

# Wonders of the Pilbara and west coast Australia

Depart Cairns 5th September at 8.15PM arrive Perth 11.20PM – JETSTAR

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza Perth IN: 5th September OUT: 7th September

Commence the following tour with AAT Kings in Perth on the 7th September and ending in Broome on the 19th September

## Day 1 Welcome to Perth

This afternoon when you meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers at your hotel, set off on a city tour of Perth including a visit to Kings Park where you can see the broad expanse of the Swan River and wander around the Anzac Memorial and wildflower gardens. You'll also see the many public art installations around the city and get a feel for the different precincts surrounding the CBD. Get to know your fellow travellers over a delicious welcome dinner.

**Hotel:** Crowne Plaza, Perth

**Included Meals:** Dinner with Wine

## Day 2 Perth - Geraldton

Heading north towards the port town of Geraldton your first stop is Yanchep National Park. Here you will meet your local Aboriginal guide Derek who'll share with you the local indigenous way of life and will treat you to the enchanting sounds of the didgeridoo through his fantastic Aboriginal cultural experience. You will get the chance to gain an understanding of traditional Aboriginal tools and weaponry in this hands on experience. Continuing along the coast to the seaside village of Lancelin at lunchtime and then to the home of the marvellous Pinnacles at Nambung National Park. Get your camera ready for these intriguing limestone formations. After taking time to reflect at the evocative HMAS Sydney Memorial you can take in the astonishing views over the seaside township of Geraldton.

**Hotel:** Mantra Geraldton

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Day 3 Geraldton - Monkey Mia

Discover Hamelin Pool and see the world's best known colony of Stromatolites. Dating back to the beginning of life on earth, while they may not appear alive, these living structures have helped scientists unravel the history of life on earth! Later visit fascinating Shell Beach that is formed from billions of coquina bivalve shells that can be up to ten metres deep along the water. Continue to the crystal blue waters of UNESCO World Heritage Site of Shark Bay and the pristine white sandy beaches of Monkey Mia. You will instantly feel totally relaxed at this beach side resort.

**Hotel:** Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort, 2 nights

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

## Day 4 Monkey Mia

Every morning, Monkey Mia's wild dolphins swim close to shore where the National Park Rangers explain the feeding habits of these friendly mammals that they know by name. After watching the famous dolphins swim into shore (Note: As dolphins are wild their appearance cannot be guaranteed) enjoy a leisurely breakfast overlooking the calm waters of the bay. The rest of the day is free for you to explore or relax. You might choose a leisurely boat cruise through the waters to spot marine life or why not choose to take to the air with a scenic flight over the amazing Shark Bay.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

### Day 5 **Monkey Mia - Carnarvon**

Today you will make the journey north to Carnarvon. The friendly local volunteers at the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum will share stories of how this site was instrumental in the space race. You might even choose to try on a space suit and climb aboard a spacecraft simulator.

**Hotel:** Best Western Hospitality Inn Carnarvon

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

### Day 6 **Carnarvon - Coral Bay**

Stopping at Coral Bay where you will join your local guide on a shallow glass bottom boat to see the World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef. You will be amazed by the colour of the coral and how close it is to the shoreline. Waves of fish and coral drift under the boat as you cruise along this remarkable coastline. Then you will continue further into the North West Cape and the town of Exmouth that is situated on the boundary of Cape Range National Park and the Ningaloo Marine Park home to the spectacular Ningaloo Reef. You will venture up to Vlaming Head Lighthouse for stunning views over Lighthouse Bay and Ningaloo Reef. Our special accommodation for the next few nights is situated right on the water of the Exmouth Gulf.

**Hotel:** Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort, 2 nights

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

### Day 7 **Exmouth Free Time**

Free time today allows you to do as you choose. With Ningaloo Reef right on the doorstep of this town, why not marvel at the size, grace and beauty of the Whale Shark as you swim alongside them in the pristine open ocean of the Ningaloo Marine Park. Take a stroll along the beach, relax by the hotel pool overlooking the ocean and why not choose a sunset cruise as it is a fantastic way to end your day.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

### Day 8 **Exmouth - Karratha**

Take one last look over Lighthouse Bay and the Vlaming Head Lighthouse, before continuing north to Western Australia's famous Pilbara region. Known for its rich cultural landscape, red earth and vast mineral deposits, the region's diverse landscape will fascinate you.

**Hotel:** ibis Styles Karratha

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

### Day 9 **Karratha - Tom Price - Karijini**

This morning journey through the Hamersley Range to follow the mining rail lines to see the 5km long mining trains hauling their loads to the ports. Arriving into the town of Tom Price before you join your local guide on a tour of Rio Tinto's Open Cut Iron Ore Mine site. You will be amazed by the massive pit and huge machinery as you're led to the heart of the operation. Continue into the depths of the Pilbara to Karijini National Park. Karijini is famous for the natural beauty of its deep gorges, secluded emerald rock pools and ice blue waterfalls. Your stay tonight is in safari-style eco tents. You can sit on your private deck with a good book and relax watching the sun set and fall asleep to the calming sounds of nature.

**Hotel:** Karijini Eco Retreat

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner with Wine

### Day 10 **Karijini National Park - Port Hedland**

This morning we explore more of Karijini. The startling landscape of spectacular gorges, waterfalls and rock pools provides a striking contrast to the stark red landscape of the Pilbara. You'll explore Fortescue Falls at Dales Gorge and if you're up to it, you can take a walk to one of the national park's plunge pools. Port Hedland is a hub for major resource activity and is a powerhouse of the Australian economy. Its natural deep anchorage harbour sees the export of iron ore, salt, manganese, livestock and natural gas from the nearby offshore gas fields.

**Hotel:** The Esplanade Hotel Port Hedland

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Day 11 **Port Hedland - Broome**

Skirting the edge of the Great Sandy Desert, we travel crossing vast pastoral leases and Aboriginal homelands towards the tropical resort town of Broome on the Indian Ocean. As you look out the window you will be amazed by the flat sandy desert that then gives way to distant mountain ranges. The famous Cable Beach sunset preludes dinner overlooking this famous beach.

**Hotel:** Cable Beach Club Resort, 2 nights

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Day 12 **Broome Free Day**

Today you have a full free day to explore this tropical hideaway. From a scenic flight over the Horizontal Falls to cruising through the unique horizontal falls on a boat (pre book as it sells out) there are many options for you to explore the area. You may enjoy a leisurely stroll along the 22 kilometres of pristine sand and turquoise water that is Cable Beach. Wander through Chinatown, shop for pearls or just relax at the resort. Tonight, sit back and relax with a drink to watch another spectacular sunset over Cable Beach.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

Day 13 **Farewell from Broome**

This morning after breakfast, bid farewell to your fellow travellers when your trip comes to an end.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

Depart Broome 19th September at 1.15PM arrive Darwin 5.40PM – air North

Accommodation: Mantra Pandanas Darwin IN: 19th September OUT: 22nd September

Depart Darwin 22nd September at 12.05PM arrive Cairns 3.00PM – Jetstar

Cost per person \$7364.00.00 and includes the following:

Airfares

Airport taxes

2 nights accommodation in Perth

13 day tour including meals and sightseeing as per itinerary

3 nights accommodation in Darwin