

WEST COASTS AUSTRALIA

Road Trip Itinerary



AUSTRALIA
BACKPACKERS GUIDE

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get adventurous. get living. get free. get australia.

In short

The West Coast is one of the most popular road trip routes with wild and varied landscapes. On the program, white sand beaches with turquoise water, the infinite outback of Kimberley and beautiful national parks. Less popular than the East Coast, the West Coast has a lot to offer, provided you have a taste for adventure and the great outdoors!



BROOME

1370 KMS

EXMOUTH

661 KMS

SHARK BAY

371 KMS

KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK

377 KMS

CERVANTES ET LES PINNACLES

198 KMS

PERTH

269 KMS

481 KMS

ESPERANCE

MARGARET RIVER

ALBANY

343 KMS

MAKE IT HAPPEN

ROAD TRIP BUDGET

For a 4-week road trip on the West Coast (2 people), here are our estimates. Obviously, depending on the activities and excursions you plan to do, the budget may be larger.

Campervan Rental

Count on average \$75 per day (\$50 for the vehicle + \$25 for insurance). Or about **\$2,000** for 4 weeks of rental.

Fuel

Average price of different types of fuels:

Please note that prices vary regularly and are higher in isolated areas.

- SP 91: \$1,45
- SP 95: \$1,6
- SP 98: \$1,7
- Diesel: \$1,48

For 4 weeks, count approximately \$500.

Food

If you are cooking as many simple dishes with a few extras from time to time, a budget of around \$8/ day per person will be enough.



Total costs

- Rental of a 2-seater campervan with insurance: \$2,000
- Fuel: \$500
- Food: \$400
- Camping fees: \$150
- Tours & activities: \$1000
- Restaurants and nightlife: \$300

Total: \$4350

(for 2 or \$2175 per person)

BUDGET CALCULATOR

MAKE IT HAPPEN

WEST COAST SEASONS

Seasons

The west coast is huge. The climate can therefore vary greatly between the North and the South.

Broome and the North West benefit from sunny days during the “dry season” (April to September), with temperatures around 29 ° C. From October to March, the humidity is high and the temperatures around 30 ° C.

The Coral Coast (between Broome and Perth) enjoys a warm climate all year round.

Perth enjoys the sun about 9 hours a day. The average temperature in summer is 29 ° but it can go up to 40 or 45 ° in February. Between June and August, temperatures hover around 12 ° C.

The best times to visit the west coast are therefore the mid-seasons. That is to say between April and June, or between September and November.

How long should you travel?

The duration of your road trip depends on many components (your budget, any personal restrictions, or planned



activities...). But we recommend to allow around 4 weeks for a road trip between Esperance and Broome (or Perth Darwin). And up to 6 weeks to take your time and eventually go through the Kimberley's. For a shorter stay, you can do the coast from Perth to Broome (about 3 weeks).

In general, try to plan bigger, which will allow you to linger a few days if you particularly like a place and want to take advantage of it.

Cheap

CAMPERVAN RENTALS

All our advice on finding a cheap campervan rental in Australia. Tips, comparators, promo codes etc.

[READ MORE](#)



ESPERANCE

In short

Small isolated seaside town, Esperance is especially famous for its beaches. During your visit, do not miss Twilight Beach, Ten Miles Beach or Lucky Bay with its white sand and crystal-clear waters. A true haven of peace where kangaroos roam on the beach.

 1 - 3 DAYS



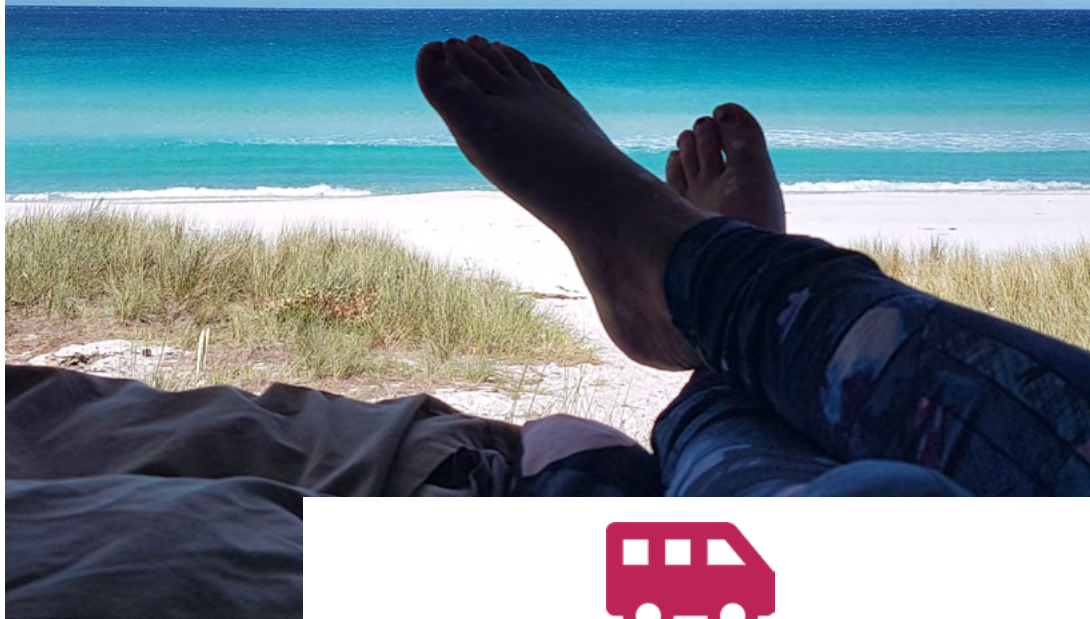
Must do

- Dempster Street, the city's main street
- West Beach, the surf spot not to be missed
- Twilight Beach, one of the most beautiful beaches in Australia
- Eleven Mile Beach, incredible with its 2 very different beaches from each other
- Pink lake (lake Hillier), unfortunately not that pink...
- To the east, Cape le Grand National Park
- The famous Lucky Bay beach and its kangaroos
- Thistle cove and Hellfire bay for its turquoise waters and the incredible contrast with the red rocks

