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THE SHIRE OF ASHBURTON AND TOM PRICE

The Shire of Ashburton, at nearly half the size of Victoria (105 647 square km), boasts some of the world's largest open cut mines, largest pastoral leases and cattle stations and a thriving fishing industry all set against a beautiful and ancient arid tropical landscape.

The region's 6000 residents are employed in a variety of industries including oil, gas, mining, cattle, fishing and tourism. The supporting infrastructure

Tom Price is located approximately 1600 km from Perth and is situated on the edge of the Hamersley Ranges, within the Shire of Ashburton. It is the highest town in Western Australia at 747m above sea level, hence the name "Top Town".

The town was named after Thomas Moore Price, who worked for the American Company, Kaiser Steel. He arrived in the area in the early 60's to appraise deposits of ore and was instrumental in convincing the mining companies that it was worth mining here.

Weather in the area can be extreme, ranging from 0 degrees on a winter's night to 48 degrees on a summer's day. During the summer, hot clear days are experienced, with an average temperature of approximately 35 degrees. Winter months prove to be very pleasant with daytime temperatures varying from the low to mid 20s. The majority of rainfall is experienced during the summer months (wet season) and is dependent upon the cyclone activity off the coast. On average, Tom Price receives approximately 330 mm of rainfall each year.

Today, Tom Price is a picturesque, modern and serviced town designed to blend with the natural environment. Facilities include: a major supermarket, bank (Westpac and

United Credit only), doctor, hospital, fuel outlet (Shell / Coles Express only), library, primary schools, a secondary school, TAFE and a motel, caravan park and restaurants.

Communications. Currently **Telstra mobile service** is the only service provider operating in the in Tom Price and Ashburton Shire area.

WHERE IS TOM PRICE AND KARIJINI

Aprox 310km (dirt rd) 540km (sealed rd) from Roebourne, aprox 420km from Port Hedland, aprox 640km from Exmouth and 1555 km from Perth.

KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK is 85km to Weano gorge (Dirt rd end) and 120km to Dales (sealed road) end from Tom Price.

Travelling time: 5-6 hours from Roebourne, 2-3 days from Perth.

ACCESS

From the west: Leave the North West Coastal Highway near Nanutarra and head towards Paraburdoo and Tom Price. Enter the park via Marandoo Road.

From the east: Leave the Great Northern Highway 35 kilometers south of Auski /Munjina Roadhouse and travel west along Karijini Drive to the Banjima Drive intersection. Turn right and travel 8 kilometers to the Dales Gorge turnoff or continue west along Banjima Drive to Kalamina, Joffre, Weano and Hancock Gorges and Oxer Lookouts. Further along Karijini drive to Tom Price.

From Roebourne: Head south to Millstream Chichester National Park, then continue east along the Roebourne-Munjina Road (this is **unsealed** road), finally turning south-west along the Nanutarra-Wittenoom Road through Rio Tinto Gorge past the Hamersley Gorge turnoff and south-east onto the Hamersley-Mount Bruce Road. For **sealed road** (aprox 480km to Karijini) you can head north till you come to the Great Northern Highway then turn south, 35km south of Munjina (Auski) Road house you turn right onto Karijini Drive continue to Banjima Drive to the Dales entrance.

If you going drive on Rio Tinto Access Road from Karratha please obtain a **Access Road Permit**. This Permit available at Karratha, Roebourne, Tom Price Visitor centers and Pannawonica library. Most of this road is **unsealed**.

From Exmouth or Coral Bay, if you want to stay on **sealed road** you need to travel along Burkett Road north on the Coastal Highway to just north of Nanutarra turn right and travel to Paraburdoo then on to Tom Price or Karijini National Park. Dales end of the national park is on **sealed road**.

Flights booked through "Qantas" Perth – Paraburdoo. From the Paraburdoo airport to Tom Price (80km) there is a shuttle-bus which is can be booked with Lestok tours Ph 08 9189 2032 . **Bookings are recommended**

Safety information: PLEASE NOTE:

Yampire Gorge Road is closed. There is no access.

There are no bus connections between Tom Price and other towns in Pilbara. You will need a hire car (with dirt road insurance for some areas).

