

# AUSTRALIA'S NORTH WEST

## THE KIMBERLEY AND PILBARA

APPROXIMATE DRIVING TIMES									
Perth GNH	Perth WCH	17:15	18:00	16:15	19:00	25:45	27:15	36:30	37:00
1435	n/a	Tom Price	6:00	6:15	5:15	12:15	14:00	23:00	23:00
1548	n/a	456	Karratha	0:30	3:00	10:00	11:45	20:45	20:45
1567	n/a	475	21	Dampier	3:30	10:00	11:45	20:45	20:45
1636	n/a	431	242	262	Port Hedland	7:30	9:00	18:15	18:15
2174	2237	1022	833	852	611	Broome	3:00	12:15	11:45
2329	2391	1176	987	1006	766	222	Derby	10:30	10:00
3164	3229	2011	1822	1841	1601	1057	919	Wyndham	1:30
3330	3214	2000	1812	1831	1591	1045	907	105	Kununurra

This map is intended as a guide only. If you are planning to travel by road please purchase a detailed map.

**Disclaimer** Whilst every effort has been taken to be as accurate as possible with the information contained in this publication, Australia's North West Tourism and Promaco Geodraft accept no responsibility for any entry, errors or omissions that may occur or any loss, damage and inconvenience caused by errors and omissions. The information set out was correct ta the time of printing and can be subject to change without notice. All liability or loss cannot be accepted for any misinformation after publication.

**Warning** Water features do not guarantee water and if there, the quality of the water cannot be assured. All travellers should carry ample fresh water for drinking and extra food supplies. Roads and tracks as represented, are not always proof of a public thoroughfare as some tracks are suitable for 4WD vehicles only. Conditions and quality of roads, tracks and 4WD track can vary greatly. Travellers should acquaint themselves with these conditions and ensure they and their vehicles are well prepared and carry spare tyres and tools for their vehicles. Outdoor activities can be hazardous. Suitable safety precautions should be taken at all times. The information contain herein does not guarantee your safety.







## TRAVEL TIPS

Very few places in the world offer the isolation and ruggedness found in Australia's North West, where hundreds of kilometres can separate towns and attractions. Whilst this is a major attraction in itself, it does mean that careful planning prior to departing will lead to a more enjoyable holiday experience.

### Accredited Visitor Centres

**i** To get the most out of your holiday in the North West, speak to the experts at a local Visitor Centre. Visitor Centres offer expert advice on the best things to see and do. They can help with maps, accommodation and tour bookings, or provide local knowledge on an area's hidden gems. Look for the blue and yellow italic 'i' sign to find an accredited Visitor Centre on your holiday route.

### Accommodation

There is a wide range of accommodation options to suit all tastes and budgets. Many towns throughout the North West support strong tourist numbers between May and October. The Pilbara has a large resource industry workforce, so therefore accommodation can be tight. It is strongly advisable to book your accommodation well ahead of your holiday to avoid disappointment. Be aware that some caravan parks do not take advance bookings during the peak season. Those travelling with pets are also recommended to check the location of pet-friendly caravan parks.

### Healthy Travelling

Unfortunately, some visitors have their holiday cut short due to illness or accident. If you take prescribed medication, take ample supplies and ensure you have a script renewal from your doctor.

When travelling to remote areas always carry adequate supplies of water and a comprehensive first aid kit. Mosquitoes can carry diseases such as Encephalitis and Ross River virus. Use insect repellents and cover your arms and legs with loose clothing particularly at dawn and dusk.

### Road Safety

It's essential to carefully plan your trip before hitting the road. Get a recent detailed road map and it's a good idea to keep track of your mileage so you know where you are. Many towns are remote; if you find yourself in trouble assistance could be hours away, so be aware of your vehicle's limits and take your time. If you plan to travel on dirt roads, familiarise yourself with safe four-wheel driving techniques and potential risks.

Driver fatigue is responsible for many accidents, so take regular breaks, enjoy the experience and don't try to cover too much distance at a time. Make certain you advise a reliable contact of your intended route and your estimated time of arrival, and be sure to let them know when you get there!

### Vehicles

It is essential that your vehicle is thoroughly checked before you depart. Not only is it dangerous to break down in the outback, it's expensive! Some remote areas are accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles and the towing of caravans, trailers or boats is not recommended. A first aid kit, tool kit, food, water, at least two spare tyres and spare parts should be kept as standard - along with the knowledge of how to use them.

### Road Closures

During the summer period (November to April), sealed and unsealed roads can be open for travel one day and completely flooded the next. Authorities provide road updates and weather warnings. Regardless of your vehicle do not attempt to traverse roads that have been closed by the authorities under any circumstances. Not only do you put your own safety at risk, you also put at risk those who come to assist you. For up to the minute info [www.mainroads.wa.gov.au](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au) or telephone 138 138.

### Road Trains

Road trains are a unique part of travelling in the North West. Extra caution is needed when overtaking road trains, which can be over 50 metres in length. Dust kicked up on unsealed roads can totally obscure vision, so the only time to overtake is when you can clearly see ahead. Be aware it can take up to 2.5 kilometres to overtake a road train at 100km/h.

### Bush Fires

In a country as dry as Australia, bush fires can be a big problem. Due to the sheer isolation of the North West, it is possible a fire can rage for several days before it is noticed and brought under control. The lighting of fires can be extremely dangerous. Care should be taken at all times and a campfire should never be left unattended. Please help us protect our natural environment and abide by fire warnings.

### Wandering Stock

Many stations are unfenced and it is not uncommon to encounter wandering stock and wildlife. Serious accidents occur due to collisions with kangaroos and cattle. Particular care should be taken at dawn and dusk as these are the most dangerous times. Please slow down, keep a lookout and if possible avoid driving at night.

### Tides

Australia's North West experiences huge tidal movements. Tidal water can move very quickly, catching you and your boat or vehicle unaware - so if you are undertaking any activity by the water it pays to be aware of local tidal movements. Local tide charts are available from Visitor Centres and service stations.

### Marine Stingers

Box Jellyfish and Irukandji Jellyfish are potentially lethal stingers which can be found along the Kimberley and Pilbara coast. Although they can be present all year round, they are most prevalent from November until April. Take the right precautions, wear a full length stinger suit and if local authorities close the beach please abide by their instructions. If you are stung, douse liberally with vinegar and seek urgent medical advice.

### Quarantine

Western Australia's remoteness helps to provide a natural barrier against many pests and diseases. To help keep Western Australia disease-free there are strict quarantine laws regarding the importing or transporting of plants and food stuffs. The Ord Valley irrigation area has more stringent quarantine restrictions.

While they may seem harmless, fruit and vegetables, nuts, seeds, plants, flowers, honey, animals and introduced birds pose a real threat to the environment. The best rule to follow is: if in doubt, declare it. Be warned, heavy penalties apply to those people not declaring items identified as a risk. For full details [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)