



13 Day West Coast Explorer 4WD Safari Perth to Broome

Day 1 (L,D)

You will be collected from your Perth hotel at 7.30am this morning to begin your 13 day 4WD safari along the West Coast to Broome.

Our day starts by driving up to Cervantes, Nambung National Park and the Pinnacles.

These amazing natural limestone structures, some standing as high as five metres, were formed approximately 25,000 to 30,000 years ago, after the sea receded and left deposits of sea shells. Over time, coastal winds removed the surrounding sand, leaving the pillars exposed to the elements. The thousands of pillars rising from the shifting yellow sands, resemble a landscape from a science fiction movie.

We view the Pinnacles from the Pinnacles View lookout and a 1.2 km. loop walk takes us to a lookout over the Pinnacles desert area.

The coastline between Cervantes and Geraldton is stunning and we can admire the views as we drive up the coast.

Overnight hotel accommodation- Ocean Centre Hotel, Geraldton

Day 2 (B,L,D)

After breakfast we continue north along the Coral Coast to Hutt Lagoon, at Port Gregory. A beautiful scenic drive takes us to an endless white beach and a stunning Pink Lake. The Pink Lake gets its spectacular colour from the algal blooms of the microscopic algae, which are harvested and sold as dietary supplements.

Today we take a look at the Coastal Gorges of Kalbarri NP including Red Bluff, Pot Alley Gorge, Rainbow Valley, Eagle Gorge, Shell House, Mushroom Rock (3km loop walk), and the most spectacular of the lot, Island Rock and the Natural Arch, provide spectacular views of this rugged piece of coastline. The ocean here has carved out massive chunks of soft limestone coast and created towering cliff formations approximately 100 metres high, strange rocky shapes, secluded beaches and colourful layered sands and silts compacted and layered in stone.

Overnight hotel accommodation- Kalbarri Edge Resort

Day 3 (B,L)

This morning we explore Kalbarri National Park. Driving through the park, the Murchison River Gorges slash abruptly through Sand Plain from the Highway to Kalbarri town. It is estimated that these tumblagooda sandstone walls were created 400 million years ago on the tidal flats of an ancient sea. Fossil tracks and sea fossils can be found in many places along the river. Rippled surfaces can be seen around Nature's Window, formed during ancient times by waves moving over tidal flats in a shallow sea.

We visit Ross Graham Lookout and Hawkes Head Lookout for expansive views over the Murchison River Gorge. Further north, we also visit The Loop, Z Bend and Natures Window.

A 400m walk from The Loop car park brings you to one of WA's most iconic natural attractions, Nature's Window. This natural rock arch frames the river view perfectly and is a must-snap photograph opportunity in Kalbarri National Park.

Considered by many to offer the most breathtaking view in the park, the Z-Bend lookout can be reached by a 500-metre walk trail from the car park. Gazing down, the gorge plunges 150 metres to the river below where river redgums create a striking contrast against the earthy Tumblagooda sandstone.

We exit the park and continue to Monkey Mia, part of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, renowned for its incredible diversity and is home to sea turtles, dolphins, whales, dugongs, a variety of small marine life and sea grasses.

Overnight accommodation in Garden Villas or Beachside Dolphin Units, both with en-suites- Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort

Day 4 (B,L,D)

This morning we wander down to Dolphin Beach early to see if we can catch a glimpse of the Bottle Nosed Dolphins that have visited the beautiful beach each morning for the past 40 years.

The rest of the morning is free for you to swim, snorkel, relax on the beach or take an optional activity such as a boat cruise, camel ride or hiring a kayak (optional activities at own expense).

Heading back south down the Cape, we call in to Eagle Bluff, named after the osprey or sea eagles which nest on the rock island just offshore. The boardwalk is the ideal place to view the Useless Loop salt pile and marine life of the clear blue Shark Bay waters including turtles, sharks, rays and maybe even a dugong! The vistas are simply breathtaking.

After a short visit to Shell Beach, we continue south to the Stromatolites, which are the oldest living organisms on the planet, first appearing on earth about 3.5 billion years ago. Hamelin Pool is the location of the best example in the world of living marine stromatolites as the water of Hamelin Bay is twice as saline as usual sea water.

We can also visit the nearby Hamelin Pool Telegraph Station (including the post office and postmaster's quarters), one of the few surviving relics from the chain of stations that once stretched from Wyndham, in the far north of Western Australia, around to Albany in the far south. Long before the stromatolites were discovered, Hamelin Pool was an important transport and communication hub and the buildings are now listed on Western Australia's State Register of Heritage Places and have been turned into a museum.