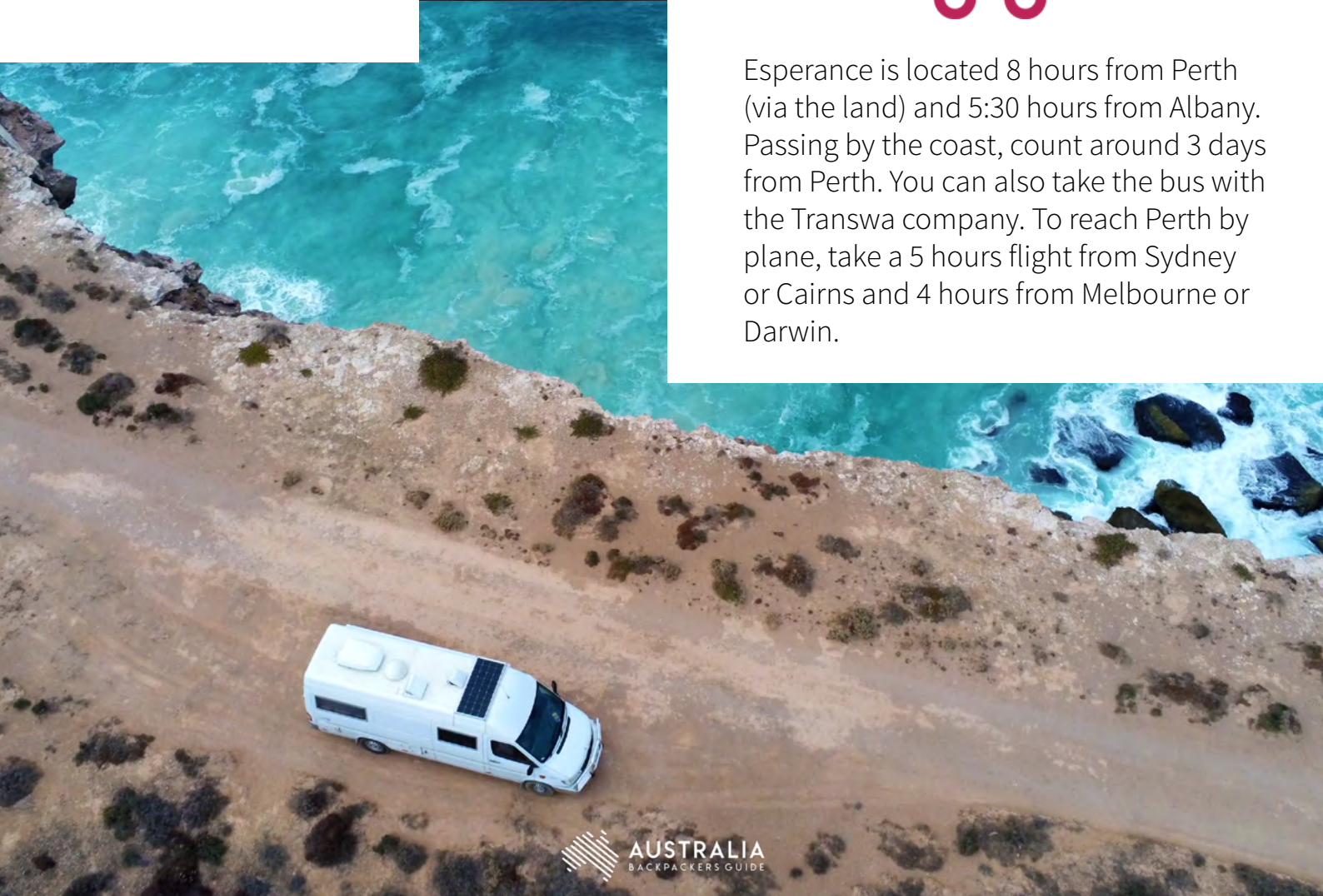
[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



If you travel by campervan, you can find a large number of caravan parks in Esperance. In high season, remember to book or pay for your campsite in the morning. There is no official free camp in Esperance. We recommend Cape Le Grand Beach and Lucky Bay.



Esperance is located 8 hours from Perth (via the land) and 5:30 hours from Albany. Passing by the coast, count around 3 days from Perth. You can also take the bus with the Transwa company. To reach Perth by plane, take a 5 hours flight from Sydney or Cairns and 4 hours from Melbourne or Darwin.



ALBANY

In short

It was in Albany that the English established in 1826 the first colony of Western Australia, 2 years before Perth and Fremantle. This small port town steeped in history will keep you on a good day, time to enjoy the coast frequented by whales and dolphins, it's pretty historic centre and its museums.

Must do

🕒 1 JOUR



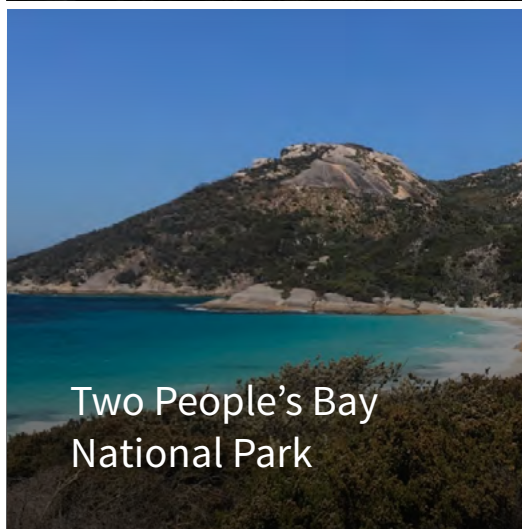
National Anzac Centre



Middleton Beach



The Gap



Two People's Bay National Park



[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



There are many hostels, but our favourite is 1849 Backpackers. There is a unique atmosphere in this colourful hostel established in former slaughterhouses! You will be welcomed as a member of the family. The free breakfast pancakes are to die for!



Located 400km from Perth, 480km from Esperance and 360km from Margaret River, you can reach Albany by road with your car. The bus via Transwa is also an option.

An aerial photograph of turquoise water with two surfers. One surfer is in the lower center, and another is in the upper right. The water has a textured, rippled appearance.

MARGARET RIVER

In short

Just 3 hours from Perth, Margaret River is an authentic little town with plenty of tourist attractions. Located at the gates of Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, it is the ideal starting point for exploring the region. With breathtaking nature, its unspoiled coastline, its white sandy beaches, its turquoise waters filled with marine life, its Eucalyptus forests and its sunsets over the Indian Ocean, the Margaret River region has a charm unmatched.

