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4WD ROAD TRIP · 19 DAYS FROM BROOME AND BACK

The Kimberley by 4WD Camper: Self-Drive Itinerary

A 19-day loop from Broome along the Gibb River Road to El Questro and the Bungle Bungles, and back on the Great Northern Highway.

Broome - See our Spotlight on Broome blog for more detail on things to do in Broome. Fly into Broome and pick up your 4WD Campervan. Here is a guide of how to approach this type of trip, it's a guide, not everything there is to see is included, but it's a good base to start your planning.

DISTANCE	DAYS	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 2,385 km	19 days, 15 drives	Loop from Broome	About 68 h by 4WD camper

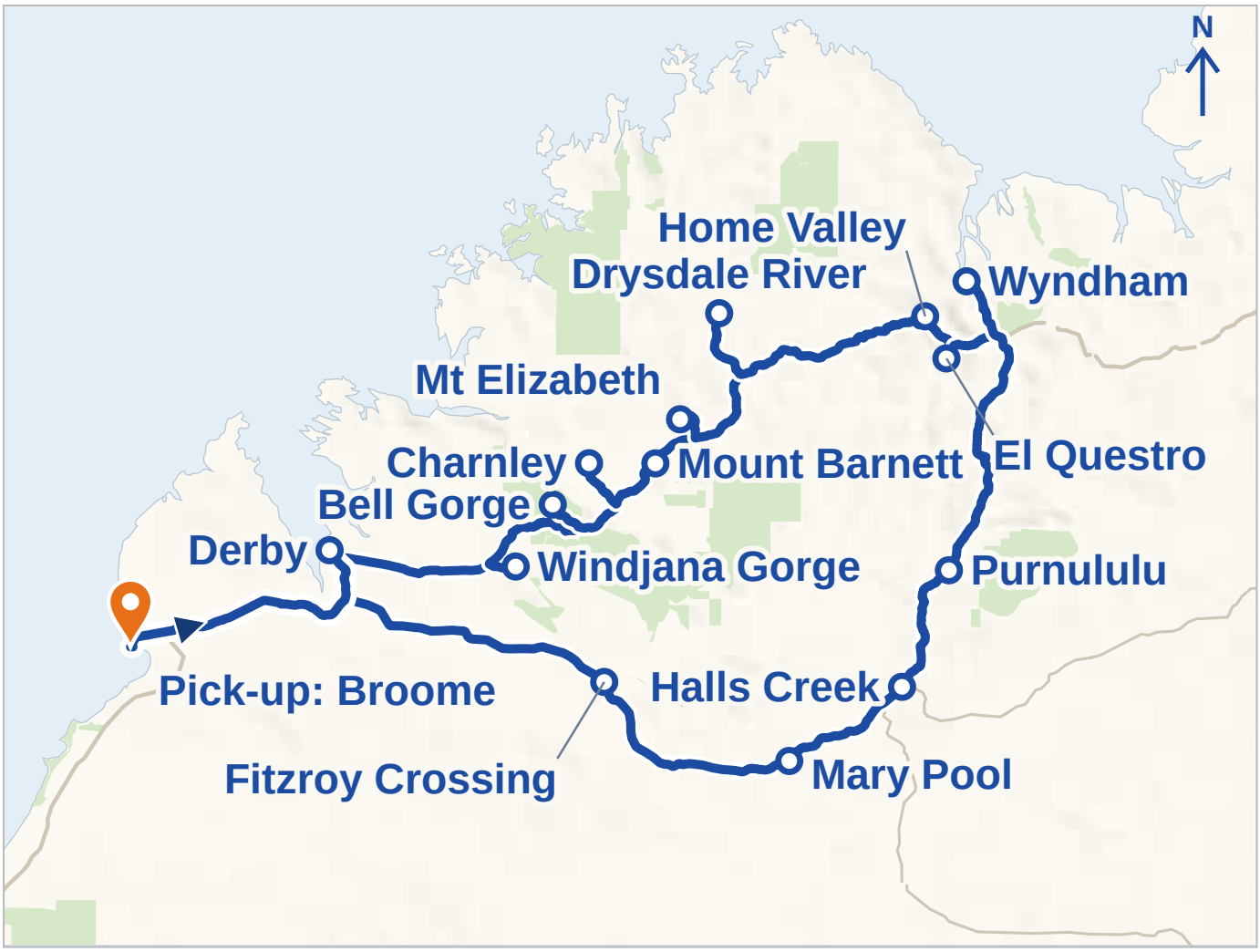
LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE	BEST TIME
400 km, Fitzroy Crossing to Broome	4WD camper	May to September

Driving times are car times plus about 20% for a 4WD camper. Times on gravel vary with conditions, so allow extra time on the Gibb River Road and other unsealed roads.

