

## 22 Day Darwin to Perth Overland



An almighty southbound road trip through Australia's western hotspots.

Journey through the natural wonders, vast expanses and jaw-dropping landscapes of northern and western Australia on this incredible 22-day adventure from Darwin to Perth. Visit some of the region's best national parks where you'll hike through stunning red rock landscapes and swim beneath waterfalls in the most beautiful spots. Discover the striped beauty of the Bungle Bungle Range, explore the glorious gorges of the Kimberleys, snorkel the vibrant reefs of Ningaloo and swim above corals the World Heritage-listed Coral Bay. The distances are immense, but the pace is leisurely, making this the perfect Outback adventure.

### Why you'll love this trip

- The cattle stations, red earth and mining communities of the Pilbara are reminiscent of the sun-baked Australia much of the world imagines, and you'll get to see it all firsthand.
- Enjoy plenty of time to discover the untamed natural beauty of El Questro Station. Paddle around in waterfalls, hike through gorges and access remote sections on an adventurous 4WD expedition.
- The red domes of the Bungle Bungle Range in Purnululu National Park form one of the most renowned Australian landscapes. You'll have a whole day to explore its fiery gorges and deep valleys.

- Consider peering into the ecologically diverse underwater world of Ningaloo Reef by plane, glass-bottom boat or snorkel, and swim with the gentle beasts of the deep in season – whalesharks!
- Hike the trails of Karinjinji National Park, weaving through the rocky chasms, and reward your efforts by taking a swim in the park’s ancient gorges and waterholes.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Darwin to the Katherine Region

Welcome to the tropical city of Darwin, where your overland adventure begins. After meeting up with your group and leader, head south and stop at either Edith Falls for a swim or explore Katherine Gorge in Nitmiluk National Park. This is where the group will have lunch (seasonal choice). Head to your overnight private campsite on the edge of Nitmiluk National Park, where permanent tents with swags await you. In the evening, settle down for dinner with the group.

Total driving time: about 4 hours

Total walking distance: about 2 kilometres/1.24 miles

Accommodation: Permanent tented camp (with shared facilities) (1 night)

Included Activities: Nitmiluk National Park

Meals Included: Lunch, Dinner

### Day 2: Lake Argyle

After breakfast this morning, continue on to Lake Argyle, which has been created by the Ord River Dam. Admire the sheer size of this 700 square kilometre man made spectacle. The lake is home to many species of native fish and thousands of freshwater crocodiles. Take an optional sunset cruise before setting up camp nearby for the night.

Total driving time: about 7.5 hours

Total walking distance: about 1 kilometre

Accommodation: Camping (with facilities) (1 night)

Included Activities: Lake Argyle

Optional Activities: Lake Argyle Sunset Cruise - AUD100

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 3: Purnululu National Park (Bungle Bungle Ranges)

Start the morning with some free time for a stroll around the picturesque town of Kununurra. Don’t forget to use this time to stock up on any last minute supplies before heading out into the remote Kimberley region. Once out of town its time for some 4WD action as your experienced guide winds our specially designed truck across the challenging terrain of the entrance to Purnululu National Park, home of the iconic Bungle Bungles. It’s a rugged ride but the scenery is fantastic. Enjoy an amazing Kimberley sunset at your bush camp.

Total driving: about 4 hours

Total walking distance: about 5 kilometres/3 miles

Accommodation: Camping (with basic facilities) (1 night)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **Day 4: The Bungle Bungles**

After breakfast prepare for a full day of activities, as the group heads back out to explore the remarkable rock formations of the Bungle Bungles. Hike to the thin, red gap of Echidna Chasm and the enormous Cathedral Gorge. There's also the opportunity to experience a helicopter flight over the Bungle Bungles (at your own expense). As the sun goes down, head back to your overnight bush camp.