 1 - 2 DAYS



Photos © Tourism Australia - Walk Into Luxury - Vasse Felix

Must do

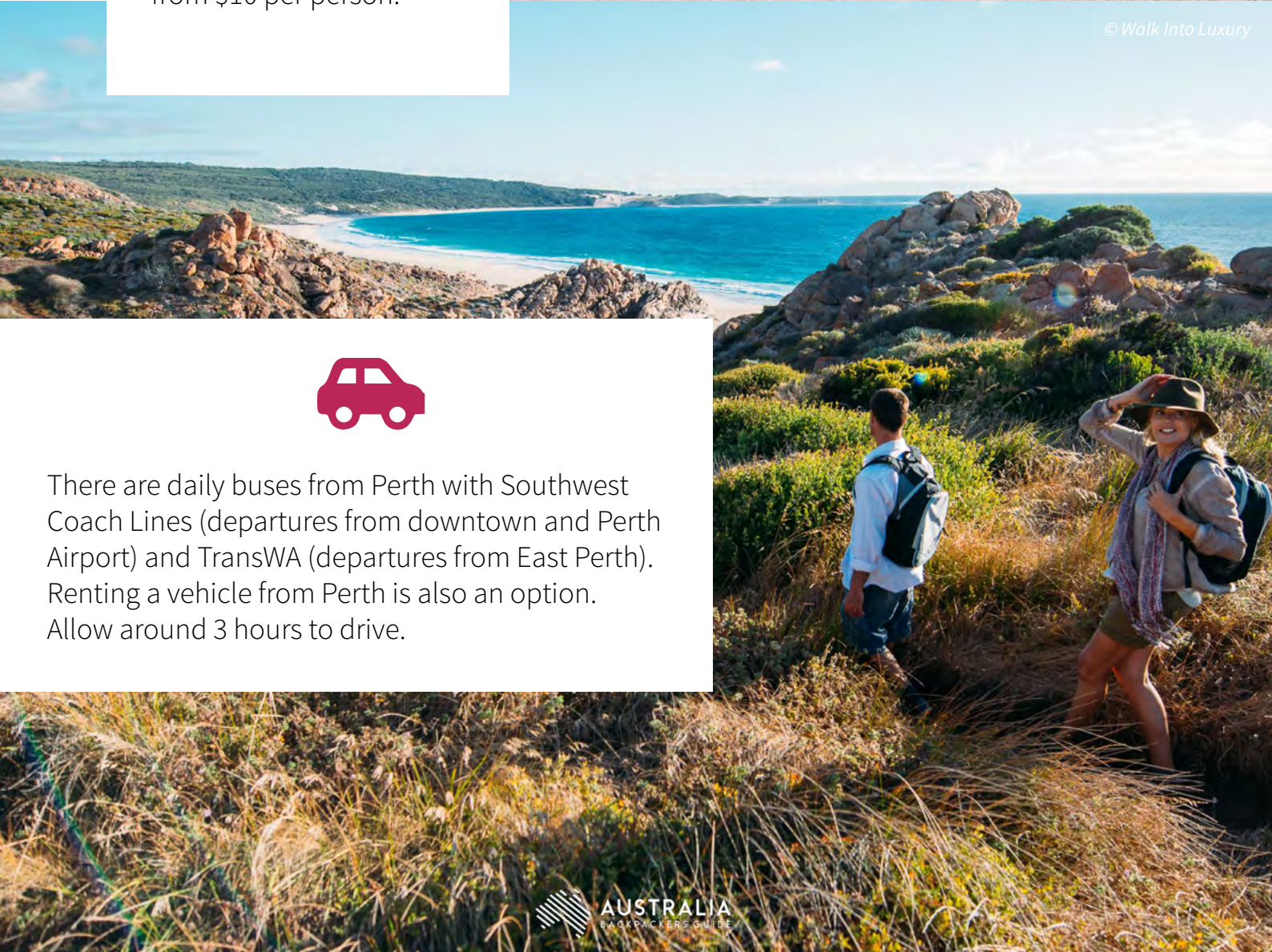
- Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park with Mammoth cave and Ngilgi cave
- Prevelly bay
- Kilcarnup beach
- The Yallingup natural pool, Injidup natural spa
- Snorkelling at Ngari Marine Park
- Taste the local gastronomy at the Chocolate factory, Cheese Factory or the Berry Farm
- The farmer's market (every Saturday)
- Attend a concert at the Tavern, the city's main bar
- Attend an outdoor cinema session at the Cape Mentelle vineyard (summer months)

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Free camping is prohibited in the Margaret River Region, otherwise you can get a big fine. However, there are paid campsites from \$10 per person.

© Walk Into Luxury



There are daily buses from Perth with Southwest Coach Lines (departures from downtown and Perth Airport) and TransWA (departures from East Perth). Renting a vehicle from Perth is also an option. Allow around 3 hours to drive.

PERTH

In short

Capital of Australia's West Coast and the sunniest city in the country, Perth is one of the most isolated cities in the world. Among other things, you can discover beautiful beaches as well as the museums of the Perth Cultural Centre, King's Park, the city's botanical garden and the artistic district of Northbridge. Close to the city, don't miss Fremantle, 18km south of the city. You can enjoy its beaches, its colonial architecture, its cafes and above all visit its prison, now converted into a museum.



2 DAYS



Must do

- The city centre and Forrest place
- St Mary's Cathedral and London Court
- Northbridge Art District
- Kings park and its view of the skyscrapers of the city
- Elizabeth Quay and the Bell Tower
- Cottesloe, City beach, Floreat beach, Scarborough beaches
- Fremantle markets and the port
- Heirisson Island and its kangaroos
- Leederville and its vintage shops

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



It will be difficult to find a free place to sleep with your vehicle.

If you plan to stay only a few days, a hostel or an Airbnb will be the best option.



It is best to park a little out of the centre and use the free CAT shuttles (red, yellow, blue, green) to reach the centre.



Free shuttles (CAT) serve the city centre and nearby surroundings free of charge. The Smartrider card will automatically give you 20% discount on public transport. It costs \$10 and is available at the Transperth office in the central station. There is a free app, Transperth, which schedules your journey in time.



Tours & activities

To explore the surroundings of Perth, a tour can be a perfect option. Discover the wonders of the region guided by a professional guide to learn more about the history of the places explored. Many tours and activities are available from Perth, for a day or several days depending on your budget and your desires. Here are a few:

A DAY IN MARGARET RIVER

Full day from Perth to discover the wine region and taste the local dishes. Enjoy the vineyards in complete relaxation.

[BOOK NOW](#)

THE PINNACLES: DESERT SUNSET & STARS

Visit the Pinnacles and observe the starry sky through a very powerful telescope.

[BOOK NOW](#)

ROTTNEST ISLAND : FERRY + BIKE HIRE

Spend a full day on Rottnest Island and take a bike ride to explore Quokkas!

[BOOK NOW](#)

SWAN RIVER CRUISE

Picturesque cruise from Fremantle or Perth. Free wine tasting available.

[BOOK NOW](#)

ROTTNEST ISLAND

In short

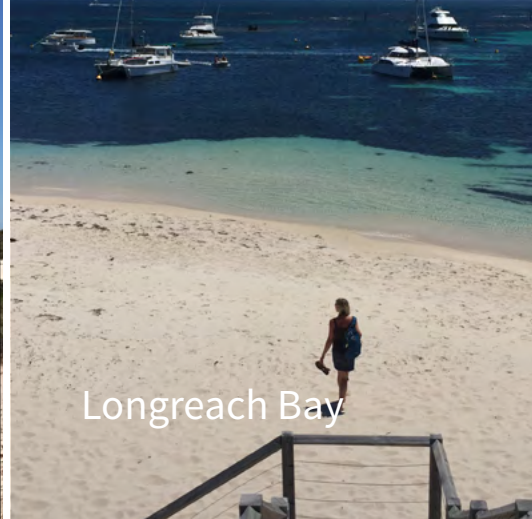
19km from the coast, Rottnest Island, a former prison for the Aborigines, is today a very touristy island accessible by ferry. With its 63 beaches, you can snorkel, meet the quokkas or even play golf! Rottnest is definitely a must-see when visiting the West Coast! It is a unique place and the only place where you can watch the adorable quokkas! To get around the island, ride a bike!

