

## Tom Price

Tom Price is the highest town above sea level (747 metres) in Western Australia. It was built in 1966 by Hamersley Iron to service the nearby Mount Tom Price iron ore operation.

Tom Price is located approximately 1600 kilometres from Perth and is situated on the edge of the Hamersley Ranges, within the Shire of Ashburton.

### **What is the weather like?**

Weather in the area can be extreme, ranging from zero degrees on a winter's night to 45 degrees on a summer's day. During the summer, hot clear days are experienced, with an average temperature of 35 degrees. Winter months are very pleasant, with day time temperatures varying from the low to mid 20s.

### **How much rain does Tom Price receive?**

The majority of rainfall is experienced during the summer months (wet season) and is dependant upon the cyclone activity off the coast. On average, Tom Price receives approximately 330 millilitres of rainfall each year.

### **Why the town is called Tom Price?**

Tom Price is named after Thomas Moore Price, who worked for the American Company Kaiser Steel. He arrived in the area in the early 1960s to appraise deposits of ore and was instrumental in convincing the mining companies that it was worth mining in the region. Thomas Price also played a major role in lobbying the State and Federal governments to allow mining to proceed and for the ore to be exported.

In September 1962, at the age of 71, Thomas Price returned to America. Sadly he died from a heart attack while at his desk, only two hours after being advised of the very rich ore deposit discovered on the mountain here.

In recognition of Thomas Moore Price and his efforts during the foundation of the industry, the mountain and town, Tom Price was named in his honour.

### **What facilities does Tom Price offer?**

Today, Tom Price is a picturesque, modern and fully serviced town designed to blend with the natural environment and serve the population of around 5,500 people.

Facilities include a major supermarket, bank, doctor, hospital, fuel outlet, library, primary schools, secondary school, Pilbara Institute (TAFE), motels and a caravan park.

The love of sport and the outdoor life in Tom Price is evident, with the majority of sports catered for. The town is home to three large ovals (two of which have lighting), tennis, netball, basketball and squash courts as well as a lawn bowls green, an indoor cricket centre, and 18 hole golf course and an Olympic size swimming pool.

There are several parks and gardens within the town, which are well maintained and provide an abundance of shade, suitable for a family barbeque, ball games or just a snooze under a tree. Kings Lake, situated approximately five kilometres from town in a bush setting is also a very popular recreational area, with a man-made lake (no swimming), barbeques and gazebos.

Tom Price is the gateway to Karijini National Park. Many people base themselves at Tom Price and make day trips to Karijini or stock up with supplies and camp out in the National Park.

### **What accommodation is available in Tom Price?**

The Tom Price Hotel/Motel is located in the centre of town and has approximately 42 motel rooms, two bars, a bistro and function room. The bistro is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner each day and caters for young children.

The Windawarri Lodge Motel offers three and a half star fully serviced motel rooms. The Bistro/Bar is available for breakfast and dinner seven days a week and offers an indulgent buffet and drinks selection.

Tom Price Tourist Park is a shady and well grassed park, nestled at the base of Mt Nameless. It hosts a variety of accommodation ranging from one and two bedroom cabins and villas to powered van sites and tent sites. The park is open seven days per week. Amenities include two ablution blocks, a laundry, swimming pool, children's play area and gas barbeques.

## **What tourist opportunities are there in and around Tom Price?**

Tom Price offers a unique range of tourism opportunities including tours of the Karijini National Park and a trip up the highest accessible mountain in Western Australia by vehicle, Mt Nameless.

Mt Nameless offers panoramic views of the Tom Price town site and the mine site. A gravel road provides access to the summit via four wheel drive. A walking trail to the summit commences on Nameless Valley drive, just prior to the Tom Price Tourist Park.

The walk takes in breathtaking views every step of the way. At an average pace, it takes approximately two and a half hours return. Mt Nameless closes at 6.30 pm each day.

Lestok Tours offer a comprehensive tour of one of the largest open-cut mines in the world. Tours are booked through the Tom Price Visitors Centre, booking are essential. Safety equipment is supplied, although closed-in shoes must be worn.



*Hancock Gorge, Karijini National Park*

## **Is there a fee to visit Karijini National Park?**

Visitor fees apply to all National Parks in Western Australia. The fees are based on vehicle entry into the park.

Passes are available from the Tom Price Visitor Centre, Department of Environment and Conservation offices or from the Karijini Visitor Centre.

## **Can we camp at Karijini?**

Camping is available at Karijini National Park at three separate camp sites. These sites are: Weano Gorge, Joffree Falls and Circular Pool Campsites.

All camp sites have picnic tables, toilets and free gas barbecues. Open fires are not permitted in the National Park.

A generator site is provided at Circular Pool campsite. All camping fees are payable at the camping registration sites. Money is to be placed in the envelopes provided.



## **I want to know more about Karijini National Park?**

Karijini is the homeland of the Banjima, Kurrama and Innawonga Aboriginal people, many of whom now live in the Wakathuni Aboriginal Community close to Tom Price.

