

# HISTORY

*In the Steps of Pioneer Explorers*



"The gold find at Coolgardie by Bayley and Ford generated intense excitement throughout the country when it was made public in September 1892. As the news spread, the rush grew. The streets of Albany were soon crowded with fortune seekers who came by steamer from the eastern states. Many of these "othersiders" travelled on the recently constructed Great Southern Railway to York and Northam where they purchased supplies and equipment before tackling the long trail east to the diggings.



There were obvious advantages for a railway town further south in being the starting point for an overland trail. Not only would departing diggers spend their money there, local producers would have direct access to the fast growing goldfields market.

Several attempts to open up such a route failed. All were forced back by the waterless and seemingly impenetrable nature of the country. Then John Holland took up the challenge. Born in the colony, 37 year old Holland was an experienced bushman. His idea was not to only find a feasible route, but to actually cut a track that could be used immediately by horse drawn conveyances. Joined by three other local men, the party set out from Broomehill on 26 April 1893 and arrived in Coolgardie on 3 July 1893. They had completed the cutting of a cart track over 500km in length in just two months and four days, a remarkable achievement. As anticipated, the track was immediately adopted by hundreds of eager diggers joining the rush. It was regularly used by horse and camel teams transporting goods and supplies to the goldfields. Travelling time between Broomehill and Coolgardie was usually about two weeks. However, the extension of the railway to Coolgardie just three years later put an end to regular goldfields traffic on the Holland Track.

As the expansion of the wheatbelt overtook the southern half of the track during the 1920's, that part of the route played an important part in opening up a number of wheat growing regions. Some of the track was incorporated in the growing rural road network. Low rainfall out beyond the Rabbit Proof Fence discouraged further settlement and the northern half of the Holland Track gradually returned to the wild. The historic route became overgrown and all but lost in a tangle of sand plain scrub and mallee thickets."



SOURCE:  
Holland Track Map Book

## VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

### SHIRE OF BROOMEHILL- TAMBELLUP

46 - 48 Norrish St,  
Tambellup WA 6320  
30360 Great Southern Hwy  
Broomehill Village WA 6318  
Tel (08) 9825 3555  
Fax (08) 9825 1152  
mail@shirebt.wa.gov.au  
www.shirebt.wa.gov.au

### KOJONUP VISITOR CENTRE

143 Albany Highway  
Kojonup WA 6395  
Tel (08) 9831 0500  
Fax (08) 9831 0300

### KATANNING TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Austral Terrace  
Katanning WA 6317  
Tel: (08) 9821 9999  
visitors@katanning.wa.gov.au

### LAKE GRACE SHIRE VISITOR CENTRE

Stationmaster's House  
19 Stubbs St, Lake Grace, WA 6353  
Tel (08) 9865 2140  
lgvisitorscentre@westnet.com.au

### WAVE ROCK VISITOR CENTRE

Wave Rock Road, Hyden, WA 6359  
Tel (08) 9880 5182  
www.waverock.com.au

### COOLGARDIE VISITOR CENTRE

Bayley Street, Coolgardie WA 6429  
Tel (08) 9026 6090  
visitors.centre@coolgardie.wa.gov.au

### KAMBALDA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

Barnes Drive, Kambalda WA 6442  
Tel (08) 9080 2111  
kambaldacrc@coolgardie.wa.gov.au

### KALGOORLIE BOULDER VISITOR CENTRE

Corner of Hannan and Wilson Sts  
Kalgoorlie WA 6430  
Tel (08) 9021 1966  
Freecall 1800 004 653  
visitors@kalgoorlie.com  
www.kalgoorlietourism.com

### NORSEMAN VISITOR CENTRE

68 Roberts St, Norseman WA 6443  
Tel (08) 9039 1071  
Fax (08) 9039 1488  
tourism@norseman.info  
www.norseman.info

### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN VISITOR CENTRE

55 William St  
Perth WA 6000  
Tel 1300 361 351  
Fax (08) 9438 1111  
travel@westernaustralia.com  
www.westernaustralia.com

#### DISCLAIMER

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**HOLLAND TRACK**  
BROOMEHILL - COOLGARDIE  
EST 1893

