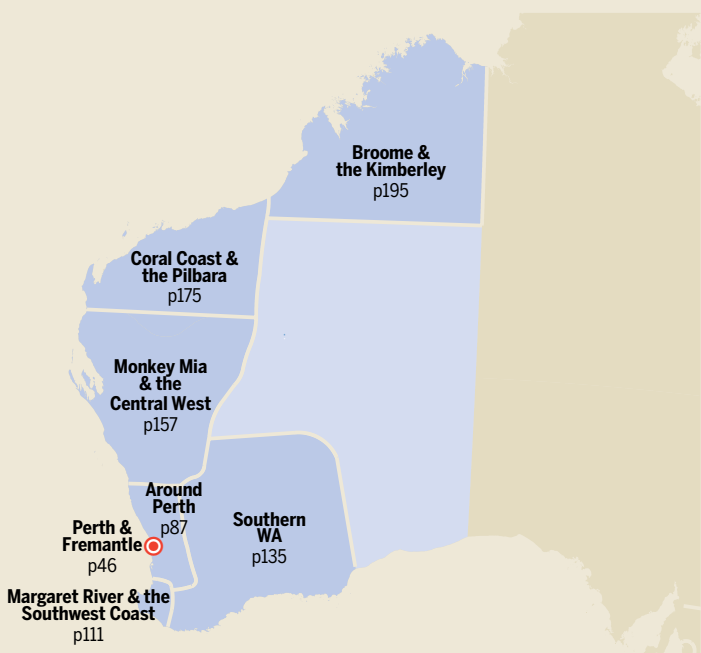




# West Coast Australia



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

**Brett Atkinson**

**Kate Armstrong, Steve Waters**

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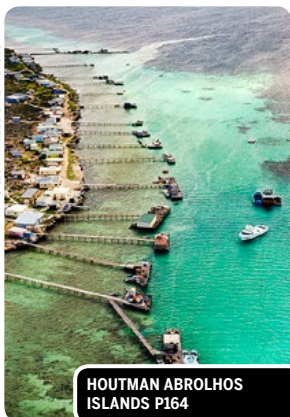
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**HOUTMAN ABROLHOS  
ISLANDS P164**



**QUOKKA P92**

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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** 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 Discovery 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 close by. Base yourself in the **Margaret River** township that night and head to Settler's, 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**. 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.



## The Southwest Uncut

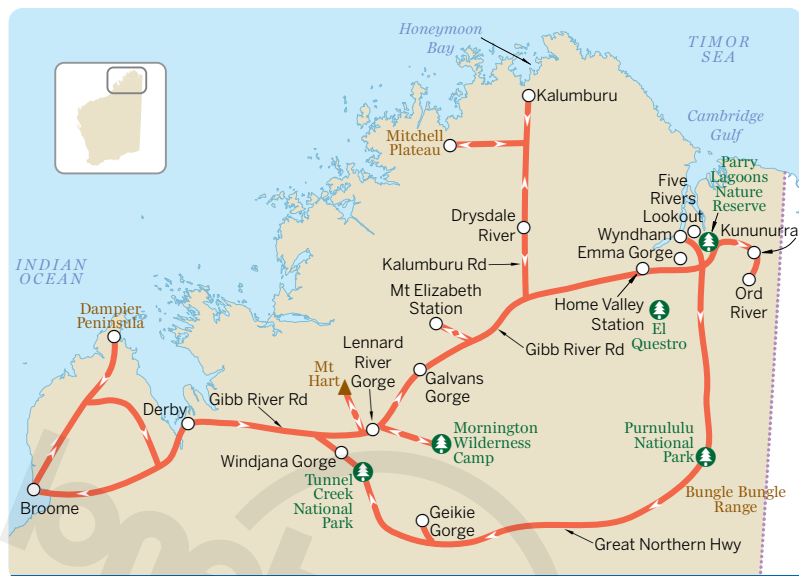
Australia's southwest is a magical part of the continent and this itinerary covers its main highlights. Take another week to really relax into it.

Spend three days in **Perth** and **Fremantle** and a leisurely day on **Rottnest Island**. Head south to **Geographe Bay** – stopping at **Bunbury** first to visit the Dolphin Discovery Centre – before overnighting in **Busselton** or **Dunsborough**. Continue for two nights in **Margaret River** township to explore breweries, wineries, surf beaches and caves.

The following morning head to **Augusta** via Caves Rd and detour through the karri forest along scenic **Borunup Drive**. Visit **Cape Leeuwin**, where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet, and continue to sleepy **Pemberton**. Highlights include more wineries, three national parks and the Karri Forest Explorer scenic drive. The next day, visit the **Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk** near **Walpole** and overnight in **Denmark**. Check out beaches, wineries, breweries and restaurants before continuing to **Albany**. Spend two days there swimming (in summer), whale watching (in winter), and exploring coastal national parks and the poignant National Anzac Centre. Head north for more wineries at **Mt Barker** before tracking east to **Porongurup National Park**. Spend the next day (or two) tackling the mountainous tracks either here or at **Stirling Range National Park**.