Karijini National Park (formerly known as the Hamersley Ranges) is located approximately one hour from Tom Price.

Within the National Park, walk trails are marked into the heart of the gorges, winding past waterfalls and permanent rock pools, to areas surrounded by lush greenery, that contrast with the most amazing rich red rock faces of the gorge walls. Oxers and Junction Pool lookout are where four gorges merge into one and is probably one of the most breathtaking views in the Karijini National Park. Throughout the park there are many pools and waterfalls that are safe to swim and bathe in. However some pools are permanently shaded and become extremely cold in the winter months, so care must be taken.

The Karijini Visitors Centre opened in May 2001. The design of the building represents a goanna moving through the landscape. Information on the National Park's unique natural and cultural history is available at the Centre. Features within the centre include, interactive and static displays, models of some of the parks interesting and unique flora and fauna as well as a shop and theatre.

Lestok and Design-A-Tour offer full day tours out to the Karijini National Park from Tom Price. For the more adventurous, Red Rock Abseiling Adventures offer half day abseils or full day tours combining abseiling, guided walk and swim. Lunch is provided with all full day tours. Bookings for these tours can be made at the Tom Price Visitors Centre.

## **Where can I find more tourist information?**

The Tom Price Visitors Centre is part of the Western Australian Networked Visitors Centre program and provides bookings, tour and travel information locally and also for towns throughout the state. It also offers a large range of souvenir lines including exclusive Tom Price and Karijini items as well as Australian products.

Tom Price Visitors Centre: ..... 9188 1112

Karijini Visitors Centre: ..... 9189 8121

## **Where can I obtain information about road conditions in the National Park?**

Road conditions in the area and the National Park can change very quickly, especially during the wet season. Prior to departing on your visit to the National Park it is best to check on the road conditions in the Park.

These are posted on the main roads website [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au) or on the Shire of Ashburtons website, [www.ashburton.wa.gov.au](http://www.ashburton.wa.gov.au)

## **For more information visit the Tom Price Visitors Centre**

Central Road, Tom Price

Phone: 9188 1112

Email: [info@tompricewa.com.au](mailto:info@tompricewa.com.au)

### 1 May – 31 October

Monday – Friday: ..... 8.30am - 5.00pm

Saturday ..... 9.00am – 12.30pm

Sunday and Public Holidays ..... 9.00am – 12 noon

### 1 November – 30 April

Monday – Friday: ..... 9.30am – 3.00pm

Saturday: ..... 9.00 am – 12 noon

Sunday and Public Holidays: ..... Closed

## Important telephone numbers

### Police

Tom Price ..... (08) 9188 0222  
Paraburdoo ..... (08) 9159 8600  
Pannawonica ..... (08) 9184 1222

### Ambulance

Tom Price ..... (08) 9189 1744  
Paraburdoo ..... 000

### Fire

Tom Price ..... (08) 9188 1333  
Paraburdoo ..... (08) 9143 4163  
Pannawonica ..... (08) 9184 1513

### Hospital

Tom Price ..... (08) 9159 5222  
Paraburdoo ..... (08) 9159 8222

### Dentist

Pilbara Dental Centre ..... 9189 3334  
Pilbara Dental Care ..... 9188 0222

### Cyclone information

Rio Tinto Employee Cyclone Hotline .... 1800 992 777  
Bureau of Meteorology cyclone service . 1300 659 210

### Poisons information (24 hours)

..... 13 11 26

### Power supply faults

Tom Price - Business and after hrs ..... 1800 992 777

### Sewerage leaks

Tom Price & Paraburdoo..... 1800 992 777

### State emergency service

Emergencies ..... 132 500

### RSPCA

..... (08) 9351 8377

### Television faults

ABC ..... 1800 226 667  
GWN ..... (08) 9721 4466  
WIN ..... (08) 9345 9910

### Water leaks/faults

Tom Price and Paraburdoo ..... 1800 992 777

Faults concerning town ovals, toilets and parks please contact the Shire of Ashburton office in your town.

## Rubbish tip hours and collection days

### Tom Price

#### Rubbish Tip

Monday ..... Closed  
Tuesday – Saturday ..... 7.30am to 3.30pm  
Sunday..... 7.30am to 12.30pm  
Public Holidays ..... Closed

#### Rubbish Collection

Town..... Every Wednesday  
North Road ..... Every Thursday  
Area W..... Every Thursday

### Paraburdoo

#### Rubbish tip

Monday ..... Closed  
Tuesday - Saturday ..... : 7.30am to 3.30pm  
Sunday..... 7.30am to 12.30pm  
Public Holidays ..... Closed

#### Rubbish collection

All houses, every Tuesday

### Pannawonica

#### Rubbish tip

All hours

#### Rubbish collection

East ..... Every Monday  
West ..... Every Tuesday

### Further information

Some information has been kindly provided by the Shire of Ashburton. For more information, please visit the Shire website: [www.ashburton.com.au](http://www.ashburton.com.au)