This trip crosses the Country of the Yawuru, Bunuba, Ngarinyin, Balanggarra, Gija, Jaru and other First Nations peoples. Traditional Custodians

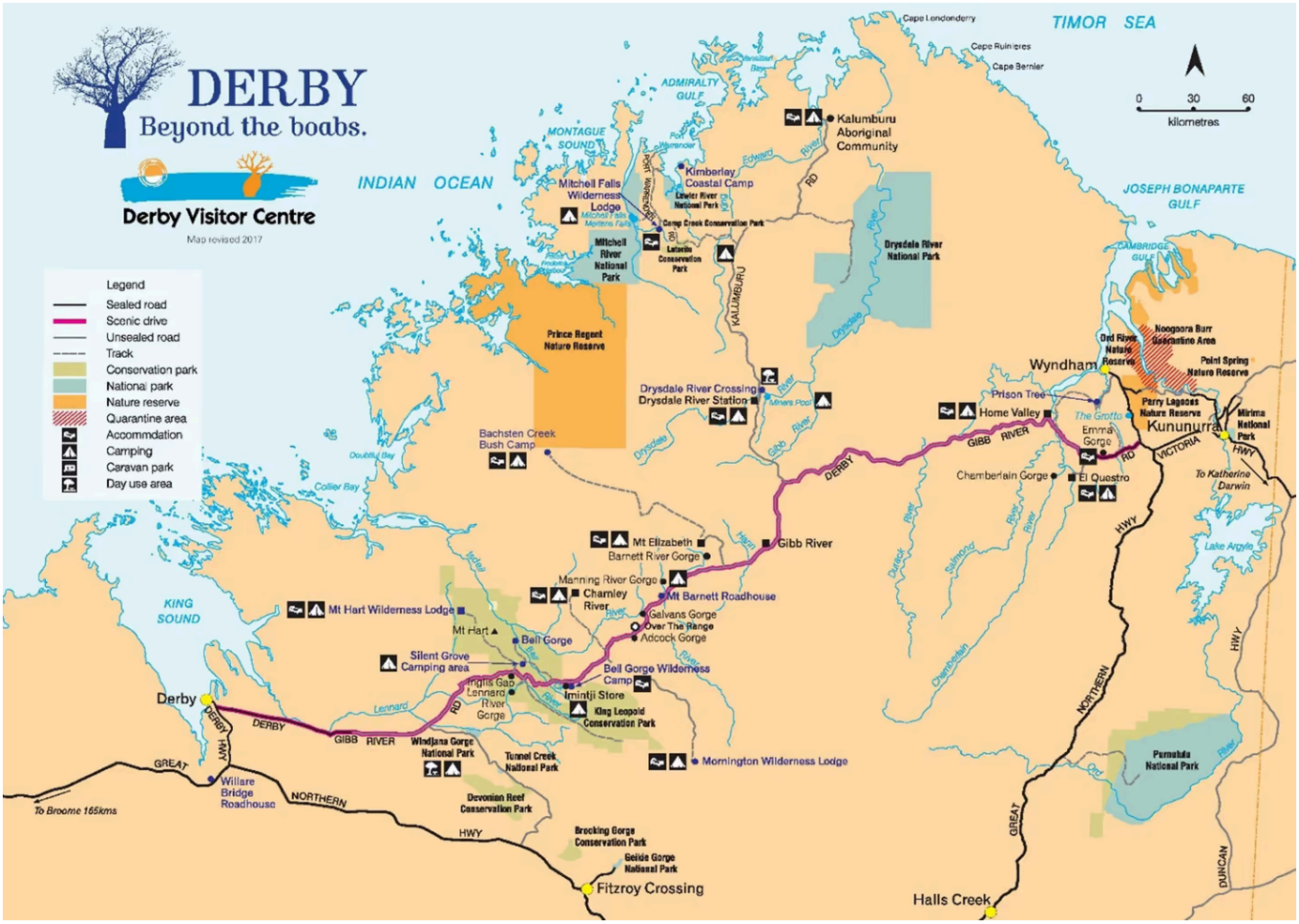


Bell Gorge (Dalmanyi), day 3 · Illustrative image



Planning overview, not navigation. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors · coastline Natural Earth · relief Terrain Tiles (Geoscience Australia, SRTM).

