



Merredin Peak, Merredin

## GOLDFIELDS TRAIL

From Perth, journey via Merredin and on to Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Through eucalypt woodlands and sand plains, the past is ever-present in the landscape creating the character that is at the heartland of Australia's Golden Outback. While towns and settlements here have been shaped by both history and fanciful legends of the gold rush, the region's natural beauty can be found in its wildflowers, trees and plant life.

### 1 Merredin

Call into the Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre for current wildflower information and regional self-drive trail options.

Close to town, enjoy a granite rock walk at Merredin Peak for the view or a bush trail in the surrounding woodland. Tamma Park is a natural bushland reserve with a 1.2km natural history interpretive walk trail. Totadgin Conservation Park, located a short drive 14km south of Merredin on the Bruce Rock Road, is a wildflower hot spot in a good season. At Totadgin you will also see historic Hunt's Well and a mini wave rock feature on a bushland walk trail. These areas have a diverse range of flora that is endemic to the granite outcrops, sand plains and salt lake country which surrounds Merredin.

See: Verticordias, Cricket Ball Hakeas, Acacias, Orchids, Everlastings and Eucalypt Woodlands.

### 2 Sandford Rocks Nature Reserve

Discover a variety of wildflowers in this 806 hectare reserve which is made up of interesting granite outcrops and pools set in scrub and bushland. You can also look for purple Peacock Beetles here.

See: silver Mallee and purple Peacock Beetles.

### 3 Boorabbin Rock

The water reserve here is a fascinating example of hand-built dams, aqua-ducts and catchment areas that provided water for steam trains and for the early colonial settlements. See the remains of the

Number Eight Pump Station where water was once pumped from Mundaring, east of Perth, to Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

See: Granite Rock, Poison Plant, Firebush and Goldfields York Gum.