## SELF-DRIVE OUTBACK TOURS

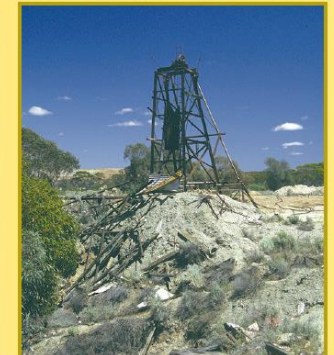
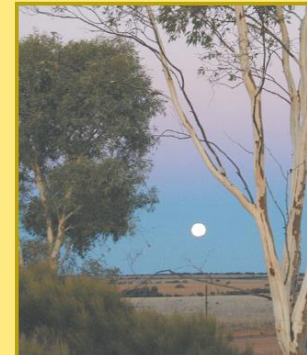
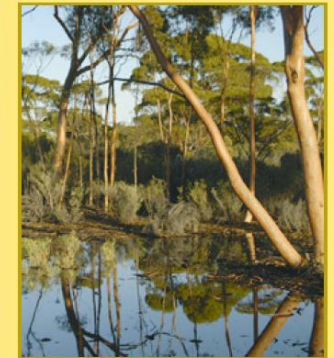
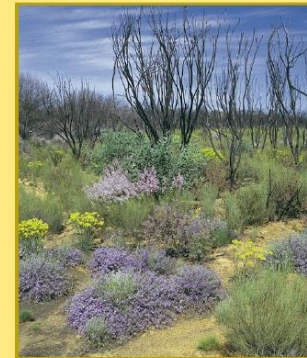


# HOLLAND TRACK

BROOMEHILL - COOLGARDIE  
EST 1893

*Welcome to the  
John Holland Way  
and The Holland Track*

*Follow in the steps of one of Western Australia's  
early pioneer explorers and discover the riches of  
Western Australia's Golden Outback region.*



## INTRODUCTION



### THE JOHN HOLLAND WAY

The John Holland Way covers some 600 kilometres of Australian outback scenery.

Connecting the regional townsites between Broomehill and Coolgardie the John Holland Way encompasses a variety of interesting farming, pastoral, mining and native bush landscapes.

The John Holland Way is suitable for conventional two wheel drive travel and links together the fertile farming areas of the State's South West corner to the mining riches of the WA's Goldfields.

The Way is supported by a reliable network of intersecting inland sealed and unsealed roads allowing you a broad range of touring and holiday experiences.

Make sure you enjoy the friendly, country hospitality at one of the fine local farmstay and bed and breakfast opportunities.

### THE HOLLAND TRACK - 4WD ONLY

For those with a more adventurous spirit, the Holland Track offers great appeal. The north eastern half of the Track is some 350km in length and accessible only to well prepared 4WD travellers. The Track connects the townsite of Hyden, home to the popular visitor icon attraction of Wave Rock, and the historic mining town of Coolgardie.

Travellers can enjoy this remarkable heritage trail combined with visitor experiences of virgin bushland out past the Rabbit Proof Fence.

Potential travellers are encouraged to utilise the "Explore the Holland Track and Cave Hill Woodlines" (Westate Publishers), which features detailed travel maps and notes and available for purchase at major visitor outlets throughout the region.

A map featuring both the John Holland Way and Holland Track is featured overleaf and when travelling through the southern half of the State, we invite you to experience these highly rewarding self-drive heritage trail experiences.



## HOW TO GET THERE




The large majority of travellers along the Way and Track are self drive visitors in either private or rented vehicle and this map guide is designed to maximise your travelling experience.

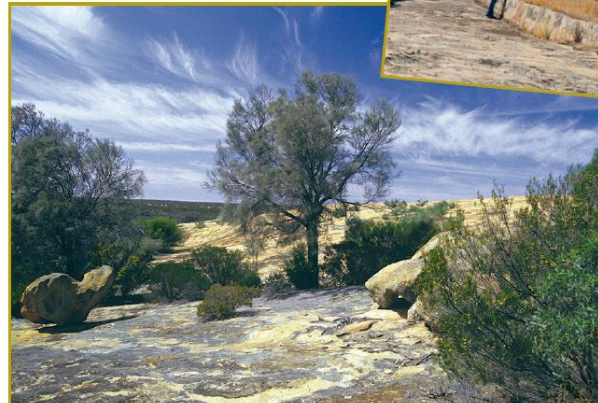


Conventional two wheel drive is suitable for the John Holland Way while only well prepared 4WD visitors can travel the Holland Track. Two wheel drive to 4WD and camper home vehicles can be rented from a large number of Perth and Kalgoorlie based businesses. Contact the Western Australian Visitor Centre for this information.

Self drive travellers arriving to the Goldfields from the eastern states via the Outback Way or Eyre Highway can join the north eastern points of the Track and Way after gaining useful local information and necessary provisions at the historic town of Coolgardie. For those already travelling through the South West corner of the State the John Holland Way commences at the picturesque farming town of Broomehill.