APROX DISTANCE FROM TOM PRICE TO

Distances taken from Pilbara Street-smart Map

Dampier	VIA Access Rd – Permit required (Dirt Rd)	334 kms
Dampier	VIA Spur Rd (dirt rd) / Coastal Hwy	579 kms
Dampier	VIA Paraburdoo (Sealed Rd)	640 kms
Karratha	VIA Rail Access Rd –Permit required (Dirt rd)	318 km
Karratha	VIA Spur Rd Coastal Hwy	559 kms
Karratha	VIA Paraburdoo (Sealed Rd)	620 kms
Karratha	VIA Karijini Drive (Sealed Rd)	573 kms
Port Hedland	VIA Karijini Drive (Sealed Rd)	420 kms
Paraburdoo	Sealed Rd	79 kms
Paraburdoo Airport	Sealed Rd	70 kms
Exmouth	VIA Spur Rd (Dirt Rd) Coastal Hwy	574 kms
Exmouth	Via Paraburdoo, Nanutarra, Burkett Rd (Sealed Rd)	635 kms
Coral bay	VIA Spur Rd (Dirt Rd) Coastal HWY	549 kms
Coral bay	Via Paraburdoo, Nanutarra Burkett Rd – (Sealed Rd)	610 kms
Millstream National Park	VIA Rail Access Rd – Permit required	222 kms
Mount Augustus (4WD ONLY)	VIA Spur Rd, Nanutarra / Munjina, Ashburton Downs / Meekatharra, Pingandy Rd Dooley Downs Rd	432 kms
Mount Augustus	VIA Spur Rd, Nanutarra, Coast Hwy, Towera Rd, Lyndon Rd, Cobba Gilford Creek Rd	686kms
Newman	VIA Karijini Drive (Sealed Rd)	281 kms
Perth (Inland)	Sealed HWY	1514 kms
Perth (Coastal)	Sealed HWY	1565 kms
Broome	Sealed HWY	1005 kms
Auski/Munjina Roadhouse	VIA Karijini Drive (Sealed Rd)	170 kms
Nanutarra Roadhouse	VIA Paraburdoo (Sealed Rd)	349kms
Nanutarra Roadhouse	VIA Spur Rd (unsealed)	292 kms
Mt. Sheila (to turn off)	VIA Access Rd (unsealed)	52 kms
Mt. Sheila (summit from turn off)	VIA Access Rd (unsealed)	12 kms
Brockman (to turn off)	VIA Access Rd (unsealed)	46 kms

CAR HIRE

You can hire car in Perth, Karratha, Paraburdoo and Newman.

Tom Price does not have a car hire company. Car hire service is only available from Paraburdoo airport.

Please contact car hire companies by phone or Internet:

BUDGET **9189 5414**
HERTZ **9189 6910**
AVIS **9189 5225**
THRIFTY **9189 6512**

PLEASE NOTE: SOME OF ROADS in the PILBARA are OPEN ONLY FOR 4WD.

ACCOMODATION

✚ **The Tom Price Visitor Centre does not make accommodation bookings.** Please reserve your accommodation direct with the Tom Price Hotel/Motel, Windawarrie Lodge, Tom Price Tourist Park, The Karijini Eco Retreat, Auski Roadhouse, or Paraburdoo Inn before you arrive in the area. **Booking are recommended**

The Tom Price Hotel – Motel is located in the centre of town and has approximately 42 motel rooms, two bars, bistro and function Room.

Phone: 08 9189 1101; reservationstompricehotel@hotmail.com

The Windawarri Lodge offers 3 and half-star fully serviced motel rooms. The relaxing Bistro-Bar is suitable for a quiet drink or for indulging in the buffet banquet, which is available 7 days per week (3 meals per day). Sparkling pool and barbeques facilities prove popular with the weary traveler during the hot summer months.

Address: Stadium Road, Tom Price.

Phone: 08 9189 1110 or 1800 992 777; e-booking - allocations@riotinto.com

Tom Price Tourist Park (Nameless- Valley Road) is a shady and well grassed park, nestled at the base of Mt Nameless. It hosts a variety of accommodation ranging from 1 & 2 bedroom cabins and villas to powered sites and tent land. The park is open 7 days per week, although seasonal hours apply in the summer months. Amenities include two ablution blocks, a laundry, swimming pool and gas barbeques. For the tourist, Tom Price offers a range of unique tourism opportunities. Gas Bottles can be refilled at the tourist park only.

