



Look out for these icons:



Our author's recommendation



A green or sustainable option



No payment required

PERTH & FREMANTLE48

PERTH 49

FREMANTLE 77

AROUND PERTH88

ROTTNEST ISLAND (WADJEMUP) 90

ROCKINGHAM 95

PEEL REGION 96

Mandurah 96

Yalgorup National Park 98

Pinjarra 98

Dwellingup 99

Jarrahdale & Serpentine National Park 100

DRYANDRA TO HYDEN... 100

Dryandra Woodland 100

Hyden & Wave Rock 101

DARLING RANGE 101

Kalamunda 102

Mundaring 102

Walyunga National Park .. 103

GUILDFORD & THE SWAN VALLEY 103

AVON VALLEY 105

York 106

Northam 107

Toodyay 108

Avon Valley National Park 109

NEW NORCIA 110

THE WILDFLOWER WAY .. 110

Moora 110

Wongan Hills 111

Perenjori 111

Morawa, Mingenew & Mullewa 111

SUNSET COAST 112

Yanchep 112

Guilderton 112

Lancelin 113

TURQUOISE COAST 113

Cervantes & Pinnacles Desert 114

Jurien Bay 115

Green Head & Leeman ... 116

MARGARET RIVER & THE SOUTHWEST... 117

GEOGRAPHE BAY 119

Bunbury 119

Tuart Forest National Park 122

Busselton 122

Dunsborough 124

Cape Naturaliste 124

MARGARET RIVER WINE REGION 125

Yallingup & Around 127

Cowaramup & Wilyabrup .. 128

Margaret River 129

Around Margaret River ... 132

Augusta & Around 133

SOUTHERN FORESTS... 134

Nannup 134

Balingup & Greenbushes .. 135

Bridgetown 135

Manjimup 136

Pemberton 137

Shannon National Park... 139

SOUTH COAST140

Walpole & Nornalup 142

Denmark 143

Albany 145

Around Albany 151

Mt Barker 152

Porongurup National Park 153

Stirling Range National Park 154

Bremer Bay 156

Fitzgerald River National Park 156

Hopetoun 156

Esperance 157

Around Esperance 160

MONKEY MIA & THE CENTRAL WEST 161

BATAVIA COAST 163

Dongara-Port Denison... 163

Geraldton 164

Kalbarri 168

SHARK BAY 171

Overlander Roadhouse to Denham 171

Denham 172

François Peron National Park 173

Monkey Mia 174

GASCOYNE COAST 175

Carnarvon 175

On the Road

Point Quobba to
Gnarraloo Bay 177

CORAL COAST & THE PILBARA 178

CORAL COAST 179

Coral Bay 179

Exmouth 183

Around Exmouth 187

Ningaloo Marine Park 187

Cape Range
National Park 189

THE PILBARA 190

Dampier to Roebourne ... 190

Millstream-Chichester
National Park 192

Tom Price 193

Karijini National Park 193

Port Hedland 197

BROOME & AROUND 199

BROOME REGION 202

Port Hedland to
Broome 202

Broome 202

Around Broome 211

Dampier Peninsula 211

THE KIMBERLEY 212

Derby 212

Gibb River Road 214

Devonian Reef
National Parks 216

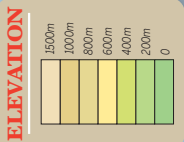
Wyndham 216

Kununurra 217

Perth & West Coast Australia

Top Experiences >





Shark Bay & Monkey Mia
World Heritage-listed bay with marine life (p171)

Pinnacles Desert
Ghostly limestone pillars among the dunes (p114)

Margaret River
World-class wine and surf (p125)

Perth
Western Australia's sizzling, sophisticated capital (p48)

Walpole-Nornalup National Park
Tree-top walk (p142)