Broome Loop - The Gibb River Road and Great Northern Hwy - 19 Day Self Drive Itinerary



Source: *Map courtesy of the Derby Visitor Centre – 30 Loch St. Derby*

> The Kimberley is remote. Mobile coverage is patchy or absent along the Gibb, fuel stops are far apart, and some campgrounds have no drinking water. Carry spare water, food, any prescription medication and a spare tyre you can change, and plan to arrive before dark. Check road conditions before each stretch of unsealed road.

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Hiring a 4WD camper for this trip

4WD only, with permission

You need a 4WD camper for this trip, and the rental company's permission for the Gibb River Road and the Bungle Bungles. With Apollo, Britz and Mighty 4WDs, tell the branch your travel plans at pick-up and ask for permission then. It's given only on the day of pick-up, as road conditions can change, so it can't be arranged when you book. Their 2WD vans can't use the Gibb's unsealed sections. Campervan Village's 4WDs need its written permission, which you also ask for on the day of pick-up. Its D5 can't go on the Gibb or to the

When to go

Plan this trip for the dry season. Main Roads WA says the Gibb is often closed in the wet season, which generally runs from December to April, so check the Main Roads WA travel map (https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/travelmap/) before you set out. The Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite and Mighty branch in Broome closes from 1 December to 31 March, and the Gibb is closed to all Campervan Village 4WDs from 1 December to 30 April. Most station campgrounds on the Gibb open from about May to September.

Bungle Bungles. See 4WD campers and the Gibb River Road.

Kilometres and the Broome fee
Apollo, Britz and Mighty 4WD rates include 300 km a day, and their $299 unlimited-kilometre package covers longer trips. Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite and Mighty also charge a Broome location fee, once per hire, even when you pick up and return in Broome: $900 for pick-ups up to 31 March 2027 and $930 from 1 April 2027. It's in the total we quote. See the Broome fee.

Your route
All rental vendors in Australia have restrictions on where their vehicles can be taken, so discuss your planned route with the rental company when you pick up. Get the rental company's permission before taking the vehicle somewhere it restricts. If you take it there without permission, you may lose your excess reduction and be fully responsible for any damage. You may also have to pay for towing and recovery, and for damage to other people's property. See road restrictions and when you are fully responsible.

2028 trips
From 1 December 2027, the terms for Apollo, Britz and Mighty make their 4WDs available only in Melbourne and Sydney (the Britz Warrior in Adelaide too). Ask us before you plan an Apollo, Britz or Mighty 4WD trip from Broome in 2028.

Picking up in Broome

Both Broome branches are about 4 km from the airport, about five minutes by road, and none of the brands offers airport transfers, so take a taxi from the rank outside the terminal. The Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite and Mighty branch hands over vans until 3pm, every day from April to November, and asks you to arrive by 3pm. If your flight lands after late morning, it's often easier to stay the night and collect next morning (pick-up times and late flights). More on campervan hire in Broome: branches, hours and each brand's rules.

DAYS 1–5

Days 1–5: Derby and the western Gibb

DRIVE

225 km from Broome | **about 3 h 15 min** by 4WD camper

Via **Great Northern Highway**

DAY 1

Broome to Derby

PICK-UP

Travel along the Great Northern Highway and turn off onto the Derby Highway. The town of Derby is located on the tidal mud flats on the edge of the King Sound. It has the highest tidal range of any port in Australia, up to 12 metres. The town is the mining and agricultural centre of the region. The mining industry includes lead, zinc and diamonds. The agricultural industry includes pearl and beef farming.

Famous for its boab tree, Derby is a point to access flights to the Horizontal Falls and the Buccaneer Archipelago.

Pick-up guide Allow time at the branch for the handover and vehicle demonstration, and bring the documents the rental company asks for. See what to expect when you pick up your campervan: the inspection and demonstration, documents you'll need, choosing a pick-up time, getting there from the airport and what to do if you'll be late. The Broome branch list has each branch's address and hours.

