

4 easy-to-use sections

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Your planning tool kit

Photos & suggestions to help you create the perfect trip.

1

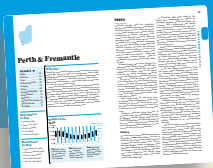


ON THE ROAD

Your complete guide

Expert reviews, easy-to-use maps and insider tips.

2



UNDERSTAND

Get more from your trip

Learn about the big picture, to make sense of what you see.

3

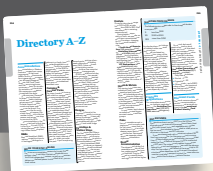


SURVIVAL GUIDE

Your at-a-glance reference

Vital practical information for a smooth trip.

4



How to Use This Book

Look for these symbols to quickly identify listings:

- Sights
- Beaches
- Activities
- Courses
- Tours
- Festivals & Events
- Sleeping
- Eating
- Drinking
- Entertainment
- Shopping
- Information & Transport

All reviews are ordered in our authors' preference, starting with their most preferred option. Additionally:

Sights are arranged in the geographic order that we suggest you visit them, and within this order, by author preference.

Eating and Sleeping reviews are ordered by price range (budget, midrange, top end) and within these ranges, by author preference.

These symbols give vital information for each listing:

- Must-visit recommendation
- Sustainable or green recommendation
- FREE** No payment required
- Telephone number
- Opening hours
- Parking
- Nonsmoking
- Air-conditioning
- Internet access
- Wi-fi access
- Swimming pool
- Vegetarian selection
- English-language menu
- Family-friendly
- Pet-friendly
- Bus
- Ferry
- Tram
- Train

For symbols used on maps, see the Map Legend.

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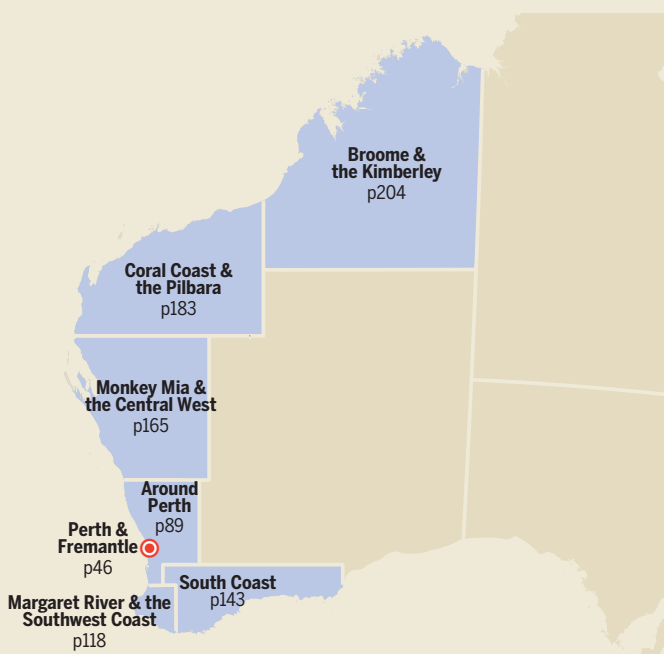
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Perth & West Coast Australia

