



# Experience Holidays

## The Art of Travel

### The Experienced Eye

#### Western Australia

With 12,500 kms of coastline, 12,000 species of wildflowers, 26.4 million sheep and lambs and just a little short of 2 million people, Western Australia is a destination in its own right and is, without a doubt, Australia's best kept secret. With the Indian Ocean lapping the western shores, and the Southern Ocean to the South, the state of Western Australia quite literally *smothers* the western end of the vast continent of Australia. Perth is the gateway, the major city, and home to a large number of the total population of WA (1.4 million actually – and it does not take Einstein's brain to realise that this doesn't leave too many for the rest of the State!)

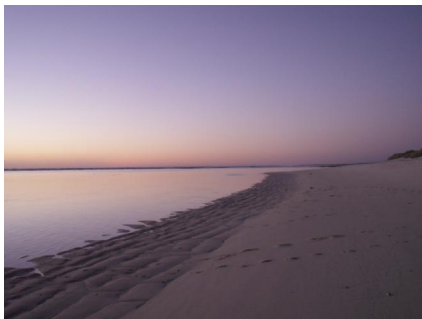
Perth has a moderate climate, and is a modern city with a good choice of internationally recognised hotels and apartments. The shopping is good, the city is clean and friendly, and the surrounding wine regions stunning. It has a scenic river, beautiful beaches, whales, dolphins and the little Quokka on Rottnest Island. It is not too difficult to see why it is a popular lifestyle city.



Make sure you spend enough time here!! By the time you've cruised the Swan River, taken a day or overnight trip to Rottnest Island, explored Fremantle and taken in a little retail therapy, you'll have easily used three full days, if not four! Perth is the hub, the starting point for the following two self drive suggestions, and whilst it is possible to visit several places of interest outside Perth on a day trip – the distances are huge, with day excursions leaving early in the morning and returning late in the evening.

Our first suggestion takes you north:

**Day 1 – Perth to the Ningaloo Reef** - Out to the airport for a flight north to Exmouth. It rather depends on your choice of accommodation here, whether you collect the car straight away, or take a transfer. If your choice is for a roof over your head, collect the car – if your preference is for an up-market 'under canvas' idea, either use the transfers available, or hire a vehicle. The Ningaloo Reef is



little brother to the Great Barrier Reef. Closer in to the shore, it is easily accessible to all. 500 species of fish are to be found here, plus sharks, enormous manta rays, turtles and dugongs – there is always something to see:

March to May – Coral spawning

March to June – Whale Sharks

June to November – Manta Rays

June/July to October/November – Humpback Whales

November to March – Turtle nesting and hatching.

However long you plan to stay here will probably not be long enough, and this area is not inundated with tourists, it does not have a huge choice of international resorts and accommodation,

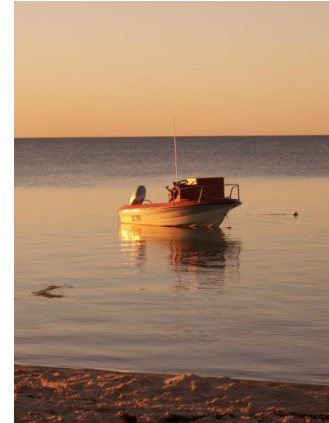
but it is a remote and secluded treasure, and second only to the Great Barrier Reef itself. Two nights here

#### **Day 3 – Ningaloo Reef to Coral Bay**

Pack up your bags today headed for Coral Bay – 140km as the crow flies, but a good 2 ½ hours drive by the sealed road. Coral Bay is a remote and secluded gem – no luxury accommodation here, simply good value, clean and wholesome options with some excellent fish restaurants. The bay itself is contained within the Ningaloo Reef which offers it perfect protection from the ocean outside. Here, glass bottomed boats take you to view the coral, whilst longer expeditions will take you further afield, skilfully negotiating the narrow channels through the reef. Two nights here.

### **Day 5 – Coral Bay to Monkey Mia**

Leave early this morning as you have a 5 hour drive to Shark Bay and the dolphins at Monkey Mia. This drive is far from boring – the scenery changes dramatically several times, and if the scenery doesn't keep you amused, try checking which is the longest straight stretch of road – in our research trip we clocked 26 km's without a bend!! Beware the Road Trains – vast three trailer lorries carrying supplies to remote communities. Shark Bay is another gem – pristine coastline, dolphins and dugongs by the dozen, and a delightful lack of tourists. We suggest three nights here.

