DriveNow

Helping travellers since 2003 find the best deals on campervan and car rental

NULLARBOR ROAD TRIP · 13 DAYS ONE WAY

Perth to Adelaide across the Nullarbor

One of the world’s great adventures. Navigate across Western Australia into South Australia on this epic trip across the Nullarbor, home to the world's longest stretches of straight road and along the Great Australian Bight. A journey everyone should do at least once in their lifetimes!

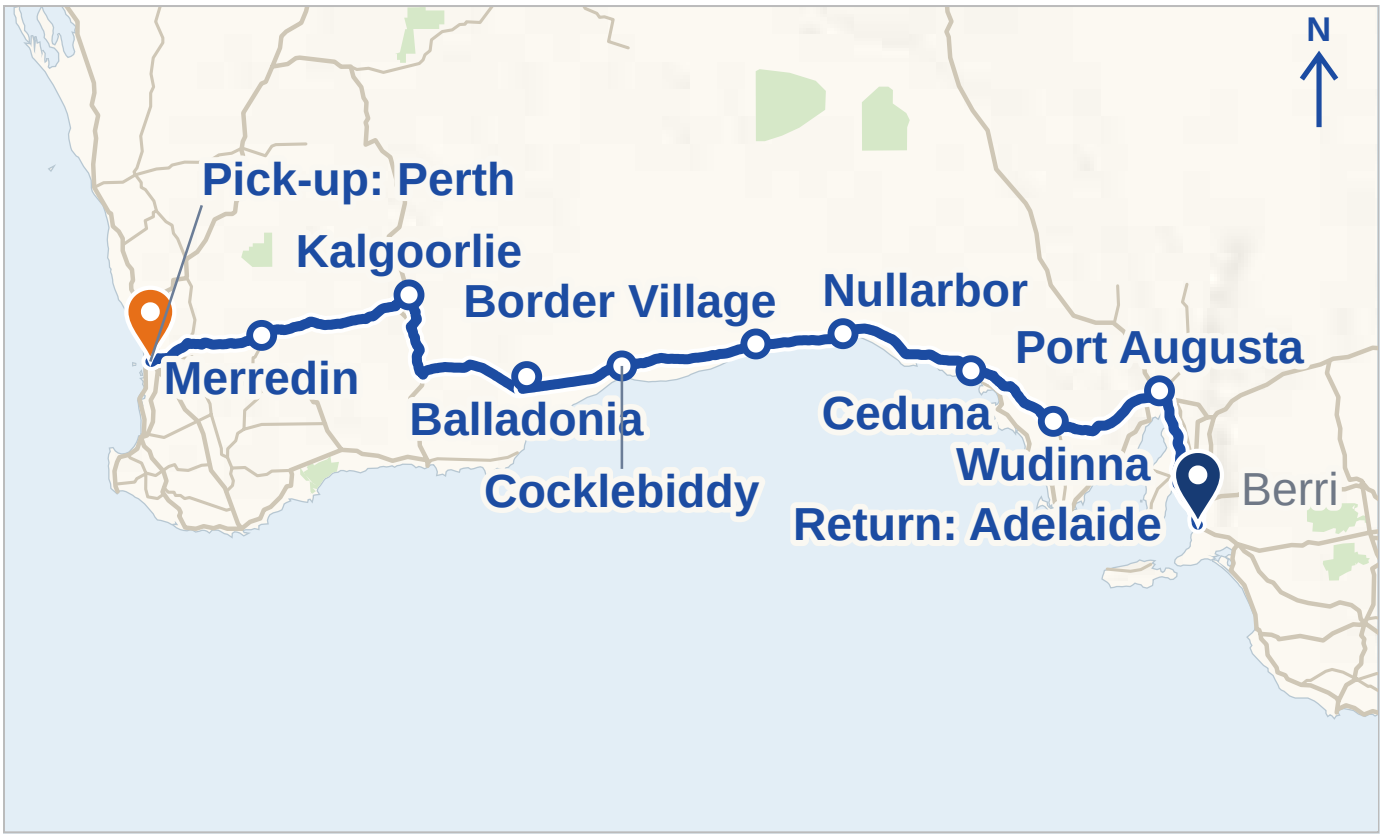
DISTANCE	DAYS	ROUTE	DRIVING TIME
About 2,785 km	13 days, 10 drives	One way, Perth to Adelaide	About 41 h 30 min by campervan