Must do

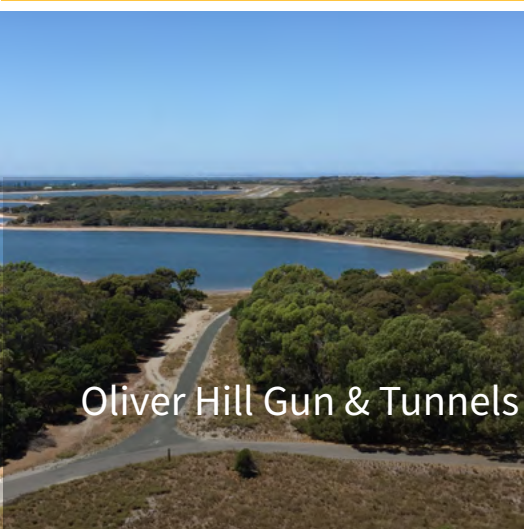
 1 DAY



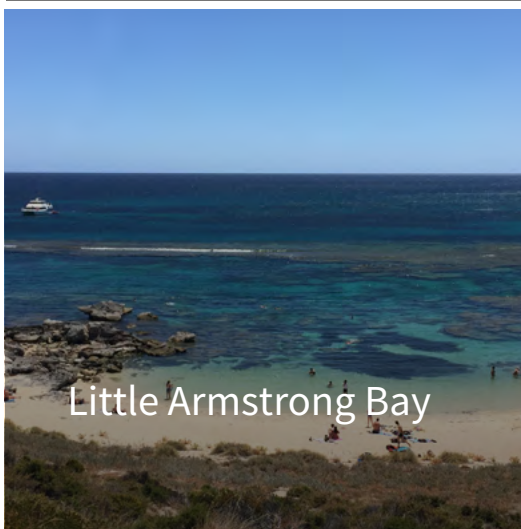
The Basin



Longreach Bay



Oliver Hill Gun & Tunnels



Little Armstrong Bay



[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



You can visit the island during the day, but if you decide to stay overnight, there are several options. Set up your tent near The Basin (\$40 for 2) or opt for Rottneest Hostel. You can also sleep in more expensive cottages or hotels.

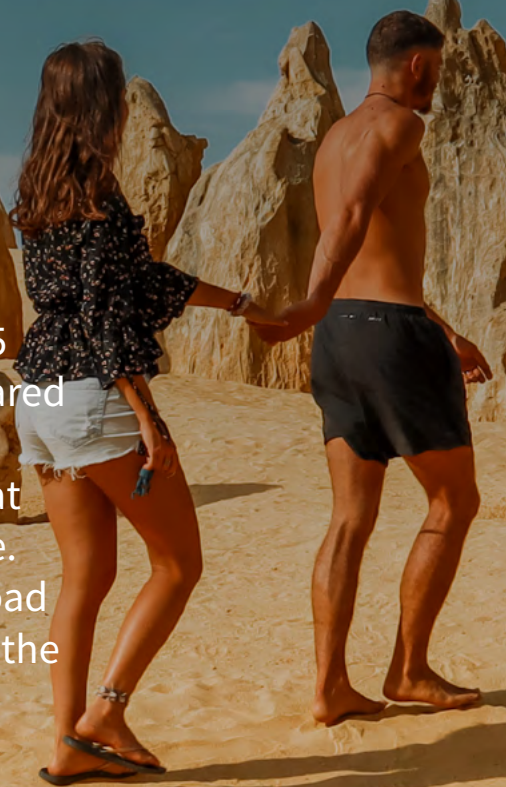


The Rottneest Express is a ferry between Perth, Fremantle and Rottneest Island (expect \$50 round trip from Freo, slightly more expensive from Perth). The trip takes around 30 minutes. On this small island, vehicles are prohibited except for a bus, this means you have to rely on your own feet or a bike. You can rent bicycles on the island.

CERVANTES & THE PINNACLES

In short

245 km north of Perth, do not miss the Nambung National Park and its famous Pinnacles. This vast desert contains a multitude of rock formations sculpted by nature. These limestone rocks up to 5 meters high and 2 meters wide would have appeared about 30,000 years ago! They offer a surprising landscape. Visit the park early in the morning or at sunset to further appreciate the beauty of the site. Entrance fee to the national park is \$13. On the road from Perth, there are also a few stops to discover the beauty of the region.



Must do



1 - 2 DAYS



Going north, Jurien Bay will be an ideal stop to enjoy the coast and possibly meet some sea lions.

Sandy Cape Recreational Park Camp area 12km north of Jurien Bay, \$20 is the perfect place to stay overnight going north.



The road to the Pinnacles Desert is sealed and there is parking within walking distance.

The Lancelin sand dunes are a popular playground for 4x4, bikers and buggy racing enthusiasts. Be careful when entering the area.



KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK

In short

Kalbarri National Park is winded by the Murchison River which carved out rock millions of years ago to form impressive gorges, bordered by landscapes as far as the eye can see. From the Red Bluff cliff and up to 10 km south of the city, there are many vantage points from which you can admire grandiose ocean-cliffs.

Must do

🕒 1 - 2 DAYS



There are no camping areas in the national park, but many hotels and several caravan parks such as Kalbarri Anchorage Caravan Park and Murchison River Caravan Park.

Located 165 km north of Geraldton, this Western Australia National Park also offers incredible landscapes. Accessible for all types of vehicles, some of it is only accessible by 4x4.

After 25 km of unpaved road, you will reach the viewpoints overlooking the gorges.

