



Walk Trail

- ① Cossack Wharf
- ② Customs House & Bond Store
- ③ Post & Telegraph Office
- ④ Police Barracks, Cookhouse & Lockup
- ⑤ Courthouse - Museum
- ⑥ Galbrith Store



Drive Trail

- ① North West Mercantile Store
- ② Tien Tsin Lookout
- ③ School House & Tramway
- ④ Steam Lighter & Tram station
- ⑤ Chinese Market Gardens
- ⑥ Afghan Transit Camp
- ⑦ Settlers Beach Dig Down
- ⑧ Reader Head Lookout
- ⑨ European and Asian Cemetery

Cossack is a historic ghost town located 1,566 km north of Perth within the City of Karratha.



Cossack Heritage Trail

Facilities

While Cossack no longer supports a resident population, the following facilities and services are available:

- Accommodation;
- Café open during the tourist season (May to September);
- Venue hire suitable for weddings and events; and
- Recreational activities include kayaking (hire not currently available), Staircase to the Moon, fishing, photography and observing wildlife.

For further details regarding facilities and activities available contact Cossack caretakers on 0408 937 677.

Events

Cossack periodically hosts public events such as the Cossack Art Awards usually in late July and early August

Cossack History

Additional information on Cossack's unique history can be obtained from the Karratha Visitor Centre or by clicking on the additional sites information link above.

Karratha Visitor Centre: (08) 9144 4600

Local History Office: (08) 9186 8660



The Cossack Trail

The trail guides visitors to key significant features in Cossack spread over a distance of 5 km. Participants have the option to walk or drive the trail depending on your preference. However, please bear in mind that it does get very hot in the Pilbara and there are no designated watering stations or shade.

The carefully maintained remnants of this early settlement include some of the oldest buildings in northern Western Australia positioned on the waters of the Butcher Inlet.

Originally named "Tien Tsin" after the boat which carried the first settlers to the region in 1863, the town was once the North west's main shipping port. The township was then renamed Cossack after the warship which carried the State's governor, Frederick Weld to the Pilbara in 1871.

Aboriginal Site Protection

Multiple sites along this trail are very significant to Aboriginal people; these heritage sites are of great interest to non-Aboriginal people and are protected by law. We trust that giving people a better understanding will engender greater respect for Aboriginal culture.

Trail Information

Grade 2 Walking Trail

The trail has been divided into a walking trail and a driving trail but can be explored any way you like, driving, cycling or walking.

The entire trail is approximately 3 kms long and is designed to begin and end at the Bond Store.

Much to explore for historians, naturalists, archaeologists, local residents and visitors.

Please be aware that there are unprotected wells, areas of broken glass and also privately owned land in this precinct. Do not stray from the road or clearly marked paths.

It is recommended that users of the trail:

- Give careful consideration before attempting the walk in hot weather
- Carry water and take adequate precautions against heat stress, sunburn and insect bites
- Be wary of pedestrian traffic
- Are aware that under the Heritage Act, it is an offence to damage or remove anything from these sites
- Take your rubbish away with you

Please observe the speed limit of 10 kph and be considerate of pedestrians and other traffic.

Cossack Wharf

The stonework supporting the wharf is still visible today. You can fish here, only a few metres from the café and accommodation building. Healthy mangrove habitat across the inlet supports wildlife such as crabs, snakes, and mud skippers. Marine turtles and large fish can also be seen here at high tide.

Post Office & Telegraph Office

Sending a Telegraph

The telegraph was used for rapid long distance communication before invention of the telephone. It involved transmitting symbols such as smoke signals, reflected light etc. in the same way a person might still use a flashlight to communicate in Morse code.

The electrical telegraph, which transmitted low voltage pulses of electricity along a wire that could then be translated into letters, was developed in the early 1800s.

Police Barracks, Cookhouse & Lockup

An article from the Daily News (Perth WA)
Friday 6 July 1988, page 3

The following cases were dealt with at the Cossack police-court last May: - Alexander M'Allister, charged with having stolen twenty-eight, one pound Union Bank notes from the person of one Ralph M'Gregor, was committed for trial at the next General Sessions to be held at Roebourne.

