

Kalbarri Coral Coast

Distance: 50km Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Welcome to your next adventure with Inspiration Outdoors. Here are a few details to help you get prepared. . .

Pick up and Drop Off:

We depart at 7:30am from the Tourist Coach Stand at 490 Wellington Street, near the corner of William Street in Perth (or 6.50am from Fremantle if requested). Keep an eye out for one of our friendly crew on an Inspiration Outdoors branded mini bus. Here is a google maps link for your reference. <https://goo.gl/maps/whNjBqLXayv>. And here's what it looks like at street level <https://goo.gl/maps/2E8bSdWsoHH2>

At the end of the tour, you will be dropped off to the Monkey Mia/Shark Bay airport just after lunch in time to get the scheduled 13:35 flight (not included in tour price ~ \$150- \$250; or more during peak season), arriving in Perth at 15:35. For those returning to the East Coast, there should be plenty of time to make an evening flight out of Perth.

Departure City: **Perth**

Where should I stay the night prior to the tour?

With an early departure, we recommend a night in Perth for those coming from interstate or overseas. (The city of Perth is roughly 1/2hr away from the airport) There is no train line to Perth airport so your options are either a Taxi or an airport shuttle. All the below hotels are within easy walking distance from the pick up location.

- The Ibis on Murray Street (This is a favourite pick as it's only 50m away!)
- The Comfort Inn on Murray Street
- Mantra on Murray
- Four Points by Sheraton on Wellington Street

****First day reminder****

Once we pick you up from either Perth or Fremantle it is a 2.5hr drive to the Pinnacles, our first stop. Please come dressed in your walking gear with your day pack and water ready to go. While we only stroll around the Pinnacles you will be completing a 7km walk in the afternoon at Mt Lesueur National Park. Your main luggage will be stowed in a trailer and available to you when we reach the accommodation in Jurien Bay at the end of the day. There are various opportunities to purchase alcohol during the trip including Jurien Bay, Geraldton and Kalbarri.

Give us a call if you have any questions!
08 6219 5164 or walk@inspirationoutdoors.com.au

Plane and Boat travel on tour

In order to get to the Abrolhos Islands we fly over in a small plane. If you are prone to motion sickness or have a fear of small aircraft this is something you should consider. There is also a ferry ride over to Dirk Hartog Island but the stretch is usually quite calm so sea sickness shouldn't be an issue.

Washing facilities and Internet

Jurien Bay Motel, the IBIS in Geraldton and Kalbarri Edge Resort all provide free Wifi, Dirk Hartog Island Eco Lodge does not. Dirk Hartog Island Eco Lodge is quite remote, only Telstra phones will be able to get limited reception. Both the IBIS, Kalbarri Edge Resort and Dirk Hartog Eco Lodge have clothes washing facilities. Jurien Bay apartments has a laundry mat just down the road if you need.

Wildflowers

Just like anything in nature we can't guarantee it. We have made sure this tour runs at the peak of the wildflower season where carpets of everlasting are usually in abundance.

Accommodation on Dirk Hartog Island

Please note that our last 2 nights are spent at the remote Dirk Hartog Island Eco Lodge. This accommodation consist of only 6 rooms, hence why we can't provide any single supplements for these 2 nights. This accommodation is basic and rustic with a fun castaway atmosphere. You will love it!

What should i pack?

- Day-pack – with a thick waist strap to help take some weight off your shoulders. In wet weather, a waterproof cover or a bin bag to wrap your belongings in can be handy
 - Shorts/long pants and shirts for walking – as many sets as you wish! Quick-dry material is best, especially for trousers. Don't wear jeans walking.
 - Socks – whichever thickness you're comfortable walking in and as many pairs as you like
 - Boots/shoes for walking (make sure you wear them in well – see note on footwear below)
 - Windcheater or lightweight jumper for walking
 - Waterproof jacket*
 - Sun protection – hat (secure fitting and/or with chin strap), sun cream, sun glasses
 - Casual clothes for evenings
 - Torch/headlamp (can be handy when twin sharing for getting up at night)
 - Any preferred first aid supplies – such as your favourite blister treatment! (Your guide will carry a full first-aid kit)
 - Water bottle/s or camelback – 2 to 3 litre capacity
 - A lunch container (with freezer brick if desired)
- *You have to expect some bad weather at any time of the year, so bring wet weather gear even if the forecast is fine.

