

Western Australia

Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways

*“a self drive
outback adventure”*



**The Wool Wagon Pathway
The Kingsford Smith Mail Run
The Miners Pathway**

*“come and explore the real outback
- steeped in history, rich in stories”*



Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways

WELCOME TO THE OUTBACK

Vast, rugged, beautiful and timeless, the Gascoyne Murchison region epitomises the real 'outback Australia'. Home to the Yamaji people for at least 30,000 years and to Europeans for more than 150, the region is rich with fascinating cultural experiences.

Like an open door the Outback Pathways provide ready access to the natural and cultural wonders of this land, inviting you in and offering information and enrichment for your journey. Each of the three pathways has a unique set of stories to tell; each is an outback adventure with a difference. Take the time to travel through this ancient land - there are many secrets to share...



On each Pathway specially selected interpretive sites have been developed. Here, panels and pictures enrich your experience, helping you understand this timeless landscape and its many stories. The Pathways are just the beginning - the Murchison and Gascoyne Regions have so much more to offer! Cultural history entwines with nature in a kaleidoscope of colours and characters - come on out and explore!

OUTBACK PATHWAYS

Outback Pathways give access to other parts of this region:

- **The Wool Wagon Pathway** - 1160 km, from either Geraldton or Yalgoo, via Murchison Settlement and Gascoyne Junction to Exmouth - explore the legendary pastoral country of the Murchison and Gascoyne Regions. Allow 4 days travel time.
- **The Kingsford Smith Mail Run** - 800 km, from Carnarvon to Meekatharra, via Mt Augustus - follow in the wheel-ruts of Australia's most famous pilot and learn about the mail runs that linked this landscape. Allow 3 days travel time.
- **The Miners Pathway** - 970 km, from Paynes Find to Mt Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra, Sandstone and Yalgoo, then back to Paynes Find - experience the hectic heady days of the great Murchison gold rushes and the living heritage they left behind. Allow 3 days travel time.

PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY

Much of the Outback Pathway routes are quite remote and major towns are few and far between. However, a good selection of accommodation is available, from station stays to hotels, motels and caravan parks. Be sure to check availability before you leave home. Similarly, plan your fuel stops and provisions carefully.

The ideal time to travel the Outback Pathways is between April and October, when the weather is cooler (generally 20° to 25°C). The summer months are very hot (often between 35° and 40°C). Local tourism visitor centres can assist you with your planning - contact details are on the back of this brochure.

NOTE: The Outback Pathways are a 'self drive' experience, not a package tour.

VISIT THE "HALLS OF HISTORY"

Enrich your journey by visiting one of our "Halls of History". Local museums and historic attractions provide great insight into a range of aspects of the region, and are a great 'add on' to the Pathway. See Pathway pages for details.

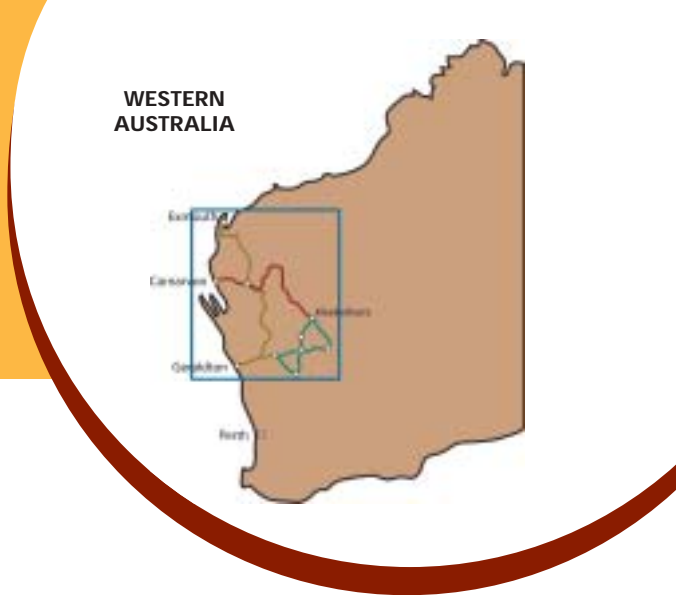
CONSIDER YOUR HOSTS

Each has a unique set of stories to tell; each is an outback adventure steeped in history.

- Please respect the fact that pastoral properties are people's homes and places of business.
- Don't presume you can visit stations for sight seeing, without permission. Please leave gates as you find them.
- Dogs are not allowed in National Parks. Do not let dogs loose without permission on pastoral properties.
- Respect the cultural and heritage values of Aboriginal people.



