over the top of Merredin Peak takes the visitor past a railway dam and the impressive stone walls which channelled water into it, before providing a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside. **Merredin Peak Military Hospital** A long way from the battlefield, a long way from anywhere some might say, but in the middle of World War II a military hospital was established at the base of Merredin Peak.

Day 3 » Merredin to Kalgoorlie 340km Via

No 1 Rabbit Proof Fence Western Australian crops were under threat from rabbits from the east. The vast dry expanse of the Nullarbor Plain could not stop them. Only a fence could do the job. **Edna May Mine** From a 20 m shaft to an enormous 89 m deep open cut mine, the Edna May gold mine has had a stop/ start life since 1911. **No 5 Pump Station** The pump station workers established homes and gardens, an oasis in the low rainfall region. **No 6 Pump Station** The tall steel chimney of No 6 Pump Station is clearly visible from the Great Eastern Highway. **374km Mark Railway lines, trenches and wooden pipes** - all these essential elements in the story of 100 years of pumping water to the Goldfields are on display here. **Karalee Rocks** This combination of granite rock, stone walls, steel aqueduct and earth dam was heralded as one of the most ambitious and successful engineering feats of the late 19th century. **No 7 Pump Station** The buildings may have gone, only the tank may remain, but the reminders of life at No 7 Pump Station abound. **Woolgangie** For a short time Woolgangie was one of the busiest towns in Western Australia. It was also the place where thousands of horses and men could so easily have died from a lack of water. **No 8 Pump Station** No 8 Pump Station at Dedari was the last of the steam powered pump stations to operate and remains the most intact of the original eight stations. **Jack Carins' Camp** Building materials were scarce on the goldfields. Jack Carins made his home from discarded materials and whatever was at hand. **Mount Charlotte** After its 560 km journey, the water pumped from Mundaring Weir finally arrives at Mt Charlotte, the end of the Golden Pipeline.

Highlights

- » Travel on parts of the old Goldfields Road along which fortune seekers trudged; the reserve for the Eastern Railway along which trains steamed and the maintenance road that runs alongside the water supply pipeline.
- » Explore and learn much about the state's rich heritage at 25 designated stops that include:
- » Dams and wells built before the pipeline. Natural attractions such as nature reserves. Gold mining towns and abandoned town sites. Illustrated information panels and walk trails. climbing and abseiling, sailing and house boats, swimming beaches, walking trails and surfing.

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

The National Trust of Australia	(08) 9321 6088
Margaret River	(08) 9295 0202
Mundaring	(08) 9776 1133
Central Wheatbelt	(08) 9041 1666
Kalgoorlie	1800 004 653

Accommodation

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