Optional items

- Waterproof pants. Some people love them and some hate them – personally, we don't wear them but there have been times when we have wished for a pair!
- Fly net
- Camera and charger/batteries
- Gaiters for snake bite protection are recommended unless you are wearing long pants and long socks. They're also good for keeping sand out of your shoes.
- Sandals for the beach in the Abrolhos Islands
- Bathers and towel
- Small towel to carry during the day

- Snacks and alcohol – there will be time to purchase more during the week if you need to. Some people like to have some muesli bars, nuts, lollies etc
- Walking poles

Getting ready for your walk. . .

The itinerary has been designed to be very achievable to those of reasonable fitness. A positive mental attitude is most important. If you focus on the scenery, the company and the moment, not on the kilometres, then you find yourself reaching your destination with little problem. If you have done some training prior to the walk you will enjoy it all the more.

The best way to prepare physically for the trip is to walk, walk and walk some more – preferably in sand and over a variety of terrain. Try to walk frequently. Even walking around your suburb will get you walk-fit. By the start of the tour you should be able to comfortably walk 10km. However, walking small distances frequently helps a lot. For instance, walking 3km four times a week, and 5km once a week, is a great help. And start walking in the shoes you will wear on the walk now.

We know that this type of preparation is difficult to fit into a busy schedule. If you don't have the time to do long walks, we recommend doing regular stair walking sessions. If you're doing short training sessions, make sure you get yourself puffed and sweaty. Otherwise you won't benefit from your efforts.

And start walking in the shoes you will wear on the walk now!

Looking after your feet

Footwear is very personal and we prefer people wear what feels comfortable. Walking shoes shouldn't be too tight, but your foot shouldn't slip around in them either. If you're buying new shoes, go shopping after a long walk so your feet are a bit swollen. The best places to buy walking boots/shoes will have some sort of ramp that you can stomp up and down on and make sure there is no pressure on your toes and heels.

Boots can provide ankle support and help keep the sand out. Some hiking boots can be quite heavy. These are great for cold weather alpine hiking but they do tend to tire your legs quicker and heat your feet. There are plenty of lightweight boots available which are great for most West Australian conditions.

You might prefer to wear sneakers on your walk or a sturdy pair of sandals have also proven to be a good substitute for shoes when feet have blistered, and for beach sections. You are welcome to bring two pairs and alternate.



The main thing is to make sure you know your footwear well – try them out in a variety of terrains and do a few long walks. We cannot emphasise enough that you have well worn in shoes or boots, good socks, and first aid for the prevention and treatment of blisters.

Preventing blisters: To prevent blister formation, we highly recommend using 'fixomull' or a similar tape on heels and toes where rubbing is likely to occur – ask for it at your pharmacy. Some walkers also wear two pairs of socks to prevent blisters forming – a thin inner pair and a thicker outer pair. Others swear by Hikerswool applied between toes and over pressure points.

The principle of blister prevention is to transfer any friction, caused by the movement of your foot inside your shoe, onto the fixomull tape or the extra sock, rather than onto your skin. If you know that your feet have a tendency to blister in certain spots, tape them before you walk. We are happy to help you with this. If you feel any rubbing or a 'hot spot' whilst walking, the best thing to do is stop and do something about it. In all instances, prevention is better than cure. Blisters are very difficult to dress so as to be able to walk comfortably.

Treating blisters: Blister treatments vary and you may have your favourites. The second skin variety seems good, though you will also need good tape to keep it in place. Second skin treatments often have a sterile gel pack that pads and protects the blister from further friction. They can also be used as a (more expensive) preventative measure. Blister Block or Compeed are examples of this type of dressing.

A thick moleskin type plaster is also good to carry for blister treatment. Holes can be cut into moleskin to fit around a blister and a plaster put on top of that. This way there is little pressure put on the blister itself.

Walking poles are very popular these days – especially the lightweight aluminium shock absorbing type. They help to take some pressure off your knees going downhill and can help you get uphill too! However, if you have good knees and strong legs you may not need them.

A lot has been published about the pros and cons of walking poles – we're sure you can get the full story from the net. If

you do choose them it's worthwhile practicing how to use them correctly so you get their full advantage. Try to use your arms as much as possible – by placing the poles opposite arm to leg and applying pressure as you step forward. Find someone knowledgeable in the shop where you purchase them to give you some tips. We can always help you when on tour.

Just in case...

We hope that you do not need to cancel your booking. However, if you do, our cancellation fee, based on the notice given prior to the departure date, is:

- More than 12 weeks: \$50 administration fee
- 6 to 12 weeks: loss of deposit
- 4 to 6 weeks: 25% of full tour cost
- 2 to 4 weeks: 50% of full tour cost
- less than 2 weeks: 100% of full tour cost, no refund

If you have any concerns about cancelling, please take out travel insurance covering this contingency. This policy will be adhered to despite the most compelling and compassionate circumstances.