Karijini National Park and Ningaloo Reef

Distance: Various walk lengths up to 10km Duration: 10 Days / 9 Nights

RUNS FROM PARABURDOO TO EXMOUTH in Western Australia

Level: ***Moderate to Challenging***

Explore the dramatic gorges of Karijini National park, and soak up the beauty of the Ningaloo reef on this amazing guided tour. This is an active holiday that will leave you feeling on top of the world, with the perfect blend of activity and rest.

Our Karijini National Park and Ningaloo reef tour is designed to give you an in depth walking tour of Karijini as well as an opportunity to swim with the whale sharks and snorkel on the Ningaloo reef. There is plenty of time to swim in many of the gorges and ample time to relax and take in the tranquil atmosphere and beautiful landscapes. By flying into Paraburdoo and out of Exmouth we have minimised driving time.

Due to the remote locations we visit this tour is a comfortable camping tour in semi permanent tents. Keep reading below for some more information on what to expect.

As this tour takes us to some remote places it is one of our comfortable camping-based tours. Each guest will stay in a semi permanent tent, with a cosy camping bed.

What our guests say:

"A very well organized and run tour. Our 2 guides, Malcolm and Campbell, led our group of 14 in a professional, but entertaining manner.The gorge vistas were spectacular, and each gorge had its own highlight and character...it was never mainstream or boring. Karijini seems to be not widely known on the tourist path but this will change as word gets out. There was plenty to do each day or you could kick back for a bit, so the programming of attractions and activities was a big plus for my wife and I. I have recommended this tour to all my friends since arriving home."
David, 2019, Trip Advisor

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

Itinerary:

We start our tour in Paraburdoo and head north up to Karijini, where we take in some of the world's most striking features and landscapes. Our leisurely pace allows plenty of time to soak in the feel of the Pilbara and to swim in the many idyllic swimming holes. Starting in Karijini we will walk, swim and explore through many ancient gorges, then it's off to Cheela Plains station stay for a ridgee didge outback station stay, before we drive across to Exmouth and the fabulous Ningaloo Reef. Fly back home from Exmouth with memories that will last a lifetime.

Some of the walks are easy and some are quite challenging, but all are spectacular and you are often rewarded with a refreshing swim at the end. You only carry a day pack as you walk and there is often the option to turn back when you wish. All walks are less than 10 km but each has its challenges. The terrain is rocky and there is a lot of ascending and descending – both for the peaks and the gorge walks. A reasonable level of fitness, mobility and balance is required to fully enjoy the trip.

N/B The itinerary may vary according to conditions and advice.

Day 1

Arrival Day. Fly into Paraburdoo drive to Karijini National Park

We will pick you up from the airport at Paraburdoo and head into the beautiful Karijini National Park in time for sunset drinks and dinner.*

Upon booking we will let you know which flight into Paraburdoo you will need to book onto.

*Due to flight availability the itinerary may change slightly. All departure dates will still go to all the same gorges and sights.

Accommodation: Karijini National Park – Eco Retreat
Meals: D

Day 2

Kalamina Gorge, Karijini Visitors Centre and Dales Gorge

First up today, we will head deep into the park to check out the spectacular Kalamina gorge. Though the path is rocky and uneven under foot this is one of the easier walks with a mostly gentle descent. At the bottom of the gorge, we will be

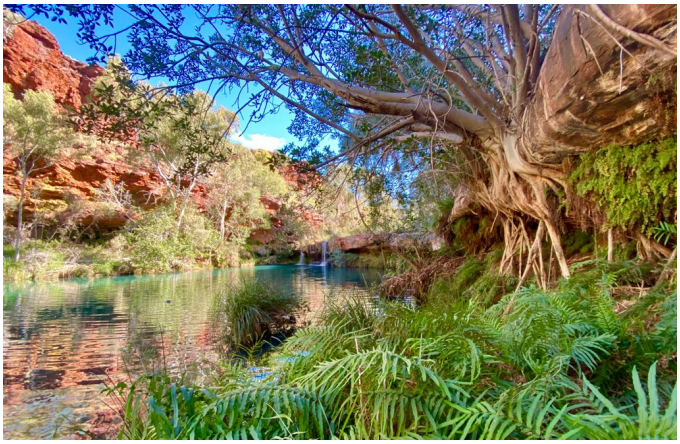
rewarded by one of Karijini's perfect swimming holes where we can cool off.