Phone: 08 9189 1515, tompricetouristpark@westnet.com.au

Paraburdoo Inn - Address: Rocklea Rd, Paraburdoo (aprox 80 km from Tom Price).

Phone: 08 9189 5303

Eco Retreat & Savannah Camp Ground (In Karijini National Park aprox 75km from Tom Price)

It has 40 Deluxe and 10 standard eco tents. There are 64 campsites with shared toilets and shower facilities. There is BBQ bush kitchens and it also has an Outback Alfresco Restaurant & Bar, Kiosk and Souvenir Shop. There are guided walking and tag- along tours at selected times.

Phone: 08 9425 5591 or 08 9189 8013, fax: 08 9425 5566,

enquiries@karijiniecoretreat.com.au, www.karijiniecoretreat.com.au

Auski / Munjina Roadhouse – Caravan Park with power and unpowered sites and Cabins (Great Northern Highway, 35km north of Karijini Drive, aprox 170km from Tom Price, 74 from Dales Camping Ground);

Ph: 08 91766988 (Dogs accepted).

Mount Florance station stay. This outback oasis situated **between the Karijini and Millstream national parks.** Powered camping area, BBQ, ablutions, washing machine.

Open 1st April -30th September.

Ph: 08 9189 8151 (Dogs accepted)

✚ **Please remember that price of accommodations can change.**

✚ **Bookings are recommended.**

TOURIST COMPANIES

Our local companies have many years of experience and have operated in the Tom Price and Karijini area for many years. They offer a safe, enjoyable and way to see all the best sights.

Lestok Tours

Phone: (08) 9189 2032, Fax: (08) 9189 1975, PO Box 333, Tom Price 6751.

Email: info@lestoktours.com.au, www.lestoktours.com.au

Pilbara Gorge Tours

Phone: (08) 9188 1534; Fax: 9188 1052;

E-mail: pilbaragorgetours@bigpond.com;

Website: www.pilbaragorgetours.com.au

West OZ active Adventure tours

Phone: 08 0438913713, 08 9189 8013 **seasonal**
info@westozactive.com.au, www.westozactive.com.au

Remtrek – Astronomy Karijini

Phone: 040 908 7677 seasonal
www.karijiniastrotours.com.

 **Tours have minimum numbers required and prices are subject to change**

TOURS AVAILABLE

Tom Price offers a range of unique tourism opportunities.

Pilbara Iron Mine Site Tours – Lestok Tours. Comprehensive tours of the open cut iron ore mine depart from the Tom Price Visitors Centre and are 1 ½ hours in duration. Bookings are essential and can be made via the Visitors Centre. Safety equipment is supplied although all passengers must wear “closed” shoes.

Come and watch how men move mountains!

Please check the visitor centre for departure times as times are subject to change.

Mount Nameless. Situated 4 kilometres from town, Mount Nameless is the highest accessible mountain by vehicle in WA and offers panoramic views of the Tom Price Town site and the Rio Tinto Mine. A gravel road provides access to the summit via 4 wheel drive. For those energetic people, there is also a walk trail to the summit, taking in breathtaking views every step of the way. The Mount Nameless trails are only open during the day.

Karijini National Park is considered to be the Jewel of the North. Access to the park is via sealed Karijini Drive, although most of the roads in the park are gravel. The great appeal of Karijini lies deep within its gorges. Marked walking trails wind past waterfalls & permanent rock pools, to areas surrounded by lush greenery that contrasts well with the rich red rock faces of the gorge walls. Day tours to the Karijini depart from Tom Price.

Please contact the Visitors Centre or tourist companies or for further information and bookings.

Full day Lestok Gorge tour www.lestoktours.com.au;

Full day Pilbara Gorge tour www.pilbaragorgetours.com.au;

Half day Pilbara Gorge tour. Departure Karijini Visitor Centre only, 120 km from Tom Price. www.pilbaragorgetours.com.au;

West Oz active Adventure tours – seasonal, www.westozactive.com.au;

Remtrek Astrotour - seasonal, www.karijiniastroutours.com.

