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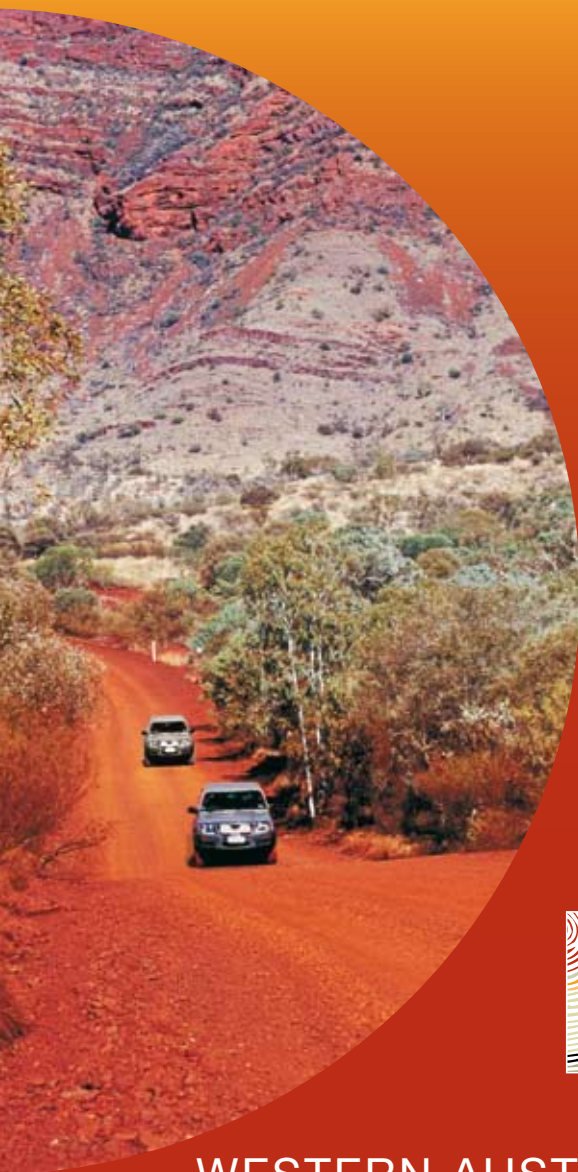
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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NORTH WEST OUTBACK DRIVE TRAIL



WARRLUWAY



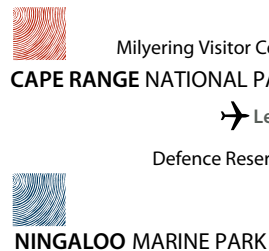
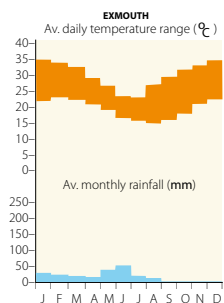
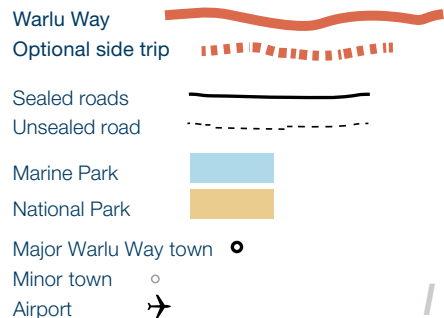
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
THE LAND. THE CULTURE. THE JOURNEY.



WARLUWAY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THE LAND. THE CULTURE. THE JOURNEY.