After Kalamina gorge, we will take the opportunity to stop in at the Visitor's centre to check out the information about the park and grab yourself an ice cream. After a picnic lunch, we will go to Dale's Gorge where we will spend the rest of the afternoon. Dale's, Circular pool and Fern Pool are iconically Karijini. The stunning water holes with their deep red rocks and lush ferns, and waterfalls offer an experience you will remember for the rest of your life.

Once we have had a fill, we will head back to camp for meal under the stars.

Accommodation: Karijini National Park – Eco Retreat campground

Meals: B,L,D



Day 3
Mt Bruce

Mt Bruce is Western Australia's second highest peak. The Mt Bruce walk trail is a fantastic ridge walk, with some steep and rocky sections along the route. From one side you'll have the vista of Karijini Range; from the other an iron ore mine! The 9.5 km return walk will take us most of the day and is definitely worth the effort.

Accommodation: Karijini National Park – Eco Retreat campground.

Meals: B,L,D

Day 4
Hancock and Weano Gorge

We'll explore two of the most iconic gorges in Karijini – Hancock and Weano. The walks are challenging in places, but not difficult. Both involve some wading and clambering on rocks and ledges; and both reward us with fantastic jade pools nestled deep within the narrow gorge walls. Highlights include Kermits Pool and Handrail Pool.

Accommodation: Karijini National Park – Eco Retreat campground.

Meals: B,L,D

Day 5
Walk to Joffre gorge, drive to Cheela Plains (via Tom Price)

Before we say goodbye to Karijini we will walk from our campsite to Joffre Gorge. Navigating some fairly large boulders we'll find a natural amphitheatre, with a waterfall and a delightful paddling pool. A little further down the gorge it drops into the 'Olympic Swimming Pool' which is around a 200m swim with sheer cliffs either side.

After lunch we depart Karijini for Cheela Plains (approx. 200km drive), a true outback station stay where you will be amazed by the night sky of the desert on an included astronomy tour

Accommodation: Cheela Plains Station Stay.

Meals: B,L,D

Day 6
Drive to Exmouth

Time to rest the legs on a travel day. Western Australia is a big place so it will take us much of the day to get across to Exmouth.

We will arrive with time to watch the sun set into the Indian Ocean.

Accommodation: Yardi Homestead Caravan Park.
Meals: B,L,D

Day 7
Optional Whale shark or snorkelling tours

What is a trip to Ningaloo with the opportunity to swim with the whale sharks? Some of our guests have said the experience is "one of the best things I have ever done in my life".

High praise!

The tours are optional, but highly recommend. Alternative activities are available and can be arranged for those who do not want to do a Whale shark tour.

Accommodation: Yardie Homestead Caravan Park.
Meals: B,D *(Lunch is included on both the Whale Shark and snorkelling tours)*

Day 8
Yardie creek walk and snorkel turquoise

Today we will explore Cape Range national park, with a series of short walks, snorkels and swims along the coast.

Spot rock wallabies and an incredible array of sea life on this wonderful day. We will explore Mandu Mandu gorge and Yardi Creek gorge then head to Turquoise Bay on Ningaloo Reef for a swim and snorkel before heading back to Yardie Homestead for our last night..

Accommodation: Yardie Homestead Caravan Park
Meals: B,L,D

Day 9

Charles knife canyon and snorkel Oyster stacks

Having experienced Ningaloo from the water, today we will spend a bit more time on dry land. Known locally as the Badjirrajirra Trail, this 6.8km walk will take us into the heart of the Cape Range National park. With gorges cut into the limestone karst, the trail leads us through spinifex country offering views that seemingly go on forever.

Compared to some of our exploits in Karijini this trail will be relatively easy. The heat can definitely be a factor though, so we may have to augment today's itinerary if this is the case.

That said, after exploring the Charles Knife Canyon, we will head back to the blue waters of Ningaloo for another opportunity to snorkel. This time visit Oyster stacks with its rich array of marine life. Hopefully we will spot a turtle!

After another full day of exploring, we will head back to camp for the last night.