130°E

35°S

SOUTHERN OCEAN

INDIAN OCEAN

115°E

Cape Inscription
Carnarvon

Shark Bay
Francois Bay National Park
Peron Marine Park
Denham

Monkey Mia
Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve

Toolonga Nature Reserve
Kalbarri National Park

Kalbarri

Geraldton
Dongara - Port Denison

Mullewa

Moora

Northam

Perth
Fremantle

Mandurah

Bunbury
Cape Naturaliste
Busseton

Margaret River
Augusta
Cape Pemberton
Leeuwin

Manjimup
Mount Barker
Walpole-Nornalup National Park

Albany
Denmark

Ashburton River
Collier Range National Park

Gascoyne River

Wiluna
Meekatharra

Sandstone
Leinster

Cosmo Newberry Aboriginal Land
Laverton

Leonora
Gwalia

Goongarrie National Park

Kalgoorlie - Boulder

Southern Cross
Merredin

Hyden

Narrogin

Lake King
Fitzgerald River National Park

Hopetoun

Stirling Range National Park

Crabbrook
Manjimup
Mount Barker

Albany
Denmark

Gibson Desert
Gibson Desert Nature Reserve

Tjirrkarrli Aboriginal Land
Warburton Aboriginal Land

Warburton Aboriginal Land
Wing-Itt Aboriginal Land

Yapuparra Aboriginal Land

Great Victoria Desert

Nature Reserve
Neale Junction Nature Reserve

Point Salvation Aboriginal Land

Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve

Nallabor Plain

Eucla
Madura

Cocklebidy

Nuytsland Nature Reserve

Esperance

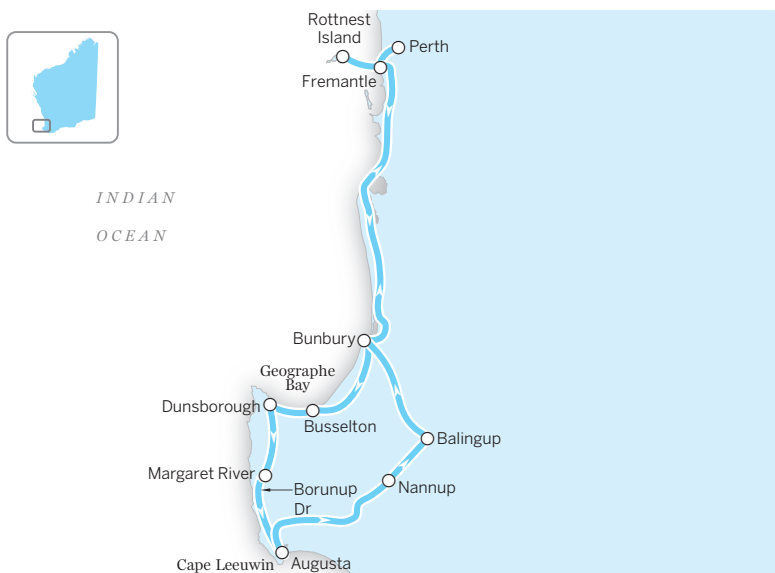
Cape Arid National Park
Lo Grand National Park

Walpole-Nornalup National Park

Tree-top walk (p142)

itineraries

Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



One Week

A Southwest Short Circuit

If you've got limited time, this itinerary offers a taster of the best the state has to offer – city life, colonial history, beaches, wildlife, wine, forests and rural roads. Base yourself in either **Perth** or **Fremantle** and spend three days exploring the conjoined cities and one day on **Rottnest Island**. Hire a car and head south, stopping first at **Bunbury** for lunch and a visit to the Dolphin Encounter Centre. Continue on to **Geographe Bay**, basing yourself in either **Busselton** or **Dunsborough**, and use the rest of the day to explore the beaches. Pick up a wine region map and spend day six checking out the wineries, surf beaches and caves, all of which are in close proximity. Base yourself in the **Margaret River** township that night and head to the local pub. The next morning, head to **Augusta** via Caves Rd and take the scenic detour through the karri forest along unsealed **Boronup Drive**. Visit **Cape Leeuwin**, where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet, before heading back to Bunbury on a picturesque rural drive through **Nannup** and **Balingup**. From here it's a two-hour drive back to Perth.



Three Weeks

The Southwest Uncut

Australia's southwest corner is a magical part of the continent and this itinerary covers its main highlights; bump it up by another week to really relax into it. Start by following the previous itinerary as far as **Cape Leeuwin**, but spend a second night in **Margaret River** for more winery and beach time.

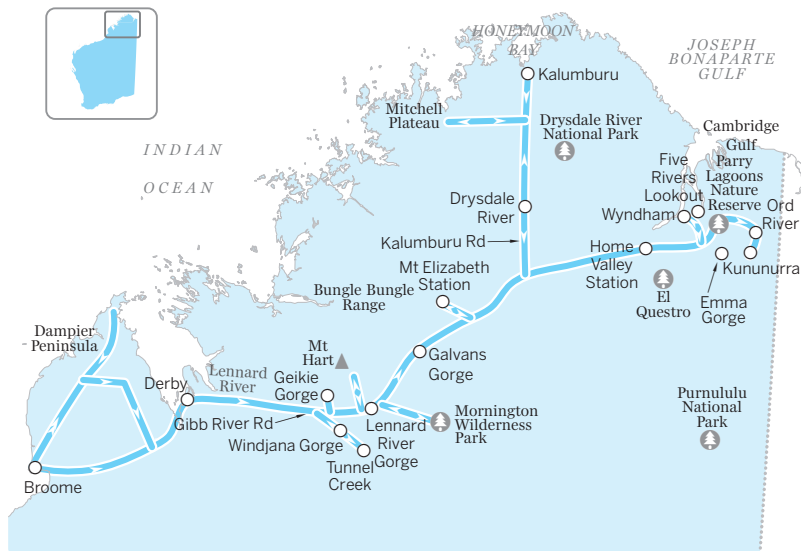
Continue on to **Pemberton**, set amid three heavily forested national parks, for more wineries and the Karri Forest Explorer scenic drive. The next day, continue through **Walpole** to the extraordinary **Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk**, then press on to **Denmark**. Check out the beaches and still more wineries before making the short hop to **Albany** on the following day. Base yourself there for two days of swimming (in summer), whale-watching (in winter) and exploring the beautiful coastal national parks that surround it.