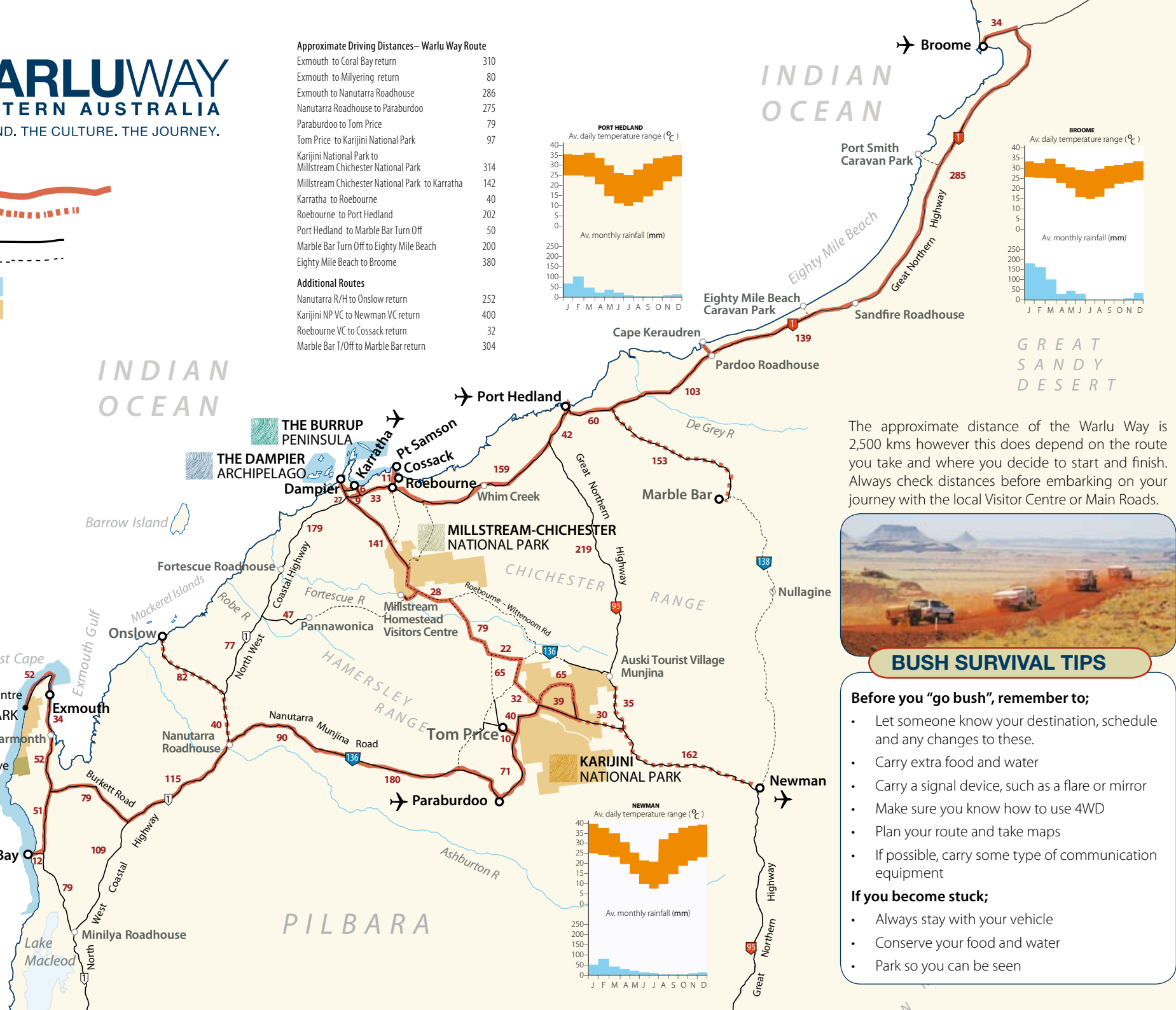
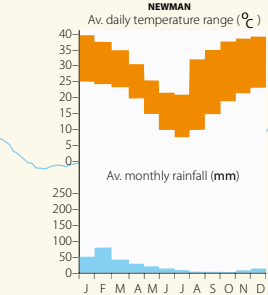
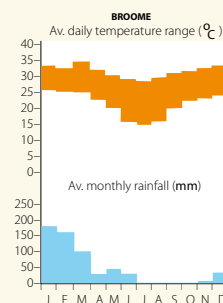
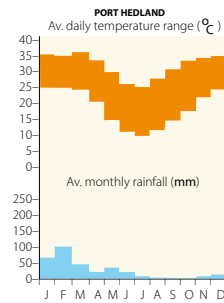