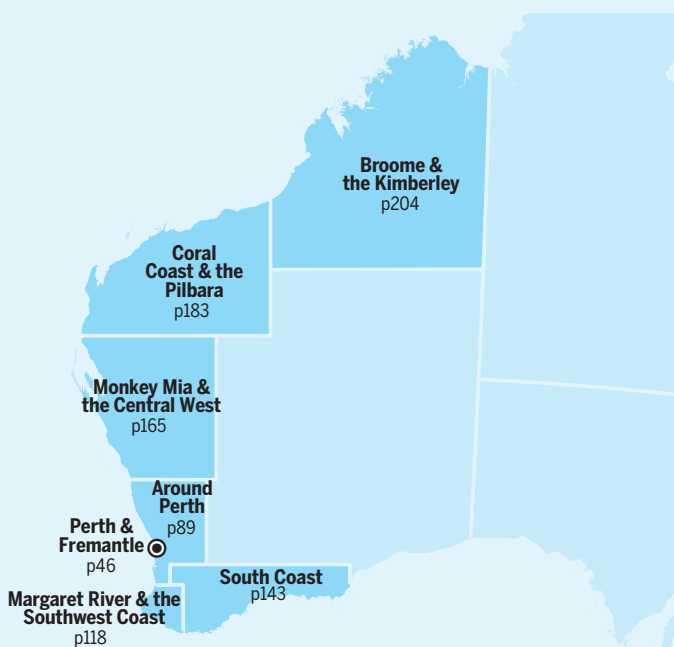


THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

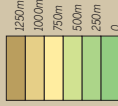
Brett Atkinson

Steve Waters

On the Road



Perth & West Coast Australia



ROAD DISTANCES (km)

Margaret R 254

Margaret R	254
Albany	410
Esperance	692
Exmouth	1227
Monkey Mia	818
Broome	2163

Broome
The north's premier
beach-resort town (p205)

Gibb River Road
Gorges, waterholes, rock art and wildlife (p220)

Crocodiles inhabit rivers, billabongs and estuaries in tropical areas.



INDIAN
OCEAN

Karijini National Park
Plunging waterfalls and remarkable gorges (p198)

Ningaloo Marine Park
Pristine coral reefs and
turquoise lagoons (p193)

Ningaloo Marine Park



Shark Bay & Monkey Mia
World Heritage-listed bay
with marine life (p176)

Pinnacles Desert
Ghostly limestone pillars
among the dunes (p114)

Perth
Western Australia's sizzling,
sophisticated capital (p46)

Margaret River
World-class wine
and surf (p118)





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



Brett Atkinson

Coordinating Author; Perth & Fremantle, Around Perth, Margaret River & the Southwest Coast, South Coast Brett's previous visits to Western Australia had involved museum- and bar-hopping in Fremantle, and taking on the mighty Nullarbor Plain. This time he expanded his WA horizons by immersing himself in Perth's restaurants and cafes, 'researching' craft breweries in the Swan Valley, and jumping from beach to forest and back to beach throughout Margaret River and the southwest. As a New Zealander, he's used to weird and wonderful wildlife but still thinks WA's quirky combo of woylies, numbats and whale sharks is something special. Brett's based in Auckland, and has covered more than 45 countries as a guidebook author and travel and food writer. See www.brett-atkinson.net for what he's been eating recently, and where he's travelling to next.



Steve Waters

Around Perth, Monkey Mia & the Central West, Coral Coast & the Pilbara, Broome & the Kimberley While researching the previous edition of this book, Steve descended into rental-car hell, so this trip he drove 15,000km in his own Subaru L-series, which took a hammering on the Tanami and almost drowned getting into Purnululu. Driving lights dropped off, shockers, tyres and drive shafts all broke. At least it only caught fire once. Slept in, eaten on, buried in Dampier

Peninsula pindan, covered in Pilbara dust, pulled over by Cervantes cops, from Kununurra to Perth, the Subie kept going. Steve's also co-authored previous editions of *Australia*, *Indonesia* and *Great Adventures*; while not on the road, he frequents Lonely Planet's Melbourne office.

Read more about Steve at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/stevewaters

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Rebecca Chau wrote the Boomtown: Mining & the Environment chapter. Rebecca first started learning about WA back in the '80s, when she started school in Albany, south of the state. After growing up on this land crinkled by beaches and coveted by whales, she moved to Perth, and later became a commissioning editor for Lonely Planet. Also an author on the previous editions of this guide, she heads back to WA a couple of times a year. She has long followed the mining boom with fascination.

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.

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Itineraries



A Southwest Short Circuit

If you've got limited time, this itinerary offers a taste of the best of the state – city life, colonial history, beaches, wildlife, wine, forests and rural roads. Base yourself in either **Perth** (p47) or **Fremantle** (p77) and spend three days exploring the conjoined cities and one day on **Rottnest Island** (p91). Hire a car and head south, stopping first at **Bunbury** (p120) for lunch and a visit to the Dolphin Discovery Centre. Continue on to **Geographe Bay** (p120), basing yourself in either **Busselton** (p123) or **Dunsborough** (p125), 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 close by. Base yourself in the **Margaret River** (p132) township that night and head to Settlers Tavern, the local pub. The next morning, head to **Augusta** via Caves Rd and take the scenic detour through the karri forest along unsealed **Borunup Drive** (p134). Visit **Cape Leeuwin** (p136), where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet, before heading back to Bunbury on a picturesque rural drive through **Nannup** (p137) and **Balingup** (p137). From here it's a two-hour drive back to Perth.