Continue to the South Coast Hwy and at Ravensthorpe hop down to **Hopetoun**. This takes three hours from the Stirling Range, so spend the afternoon at the beach. The following day, head back to the South Coast Hwy and continue east to **Esperance** (around 2½ hours). Base yourself there two days, spending one of them exploring **Cape Le Grand National Park**. Head back on the South Coast Hwy and turn north just past Ravensthorpe for **Hyden** and **Wave Rock** (around four hours). The following day, head west to Brookton, turn north on the Great Southern Hwy, and follow the Avon Valley to quaintly colonial **York** (allow 3½ hours). For a leisurely final day back to Perth, travel via **Mundaring**, stopping at the **Swan Valley** en route for craft beer.

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

1  
MONTH

## The Gibb River Road & 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 saltwater swim. Take the back road to **Derby** and its boabs, then on to the **Gibb River Road**, 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 Road**, check the road conditions at **Drysdale River** and drive on to 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 from camping. Nearby **El Questro** has gorges aplenty, none more beautiful than **Emma Gorge**. Soon you're back on asphalt, but not for long as you take in the amazing bird life 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 themselves 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 any more.





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FRANCIS ANDRIJICH/GETTY IMAGES ©

Above: Mitchell Falls  
(p201), the Kimberley  
Left: Sailing boat, Perth  
(p48)

2  
WEEKS

## Indian Ocean Dreaming

Beautiful beaches, spectacular sunsets and wildlife are constants on this coastal cruise.

Take Indian Ocean Dr north from **Perth** to Cervantes for sunset on the otherworldly **Pinnacles Desert**. Cruise the wildflower-laden Kwongan back roads and marvel at the flora of **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 on to the wonderful **Kalbarri** coastline. 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 north to **Carnarvon**. Drop into **Gnaraloo** for world-class waves 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 on to the gorges of Karijini.

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**, take Burkett Rd back to the highway, and head north, turning off at Nanutarra for the long, scenic haul up to **Tom Price**. After stocking up, spend the next few days camped in **Karijini National Park**, exploring the sublime gorges and indulging in a spot of peak bagging among the state's highest mountains. Don't miss a swim at Hamersley Gorge en route to the relaxing, shady pools in **Millstream Chichester National Park**. Admire the mesas and breakaways of the Chichester Range before dropping down to the coast, checking out the petroglyphs at Murujuga, then onto lovely **Point Samson** for snorkelling. Take the North West Coastal Hwy directly to **Port Hedland**, and scoff some wonderful coffee and cake in the Silver Star railcar, before camping at remote **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**.



# Off the Beaten Track - West Coast Australia





## CANNING STOCK ROUTE

## STEPPING POINT & DIRK HARTOG ISLAND

### STEPPING POINT & DIRK HARTOG ISLAND

Sunsets from the mainland's most westerly point just don't come any better, nor does the fishing. Nearby, Dirk Hartog Island is replete with history, begging to be explored. Just getting here is an adventure. (p170)

### CANNING STOCK ROUTE

The most serious off-road undertaking in Australia stretches 2000km through desert and salt flats, linking together wells along this disused stock route. It's not for the faint-hearted; you should consider travelling in convoy. (p154)

### DRYANDRA WOODLAND

Go marsupial crazy and get acquainted with bilbies, boodies and woylies at Dryandra's excellent Banna Mia Animal Sanctuary. Perth is just a couple of hours away from this protected stand of eucalypt forest. (p99)

# Map Legend

## Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

## Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving/Snorkelling
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

## Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

## Eating

- Eating

## Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

- Entertainment

## Shopping

- Shopping

## Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

## Geographic

- Beach
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

## Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

## Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

## Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

## Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

## Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

## Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

*Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book*



## 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 Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, 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

**Perth & Fremantle, Around Perth, Margaret River & the Southwest Coast, Southern WA, Monkey Mia & the Central West**

For this edition, Brett flew across the gorges of WA's Karijini National Park, met the dolphins of Monkey Mia, and uncovered more excellent Australian craft breweries around Margaret River and the Swan Valley. Ever-changing Perth seems more exciting each time he returns, especially hip and funky Northbridge. Brett is based in Auckland, New Zealand and has covered around 50 countries as a guidebook author and travel and food writer. See [www.brett-atkinson.net](http://www.brett-atkinson.net) for his most recent work and upcoming travels. Brett also wrote the Plan Your Trip, Understand (other than History) and Survival Guide chapters.



### Kate Armstrong

**Broome & the Kimberley** Hailing from the cold southeast, Kate couldn't wait to head northwest, hitting the road in a rattling 4WD, her first time north of Perth. She's written over 30 Lonely Planet guidebooks – covering Greece, Portugal, South Africa and Mexico – but this time round, she shocked herself: she fell in love; with her own country. For this edition, she cruised Broome and up and down the Dampier Peninsula, falling for its pearls: the extraordinary red pindan

soils, the fishing and swimming, and the local Aussie down-to-earthliness.



### Steve Waters

**Coral Coast & the Pilbara, Broome & the Kimberley** This was Steve's sixth trip to the north of WA and while some things hadn't changed (huge distances, heat, blowing a tyre on the Kalumburu Rd), others were totally different (Cape Range National Park after the floods, volunteering for the Mornington Bird Census, trying to find the same restaurant in Exmouth). Then there was the added novelty of coming to grips with social media :) Steve's written online articles on WA and

co-authored previous editions of *Australia*, *Indonesia*, *Great Adventures* and *Best in Travel*, and come the next Dry will probably be heading north once again.

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### Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

8th edition – November 2015

ISBN 978 1 74321 556 2

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

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