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COASTAL ROAD TRIP · 13 DAYS ONE WAY

Perth to Broome Self-Drive Itinerary

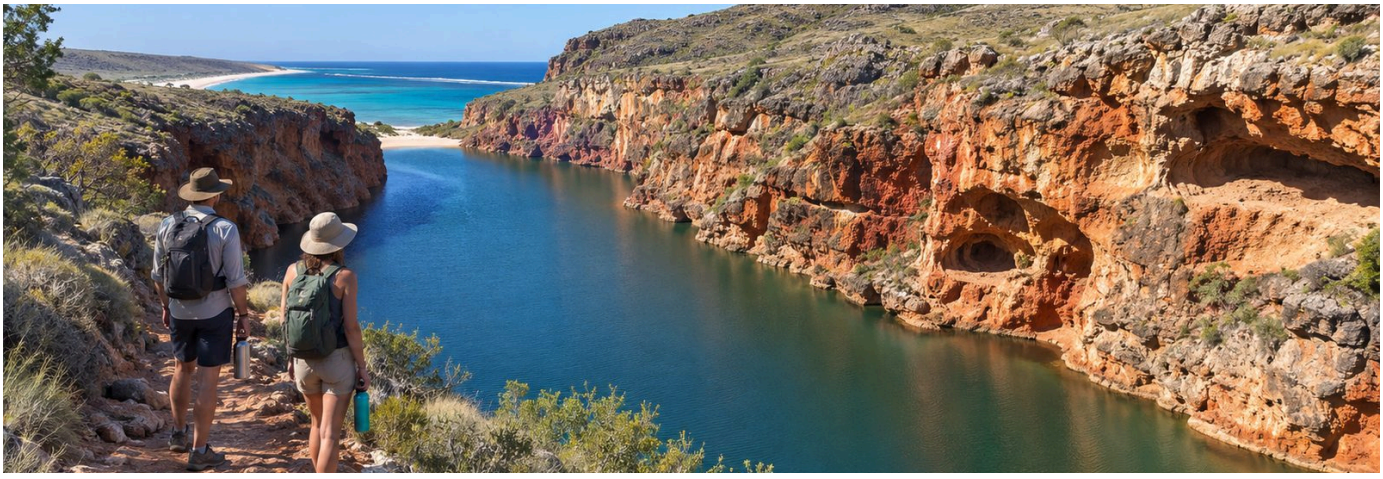
Here’s a great itinerary from our Res team taking you up the coast of Western Australia from Perth to Broome.

The most direct drive from Perth to Broome is about 2,200 km, inland or up the coast. This itinerary's detours to Shark Bay, Exmouth and Karijini make it longer. The highways north of Perth pass through remote country where wildlife on the road, especially kangaroos and cattle, is a real hazard after dark, so plan each day's drive to finish before dusk.