Head north for a quick look at **Mt Barker** (more wineries) before scuttling east to spend the night at the foot of **Porongurup National Park**. Spend the next day (or two) tackling the mountainous tracks either here or at **Stirling Range National Park** further north.

From here the driving distances get longer. Continue through Ongerup and Jerramungup to the South Coast Hwy and at Ravensthorpe hop down to **Hopetoun** to spend the night. This will take about three hours from the Stirling Range, so you'll have the afternoon to hang out on the beach. The following day, head back to the South Coast Hwy and continue east to **Esperance**, a drive of around 2½ hours. Base yourself there for at least two days – spending one of them exploring gorgeous **Cape Le Grand National Park**.

Head back on the South Coast Hwy and turn north just past Ravensthorpe for the road to **Hyden** and extraordinary **Wave Rock** (allow four hours driving). The following day, head west on Hwy 40 to Brookton and then turn north on the Great Southern Hwy and follow the Avon Valley to quaintly colonial **York** (allow 3½ hours). For your last day, take a leisurely drive back to Perth via **Mundaring**, stopping at the **Swan Valley** wineries en route.

You could easily make this itinerary shorter by heading straight to Hyden from the Stirling Range, or by taking the Albany Hwy directly to Perth from Mt Barker.



One Month

Kimberley Outback

The biggest adventure in the west leaves **Broome** during the Dry and traverses the heart of the rugged **Kimberley** by 4WD. First stop is the **Dampier Peninsula**, with its Aboriginal communities, beautiful beaches and mud crabs, and your last salt water swim. Take the back road to **Derby**, with its boabs, then onto the **Gibb River Rd** where **Lennard River** is the first of many inviting gorges. Explore wildlife and gorges at **Mt Hart** and remote **Mornington Wilderness Camp** and look for Wandjina at **Galvans Gorge** and **Mt Elizabeth Station**. Turn off onto the **Kalumburu Rd**, check the road conditions at **Drysdale River** and drive onto the **Mitchell Plateau**, with its forests of *livistona* and mind-blowing falls. Marvel at the area's rock art before hitting the northern coast and excellent fishing at **Honeymoon Bay**, just beyond the mission community of **Kalumburu**.

It's all downhill from here as you retrace your route back to the Gibb, then turn left for wonderful **Home Valley Station**, where someone else can do the cooking and the soft beds make a pleasant change to camping. Nearby **El Questro** has gorges a plenty, none more beautiful than **Emma Gorge**. Soon you're back on asphalt, but not for long as you take in the amazing birdlife of **Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve**. Let Wyndham's **Five Rivers Lookout** blow your mind with its view of **Cambridge Gulf**, before heading for the civility of **Kununurra**, with its excellent food and supplies. You can look for fruit-picking work, ride a canoe down the mighty **Ord River**, or jump back behind the wheel for the wonders of **Purnululu**, the orange-domed **Bungle Bungle Range**. Darwin and the Northern Territory are beckoning, or you can follow the Great Northern Hwy back to Broome, stopping in at beautiful **Geikie Gorge** for a relaxing boat cruise where you might spot freshwater crocs. If you don't see any, don't worry, as nearby **Windjana Gorge** has loads sunning on the river banks. Grab your torch and head for a cold wade through the icy waters of **Tunnel Creek**, with its bats and rock art, before planting the pedal back to Broome, where you won't care how much that beer costs anymore.



