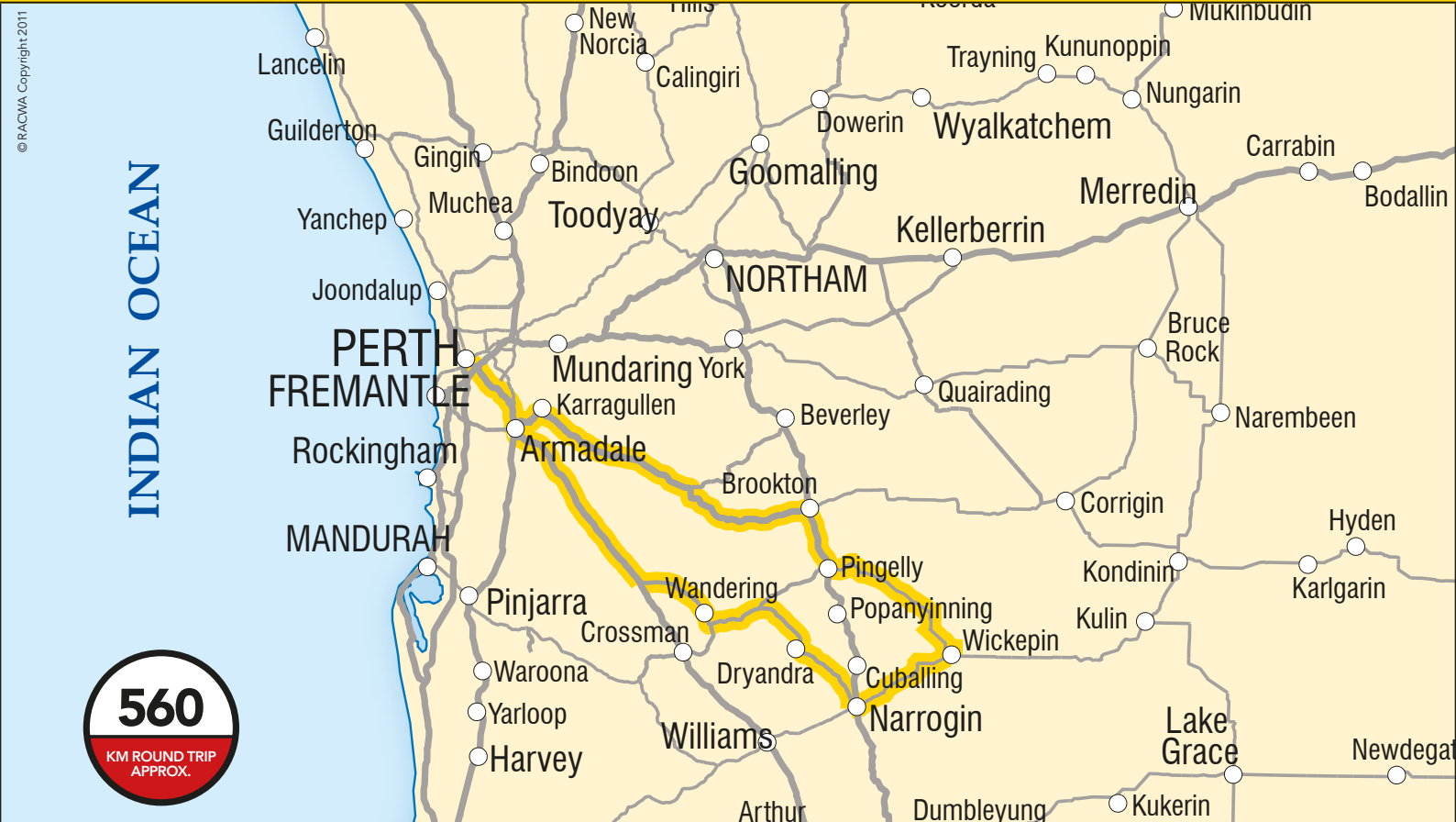


Dryandra Woodland Drive 2-3 days



The Dryandra Country region offers many nature-based attractions like Barna Mia animal sanctuary, farmstay holidays, wineries and a wealth of heritage buildings including the historic Albert Facey Homestead. Dryandra Woodland is one of the most exciting wildlife destinations in the South-West. The Reserve is home to over 100 species of birds and 24 mammal species. Take a walk through the wandoo woodland and watch for kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and the elusive numbat.