3

WEEKS

The Southwest Uncut

Australia's southwest 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** (p136), but spend a second night in **Margaret River** (p132) for more winery, brewery and beach time.

Continue to **Pemberton** (p139), amid three forested national parks, for more wineries and the Karri Forest Explorer scenic drive. The next day, continue through **Walpole** (p145) to the extraordinary **Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk** (p145), then press on to **Denmark** (p1460). Check out the beaches, wineries and breweries before making the short hop to **Albany** (p149) the next day. Spend two days here swimming (in summer), whale watching (in winter) and exploring the nearby coastal national parks.

Head north for more wineries at **Mt Barker** (p156) before scuttling east to spend the night at **Porongurup National Park** (p156). Spend the next day (or two) tackling the mountainous tracks here or at **Stirling Range National Park** (p157) 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** (p1600) to spend the night. This will take about three hours from the Stirling Range, so you can spend the afternoon at the beach. The following day, head back to the South Coast Hwy and continue east to **Esperance** (p161), a drive of around 2½ hours. Stay there for at least two days, spending one exploring gorgeous **Cape Le Grand National Park** (p164).

Head back on the South Coast Hwy and turn north just past Ravensthorpe for the road to **Hyden** (p102) and extraordinary **Wave Rock** (p102); 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** (p107); allow 3½ hours. For your last day, take a leisurely drive back to Perth via **Mundaring** (p103), stopping at the **Swan Valley** (p104) wineries en route.

To make this itinerary shorter, head straight to Hyden from the Stirling Range, or take the Albany Hwy directly to Perth from Mt Barker.

FRANCIS COONEN/GETTY IMAGES ©



Above: Mitchell Falls
(p223)

Right: Swan River, Perth

FRANCIS ANDRILLO/GETTY IMAGES ©

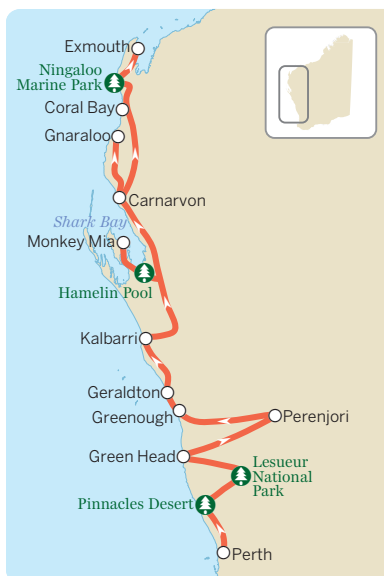




The Gibb River Road & Kimberley Outback

The biggest adventure in the west leaves **Broome** (p205) during the Dry and traverses the heart of the rugged Kimberley by 4WD. First stop is the **Dampier Peninsula** (p216), with its Aboriginal communities, beautiful beaches and mud crabs, and your last salt-water swim. Take the back road to **Derby** (p217), with its boabs, then on to the **Gibb River Road** (p220), where **Lennard River** (p221) is the first of many inviting gorges. Explore wildlife and gorges at **Mt Hart** (p221) and remote **Mornington Wilderness Camp** (p221) and look for Wandjina at **Galvans Gorge** (p221) and **Mt Elizabeth Station** (p222). Turn off onto the **Kalumburu Road** (p221), check the road conditions at **Drysdale River** (p223) and drive on to the **Mitchell Plateau** (p223), 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** (p221), just beyond the mission community of **Kalumburu** (p221).

