



PILBARA & WEST COAST EXPEDITION

PERTH - BROOME

SAMPLE ITINERARY

This is a sample itinerary and may be subject to change. We may need to alter or amend itineraries, excursions, accommodation, or sightseeing arrangements from those published, with little or no notice. This may be due to road conditions, weather, cultural considerations, safety factors and other operational considerations or government regulations. Final itineraries are sent to passengers approximately 2-3 weeks before travel.

DAY 1 – Perth

Today you will be met by our friendly and professional Tour Directors. This afternoon we take an informative tour of the city including scenic Kings Park. We later check in to the luxurious Crown Promenade at the Burswood Entertainment Complex for our overnight stay. (D)

DAY 2 – The Pinnacles - Geraldton

This morning we head north on the Indian Ocean drive to Nambung National Park, home to one of the most renowned landscapes in Australia, the Pinnacles. Here, thousands of limestone pillars rise from the shifting yellow sands, resembling a landscape from a science fiction movie. Enjoy a wander through these eerie formations before continuing north to Geraldton where we overnight at the Ocean Centre Hotel on the beachfront. (B,L,D)

DAY 3 – Geraldton - Denham - Monkey Mia

This morning we travel north on the North West Coastal Highway. We visit the Hamelin Pool Nature Reserve, one of the few places in the world with marine Stromatolites or 'living fossils'. Hamelin Pool is home to the most diverse and abundant examples of stromatolites in the world. Also referred to as 'living fossils', stromatolites are living representatives of life over 3500 million years ago when there was no other complex life on Earth. Views of the stromatolites, microbialites and microbial mat can be seen from the shoreline.

We visit the Old Telegraph Station, which was built in 1884 as part of the communication line between Perth and Roebourne, before continuing north to Shark Bay and Denham. We continue to Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort for our two night stay. (B,L,D)

Please note: We will not be visiting the Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery Centre as they are closed on weekends.

DAY 4 – Exploring Shark Bay

The Shark Bay World Heritage Area was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in December 1991. It is only one of a handful of places on the list that satisfied all four natural criteria concerning its natural beauty, biological diversity, ecological processes and earth's history. Its seagrass meadows are the largest in the world and support a large population of dugong, along with a variety of other marine life.

This morning we head down to the beach to meet the famous locals, a pod of wild dolphins that come in to the shallows and interact with people*. We then enjoy a catamaran sailing adventure in Shark Bay Marine Park, keeping an eye out for the bay's precious marine life including dugongs, dolphins, sharks, huge sea turtles and more.

This afternoon can be spent at your leisure at the Resort. (B,L,D)

*Please note: as the dolphins are wild, their appearance cannot be guaranteed

DAY 5 – Monkey Mia - Carnarvon - Exmouth

This morning we depart Monkey Mia and travel via Carnarvon on our way to Exmouth. We arrive in Exmouth late afternoon and check in to the luxurious Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort, located right on Sunrise Beach. Enjoy three nights at this premium location. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 – Ningaloo Reef Discovery Cruise

Ningaloo is an untouched 300km long fringing barrier reef that protects a shallow, brilliant white sandy lagoon of clear tropical waters. It is one of only a few places on earth where you are able to access the coral reef from the beach.

This morning we enjoy a half day discovery cruise on Ningaloo Reef. Learn about the diversity of marine life in the park and perhaps take the opportunity for some snorkelling in the park's pristine water (accompanied by guides - equipment is provided).



PILBARA & WEST COAST EXPEDITION

This afternoon we return to Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort. Enjoy some free time or a stroll along the beach or through the marina before meeting in the award winning Mantarays Restaurant for dinner. (B,L,D)

Please note: For those that have pre-booked a full day whale shark tour, please meet in the hotel foyer by the required time and you will be collected for your days activities. You will return to the hotel late afternoon to meet your group for dinner.

DAY 7 – Cape Range National Park - Yardie Creek Gorge

Today we'll set off to discover Cape Range National Park, a spectacular place of rugged limestone ranges, breathtaking deep canyons and 50 kilometres of pristine beaches. The area is well known for the striking contrast of its turquoise waters, white beaches and red ochre landscape behind.