Finding Your Way



FINDING YOUR WAY

Directional signage carrying the distinctive Pathway logo clearly marks each intersection for travellers heading in either direction. Interpretive 'sites' are also clearly signposted along the way.



Nonetheless you are strongly urged to buy a good quality and up-to-date Touring Map of the region. The Pathways are all clearly marked on the 'StreetSmart' series of maps.

ROAD CONDITIONS

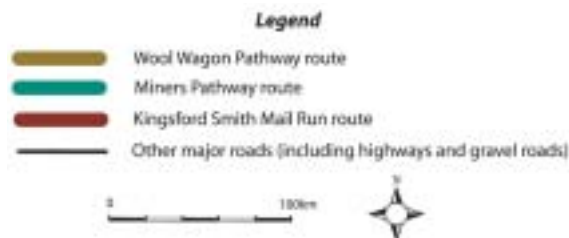
The Wool Wagon Pathway and the Kingsford Smith Mail Run are on gravel roads. Travellers are strongly recommended to use a 4WD vehicle. A majority of the Miners Pathway is on sealed roads and can be driven in a 2WD vehicle. For up to date information, check with local Shire Councils (see back page). It is recommended that you:

- Beware of wandering stock and wildlife, especially at dawn and dusk;
- Look well ahead for possible trouble spots, and for dust indicating an approaching vehicle;
- Take a break every 2 hours;
- Take special care approaching and overtaking road-trains;
- Slow down on corrugated sections and always drive at a speed suited to the prevailing conditions. Do not speed on dirt roads.

BE PREPARED

- Carry an emergency supply of food and water (in two containers)
- Carry at least 2 spare tyres and vehicle parts
- Carry enough fuel to cover at least 600 km
- Carry first aid equipment and matches
- Let someone know your travel plans - and consider hiring a satellite phone
- If you break down **STAY WITH YOUR VEHICLE.** Your vehicle is easier to locate than you.
- For more information about preparing for your trip visit the Tread Lightly website: www.treadlightlyaustralia.com.au

GASCOYNE MURCHISON OUTBACK PATHWAYS



NOTE: A majority of the pathways are on gravel roads. The condition of gravel roads can vary significantly. Unsealed/gravel roads are accessible in 2WD vehicles, however travellers are strongly recommended to use 4WD vehicles for the Kingsford Smith Mail Run and Wool Wagon Pathway. For up to date information, check with local Shire Councils.



Wool Wagon Pathway

WOOL WAGON PATHWAY

The Wool Wagon Pathway epitomises the true Australian outback. It is a land of distinct horizons, glorious vistas, unlimited sunshine, wondrous dawns and sunsets and spectacular night skies. Here you will travel through some of Australia's legendary sheep and wool country. The Murchison area has been traditionally renowned for its quality wool, which was shipped to London and sold. Stations developed with the help of blade shearers, famous horseman, drovers, fencers and well sinkers.

You can drive the Wool Wagon Pathway in either direction. Start at Geraldton or Yalgoo and head north from Pindar, an historic rail-head for the region, into the Murchison and Gascoyne. Another option is to drive the Wool Wagon Pathway southward from Exmouth, travelling a remote outback road to Gascoyne Junction and into the Murchison.

★ Denotes Pathway Highlight

INTERPRETIVE SITES	
1. Pindar Common	9. Stock Route Well #19 ★
2. Bumbinyoo Flats	10. Bilung Pool ★
3. Historic Fence	11. Seashell Fossils
4. Cockney Bill	12. Hackers Hectare
5. Wooleen Wool Shed ★	13. Cobbled Road
6. Errabiddy Outcamp	14. Kennedy Range National Park ★
7. Errabiddy Bluff	15. Nyang Wool Shed
8. Storm Damage	



HALLS OF HISTORY	THEME	CONTACT	OPENING HOURS	LOCATION
Western Australian Museum - Geraldton	Ship wrecks and the story of the Mid West from the desert to the sea.	(08) 9921 5080	Daily 10am - 4pm	Museum Place, Batavia Coast Marina Geraldton
Monsignor Hawes Presbytery Museum	Furnished house with art from the 1920 - 1930 era	(08) 9962 3053	1st July-30th Sept 10am - 12pm	Doney Street Mullewa
Murchison Museum	Old race days on local stations, pastoral owners, station life and flora and fauna	(08) 9963 7680	Daily 9am - 4.30pm	Located behind the Shire Office, Murchison Settlement
Gascoyne Junction Museum	Pastoral, mining and roads board memorabilia	(08) 9943 0988	Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm	Next to Shire Office, Gascoyne Junction

Miners Pathway



MINERS PATHWAY

Long before the great Coolgardie gold rush of 1893 the explorer Robert Austin recognised the mineral potential of the Gascoyne and Murchison regions on his epic journey of 1854. Strangely, his 'lead' was not followed up by prospectors until some 35 years later. But then places like Mt Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra and Sandstone rocketed to the forefront of the gold boom, drawing miners and prospectors in their thousands.

