



Coral Coast & the Pilbara

Includes →

Coral Bay	186
Exmouth	188
Ningaloo Marine Park	193
Cape Range National Park.....	195
Dampier to Roebourne.....	196
Karratha	196
Millstream-Chichester National Park.....	198
Karijini National Park.....	198
Port Hedland	201

Best Places to Eat

- Whalers (p191)
- Karijini Eco Retreat (p201)
- Ningaloo Health (p191)
- Silver Star (p203)
- Samson Beach Bistro (p198)

Best Places to Swim

- Turquoise Bay (p194)
- Coral Bay (p186)
- Fern Pool (p199)
- Deep Reach Pool (p198)
- Hamersley Gorge (p199)

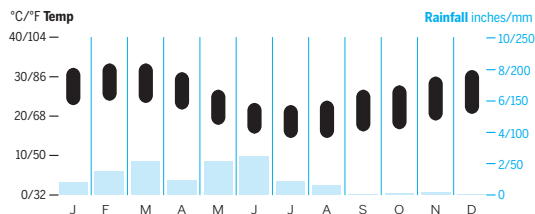
Why Go?

Lapping on the edge of the Indian Ocean, the shallow, turquoise waters of the Coral Coast nurture a unique marine paradise. World Heritage-listed Ningaloo Reef is one of the very few places you can swim with the world's largest fish, the gentle whale shark. Lonely bays, deserted beaches and crystal-clear lagoons offer superb snorkelling and diving among myriad sea life including humpback whales, manta rays and loggerhead turtles. Development is low-key, towns few and far between, and seafood and sunsets legendary.

Inland, miners swarm like ants over the high, eroded ranges of the Pilbara, while ore trains snake down to a string of busy ports stretching from Dampier to Port Hedland. But hidden in the hills are two beautiful gems – Karijini and Millstream-Chichester National Parks, home to spectacular gorges, remote peaks, deep tranquil pools and abundant wildlife.

When to Go

Exmouth



Apr–Jul Whale shark season – don't miss the swim of a lifetime.

Sep & Oct Karijini's gorges warm up and wildflowers blanket the ranges.

Nov–Mar Ningaloo is full of turtle love, eggs and hatchlings.



Coral Coast & the Pilbara Highlights

- 1** Swimming with whale sharks in **Ningaloo Marine Park** (p193)
- 2** Snorkelling over marine life at **Turquoise Bay** (p194)
- 3** Descending to the 'centre of the earth' on a gorge tour of **Karijini National Park** (p198)
- 4** Scuba diving off the **Navy Pier** at Point Murat (p192), one of the world's finest shore dives
- 5** Watching the annual humpback-whale migration at the **North West Cape** (p194)