Total driving time: around 2 hours

Total walking distance: about 5 kilometres/3 miles

Accommodation: Camping (with basic facilities) (1 night)

Included Activities: Cathedral Gorge Walk (Bungle Bungle), Echidna Chasm Walk

Optional Activities: Helicopter Flight - Bungle Bungles - from - AUD350

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **Day 5: Bungle Bungles and El Questro**

After breakfast today, get back on the road toward El Questro Station. Admire the remarkable scenery of the Carr Boyd and Durack Ranges, and head along the vast nature trail of Warnum (Turkey Creek). In the late afternoon, head to your campsite in El Questro, a wilderness park since 1991 for dinner and a cool drink at the swinging Arm Bar.

Total driving time: about 5 hours

Total walking distance: about 1 kilometre

Accommodation: Camping (with facilities) (1 night)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **Day 6: El Questro Station**

Spend the day exploring El Questro. Start off with a dip at Zebedee Springs before taking on a hike in the Cockburn Ranges for a swim under the waterfall at Emma Gorge. Tonight, enjoy another night at the El Questro campsite.

Total driving time: about 45 minutes

Total walking distance: up to 7 kilometres

Accommodation: Camping (with facilities) (1 night)

Included Activities: Zebedee Springs, Emma Gorge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **Day 7: Gibb River Road and Mt Barnett**

After breakfast, it's time to hit the road again and start travelling along the legendary Gibb River Road, a 600 kilometre dirt track running through the centre of the Kimberley. Forging rivers and weaving through gorges, travel by 4WD along the wild Gibb River Road – a 600-kilometre stretch that winds right through the heart of the Kimberley. We've got a fair bit of ground to cover today, so there is a fair bit of drive time, but we'll be breaking the journey up with lunch and at a few stop-offs along the way. Tonight's destination is at Mt Barnett station located very close to Manning Gorge. This evening we camp at Mount Barnett by the banks of a crystal clear fresh water river, perfect to cool off in after your day hiking.

Total driving time: about 6 hours

Total walking distance: about 2 kilometres/1.2 miles

Accommodation: Camping (with basic facilities) (1 night)

Included Activities: Gibb River Road

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 8: Manning Gorge

We spend the morning exploring the stunning Manning Gorge and enjoying a swim in the pools under Manning Falls. The western Kimberley region is full of endless stunning gorges just waiting to be explored and this morning is no exception. After breakfast, continue along the Gibb River Road visiting either Galvin or Adcock Gorge.

Total driving time: about 1 hour

Total walking distance: about 4-6 kilometres

Accommodation: Camping (with basic facilities) (1 night)

Included Activities: Manning Gorge, Galvans Gorge, Adcock Gorge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 9: Bells Gorge and Windjana Gorge

The western Kimberley region is full of endless stunning gorges that have to be explored and this morning is no exception. After breakfast we adventure to Bell Gorge home to a stunning cascade of water flowing from the previous wet season rains that fall in the King Leopold Ranges. The afternoon sees us head to Windjana Gorge, a segment of 375 million-year-old reef that was once underwater. Cut through by the Lennard River, which runs during the wet season then breaks up into little billabongs during the dry, this gorge attracts many species of bird and bat and is a great spot to see wild freshwater crocodiles.

Note: Total driving time: about 4,5 hours

Total walking distance: about 4 -6 kilometres

Included Activities: Windjana Gorge, Bell Gorge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Day 10: Broome

Begin the day exploring the Napier Range. The major attraction here is a guided walk through Tunnel Creek, an extensive limestone cave system that extends 750 m underground. Inside, shards of sunlight stream in through crevices, little bats flutter about and enormous stalactites rear down from the ceiling. Then make the drive on to Broome, hopefully arriving in time for a stunning Cable Beach sunset.

Accommodation: Hostel (shared bathroom)(1 night)

Included Activities: Tunnel creek exploration walk

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Special Information: Total driving time today is around 4 hours. Total walking distance is approximately 4 kilometres.

### Day 11: Broome

The next two days are free for you to explore Broome at your own pace. If you're after more beach time, perhaps head to Cable Beach – named after the undersea telegraph cable that connected Broome to Singapore in the 19th century, or Town Beach in Roebuck Bay. Season depending, it's possible to witness the 'Staircase to the Moon' at Roebuck Bay – a natural phenomenon and optical illusion where a 'staircase' appears to lead to the moon during low tide. A weekly Staircase Night Market sets up during this time and is also worth checking out if you happen to be in Broome at this time. Sample local flavours and browse stalls selling handmade products, jewellery, clothing and art while local musicians play.

