

This guide was prepared for you by...

Bondi Beach Backpackers

0412 509 279 - 35a Hall Street, Bondi Beach NSW 2026



PERTH TO DARWIN ROAD TRIP

The West Australian coast is unique and amazing and what is available to you here is like no other place on earth.

Go slow, there is much to do.

Please keep an eye on your gas and in remote areas fill up at every opportunity.

You also need to carry water too. Lots of water for you and maybe the car!

Enjoy this coast line as you will most likely only do it once!

Enjoy!

I very much hope this guide is useful to you.

Have a great trip, drive safe and if this was useful to you please write to us at info@bondibeachbackpackers.com.au

We would love to hear from you, hear about your awesome trip, inform us of any changes and/or updates that need to be made so we can help others too!

Thank you. Richard & the *Bondi Beach Backpackers* Team



Perth



Western Australia



Darwin

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PERTH TO JURIEN BAY

You have a choice in how you leave PERTH.

Take the coast road which takes you to LANCELIN and beyond which is our recommendation

Or

Take the NUMBER 1 HIGHWAY which is much more inland but faster, a bit boring though. All the places worth checking out are on the coast road.

OK LETS GO!

Drive north 122km to LANCELIN where sand dunes await. You can surf on them on sand boards. It great fun, unusual and unforgettable.

A further 80km drive north on the coast road is the town of CERVANTES. The town was named after a ship that was wrecked nearby. The ship, in turn, was named after Miguel de Cervantes, author of Don Quixote.

Nearby is NAMBERG NATIONAL PARK which is famous for its rock formations. Apart from the amazing PINNACLES DESERT, NAMBERG NATIONAL PARK is also known for its beautiful beaches at KANGAROO POINT and HANGOVER BAY, coastal dune systems and low heathland rich in flowering plants. At the park's northern end near the town of CERVANTES, there is a loop trail and boardwalk at LAKE THETIS where you can see fascinating thrombolites (rock-like structures similar to stromatolites built by micro-organisms too small for the human eye to see). You should check it out.

A further 37km drive north is JURIEN BAY. The coastline around JURIEN BAY was first known to Europeans in the 17th century. In 1801–1803, an expedition under the command of Nicolas Baudin sailed along the West Australian coast. Louis de Freycinet, a cartographic surveyor on the expedition, named JURIEN BAY after Charles Marie Jurien.

DROVERS CAVE NATIONAL PARK is close by to JURIEN BAY and is worth while checking out



Sand surfing in Lancelin



Coast line at Cervantes



Namberg National Park Pinnacles



Jurien Bay boardwalk to beach



Seals In Jurien Bay



Drovers Cave National Park In Jurien Bay



Seals In Jurien Bay



Skydive In Jurien Bay

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JURIEN BAY TO DENHAM

The coast road now gets very close to the coast. About a 100km drive further north the coast road joins the NUMBER 1 HIGHWAY and progresses north to the town of GERALDTON. There is not much here other than a good place to get supplies.

Take the smaller coast road here up to KALBARRI instead of the NUMBER 1 HIGHWAY which goes inland.

You must stop at KALBARRI here so you can visit or take a tour of the KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK.

KALBARRI is part of lands of the Nanda People who are now recognized as the traditional owners of 17,000 square kilometres of land. KALBARRI was named after an Aboriginal man from the Nanda tribe. The first European people to visit the area were the crew of the trading ship Batavia, belonging to the Dutch East India Company, who put two mutinous crew members ashore near Bluff Point just south of the town. The cliffs near the river mouth were named after another trading ship, the Zuytdorp, that was wrecked there in 1712.

KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK has a magnificent 80 kilometre gorge through the red and white banded sandstone to create formations such as NATURES WINDOW, THE LOOP, Z-BEND AND HAWKS HEAD with scenic gorge views at ROSS GRAHAM LOOKOUT and MEANARRA HILL.

KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK has a SKYWALK you must visit. Perched right on the cliff top, two 100 meter lookout project out 25 and 17 metres beyond the rim of the MURCHISON GORGE for spectacular views.