Two Weeks

Indian Ocean Dreaming

Beautiful beaches, spectacular sunsets and diverse wildlife are constant companions on this coastal cruise. Take Indian Ocean Dr north from **Perth** to Cervantes for sunset on the otherworldly **Pinnacles Desert**. Cruise the wildflower-laden Kwon-gan backroads and marvel at **Lesueur National Park's** flora before snorkelling with sea lions at **Green Head**. Follow the flowers out to **Perenjori**, then hit the cafes and museums of **Geraldton**. Have a surf on a kiteboard, then move onto the wonderful coastline of **Kalbarri**. Enjoy a canoe in the gorges before sampling the outback on the long drive to World Heritage-listed **Shark Bay**. Watch dolphins at **Monkey Mia**, go sailing with dugongs and learn about 'country' on an **Indigenous** cultural tour. Check out the stromatolites of **Hamelin Pool**, before putting in more 'road time' on the stretch to **Carnarvon**, with its huge NASA dish. Drop into **Gnaraloo** for world-class waves and searing sunsets, before arriving at tiny **Coral Bay** and **Exmouth**, where whale sharks, manta rays and turtles inhabit the exquisite **Ningaloo Marine Park**. You can fly out of Exmouth, drive back to Perth in two days (overnighting in historic **Greenough**), or push onto the gorges of **Karinjini**.

One Week

Pilbara Jewels

You'll camp most of the way on this link between Ningaloo and Broome, with long empty beaches, shady pools and surprisingly good food. From **Exmouth**, take Burkett Rd back to the highway, and head north, turning off to salty **Onslow** for the excellent **Nikkis** restaurant and the aptly named **Sunrise** and **Sunset** beaches. Go back to the highway then continue north and turn-off via Pannawonica to the restful, shady **Crossing Pool** in **Millstream National Park**. Admire the mesas and breakaways of the **Chichester Range** before dropping in on **Tom Price** for fuel, internet and supplies. Spend the next few days camped in **Karinjini National Park**, exploring the sublime gorges and indulging in a spot of peak-bagging among the state's highest mountains. Take the Great Northern Hwy directly to **Port Hedland**, and scoff some wonderful coffee and cake in the air-conditioned **Zephyr** railcar, before camping at pristine **80-mile Beach**, where you might spot nesting turtles. Your last leg is a long stretch of nothing as you skirt the **Great Sandy Desert** to arrive in tropical **Broome**. You can bail out here or tool-up for the Kimberley. Alternatively, skip the country on a direct Bali flight from Port Hedland.

Contributing Authors

Dr Tim Flannery wrote the Environment chapter. Tim is a scientist, explorer and writer. He has written several award-winning books including *The Future Eaters*, *Throwim Way Leg* and *The Weather Makers*. He lives in Sydney where he is a professor in the faculty of science at Macquarie University.

Dr Michael Cathcart wrote the History chapter. Michael teaches history at the Australian Centre, the University of Melbourne. He is well known as a broadcaster on ABC Radio National and has presented history programs on ABC TV. His most recent book is *The Water Dreamers* (2009), a history of how water shaped the history of Australia.



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Peter Dragicvich

Coordinating Author, Perth & Fremantle, Around Perth, Margaret River & the Southwest, South Coast

If his great-grandfather Jure Dragicvich hadn't died in mysterious circumstances beneath a train in Kalgoorlie in 1913, Peter may have been born Western Australian. Instead, the family continued on to New Zealand, where Peter lived until his newspaper career took him to Australia in the late 1990s. He's subsequently worked on more than 20 Lonely Planet titles, including *Sydney* and *East Coast Australia*. Co-authoring *Perth & West Coast Australia* takes him one step closer to his goal of circumnavigating the continent, one book at a time. It also provided an opportunity to visit his great-grandfather's grave in a dusty corner of Kalgoorlie cemetery, connect with cousins in Perth, Wellard and Albany, and ponder once again the great waves of immigration that led people from far-flung corners of the globe to this vast, unrelenting land.

Read more about Peter at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/peterdragicevich



Rebecca Chau

Rebecca first started learning about Western Australia quite a while ago: back in the 80s, when she started school in Albany, in the south of the state. After growing up in this land crinkled by beaches and coveted by whales, she moved to Perth, and later became a commissioning editor for Lonely Planet in Melbourne. Also an author on the previous edition of this guide, she heads back to WA a couple of times a year. Perth's City Beach is her favourite pocket of sand and sea.



Steve Waters

Around Perth, Monkey Mia & the Central Coast, Coral Bay & the Pilbara, Broome & Around

Steve's first big trip through WA in a battered Torana included sleeping in the Pinnacles car park, cooking up fresh fish over a camp stove and trying to traverse the Kimberley during the Wet. On subsequent visits he chased the state's extremities in Karijini and Edel Land, and slept in the Pinnacles car park. This trip covered 17,600kms, five blown tyres, four lost hats, three pairs of wrecked sunglasses and a close shave with an emu as he traversed the coast from Kalumburu to Cervantes and everywhere in between. Steve's also authored the West Sumatra chapter of Lonely Planet's *Indonesia*, and while not on the road, can be found in LP's Melbourne office playing with databases.

Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

6th edition – July 2011

ISBN 978 1 74179 046 7

© Lonely Planet 2011 Photographs © as indicated 2011

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: lonelyplanet.com/ip.

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'