The Mount Isa Arts and Culture Walk is a self-guided tour through the best of Mount Isa’s artwork, cultural heritage and historical landmarks, all set out along an easy 7.8km route that encircles central Mount Isa.

Setting out from Arts on Alma, a community gallery and gift shop, the walk takes visitors around the eastern side of the Mount Isa city, passing by Art on Zinc at Buchanan Park and the Hilary Street lookout. The walk is a fantastic way to fill in a few hours without straying too far from town, and is accessible to visitors both young and old.

Continuing through the centre of town, the walk provides ample opportunity to stop in at one of the many cafes and dining destinations. Self-guided means there’s no schedules to adhere to, so relax and take in the sights at your own pace!

If you’re more interested in the current day Mount Isa, the Hilary Street lookout is perfect for getting your bearings on the town, giving a unique perspective over the mine and the outback beyond.

Promoting reconciliation through a collaborative project has helped to unify the community, as well as provide a delightful walking trail with native gardens for both locals and visitors to the town. Get out there, enjoy the fresh air, the sunshine and the spectacular artwork.

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Come take a walk and enjoy the best of what Mount Isa’s art, culture and history has to offer!

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and the Mount Isa City Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

CONTACT
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Arts on Alma Street

Located just north of central Mount Isa is Arts on Alma Street. Arts on Alma display a fabulous range of art works in their gallery and workshop. All artwork is by local artists and items on display and for sale include pottery, paintings, textiles, photography and jewellery just to name a few. Arts on Alma works to create a supportive art community for regional Queensland and the studio has been involved in a number of community art projects.

The gallery is open Wednesday’s 9am to 12 noon and Saturday’s from 9am to 1pm or you can contact one of the committee members to arrange another convenient time to visit the gallery.

Tharrapatha Way

Mount Isa has a commitment to acknowledging and preserving its cultural history, and the City celebrates the diversity in art with the Tharrapatha Way project. This community art project engaged local art groups and school students, painting Aboriginal-themed artwork to decorate thirty power poles that follow a walking track bordering the Leichhardt River. The walking track has helped to “build bridges” between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the city.

Art on Zinc

The Art on Zinc community art project, launched by Mount Isa City Council in 2013, was a celebration of 90 years of Mount Isa’s history. Sheree Blackley, Sonja Clark, Barbara Sam, Hannah Illingworth and Maria Luff painted murals onto 40 corrugated zinc panels running between the Xstrata Illingworth and Maria Luff painted murals onto 40 corrugated zinc panels running between the Xstrata Entertainment Centre and the rodeo arena at Buchan Park. The murals depict the town’s mining community and indigenous history, as well as celebrating local organisations including the PCYC and the Royal Flying Doctor’s Service.

Outback at Isa

Offering food, tours, visitor information, and a unique museum experience, Outback at Isa provides an in-depth and engaging insight into the history of the city, as well as the surrounding area. From the immersive mining tour, to the lush Outback Park rest area, Outback at Isa is an essential stop on the walk, and can be enjoyed at a glance, or over a full day. Mount Isa Regional Art Gallery, located at Outback at Isa, features a stunning array of artworks from local and regional artists. From sculptures to paintings, portraits to landscapes, abstract to Indigenous, ‘The Gallery’ has something for everyone.

Underground Hospital

Built in 1942 by off-duty miners, the Mount Isa Underground Hospital is tunnelled into the side of a hill behind the existing Mount Isa Hospital and stands as a monument to the ingenuity, tenacity and determination of the people of Mount Isa.

Visitors can take a tour of the hospital, and are also invited to browse through the adjacent Beth Anderson Museum, which features a collection of antique medical equipment, rare historical items and colourful stories that give us a glimpse of life in the days of early Mount Isa.

Coles Complex

Local indigenous artist Sheree Blackley’s artwork “After the Rains” can be viewed on the Simpson Street side of the Coles Complex. The work depicts the importance of rain in the north west, when plant and animal life thrive, and marks an important time for Indigenous people, a time to gather for feasting and ceremonies.

Rodeo Drive Plaques

Every year in August, Mount Isa hosts the southern hemisphere’s largest rodeo. The Rodeo Drive Plaques celebrate Mount Isa’s status as the Rodeo Capital of Australia, and commemorate champion Rodeo riders and horses from years past. Walking along Rodeo Drive is a walk through the history of this iconic event. The plaques are located along the footpath on Rodeo Drive, between Miles & West Streets.

Town Clock

Mount Isa’s distinctive Town Clock is also a memorial to John Campbell Miles, whose discovery of minerals led to the establishment of the Mount Isa Mines and thus the birth of the town. His ashes are now interred under the clock.

Plaques at the base of the clock tower expand on Mount Isa’s traditional land owners the Kalkadoon, the town’s status as Rodeo Capital of Australia, and the local mining industry and mineral heritage of the city.

Library

Visitors to Mount Isa are able to join the Mount Isa City Library as provisional members. As well as books, audiobooks and magazines, the library offers printing services, computer access and free wireless internet access. The library also has a dedicated Kids’ Space which hosts children’s activities during the week. For further information, contact the Mount Isa City Library on (07) 4747 3350.

Council Office

The Mount Isa City Council main offices and administration centre is located in the CBD at 23 West Street, opening hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm.

The Mount Isa City Council displays a number of murals, one being The Spirit of Mount Isa, a magnificent piece which was commissioned by Mount Isa City Council and created by the Mount Isa Visual Arts Society. In 2000 the Spirit of Mount Isa was unveiled which represents men who developed the industry and brought with them their families that came from all over the world creating a very diverse community.

Step inside the Council Office Building and marvel at the other artwork and murals also on display.

Civic Centre and Anzac Memorial

The Mount Isa Civic Centre is open to the public Monday to Friday and offers a range of products and services, with a diverse range of spaces available to suit each individual’s particular needs. Venue spaces allow for diversity in production, ranging from conferences to dramatic performances, comedy or music.

The Civic Centre is centrally located to the Library and Council Building, take a break and enjoy the artwork within or discuss with the staff about upcoming performances and events.

Civic Centre and Anzac Memorial

The Mount Isa Anzac Memorial was unveiled in 2015 during Australia’s Anzac Centenary commemorations.

Set in landscaped grounds in front of the Civic Centre, the Anzac Memorial features a full size bronze World War One Digger statue and decorative bollards inscribed with the words Courage, Endurance, Mateship and Sacrifice.

Family Fun Park

The Mount Isa Family Fun Park opened in 2009 and is the largest all abilities playground in Queensland.

The Family Fun Park is accessible to everyone, regardless of their level of ability or movement and best of all it’s completely free. The park offers visitors free BBQ facilities, large grassed areas, junior play area and a mural by local artists and school groups. Take the time to rest and relax while the children entertain themselves or wonder around and view the mural by local artists and school groups or marvel at the Duckamucka sculpture installation by Award-Winning Queensland Artist Christopher Thomas.

The Park can be found on Church Street, behind the PCYC and Splashiez Aquatic Centre and operates daily (inclusive of weekends / public holidays), except on Wednesday when the park is closed for maintenance.