Travellers can also fly on regular air services from Perth to Kalgoorlie and hire vehicles locally once on the ground.

Regardless of how you arrive to the area, why not join a local tour to gain a greater insight into the history and knowledge of a chosen destination. Contact details are on this map for all local visitor information centres and these can provide visitors with all the necessary local information and booking services. Visitor Information Centres are signposted by this symbol  and should be the first port of call for every traveller.



## TRAVEL ADVICE

### Be Prepared



The map detailed in this guide covers large distances and can include areas where everyday supplies are not available. Please plan your trip carefully ensuring you have appropriate fuel and water supplies to reach each destination. Fuel and food stops are encouraged at townsites along the route and unless you particularly want to go "off the beaten track", a fantastic holiday visiting all the most popular and interesting sites can be enjoyed in a standard family car equipped with normal provisions and safety supplies. Some service stations have restricted opening times so if travelling outside normal business hours, make sure you plan well and check ahead.

In order that you fully enjoy your John Holland Way and Holland Track experience, take your time and avoid fatigue and excessive speed while driving. Some roads are unfenced so beware of wandering stock and wildlife. Dawn, dusk and night driving are the times best avoided. Slow down and enjoy what the region has to offer - you might discover one of our many hidden treasures.



### OUTBACK TRAVEL

Extra fuel, water, oil, first aid kit and emergency rations should be carried as well as a comprehensive selection of spares and tools. Should you break down, or become lost, stay with your vehicle until help arrives.

On remote roads traffic can be almost non existent.

Exercise caution if travelling very early in the morning or from dusk to late evening, as livestock and wildlife may cross the road unexpectedly. Rain can make roads impassable due to flooding. Camping in a creek or river bed can be dangerous due to flash flooding particularly during the summer months.

The Regional Map shown in this publication is a basic guide only and should not be considered sufficiently detailed for use as an outback road guide or to provide unsealed road conditions. You can check current road conditions by contacting Main Roads of WA .

Anyone planning an outback adventure should do so with official maps obtainable from:

#### LANDGATE

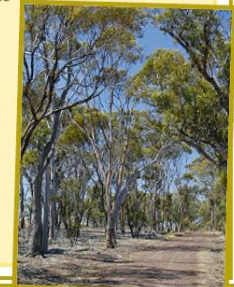
1 Midland Square  
Midland WA 6056

Tel: (08) 9273 7373 or: 1300 365 288

#### MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Don Aitken Centre, Waterloo Crescent  
East Perth WA 6004

Tel: 138 138



# TOWNS AND ACCOMMODATION ALONG THE JOHN HOLLAND WAY

Whether you are after a deluxe resort suite with spa, a family farm stay, a romantic bed and breakfast, a place to pitch your tent, or unhitch your caravan at a scenic spot, you have come to the right region. Accommodation listings are included under each town name.

## BROOMEHILL

Most travellers to the rural heritage country township of Broomehill are unaware of the important role the rural community played in the early history of European settlement of Western Australia. Make sure you take time to visit the local Museum where the early Holland Track history is bought back to life. Before heading out along the John Holland Way relax in the picturesque park grounds located adjacent to the Shire offices - an ideal picnic spot. The area produces a feast of wildflowers during the Spring months and strolls along the local heritage trails are a popular activity with visitors.

- **BROOMEHILL VILLAGE CARAVAN PARK** *cnr Journal & Morgan Sts*  
Tel (08) 9825 3555 Mobile 0428 253073 A/Hours
  - **HENRY JONES WINERY AND CAFE** *Corner Journal & India Street*  
Tel 08 9824 1513
  - **IMPERIAL HOTEL**  
30366 Great Southern Hwy  
Broomehill Village  
Tel 08 9824 1222
- \* Please be aware there are no fuel outlets in Broomehill

## LAKE GRACE

A thriving rural town. Named in 1909 after a shallow salt lake 9km west of the townsite, Lake Grace offers fascinating public artworks - mosaics, murals and sculptures. This countryside abounds with wildflowers in Spring. Lake Grace has the only remaining Australian Inland Mission Hospital in WA. This museum is located at the western end of the town and provides a fascinating insight into the challenges faced by early settlers and how medical needs were catered for in the isolated inland.