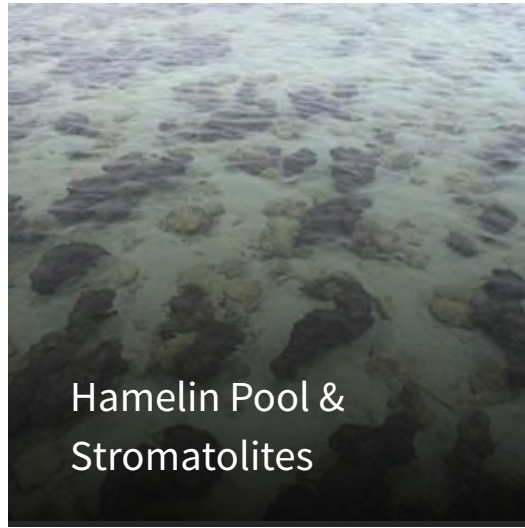
SHARK BAY

In short

Shark Bay is a splendid spot with different points of interest. A single 150-kilometer road, dubbed Shark Bay World Heritage Drive, provides access to various points of interest in the park. A true eco-system, the bay is best known as the place of interaction with dolphins at Monkey Mia. But you can also discover Hamelin Pool, Shell Beach, or even Eagle Bluff perfect for observing marine fauna. A must on the west coast of Australia!

Must do

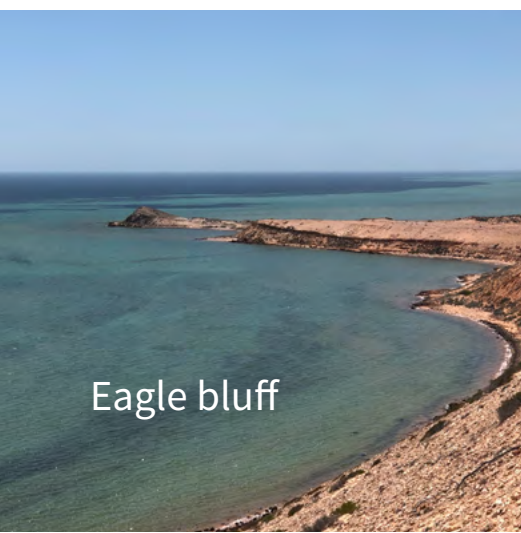
 1 - 2 DAYS



Hamelin Pool & Stromatolites



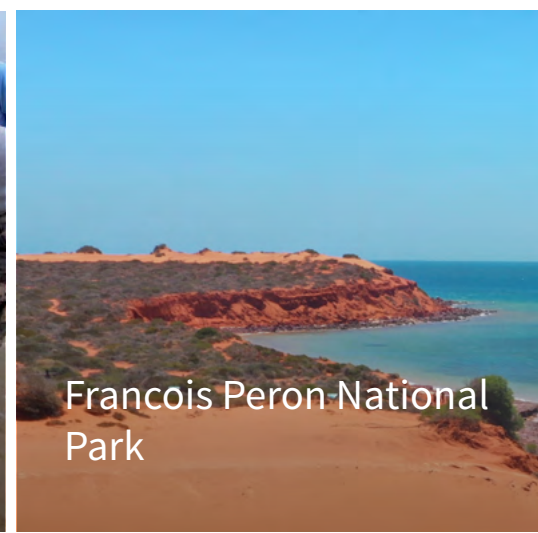
Shell beach



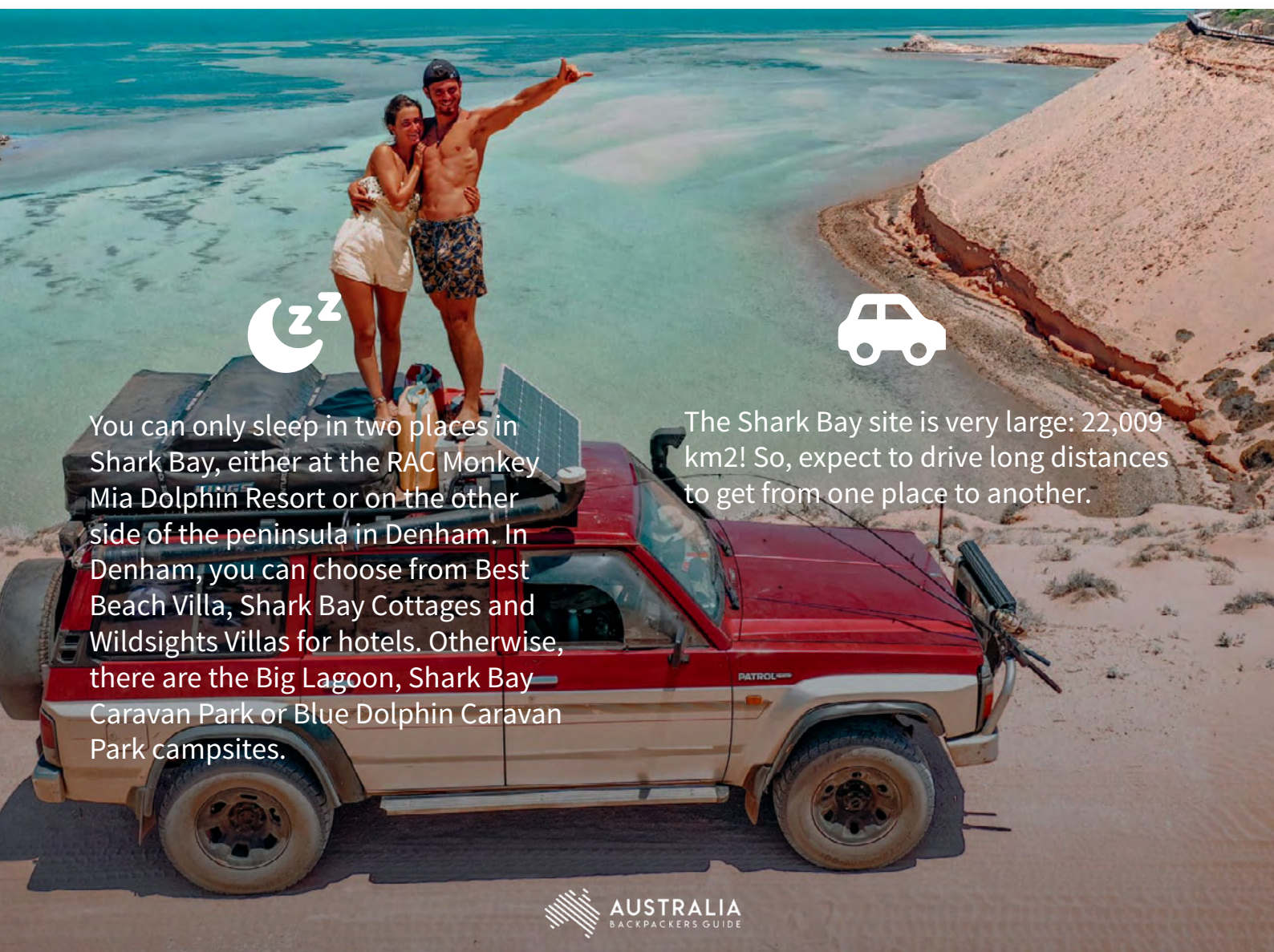
Eagle bluff



Monkey Mia



Francois Peron National Park



You can only sleep in two places in Shark Bay, either at the RAC Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort or on the other side of the peninsula in Denham. In Denham, you can choose from Best Beach Villa, Shark Bay Cottages and Wildsights Villas for hotels. Otherwise, there are the Big Lagoon, Shark Bay Caravan Park or Blue Dolphin Caravan Park campsites.

