

# Northern explorer wildflower trail 13-15 days

**3200**  
KM ROUND TRIP  
APPROX.

**4WD**  
RUGGED  
TERRAIN



LEGEND	
Highway / Sealed Road	—————
Unsealed Road	=====
Track	=====

Journey north to experience a sensational show of wildflowers that cling to the vast landscape adding brilliantly vivid colour to harsh environment.

### Suggested itinerary

#### Day 1 » Perth to Greenough 407km to Geraldton 25km

Head north on the Indian Ocean Drive or Brand Highway past Dongara. Make a stop at the historic Greenough Hamlet and the new Greenough Visitor and Interpretation Centre situated on the Brand Highway. Northwards lies Geraldton – known as the capital of the mid-west region – home to the Western Australian Museum, which pays tribute to the area’s rich natural and cultural heritage.

#### Day 2 » Geraldton to Gregory 96km to Kalbarri National Park 66km

Take Yerina Springs Road, which runs off Port Gregory Road, approximately 35kms west of Northampton. Kalbarri is located at the mouth of the Murchison River. Kalbarri National Park covers an area of over 180,000ha and includes breathtaking coastal cliffs and dazzling wildflower viewing. Marvel at nature’s ability to carve the landscape, explore the depths and heights of the river gorges and sea cliffs, admire the floral beauty of the rolling sand plains and discover the intriguing cultural history of the area. Magnificent wildflowers set the landscape ablaze with colour from July to November. Deep gorges on the Murchison River contrast with sand plain country. Entry fees apply at Kalbarri National Park.



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### Day 4 » Kalbarri to Riverside Sanctuary 115km

Head east to the North West Coastal Highway, travel north for 12km and turn right into Coolcalalaya Road and follow for 5km. Visit Riverside Sanctuary to experience beautiful bush landscapes, spectacular seasonal wildflowers, dazzling night skies and knowledgeable guides. Take a guided wildflower tour on the farm in some of the 10,000 acres of remnant bushland and waterways.

### Day 5 » Riverside Sanctuary to Shark Bay World Heritage Area Denham 328km to Monkey Mia 26km

Travel north on North West Coastal Highway and west on Shark Bay Road for a chance to befriend enchanting bottlenose dolphins, a visit to Monkey Mia Reserve is a must. The dolphins are famous for their almost daily ritual of visiting the shore to interact with humans. Francois Peron National Park is a mere 4km from Denham and offers rare and spectacular coastal scenery of red cliffs, blue water, white beaches and vivid wildflowers. The Peron Homestead can be accessed by 2WD and has an interpretative display in the old station overseer's quarters, a self-guided walk trail, picnic facilities and a hot tub where visitors can soak in artesian water. A high clearance 4WD is needed to explore the wilderness area north of the homestead. Entry fees apply at Monkey Mia Reserve and Francois Peron National Park. Overnight at RAC Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort

### Day 7 » Shark Bay to Carnarvon 329km

Travel along the North West Coastal Highway. The road to Carnarvon makes its way through many wildflower varieties, including seasonal everlasting. A drive further north of Carnarvon on the North West Coastal Highway will also reward you with outstanding displays.

### Day 8 » Carnarvon to Kennedy Range National Park 233km

Take the North West Coastal Highway then turn right, to Gascoyne Junction, approx. 177km,

then 60km north to the Park. This park offers breathtaking scenery of gorges and precipitous rock faces. The area still retains a wilderness feeling. Visitors to the park can enjoy a series of walks through the craggy cliffs and gorges.

### Day 10 » Kennedy Ranges to Mount Augustus National Park 262km

Travel north and branch east after approximately 90km. At two and a half times the size of Uluru (Ayers Rock), Mount Augustus rises impressively over the park. 1105m tall, Mount Augustus is one of Australia's most amazing peaks with ancient rock formations, Aboriginal art sites and a range of short and full day walks. Embark on a challenging climb to the top and be rewarded with incredible views over the park. Accommodation is available adjacent to the park.

### Day 11 » Mount Augustus to Meekatharra: The Murchison Region 559km

Travel south east of Mount Augustus to Meekatharra. After good winter rains, wildflowers are prolific and spread for hundreds of kilometres in this region. Flora: Abundant white, pink and yellow everlastings appear from July in this area, as well as a vivid spread of golden billy buttons, mauve Velleia, magenta Parakeelya and blue pincushions.

### Day 12 » Meekatharra to Paynes Find 338km

Travel from Meekatharra through to Cue, Mount Magnet and Paynes Find on the Great Northern Highway. Historic Cue, The Granites at Mount Magnet and the Paynes Find Gold Battery and Museum

### Day 13 » Paynes Find to Wubin 154km to Perth 281km

Continue south from Paynes Find on the Great Northern Highway to Goodlands Road (1km north of the boundary of Yalgoo/ Dalwallinu Shires). In season there is a magnificent display of Wreath Lechenaultia just 20km off the highway. The old Rabbit Proof Fence is still visible just past the Jjibberding Rest Area. At Wubin there is a Wheatbin/Machinery Museum.

## Highlights

- » Photograph Greenough's amazing leaning trees
- » See the unique wreath flowers near Wubin
- » Enjoy a tour of Geraldton's lobster factory
- » See the daily pelican feeding in Kalbarri
- » Explore the Murchison River in Kalbarri
- » National Park by boat or canoe
- » Marvel at the vivid colours of white beaches, turquoise waters and rust red dunes of the World Heritage Listed Shark Bay area
- » Meet the friendly dolphins at Monkey Mia
- » Walk along the One Mile Jetty, Carnarvon
- » Explore Mt Augustus on the 49km circuit Burringurah Drive
- » Explore the heritage buildings at New Norcia.

## Visitor Centres

Dongara	(08) 9927 1404
Geraldton	(08) 9921 3999
Shark Bay	(08) 9948 1590
Monkey Mia	(08) 9948 1590
Kalbarri	(08) 9937 1104

[www.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au)

## Accommodation

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## Park Passes

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