



Monkey Mia & the Central West

Includes »

Batavia Coast.....	163
Geraldton.....	164
Kalbarri.....	168
Shark Bay.....	171
Denham.....	172
François Peron National Park.....	173
Monkey Mia.....	174
Gascoyne Coast.....	175
Carnarvon.....	175
Point Quobba To Gnarraloo Bay.....	177

Best Places to Eat

- » Saltdish (p166)
- » Old Pearler Restaurant (p173)
- » Yallibiddi Café (p176)
- » Bentwood Olive Grove (p166)
- » Provincial (p166)

Best Places to Stay

- » Gnarraloo Station (p177)
- » Weelaway (p166)
- » Ocean West (p166)
- » Fish & Whistle (p176)
- » Bentwood Olive Grove (p166)

Why Go?

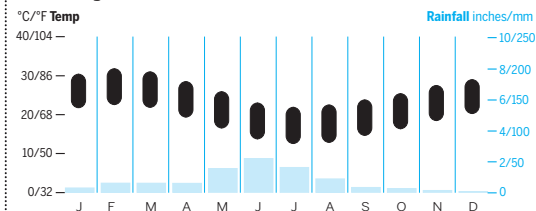
The pristine coastline and sheltered turquoise waters of Malgana country draws tourists and marine life from around the world. Aside from the famous dolphins of Monkey Mia, the submerged sea-grass meadows of World Heritage area Shark Bay play host to dugongs, rays, sharks and turtles, while on land rare marsupials take refuge in remote national parks. Limestone cliffs, red sand and salt lakes litter the stark interior.

Further south among the Nhandu, the gorges of Kalbarri invite adventurers to explore their depths, while above, wildflowers carpet the plains and seabirds wheel away from the battered cliffs as whales migrate slowly southwards.

Veggies are ripening in Carnarvon as anglers and board riders check the tides, and wind-surfers are waiting for the 'Doctor' (strong afternoon sea breeze) to blow. In Geraldton, the only decision to make is whether to have that second macchiato before a brisk walk along the foreshore.

When to Go

Monkey Mia



June & August

The winter swells pump the breaks off Gnarraloo Station.

August & September

Kalbarri lays a carpet of wildflowers.

November–February

Windsurfers clutch their sails from Geraldton to Carnarvon.



Monkey Mia & the Central West Highlights

- 1** Watch the wild dolphins feed at **Monkey Mia** (p174)
- 2** Canoe the deep gorges of **Kalbarri National Park** (p168)
- 3** Surf the wild Tombstones break at **Gnaraloo** (p177)
- 4** Drive out to the Australian mainland's most westerly tip, **Steep Point** (p174)
- 5** Sail out and look for dugongs in **Shark Bay** (p174)
- 6** Immerse yourself in **Malgana culture** (p174) on a Wula Guda Nyinda tour at Monkey Mia
- 7** Dive on ancient shipwrecks at the **Houtman Abrolhos Islands** (p167)
- 8** Horse ride along the mighty **Murchison River** (p170)
- 9** Spot marine life from a coastal walk in the **Francois Peron National Park** (p173)
- 10** Soak up some coffee and culture at **Geraldton's** (p164) museums, galleries and cafes