This morning we'll enjoy one of the area's main attractions, the Yardie Creek Gorge cruise. This ancient gorge has deep blue water, red limestone cliff faces and a wonderful array of birds and wildlife including the rare black-footed rock wallaby. There's also a walking trail to the top of the gorge - the views down the creek and out to Ningaloo Reef are simply spectacular!

After a picnic lunch we'll visit Milyering, the Cape Range National Park Discovery Centre. Housing interpretive displays and audio visual facilities, the centre holds a wealth of information on the marine park and local environment. We then return to Exmouth for our third and final night at the Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 – Exmouth - Dampier - Karratha

This morning we depart Exmouth and travel out via the Burkett Road and north to Nanutarra. We continue via the Fortescue River before arriving in the port town of Dampier to visit the Red Dog sculpture. This famous kelpie cattle dog was well known for his travels through the vast Pilbara region. We take in the town of Dampier before heading to the Burrup Peninsula to view ancient petroglyph engravings which date back to between 30,000 and 45,000 years ago.

We finish our day in Karratha, situated on Nicol Bay, where we spend the night at the Karratha International Hotel. (B,L,D)

DAY 9 – Karratha - Millstream-Chichester National Park - Karijini National Park

Today we depart Karratha and head towards the Karijini National Park. En route we stop off at the magnificent Millstream-Chichester National Park, which is characterised by rugged escarpments, tree lined rivers and pristine water pools. The run-off from the Hamersley Ranges flows via the Fortescue River into an underground aquifer that feeds the waterholes within the park. Millstream actually used to be a pastoral lease which ran for over 100 years.

This afternoon we enjoy a visit to the historic Millstream Homestead. We also stop off at Tom Price, before arriving at Karijini late this afternoon.

Ideally located in the depths of the breathtaking Karijini National Park, the unique Karijini Eco Retreat is the only permanent accommodation in the area. Here we spend the next two nights in unique tented cabins with ensuite bathrooms. (B,L,D)

Note: Please bring warm clothes for Karijini as the evening temperatures can drop significantly. Suggestion would be a tracksuit or similar that you can sleep in comfortably.

DAY 10 – Karijini Exploring

Today we explore some of the stunning gorges in Karijini National Park, Western Australia's second largest. Centred on the Hamersley Range, it's famous for its beautiful red gorges, stunning waterfalls and cool swimming holes. First up is a visit to the eastern section of the park, including Weano Gorge and Oxer lookout.

After a picnic lunch we continue touring around other sections of the park, including Dales Gorge and Fern Pool. A system of walking trails leads us down to some of the best spots where you can take a dip in sparkling rock pools.

We return to the retreat mid-afternoon and relax before dinner. (B,L,D)



PILBARA & WEST COAST EXPEDITION

DAY 11 – Karijini - Newman

This morning we depart the Karijini Eco Retreat and head to Newman where we join a guided tour of the BHP Billiton Mt Whaleback mine, the largest single pit open cut ore mine in the world. Later today we check in to the Seasons Hotel in Newman. (B,L,D)

DAY 12 – Newman - Port Hedland

Today we travel north to Port Hedland, one of the largest towns in the Pilbara. Due to the massive mining operations in the region, the town is home to Australia's largest tonnage port facility. This afternoon we visit the Port Hedland Seafarers Centre for an interesting behind the scenes look at the workings of the Port Hedland iron ore port. After a quick presentation we board one of the Seafarers launch service boats and circumnavigate the entire port, with insightful commentary from your local skipper. After your tour we check in to Hospitality Port Hedland for our overnight stay. (B,L,D)

DAY 13 – Port Hedland - Broome

This morning we depart Port Hedland and head north along the Great Northern Highway. Pass between Eighty Mile Beach and the Great Sandy Desert arriving in Broome later this afternoon where we check in to the Calbe Beach Club Resort. Enjoy your farewell dinner, as we look back on our adventure along the west coast of Western Australia. (B,L,D)

DAY 14 – Broome

This morning enjoy free time before being transferred. (B)

Every effort will be made by your crew to ensure that the above itinerary is followed. However, Outback Spirit reserves the right to alter the itinerary once on tour as required due to weather and track conditions or other operational considerations.