Discover the untamed beauty of Western Australia’s Pilbara

Visitor Guide to Tom Price, Karijini National Park & Millstream Chichester National Park
About Tom Price

Nested deep in the Hamersley Ranges at the base of Mt Nameless (Jarndunmunha) is the picturesque town of Tom Price.

Access to Tom Price

Tom Price is located approximately 1470km north of Perth and is accessible by sealed road from both the Great Northern Highway via Karijini Drive and the North West Coastal Highway via Paraburdoo. If travelling from the north, access to the town from Karratha is 290km via Rio Tinto’s Rail Access Road (a permit is required which can be obtained via Tom Price, Karratha and Roebourne Visitor Centres or the Pannawonica Library), or 573km via the Roebourne-Wittenoom Road through the beautiful Chichester Ranges. Direct flights from Perth to Paraburdoo operate daily, with a connecting shuttle-bus available to transport you to Tom Price. Car hire is also available at the Paraburdoo airport.

Average Temperatures

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April – September (Peak Season)</td>
<td>7-17°C</td>
<td>23-31°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>October – March (Low Season)</td>
<td>16-23°C</td>
<td>33-38°C</td>
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Please monitor the weather as this is cyclone season.

Dining Out

Tom Price has an abundance of dining options boasting cafes, clubs, restaurants and a pub; Tom Price will have a choice to suit any taste or budget.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked out well in advance throughout the Pilbara. Therefore, we strongly recommend you secure your bookings as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Caravan and camping sites however have much more availability.

Who Was Tom Price?

The town was named after Thomas Moore Price, who worked for the American company, Kaiser Steel. Arriving in the early 1960s to appraise the deposits of ore; he was instrumental in convincing mining companies to mine in the area. Thomas was also extremely influential in persuading the Western Australian Government to allow mining to proceed and for the ore to be exported.

In September 1962 at the age of 71, Thomas Moore returned to America. He passed away from a heart attack at his desk, only two hours after being advised of the very rich ore deposit discovered within the mountain in the town. In recognition of Thomas Moore Price and his efforts during the foundation of the industry, the mountain and town were named in his honour.
Karijini National Park is Western Australia’s second largest National Park and one of the most spectacular sights in the Pilbara.

One of Karijini’s big attractions is that its scenery is so accessible; you can simply pull into a car park, walk 50m and peer into a 100m canyon to see waterfalls and emerald-coloured rock pools. The park has a system of excellent walking trails that suit everyone from the beginner to the adventurous. Choose your route and be ready to explore deep into subterranean gorges and through waterfalls where you can swim in the park’s sparkling rock pools.

The most popular time to visit is between May and September. When exploring the park, it is imperative that you read and obey all signs, stay only on the marked pathways and ensure that you do not wander near the edges of gorges due to loose and crumbling rocks. Please ensure that you carry enough water, wear sturdy footwear and if it starts to rain leave as flash flooding can occur.

About Karijini

Karijini National Park is Western Australia’s second largest National Park and one of the most spectacular sights in the Pilbara.

Things to See and Do

Weano Gorge (Oxer Lookout/Handrail Pool)
Weano Gorge is possibly the best introduction to Karijini as there is a little bit of something for everyone to enjoy. There are easy walks around the top of the gorge which are accessible from the Weano Gorge day use area. For the adventurous, Weano offers a challenging climb over boulders through narrow passages to Handrail Pool.

Oxer Lookout, located in the Weano Gorge day use area, provides unsurpassed views out over the junction of Weano, Red, Hancock and Joffre Gorges. From there, the sheer enormity and grandeur of the gorges is evident.

Joffre Falls
On the western side of the park is Joffre Gorge, where water cascades down a cliff face with step-like rocks to a dark pool. The gorge then narrows and the water is pushed through a smaller gap, where rushing white waters tumble over smooth black rock. Especially impressive after rain, this spectacular curved waterfall forms a natural amphitheatre.

The lookout near the car park at Joffre Falls enables you to take in the beauty of this stunning gorge and to appreciate its scale.

About Karijini

Karijini National Park is Western Australia’s second largest National Park and one of the most spectacular sights in the Pilbara.
Kalamina Gorge
One of the most accessible of Karijini's gorges. A 5 minute walk will take you down a steep track to the base of the gorge to a small permanent pool, complete with waterfall and draping ferns. If you follow the trail into Kalamina Gorge, you will be rewarded with a lovely walk downstream, past rock pools and beautiful rock walls. With its delightful trail and picnic area, Kalamina Gorge is a great introduction to the gorge system. There is a small car park with information shelter and toilets. Access to Kalamina can be corrugated and 4WD is preferred.

Dales Gorge (Fortescue Falls/Circular Pool/Fern Pool)
On the east side of the Karijini National Park is Dales Gorge, home to three of Karijini's highlights: Fortescue Falls, Circular Pool and Fern Pool.

Enjoy a swim in the refreshing permanent waters and lay like a lizard on a rock warming itself in the sun. From Fortescue Falls turn right to Fern Pool, 300m, or left for the three hour return walk to Circular Pool. Fern Pool is about a 10 minute walk and is one of the most picturesque settings in the park.

Knox Gorge
Knox Gorge is a deep chasm. Make a point of visiting Knox Lookout late in the afternoon or early in the morning, when the slanting sun rays enhance this spectacular panorama.

Hancock Gorge
Hancock Gorge is simply stunning but best appreciated with a local guide. The walk down into Hancock Gorge has been described as a 'journey to the centre of the earth'. After climbing down a ladder, you wander into the gorge which narrows into a huge chamber and an attractive setting of small rock pools and marbled walls. Extreme caution should be taken when entering Hancock Gorge.