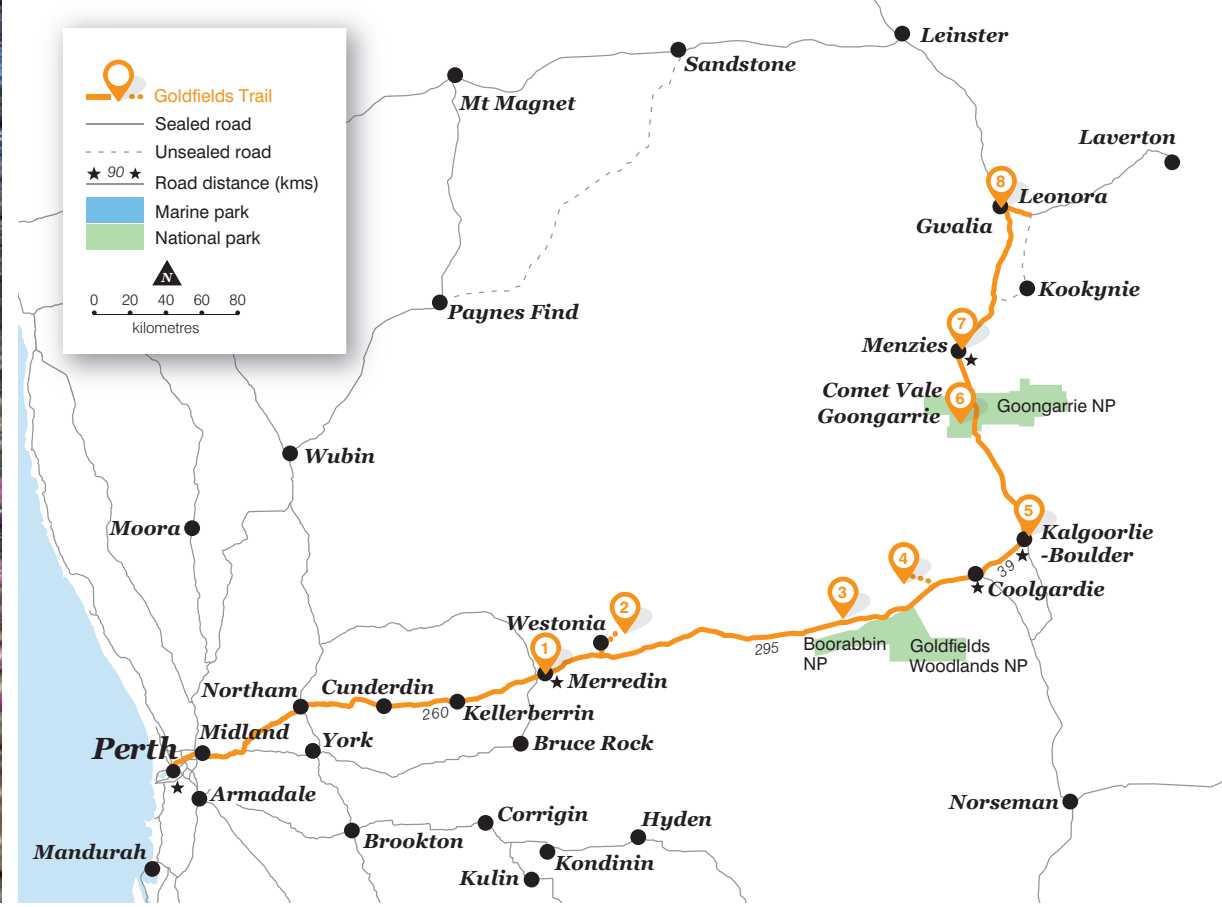
### 4 Caenyia Rock

The Banksia variety found here, known as swordfish Banksia, was first discovered by the Elder Expedition in 1891. You'll notice the sudden environment change from Eucalypt to heathland at Caenyia Rock.

See: Grass trees and Swordfish Banksia.

### 5 Kalgoorlie-Boulder

With its gold-mining history, adventurous character and legendary tales of fortunes made and lost, Kalgoorlie-



Boulder requires time for sightseeing. Include Karlkurla Bushland Park and visit the Department of Environment and Conservation Arboretum to see a range of Goldfields trees.

See: Gimlet and Salmon Gums.

### 6 Goongarrie Siding and Comet Vale

Goongarrie Siding which is 90 kilometres north of Kalgoorlie is salt lake country to the east while Comet Vale features red sand and Spinifex country flora that flower from November to December.

See: Grevillea Juncifolia.

### 7 Menzies

Around 35 kilometres north of Menzies is the sprawling Jeedamya Flats which is covered in a variety of Saltbush and Bluebush species. The Kookynie road, which leads to Niagara Dam and Kookynie, is both bitumen and gravel often abounding in flowering Mulga tree species and perennial shrubs. Heritage listed Niagara Dam has two walk trails

with some amazing plant species often in flower. Visit Lake Ballard, home to the 51 internationally renowned Gormley Sculptures. Camping, toilet and picnic facilities are available here.

See: Everlastings, Mulla Mulla, Perennial Senna, Eromophilla, Hop bush and Mulga species.

### 8 Leonora – Gwalia

The Leonora Loop Trails are a great way to see the local sights. There are two self-drive trails; the Agnew Loop and the Darlot Loop. Also Malcolm Dam, 12 kilometres from Leonora is a fresh water retreat for Yabbies. Gwalia is 3 kilometres from Leonora and boasts the Herbert Hoover museum whom later became president of the United States. Visit the Leonora Visitor Centre for more information on these sights.

See: Seasonal wildflowers.

## MUST SEE AND DO

- Take in superb views of Kalgoorlie and learn about the CY O'Connor water pipeline from Mt Charlotte
- Visit the largest outdoor gallery and see the 51 Antony Gormley Sculptures at Lake Ballard, Menzies
- Look out for local birdlife at Malcolm Dam, Leonora
- Drive the Golden Quest Discovery Trail north of Kalgoorlie
- Visit the Leonora Gwalia Museum
- Pan for gold at the Hannah's North Tourist Mine