Driving out of KALBARRI you are forced west to meet the NUMBER 1 HIGHWAY but soon turn north. 250km drive from KALBARRI is the turn off at HAMELIN POOL. This will take you to the town of DENHAM and SHARK BAY and MONKEY MIA a further 128km further. Don't be deterred by the distance as what is here is well worth the drive.

DENHAM is the westernmost publicly accessible town in Australia, named in honour of Captain Henry Mangles Denham of the Royal Navy, who charted SHARK BAY in 1858. 14km from DENHAM is MONKEY MIA where you can feed dolphins on the shore.



Kalbarri National Park



Kalbarri National Park Natures Window



Kalbarri National Park



Kalbarri National Park Murchison River



Kalbarri National Park Skywalk



Dolphins at Monkey Mia



Monkey Mia



Dolphins at Monkey Mia

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This place is so impressive that we have devoted a whole page of pictures.



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DENHAM TO EXMOUTH AND THE NORTHWEST CAPE

Driving south from DENHAM you will come across HAMELIN POOL STROMATOLITES a weird but wonderful ocean rock formation. Well worth a look as it right there on the drive back to the NUMBER1 HIGHWAY now referred to as the NORTH WEST HIGHWAY

Drive back to the NORTH WEST HIGHWAY at HAMELIN POOL and turn north for 171km where you can stretch your legs at NEW BEACH which is the only place worth stopping.

A further 44km is the major town of CARNAVON which has little other than a place to get supplies.

A further 150km drive north is the turn of onto the MANILYA EXMOUTH ROAD and the NORTHWEST CAPE This area is simply unmissable and stunning and fringed by the NINGALOO REEF.

Follow the MANILYA EXMOUTH ROAD about 75km to CORAL BAY turn off. CORAL BAY is simply stunning and you should stay here several days.

153km drive further north up the NORTH WEST CAPE lies the town of EXMOUTH equally awesome and you should stay here several days too. I did my dive course here and it was awesome. You can learn here but also dive with the whale sharks.

There is a fantastic drive up to the top of the NORTH WEST CAPE all the way round to TURQUOISE BAY called that for obvious reasons. You must check out this bay for amazing swimming with turtles and coral. It simply stunning.

To leave the NORTH WEST CAPE you must go back south on the MANILYA EXMOUTH ROAD to the NORTH WEST COASTAL HIGHWAY. Take a left turn to the north.



Hamelin Pool Stromatolites



Swim with turtles in Coral Bay



Coral Bay



Coral Bay



Whalesharks In Exmouth



Exmouth



Whalesharks In Exmouth



Turquoise Bay



Turquoise Bay



North West Cape turtles

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EXMOUTH, KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK TO BROOME

You are now faced with a massive drive of 1371km to BROOME with very little to do or see on the way.

We recommend that you start very early in the morning from EXMOUTH or CORAL BAY. The first stop of note would be 519km away. The MIAREE POOL is a swimming hole right on the NORTH WEST COASTAL HIGHWAY where you can stop and stretch and swim.

Only 31 km further is the town of KARRATHA where you could stay or you could push on another 237km to PORT HEADLAND.

PORT HEADLAND is the gate way to the KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK and is a three hour drive south from PORT HEADLAND and 335km but I hear its one of the best National Parks in Australia (I missed it and I wish I hadn't)

KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK is very impressive with massive mountains and escarpments rise out of the flat valleys. The high plateau has breathtaking gorges, and stony tree lined water courses that wind their way over the dusty plain. Erosion has slowly carved this landscape out of the rocks over 2.5 million years.

Places to visit are DALES GORGE, FORTESCUE FALLS, WEANO GORGE and OXERS LOOKOUT

Leave KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK heading north to PORT HEADLAND 335km where you can stay or push on to PARDOO 474km where there is a cattle station stay available or EIGHTY MILE BEACH 577km where there is a caravan park or push onto BROOME 935km where there are hostels and lots of things to do.