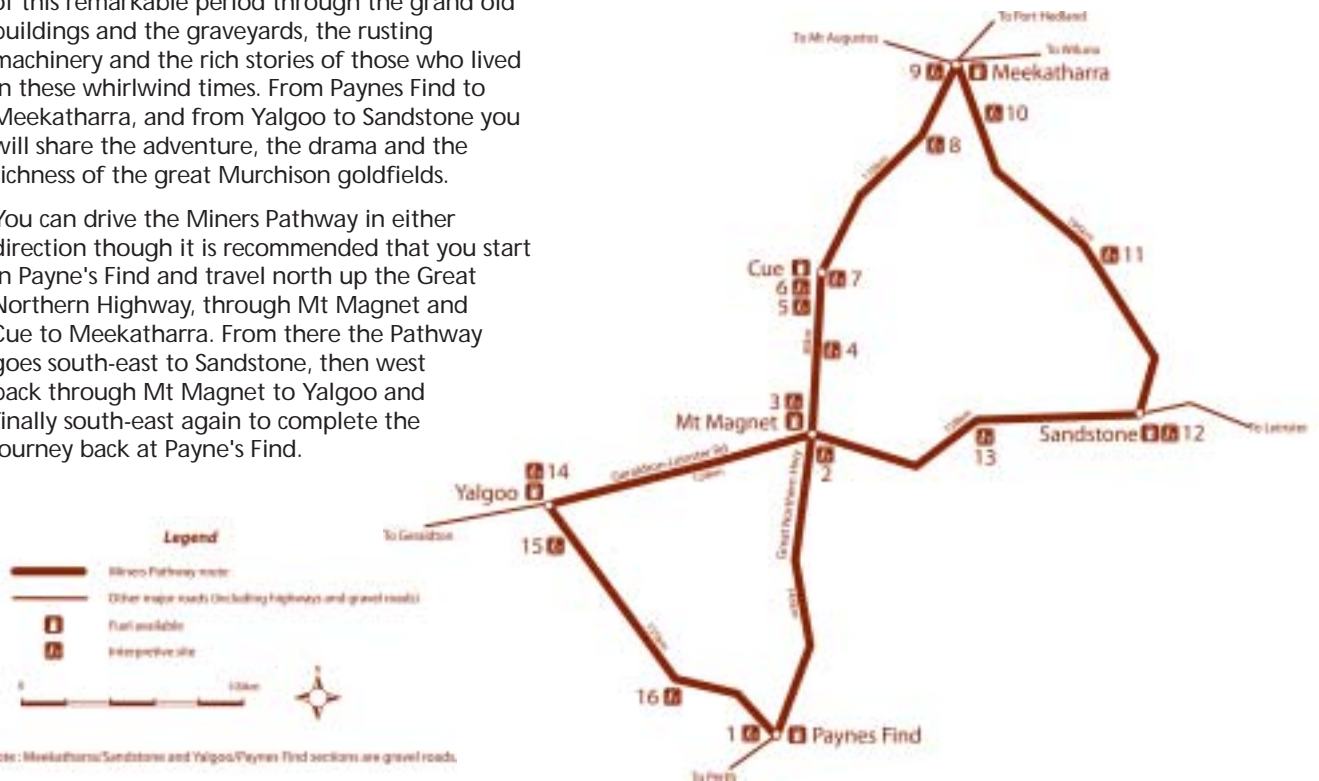
Follow the Miners Pathway and explore the legacy of this remarkable period through the grand old buildings and the graveyards, the rusting machinery and the rich stories of those who lived in these whirlwind times. From Paynes Find to Meekatharra, and from Yalgoo to Sandstone you will share the adventure, the drama and the richness of the great Murchison goldfields.

You can drive the Miners Pathway in either direction though it is recommended that you start in Payne's Find and travel north up the Great Northern Highway, through Mt Magnet and Cue to Meekatharra. From there the Pathway goes south-east to Sandstone, then west back through Mt Magnet to Yalgoo and finally south-east again to complete the journey back at Payne's Find.

