

Southern Cross

A mixture of wheatbelt and gold mining town, 368 km east of Perth on the Great Eastern Highway.

Southern Cross can be seen as either the last town on the edge of the wheatbelt or the first town of the Eastern Goldfields. Southern Cross has vibrant agriculture and a flourishing gold mining industry to sustain it through boom-and-bust cycles.

The town became an important administrative base as the frontiers of the eastern goldfields were developed and played a crucial role in the supply of provisions for the thousands of people and animals that came through the area. The town was gazetted in 1890.

Like so many Goldfields towns, Southern Cross developed wide streets so that camel trains could turn around. However, unlike other towns it named its streets after stellar associations, hence Sirius Street, Altair Street, Centaur Street, Orion Street, Spica Street, etc.

Today tourism plays an important role in the region as people are attracted to the gold mining ghost towns in the area and of course, the wild flowers that bloom every spring. Attractions near the town include the Number 6 Pumping Station, the Old Cemetery, Fraser's Mine, Hunt's Soak, the Court House and the Museum.



Southern Cross is host to numerous historic buildings and offers all the modern facilities for tourists.



Natural and man made wonders make the Yilgarn an interesting place to visit all year round.

The 1892 Bayley and Ford discovery led to a massive gold rush. Soon after the Goldfields Road, sometimes called the Coolgardie Road, was established roughly following Hunt's original track with two coach services starting in 1893 and 1894 to take advantage of the increasing population and passenger traffic along this rough and difficult road.

During 1895 and 1896 the railway was extended between Southern Cross and Coolgardie and permanent water harvesting and storage facilities were developed. As testament to the harsh conditions the region has numerous lone grave sites mostly dating back to the late 1880s.

The famous water pipeline engineered by C.Y. O'Connor commenced in 1898, came through Southern Cross and eventually reached Kalgoorlie in 1903 providing relief from dependence on this precious resource. This also allowed the government to start various farm settlement schemes stabilising the region into a pastoral district.

Pastoralists who had moved into the region in the mid 1800s were joined by ex servicemen and ex miners in the early and late 1920s. A lot suffered due to lack of rainfall, inexperience, and the great depression. This resulted in abandoned farms and land holdings being taken up by or amalgamated into some of the biggest farms in the state. Today the Shire of Yilgarn presents itself as a large and prosperous farming and pastoral district.

The Yilgarn forms part of the rural sector that is one of WA's premier industries. Livestock (for meat and wool) and basic grains (such as oats, barley, wheat and canola) are exported worldwide.

Resources continue to play in the history of the Yilgarn with many mines still operating on the Yilgarn Greenstone Belt producing millions of dollars worth of gold, iron ore, salt, gypsum, nickel and mineral sands annually.

The Yilgarn is a fascinating place that started with sandalwood pulling (still worth over \$4 million annually) and prospecting (with fossicking still a the favourite pastime for many in the region), surprising really, in that they were doing this in the same area 150 years ago!

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centre

c/- Shire of Yilgarn P.O. Box 86 Southern Cross WA 6426
Telephone: (08) 9049 1001 Facsimile: (08) 9049 1429

Email: yilgarn@yilgarn.wa.gov.au Web: www.southern-cross.info

ACCOMMODATION

Southern Cross Motel
Canopus Street, Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1144

Club Hotel
Aniarcas Street, Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1202

Palace Hotel
Grt Aniarcas St & Great Eastern Hwy,
Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1555

Railway Tavern
Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1030

Southern Cross Caravan Park
Great Eastern Highway
Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1212

Bullfinch Hotel
Doolee Street, Bullfinch WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 5033

Marvel Loch Hotel
Lennenberg Street, Marvel Loch WA
Telephone: (08) 9040 1011

Moorine Rock Hotel Motel
Great Eastern Highway
Moorine Rock WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1235

Southern Cross B&B Hampton View
Homestead Farmstay
Mckenzie Road
Mount Hampton WA
Telephone: (08) 9040 4034

Yellowline Roadhouse and Accommodation Units
Great Eastern Highway, Yellowline WA
Telephone: (08) 9024 2001



MEALS

BP Roadhouse
Great Eastern Highway
Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1162

Palace Hotel Restaurant
Grt Aniarcas St & Great Eastern Hwy,
Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1555

Railway Tavern
Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1030

Southern Cross Motel Restaurant
Canopus Street, Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1144

Ampol Roadhouse
Great Eastern Highway
Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1168

Yilgarn Coffee Lounge & Deli
Aniarcas Street
Southern Cross WA
Telephone: (08) 9049 1434

EVENTS

King of the Cross:
First Weekend in August.

Yilgarn Agriculture Show:
Last weekend in August.

History of the Yilgarn District

Explorers had passed through the area decades before gold was discovered, including Henry Lefroy (1863), Charles Cooke Hunt (1864) and John Forrest (1869) all of whom declared that the area had great agricultural potential. The area had also been explored by numerous sandalwood pullers. The eastern edge of the region overlaps the goldfields, and prospectors began moving into the area in the 1880s. Traces of gold were found in the district, around the Golden Valley area in 1887.

The town owes a lot to the discovery of gold and to Tom Riseley and Mick Toomey, who named the area after the Southern Cross, the constellation they used to help them navigate their way when travelling at night. Southern Cross literally "boomed" over night (the gold lay in hard reefs).

The first major gold discovery in the huge Eastern Goldfields region occurred at Southern Cross. It predates the larger towns to the east and therefore has a special relationship with Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, being referred to as the mother town of Coolgardie (the old Camp) and the grandmother of Kalgoorlie (Golden Mile). The discoveries of Thomas Riseley and Mick Toomey in 1887-88 established the area as an important goldfield.