A selfie with Red Dog at Karratha



Dales Gorge at Karijini National Park



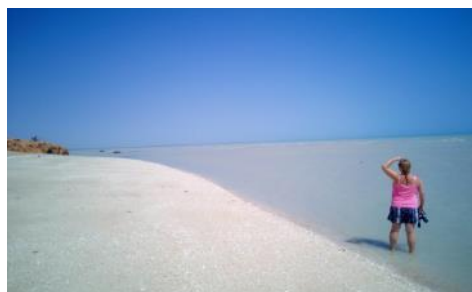
Karijini National Park



Fortescue Falls at Karijini National Park



Eighty Mile Beach



Pardoo



Weano Gorge at Karijini National Park



Weano Gorge at Karijini National Park



Weano Gorge at Karijini National Park



Oxers lookout at Karijini National Park

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BROOME & DERBY

After that long drive take a few days to relax and enjoy BROOME.

Visit CABLE BEACH, one of the most stunning beaches in the world with 22 kilometers of pristine white sand and cliffs. Relax, swim in the crystal clear turquoise water, have a picnic or sit and watch the sun set over the ocean.

See the natural phenomenon STAIRCASE TO THE MOON. For 2-3 days every month between April and October at very low tide, the moon reflects a 'staircase' on the water that leads up to the moon. Pop in at the local Staircase Markets at TOWN BEACH.

Marvel at dinosaur footprints. Head out to GANTHEAUME POINT to see the 130 million year old dinosaur footprints visible at low tide. This gorgeous location features the contrasting colours of deep pindan red cliffs and the beautiful turquoise ocean.

Explore CHINA TOWN. The main hub of BROOME is also known as Chinatown, which wonderfully demonstrates the eclectic and diversity of this town's history and population.

Walk the STREETER'S JETTY, the original jetty for the pearling luggers based in BROOME. The jetty is located on DAMPIER TERRACE and is still used to support vessels for modern day pearling and the occasional lugger.

Explore the DUTCH FLYING BOAT WRECKS, located off shore from TOWN BEACH. The wrecks are evidence of the Japanese air raid on BROOME during WWII. At extremely low tides the wrecks are visible to those who walk across the ROEBUCK BAY mud flats.

There are many 1, 2 & 3 day tours from BROOME & DERBY that go into the KIMBERLEY'S to place such as WINDJANA GORGE & TUNNEL CREEK and further which are amazing but expensive.

Many try to follow the GIBB RIVER ROAD which is generally seasonal and decisions should be made on the day and according to conditions. Many 2WD cars return after a long and scary experiment goes wrong. Local sources have told me it should be 4WD only.



Cable Beach



Camel Rides on Cable Beach



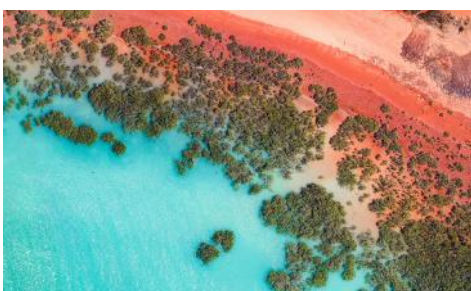
Sunset at Cable Beach



Staircase to the Moon



Gantheaume Point



Roebuck Bay



Streeters Jetty



Broome Markets

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BROOME TO DERBY TO KUNUNURRA

BROOME to DERBY is 203km. DERBY has the largest tides in the whole area and the town's main attraction is to be on the jetty just before high and low tides to watch it ebb and flow.

DERBY also is the entrance to the GIBB RIVER ROAD and also to the KIMBERLEY'S. If you are doing the GIBB RIVER ROAD do your research and check conditions.

From DERBY you can do WINDJANA GORGE & TUNNEL CREEK yourself. It's 239km to the gorge and you can take tours from there if you wish. There are campgrounds and caravans here too.

Next town of note is FITZROY CROSSING which is 248km via the NUMBER 1 HIGHWAY now called the GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY or 148km on the more direct route dirt road on LEOPOLD DOWNS ROAD.

Fitzroy crossing is the town to visit the DANGUU GORGE NATIONAL PARK and GEIKIE GORGE CONSERVATION AREA. You must visit this national park as it has some great features and is only 22km away.

The MIMBI CAVES are just 95km down the GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY. Worth checking out as not far off the highway.