Fuel Fill up in Derby. While the Imintji store is closed, it's about 310 km on the Gibb River Road from Derby to the next fuel, at Mount Barnett Roadhouse (planning fuel stops).

Stay Kimberley Entrance Caravan Park (https://kimberleyentrancecaravanparks.com/), Derby

DRIVE

150 km from Derby | **about 3 h 30 min** by 4WD camper

Via **Gibb River Road** | **Unsealed**

DAY 2

Derby to Windjana Gorge (Bandilngan)

Only 2 hours along the Gibb River Road is Windjana Gorge. The Lennard River formed this wide 100-metre-tall gorge through an ancient coral reef. There is a 7km loop walk to get a closer look at the fossils

and the scenery.

Drive time Times on gravel vary with conditions.

> **Check first:**
> Freshwater crocodiles live in the Lennard River, so swimming isn't allowed. There's no drinking water at the campground: bring your own.

Stay Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge) Campground

DRIVE

145 km from Windjana Gorge | **about 9 h 15 min** by 4WD camper | Via **Gibb River Road** | **Unsealed**

DAY 3

Windjana Gorge to Wunaamin Conservation Park (Bell Gorge)

Here the Isdell River has eroded its way through the mountains to form deep pools, like Bell Gorge, for swimming as well as some stunning waterfalls.

Drive time Times on gravel vary with conditions.

Names King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park is now Wunaamin Conservation Park, in the Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges (formerly the King Leopold Ranges). Bell Gorge is Dalmanyi. There's no camping at the gorge itself: the campground is about 11 km back towards the Gibb.

Stay Dulundi (Silent Grove) Campground (formerly called Dalmanyi campground)

DRIVE

110 km from Bell Gorge | **about 8 h 45 min** by 4WD camper | Via **Beverley Springs Road** | **Unsealed**

DAY 4

Bell Gorge to Charnley River Station

2 NIGHTS

Owned by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Charnley River Station protects a diverse range of endangered wildlife. On arrival you will be given a map of the area, there are walks and 4WD trips.

Drive time Times on gravel vary with conditions.

> **Check first:**
> The Charnley River camp was closed to visitors for 2025, and we couldn't confirm that it has reopened. Check with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy before you plan these two days. If it's closed, spend them at Bell Gorge (Dulundi campground) and Manning Gorge instead.

Stay Charnley River – Artesian Range Wilderness Camp (check it's open)

A DAY AT CHARNLEY RIVER

DAY 5

Charnley River Station

Explore Grevillea, Dillie and Donkey Hole Gorges and follow the self-guided walks.

DAYS 6–13

Days 6–13: Manning Gorge to Wyndham

DRIVE

91 km from Charnley | **about 3 h 30 min** by 4WD camper | Via **Gibb River Road** | **Unsealed**

DAY 6

Charnley River Station to Manning Gorge

2 NIGHTS

Your first stop after you turn back onto the Gibb River Road from Charnley River Station is Galvans Gorge. Only a 5-minute walk in from the car park Galvans Gorge is one of the easiest gorges to see in the Kimberley, great rock art and swimming. Another 15-minute drive up the road you'll hit Mount Barnett Roadhouse where you can stay the night, refuel and reprovision (fairly basic).

Drive time Times on gravel vary with conditions.

Stay Two nights at Manning Gorge Campground, Mount Barnett (pay at Mount Barnett Roadhouse)

A DAY AT MANNING GORGE

DAY 7

Manning Gorge

Walk straight from the campground to Manning Gorge and Falls, it will take you about an hour, and you should pack a lunch as you won't be back till afternoon. You will have to cross the Manning River enroute and that entails a dinghy rope ferry, that you pull yourself across on. The gorge is enormous with lots to explore so don't rush your day, just allow daylight hours to get back to the campground.

DRIVE

69 km from Mount Barnett | **about 5 h 45 min** by 4WD camper

Via **Gibb River Road** | **Unsealed**

DAY 8

Manning Gorge to Mount Elizabeth Station

A working station with over 6000 head of cattle. The station offers you unique experiences to see how a cattle station works as well as gorges, indigenous art sites and waterfalls.

