

Western Australia (WA)



Western Australia is the largest state of Australia with only 10 % of the population. The attraction of this state is the diversity of different landscapes.

The South offers an outstanding coastline, a huge forest area with

hundreds of years old native trees and the Margaret River wine area. While further north you have the opportunity to watch dolphins from close proximity or to visit some of Australia's most spectacular national parks in the Kimberly's.



Western Australia – Overview and Highlights –

- Perth – a capital with character
- Rottnest Island – popular recreation area
- South West – wildflowers, vineyards, art galleries, dolphins and beautiful beaches
- Kalgoorlie – goldfields
- Nambung National Park – Pinnacles
- Kalbarri National Park – outstanding gorges
- Shark Bay – Monkey Mia – wild dolphins at the beach
World Heritage listed 1991
- Ningaloo Reef – Scuba Diving and Snorkelling
& watching whale sharks, Manta Rays, Humpback Whales and turtles
- Karijini National Park – impressive gorges and water falls
- Broome – popular holiday destination
- Kimberly – some of Australia's most spectacular national parks
- Climate tables – Perth, Albany, Kalgoorlie, Broome

You will find more details, about the above mentioned attractions and activities in the following section. Additionally, we have provided some climate tables.



Perth, the most isolated city on earth, is closer to Singapore than to Sydney. Nearly 80% of the 1.8 Million population of Western Australia are living in the capital, while the other 360,000 people are spread out over a huge land area. The beautifully located **Kings Park** the city's botanical gardens, offers attractive picnic grounds, plenty

of information about native fauna and good views over the city. **The Western Australian Museum** and the **Art Gallery of Western Australia** have excellent exhibitions on Aboriginal culture. The **Western Australian Museum** houses a large collection on meteorites and marine life, while the exhibition of the **Art Gallery of Western Australia** showcases paintings of Western Australia. A visit to Perth is not complete without a visit to **Freemantle**, which is the harbour of Perth.

Try dinner at one of the excellent Italian restaurants on the **Cappuccino Strip**, browse through the **Freemantle Markets** or just have a wonder around and enjoy the many heritage buildings and soak up the Mediterranean atmosphere of Freemantle.



You can reach **Rottneest Island** by ferry from Perth and Freemantle. The only ways to explore this little island are by bike, bus, train or foot, as there are no cars allowed. Take your pick of the idyllic beaches and have a swim in the clear water of the

Indian Ocean, or you might prefer snorkelling or scuba diving. The local animal on Rottneest Island is the **Quokka**, which has its last refuge on this little island.





The area Southeast of Perth is popular for its big variety on natural attractions and forms a nice contrast to the rest of the desert like landscape of this state, only interrupted by



some very impressive national parks. Enjoy carpets of **wildflowers** in spring time (September till November) or taste one or more of the awarded wines of the **Margaret River vineyards**. This region offers additionally the best surf in Western Australia and is a paradise for surfer.



You can swim with dolphins in the coastal villages of **Bunbury, Busselton and Dunsborough** or you may prefer to just watch these fascinating creatures from the beach.

Augusta, another little coastal village, offers a rare opportunity to watch the sunrise over the Southern Ocean and the sunset over the Indian Ocean. To add

to the variety of attractions in this area you can also visit excellent lime stone caves.

The coast around **Albany and Esperance** is spectacular. You can explore coastal cliffs, white



sandy beaches, small coves or long stretches of beach and turquoise clear water and beautiful groups of



islands. The attractive national parks **Cape Le Grand, Cape Arid and Fitzgerald**, invite you to swim, fish or hike. It's not only the coast that is worth a visit, the inland offers also some fascinating scenic landscape and rock formations (**Wave Rock**).

The second largest city of Western Australia **Kalgoorlie – Boulder** is located about 600 kilometres (375 miles) east of Perth. The city was founded 1893 as a gold mining town and is still today the most profitable gold mine in Australia. You will find many heritage buildings in the main street and some quietly ignored brothels in the side streets. Some of them offer guided tours during the day. The **Hannan's North Tourist Mine**, is to be found just outside the main city. It shows you an old gold mining camp and gives the opportunity to have a look at a gold mine 30 metres underground. If you want to try your luck, you can hire equipment and go gold digging. The excellent **Museum of Gold Fields** displays interesting historic photographs and a lift takes you up to the viewing platform where you can look out over the city and mines. Some insight into an old Aussie tradition offers the **Two Up School**, a school for the Australian game, which is often played in Australian casinos.



The main attraction of the **Nambung National Park** is the **Pinnacles Desert** (Limestone pillars thousands of years old), some only a few centimetres high, others towering up to 5 metres with the deep-blue

Indian Ocean forming a contrasting background to this fascinating desert scenery.

Further north you will find the **Kalbarri National Park** where you can climb into the deep **Z-Bend Gorge** and the **Loop** with a variety of different hikes.



Monkey Mia within the World Heritage Listed **Shark Bay National Park** is one of the few sites on earth, where you can watch wild dolphins coming very close to the beach. Two to three dolphins come into the shallows several times daily to have a look at the tourists, who come to see them. Additionally you can go on a cruise to see more dolphins or maybe even sea turtles or dugongs.