Suggested itinerary

Day 1 » Perth to Narrogin 205km

Travel south east through the southern wheat belt town of Narrogin which is located in the heart of Western Australia's richest farming land. Narrogin is

an ideal base to explore the region and is renowned for its magnificent spring gardens and historic buildings. Take a walk around town and learn about Narrogin's heritage buildings, parks and historic memorials. A Trail Guide is available from the Visitor Centre. Narrogin is an RV friendly town.

Day 2 » Narrogin to Popanyinning 160km

Next stop is Pingelly, first settled in 1846 when sheep herders took up leases around freshwater springs. Incomes were supplemented by cutting sandalwood, mallet bark for tanning leather and hunting kangaroo for meat and skins.

The first settlement was gazetted at Moorumbine in 1884, however when the Great Southern Railway was completed in 1889 between Beverley and Albany, it passed 10kms West of the town and a small settlement was established near the railway siding. This was known as Pingegully after the Aboriginal name 'Pingeculling' meaning 'small gully of water,' but soon became known as Pingelly. Pingelly was gazetted as a town in 1898. This developed as the major centre and Moorumbine township declined. Pingelly is an



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RV friendly town. Wickepin, the area is also blessed with lakes and a dazzling display of spring wildflowers. A wildflower brochure is available that details the plant life in the area. Wickepin Shire contains rich agricultural lands that were opened for settlement in 1893. The locality began as a watering point known as Yarling and was used by the early Sandalwood cutters. Today Wickepin is well known for its excellent sheep studs and is home to about 1000 people. The town has recently developed a regional recycling program and in 2004, won the Wheatbelt Tidy Towns award and a GWN Top Tourism Town award.

Nearby, Cuballing, offers a tractor display, town walking trails, and old farm machinery and historic buildings.

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Wickepin is most famous for the homestead of Albert Facey, author of "A Fortunate Life". The homestead offers a unique opportunity to view the harsh and simple lifestyle of a small Wheatbelt farmer in the early 1930s. Albert and his family settled 16km south of Wickepin in 1922, assisted by the government's Soldier Settlement Scheme. Their original home was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1924, the present day Facey House. The combination of wheat and sheep proved successful for many farmers in this region until the Great Depression of the 1930s caused wool and wheat prices to slump dramatically. A severe rabbit plague swept across rural areas adding to the farmers' plight, forcing many

to abandon their properties. The Faceys reluctantly left their farm in 1934 and returned to Perth. The homestead was moved into Wickepin's main street in October 2000 and reopened to the public. After visiting the Albert Facey Homestead, cross the railway line and take a walk around Yarling Brook. The walk features a number of old buildings including the Arts and Crafts Centre, Old Police Station and Railway Station precinct. The area is well known for the beauty of the flora and fauna, unique lakes and visitors to the shire are often surprised at the beauty and variance of flora that Wickepin and surrounding districts have to offer.

Yornaning Dam is the ideal place for a picnic or BBQ. Take a walk through the surrounding nature reserve and watch for the many birds in the area or orchids when in season. BBQs and facilities provided. Cuballing is an RV friendly town. Popanyinning town site was gazetted on 25th March 1904, the name being derived from an aboriginal name for a pool in the Hotham River. The town developed to support the railway, which provided employment for many people who also built homes for their families. As the importance of the railway diminished, these workers moved away and their homes were demolished. Popanyinning offers well maintained walk trails and lots of wildlife. Popanyinning today supports a strong agricultural industry. Stay overnight in Cuballing if camping/caravanning or in Narrogin for other amenities and services.

Day 3 » Cuballing to Perth 189km

Continue on to Wandering - one of the new wine areas and only one and a half hours drive from Perth. Its attractions include Dryandra Woodland, Pumphrey's Bridge, and heritage buildings and walk trails. Stop for lunch at Tanglefoot Vineyard or Wandering Brook Estate. Return to Perth.

Highlights

- » Museums
- » Pioneer buildings
- » Farm machinery displays
- » Cereal and livestock farming
- » Granite outcrops
- » Fresh and salt water lakes
- » Nature reserves
- » Animal sanctuaries
- » Vineyards

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

Dryandra (08) 9881 2064

Accommodation

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