Drive time	Times on gravel vary with conditions.
Season	The station's campground is open from 1 May to 30 September.
Stay	Mount Elizabeth Station (https://www.mtelizabethstation.com.au/) (formerly listed as Mt. Elisabeth Station)

DRIVE

160 km from Mt Elizabeth | **about 8 h 30 min** by 4WD camper

Via **Kalumburu Road** | **Unsealed**

DAY 9

Mount Elizabeth Station to Drysdale River Station

Drysdale Station is the site of several impressive indigenous rock art sites and where you will base yourself for a scenic flight to the Mitchell Falls and the Prince Regent Coast. (If you want to drive there you need to allow another week on your itinerary). You can also get a break from cooking here with a beer garden that serves burgers and bar snacks.

There is also fuel and a small general store for reprovisioning.

Drive time Times on gravel vary with conditions.

> **Permission**
> The Kalumburu Road and the Mitchell Plateau need your rental company's permission, as for the Gibb.

Stay Drysdale River Station (https://www.drysdaleriver.com.au/)

DRIVE

235 km from Drysdale River | **about 7 h** by 4WD camper | Via **Gibb River Road** | **Unsealed**

DAY 10

Drysdale River Station to Home Valley Station

Home Valley Station, now Balanggarra Home Valley, is run by its Balanggarra Traditional Custodians, and has been a training academy for Balanggarra people in cattle station operations and tourism. Take guided tours to waterfalls, gorges and salt flats.

Drive time Times on gravel vary with conditions.

Stay Balanggarra Home Valley (Home Valley Station)

DRIVE

51 km from Home Valley | **about 1 h 50 min** by 4WD camper | Via **Gibb River Road** | **Partly unsealed**

DAY 11

Home Valley Station to El Questro

2 NIGHTS

You might feel a little bit like you're back in civilisation here, Cafes and Restaurants, Bars and Retail stores. There are only 30 campsites so when you know your dates for El Questro book one asap. You'll regret it if you miss out.

Drive time Times on gravel vary with conditions.

Season El Questro is open in the dry season, from about early April. In 2026, Emma Gorge closed on 20 September and the campgrounds at The Station on 12 October, so check its dates for your trip.

Stay Two nights at El Questro (https://elquestro.com.au/)

A DAY AT EL QUESTRO

DAY 12

El Questro

There are daily tours to Emma Gorge, thermal springs and a full range of hiking trails for different levels of accessibility. This is another place to take a Scenic flight by helicopter or light plane. Also relax in the pool and by the bar.

DRIVE

97 km from El Questro | **about 2 h** by 4WD camper

Via **Great Northern Highway** | **Partly unsealed**

DAY 13

El Questro to Wyndham

Get to Wyndham in time for sunset over the Cambridge Gulf. Wyndham has been a linchpin port in north-western Australia since 1886, from gold rush to meat rush. It still operates for the cattle industry and now the Ord River Project.

Drive time Times on gravel vary with conditions.

Stay Wyndham Caravan Park (https://www.wyndhamcaravanpark.com/)

DAYS 14–19: The Bungle Bungles and back to Broome

DRIVE

260 km from Wyndham | **about 3 h 45 min** by 4WD camper

Via **Great Northern Highway** | **Partly unsealed**

DAY 14

Wyndham to Purnululu National Park

2 NIGHTS

You're off the Gibb River Road now and on the Great Northern Highway (surfaced) and on your way to the spectacular Bungle Bungle Ranges. They are 53 km off the highway on a road that can often be quite

corrugated, but a ‘must do’ You will hear them described as beehive shaped and when you get there you’ll say “oh, yeah!". These totally unique orange and black striped towers are actually layers of iron oxide and cyanobacteria.

Distance	The map and the distance above end at the Spring Creek Track turn-off on the highway. Add the 53 km track in to the park's campgrounds, which is slow going.
Season	Purnululu National Park is generally open from April or May to late November. The Bungle Bungles need your rental company's permission, as for the Gibb.
Stay	Two nights at Walardi Campground

A DAY IN THE BUNGLE BUNGLES

DAY 15

The Bungle Bungles

Estimated to be 350 million years old and like all antiques are very fragile so no climbing. The walk through the Cathedral Gorge is like a religious experience but only shows such a small part of the park, it really is necessary to do a scenic flight here to get real perspective.

DRIVE

110 km from Purnululu | **about 1 h 30 min** by 4WD camper | Via **Great Northern Highway** | **Partly unsealed**

DAY 16

Purnululu to Halls Creek or Wolfe Creek Crater

Keep going past Halls Creek and turn left onto the Tanami Road and left again (after about 2 hours) onto Carranya-Wolfe Creek Crater Road. Wolfe Creek is the second largest Meteorite Crater in the world. It’s quite a steep climb, but only about 200m, to the rim of the crater, it’s essential for the spectacular view.