It's all downhill from here as you retrace your route back to the Gibb, then turn left for wonderful **Home Valley Station** (p222), where someone else can do the cooking and the soft beds make a pleasant change from camping. Nearby **El Questro** (p222) has gorges aplenty, none more beautiful than **Emma Gorge** (p222). Soon you're back on asphalt, but not for long as you take in the amazing bird life of **Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve** (p226). Let Wyndham's **Five Rivers Lookout** (p225) blow your mind with its view of Cambridge Gulf, before heading for the civility of **Kununurra** (p225), with its excellent food and supplies. Look for fruit-picking work, ride a canoe down the mighty Ord River, or jump back behind the wheel for the wonders of **Purnululu National Park** (p224), home to the orange-domed **Bungle Bungle Range** (p224). Darwin and the Northern Territory are beckoning, or you can follow the Great Northern Hwy back to Broome, stopping in at beautiful **Geikie Gorge** (p223) for a relaxing boat cruise where you might spot freshwater crocs. If you don't see any, don't worry, as nearby **Windjana Gorge** (p222) has loads sunning on the river banks. Grab your torch and head for a cold wade through the icy waters of **Tunnel Creek** (p223), with its bats and rock art, before planting the pedal back to Broome, where you won't care how much that beer costs any more.

2
WEEKS

Indian Ocean Dreaming

Beautiful beaches, spectacular sunsets and diverse wildlife are constants on this coastal cruise. Take Indian Ocean Dr north from **Perth** (p47) to Cervantes for sunset on the otherworldly **Pinnacles Desert** (p114). Cruise the wildflower-laden Kwongan back roads and marvel at **Lesueur National Park's** (p115) flora before snorkelling with sea lions at **Green Head** (p117). Follow the flowers out to **Perenjori** (p112), then hit the cafes and museums of **Geraldton** (p168). Have a surf on a kiteboard, then move on to the wonderful **Kalbarri** (p172) coastline. Enjoy a canoe in the gorges before sampling the outback on the long drive to World Heritage-listed **Shark Bay** (p176). Watch dolphins at **Monkey Mia** (p179), go sailing with dugongs, and learn about country on an indigenous cultural tour. Check out the stromatolites of **Hamelin Pool** (p176), before putting in more road time on the stretch to **Carnarvon** (p180). Drop into **Gnaraloo** (p182) for world-class waves before arriving at tiny **Coral Bay** (p186) and **Exmouth** (p188), where whale sharks, manta rays and turtles inhabit the exquisite **Ningaloo Marine Park** (p193). You can fly out of Exmouth, drive back to Perth in two days, overnighing in historic **Greenough** (p170), or push on to the gorges of **Karijini** (p198).

1
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** (p188), take Burkett Rd back to the highway, and head north, turning off at Nanutarra for the long, scenic haul up to **Tom Price** (p198). After stocking up, spend the next few days camped in **Karijini National Park** (p198), exploring the sublime gorges and indulging in a spot of peak bagging among the state's highest mountains. Don't miss a swim at Hammersley Gorge en route to restful, shady Crossing Pool in **Millstream-Chichester National Park** (p198). Admire the mesas and breakaways of the Chichester Range before dropping down to the coast and some snorkelling at lovely **Point Samson** (p197). Take the North West Coastal Hwy directly to **Port Hedland** (p201), and scoff some wonderful coffee and cake in the Silver Star railcar, before camping at remote **80 Mile Beach** (p205), 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** (p205). You can bail out here or tool up for the Kimberley. Alternatively, skip the country on a direct Bali flight from Port Hedland.

Off the Beaten Track

**MARBLE BAR**

Tumbleweeds blow across the road as you unwind yourself from your vehicle, shake off the dust and enter the cool, shady interior of the Iron Clad Hotel. That icy beer has never tasted better. (p203)

KALUMBURU

Few travellers make it to this shady, palm-fringed mission at the end of a disintegrating track, but those who make the effort are rewarded by laid-back camping, WWII wrecks, lonely beaches and legendary fishing. (p221)

DUNCAN ROAD

The rarely visited Duncan Road provides a more laid-back, scenic and self-sufficient outback experience than the Gibb River Road. There are beautiful gorges, safe billabongs and zero facilities. You'll be sleeping in the million-star hotel. (p222)

MT AUGUSTUS

A long way from the bitumen (and most tourists), this goliath between the Pilbara and Gascoyne easily dwarfs more fancied Uluru. Five different access routes, hidden rock art and walking trails provide many options for exploration. (p197)

TANAMI ROAD & WOLFE CREEK

This shortcut from Halls Creek to Alice Springs will save you loads of time but may pound your car to a pulp. For just a taste of remoteness, visit Wolfe Creek Meteorite Crater.





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