Overnight mobile camp – Hamelin Station, with toilets and showers

****upgrade to rooms with shared bathrooms, may be available for an extra charge- please enquire when booking to avoid disappointment****

Day 5 (B,L)

We depart Hamelin for Coral Bay, passing through Carnarvon. En-route we stop at White Bluff Lookout for stunning views of the bay.

Coral Bay is a small but picturesque resort town offers coral gardens just metres off pristine white beaches. The rest of the day is at your leisure to relax on the beach, have another snorkel or take a look around the town- the choice is yours.

Overnight motel style accommodation with en-suite - Ningaloo Reef Resort, Coral Bay

Day 6 (B,L,D)

We start today with a half day cruise on Ningaloo Reef. Cruise through the crystal clear and calm turquoise waters, snorkel magical coral gardens filled with exotic marine life and search for turtles, dolphins, dugongs, manna rays and more.

From Coral Bay we continue north towards Exmouth.

We finish the day by visiting Vlamingh Head Lighthouse, which stands on the northernmost tip of the Cape Range. It overlooks Lighthouse Bay, offering panoramic views over Ningaloo Reef and we may be lucky to see humpback whales migrating south to their feeding grounds in Antarctica with their calves.

Overnight cabin accommodation with shared facilities - Exmouth (2 night stay)

****upgrade to cabins with en-suites may be available for an extra charge- please enquire when booking to avoid disappointment****

Day 7 (B,L,D)

Today we explore Ningaloo Reef Marine Park. Ningaloo is the largest fringing coral reef in Australia. It is the only large reef in the world found so close to a continental land mass; about 100 metres offshore at its nearest point and less than seven kilometres at its furthest.

The shallow lagoons formed by the reef, and the deeper offshore waters, create a diverse array of habitats for a multitude of colourful corals and more than 500 species of fish. Many other creatures are found in the park, including whale sharks (the world's largest fish), turtles, dugongs, dolphins, manta rays and humpback whales.

We access the marine park via the western side of Cape Range National Park, where spectacular rocky gorges, carved by ancient rivers, adjoin one of the most pristine and beautiful coastlines in the world. The area is well known for the striking contrast between the clear blue seas, coral reefs, sandy beaches and rugged scenery.

We have the whole day to explore this stunning coastline, where we can snorkel, swim and relax on the beach at Turquoise Bay. The reef offers 250 species of corals, including cabbage corals, brain corals, lavender corals and delicate colourful branching corals, which form gardens in the shallow lagoons. Green turtles have extensive rookeries inside the reef, dugong feed on seagrasses within the lagoons, there are multitudes of colourful reef fish, occasional oceanic fish species, as well as rays, sharks and dolphins.

As well as the beaches, we can do some bird watching at Mangrove Bay and visit the Oyster Stacks, which are five isolated islets that protrude from the reef. Not a great place to snorkel but worth a look as they are literally covered with oysters. You may also like to take the Mandu Mandu Gorge lookout for a stunning view over the coast walk.

We take a short cruise through Yardie Creek Gorge, which is a highlight of the National park. The ancient gorge has deep blue waters, red limestone cliff faces and a wonderful array of birds and wildlife, including the rare black-footed wallaby, with euros and red kangaroos dotting the coastal plain. A sandbar traps the water and the striking reflections of the sheer canyon's multi-coloured bands are breathtaking.

****reef walking shoes are recommended during our time at Ningaloo Reef due to the presence of fireweed, fire coral, stingrays, toadfish, stonefish and sea urchins****

Overnight cabin accommodation with shared facilities – Exmouth

Day 8 (B,L,D)

Today we depart the Ningaloo and take a scenic drive west inland, travelling on the North West Coastal Highway and then through the Hamersley Ranges.

Overnight mobile camp- Tom Price Tourist Park campground, with toilets and showers

****upgrade to cabins with en-suites may be available for an extra charge- please enquire when booking to avoid disappointment****

Day 9 (B,L,D)

Today we make our way into Karijini National Park, in the Hamersley Range. Karijini is Western Australia's second largest national park, encompassing some 627,442 hectares of spectacular, rugged scenery, ancient geological formations and a variety of arid-land ecosystems.

Massive mountains and escarpments rise out of the flat valleys. The high plateau is dissected by breathtaking gorges, and stony, tree-lined watercourses wind their way over the dusty plain. The slow process of erosion has carved the shape of the land out of rocks that are 2,000 million years old, to form this intriguing landscape and complex ecology.

A variety of ecosystems are represented in the park and these are home to a range of wildlife including a variety of birds, native rodents, native marsupial carnivores (such as the Pilbara ningui- resident, but nocturnal and shy), red kangaroos, euros, Rothschild's rock wallabies, bats, dingoes, reptiles and amphibians such as frogs, geckoes, goannas, dragons and legless lizards. Termites and the pebble mound mouse also make their homes here in the form of mounds.