INTERPRETIVE SITES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Paynes Find Gold Battery ★ | 9. Meekatharra Creek |
| 2. Mt Magnet Museum | 10. Mt Yagahong |
| 3. Warrambo Hill Lookout ★ | 11. Vermin Fence |
| 4. Austin Townsite | 12. London Bridge ★ |
| 5. Cue Cemetery | 13. Paynesville Cemetery |
| 6. Great Fingall Mine Office | 14. Yalgoo Lookout |
| 7. Cue | 15. Jokers Tunnel ★ |
| 8. Nannine Townsite | 16. Fields Find Cemetery |

★ Denotes Pathway Highlight



HALLS OF HISTORY	THEME	CONTACT	OPENING HOURS	LOCATION
Paynes Find Gold Battery and Museum	Showcases the region's gold, pastoral, wildflower & sandal-wood industries as well as an operating historic gold battery.	(08) 9963 6513	1st August - 14th Oct 10am - 4pm Also by appointment	1km from the Paynes Find Tavern, Paynes Find
Mt Magnet Museum	Collection of pioneering and mining artefacts including original State Battery	(08) 9963 4244	Open by appointment	Hepburn Street Mt Magnet
Cue's Photographic Collection	A fantastic photographic display of Cue's history	(08) 9963 1041	Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm	Austin Street Cue
Meekatharra Photo Collection	Meekatharra's history and major community events	(08) 9981 1002	Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm	Main Street Meekatharra
Sandstone Display	Photographic collection of Sandstone's past	(08) 9963 5802	Mon - Fri 7.30am - 4.30pm	Hack Street Sandstone
Yalgoo Museum	Excellent collection of exhibits of Yalgoo over the past 80 yrs including Indigenous artefacts	(08) 9962 8042	Key available at Shire Office, General Store or Yalgoo Hotel	Gibson Street Yalgoo

Kingsford Smith Mail Run



KINGSFORD SMITH MAIL RUN

In 1924, fresh from a stint as a pilot for Australia's first commercial airline, Charles Kingsford Smith and his mate Keith Anderson bought a truck and set up business as the Gascoyne Transport Company. Smithy figured that with his mechanical knowledge and the new-fangled technology of motorised transport he would out-do the camel trains and horse wagons on many inland delivery routes. He also thought that if he was right the money he would make would finance his dream - to be the first to fly the Pacific.

One of his contracts was the mail run from Carnarvon to the Bangemall goldfields near Mt Augustus. You can now follow his wheel-ruts and relive the adventure of early outback transport and travel. After passing through Gascoyne Junction and heading north to the massive peak

local Aborigines call Burringurrah (Mt Augustus) you will turn south again to the mighty Gascoyne River at Landor and follow the present mail truck run via Mt Gould to Meekatharra.

You can drive the Kingsford Smith Mail Run in either direction. At the west end it starts outside the Old Post Office on Robinson Street in Carnarvon, while the eastern terminus is in the Tourist Information Bay on the main street of Meekatharra.

INTERPRETIVE SITES

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Old Carnarvon Post Office | 7. Old Bangemall Inn ★ |
| 2. Rocky Pool | 8. Emu Hill Lookout |
| 3. Dampier to Bunbury Gas Pipeline | 9. Cattle Pool ★ |
| 4. Gascoyne Junction | 10. Gascoyne River Crossing ★ |
| 5. Sea Shell Fossils | 11. Mt Gould Lockup ★ |
| 6. Mt Dalgety | 12. Peace Gorge |
| | 13. Meekatharra Creek |

★ Denotes Pathway Highlight



ATTRACTION	THEME	CONTACT	OPENING HOURS	LOCATION
Carnarvon Heritage Precinct	Old port of Carnarvon and Gascoyne history	(08) 9941 3423	Contact Carnarvon Visitor Centre (08) 99 411146	One Mile Jetty Babbage Island Carnarvon
Gascoyne Junction Museum	Pastoral, mining and roads board memorabilia	(08) 9943 0988	Mon-Fri 8.30am - 5pm	Next to Shire Office Gascoyne Junction
Meekatharra Photo Collection	Meekatharra's history and major community events	(08) 9981 1002	Daily 8am - 4.30pm	Located in Shire Office Main Street Meekatharra
Western Australian Museum - Geraldton	On your way to the Kingsford Smith Mail Run visit the ship wrecks and the story of the Mid West from the desert to the sea.	(08) 9921 5080	Daily 10am - 4pm	Museum Place Batavia Coast Marina Geraldton

Facility & Services Guide



Note: Station-stay accommodation is available throughout the region between towns. For more information contact local Visitor Centres listed on the back page.

