



# Coral Coast & the Pilbara

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Whalers Restaurant (p182)
- ➔ Karijini Eco Retreat (p192)
- ➔ Bills on the Ningaloo Reef (p179)
- ➔ The BBQfather (p183)
- ➔ Silver Star (p194)

## Best Places to Swim

- ➔ Turquoise Bay (p186)
- ➔ Coral Bay (p178)
- ➔ Hamersley Gorge (p191)
- ➔ Fern Pool (p190)
- ➔ Deep Reach Pool (p190)

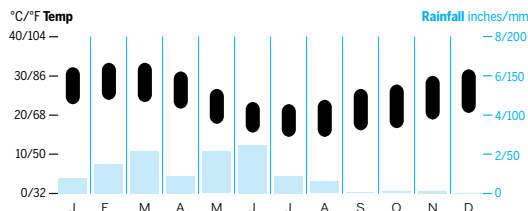
## Why Go?

Lapping languidly on the edge of the Indian Ocean, the shallow, turquoise waters of the Coral Coast nurture a unique marine paradise. 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. World Heritage Ningaloo Reef is one of the very few places you can swim with the world's largest fish, the gentle whale shark. 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 wild flowers blanket the ranges.

### Nov–Mar

Ningaloo is full of turtle love, eggs and hatchlings.



## Coral Coast & the Pilbara Highlights

① Swimming with 'gentle giant' whale sharks in **Ningaloo Marine Park** (p185).

② Snorkelling over marine life at **Turquoise Bay** (p186) in Ningaloo Marine Park.

③ Descending into the 'centre of the earth' on an adventure tour through the gorges of **Karijini National Park** (p190).

④ Scuba diving off the **Navy Pier** (p185) at Point Murat,

one of the world's finest shore dives.

⑤ Watching the annual humpback-whale migration from the lighthouse at **North West Cape** (p185).