Accommodation: Hostel (shared bathroom) (1 night)

Meals Included: There are no meals included on this day.

## Day 12: Broome

Today is another free day to explore. If you're after some history, check out the Broome Historical Museum to learn about local Aboriginal culture and for a glimpse into the town's pearling and wartime history. Maybe take a trip to Gantheaume Point to discover 130-million-year-old dinosaur footprints or to photograph the contrasting white sand, red cliffs and blue ocean of the area. Another option is the Malcolm Douglas Crocodile Park and Animal Refuge for some wildlife-viewing. In the evening, the buzzing district of Chinatown is a great place to grab a meal and a drink, or maybe catch an outdoor film at the charming Sun Pictures cinema.

Accommodation: Hostel (shared bathroom) (1 night)

Meals Included: There are no meals included on this day.

## Day 13: Broome to the Pilbra Region

Leaving Broome in the dust, we kick-start this adventure with a drive across part of Western Australia's Great Sandy Desert. At an area of roughly 285,000 sq km, this is Australia's second largest desert. And while certainly very sandy, the terrain also consists of dune fields, spinifex grasslands and salt lakes. After a bit of driving we'll make a stop at Eighty Mile Beach. Aside from being a pretty lovely spot for a beach stroll, this coast is a major nesting area for flatback turtles – a species found only in Australia. Tonight we stay at an outback cattle station.

Total driving time: about 4.5 kilometres

Total walking distance: about 1 kilometre

Accommodation: Hostel (shared bathroom) (1 night)

Meals Included: Lunch, Dinner

Special Information: As this is a combination trip, the travellers in your group and your group leader are likely to change today.

## Day 14: Pilbara Region to Karajini National Park

This morning we head toward Karijini National Park with a quick stop in Port Headland to check out the iron ore mecca of Australia. If time permits, we may duck into one of the Gorge's this afternoon. If not, we'll set up camp in the National Park and get a good night's rest before we head in for a full day of exploring tomorrow.

Total driving time: about 6 hours

Total walking distance: about 3 kilometres, some sections may be through water

Accommodation: Camping (with facilities) (1 night)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Day 15: Karijini National Park

This, without any doubt, is one of Australia's most magnificent national parks (and it's not like Australia has any shortage of them). Freshwater springs trickle through chasms to form translucent rock pools, walking trails weave between dramatic rock ravines. A visit to the Karijini Cultural Centre will introduce you to the many sights you can expect to see here over the three days. Spend a full day exploring the gorges, gullies and secluded swimming spots of Karijini. Weano Gorge, Hancock Gorge, Dales Gorge and Oxers Lookout are just some of the better-known sites we'll get to.

Total driving time: about 1 hour

Total walking distance: about 6 kilometres, some sections may be through water

Accommodation: Camping (with facilities) (1 night)

Included Activities: Karijini National Park Entrance

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 16: Karijini National Park**

Pack up your towel and walking shoes and head out for another day exploring Karijini with your guide. Anything you didn't tick off the list yesterday you can chase up today – whether it's a snooze in the sun or a strenuous trek to a lookout. Swim in waterholes, hike along rocky trails and splash about in waterfalls. Paradise!

Total driving time: about 1 hour

Total walking distance: about 6 kilometres

Accommodation: Camping (with facilities) (1 night)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 17: Karijini to Exmouth**

Jump back in the truck for a drive through classic outback terrain to Cape Range National Park. Extending inland from the Indian Ocean across the North West Cape peninsula, this protected landmass feels like a patch of the outback relocated seaside. Here we have an exclusive campsite, so it's here that we stay the night.

Total driving time: today is a long day of driving - about 8 hours with rest stops

Accommodation: Yardi Creek Camp (1 night)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 18: Coral Bay**

Today's yours to spend how you wish. Become acquainted with the region's underwater inhabitants on a snorkeling or diving excursion, set out by boat tour in search of whale sharks (seasonal) or just while a day away on the flawless sands of Turquoise Bay. Take in the panoramic views of the ocean from the Vlaminghead Lighthouse. In the afternoon we travel on to Coral Bay.