LONGEST DRIVE	VEHICLE
425 km, Kalgoorlie to Balladonia	Campervan

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



Head of Bight, day 8 · Illustrative image



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

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Hiring a campervan for this trip

One way to Adelaide

Apollo, Britz, Maui and Mighty charge a $300 one-way fee from Perth for pick-ups up to 31 March 2027, and $310 from 1 April 2027. Let's Go charges $249 to or from Perth. Spaceships has no one-way fee, but charges a $200 remote location fee for Perth and for Adelaide. The fees are in the total we quote: compare totals, not daily rates. More on one-way fees.

Minimum days

Between Perth and Adelaide, Apollo, Britz, Maui and Mighty need at least 14 days. This trip is 13 days: you can still travel for 13, but you'll be charged for 14. Or add a day, such as a third night in Kalgoorlie or Port Augusta, and use it. More on minimum hires.

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

Remote country

The Nullarbor is remote. Carry spare water, food and any prescription medication, fill up at every roadhouse you can, and plan each day's drive to finish before dusk, when wildlife on the road is most active.

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.

DAYS 1–4

Days 1–4: Perth to the Goldfields

PICK-UP DAY IN PERTH

DAY 1

Perth

PICK-UP

Collect your car or campervan in Perth today. If you're hiring a campervan, allow plenty of time at the depot 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.

The Perth Zoo is a favourite amongst visitors, containing over 1,200 native and exotic animals. Here you can discover both local and international animals, making it a day of learning and adventure.

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.
Stay	Discovery Parks – Perth Airport

DRIVE

260 km from Perth | **about 4 h** by campervan | Via **Great Eastern Highway**

DAY 2

Perth to Merredin

Depart this morning and head east via the Great Eastern Highway and National Highway 94 to Merredin.

Spend the afternoon at the Merredin Railway Station Museum. Merredin has a rich history as it served as a vital place during the gold rush, as well as an agricultural passageway between Perth and Kalgoorlie. The original railway memorabilia dates back until the late 1800s, so you are transported straight to the past.

During the evening, see an opera or show at the Cummins Theatre. The theatre is one of the oldest buildings in the town, and has been the centre for performances, meetings, and social functions. Previous artists to grace the stage have included AC/DC, Lano & Woodley, and David Helfgott.

Opening hours	Volunteers run the Merredin Railway Museum, so check its opening hours.
Stay	Merredin Tourist Park

DRIVE

335 km from Merredin | **about 4 h 45 min** by campervan

Via **Great Eastern Highway**

DAY 3

Merredin to Kalgoorlie

2 NIGHTS

Depart this morning and travel east via National Highway 94 to Kalgoorlie.

Take a tour in the afternoon 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.

In the evening, trek down to the Karlkurla Bushland Park and watch the sun setting over the natural woodlands. It is truly a sight to behold, as you take the opportunity to take photos of the natural landscape.

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.

Stay Two nights at Discovery Parks – Kalgoorlie Goldfields

A DAY IN KALGOORLIE

DAY 4

Kalgoorlie

Make full use of your day in Kalgoorlie, and see as much as you can. Visit the Western Australian Museum – Kalgoorlie-Boulder and uncover the past mining history and stories of the Eastern Goldfields. Mining and Kalgoorlie are one of the same, and it is a fascinating record to learn of how the town began to form.