✚ Please visit sites of Tom Price tourist companies for more information about tours.

WHAT TO SEE

Mount Nameless - Jarndrunmunhna (1128m), situated 4 kilometers from town is the highest accessible mountain by vehicle in WA and offers panoramic views of the Tom Price town site and the Rio Tinto Mine. A gravel road provides access to the summit via 4-wheel drive. For those energetic people, there is also a walk trail to the summit, commencing at just in front of the Tourist Park or from the rear of the Tourist Park. The walk takes approximately 2 and a half hours return.

Tom Price is centrally located between three of the states best National Parks, Karijini, Millstream/Chichester and Mount Augustus.

Karijini National Park

Karijini National Park is the homeland of the Punjima, Kurrama and Innawonga Aboriginal people, many of whom now live in the Wakathuni Aboriginal Community close to Tom Price. It is not until you have visited this unique part of the world that you will understand why the Aboriginals hold such pride in what was their homeland – where deep chasms were eroded into the landscape over two billion years ago. Walk trails are marked in the heart of the gorges, winding past waterfalls and permanent rock pools, to areas surrounded by lush greenery that contrasts the most amazing rich red rock faces of the gorge walls.

Millstream-Chichester National Park

Millstream/Chichester National Park is 200,000 hectares, located approximately 2 hours drive from Tom Price, along the Rio Tinto Access Road. A permit is required to travel on the Access Road and must be obtained from the visitors centre during opening hours. The park is rich in cultural history. It is the homeland to the Yinjibarndi people, some of whom have been trained and employed as rangers and contract workers within the Park. The homestead was built in 1920 and housed the Gordon family for many years. Today the homestead serves

as a Visitors Centre, where information regarding the early settlers and natural wonders can be obtained.

Mount Augustus National Park

Mount Augustus National Park is approximately 420 kilometers from Tom Price, on a track that can be seen as a challenge for the avid **four-wheel drivers**. Mount Augustus (Burringurrah) is the world's largest rock, rising 858 meters above the surrounding plain (some 1105 meters above sea level). The Wadjeri tribe inhabited the area around Mount Augustus. Their occupation is evident by the engravings on rock walls at Munde, Ooramboo and Beedoboondoo visitor sites and by the many stone tools that have been discovered in the area. Unfortunately the meanings of the engravings have been lost in history.

TRAVELLING WITH DOGS

Domestic pets are not permitted in most national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves marine parks and marine nature reserves.

No pets are allowed at the Tom Price Tourist Park.

Dogs are permitted in our area only at the **Auski / Munjina Roadhouse** and **Mount Florence station** stay.

If you want **boarding** for your dog in Tom Price, you must **contact the Shire of Ashburton prior to your arrival by phone: 08 9188 4444** (Phone office hours only).

✚ **For more information about national parks please visit the following websites:**

Karijini, Millstream, and Mount Augustus National Parks (basic and safety information, fees) - www.dec.wa.gov.au - Department of Environment and Conservation Western Australia

Weather- www.weatherzone.com.au/wa/pilbara/karijini;

Road Condition - www.mainroads.wa.gov.au

Tom Price - Shire of Ashburton – www.Ashburton.wa.gov.au

Other Contact Numbers for the area

Karijini Visitor Centre - 08 9189 8121

Main Roads information - 138 138

Shire of Ashburton - 9188 4444

Nanutarra Road House - 08 9943 0521

Information about Karijini Park and Park Entrance fees are to follow.

Thank you for interest our area. We hope that your visit to Karijini and Tom Price will be most enjoyable! Most of all have fun, live, laugh and be safe.

Regards and best wishes for a great holiday,

Tom Price Visitor Centre

KARAJINI NATIONAL PARK

Karijini (formerly Hamersley Range) National Park is the second largest national park in WA.

Situated just north of the Tropic of Capricorn, the park's climate can best be described as tropical semi-desert. A highly variable, mainly summer rainfall of 250–350 mm, often associated with thunderstorms and cyclones, is accompanied by temperatures frequently topping 40-48 degrees Celsius. The ideal times to visit the park are late autumn, winter and early spring. Winter days are warm and clear, but nights are cold and sometimes frosty.