Total driving time: about 2 hours

Total walking distance: about 1 kilometres

Accommodation: Hostel (1 night)

Included Activities: Ningaloo Reef Marine Park

Optional Activities: Snorkel with the Whalesharks (April to July only) from - AUD350

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 19: Coral Bay**

If you didn't squeeze a snorkel in yesterday, today you get to; if you did, you get another one. Everyone wins. Ningaloo Reef is one of the world's largest fringing reefs, meaning that it starts practically from the water's edge. You just swim out from shore and suddenly you're in a world of coral, fish, turtles and manta rays. Swimming above these enormous majestic creatures is really something else, they might even put on an acrobatics show for you! Not much of a swimmer? There's also the option of taking in the scene on a glass bottom boat tour, along with many other optional activities. We'll introduce you to the friendly staff at Coral Bay Eco Tours.

Total driving time: there is no driving today, just a short walk to Coral Bay Eco Tours and water activities

Accommodation: Hostel (1 night)

Optional Activities: Glass Bottom Boat Cruises from - AUD37, Whale Watching (seasonal) from - AUD85, Snorkel with Manta Rays - half day trip - AUD165

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 20: Monkey Mia**

Today we cross over the Tropic of Capricorn. You probably won't notice it, but what crossing this latitude means is that from here on south the sun will never be directly above you. You should still wear a hat though. Main stop for the day is Shell Beach, which, much as name would suggest, is a beach made of shells. What's quite incredible about the place however is the amount of shells there are. Locals have been using them in various industries for years, yet they still cover a stretch 60 km long and up to 7 metres deep. Tonight we stay in the small seaside town of Denham, in the Shark Bay world heritage area.

Total driving time: about 6.5 hours

Total walking distance: about 1 kilometre

Accommodation: Hostel (1 night)

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 21: Monkey Mia to Kalbarri**

This morning, check out Monkey Mia – part of the Peron Peninsula, which extends into part of the Indian Ocean known as Shark Bay. This popular spot is known for its friendly local marine life. Afterwards, continue on your road trip down the west Australian coast with a short drive across the Eastern Peninsula. See stromatolites, the oldest living organisms in the world, then head south for Kalbarri. Time permitting, there'll be a stop-off along the way at Murchison Gorge, where there's the opportunity to admire the landscape through Nature's Window.

Total driving time: about 5,5 hours

Total walking distance: about 5 kilometres

Accommodation: Hostel (1 night)

Included Activities: Kalbarri National Park Entrance, Monkey Mia Dolphins

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Day 22: Nambung National Park to Perth**

Web description It's a driving day today, but a spectacular one. Cruising through the coastal gorges of Kalbarri National Park, we come to the quaint coastal town of Dongara, which sits at the head of the Irwin River. Any keen to give sandboarding a shot will get the chance at Sandy Cape/Lancelin, a vast sand desert peopled by the strange limestone structures of the Pinnacles Nambung NP. After a walk around here it's to Perth, where this adventure winds up.

Total driving time: about 7 hours

Total walking distance: about 2 kilometres

Included Activities: Nambung National Park (Pinnacles) Entrance

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Special Information: You'll arrive in Central Perth around 6 pm and there is no accommodation planned for this evening. Your group leader will be able to provide you directions for your onward journey once arrived. If you would like to spend more time in Perth, we'll be happy to organise additional accommodation (subject to availability).

**Teilnehmer:** min 1 bis max. 20 Personen (Mindestalter 18 Jahre)

**Transport:** Geländewagen

**Includierte Mahlzeiten:** 18x Frühstück, 20x Mittagessen, 18x Abendessen

**Übernachtung:** Camping, Hostel

**Gepäck Limit:** 15 kg, please bring a soft sided bag only

**geeignet für Menschen mit eingeschränkter Mobilität:** nein (genauere Informationen auf Anfrage)

**Rollstuhlgeeignet:** nein

**Diese Tour erfordert eine gute Fitness!!**

**Die Sprache während der Tour ist englisch**