Hamersley Gorge
Located on the north west edge of Karijini National Park, it is approximately a 1 hour drive from the Karijini Drive/Hamersley Mount Bruce intersection. Spectacular rock formation and unusual colours make this gorge a photographer's delight. Hamersley is a very popular swimming spot for families due to its accessibility. No camping is permitted.

Mount Bruce
Also known as Purununnha by the local aboriginal people, Mount Bruce is the second highest mountain in Western Australia at 1,235m. Offering one of the State's most stunning panoramic views, the peak also overlooks the Marandoo Mine Site. Accessible by foot only, the vigorous climb is approximately a 6 hour return trip and is recommended to be undertaken early morning. Ensure you carry plenty of water.

Accommodation
Dales Gorge Campsite
Located within easy reach of Dales Gorge day use area, Fortescue Falls and Circular Pool, Dales Gorge camping ground is a great place from which to explore the eastern end of the Park. Dales Gorge has 140 unpowered sites available, basic bush toilets, picnic tables and gas BBQs. Camp fees apply and bookings cannot be made in advance of arrival.

Savannah Campground
Located within the grounds of Karijini Eco Retreat and has 82 unpowered sites available, with generators able to be used from 4pm to 8pm daily.

Eco Lodges
Set within the Karijini Eco Retreat grounds, the upmarket eco tents feature hotel quality bedding and a private en-suite bathroom. Each tent features a wooden decking patio where you can sit and absorb the true beauty and tranquillity of Karijini. For those seeking slightly less luxury, there are share dorm style eco tents and cabins available. Bookings can be made via Karijini Eco Retreat.

Karijini Visitor Centre
The unique design of the Karijini Visitor Centre building represents a goanna moving through the country and is symbolic to local Banyjima Aboriginal people. The tail represents their history, the head the future direction of the traditional owners, and Aboriginal Law is in the centre or stomach. Inside, a range of static and interactive displays take you on a journey of places and people, past and present, through stories of geology, plants, animals and Aboriginal people and their culture. For further information phone (08) 9189 8121. Open from 9am to 4pm daily.

Campers have access to the shared bathroom amenities (flushing toilets and solar hot water showers), as well as an undercover bush kitchen (gas BBQ, sink, preparation area and seating). Camping guests are also welcome to use the onsite restaurant and bar. Bookings can be made via Karijini Eco Retreat.

Karijini National Park
Millstream Chichester National Park is a 200,000 hectare area surrounding the Fortescue River.

Millstream echoes the soul of the Pilbara with its rugged gorges contrasting against tropical rock pools, meandering watercourses and water-lily blanketed wetlands. The heartland of the Yindjibarndi people, the park is of great Aboriginal significance as it is the home of the mythological serpent, the ‘Warlu’.

About Millstream Chichester

Deep Reach Pool

A short 200m walk from the car park will bring you to Deep Reach, which is a very large, wide pool and home of Barrimurdi, the Warlu, or serpent. The Yindjibarndi people ask that you treat the site with respect and keep noise to a minimum. Swimming, canoes, kayaks and sailboards are welcome at Deep Reach. Motorised watercraft of any kind however, is not permitted due to the cultural significance of the area. Fishing is permitted. Please ensure you use entry steps to access the water as there may be submerged trees and rocks. Toilets are located at the car park and BBQs are close to the water’s edge, making it a perfect spot for the whole family.

Swimming is not permitted at Jirndawurrunha Pool near the Homestead or surrounding streams because of their cultural significance to the traditional Aboriginal custodians.

Python Pool

One of the park’s most popular locations. Enjoy a picnic and refreshing swim in the permanent freshwater plunge pool at the base of the Chichester Range escarpment. The day use area has a BBQ available and a number of walking trails leading from the area. Please note that the pool can be dangerous after rain due to currents and debris, and from algal blooms in the dry season.

The Homestead Trail

Explore station life from the 1930s at Millstream through the eyes of a 12 year old boy. It is an easy 750m return walk.

Accommodation

Camping is available at Milyanha and Stargazers campground. Milyanha has a camp kitchen, toilets and is generator-friendly. It has some shade in the mornings and afternoons. Stargazers is a more open site and generators are not permitted. A gas BBQ and toilets are provided. Both campgrounds are suitable for tent camping up to very large caravans and motorhomes, and can be accessed by 2WD vehicles in good weather. Fees apply and are payable at the self-registration stations in the campgrounds or via the camp hosts.

Millstream Homestead Visitor Centre

Start your visit by calling in to the Millstream Homestead Visitor Centre (regularly unattended), which features rooms dedicated to the Yindjibarndi people, the early settlers and the natural environment. Other displays provide information about the park’s attractions. Camp hosts are stationed in the campground during the tourist season (April to September), and can answer further questions, or direct you to the ranger.

Things to See and Do

Deep Reach Pool
Pets
There are no pets permitted in Karijini or Millstream Chichester National Park. If you are travelling with pets, please do not attempt to bring them into the national parks. There are kennelling facilities available in Tom Price and Paraburdoo, bookings are required due to limited space. For further information, fees and bookings contact the Shire of Ashburton on (08) 9188 4444.

Tom Price Visitor Centre
1 Central Road (PO Box 291) Tom Price WA 6751
Phone: 9188 5488
Email: visitor.centre@ashburton.wa.gov.au
www.tomprice.org.au  facebook  tripadvisor
Open Hours – Monday to Friday 8.30am-5.00pm
Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays 8.30am-12.30pm
Closed Sundays & Public Holidays November to March
*Hours are subject to change due to public demand

Produced by the Shire of Ashburton.
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