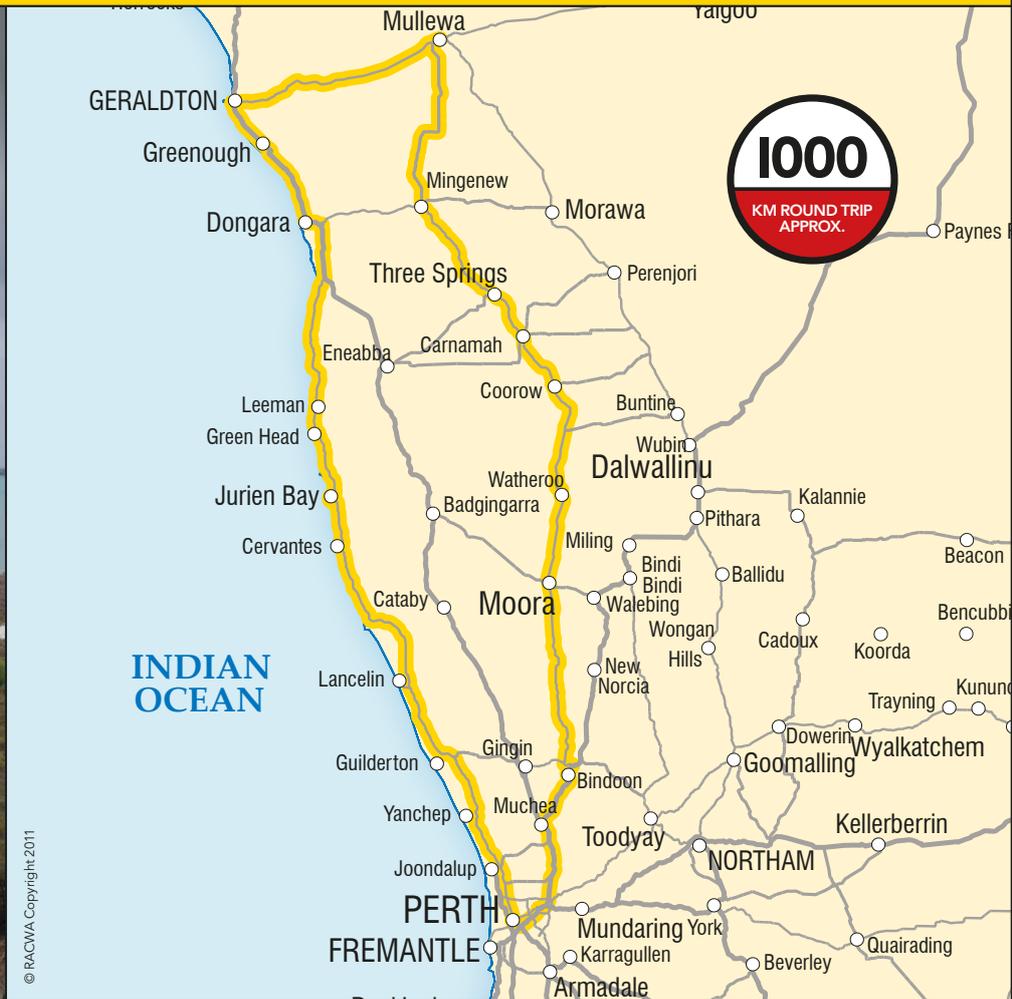


Indian Ocean Drive 4-5 DAYS



If you're keen to take your time and experience everything Western Australia's Coral Coast has to offer, be sure to include the Indian Ocean Drive in your holiday itinerary. The route officially opened in September 2010 and includes some of the most iconic experiences on offer in Australia's Coral Coast, from the unique Pinnacles Desert in Cervantes, sky diving and sea lion charters in Jurien Bay, to the Central Greenough Historic Settlement and the recently revitalised Geraldton foreshore.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

