Be drawn to
MOUNT MAGNET
Geo Hub of the Murchison

Be surprised!

www.mtmagnet.wa.gov.au
Welcome Mount Magnet Visitor Centre
Explore Mining & Pastoral Museum
Gallery Wirnda Barna Arts Centre
Discover meteorite crater & diversity of rocks
Drive or cycle 37km historic-scenic trail
Walk town heritage trails
Stay Mount Magnet or Station Stays
Relax under a vast sky, paint or prospect
Experience Outdoor Picture Theatre & Astronomy

MOUNT MAGNET in the MURCHISON REGION and MURCHISON GOLDFIELDS, is building on its place as a regional GEO HUB. 560km north east of Perth, 342km inland from the port city of Geraldton, MOUNT MAGNET is accessible from four points of the compass on sealed roads. At the centre of two major transport routes, National Highway 95 as Great Northern Highway travelling north - south and the east-west link ‘Ocean to Ocean’ – MOUNT MAGNET is both an historic centre for the boom and bust mining and pastoral industries and a pivotal, modern outback centre.
MAGNETIC HUB OF THE MURCHISON

MOUNT MAGNET is CENTRAL to the Gascoyne Murchison Outback MINERS PATHWAY, and a magnetic hub for easy access on sealed roads to the nearby gold centres of Cue (80km north), Meekatharra (196km north), Sandstone (158km east) and Yalgoo (124km west). The settlement of Paynes Find is 145km south.

On the Outback Pathway, STATION STAYS offer a unique experience. Along the way take time to stop and read the Miners Pathway stories.

Want to leave the bitumen? Paynesville ghost town, 80km east on sealed road, near explorer Austin’s magnetic Mount Magnet, is at the southern end of the unsealed road to Cue via Wondinong Homestead.

Shortest access route to Dalgaranga Meteorite Crater, is 92km from Mount Magnet, past ghost town site of Boogardie township and Jones’ Well. Walga Rock, largest gallery of rock art in the Murchison region, can also be accessed via this route into Cue.

The Dalgaranga route also offers unsealed road access to Yalgoo and the Murchison Settlement, for those wishing to travel off bitumen in the Murchison. Further on is Jack Hills, site of oldest rock and Mt Augustus, largest rock in the world.
IN AN ANCIENT LAND

The material culture of an earlier Aboriginal people sits atop and decorates ancient rocks in the Mount Magnet landscape. Badimaya, traditional language which speaks of an earlier time, is name of the people from the area to the south, descendants of whom live in Mount Magnet today.

It was here in 1854, that “…one of the finest goldfields in the world” was predicted by Explorer Robert Austin, leading the first Colonial and truly epic Expedition through this semi-arid North Eastern interior. Austin named Mount Magnet, due to the magnetic nature of the rocks and subsequently West Mount Magnet (renamed Warramboo), where the township would later rise.

So arid and vast was the region, it would be more than two decades before pioneer pastoralists settled here in 1878, the first merino sheep walked in from the coast. Ten years later, prospectors followed their tracks and shepherd wells, finally discovering the rich gold Austin predicted almost 40 years earlier.

It was 1891 and the reef gold discovered near the mount gave promise of deep gold and a long life. The diggings began and still the diggings continue… Mount Magnet is the longest continuous goldmining centre in Western Australia and – phew!

Be amazed as the dust is wiped away to gradually reveal a rich history and store of inspiring stories, artefacts and creative arts – Mount Magnet offers a place to contemplate and create, to discover and experience life outback, a natural Geo Park close to oldest rocks and largest rock in the world and Gumbarda – the night sky!
WELCOME TO MOUNT MAGNET MURCHISON GOLDFIELDS

Gold mingled with ancient red earth below and deliciously dark night skies above – Mount Magnet holds a special attraction for gold – and more!

Step into history, in an enduring and friendly town community under 1000 people. Enjoy a range of accommodation options, including pleasant Caravan Park. Nearby, individual shops and services are set on wide “camel train turning” streets. On a select few pastoral stations – soak up the space under an expansive sky for your authentic outback experience – close to nature.

Watch a full moonrise over breakaways, glowing red at sundown – relax under an awesome night sky, time to pursue a natural interest in astronomy. Enjoy freedom from crowded places. Wander green Parks and seek out sometimes flowing Creek, through the heart of town.

Be surrounded by blue hue of mulga plains, dotted with desert kurrajongs and filled with flowers after seasonal rains.

Yes – you’ve Arrived!
**VISITOR CENTRE**

With space to pull up your caravan or trailer, come inside for local, regional and statewide travel information, internet. Regional gift shop. See world class Treasures of the Earth rock collection by “Ron the Rock Man.” Be absorbed by Murchison Widefield Array exhibit, complete with authentic antennas, precursor telescope to SKA – largest and most sensitive radio telescope in the world – in our backyard.

“Drawn to Mt Magnet” purchased here, is filled with remarkable stories and rare images of this extraordinary part of the country and its people.

**MINING AND PASTORAL MUSEUM**

Be surprised! Entry through Visitor Centre, explore three internal exhibition rooms, then sheds outside. Together, these display diverse collections of artifacts, relics and photographs which throw light on the resilience, improvisation and fortitude required to establish nation building industries and a strong community in an isolated and harsh environment. Entry Fee supports voluntary work of the Mount Magnet Historical Society Inc.

**WIRNDA BARNA ARTS CENTRE**

Wirnda Barna Gallery for works by emerging Indigenous Artists from Murchison Region, who draw inspiration from Badimaya and Wadjari culture, sites, Indigenous Astronomy, stories and landscape.
RICH HISTORY
STRONG SPIRIT
BUILT CULTURE


Rock structures rise in lonely places. Sometimes, a grave. See remnants of the great Murchison Railway, which transformed travel to the coast from weeks to just 12 hours! Every structure silently speaking a story all its own, whispering about lives lived, toiled – and lost, through timelessness of time.