Karijini National Park protects many different wildlife habitats, landscapes, plants and animals of the Pilbara. It is also home to a variety of birds, red kangaroos, rock-wallabies, echidnas and several bat species. Geckos, goannas, dragons, legless lizards, pythons and other snakes are abundant. (SNAKES NOT SEEN OFTEN) NO CROCODILES.

In the north of Karijini National Park are the Park's most famous gorges. They are spectacular but can be extremely dangerous. Further downstream, the gorges widen and their sides change from sheer cliffs to steep slopes of loose rock.

In Dales Gorge, we have streams, pools, waterfalls, and ferns contrast with the red, terraced cliffs weathered by centuries of exposure. The occasional snappy gum can be seen perched on rocky ledges. But every gorge is different, and each one is worth a visit.

At Oxer Lookout, the junction of **Weano, Red, Hancock and Joffre Gorges**, tiers of banded rock tower over a pool at the bottom of the gorge. To explore these gorges you must be fit and prepared to submerge in near-freezing water, follow narrow paths and cling to rock ledges.

The Park is the traditional home of the Banyjima, Kurrama and Innawonga Aboriginal people. The Banyjima name for the Hamersley Range is Karijini. Evidence of their early occupation dates back more than 20,000 years.

CAMPING

Self registration (entrance fee applies) at two entrances, on Banjima drive near Ranger Station and Mount Bruce Road.

Entry fee per vehicle: \$ 11.00

Seniors/Motor, Cycles \$5.00

Dales camp ground - 10km from Karijini Visitors Centre (KVS).

Facilities - toilets, water, information shelter, picnic tables, gas barbecues. Showers available at KVC in open hours. **BOOKINGS CAN NOT BE TAKEN FOR THIS CAMPGROUND**

Separate fees apply per person per night:

Adult - **\$7.00**

Per Concession cardholders - **\$5.00**

School-aged child under 16 - **\$2**

Karijini Eco Retreat, located in the Savannah Campground 35km from the Visitor Centre and 10km south of Weano, offers more up-market accommodation and is owned by the Gumala Aboriginal Corporation. Camping fees - \$29 per site (2 person+ \$10 for any extras).

There are two water tanks at the park but water must be boiled for drinking first. **It is recommended that you take your own water supplies into the national park.**

PARK ENTRANCE FEES

One of the following passes is required to enter parks in WA where entry fees apply include Karijini, Millstream and Mount Augustus national parks. The Day Pass provides entry to a park for a day visit. (More than one park may be visited on the same day using the pass purchased that day.) The pass can be purchased at a park entry point. All prices below include GST.

Day Pass:

\$11 per vehicle (up to 8 legally seated people)

\$5 per concession cardholders (see 'Concessions'). and per motor cycle

\$5 per passenger on buses and **\$1.50** per concession cardholders

This pass covers entry into one or more parks on any one day. Passes are available from rangers in the parks, visitor centre`s or [web-site of the Department of Environment and Conservation](#) (Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.).

In some parks, a system of self-registration applies. Visitors can obtain a day pass at a registration station and deposit the fee in the fee container.

- **Annual Local Park Pass - 12 month.** For local residents or ratepayers only.

This pass provides unlimited entry to one park (or a group of local parks) for 12 months. Valid for one vehicle with up to eight legally seated people. **Fee: \$20**

Holiday All Parks Pass

The Holiday All Parks Pass provides unlimited entry to all parks **for up to four weeks.**

Valid for one vehicle with up to eight legally seated people.

Fee: \$40.00



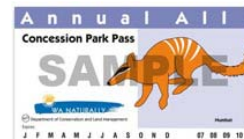
Annual All Parks Pass

The pass provides unlimited entry to all WA parks **for 12 months.** Valid for one vehicle, with up to eight legally seated people. **Fee: \$80**



Concession Annual All Parks Pass

The pass provides eligible concession card holders unlimited entry to all WA parks for 12 months. Valid for one vehicle, with up to eight legally seated people. **Fee: \$50**



Gold Star Pass (All Parks)

Combines an Annual All Parks Pass with an annual subscription to the Department's LANDSCOPE magazine. Valid for 1 vehicle (up to 8 legally seated people).

Fee: \$110