Further discoveries occurred in and around the region. The town's growth was dramatic. It became a gazetted frontier town in 1890 and had the first regional courthouse (1891). It was in this building that Arthur Bayley registered the claim which subsequently became the rich fields at Coolgardie in 1892; Paddy Hannan took out his Miner's Right before he made his famous discovery in 1893; and the first claim on the Lake Dundas (Norseman) goldfields was registered in 1894.

By 1893 Southern Cross had become a municipality and in 1894 the railway arrived from Perth linking the town to the coast. When A.W. Bayley rode into Southern Cross with 554 oz of alluvial gold which he had found at Fly Flat (now Coolgardie), the miners who were working the hard Southern Cross reef gold literally disappeared overnight and moved to the more lucrative eastern fields.

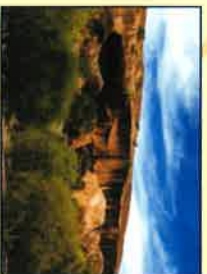
SOUTHERN CROSS

- A five star town in The Yilgarn -

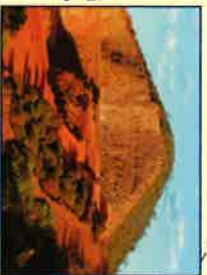


MOORINE ROCK
MARVEL LOCH
BULLFINCH
BODALLIN
YELLOWLINE

SHIRE OF YILGARN – PLACES OF INTEREST



Badalgie Rocks



Mining at Koolyanobbing



Simon's Gums



Lake Deborah East



Field of Everlastings



Jack-in-Box Orchids



Yellow-Feather Wildflower



Hunt's Well

Golden Valley
The first official centre of the Shire of Yilgarn. It was just a police station and wardens court until gold was discovered in 1887.

Badalgie Rocks
The Yilgarn has some of the oldest rock formations in the world. Badalgie Rocks is one of these, and offers fascinating rock formations, caves, birdlife, unique flora and fauna, and is a great picnic place.

Hunt's Soak
One of the remarkable despatched of wells and soaks which provided the whole of south eastern Western Australia with water until O'Connor built his pipeline.

Bullfinch
The name given to mining leases in the vicinity 1909. Gold was discovered here in April 1910 and is the location of the Copphead gold mine. There are numerous old workings in the area.

Ghooih
Number 6 Pumping Station is one of a series of eight steam pumping stations used to carry water to Kalgoorlie via the Goldfields pipeline.



The Karalee Reservoir, rock catchment and aqueduct, a natural rock formation adapted to maximise the catchment, delivery and storage of rainwater, which was essential to railway development in the Goldfields region. It is now a popular picnic spot.

Moortie Rock
Originally a railway siding named Parkers Road in 1895. In 1926 the name was changed to Moortie Rock.

Yellowline
Originally a railway siding in 1895 until gold was discovered at a number of locations south in 1934. One of the earliest industries in the town was a plaster works built there in 1934.

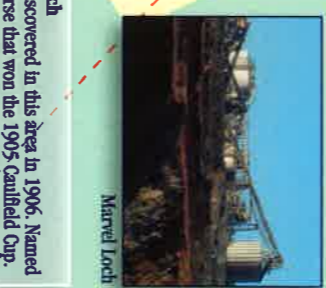
Mount Palmer
Named after 'M.A.C 'Daddy' Palmer who found gold in this area in 1934. It quickly became an important mining centre. The mine closed in 1944 and the town ceased to exist.

Bodalgin railway siding
was established between 1894 and 1897. Aboriginal name of a big round soak soak about 23km NW of the station.

Frog Rock & Dam is a popular picnic spot. Large rock with wave like formation. The dam is located at the base of the rock. During spring there is a fine display of wildflowers on the road verges.



Frog Rock



Marred Loch
Gold was discovered in this area in 1906. Named after the horse that won the 1905 Caulfield Cup.



Moortie Rock - School

WW2 Warplane Crash Site
A BAE Vampire Vengeance dive-bomber crash site. The plane's engine was buried ten feet in the earth and the wreckage strewn over ten acres. The pilot survived, but the navigator has never been found.



Wheatbelt Farming History



Mt Hampton

Rabbit Proof Fence
Surveyed in 1901 by Alfred Canning (who surveyed the Canning Stock Route). Stretching from Port Hedland to Ravensthorpe, the fence was designed to keep rabbits and other animals from entering the grain growing region of Western Australia.

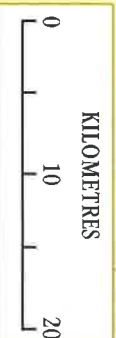


Salt Lakes

HYDEN



Hyden, Marble Rock, Fint Rock



LEGEND

- Information
- Fuel
- Accommodation
- Caravan Parks
- Camping
- Picnic & BBQ Facilities
- Scenic Lookouts
- Bushwalking Tracks
- Climbing
- Wildflowers & Wildlife
- Cemetery
- Primary Road
- Minor Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road
- 4WD Only
- Reserves and Parks
- Mines

The map shown in this publication is a basic guide only and should not be considered substitute detailed for use as an outback road guide or source of information about road conditions. Anyone planning an adventure should do so with official maps obtainable from:
Department of Regional Development and Lands
Midland Square, Midland WA 6056
Ph: (08) 9273 7075 or
Main Roads Western Australia
Don Aitken Centre
Waterloo Greens, East Perth WA
Ph: (08) 9323 4387



HOLLAND TRACK



Farming



Mt Palmer



Karalee



Wheatbelt Dusk



Perth to Kalgoorlie Pipeline



Boorabbin National Park

Boorabbin Rock