

Arltunga Historical Reserve

The Golden Chance Mine Self Guided Walk



Use this leaflet as your guide as you walk the 1.7 km return trip out to the Golden Chance Mine. Discover the isolation of the early Arltunga mines, and imagine the stamina of the Arltunga pioneers.

This 60 minute walk includes a visit to a stone house that is perhaps the most well constructed miner's dwelling at Arltunga. You will also see the nearby workings of the Golden Chance Mine, along with other smaller workings. A short walk to a lookout point will reward you with an outstanding view over much of the goldfield.

We hope you enjoy your walk.

1. Stone Buildings and Structures

The main building and forge at this site are exceptionally well built given the materials available at the time, and are still in good condition. It is well worth taking some time to examine the high level of workmanship evident in their construction. Note that dry dirt has been used as mortar due to the shortage of water.

2. Golden Chance Mine

Golden Chance Mine was described by the Government Geologist H.Y.L. Brown in 1905 as: "...ferruginous quartz carrying a little copper, and is freely studded with coarse gold; a return of 2 oz. per ton is anticipated". By 1904 the mine had produced 72.5 tons of ore for crushing which yielded approximately 58.4 ozs of gold, much below what was expected.

Records for the mine indicate that it was worked from 1898-1904, mainly by James Pound. The mine consists of a vertical shaft and a small open cut. If you look around at the discarded quartz you can see the copper carbonates forming green tinges in the rock.

3. Lookout Walk

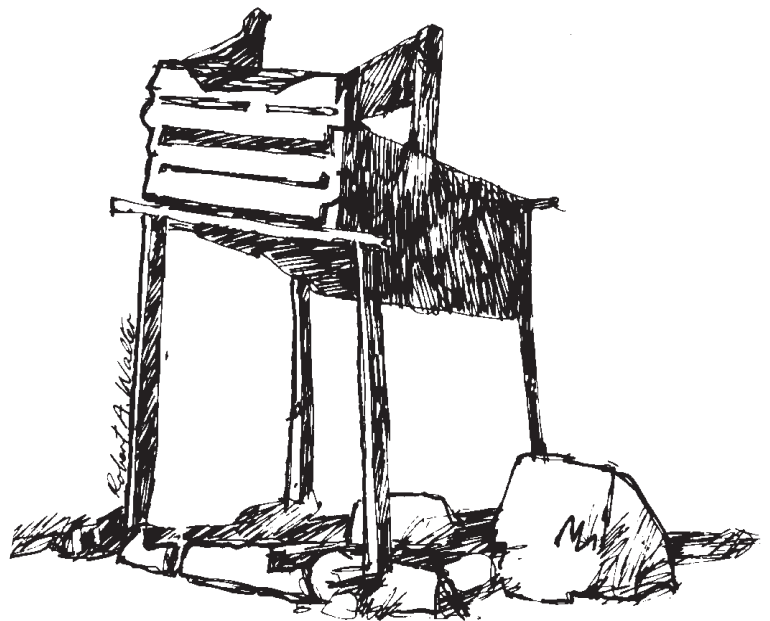
This unmarked walk takes you to the top of the hill and provides a panoramic view of the surrounding country. On the top of the hill, the Government Works can be seen in the clearing in front of you. Slightly to the left is the Police Station. Behind you is White Range where, after the discovery of gold in 1898, most of Arltunga's mining activity occurred. From here it is easy to appreciate the distance over

which ore had to be carted from the mines at White Range to the Government Battery by horse and wagon - at great cost to the miners. Toward the left-hand end of the range is part of the White Range gold mine of the 1990s. You will notice a few smaller reef mines on your return walk.

4. Alluvial Diggings

As you make your way back you will notice that the creek has been extensively worked for alluvial gold. Evidence of this can be seen by the many holes and piles of sediment in and near the creek. Alluvial mining is often done by panning but due to the lack of water at Arltunga, dry blowers were commonly used. You can see a replica of a dry blower at the Visitor Centre.

A dry blower, commonly used on the Arltunga Goldfields due to the lack of water.



Arltunga Historical Reserve

The Golden Chance Mine Self Guided Walk

