Golden Pipeline Trail 3-4 days

This trail takes motorists from Perth to Kalgoorlie following the path of the water from Mundaring Weir to Mount Charlotte Reservoir. Ideal for those who have a couple of days or more to explore the history, hospitality and horizons of Pipeline country. In the 1890s CY O'Connor engineered a pipeline to carry freshwater from Mundaring Weir to arid goldfields 560 km to the east. To commemorate this incredible feat the National Trust of Australia (WA) initiated the Golden Pipeline Project. Visit a 100-year-old steam pumping station, take a walk across a dam wall, explore the lives of the people who built and maintained this scheme at a variety of museums or drive 650 km to discover more about the pipeline that delivers water to Western Australia’s arid interior. The National Trust of Australia has developed a range of exciting programs from the award winning exhibitions at No 1 Pump Station to a range of recreational trails to help residents and visitors to Western Australia discover more about the incredible goldfields water supply pipeline. Follow the Golden Pipeline and discover the following sites branching from the trail.

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

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Need maps, guides, atlases or a GPS for your journey?
Golden pipeline trail

Suggested itinerary

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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
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 landscape project to protect endangered indigenous plants. It will promote topical water and farming issues, particularly dry land farming in the central wheatbelt.

Taminmin Hydrology Model
At Tammin is one attempt to provide that information. Taminmin Hydrology Model Saintry 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 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.

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. 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.

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 Dedan 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. Many quarters of the buildings may have holes but they are all there. Jack Carins’ Camp. The Cunderdin-Meerup rail line was completed in 1924

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Mandurah (08) 9321 6088
Margaret River (08) 9295 0202
Mundaring (08) 9776 1133
Central Wheatbelt (08) 9041 1666
Kalgoorlie (08) 9041 1666

RAC Recommends
Visitor Centres
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Margaret River (08) 9295 0202
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