	Geraldton	Mullewa	Yalgoo	Mt Magnet	Paynes Find	Cue
ACCOMMODATION						
Caravan Park	★	★	★	★		★
Bed & Breakfast	★					★
Back Packers	★			★		
Hotel / Motel Accommodation	★	★	★	★	★	★
Self Contained Units	★		★	★		★
Station Stays		★	★	★	★	★
FACILITIES						
Fuel	★	★	★	★	★	★
Public Restrooms	★	★	★	★	★	★
Auto Repairs	★	★		★		
Newsagency	★	★		★		★
Postal Service	★	★	★	★		★
Banking	★					★
Pharmacy	★					
Public Telephone	★	★	★	★	★	★
Laundromat	★			★		
Supermarket	★	★		★		★
Nursing Post			★	★		★
Hospital	★	★				
Ambulance	★	★	★	★		★
Airport	★	★		★		★
TOURIST INFO				★		
Tele Centre	★	★	★	★		★
Tourist Centre	★	★	★	★		★
Shire Office	★	★	★	★		★
	Meekatharra	Sandstone	Gascoyne Junction	Murchison Settlement	Carnarvon	Exmouth
ACCOMMODATION						
Caravan Park	★	★	★	★	★	★
Bed & Breakfast		★		★	★	
Back Packers					★	★
Hotel / Motel Accommodation	★	★	★		★	★
Self Contained Units	★				★	★
Station Stays			★	★	★	★
FACILITIES						
Fuel	★	★	★	★	★	★
Public Restrooms	★	★	★	★	★	★
Auto Repairs	★		★		★	★
Newsagency	★				★	★
Postal Service	★	★	★	★	★	★
Banking	★				★	★
Pharmacy					★	★
Public Telephone	★	★	★	★	★	★
Laundromat					★	★
Supermarket	★	★		★ Takeaway Meals	★	★
Nursing Post		★	★	★ First Aid Available		
Hospital	★				★	★
Ambulance	★	★			★	★
Airport	★	★		★ Airstrip	★	★
TOURIST INFO						
Tele Centre	★	★		★	★	★
Tourist Centre	★	★		★	★	★
Shire Office	★	★	★	★	★	★



Important Contact Details

THE WOOL WAGON PATHWAY

Shire Councils / Main Roads WA

(for more information about road conditions)

Main Roads WA 1800 013 314
 Shire of Mullewa 08 9961 1007
 Shire of Murchison 08 9963 7999
 Shire of Upper Gascoyne . 08 9943 0988
 Shire of Carnarvon 08 9941 0040
 Shire of Exmouth 08 9949 1399
 Shire of Ashburton 08 9189 1029

Tourist Information

Geraldton Visitor Centre . . 08 9921 3999
 Mullewa Visitor Centre . . . 08 9961 1505
 Shire of Murchison 08 9963 7999
 Shire of Upper Gascoyne . 08 9943 0988
 Carnarvon Visitor Centre . . 08 9941 1146
 Exmouth Visitor Centre . . . 08 9949 1176
 Dept. of Conservation & Land Management
 Carnarvon 08 9941 3754
 Geraldton 08 9921 5955

NOTE: Some small visitor centres are only open in the winter months. Information is available from Shires all year round.

“take the time to travel through this ancient land”

THE MINERS PATHWAY

Shire Councils / Main Roads WA

(for more information about road conditions)

Shire of Yalgoo 08 9962 8024
 Shire of Mt Magnet 08 9963 4001
 Shire of Sandstone 08 9963 5802
 Shire of Meekatharra 08 9981 1002
 Shire of Cue 08 9963 1041

Tourist Information

Mt Magnet Visitor Centre . 08 9963 4172
 Sandstone Visitor Centre . 08 9963 5061
 Shire of Meekatharra 08 9981 1002
 Cue Visitor Centre 08 9963 1216
 Shire of Yalgoo 08 9962 8024
 Payne's Find Gold Battery . 08 9963 6513

THE KINGSFORD SMITH MAIL RUN

Shire Councils / Main Roads WA

(for more information about road conditions)

Shire of Carnarvon 08 9941 0040
 Shire of Upper Gascoyne . 08 9943 0988
 Shire of Meekatharra 08 9981 1002

Tourist Information

Carnarvon Visitor Centre . . 08 9941 1146
 Shire of Upper Gascoyne . 08 9943 0988
 Shire of Meekatharra 08 9981 1002
 Dept of Conservation & Land Management
 Carnarvon 08 9941 3754



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Geraldton Public Library (for assistance with research material)