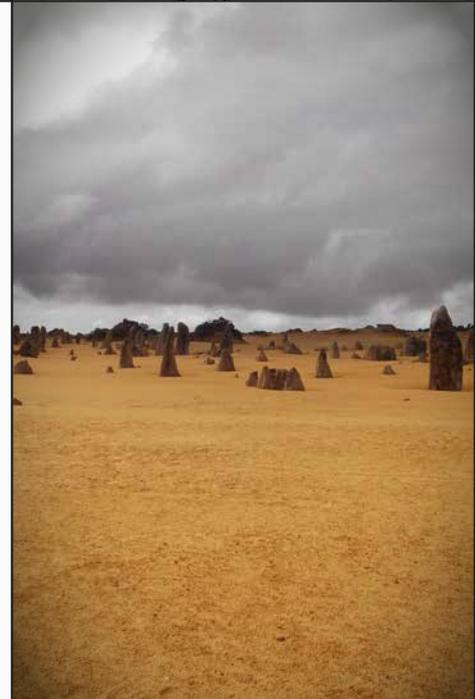
DAY 1 ■ Perth to Cervantes 202km

Travelling north along the Indian Ocean Drive (continue north from Wanneroo Road), the first leg from Perth to Dongara takes you through the

coastal town of Cervantes and one of Australia's most unique landscapes, the Pinnacles Desert. The road into the Pinnacles is sealed, and there is a car park within walking distance of the golden limestone structures, which stand up to three and a half metres tall. After exploring the pinnacles, head to the Desert Discovery Centre to learn more about these distinctive formations. After visiting the Pinnacles Desert, head to Lake Thetis (located off Hansen Bay Road) to marvel at some of the earth's oldest living fossils, the stromatolites and strombalites. Enjoy a leisurely stroll on the nearby 1.3 kilometre walk trail. Visit the Indian Ocean Rock Lobster Factory for an informative Lobster Shack tour to learn about the more recent history of cray-fishing in Cervantes.

DAY 2 ■ Cervantes to Dongara 160km

Continue your journey north along the Indian Ocean Drive, stopping along the way at the Molah Hill Lookout, which offers uninterrupted views of native bush land and the ocean.



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Snorkelling
- Art galleries
- The pinnacles
- Fishing
- Diving
- Cruising
- National parks
- Museums
- Historical settlements

RAC RECOMMENDS

Fatigued and tired drivers are one of the major causes of serious car crashes, especially in regional Western Australia. The RAC recommends people are well rested before they begin driving, plan their journey to allow extra time for breaks, stop at least every two hours for a break and if possible share the driving.

Interpretive signage along the path to the lookout provides information about the nearby flora and fauna and an insight into the Indigenous heritage of the area. Heading further north towards Jurien Bay, Grigson's Lookout is located in the Leseuer National Park, which is home to 900 species of flora. Continue north to Jurien Bay and jump aboard a sea lion charter or out of a plane and onto the beach! Jurien Bay is the only place in WA where you can land on the beach after skydiving. Snorkel and explore the underwater wonderland of the Jurien Bay Marine Park, which is home to tropical fish, sponges, sea squirts, soft corals, sea lions and dolphins. Explore the caves of the Stockyard Gully National Park, which is accessible only by four wheel drive. Treat yourself to a dinner of freshly caught seafood in Jurien Bay or up the road in Dongara. Take a stroll along Dongara's 1.6 kilometre walk trail of historic buildings.

DAY 3 ■ Dongara to Geraldton 66km
Head north to the Greenough Central Historic Settlement and step back in time as you stroll through the 11 restored pioneer buildings on site. As you continue your drive towards Geraldton, keep an eye for leaning

trees. Buffeted by prevailing southerly winds, the trees' horizontal trunks have become something of an icon for the region.

DAY 4 ■ Geraldton to Perth 420km via Indian Ocean Drive, **430km**, via Brand Hwy, or **575km** via inland wildflower trail. Head up to the impressive HMAS Sydney II Memorial. Commemorating the lives of 645 sailors who died in World War II. Located on Mt Scott, this emotive memorial provides panoramic views across Geraldton and the Indian Ocean. Free walking tours are offered at 10.30am daily.

Optional: Consider taking a scenic flight from Geraldton to the Houtman Abrolhos Islands where you can enjoy snorkelling and guided walks. The Houtman Abrolhos Islands feature rich biodiversity in wildlife on land and in the surrounding pristine waters. Shipwrecks and coral reefs offer great snorkelling and diving and weather conditions are often perfect for surfing and windsurfing.

After your day exploring Geraldton head back to Perth. Consider stopping at inland towns such as Mullewa, Mingenew, Three Springs and Carnamah on your way back to view wildflowers in bloom, in spring.

MAC2704

VISITOR CENTRES

Cervantes	(08) 9652 7700
Dongara	(08) 9927 1404
Geraldton	(08) 9921 3999

ACCOMMODATION

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