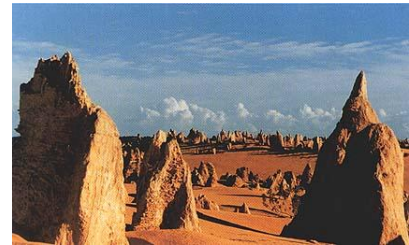


### **Day 8 – Monkey Mia to Kalbarri**

The drive today will take a good three hours, but allow more as you'll want to stop at several places of interest along the way. You'll drive through the Kalbarri National Park and the spectacular Murchison Gorges. Spend two nights in Kalbarri, giving you a full day to take a river cruise on the Murchison River. Kalbarri is a delightfully unpretentious fishing village at the mouth of the River – with several simple but wholesome restaurants. As with each community on this route, the locals are genuine, friendly and welcoming – and very typically Australian – proud of their country and their heritage without any brashness.

### **Day 10 – Kalbarri to The Pinnacles**

The drive today takes the new road, passing the interesting cliff formations just to the south of the town. Rejoin the main highway south, and follow the turnoff to Cervantes for a quick look at the Pinnacles. One night in Cervantes. There are several scenic drives that one can take as an alternative here and with enough time, these would be worth taking.



### **Day 11 – The Pinnacles to Perth**

Return to Perth today – the route will bring you through the Swan Valley, so time for a little wine tasting if you have not already sampled the excellent WA wines!

**Our second suggestion takes you south, and on this route you'll realise exactly why so may British and emigrants of other nationalities choose to settle here:**

### **Day 1 – Perth to Busselton/Dunsborough or Margaret River**

Driving south from Perth, brings you into the wine regions of the south west. Three nights gives you time to explore these regions at your own leisurely pace.



### **Day 4 – Busselton/Dunsborough or Margaret River to Denmark**

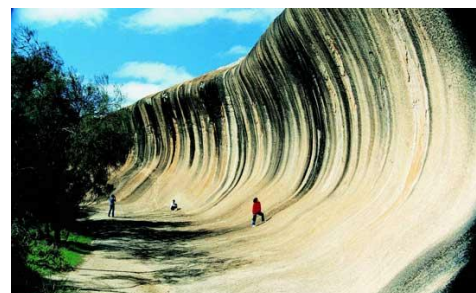
Today's drive brings you around the south western tip of Australia, the point where the Indian Ocean meets the Southern Ocean. Two nights based at Denmark will give you plenty of time to experience the local wines, and the remarkable Treetop Walk.

### **Day 6 – Denmark to Esperance**

Continuing along the southern coast of WA, en route to Esperance. Here you will find beaches amongst the finest and whitest anywhere in the world. Three nights here.

### **Day 9 – Esperance to Kalgoolie**

A four hour drive, virtually due north brings you to the Outback town of Kalgoolie. Originally founded during the gold rush of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, this little town has thrived and continues to mine the precious ore from the Super Pit. Make sure you take the drive up to the viewing platform for views of one of the biggest holes we have ever seen!! Two nights here.



### **Day 11 – Kalgoolie to Hyden**

Your drive now brings you westbound, and to the little town of Hyden, famous for the Wave Rock. One night here.

### **Day 12 – Hyden to Perth**

Return to Perth today – but allow plenty of time as this drive will take between 5 and 6 hours.

### **Kimberley**

Straddling the states of Western Australia and Northern Territories, Kimberley offers a perfect location for 'getting away from it all' – literally!! Plan the timing of your visit carefully, avoiding the cyclone season when many roads are impassable due to flooding. Out of the cyclone season, the adventure traveller will find gorges and rock formations to rival those anywhere in the world. Whilst a self drive holiday is perfectly feasible here, consider also a small group escorted tour here, using 4WD vehicles and a mixture of camping and motel accommodation – this area will leave an indelible mark on your memory.

**Western Australia** deserves plenty of time – for this is a side of Australia that you may not have thought of!!

**Getting there:** Perth is the main gateway city, with flights from both domestic and an assortment of International cities. Qantas, Singapore Airlines and Malaysian Airlines all serve this city, and can be booked either as a straight forward return, or with a return flight from an alternative airport. Consider arriving into, or leaving from Perth on the world famous Indian Pacific train. Running a twice weekly service to Adelaide and Sydney, this journey is not simply a tourist attraction, it is a very real lifeline for the little communities of the Nullabor.

**So why choose us?** The staff at Experience Holidays are qualified Aussie Specialists, trained by the Australian Tourist Commission. We can arrange five star luxury to moderate/good value accommodation, self-drive cars or campers; advise on and book rail journeys, cruises, excursions, escorted and independent touring. In fact, just about anything! We are real people on the end of the phone, and based in Sussex. If you're in the area, why not drop by for a cup of coffee and a chat.

**Passports and Visas:** Visas are required for Australia. These are applied for electronically in most cases and do not require you to part with your passport. We will process the application for you free of charge if we have made your flight reservations, or for a small fee if we have not. All passengers need a full Passport. Many countries require your passport to be valid for at least 6 months after your return date.

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