Our first stop within the park is Hamersley gorge and waterfall, where we'll find amazing coloured banded iron formations. Take a dip in the natural spa pool at the Gorge and enjoy a spa treatment the way nature intended – surrounded by amazing rock formations almost as old as the Earth itself.

Finish today at Joffre Lookout, where rock steps take you down to the lookout to view this spectacular curved waterfall forming a natural amphitheatre.

Overnight mobile camp- Karijini Eco Retreat campground, with toilets and showers (2 night stay).

****upgrade to deluxe eco tents with en-suites may be available for an extra charge- please enquire when booking to avoid disappointment****

Day 10 (B,L,D)

This morning we take a short walk into Lower Weano Gorge and to Handrail Pool, which is a beautiful spot for a swim.

Then enjoy the scenery at Junction Pool Lookout and Oxer Lookout, located at the junction of four mighty gorges and offering one of the most stunning panoramas in WA.

An optional walk into Hancock Gorge is also available (depending on fitness level). Hancock Gorge is one of the most spectacular gorges in Karijini National Park and after descending a ladder, navigating the rocks and Spider Gorge, we reach Kermit's Pool.

We finish the day at Knox Lookout, where we'll take the steps down to the lookout and watch the view spread out in the distance.

Overnight mobile camp- Karijini Eco Retreat campground, with toilets and showers

Day 11 (B,L,D)

We'll explore the western part of the park this morning, starting at Dales Gorge, through to Fortescue Falls, Fern Pool and Circular Pool.

Have a refreshing swim in the spring-fed permanent falls of Fortescue falls, ramble along the gorge floor to the lovely fern framed Fern Pool and enjoy the hidden gardens of Circular Pool.

We depart Karijini and drive through the old mining town of Wittenoorn en-route to our camp tonight, which is halfway between Karijini and Millstream-Chichester National Parks.

Overnight mobile camp- Mt Florance Station campground (a working cattle station), with toilets and showers

Day 12 (B,L,D)

We spend today in Millstream-Chichester National Park, which is a lush oasis of deep gorges and palm-fringed rock pools which provides a stark contrast to the surrounding landscape of rocky escarpments and rolling spinifex-covered hills.

We enter the park from the south and visit the Millstream Visitor Centre and museum, which is the old homestead from the pastoral station the early European settlers established and ran for over 100 years. We also have the option of taking the short Homestead walk.

We also take a walk to the top of Mount Herbert, where we are treated to a splendid view of the savannah lands, including Pyramid, Sherlock and Warambie stations.

A final swim is available at Python Pool, a permanent freshwater plunge pool at the base of a cliff in the Chichester Range escarpment.

Leaving Millstream- Chichester, we travel to the mining town of Karratha, the heart of the West Pilbara Coast, adjoining the port of Dampier. Passengers departing the tour in Karratha will be dropped off at their accommodation late this afternoon.

Overnight cabin or motel style accommodation, with en-suite – Karratha

Day 13 (B,L)

Today we travel to Broome. En-route we pass Port Headland, one of the largest and busiest iron ore ports in the world. .

We arrive into Broome late afternoon and you will be dropped off at your accommodation.

END ITINERARY

B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner

Departs Perth to Broome in 2015, on 30th April only and
departs Broome to Perth on 2nd October

AUD \$6995 per adult twin share

\$6695 per child (age 10 - 15 years) twin share
\$950 single supplement for own tent / room

If you would prefer to finish your Perth to Broome tour in Karratha you will be dropped off at your Karratha accommodation on the evening of May 11th. If you would prefer to start your Broome to Perth tour from Karratha you will be picked up from your Karratha accommodation on the morning of 3rd October. Take \$170 per person off the tour price twin share and \$320 single room.

****solo travellers must have single room / tent****

Maximum 10 passengers

Prices include GST and are valid until 31/10/15

Inclusions:

- Seat in OKA 4WD vehicle, with purpose built heavy duty trailer
- Professional driver guide AND a host (for groups over 6)
- Meals, as stated
- Camping equipment hire and camping fees
- Entry fees to National Parks
- 7 nights accommodation, as stated
- Yardie Creek cruise at Cape Range NP
- Half day snorkel cruise of Ningaloo Reef at Coral Bay
- Use of snorkelling equipment (mask and snorkel only- no flippers)

Exclusions:

- Arrival/departure flights
- Travel insurance
- Alcohol
- Pre and post tour accommodation
- Upgrades to accommodation while on tour- please enquire when booking to avoid disappointment
- Extra optional activities, such as hire of kayaks, paddleboards, camel rides and scenic flights etc.

Itinerary is exclusive to Sacred Earth Safaris and is subject to availability, road, weather and cultural conditions