The Shark Bay site is very large: 22,009 km²! So, expect to drive long distances to get from one place to another.

EXMOUTH & NINGALOO REEF

In short

Without a doubt the most beautiful place that Western Australia has to offer ... Ningaloo Reef is the little sister of the Great Barrier Reef. It has the advantage of being less known and wilder. Here it's dream beaches, crystal clear water, abundant seabed accessible from the beach. Depending on the season, you can also admire dugongs, whales, manta rays and whale sharks. At the gates of the city is Cape Range National Park, offering sublime beaches and dazzling landscapes. The most famous beach is certainly Turquoise Beach.

Must do



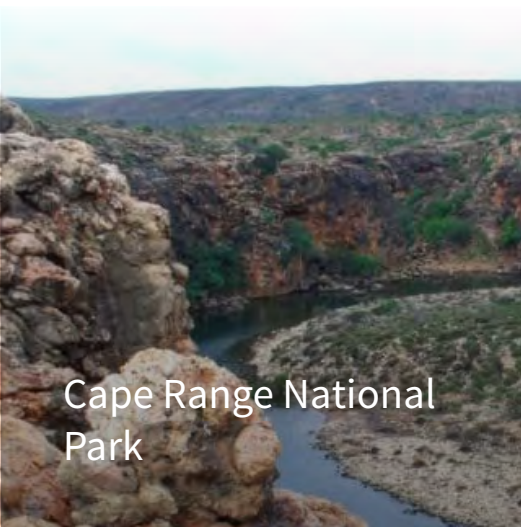
1 - 2 DAYS



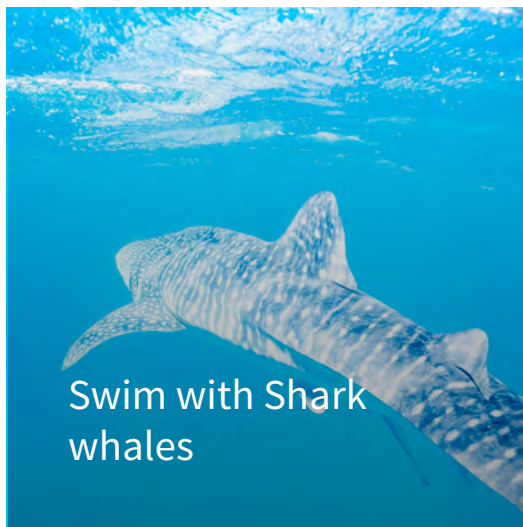
Ningaloo Reef



Coral Bay



Cape Range National Park



Swim with Shark whales



[READ THE ARTICLE](#)



There are many campgrounds available, some are not free of charge. They are spread out along the coast. We advise you to arrive early in the morning to get a place for the night.



Going up the coast to the north, about 230km from Carnarvon, the small seaside resort of Coral Bay will mark your entry into this true marine paradise.



Tours & activities

This part of the coast is particularly famous for the opportunity it offers to swim with the superb whale sharks. If you visit this region during the right period (March to August) don't miss this unique experience! You can also opt for a tour to watch humpback whales or swim with manta rays!

WHALE SHARK SWIM TOUR

Swim with whale sharks and meet the largest fish in the world.

[BOOK NOW](#)

HUMPBACK WHALES SWIM TOUR

The experience of a lifetime where you will join humpback whales in the water on the Ningaloo Reef.

[BOOK NOW](#)

SCUBA DIVING DAY TOUR

Spend the day scuba diving through the spectacular Ningaloo Reef. Explore turtles, manta rays, and soft corals

[BOOK NOW](#)

5 DAYS TOUR FROM PERTH TO EXMOUTH

Travel from Perth to Exmouth with amazing coastlines, native wildlife and the famous Ningaloo Reef.

[BOOK NOW](#)

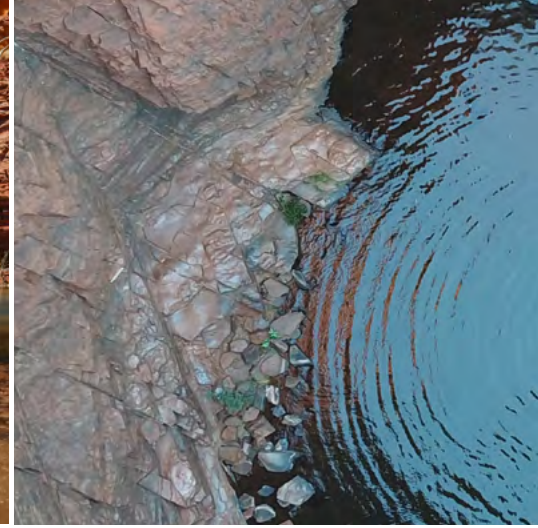
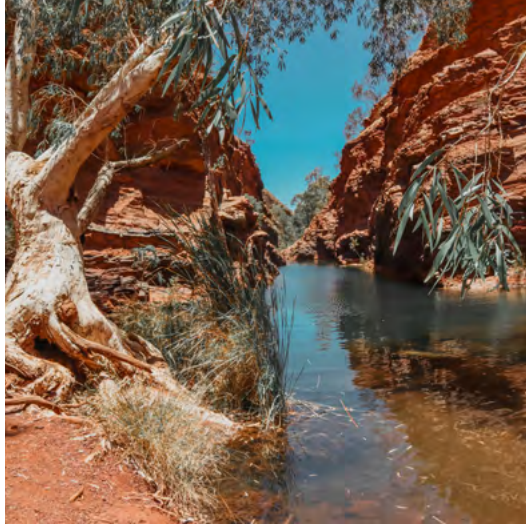
KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK

In short

With 6,274 km², it is the second largest park in WA. Karijini, located in the Pilbara region, offers a dazzling landscape. Natural pools have formed in the gorges: Dale Gorge (Circular Pool), Hancock gorge and Weano gorge. We particularly recommend Fortescue Falls or Fern Pool. Other sites are accessible via trails that may be in poor condition, such as Hancock Gorge or Kalimina Gorge. For hikers who like to get up early, Mount Bruce offers a spectacular sunrise: allow 2 hours to climb.



