



Perth & Western Australia

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Best Places to Eat

- » Balthazar (p908)
- » Jackson's (p908)
- » Wild Duck (p947)
- » Must Winebar (p908)
- » Vasse Felix (p932)

Best Places to Stay

- » Amble Inn (p962)
- » Gnaraloo Station (p977)
- » Ningaloo Club (p980)
- » Cape Howe Cottages (p943)

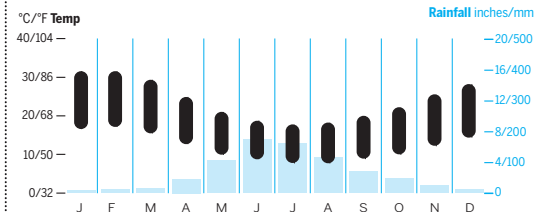
Why Go?

If you subscribe to the 'life's a beach' school of thought, you'll fall in love with Western Australia (WA) and its 12,500km of spectacular coastline. WA is beyond huge; if it were a separate country, it would be the 10th biggest in the world. You can wander along a beach for hours without seeing a footprint in the sand, be one of a handful of campers stargazing in a national park, or bushwalk for days without seeing a soul.

Up north in the Kimberley, you'll encounter wide open spaces that shrewdly conceal striking gorges, waterfalls and ancient rock formations. At the other end of the state, the south is a playground of white-sand beaches, expanses of springtime wildflowers, lush green forests and world-class wineries. Perth and neighbouring Fremantle are cosmopolitan cities, yet both retain a languorously laid-back feel. Wind down with them and take a walk on the WA side.

When to Go

Perth



Mar Wet up north but great beach weather elsewhere and not as swelteringly hot in Perth.

Aug Head north for the Dry, south for festivals and flowers, and to Gnaraloo for surf.

Sep The best month state-wide: wildflowers, whales and warming weather, and still dry up north.

Perth & Western Australia Highlights

- Swimming with 'gentle giant' whale sharks in **Ningaloo Marine Park** (p985)
- Guzzling the first-class wine and food on offer in the **Margaret River wine region** (p932)
- Watching the wild dolphins feed at **Monkey Mia** (p974)
- Taking a camel ride at sunset along **Broome's Cable Beach** (p996)
- Plunging into Western Australia's sizzling, sophisticated capital **Perth** (p897).
- Descending into the 'centre of the earth' on an adventure tour in **Karji National Park** (p989)

