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OUTBACK ROAD TRIP · 12 DAYS FROM PERTH AND BACK

Outback Western Australia Self-Drive Itinerary

Explore Western Australia's true Outback with this 12-day loop out to Kalgoorlie via Wave Rock, then north up to Leonora, on to Mt Magnet and continuing back to meet the coast at Geraldton before returning south to Perth.

DISTANCE **About 2,310 km**	DAYS **12 days, 9 drives**	ROUTE **Loop from Perth**	DRIVING TIME **About 34 h by campervan**
LONGEST DRIVE **435 km, Leonora to Mount Magnet**	VEHICLE **Campervan**		

This trip crosses the Country of the Whadjuk Noongar, Wangkatha, Badimia, Yamatji and other First Nations peoples. Traditional Custodians



Wave Rock, day 2 · Illustrative image



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

> Be prepared. As you will be travelling in remote areas with limited mobile phone coverage in some areas, it is critical that you take important supplies with you including spare water, food and any prescription medication. Discuss your chosen route with your rental company when picking up your vehicle.
>
> Fill up with fuel whenever you can, as towns are far apart, and plan each day's drive to finish before dusk, when wildlife on the road is most active.

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Hiring a campervan for this trip

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.

Picking up in Perth

Most Perth branches are in the eastern suburbs, a short drive from Perth Airport, and Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite, Mighty and Mighty Lite share one branch in Redcliffe (Perth branches). Check-in includes a walkthrough of the vehicle, so allow about an hour, and reach the branch at least an hour before it closes. More on campervan hire in Perth: branches, hours and each brand's rules.

PICK-UP DAY IN PERTH

DAY 1

Perth

PICK-UP

Pick up your rental car or campervan in Perth today. If you are collecting a campervan or 4 wheel drive, allow plenty of time so the rental company can show you how it works before you leave. Take some time to discover what Perth has to offer before beginning your journey.

Western Australia has a proud gold-mining history, so why not start your education at The Perth Mint. The mint was established in 1899 as a branch of Britain's Royal Mint, and continues today to refine gold from the goldfields. The mint has many activities to try out including watching a gold pour, engraving your own coin and seeing the gold exhibition.

Pick-up guide	Allow time at the branch for the handover and van 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 Perth branch list has each branch's address and hours.
Gold pour	The live gold pour doesn't run every day, so check before you go.
Stay	Discovery Parks – Perth Airport

DRIVE

335 km from Perth | **about 5 h** by campervan | Via **Brookton Highway**

DAY 2

Perth to Wave Rock

Depart this morning and take State Route 40 to Lovering Road in Hyden.

Wave Rock is an amazing natural feature and one not to miss. From weathering and water erosion, the granite cliff has been shaped in a wave formation. The rocks are thought to be as old as 2700 million years, some of the oldest rocks in Australia. Also check out the Pioneer Museum while in town to learn about the early pioneers of the town. The museum transports you back in time to 1900's with authentic props from the time.

Stay Wave Rock Caravan Park

DRIVE

165 km from Wave Rock (Hyden) | **about 3 h** by campervan

Via **Merredin - Narembeen Road**

DAY 3

Wave Rock to Merredin

Depart this morning and follow Hyden-Mount Walker Road, Mount Walker Road and Merredin-Narembeen Road to Merredin.

In the afternoon, go on “The Rock Walk” and see the picturesque town from up high. The walk will take roughly 30 minutes and you will see how the granite rocks were used as water catchments in the 1890s. Walking along the rocks will also show you an old World War 2 field hospital and where prospectors would camp out before heading to the Yilgarn Goldfields.

Stay Merredin Tourist Park

DRIVE

110 km from Merredin | **about 1 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Great Eastern Highway**

DAY 4

Merredin to Southern Cross

Depart this morning and follow National Highway 94 to Southern Cross.

Southern Cross was named after the constellation of the stars that guided Tom Risely and Mick Toomey to discover gold, and therefore the town. Check out the Yilgarn History Museum (formerly the Southern Cross & Yilgarn Districts Historical Museum), which is located in the 1890’s courthouse and mining registry building. You will be educated about the extensive gold mining and farming history of the town, using real memorabilia from the time.

Opening hours Volunteers run the museum, so its hours can change. Check before you go.

Stay Southern Cross Caravan Park

DRIVE

225 km from Southern Cross | **about 3 h 15 min** by campervan

Via **Great Eastern Highway**

DAY 5

Southern Cross to Kalgoorlie

2 NIGHTS

Depart this morning and continue along National Route 94 to Kalgoorlie.

While in Kalgoorlie, make sure to check out one of the many museums in town detailing different parts of the history. The WA Museum of Kalgoorlie Boulder informs you of the great mining heritage and the goldfields.

Stay Two nights at Discovery Parks – Kalgoorlie Goldfields

A DAY IN KALGOORLIE

DAY 6

Kalgoorlie

Take a tour of the Super Pit, which is Australia's largest open cut gold mine. The tour takes you into the workspace as you drive past the huge machinery, and witness the old mine shafts from the internal viewing platforms. The tour is full of a rich history of the area, and especially highlighting the story of Kalgoorlie and gold.

After your drive in the morning, spend the afternoon relaxing in Hammond Park. Surrounded by desert, the luscious green flora and fauna transports you into a different arena. The animal sanctuary gives you an opportunity to get close to kangaroos, peacocks and emus. Make sure to also see the miniature Bavarian Castle, which has roughly 40,000 gemstones decorating it.

