

# Ningaloo Coast

## World Heritage area

fact  
sheet

## Ningaloo

### Things to do

The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area is an internationally recognised, must see destination because of its exceptional natural beauty and diverse wildlife.

#### About the area

The Ningaloo Coast is in the hot and arid tropics of north-west Australia. The area attracts more than 230,000 visitors a year with most preferring to come during the winter months as summer time can be very hot. Exmouth (located 1,270 km north of Perth at the northern end of the Ningaloo Coast) and Coral Bay (153 km south of Exmouth) are the two main gateways to the World Heritage area. There is also access to the coast via the pastoral stations which offer a more adventurous, wilderness experience. Visitors can fly to Learmonth Airport (near Exmouth), self-drive or take a coach or commercial tour. Visitors planning to drive should be cautious when travelling after sunset because of the large numbers of wildlife and stock crossing the roads.



Milyering Discovery Centre in Cape Range National Park is a must visit

Credit: Tony Howard

when travelling after sunset because of the large numbers of wildlife and stock crossing the roads.

#### The Range to Reef Experience

The Ningaloo Coast is a nature lovers paradise offering a variety of range and reef experiences for visitors wanting to get up close and personal with wildlife and the environment.

#### The Range

Although the Ningaloo Coast is famous for its marine life, the adjacent Cape Range area is an impressive place of rugged limestone ranges, deep canyons and an abundance of wildlife such as birds, emus, kangaroos, echidnas, perenties, small marsupials and wildflowers.

### Great 8 of the Range

#### Camp beachfront @ Ningaloo:

Camp in some of the world's best campsites either in Cape Range National Park or on the stations for a wilderness experience.



#### Boat cruise and walk @ Yardie Creek Gorge:

Take a boat cruise (or use your own kayak) through the spectacular red limestone cliff faces or walk along the cliff top for amazing views of the gorge and the Ningaloo Coast. The area offers wildlife spotting at its best including birds such as ospreys and black-flanked rock-wallaby's hiding in the gorge walls.



#### Birdwatch @ Mangrove Bay:

From the comfort of a bird hide, observe the variety of bird life in this unique area of lagoonal mangroves and the marine life in the shallow waters.



#### Wildlife and wildflowers of Cape Range:



Take a leisurely drive to encounter and photograph all the Range has to offer - birds, wildlife, wildflowers and the amazing contrast and colours of the Ningaloo Coast. Wildflowers are rain dependent but generally bloom from June - October.

#### Discover and shop @ Milyering Discovery Centre:

The solar powered, rammed earth centre is located in Cape Range NP. Here you can discover more about the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage wonders, grab a cool drink, snack, souvenir or holiday supplies and hire snorkel equipment.



#### Soak up the views @ Vlamingh Head:



The Vlamingh Head area has spectacular views of the coast, stunning sunsets and whale watching in the winter. You can also learn more about the North West Cape at the interpretation precinct.

#### Experience the east side:

Drive or walk the Charles Knife and Shothole Canyons on the east side of Cape Range. Shothole offers a close up view of the colourful rock layers and Charles Knife has downwards views into the deep gorges and out to Exmouth Gulf. Also visit the Operation Potshot WWII memorial site.



#### Choose your own adventure:



There are many tour operators offering ways to see the Range including scenic flights and more adventurous quad biking. Some operators provide the full range and reef experience.



# More on Ningaloo

## Things to do

### Great 8 of the Reef

#### Snorkel off the beach:

Get your snorkel gear and walk right off shore to experience some of the world's best coral and marine life - Turquoise Bay; Oyster stacks; Lakeside and Coral Bay. There is snorkeling along the Ningaloo Coast close to both the shore and offshore which you can get to with a boat or on a tour. There can be strong currents within the lagoon so please read warning signs, never snorkel alone and if in doubt don't go out!



Snorkel Ningaloo Reef right off the beach

Credit: Western Australian Tourism Commission



Swimming with Whale Sharks is a must do at Ningaloo

Credit: 3 Islands Whaleshark

#### Swim alongside Mega Marine Life:



Get up close by taking a tour to swim with whale sharks (March to July); humpback whales (June to – November); manta rays; with bonus encounters seeing turtles, dugongs, sharks and other marine life.

#### Dive deeper:

Scuba dive the Ningaloo Reef including the world famous navy pier. Dives sites are between 6m and 30m deep.



#### Kayak the Coast:

There are numerous kayak trails and moorings along the Ningaloo Coast which combine both kayaking and snorkelling.

#### Watch Coral Spawn:

This mass spawning event occurs in March, 7-10 days after the full moon. It is a spectacular site described as an underwater snowstorm.



#### Fish for the big and little:



There are recreational fishing spots along the entire Ningaloo Coast. Please note there are fishing regulations in Western Australia so enquire about sanctuary zones, bag and size limits.

#### See turtles nesting and hatching:

The area is one of the world's most important turtle rookeries with turtles nesting along the coast each summer. Visit the Jurabi Turtle Centre to learn more about turtles and join in an interactive turtle education evening to see turtles nesting in their natural environment.



#### Relax and explore the beach:



The beaches along the Ningaloo Coast are pristine and most of the time deserted. Turquoise Bay is frequently rated amongst the world's best beaches.

### The Reef

The Ningaloo reef boasts an abundance of beautiful corals and amazing marine life such as fish, dolphins, dugongs, turtles, manta rays and of course whale sharks. As an added bonus, the reef can be accessed by walking off the beach! Some marine life can be seen all year around but whale sharks, whales and nesting turtles only visit at certain times of year.



Listen to what our locals have to say about the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area and the best tips on how you can experience it

Credit: Shire of Exmouth

### For more information visit:

- Australia's Coral Coast
- The Ningaloo Visitor Centre
- The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Parks and Wildlife Service
- The Department of Fisheries