If you're a fan of breweries, the Beaten Track brewery is a must-visit destination. Try some locally made beer, and listen to the brewers themselves as they talk about their passion for the liquor and the land around them. They'll teach you the techniques in how to properly taste-test beer.

Opening hours Beaten Track Brewery is closed early in the week, so check its opening times.

DAYS 5–9: Across the Nullarbor

DRIVE

425 km from Kalgoorlie | **about 7 h 15 min** by campervan | Via **Norseman**

DAY 5

Kalgoorlie to Balladonia

Depart this morning, and head south on the Coolgardie–Esperance Highway to Norseman, then east on the Eyre Highway (National Highway 1).

Balladonia is a small community of nine people and a popular place for travellers to stop before tackling the 90 Mile Straight, between Balladonia and Caiguna, which is Australia's longest straight road at 146.6 km.

Within the Balladonia complex, there is a small museum, which details the early pioneering days of the town to the crash landing of the Skylab space station. Or enjoy exchanging stories with other passing travellers.

Long drive At over seven hours by campervan, this is the longest drive of the trip, so start early and share the driving.

Stay Balladonia Hotel Motel

DRIVE

225 km from Balladonia | **about 4 h 15 min** by campervan | Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 6

Balladonia to Cocklebiddy

Depart this morning and embark upon the 90 Mile Straight, also known as the National Highway 1 to Cocklebiddy.

Use this time to relax in a truly authentic country town. If you're looking for activities to do, the Eyre Bird Observatory is 50 kilometres southeast of Cocklebiddy. You can take a guided tour of the facility and participate in some bird watching. The observatory has been temporarily closed during 2026, and the last 10 km is 4WD only, so check with BirdLife Australia before you go.

If you are an experienced and highly organised cave aficionado, you can visit the Cocklebiddy Cave, one of the largest cave systems in the world. However, you must watch out for snakes, and the caves can be extremely dangerous to the inexperienced.

Stay Wedgetail Inn Caravan Park

DRIVE

285 km from Cocklebiddy | **about 4 h** by campervan | Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 7

Cocklebiddy to Border Village

Depart this morning and head east along National Highway 1. You will leave Western Australia and cross into South Australia.

Take some time to relax from all the driving of the trip, and enjoy the serenity of Border Village. Take photos with the "Big Roo", a giant statue of a kangaroo, which is an icon of the town.

Plan your trip for the next day as the drive between Border Village and the Nullarbor Roadhouse boast some of the best lookouts to see the cliffs that surround the Great Australian Bight. Some of the cliffs are very high, and are not for the faint-hearted.

Stay Border Village Roadhouse

DRIVE

185 km from Border Village | **about 2 h 30 min** by campervan | Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 8

Border Village to Nullarbor Roadhouse

Depart this morning and head east along the National Highway A1.

Twenty kilometres east of the Nullarbor Roadhouse, you can find the head of the Australian Bight. If you are here between June and October, this is the best place to view the Southern Right Whales, which come to the coastline to breed and give birth to whale calves. Nonetheless, it is a beautiful piece of scenery and a tribute to the great natural landscapes of Australia.

Stay Nullarbor Roadhouse

DRIVE

295 km from Nullarbor | **about 4 h** by campervan | Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 9

Nullarbor Roadhouse to Ceduna

Depart this morning and head east on the National Highway A1.

Take a tour to the Maralinga Atomic Testing grounds, a site where they used to test British nuclear bombs. The area was tested and cleaned up in 2000, leaving it safe to visit the grounds. They tested seven nuclear weapons in the 1950s, proving to be a dark history for the people of this area.

In the evening, watch the sunset over the Ceduna Jetty, and enjoy the natural landscape and vibrant colours in the sky, something that cannot be experienced in the city. The jetty is long and calming, perfect for walk after dinner next to the quiet ocean.

Maralinga Maralinga Tours, from Ceduna, takes visitors to the former British atomic test site, where seven nuclear weapons were tested in the 1950s, a dark history for the people of this area. Its tours aren't running in 2026 while works are carried out at the site, so check its website for future dates.