Tours Super Pit tours run on weekdays and are booked ahead. If you can't join one, the free Super Pit Lookout on Outram Street is open every day.

DRIVE

130 km from Kalgoorlie | **about 1 h 50 min** by campervan

Via **Goldfields Highway**

DAY 7

Kalgoorlie to Menzies

Depart this morning and follow the Goldfields Highway until you reach Menzies.

While in Menzies, you must travel to Lake Ballard to see the world-renowned Antony Gormley sculptures. The collection showcases 51 sculptures spread over about 10 square kilometres of the salt plains of Lake Ballard. The sculptures were a part of the Inside Australia exhibition, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Perth International Arts Festival. It is now a permanent exhibition for tourists and locals to enjoy.

Road	The Shire of Menzies says the 51 km road from Menzies to Lake Ballard is sealed.
Stay	Menzies Caravan Park

DRIVE

155 km from Menzies | **about 2 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Goldfields Highway**

DAY 8

Menzies to Leonora, via Kookynie

2 NIGHTS

Depart this morning and follow the Goldfields Highway until you reach Kookynie Road.

Kookynie is a great example of an Australian ghost town. During the gold rush era, it was a bustling hotspot, and even had the first swimming baths in Western Australia. You can explore the historical buildings of the town, or head out to Morapoi Station for an Indigenous tour.

Then go back to the Goldfields Highway and follow it until you reach Leonora.

Morapoi Station	Morapoi Station was developed by the Wangkatha people; its cultural tours are by arrangement, so contact the station before you go.

Check first:
Kookynie's Grand Hotel and its caravan park have closed, and visitors in 2025 found no services in town: no fuel, water or food. Fill up in Menzies and bring what you need.

Stay	Two nights at Leonora Village (formerly Leonora Caravan Park)

A DAY IN LEONORA AND GWALIA

DAY 9

Leonora and Gwalia

Visit the Gwalia Ghost Town & Museum to discover the extensive gold rush history of small mining towns. The town's dramatic decline in population from 1200 to 40 only happened in 1963 so a lot of the buildings are still well maintained and quite eerie. You can visit Herbert Hoover's house, who was the first manager of the mine and later went on to become the 31st President of the United States.

DRIVE

435 km from Leonora | **about 6 h** by campervan

Via **Leinster and Sandstone**

DAY 10

Leonora to Mount Magnet

LONGEST DRIVE

Depart this morning and continue along the Goldfields Highway until you turn left at Agnew-Sandstone Road.

Approximately 9 km north of Mount Magnet along the Great Northern Highway are The Granites. It is a cave and rock formation which is over 15 metres tall and is a great place for a picnic. The Granites also has great cultural significance to Aboriginal people, with paintings on the rocks being dated at 9,000 years old. Visitors are asked to respect the cultural significance of the land.

Road	The road via Leinster and Sandstone is sealed all the way. The Granites are for day use only.
Stay	Mount Magnet Caravan Park

DRIVE

340 km from Mount Magnet | **about 4 h 45 min** by campervan

Via **Geraldton-Mount Magnet Road**

DAY 11

Mount Magnet to Geraldton

Depart this morning and follow Geraldton-Mt Magnet Road to N W Coastal Highway in Geraldton.

A must-see of the area is the HMAS Sydney II Memorial. It commemorates the loss of the HMAS Sydney II and is dedicated to the crews and their families. In 1941, the ship disappeared without a trace and is

considered one of the greatest tragedies in Australian naval history. The memorial and museum is a beautiful tribute to those lost, and something you will not forget.

Stay Geraldton Belair Gardens Caravan Park

DRIVE

420 km from Geraldton | **about 6 h** by campervan | Via **Brand Highway**

DAY 12

Geraldton to Perth

RETURN

Depart this morning and follow the National Route 1 south back to Perth.

Enjoy some more time in Perth, and discover all that the city has to offer. Or prepare for your trip home. When you return your campervan, allow time for the return inspection. Return it by the time on your booking, as rental companies charge for late returns.

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

Returning in Perth

Fill up before you return the van, and allow time for the return inspection. Return it by the time on your booking, as rental companies charge for late returns, and drop-off times are often earlier than people expect. With an early flight, returning the van the day before takes the pressure off (drop-off times).

Enjoy the goldfields and the wide-open Outback.

Traditional Custodians

Perth: Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation (City of Perth (https://perth.wa.gov.au/community/community-services-and-facilities/elders-advisory-group))

Kookynie and the Northern Goldfields: Wangkatha people (Morapoi Station Stay, WAITOC (https://www.waitoc.com/members/business-listing/633126a688782-morapoi-station-stay))

Mount Magnet: Badimia people (Tourism Western Australia (https://www.westernaustralia.com/en/attraction/the-granites/56b267d72cbcbe7073ae1c28))

Geraldton: Yamatji people (City of Greater Geraldton (https://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/community/our-community/aboriginal.aspx))

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.

DriveNow Disclaimer

DriveNow receives no money or commission for any holiday park, campground, hotel, restaurant, cafe, pub, tour or attraction named on this page. We include them because they suit a campervan trip, and we check them from time to time.

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.

Printed from https://www.drivenow.com.au/itineraries/australia/wa-outback-self-drive on 13 November 2026. Check the page for the latest version before you travel.