1 - 2 DAYS



Must do

- Fortescue Falls, large blue basin and superb waterfalls
- Fern pool a natural swimming pool surrounded by vegetation
- Handrail Pool & Weano Gorge in the hollow of the rocks
- Oxer Lookout & Junction Pool, splendid point of view
- Hancock Gorge, an atypical hike in the heart of the rocks for
- Join the Kermits Pool Mount Bruce which culminates at 1235 meters with a 9km hike

[READ THE ARTICLE](#)

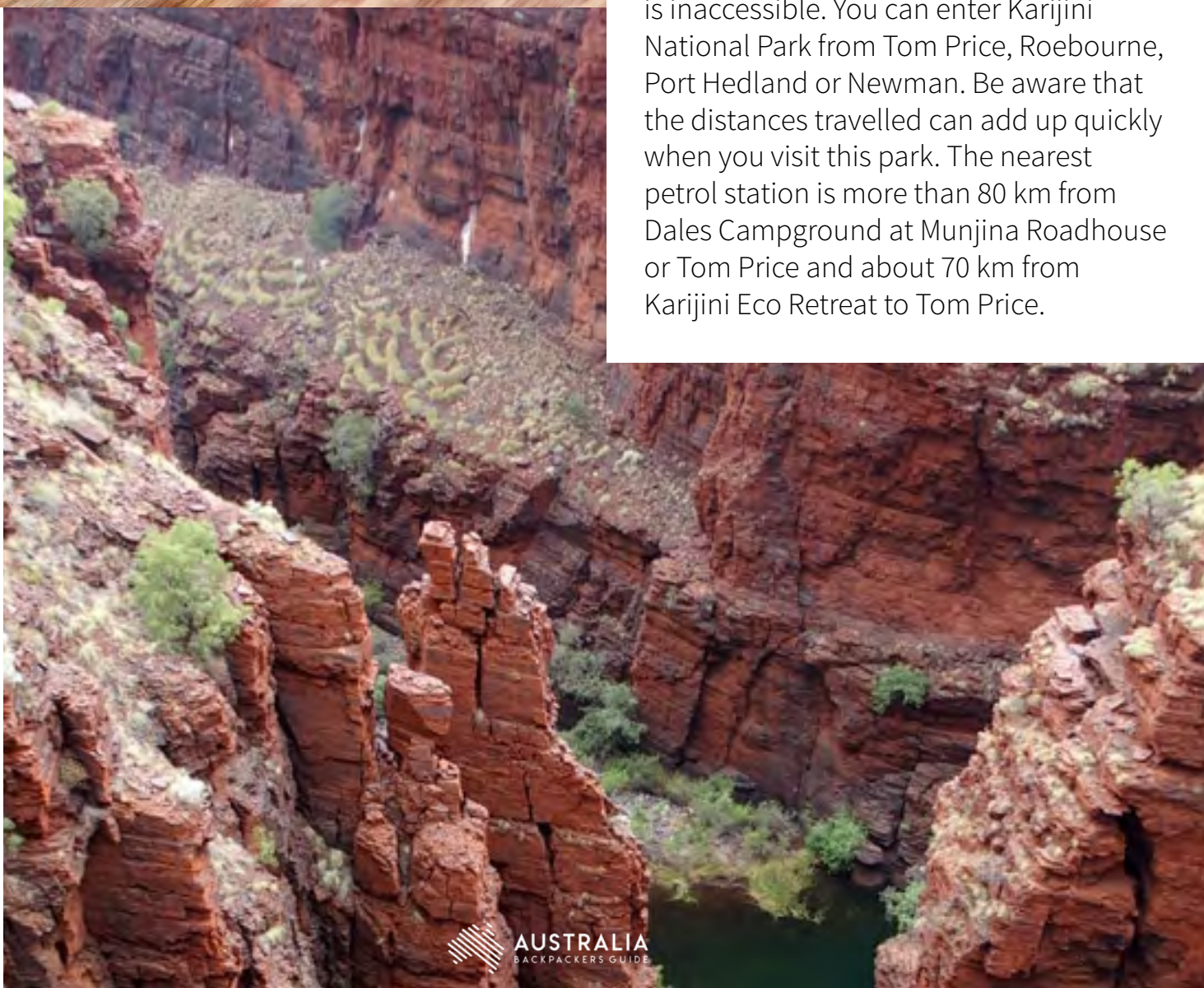


The Dales camping area is one of two places in the park where you can stay overnight. Campsite spots are in great demand from June to September. Reservations are essential for this period. Count \$11 per person.

The only other place in the park where camping is allowed is the Karijini Eco Retreat.



Much of the southern half of the park is inaccessible. You can enter Karijini National Park from Tom Price, Roebourne, Port Hedland or Newman. Be aware that the distances travelled can add up quickly when you visit this park. The nearest petrol station is more than 80 km from Dales Campground at Munjina Roadhouse or Tom Price and about 70 km from Karijini Eco Retreat to Tom Price.





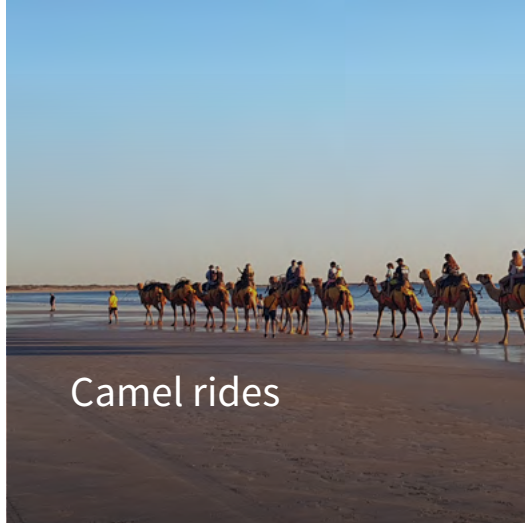
BROOME

In short

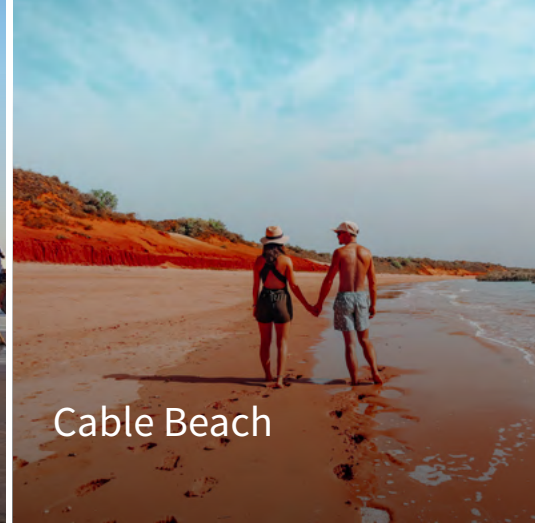
Broome is a small town between the red lands of Kimberly and the piercing blue of the Indian Ocean. Last haven of peace before the great Australian North, it will seduce you no matter how long you spend there. Broome has a reputation for wonder, and we think she deserves it. Nature lovers venture out to the mangroves and mud flats around the city centre. Do not miss the superb 22 km long Cable Beach or Gantheaume Point for its dinosaur footprints!