Stay Ceduna Tourist Park

DAYS 10–13

Days 10–13: Eyre Peninsula to Adelaide

DRIVE

210 km from Ceduna | **about 3 h** by campervan | Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 10

Ceduna to Wudinna

Depart this morning and continue along the National Highway A1.

Be sure to visit the Mount Wudinna Recreation Reserve, and enjoy a barbeque and a bushwalk. Climb to the top of Mount Wudinna, which is Australia's largest monolith after Uluru. However, it is only 260 metres and a totally achievable climb for a magnificent view.

If you're not up for a climb, it is a great place to stop for a couple of hours to stretch the legs and have some fresh air.

Stay Gawler Ranges Motel and Caravan Park

DRIVE

260 km from Wudinna | **about 3 h 30 min** by campervan | Via **Eyre Highway**

DAY 11

Wudinna to Port Augusta

2 NIGHTS

Depart this morning and head east on the National Highway A1, following the signs to Port Augusta/ Adelaide.

Visit the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens and discover the plants and animals that are able to survive Australia's toughest conditions. Explore the vivid red sand dunes, woodlands, and vast saltbush plains and even enjoy mountain views from the top of the red cliff tops. After all of this, you can sit back and enjoy the information centre and have afternoon tea.

Stay Two nights at Discovery Parks – Port Augusta (formerly Port Augusta BIG4 Holiday Park)

A DAY IN PORT AUGUSTA

DAY 12

Port Augusta

In the morning, check out the Wadlata Outback Centre. Known as the “Tunnel of Time”. The centre takes you back to the beginning, where the dinosaurs would roam the land. From here, you will learn the traditional stories of the Dreamtime and how the lands around you formed. The tunnel takes you to when the Flying Doctors and School of the Air was established, and into present day. It is one not to miss.

Spend the afternoon immersing yourself in the cultural works of the area at the Port Augusta Cultural Centre – Yarta Purtli. Enjoy the gallery spaces and see artworks from both local and interstate artists. Watch a show in the Institute Theatre and experience the artistic talent present in Port Augusta.

DRIVE

310 km from Port Augusta | **about 4 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **Augusta Highway**

DAY 13

Port Augusta to Adelaide

RETURN

Depart this morning and follow the National Highway A1 to the Princes Highway.

You have now finally arrived in Adelaide, the capital city of South Australia. Adelaide offers something for everybody, whether that be arts, culture, sport or adventure, you will not be disappointed.

Adelaide is home to many festivals, including the very popular Fringe Festivals, so check out what is on offer when you arrive. As well as the festivals, there are plenty of opportunities to go fishing, visit museums, try local produce or just relax in the city.

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.

Stay	Aspen Holidays Adelaide Caravan Park (formerly Adelaide Caravan Park)
Return guide	Plan your last day around your drop-off time, and check your branch's address and hours in the Adelaide branch list. See returning your campervan: choosing a drop-off time, what to do if you're running late and returning early.

Returning in Adelaide

Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite, Mighty and Mighty Lite share one branch at Parafield Gardens, 23 km north of the airport and on your side of the city as you come in from the north. It closes on Sundays from May to August: if you'd return on a Sunday then, return on the Saturday or Monday instead (pick-up and return times). These brands have no after-hours returns and charge $150 for a late return, so if you need the van longer, ask the rental company for an extension before your return day (after hours in Adelaide).

Return times are often earlier than people expect, so check your branch's in our list of Adelaide branches. Fill up near the branch before you return the van, and allow time for the return inspection. With an early flight, returning the day before takes the pressure off; otherwise book an afternoon flight (returning the van).

Enjoy the crossing: few drives anywhere feel this big.

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))
Adelaide: Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains (City of Adelaide (https://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/about-adelaide/our-city/reconciliation/))

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.

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