If the drive and the climb seem too much, stop at Halls Creek and do the scenic flight.

Route	The map follows the drive to Halls Creek. Wolfe Creek Crater is about 150 km further, south of Halls Creek on the Tanami Road. Check road conditions at the Halls Creek visitor centre before you go: it's the last stop for fuel and supplies.

Stay The crater. There is no drinking water onsite so you need to make sure you bring plenty. Five minutes from Old Halls Creek is Caroline Pool, a free camp site that's something a little bit unusual and special.

DRIVE

110 km from Halls Creek | **about 1 h 40 min** by 4WD camper

Via **Great Northern Highway**

DAY 17

Halls Creek to Mary Pool

Beside the Mary River this is a lovely relaxing stop in quite a basic, free, campsite.

Stay Mary Pool free camp

DRIVE

180 km from Mary Pool | **about 2 h 40 min** by 4WD camper

Via **Danggu Geikie Gorge**

DAY 18

Mary Pool to Fitzroy Crossing

About 2 hours down the Highway you will turn right onto Geikie Gorge Road and in another 20km's, still on bitumen, you will reach the gorge. One of the easiest and most accessible gorges on this trip. Carved by the Fitzroy River through an ancient reef. Take the very cheap boat tour to enjoy the dramatic scenery in relaxed style. There are also several short and easy walks to do around the gorge. You can't stay at the Gorge so you will have to back track 20km to Fitzroy Crossing.

Check first:
Danggu Geikie Gorge reopened in October 2026 after repairs to damage from the January 2023 floods, but without water access: the gorge boat tours aren't running, and may return in 2027.

Stay Fitzroy River Lodge Campground (https://www.fitzroyriverlodge.com.au/campground)

DRIVE

400 km from Fitzroy Crossing | **about 5 h 30 min** by 4WD camper

Via **Great Northern Highway**

DAY 19

Fitzroy Crossing to Broome

RETURN

Head back to Broome on the Great Northern Highway to return your 4WD camper.

Return guide Plan your last day around your drop-off time, and check your branch's address and hours in the Broome branch list. See returning your campervan: choosing a drop-off time, what to do if you're running late and returning early.

Returning in Broome

Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite and Mighty have no toilet or grey-water emptying service in Broome, so return their vans with both emptied: they charge $299 a tank if you don't. Campervan Village charges $250 if you return its van without emptying the toilet and grey-water tank. Every caravan park in town has a dump point. Fill up before you return the van, and check your drop-off time, as it's often earlier than people expect. With an early flight, returning the van the day before takes the pressure off (returning the van in Broome).

Enjoy the Kimberley, and take it slowly: the Gibb rewards the extra day.

Traditional Custodians

Broome: Yawuru people, native title holders of the lands and waters in and around Rubibi (Broome) (Shire of Broome (https://www.broome.wa.gov.au/Council/About-the-Shire-of-Broome/Our-Heritage))

Bandilngan (Windjana Gorge): Bunuba people (Parks and Wildlife Service WA visitor guide (https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-10/Bandilngan-Windjana-Gorge-and-Dimalurru-Tunnel-Creek-national-parks-visitor-guide.pdf))

Wunaamin Conservation Park and Charnley River: Wilinggin Country of the Ngarinyin people (Parks and Wildlife Service WA (https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park/wunaamin-conservation-park); Australian Wildlife Conservancy (https://www.australianwildlife.org/explore-places))

Home Valley: Balanggarra Traditional Custodians (Balanggarra Home Valley (https://homevalley.au/))

Purnululu National Park: Gija and Jaru people (Parks and Wildlife Service WA (https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park/purnululu-national-park))

Country boundaries are approximate, and some are shared or contested. These names follow local councils and park managers. The AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia (https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia) shows the wider picture.

Pay your respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which you are travelling, and to their Elders past, present and emerging. The Australian environment is fragile, so tread lightly: take only photos and leave only footprints.

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DriveNow's suggested itineraries help you plan your own trip. Distances and times are from mapped routes and are a guide only; campervan driving times are car times plus about 20%. Road conditions, closures, opening hours and prices change, so check them before you travel. Any reliance on this itinerary is at your own discretion.

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