

Granite Rocks Tour

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After reading an article in the Go Camping Australia magazine Anthea & I decided to do a tour of the big granite rocks on the edge of the central and eastern wheatbelt areas . We left on a cloudy Sunday morning and headed to our first stop at Kockerbin Rock near Kwolyin for a lunch stop (this was not part of our original plan so the stop was brief) before heading to Marshall Rocks near Bencubbin for our first night . We had previously camped here so were already in familiar territory. The following morning we visited the Pergandes farm nearby to see the old sheep yards which were constructed almost entirely of granite slabs taken from the nearby rock. An example of using the only raw materials available at that time to great effect.

Following our sheep yard visit we headed to Beacon to refuel before travelling north approx. 35kms to our next nights camp at Billiburning Rock. Good campsites with fire rings and eco toilet facilities. We spent the afternoon exploring the rock including a walk to the summit as we did with all of the rocks we visited. The next day we headed off to the road near the state barrier fence on our way to our next destination at Beringbooding rock north of Mukinbudin which has a 2 million gallon water tank(which was full) filled from a well engineered rock wall system around the rock. This water is used as an emergency source of water for local farmers.

That afternoon we moved on to our next campsite at Elachbutting rock a short distance away. This rock has wave like Wave rock at Hyden but is probably a better shape and maybe a little higher. There is a lot of campsites here with fire rings and an eco toilet but like most these days, no wood, which wasn't a problem as we had taken our own supply. Here you can drive up a four wheel drive track to get a good view of the surrounding farmland if you don't fancy the walk to the summit. There were quite a few overnight campers here. The following day we headed off through the edge of the farming area to our next stop at Baladjie rock in the Westonia shire on the edge of the very salty Lake Baladjie . This rock was the highest and one of the largest in area on our trip and a was a bit of a challenge to reach the summit caused by some strong easterly winds .The road in could cause a problem or two after a downpour.(nice slippery red mud) There are no facilities here but there is some wood and one less small snake which caused some concern(another story).

Next stop was Weonie rock north of Yellowdine on the Gus Luck track (details available in Western 4WD mag) which has a series of wells built for the goldminers heading to the North Coolgardie goldfields. The track here is 4wd only so we had the area to ourselves with a nice campsite overlooking the surrounding woodland. Main feature of this rock is the two gnamma holes dammed up by early surveyors to water horses & men on their way to the goldfields.

The following day we made our way to Karalee rock approx. 17km east of Yellowdine on Great Eastern highway where we set up camp before driving further east to Boondi rock. Both these rocks have earth dams with the rock as their catchment area built to provide water for the steam trains on their way to Kalgoorlie. Both these dams were close to capacity and the water was good quality. There are fire rings and eco toilets at both these sites which have a good number of campsites used a lot by travellers coming or going east or west. After 7 days on the road we had to return home so came down Fence road to the Humps rock & Mulka's cave near Hyden for quick look before heading back to Albany for an overdue shower and clean up before reluctantly returning to the workforce.