Nicholas, a Cingalee, for having stolen one lady's Deneva silver watch, valued at £5, from the room of a Japanese woman named Ocijee, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Sulliman, an Arab, convicted upon two separate charges of having unlawfully supplied two female Aboriginal natives with intoxicating liquors was ordered to pay £40, or else undergo six months' imprisonment.

Beagle, a native of Port Darwin, for having unlawfully supplied a female Aboriginal native with intoxicating drink, was fined £20; or, in default of payment, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Courthouse

Designed by George Temple-Poole

George Temple-Poole was an Italian-born British architect and public servant responsible for many significant buildings in Western Australia during the Federation Period (1890 to 1915). Notable buildings designed by Temple-Poole include:

- Perth Railway Station
- Toodyay Post Office and Court House
- Fremantle Arts Centre
- Old Perth Observatory buildings.

The plaque displayed outside the Courthouse was placed by local freemasons to acknowledge their original lodge. It is an interesting coincidence that Temple-Poole himself was a freemason.

Galbraith Store

Galbraith and Co. or Galbraith and Sons were an early version of the giant international chain retailers seen everywhere today. They originally started out in Scotland in the 1890s after which they expanded rapidly to over 200 stores by the 1940s.

Tien Tsin Lookout

Leprosy was detected among Aborigines near Roebourne in 1909. Land adjacent to Cossack was gazetted as a quarantine reserve in 1910.

Dr Thorpe inspected the Lazarette in 1914; he described it as a cruel situation for a leper camp, as there were neither trees nor undergrowth to shelter the patients from heat or sun. A new lazarette was constructed at the site in 1925 and was run by the Medical Department.

School House & Tramway

In September 1905, a children's plain and fancy dress ball was held in Cossack attended by some seventy children dressed as various characters. A special 6:45 train brought them from Roebourne to attend the festivities and carried them home again at 11pm. Costumes included fairies, Buffalo Bill, sailors (of course), clowns and jockeys.

Steam Lighter & Tram Station

Are you a train or tram enthusiast? If so you should check out the tram remains at the Point Samson Information Bay. A second tram is also displayed on the foreshore in Point Samson near the Cove Holiday Village.

Chinese Market Gardens

Australia (particularly parts of the North West from Exmouth to Broome) experienced an influx of Chinese immigrants early in its colonial history when the British forced China to open its ports to international trade in 1842. Many Asian people worked as labourers in Australia's early industries such as pearling and gold mining and while some spent the remainder of their lives on our shores, the majority returned to their country of origin at the end of the gold rush.

Cyclone Hits Cossack on 4 April 1898

The cyclone hit Cossack at approximately 6pm following heavy rains that afternoon, stripped many houses of the corrugated iron roofs and obliterated less sturdy buildings completely. Following the cyclone, a number of Cossack residents walked to Roebourne to share the terrible news of how hard their town had been hit by the storm.

Afghan Transit Camp

In the late nineteenth century "Afghans" included dark-skinned people from a range of countries such as India and the Pacific Islands as well as Middle Eastern countries.

Reader Head Lookout

Jarman Island Lighthouse

In 1866, as vessel movements became common within the Butcher Inlet, a lighthouse was ordered for Jarman Island from the Chance Brothers in England. A series of 28 mm thick cast iron plates were sent to Tien Tsin via Fremantle in late 1887. The kit came complete with tools for its construction and paint to protect it from the elements. According to the dispatch note the lens was sent separately.

Wogrey Dreaming (Fish Dreaming)

If you are interested in learning more about local Aboriginal culture and history you should consider visiting the following:

- Yaburara Trail in Karratha
- Ngurin (Harding River) Bush Tucker Trail in Roebourne
- Murujuga National Park on the Burrup Peninsula
- Ngurranga Tours which operates guided tours of Murujuga National Park, George Gorge and Millstream Chichester National Park.

Additional information on tours and trails is available at the Karratha Visitor Centre.



Or scan this QR code to go to the website

For more information about early Australian settlers from around the world, visit 'the changing face of early Australia.'

<http://www.australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/changing-face-of-early-australia>