ASTRO ROCKS FEST

Mount Magnet in the Murchison Region is at one with astronomy. The Aboriginal Indigenous people here – the Badimaya, have just one word for night sky, expressing its importance – Gumbarda! Their stories still speak to the present age. Step out of town to experience the Milky Way from horizon to horizon, the black overarching emu in the sky – indicating time to collect emu eggs.

From ancient Indigenous observations, to present futuristic radio astronomy projects in Murchison Region – Mount Magnet celebrates the importance of astronomy and rocks here! A collaborative project, the MOUNT MAGNET ASTRO ROCKS FEST is a day-night event. Join us to discover the awesome Universe above and ancient rocks beneath our our feet. Autumn.
SUMMER DESERT

Just when all seems hot and dusty – witness the spectacle of the sparsely populated Gaya, Desert Kurrajong – deciduous in summer, renewing its iridescent green ‘emu foot’ leaves, to form green lollipop shapes across the landscape – bright green against hazy sky and red summer earth. Compass and water store – the desert kurrajong is an outback surprise! December – February seasonal.

After a long drive in breathlessly hot air, the MOUNT MAGNET SWIMMING POOL draws you to stop and refresh – a cool pool, new pavilion and gym surrounded by shade and lawn. Open October – April.

WILDFLOWERS

The miracle of seeds and plants surviving extreme heat and long dry spells is celebrated after good seasonal rains – when stunning and unexpected displays of flowers, some like carpets tossed over the red earth, burst into bloom under a floral canopy. One of nature’s true wonders! July – October seasonal.
**RACE COURSE**

Join the thrill of the race in rich red earth and experience the enduring outback spirit, when local identities and visitors come together for popular iconic events. Horse Races since 1896 (Autumn, Spring) and Gymkhana.

**SCENIC CYCLE – HISTORIC TOURIST DRIVE**

A popular 37km self drive or cycle adventure through the gold mining area, passing Poverty Flats, site of the first alluvial rush where gold was “dug up like potatoes” and famous Hill 50 Gold Mine. Includes Lookout on Warramboo Hill (Explorer Austin’s West Mount Magnet). Mother and Child Grave, natural Ampitheatre, site of an ancient waterfall and Cave and the ghost town and cemetery of Lennonville. The last stone miner’s cottage stands near the ghost town site of Boogardie. The spectacular breakaways and rock formations of the Granites, of significant importance to the Badimaya, is included in this drive or can be approached separately, north of town.

**TOWN HERITAGE WALKS**

The short walks highlight historical sites and stories from earliest days of settlement.

Please pick up Tourist Drive Trail and Walking Maps from the Visitor Centre, Caravan Park or Shire Office.
Mount Magnet Visitor Centre
Mining and Pastoral Museum
(Southern Entrance to Mount Magnet)
Great Northern Highway

April-October
Weekdays 9am-4pm | Saturday 9am-12noon
November-March, Weekdays 9am-12noon

If closed, please visit Shire Office or Caravan Park (north side of Shire Office) for information and Town Walking and Drive Trail maps.

Visitor Centre (08) 9963 4172
visitor@mtmagnet.wa.gov.au

Shire Office (08) 9963 3000
shire@mtmagnet.wa.gov.au

Caravan Park (08) 9963 4198
caravan@mtmagnet.wa.gov.au

Event Information and town maps also available at www.mtmagnet.wa.gov.au

Insightful Weblinks

Your safety is our concern but your responsibility. Please take care when visiting this vast Murchison Region. Carry plenty of water, watch for disused mine shafts and tell someone of your itinerary before setting out. Pastoral properties in the area have owners, please seek permission before entering. Extinguish your fire before moving on. The prohibited burning season is October – March when campfires cannot be lit. Please respect this land’s beauty and take all rubbish with you. Leave only your footprints. Please keep dogs on a lead and muzzle when out. Wild dog 1080 poisonous baits are used extensively in the region.
Mount Magnet offers a number of owner operated Shops, services and facilities including:

Butcher, Café, Post Office (lotto, gifts, souvenirs, stationery), Pharmacy, Murchison Hardware, Pick-Axe Trading Post, IGA Supermarket (newsagency and liquor), Centrelink, Library.

Telstra Mobile Coverage please check your phone is compatible.

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<td>Mining/ Registrar’s Office</td>
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**Accommodation**

| Mount Magnet Caravan Park | 9963 4198 |
| Commercial Club Hotel Motel | 9963 4021 |
| Grand Hotel Motel | 9963 4110 |
| Miners Rest Units | 9963 4380 |
| Outback Gold Accommodation | 9963 4433 |
| Swagman Roadhouse | 9963 4844 |

**Station Stays**

| Kirkalocka | 9963 5827 | kirkalocka@bigpond.com |
| Nalbarra | 9963 5829 | nalbarra7@bigpond.com |
| Wondinong | 9963 5823 | lara@dustytracksphotography.com.au |

**Motoring**

| BP Roadhouse | 9963 4011 |
| (6am-9pm, 7 days a week) |
| Swagman Roadhouse 24 Hour | 9963 4844 |
| 24 Hour food. Restaurant 5.30am-10pm |
| Murchison Mechanical | 9963 4949 |

**Community**

| Police | 9963 3222 |
| Nursing Post | 9963 3100 |
| Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service resident doctor | 9963 4016 |
| St Brigid’s Catholic Church | 9963 4179 |
| Presbyterian Church | 9963 4125 |

**Transport**

| Transwa | 1300 662 205 |
| Integrity Coach Lines (Aust) | 1800 226 339 |
| Skippers Airlines | 1300 729 924 |