Accommodation: Yardie Homestead Caravan Park

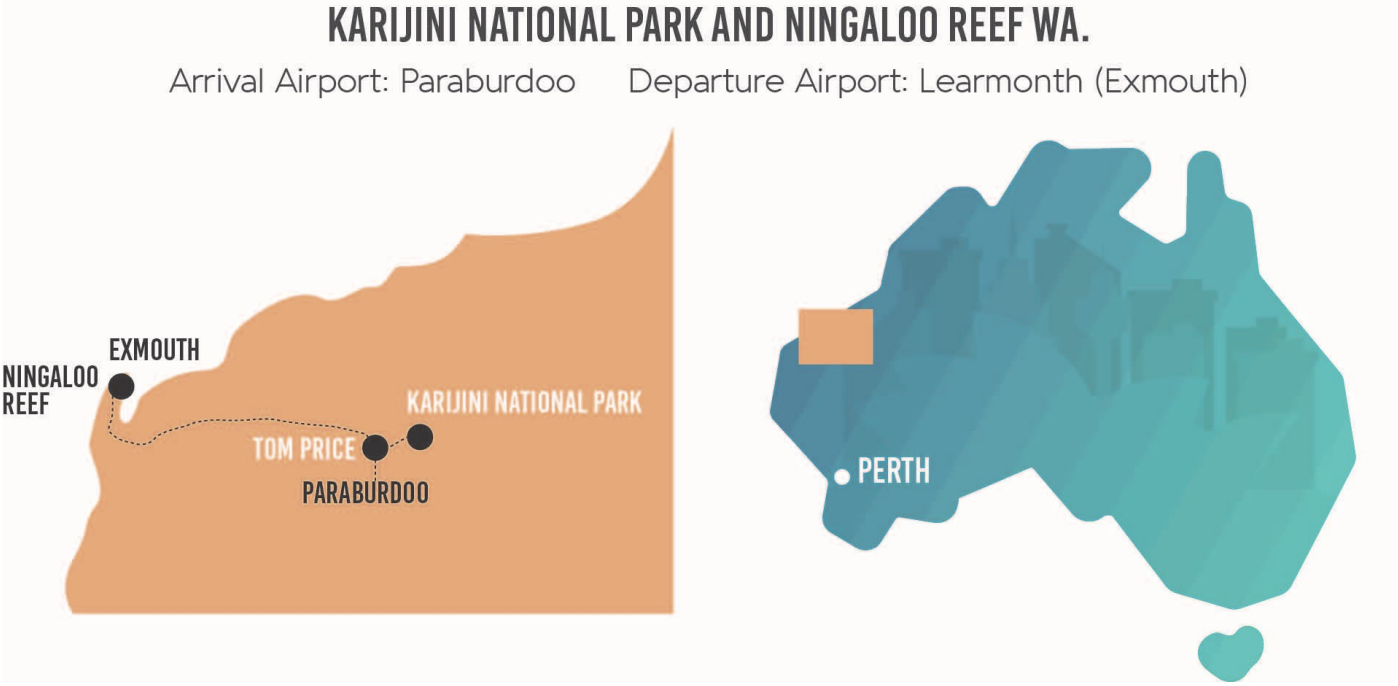
Meals: B,L,D

Day 10
Departure day

Our last day! After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to Perth, or alternatively make your own onwards travel arrangements.

Please note: Flights from Exmouth (Learmonth) Airport are operated by Qantas and not included in the package price. Please book flights 11am or later to return to Perth onwards. The tour team will drop you at the airport in time for your flight. Some flights which depart on the weekend are only in the afternoon, at which time guests will be dropped into the township of Exmouth and a shuttle will take them to the airport after lunch

Meals: B



The Fine Details

Cost: $2,995 per person

What's included:

- Transport is by an air-conditioned custom built 4WD tour coach
- Professional guiding and support each day by 2 guides
- Emergency support: guides carry satellite phones and a full first aid kit
- 9 night's accommodation at campsites
- All park entry fees
- All camping equipment, except a sleeping bag and pillow
- 9 healthy breakfasts – cereal, fruit, yogurt, toast
- 8 morning teas
- 7 lunches
- Pre-dinner nibbles each night
- 9 delicious two course dinners
- Astronomy tour at Cheela Plains
- Excellent itinerary and planning

Where do we start from?

