



Monkey Mia & the Central West

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Best Places for Sunset

- ➔ Steep Point (p170)
- ➔ Fishermens Lookout (p159)
- ➔ Red Bluff (p165)
- ➔ Shark Bay Hotel (p170)
- ➔ Horrocks (p168)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Gnaraloo Station (p174)
- ➔ Ospreys Beach Chalet (p162)
- ➔ Dongara Breeze Inn (p159)
- ➔ Bentwood Olive Grove (p160)
- ➔ Hamelin Station (p168)

Why Go?

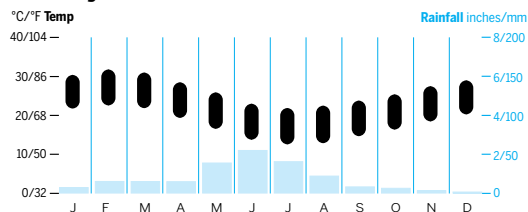
The pristine coastline and sheltered turquoise waters of Malgana country draw tourists and marine life from around the world. Aside from the dolphins of Monkey Mia, the submerged sea-grass meadows of World Heritage-listed Shark Bay host dugongs, rays, sharks and turtles. On land, rare marsupials take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

Further south in the land of the Nhanda people, the gorges of Kalbarri invite adventurers to explore their depths, while wild flowers carpet the plains, and ospreys wheel away from battered Indian Ocean cliffs as humpback whales migrate slowly southwards.

Vegies are ripening in Carnarvon as anglers and board riders check the tides, and windsurfers are waiting for the 'Doctor' (strong afternoon sea breeze) to blow. In Geraldton, good cafes, weekend markets and an excellent museum combine with Indian Ocean views along the city's foreshore.

When to Go

Monkey Mia



Jun–Aug The winter swells pump the breaks off Gnaraloo and Quobba.

Aug & Sep Kalbarri erupts in wild flowers.

Nov–Feb Windsurfers clutch their sails from Geraldton to Carnarvon.



Monkey Mia & the Central West Highlights

- 1 Watching the dolphins feed at **Monkey Mia** (p171).
- 2 Canoeing at **Kalbarri National Park** (p165).
- 3 Surfing the Tombstones break at **Gnaraloo** (p174).
- 4 Driving out to the mainland's most westerly tip, **Steep Point** (p170).
- 5 Sailing out to look for dugongs in **Shark Bay** (p168).
- 6 Immersing yourself in Malgana culture on a **Wula Guda Nyinda** (p171) tour at Monkey Mia.
- 7 Diving on ancient shipwrecks at the **Houtman Abrolhos Islands** (p164).
- 8 Horse riding along the **Murchison River** (p165).
- 9 Spotting marine life from a coastal walk in the **François Peron National Park** (p171).
- 10 Soaking up some coffee and culture in **Geraldton's** (p160) museums, galleries and cafes.