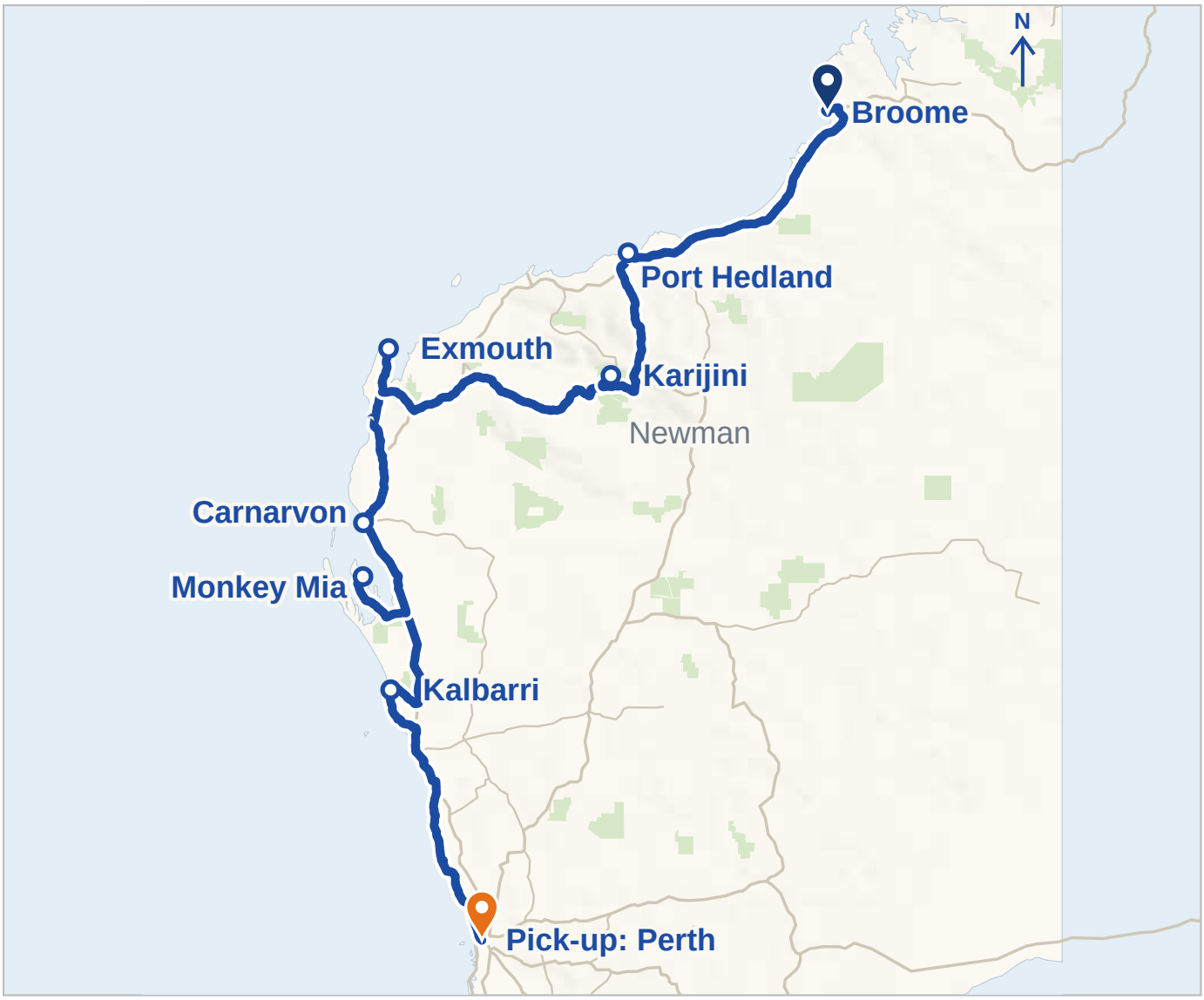
Want more time and a 4WD? Our 20-day Perth to Broome 4WD road trip on the blog covers the same coast more slowly, with side trips that need a 4WD. This page is the faster version for a 2WD campervan.

DISTANCE **About 3,380 km**	DAYS **13 days, 7 drives**	ROUTE **One way, Perth to Broome**	DRIVING TIME **About 50 h by campervan**
LONGEST DRIVE **655 km, Exmouth to Karijini**	VEHICLE **Campervan**	BEST TIME **May to October**	

This trip crosses the Country of the Whadjuk Noongar, Malgana, Banyjima, Kariyarra, Yawuru and other First Nations peoples. Traditional Custodians



Yardie Creek, Cape Range National Park, day 8 · Illustrative image



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

> North of Perth you're in remote country with long gaps between towns and patchy mobile coverage. Carry spare water, food and any prescription medication, and fill up whenever you can. In the wet season, generally December to April, rain can close even sealed roads in the north, so check the Main Roads WA travel map (https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/travelmap/) before each day's drive.

BEFORE YOU BOOK

Hiring a campervan for this trip

One way to Broome

Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite, Mighty and Campervan Village have branches in both Perth and Broome. Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite and Mighty charge a $300 one-way fee and a $900 Broome location fee for pick-ups up to 31 March 2027, and $310 and $930 from 1 April 2027. Both are in the total we quote, and you pay them to the rental company at

When you can go

The Apollo, Britz, Maui, Maui Elite and Mighty branch in Broome closes from 1 December to 31 March, so with these brands you can drive one way to Broome only from April to November. For 2027 they take returns in Broome again from 8 March. Campervan Village stays open over summer. See which branches open in the wet season.

pick-up. Between Perth and Broome these brands need at least 10 days, so this 13-day trip meets it. Our Broome page has each brand's fees.

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.

Long days
Days 2, 9 and 12 are each more than eight hours by campervan. Start early so you finish before dusk, and stop every couple of hours. To break one, add a day to your hire and stay a night on the way. Good stops are Cervantes, beside the Pinnacles, on Day 2, Tom Price on Day 9 and Eighty Mile Beach on Day 12. Fuel up whenever you can north of Carnarvon, where roadhouses are far apart.