Further north is the **Ningaloo Reef**, which can be reached from **Coral Bay** or **Exmouth**. This Reef is very close to the coast and some parts of this fascinating underwater world can be accessed directly from the beach. It is also a breeding ground for turtles (November to January) and from March until July you have the opportunity to go snorkelling with whale sharks (the biggest fish on earth). For the less adventurous, you can just watch them without getting your feet wet. It is also possible to see humpback whales or Manta Rays (from July until November) or, of course you can go scuba diving or snorkelling to enjoy the marine life.



The **Karijini National Park** is popular for its deep gorges, waterfalls and natural pools, which invite you to a refreshing dip after a hard climb. The **Oxers Lookout** is an excellent place for an overview over parts of this park. One of the best climbs brings you to the **Circular Pools** and **Fortesque Falls** within the **Dales Gorge**. This hard climb will be rewarded with the refreshing feeling of water out of the waterfall



running down your back or just with a dip into one of the natural pools along the way.

The whole area of Northern Australia has two seasons. The dry (April till October) and the wet (November till March), when parts of this region will be completely cut off and streets may be flooded and impossible to pass.

Another reason to avoid travelling in the wet season to Northern Australia is the Box Jelly Fish, which is very dangerous to humans and is active during this time in the ocean around Northern Australia.

The former pearl centre **Broome** has grown to a popular tourist destination with it's special attraction due to the all year around pleasant air- and water temperatures. Some of the attractions are the **Crocodile Farm**, the **Stairs to the Moon**, a natural spectacle which shows the reflection of the moon over the ocean (only at full moon between April and October), a camel ride along the famous **Cable Beach**, or catch a movie at the open air cinema under the stars of the Southern Hemisphere. Broome is also starting point for many excursions into the Kimberly region.

Activities: Jet Boating, sailing, swimming, biking, bird watching, Aboriginal tours

The national parks within the North of Western Australia are only accessible for 4WD cars and most car rental companies allow their vehicles only on certain routes.

A journey to the many spectacular national parks of the **Kimberly's** is one of the last real adventures, as this area is still relatively undeveloped. The **Geikie Gorge National Park** offers fantastic scenic views over the gorge, boat tours through the gorge and Aboriginal Tours which give some insight into their traditional bush tucker, history of this region and into their culture. The **Winjana Gorge National Park** is famous for its 3.5 kilometre gorge and at one point along the way it is 90 metres in depth. While in the **Tunnel Creek National Park** you can walk through a 750 metres long and up to 3 metres wide tunnel which has some historical significance and several paintings of the local Aboriginal communities. Probably the most well known national park within the Kimberly's is the **Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park** which is located about 900 kilometres (561 miles) east of Broome. The long trip will be rewarded however, with a unique and spectacular landscape. The best way to see this vast area is by air, although there are some hikes with various lengths and difficulties as an option. The last attraction I would like to mention here is **Lake Argyle** and the world's largest Diamond Mine. Lake Argyle is the largest freshwater lake in Australia, however, water sport activities are prohibited as there are approximately 20,000 crocodiles inhabiting the lake area. Therefore, the best way to explore this unique landscape is by boat.

Climate Tables

Please note, that the following charts show average temperatures.

Perth	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Maximum °C	30	31	29	25	21	19	18	18	20	22	25	27
Minimum °C	18	19	17	14	12	10	9	9	10	12	14	17
Maximum °F	86	87.8	84.2	77	69.8	66.2	64.4	64.4	68	71.6	77	80.6
Minimum °F	64.4	66.2	62.6	57.2	53.6	50	48.2	48.2	50	53.6	57.2	62.6
Rainfall mm	8	12	19	45	123	184	173	136	80	54	21	14
Raindays	3	3	4	8	14	17	18	17	14	11	6	4

Albany Region	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Maximum °C	25	25	24	22	19	17	16	16	17	19	21	24
Minimum °C	14	14	13	12	10	8	8	7	8	9	11	12
Maximum °F	77	77	73.4	71.6	66.2	62.6	60.8	60.8	62.6	66.2	69.8	75.2
Minimum °F	57.2	57.2	55.4	53.6	50	46.4	46.4	44.6	46.4	48.2	51.8	53.6
Rainfall mm	27	24	28	63	102	103	124	106	82	78	48	25
Raindays	8	9	11	14	18	19	21	21	18	15	13	10

Kalgoorlie Region	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Maximum °C	34	32	30	25	20	18	17	18	22	26	29	32
Minimum °C	18	18	16	12	8	6	5	5	8	11	14	17
Maximum °F	93.2	89.6	86	77	68	64.4	62.6	64.4	71.6	78.8	84.2	89.6
Minimum °F	64.4	64.4	60.8	53.6	46.4	42.8	41	41	46.4	51.8	57.2	62.6
Rainfall mm	22	28	19	19	28	31	26	20	15	16	18	15
Raindays	3	4	4	5	7	8	9	7	5	4	4	3

Broome Region	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Maximum °C	36	35	35	35	33	31	30	32	35	36	37	37
Minimum °C	26	26	25	22	19	16	14	16	20	23	25	26
Maximum °F	96.8	95	95	95	91.4	87.8	86	89.6	95	96.8	98.6	98.6
Minimum °F	78.8	78.8	77	71.6	66.2	60.8	57.2	60.8	68	73.4	77	78.8
Rainfall mm	182	155	110	32	22	10	6	1	0	2	17	84
Raindays	12	10	8	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	6