



# Perth & Western Australia

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## Best Places to Eat

- Greenhouse (p918)
- Cantina 663 (p918)
- Pepper & Salt (p955)
- Whalers Restaurant (p996)
- Karijini Eco Retreat (p1003)

## Best Places to Stay

- Eight Nicholson (p916)
- Burnside Organic Farm (p945)
- Cape Howe Cottages (p955)
- Gnaraloo Station (p988)
- Mornington Wilderness Camp (p1018)

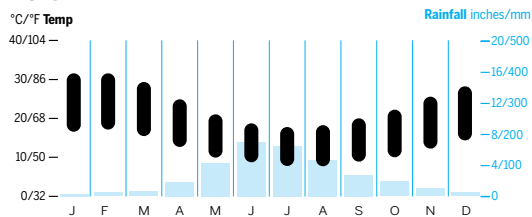
## Why Go?

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 statewide: wildflowers, whales and warming weather, and still dry up north.

## Perth & Western Australia Highlights

- Swimming with 'gentle giant' whale sharks in **Ningaloo Marine Park** (p996)
- Guzzling the first-class wine, beer and food of the **Margaret River wine region** (p943)
- Watching the wild dolphins feed at **Monkey Mia** (p985)
- Taking a camel ride at sunset along Broome's **Cable Beach** (p1008)
- Plunging into **Perth** (p907). Western Australia's sizzling, sophisticated capital
- Descending into the 'centre of the earth' on an adventure tour in **Karjini National Park** (p1000)