Approximate Driving Distances—Warlu Way Route

Exmouth to Coral Bay return	310
Exmouth to Milyering return	80
Exmouth to Nanutarra Roadhouse	286
Nanutarra Roadhouse to Paraburdoo	275
Paraburdoo to Tom Price	79
Tom Price to Karijini National Park	97
Karijini National Park to Millstream Chichester National Park	314
Millstream Chichester National Park to Karratha	142
Karratha to Roebourne	40
Roebourne to Port Hedland	202
Port Hedland to Marble Bar Turn Off	50
Marble Bar Turn Off to Eighty Mile Beach	200
Eighty Mile Beach to Broome	380

Additional Routes

Nanutarra R/H to Onslow return	252
Karijini NP VC to Newman VC return	400
Roebourne VC to Cossack return	32
Marble Bar T/Off to Marble Bar return	304



The approximate distance of the Warlu Way is 2,500 kms however this does depend on the route you take and where you decide to start and finish. Always check distances before embarking on your journey with the local Visitor Centre or Main Roads.



BUSH SURVIVAL TIPS

Before you "go bush", remember to;

- Let someone know your destination, schedule and any changes to these.
- Carry extra food and water
- Carry a signal device, such as a flare or mirror
- Make sure you know how to use 4WD
- Plan your route and take maps
- If possible, carry some type of communication equipment

If you become stuck;

- Always stay with your vehicle
- Conserve your food and water
- Park so you can be seen

SAFETY & TRAVEL TIPS

The Warlu Way experience promises to offer an adventure that will change you forever. Careful planning and consideration of the extreme conditions that make the North West of Western Australia extraordinary will ensure these experiences are dramatic for all the right reasons.

Some roads may need a permit before commencing your drive – check with the relevant Visitor Centre before embarking on your journey.

ROAD SAFETY: It's essential to carefully plan your trip before hitting the road beginning by purchasing a detailed road map. As many of the towns are remote, if you find yourself in trouble, assistance could be many hours away. Be aware of the limits of your vehicle and take your time while travelling.

Driver fatigue is responsible for many accidents, so take 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 destination and estimated return date, being sure to let them know when you have returned.

VEHICLES: It's essential that your vehicle is thoroughly checked before you depart. Not only is it dangerous to break down in the outback, it can be very expensive! When travelling on unsealed roads, four wheel drive vehicles and off-road camper trailers/caravans are recommended. A comprehensive tool kit, 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 accordingly to assist travellers. Regardless of your vehicle, do not attempt to traverse roads that have been closed by the authorities under any condition. Not only do you put your own safety at risk, you also put at risk those who come to assist you.

ROAD TRAINS: Road trains are a unique part of travelling in Northern Australia. Extra caution is advised when over-taking road trains that can be more than 50 metres in length. On unsealed roads dust can be kicked up completing obscuring vision and throwing stones – the only time to overtake is when you can clearly see ahead.

BUSH FIRES: Due to the sheer isolation of the Northwest, it is possible for bush fires to rage for several days before it is noticed and brought under control. The lighting of fires is extremely dangerous, care should be taken at all times and a campfire should never be left unattended.

WANDERING ANIMALS & STOCK: Many stations and farms are unfenced and it's not uncommon to encounter wandering stock and wildlife, serious accidents can occur due to collisions with kangaroos, cows and various other animals. Take particular care when travelling at dawn and dusk as these are the most dangerous times. Slow down, keep a lookout, and if possible, avoid driving at night.

TIDES: Australia's North West has the second largest tidal range in the world. Tidal water can move very quickly, catching you and your boat or vehicle unaware – so if you are undertaking any activity by the water, be aware of local tidal movements. Check with your local Visitor Centre.