A further 311km further on the GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY is SPRING CREEK REST STOP and not long after is the BUNGLER BUNGLES turn off which takes you to the BUNGLER BUNGLES CARAVAN PARK. You can get here with 2WD but you will need 4WD to get into the BUNGLER BUNGLES NATIONAL PARK or you take helicopter rides from highway over the BUNGLER BUNGLES which is awesome & I wish I had done it as I never been back.

272km further along the GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY is KUNUNURRA. From here you can get BUNGLER BUNGLES flights, see LAKE ARGYLLE and the awesome ORD RIVER CRUISE which is scenically beautiful and rich in wildlife is a 55km stretch of river from KUNUNURRA to the ORD TOP DAM at LAKE ARGYLLE. As you wind up the river you will not be disappointed with crocodiles, sea eagles, kingfishers, bats and more!



Boab Tree at Derby



Gibb River Road



Gibb River Road



Windjana Gorge



Tunnel Creek



Bungle Bungle National Park



Bungle Bungle National Park



Fitzroy Crossing

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KUNUNURRA TO DARWIN

From KUNUNURRA to TIMBER CREEK is 246km. You will cross the border into the NORTHERN TERRITORY on this stretch of road. The NACKEROO LOOKOUT just before TIMBER CREEK is a good rest stop to stretch those legs.

KATHERINE is only 289km further along the GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY. KATHERINE has a lot to offer and after a long drive stay a few days and do some awesome things such as KATHERINE HOT SPRINGS and NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK is around a series of gorges on the KATHERINE RIVER and EDITH FALLS. Previously named KATHERINE GORGE NATIONAL PARK, its northern edge borders KAKADU NATIONAL PARK. The gorges and the surrounding landscape have great ceremonial significance to the local Jawoyn people, who are custodians of NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK.

EDITH FALLS is a series of cascading waterfalls and pools on the EDITH RIVER in the NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK, located 60km north of KATHERINE.

Kayaking on KATHERINE GORGE is a great experience and inexpensive and you should definitely do this. The levels of the water is the main thing because too low you cannot access far, to high might have other issues, (not sure what) but check on the day and the time of day to make your experience awesome.

From KATHERINE to DARWIN IS 317km. On the way you will pass LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK which you can visit now or from DARWIN. You also have the town of ADELAIDE RIVER where bird life and crocodiles are common. Worth a stop.

Darwin is the capital of THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. It has a lot of fun and life to experience. It's a small city but it's the gateway to KAKADU and LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARKS, both of which are simply outstanding. You must visit both as you may never be back!

The CROCOSAURUS in DARWIN looks amazing. I dare you! Has to be up there with shark diving and sky diving for unforgettable memories.



Nackaroo Lookout



Hot Springs at Katherine



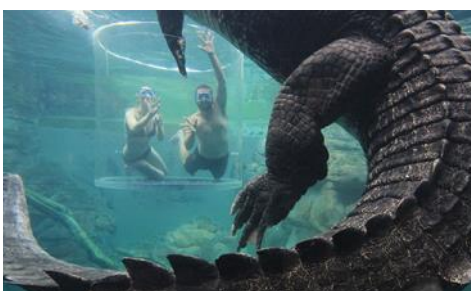
Dolphins at Coffin Bay



Edith Falls swimming hole



Litchfield National Park



Crocosaurs at Darwin. I dare you!



Crocodiles at Adelaide River



Kakadu National Park

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Thank you. Richard & the *Bondi Beach Backpackers* Team

DRIVING NEED TO KNOW

Signs

Read the signs, they may save your life. Especially those about NOT to go in the water!!

Rivers

Most coastal rivers are fast, wide and kill quick plus mean things live in them like sharks.

Take Breaks

Aussie roads are long, boring & you need to take breaks!

Kangaroos

Will smash your car to pieces and the crash that follows smashes you and your mates to pieces so at sun up and sun down be very aware!

Parking

You have to park the direction traffic faces. If you see a parking spot available turn around & park in the same direction as others. Don't be the wrong way round or face a fine that will make you dry.

Many towns make you park with back of car to the kerb whilst other towns want you to park with the front of your car to the kerb. Read the signs or get a ticket.

Have a great trip, drive safe & **Thank you!!**



Read signs that save



I'm drowning



Take a Break!!



Kangaroo v Car. Kangaroo will win!!



Park Same Direction as Others