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 1–2

Days 1–2: Perth and the Pinnacles

PICK-UP DAY IN PERTH

DAY 1

Perth

PICK-UP

Pick up your car or campervan 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. Perth is the capital of Western Australia, which is situated along the banks of the Swan River. The river twists through the city and ends at the port of Fremantle where you can enjoy a coffee on the ' Cappuccino ' strip, go down to the harbour to watch the boats come in. An absolute must is to visit King's Park, where you can overlook the hustle and bustle of the city amidst the calm of the Australian bush.

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

580 km from Perth | **about 8 h 45 min** by campervan

Via **Nambung National Park**

DAY 2

Perth to Kalbarri

This morning depart Perth and journey into Nambung National Park, home to the Pinnacles. Enjoy time to admire these eerie limestone pillars, which rise up to six metres from the shifting golden sand. Afterwards, continue to Kalbarri, the gateway to Kalbarri National Park on Western Australia's spectacular Coral Coast.

Long drive This is more than eight hours by campervan. To break it, stay the night at Cervantes, beside the Pinnacles, and add a day to your hire.

Stay Tasman Holiday Parks – Kalbarri (formerly Murchison Caravan Park)

DAYS 3–6

Days 3–6: Shark Bay

DRIVE

400 km from Kalbarri | **about 5 h 30 min** by campervan

Via **North West Coastal Highway**

DAY 3

Kalbarri to Monkey Mia

3 NIGHTS

Discover the sights of Kalbarri National Park this morning. Take in amazing vistas from the natural rock formation, known as Nature's Window, and see the spectacular Murchison River. Travel onwards to Monkey Mia, maybe stop at Shell Beach for a seafood dinner.

Stay Three nights at RAC Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort

A DAY IN THE SHARK BAY WORLD HERITAGE AREA

DAY 4

World Heritage-listed Shark Bay

Journey to World Heritage-listed Shark Bay, one of the world's greatest wilderness treasures. The shallow waters of the beautiful area are divided by striking banks, peninsulas and islands, including Dirk Hartog Island, which was discovered by the Dutch more than four hundred years ago, in 1616. Shark Bay is a region of major zoological importance, home to around 26 species of endangered mammals.

A DAY TRIP TO DENHAM

DAY 5

Denham

Explore Denham, Australia's most westerly town, situated on the Peron Peninsula. Take in the interactive displays at the Shark Bay Interpretive Centre, where you can learn more about the incredible natural wonders and historic treasures of the local region. Take a stroll around the village and enjoy the exceptional views from Eagle Bluff.

DRIVE

350 km from Monkey Mia | **about 4 h 45 min** by campervan |

Via **Hamelin Pool**

DAY 6

Monkey Mia to Carnarvon

This morning at Monkey Mia, see the wild dolphins that swim close to shore (subject to appearance). The famously playful bottlenose dolphins have delighted guests for years, visit Hamelin Pool to see the stromatolites, dome-shaped layered structures formed in shallow water and known to be the world's oldest known living organisms. Continue to Carnarvon.

Check first:
The Hamelin Pool viewing boardwalk has been closed since Cyclone Seroja in 2021, and a new one is being built. Until it opens, you see the stromatolites from the shore near the old quarry, so bring binoculars.

Stay Plantation Caravan Park, Carnarvon

DAYS 7–10

Days 7–10: Ningaloo, Exmouth and Karijini

DRIVE

390 km from Carnarvon | **about 5 h 30 min** by campervan | Via **Coral Bay**

DAY 7

Carnarvon to Exmouth

2 NIGHTS

Journey to Ningaloo Reef Marine Park, Australia's largest and most accessible fringing reef. On arrival at Coral Bay, maybe join a cruise aboard a glass-bottom boat and view the colourful tropical fish and forests of corals that make up this reef. Depending on season, look out for the famous whale shark, as well as dolphins, dugongs, manta rays and humpback whales. The beaches of the reef are vital to loggerhead, green and hawksbill turtles, which breed along the shore. Later, continue to Exmouth, the gateway to the Coral Coast.

Stay Two nights at RAC Exmouth Cape Holiday Park

A DAY IN CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK

DAY 8

Cape Range National Park

Enjoy a full day today to explore Cape Range National Park, a spectacular place of rugged limestone ranges, breathtaking deep canyons and 50 kilometres of pristine beaches. The national park, which encompasses Ningaloo Reef Marine Park, is famous for the striking contrast of the turquoise waters of the nearby bay with the rocky, yet verdant topography of Cape Range itself. During your time in the park, you'll enjoy a cruise on Yardie Creek through Yardie Gorge. Fed by the nearby ocean, the gorge boasts deep-blue water, red limestone cliff faces and a wonderful array of birds and wildlife, including the rare black-flanked rock-wallaby and red kangaroos.