HEALTHY TRAVELLING: Unfortunately, some travellers have their holiday cut short due to illness or accident. If you take prescribed medication ensure you don't run out and make sure 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 fever, use appropriate insect repellents and cover arms and legs with loose clothing particularly at dawn and dusk.



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THE WARLU STORY

The way of the warlu, or sea serpent, traverses an ancient and sacred land rich in natural beauty and enchanting Aboriginal stories. It sends you back in time to a mystical era when a mighty warlu emerged from the sea and travelled through the pulsing red heart of Western Australia, forming waterways as he moved.

Warlu Way reveals the mysteries of the warlu and other Aboriginal legends by taking you on a 2480 kilometre self-drive journey through Western Australia's spectacular Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions. Interpretive signage along the drive opens your eyes to the secrets of this country and its historical, cultural and natural wonders.

Warlu Way begins its journey on the shores of the Ningaloo Marine Park in the towns of Coral Bay and Exmouth. These holiday townships are gateways to the dazzling Ningaloo Reef – home to the world's largest fish, the almighty whale shark.

From here, Warlu Way presses east to Karijini National Park – a glorious fusion of plummeting gorges, rushing waters, dark, narrowly spaced cliffs and often thunderous waterfalls. Warlu Way also takes in mining towns around Karijini like Newman, Tom Price and Paraburdoo and tells you of the riches being mined from deep within the red, sunbaked earth here.

Next the drive returns west via the Millstream-Chichester National Park – an oasis in the desert offering a fairytale world of crystal clear ponds, water lilies, palm fronds and dragonflies. The Fortescue River in the park is also home to the warlu after which the drive is named.

The drive returns to the coast at Karratha – gateway to the Dampier Archipelago and the Burrup Peninsula. These areas are home to possibly the world's largest collection of Indigenous art. Thousands upon thousands of ancient engravings adorn the rocks here, etched by Aboriginal people some 20,000 years ago.

Warlu Way then journeys to the north and east passing historic towns like Cossack, Roebourne, Port Hedland and Marble Bar, each boasting colourful histories rich in tales of pearling, gold and pastoralism.

From here it travels along the coast to the nature-rich Eighty Mile Beach before finally reaching the resort town of Broome – a once remote and rollicking outpost which is today renowned for its glorious beaches, tourism, pearl farming and meeting of diverse cultures.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Respecting Indigenous culture for travellers along the Warlu Way.

RELATIONSHIP RESPONSIBILITY RESPECT

Relationship

Recognise Indigenous people's relationship and connection to the land.

Responsibility

Acknowledge the ongoing responsibility Indigenous people have to their country, and recognise your own responsibility to travel thoughtfully.

Respect

Respect Aboriginal beliefs associated with country and culture. As a visitor, respect the wishes of your hosts and any restrictions that you have been asked to observe.

Indigenous Language Group Map – Warlu Way



CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK

Cape Range National Park offers unique wildlife, spectacular rocky gorges and white sandy beaches nestled alongside the cool turquoise waters of Ningaloo Marine Park. Collectively they are known as the parks of the coral coast, and are managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation

A range of walk trails provide the opportunity to study up close some of the areas mangrove species and the birds that frequent them, or wander the stony bed of an ancient river now known as Mandu Mandu Gorge. The walk along the rugged limestone alongside Yardie Creek may be rewarded with a glimpse of the

rare black-footed rock wallaby sunning themselves on the opposite side before evening provides a protective cover for them to come out and feed. Their paws are adapted to the rocky terrain and they seem to almost fly across the rocks.

The Milyering Visitor Centre provides all sorts of information on Cape Range and Ningaloo including both residential reef inhabitants and those that visit on a regular basis. Whale sharks, whales, manta rays and turtles frequent the marine park and displays in the visitor centre describe their interesting biology and habits, and how we can share the reef safely with them.