Must do

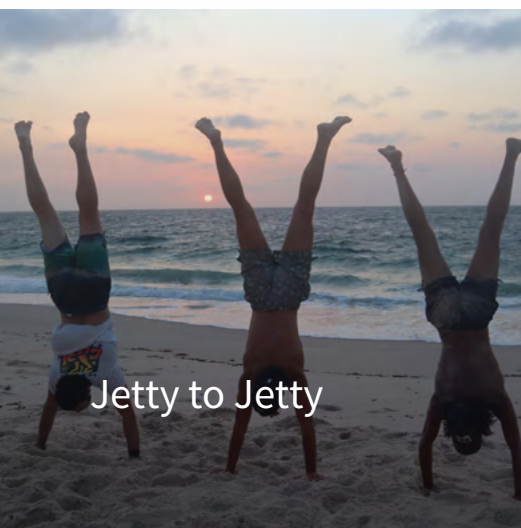
 1 - 2 DAYS



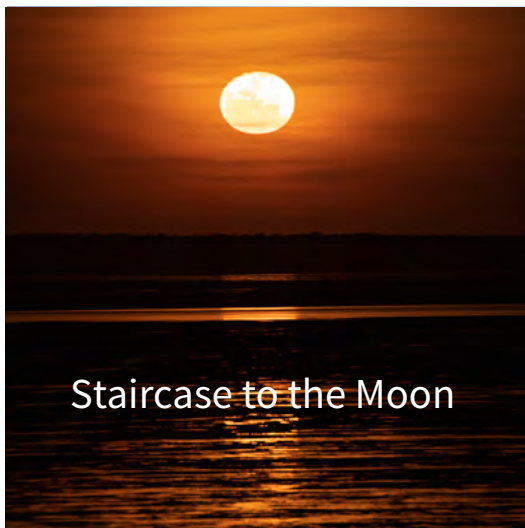
Camel rides



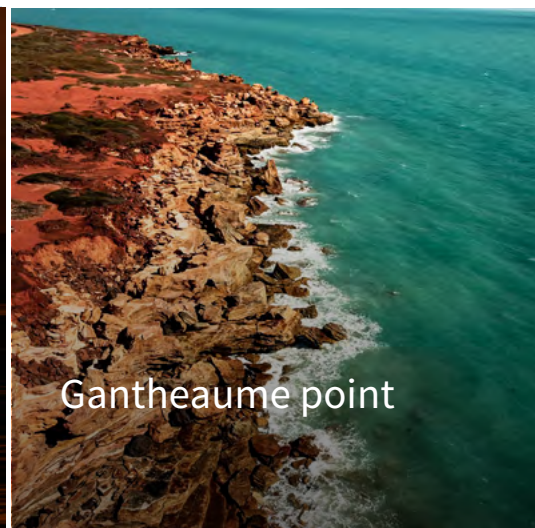
Cable Beach



Jetty to Jetty



Staircase to the Moon



Gantheaume point



The city has several hotels starting at \$ 25 per night. You also have beautiful caravan parks like Broome's Gateway, Discovery Parks, Tarangau.



By plane: The city has an airport located in the centre, which serves most major Australian cities.

By car: From the West or East coast, the road is long and very uncrowded. You will live the experience of the real Australian outback.

Tours & activities

From a simple camel ride to the scenic flight over the Kimberleys, you will only be able to choose! The Broome region offers splendid landscapes and colours. A real desert that plunges into the Indian Ocean. Here are some excursions that allow you to take full advantage of this hostile and fascinating environment.

30 MIN RIDE ON A CAMEL BACK

Short 30-minute ride along the beautiful Cable Beach.

[BOOK NOW](#)

ONE HOUR CAMEL RIDE AT SUNSET

Watch the sun go down over the ocean from your camel.

[BOOK NOW](#)

WILLIE CREEK PEARL FARM TOUR BY COACH

Discover how pearls are produced at the Willie Creek Pearl Farm, 35 km from Broome.

[BOOK NOW](#)

HORIZONTAL FALLS HALF-DAY SEAPLANE & BOAT TOUR

Discover the horizontal falls on an all-in-one tour!

[BOOK NOW](#)

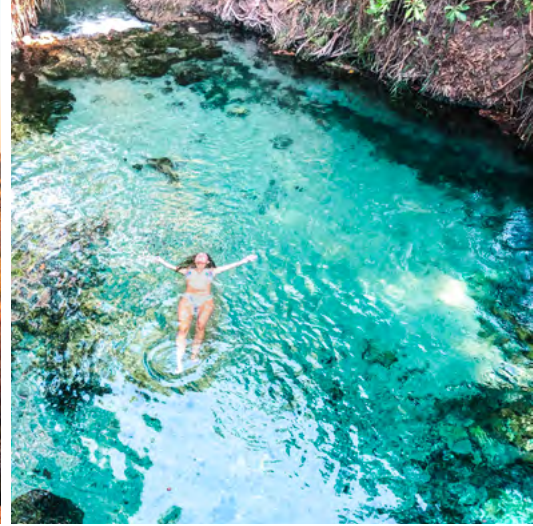
FROM BROOME TO NT BORDER

In short

Once you've visited the town of Broome, you won't find much on the way to the Northern Territory. If you own a 4x4, you will have several points of interest to discover including the famous Gibb River Road. For conventional vehicles, a single route will take you to the border of the Northern Territory. There too, you will make a few stops to explore the beauty of this part of the country.



5-12 DAYS



Must do

- Visit Derby to admire its famous baobabs. Do not miss the one used as a prison in the past (7km from Derby)
- Gibb River Road, 659 km long loan track only passable in 4x4. Don't miss Windjana Gorge & Tunnel Creek or Bell Gorge.
- Danggu Geikie Gorge, spectacular gorge famous for its white and gray cliffs.
- Bungle Bungle, orange and black sandstone domes and one of the most fascinating geological monuments in the world.
- El Questro, cattle station with its famous falls
- Kununurra, a small town in the heart of the Kimberleys, ideal for excursions to explore the incredible region that surrounds it.

Tours & activities

The Kimberley's and the northwest of Western Australia are areas full of wonders to discover. If you do not have a 4x4 vehicle, it is best to join organized tours to discover the wonders of this part of the country.

BUNGLE BUNGLE RANGE: 30 MIN HELICOPTER FLIGHT

Enjoy a helicopter flight over a World Heritage area.

BOOK NOW

FROM KUNUNURRA: 2H FLIGHT OVER THE BUNGLE BUNGLE

Join a 2h scenic flight from Kununurra and admire the most beautiful views!

BOOK NOW

PROMO CODES

Australia

Save some money on your adventure down under with some great deals, discounts & promotions!

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Australia