- **LAKE GRACE CARAVAN PARK** ★★ Mather St  
Tel (08) 9865 1263
- **LIBERTY ROADHOUSE (MOTEL)** Stubbs St  
Tel (08) 9865 1050
- **LAKE GRACE MOTEL** Stubbs St  
Tel (08) 9865 1219
- **LAKE GRACE SALTBUUSH INN** 15 Griffith St  
Tel (08) 9865 1180
- **MABELLA B&B** South Rd  
Tel (08) 9865 1068
- **TOM AND MABEL'S B&B** 221 O'Neil Rd, Tarin Rock  
Tel (08) 9864 9044

Other local attractions not to be missed include Rifle Range Hill, 5kms east of town, ideal for viewing wildflowers between July and October each year. Lake Grace and Scenic Lookout are also points of interest with picnic facilities available.

## NEWDEGATE

Follow the traces of John Holland's 1893 journey as you explore the vast salt lake environment along the ancient river systems where numerous lakes occur in their natural bush state in reserves. Take a look at the satellite photo located at Pioneer Park, Newdegate to get an overview of this ancient river system. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Dragon Rock Reserve, resplendent in Spring wildflowers. Time your trip to include the Newdegate Machinery Field Days on the first Wednesday and Thursday of September. With large areas of reserves, the wildflower displays are prolific, particularly in the Spring when natural bushland is transformed into a sea of colour.

- **HOLLAND TRACK FARM AND B&B** Tel (08) 9871 9032 Mob 0488 719 032 swooz@hotmail.com
- **MYRLADANA MOTEL & CARAVAN PARK** Tel (08) 9871 1685
- **NEWDEGATE HOTEL** Tel (08) 9871 1506

## LAKE KING

A quaint rural town on the fringe of the region's sheep and wheat farming country, the area comes alive in Spring with abundant wildflowers. A local heritage trail enables visitors to experience this wildflower scenery and various historical sites.

The Roe Heritage Trail retraces part of Surveyor General Roe's historical journey in 1848 and features flora and fauna reserves, historical sites and panoramic views of the local countryside. A self guided route trail map is available from local retail outlets. From Lake King travellers are encouraged to join the John Holland Way at Newdegate.

- **LAKE KING TAVERN, MOTEL & CARAVAN PARK** Tel (08) 9874 4048

## COOLGARDIE

Coolgardie is an excellent base to explore the true Australian outback. There are a multitude of day trips on offer such as Burra Rocks, Cave Hill Nature Reserve, Mt Burgess, the gorge featuring remains of an extinct volcano, the Kumanalling Hotel ruins, Victoria Rock, Rowles Lagoon, and Widgiemooltha's Larkinnville Mine where the largest gold nugget ever found in WA was discovered in 1931. The town itself boasts a rich and colourful heritage with many examples of fine early architecture a major feature. Visitors should include the Goldfields Exhibition Museum, the Railway Museum, Warden Finnelly's Residence, the Pioneer and Coolgardie Cemeteries, Ben Prior's Park and a walk along historic Bayley Street. Make sure you visit the local visitor centre for more information on the region and to gain important travel advice before undertaking the John Holland Way or Holland Track self drive routes.

- **COOLGARDIE GOLD RUSH MOTEL** ★★ 49 Bayley St.  
Tel (08) 9026 6080
- **COOLGARDIE TOURIST VILLAGE** ★★ 99 Bayley St. Tel (08) 9026 6009
- **CALTEX MOTEL** 110 Bayley St
- **THE HAVEN CARAVAN PARK** Great Eastern Highway



**HOLLAND TRACK**  
BROOMEHILL - COOLGARDIE  
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**Holland Track** - In 1893 a team led by John Holland cut the original 500km cart track from Broomehill to Coolgardie as an alternative route to the Eastern goldfields in just two months. The north eastern section of the track was reopened in 1992. Three FM radio transmitters are being installed along the track to broadcast safety and interpretive information.

**Wave Rock** - Famous rock 110 metres long, 15 metres high formed by the unusual weathering of granite monolith, other unusual rocks abound in the vicinity.

**Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve** - Traces of 1893 Holland Track (Broomehill to Coolgardie) still visible in the Bush here.

**White Cliffs** - Rare phenomenon of granite cliff weathered to quartz crystals and white kaolin clay. On private land, visits can be arranged.

**Lake Magenta** - One of the largest remaining areas of uncultivated wheatbelt vegetation.

Travellers should contact the Coolgardie Visitor Centre for information on road access and conditions before departing.

**Roe Heritage Trail** - 23km long, retraces part of 1848 route of explorer John Septimus Roe. Mt Madden (386m) is popular picnic spot with views of coast from summit.

