

Coastal discovery 7 days



Explore the World Heritage Listed Shark Bay on Australia's Coral Coast - home to the friendly Monkey Mia dolphins and renowned for its rugged natural beauty. Enjoy action and adventure in Kalbarri National Park and sample some of Western Australia's freshest seafood in Cervantes and Geraldton.

Suggested itinerary

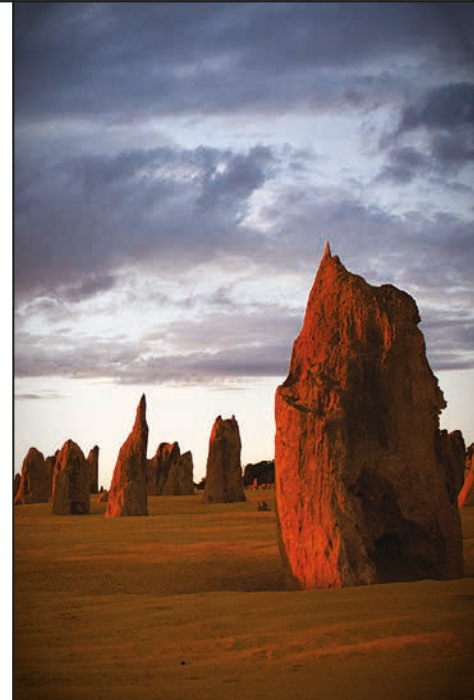
Day 1 » Perth to Geraldton 430km

Begin your journey early and head north towards Shark Bay on Australia's Brand Highway to the historic twin towns of Dongara and Port Denison. These settlements support a large fishing fleet and boast true coastal village charm. Continue to Greenough Hamlet, a National Trust town and then

on to the port city of Geraldton. Treat yourself to some of the freshest seafood in Western Australia, particularly the region's famous rock lobster. Enjoy Geraldton's cosmopolitan vibe by eating out at one of the numerous restaurants and be sure to head up to the impressive HMAS Sydney II Memorial. Commemorating the lives of 645 sailors who died in World War II, it provides sweeping views across Geraldton and the Indian Ocean.

Day 2 » Geraldton to Shark Bay 430km

Travel north to the Shark Bay World Heritage Area - home of the Monkey Mia dolphins. Follow the interpretive signage along the Shark Bay World Heritage Drive to discover the remarkable Hamelin Pool stromatolites - the oldest living fossils in the world - and the calm and crystal waters of Shell Beach - a 110km stretch of beach made entirely of millions of tiny shells. Stop at Eagle Bluff for spectacular ocean views along a 100m walkway, where sharks, dugongs and rays are regularly spotted.



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Day 3 » Shark Bay and surrounds

Today, you can choose from a multitude of activities on offer. For some rugged adventure, join a day tour to nearby Dirk Hartog Island or François Peron National Park. Keen fisherman can try their hand at catching a prized fish off the surrounding beaches or join a fishing charter.

Drive out to Peron Homestead, to explore the remarkable history of Shark Bay. In the afternoon, head across to Monkey Mia and enjoy a relaxing catamaran cruise. Stay overnight at RAC Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort and dine at the Boughshed Restaurant. After dinner, join an astronomy or Indigenous cultural tour before turning in.

Day 4 » Monkey Mia to Kalbarri 380km

Spend the morning at the water's edge for a friendly encounter with the Monkey Mia dolphins which visit the shores daily. The dolphins are fed up to three times each day, which accounts for just one third of their daily diet. The first feeding is at around 7.30am.

After you and the dolphins have enjoyed breakfast, start your journey from Shark Bay to Australia's popular coastal holiday town of Kalbarri, located at the mouth of the Murchison River, adjacent to the Kalbarri National Park.

Enjoy a coastal gorge walk as the sun sets over the rugged red cliffs, or sit back and relax under the stars at the outdoor cinema.

Day 5 » Kalbarri and surrounds

Spend the morning exploring the spectacular Kalbarri National Park by hiking, canoeing,

abseiling, quad biking or just enjoying the spectacular views from lookout points. Sites such as Z Bend and The Loop (Nature's Window) are particularly breathtaking. In town, enjoy a refreshing swim at Chinaman's Beach, indulge in some retail and spa therapy, or join an exhilarating jet boat, quad biking or sand boarding tour. Keen anglers can join a fishing charter in search of the big five, or drop a line in off the rocks. Alternatively, head out for a freshly cooked seafood feast at one of the local restaurants.

Day 6 » Kalbarri and surrounds, return to Perth 585km

Head down to the foreshore at 8.45am to watch as local rangers feed a fishy breakfast to the pelicans. Depart Kalbarri mid-morning and head south, via Geraldton to Cervantes. Be sure to stop by the Pink Lake near Port Gregory and admire the ever-changing pink hues. Enjoy the splendour of the Pinnacles, located in the Nambung National Park. The road into the park is sealed, and there is a car park within walking distance of the limestone structures. After exploring the Pinnacles, head to the Desert Discovery Centre to learn more about these mystical formations. Stay overnight at RAC Cervantes Holiday Park. Dine at Cervantes Bar & Bistro.

Day 7 » Cervantes to Perth 200km

Enjoy a swim at Hangover Bay and have a tour at the Lobster Shack before making the final journey back to Perth.

Highlights

- » Snorkelling
- » Swimming with whale sharks (seasonal)
- » Dolphins at Monkey Mia
- » National Parks, fruit plantations
- » The Pinnacles
- » The Abrolhos islands
- » Wildflower trails
- » Indigenous Communities, Aboriginal Art galleries,
- » Peron Peninsula, Cape Peron, Cape Rose
- » Museums
- » River systems, natural pools and coastal landmarks
- » Wineries and olive groves, seafood, tropical fruits
- » The Kennedy Ranges and Mt Augustus
- » Colonial Historic Sites
- » Hamelin Pool Stromatolites
- » Ningaloo Reef

RAC Recommends

Inattention affects all drivers, especially in rural WA. Fatalities in the Wheatbelt are 6x higher than that of the WA state average. RAC recommends rest, before driving, stopping regularly, sharing the drive and allowing enough travel time.

Visitor Centres

Geraldton	(08) 9921 3999
Shark Bay	(08) 9948 1590
Monkey Mia	(08) 9948 1590
Kalbarri	(08) 9937 1104
Cervantes	(08) 9652 7700

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

Accommodation

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