This tour starts in Paraburdoo in Western Australia and ends in Exmouth. You will need to fly into Paraburdoo the day the tour starts and catch a morning flight out of Exmouth the day the tour finishes.

Flights to Paraburdoo are operated by Qantas. When booking, we will specify your arrival flight which you will need to book (Refer to the 'Info for walkers' document for arrival flights). We will pick you up from the airport and off we go.

We will drop you off in the morning on the last day of the tour straight to Learmonth airport to catch a late morning flight through to Perth or elsewhere in Exmouth if you have post accommodation organised.

Is this tour for me?

This tour has been designed for active people with a love of nature and a bit of an adventurous streak. The majority of our guests are over 50 years old and walk, cycle or swim regularly (but not run half marathons!).

This is not a "hard core" hiking experience. Our guests are not content to sit on a bus all day but nor are we about forced marches. Our focus is on delivering a tour that does not rush, and has a good balance of activity and rest.

For the most part the walks are not particularly long however they do require walking over a lot of rocks which can be

challenging for some people not used to balancing. This is however something that can be improved prior to the tour.

Tell me more about the camping experience…

This is a camping tour with lots of comfort. (As we like to say it's a camping tour for non campers!) Each person will have the use of their own semi permanent tent as well as a knee high stretcher bed and mattress. Even if you are travelling with a friend or a significant other you will have access to your own tent or you are more than welcome to share. You will need to bring a pillow and sleeping bag or you can hire a sleeping bag from us for $35 (to cover dry cleaning at the end of the tour).

There are toilets and showers at all of the campsites.

Karijini Eco Retreat: Karijini Eco Retreat is an environmentally friendly accommodation and restaurant facility nestled in the pristine bushland at Joffre Gorge - in the heart of the world-class Karijini National Park. It is owned by Gumala Enterprises Pty Ltd (GEPL), the business arm of the Gumala Aboriginal Corporation, which is one of Australia's largest 100% Traditionally Owned organisations, serving the Banjima, Yinhawangka and Nyiyaparli people of the Pilbara region in Western Australia.

Cheela Plains Station Stay: This working station offers a ridgee didge outback station stay. Situated roughly 30km outside of Exmouth you'll enjoy staring at the stars all night long!

Yardie Homestead Campground: Yardie Homestead is a very special place near Exmouth, adjacent to the Ningaloo Marine Park and Indian ocean and just minutes from the entrance to the Cape Range National Park. It is situated 32km from Exmouth on the western seaboard of the North West Cape, surrounded by a wilderness of rugged ranges and pristine coastline.

A holiday isn't a holiday if there isn't time to relax and reflect on the day's adventures. Our guides are there to make sure your camping experience is enjoyable and will carry out all the campsite duties, of course any help is always appreciated. You'll spend the nights relaxing on comfortable armchairs enjoying the sights and sounds as you sit around the campfire, recapping the highlights of the day with your fellow travel companions.

Dietary requirements?

From vegetarians to pescatarians to meat loving carnivores with an aversion to cucumbers we cater for all dietary requirements and will make sure you are well fed and looked after on tour. Your resourceful guides will ensure that fresh local produce and ingredients are used when available.

Average Temperature (degrees):

April: 20 min - 34 max
May: 15 min - 29 max
June: 12 min - 25 max

How many guests will be on the tour?

This tour is guaranteed to depart and does not require a minimum number of guests. The maximum guests on this tour is 15.

Accompanying the group will be 2 guides from Inspiration Outdoors who will cook, drive and look after all of your needs while on tour.

What's the average age of walkers?

The average age of our guests are between 50-75 years young but we welcome any adult on our tours.

Ready to book?

Your next adventure is two steps away…

- Jump onto our website www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au , find your tour in the menu and click on the orange button in the top right hand corner that states, **'CheckAvailability/ Book Now'** alternatively call us on **08 6219 5164** (international calls dial **+618 62195164**) or email us at walk@InspirationOutdoors.com.au.

- Pay a $350pp deposit to secure your booking (full payment is required six weeks prior to departure or at time of booking if booking within six weeks).

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.

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