Park entry Cape Range National Park charges a vehicle entry fee, and Yardie Creek boat tours need a minimum number of passengers, so book ahead.

DRIVE

655 km from Exmouth | **about 11 h 15 min** by campervan | Via **Tom Price**

DAY 9

Exmouth to Karijini National Park

LONGEST DRIVE | 2 NIGHTS

Travel through the mining town of Tom Price. At the base of Mount Nameless, the town is a showcase for the rich red and gold hues of the Pilbara. Continue on to Karijini National Park, known for its rugged red landscapes, spectacular gorges, waterfalls and refreshing swimming holes. With a two night stay in the heart of this beautiful national park, you'll enjoy plenty of time to explore all that Karijini has to offer.

Roads	The roads into Karijini, including the road to Karijini Eco Retreat, are now sealed. If the day is too long, you can break it with a night in Tom Price.
Stay	Two nights at Karijini Eco Retreat

A DAY IN KARIJINI

DAY 10

Karijini National Park

Enjoy a full day to discover the contrasting landscapes of Karijini National Park. Here, the ever-changing light, colours and reflections highlight the intriguing geological structures of the park. Spectacular gorges, waterfalls and leafy verdure provide a luscious setting compared to the arid landscapes of the Pilbara, while the tropical climate has allowed a vast range of flora and fauna to thrive. Visit Dales Gorge, Fortescue Falls and Oxer Lookout. Perhaps walk to stunning Joffre Falls, located near the eco retreat.

DAYS 11–13: Port Hedland and Broome

DRIVE

395 km from Karijini | **about 5 h 45 min** by campervan | Via **Great Northern Highway**

DAY 11

Karijini to Port Hedland

Visit Millstream-Chichester National Park, one of the most pleasant stopovers in the state's north west. In between the rocky escarpments and spinifex-covered hills, the park's rock pools and gorges form

refreshing oases. Continue to the largest town in the Pilbara, Port Hedland. It's one of the world's highest tonnage ports due to the rich Iron Ore mining industry in the region. Huge ships export this sought after mineral to Japan, China, South Korea and Europe where it's turned into steel, most commonly used in these parts of the world for car manufacturing.

> ⚠ **Check first:**
> Millstream Chichester National Park, which older versions of this itinerary visit today, is reached only on unsealed roads from Karijini, and the Rio Tinto access road needs a permit. Campervans aren't allowed on these roads. Visit it only in a 4WD, with your rental company's permission.

Stay Discovery Parks – Port Hedland (formerly Cooke Point Holiday Park)

DRIVE

615 km from Port Hedland | **about 8 h 45 min** by campervan

Via **Eighty Mile Beach**

DAY 12

Port Hedland to Broome

Break your journey to Broome with a stop at Eighty Mile Beach. Located half way between Port Hedland and Broome, Eighty Mile Beach forms a 220 kilometre-long coastline where the Great Sandy Desert meets the Indian Ocean.

Long drive This is more than eight hours by campervan. To break it, stay a night at Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park, about 10 km off the highway on a gravel road, and add a day to your hire.

Stay RAC Cable Beach Holiday Park, Broome (formerly Palm Grove Holiday Resort)

A DAY IN BROOME

DAY 13

Broome

RETURN

Full day to explore Broome. Broome is a cosmopolitan town that has an interesting history and stunning natural beauty. Linked to its pearling and multicultural population, Broome has a reputation for its vibrant social life. Located in the attractive Roebuck Bay region, Broome is surrounded by sweeping white beaches, rich red outcrops and blazing turquoise water. Watch the sunset from Cable Beach.

Carrying on to Darwin? Follow our Darwin to Broome itinerary in reverse, through Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra and Katherine. Check the season first: parts of the Kimberley flood in the wet season (generally December to April).

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

Both branches are about 4 km from Broome Airport. 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 drive up the coast.

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))

Shark Bay: Malgana people (Shire of Shark Bay (https://www.sharkbay.wa.gov.au/Profiles/sharkbay/Assets/ClientData/council/Agenda25022026.pdf))

Karijini National Park: Banyjima, Yinhawangka and Kurrama people (Parks and Wildlife Service WA (https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park/karijini-national-park))

Port Hedland: Kariyarra people (Town of Port Hedland (https://www.porthedland.wa.gov.au/our-community/community/welcome-to-country.aspx))

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))

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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