Wildlife is pretty abundant in Cape Range, including kangaroos, emus, echidnas, goannas and corellas. Most seek shelter during the day and the best times to view them are early morning and late afternoon.



Campgrounds are located adjacent to beaches along the coast. From here, it is often a short swim out to spectacular coral gardens. Accidents have happened so visitors need to be competent swimmers to enjoy the reef areas and read all warning signs.

The Ranges are best explored over the cooler months from April to October. Gorges have no permanent pools.



Delve beneath the surface of the park and find out about the unique collection of bizarre cave-dwelling animals that lurk amidst the network of caves and tunnels amidst the limestone range. The weathered limestone range rises to 314 metres above sea level, forming the spine of the peninsula stretching up to North West Cape. This ancient treasure trove is of immense value to both science and nature, some of these species currently unidentified and many unique to Cape Range.

Aboriginal people enjoyed the 'bounty' of the sea and are believed to have resided in caves nestled into the range.



Warlu Way Highlight

In Cape Range National Park, sit quietly and wait with anticipation at the chance to catch a glimpse of the rare black-footed rock wallaby.

NINGALOO MARINE PARK

Ningaloo Marine Park protects a large portion of Ningaloo Reef, the largest fringing coral reef in Australia, and nestled along the western side of Northwest Cape

It contains a huge diversity of fish (500 species) corals (over 200 species) molluscs (600 species) and many other marine species. Coral reefs protect coastlines and, as the tropical rainforests of the ocean, are home to thousands of other species.



The Milyering Visitor Centre provides all sorts of information on Cape Range and Ningaloo including both residential reef inhabitants and those that visit on a regular basis. Whale sharks, whales, manta rays and turtles frequent the marine park and displays in the visitor centre describe their interesting biology and habits and how we can share the reef safely with them.



The area is very significant to the Gnulli people. The area has a long history of occupancy by Indigenous communities and traditional use of the marine environment continues. Maritime heritage, panoramic seascapes and wilderness experiences are all inherent values of Ningaloo Marine Park.



Campgrounds are located adjacent to beaches along the coast. From here, it is often a short swim out to spectacular coral gardens. Accidents have happened so visitors need to be competent swimmers to enjoy the reef areas and are reminded to read all warning signs. Recreational fishing, snorkelling, swimming, wind surfing and surfing are all popular activities for visitors to the park.



The area is also famous for its abundant large marine fauna such as whale sharks, humpback whales, manta rays, turtles and dugong. Whale sharks are the world's largest living fish with mature adults growing more than 12 metres long.

The marine park has a series of zones including sanctuary zones which are “look but don’t take” areas managed solely for nature conservation and low-impact tourism. They are important as refuge areas for marine life as well as helping to replenish adjacent areas.



Warlu Way Highlight

*Swim with the largest fish in the world – the Whale Shark!
This once in a lifetime experience complements the marine wonders of the Ningaloo Marine Park.*

KARIJINI NATIONAL PARK

Karijini National Park is set in the Hamersley Ranges, where massive mountains and escarpments rise out of the flat valley. It is homeland to the Banjyma people and offer spectacular scenery and ancient geological formations.

The high plateau is dissected by deep gorges, whose pools are often cold and dark, some rarely seeing the midday sun. Highly polished rocks in the bottom stand testament to the velocity of water that has carved down their lengths before spraying out onto the plains below.



Now, they only flood after rain, and visitors are advised to not enter the gorges if there is rain in the area. Without the threat of the flood, some gorges offer tranquil pools and waterfalls surrounded by ferns and water loving plants. Frogs, dragonflies, fish, birds and the Pilbara Olive Python enjoy the cool waters. Visitors can too, after hiking down through the gorges on a series of walk trails.



Look out platforms at strategic points offer fabulous views into the gorges 100 metres below.

Similar to Millstream, Karijini National Park is also managed jointly by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Karijini Park Council.

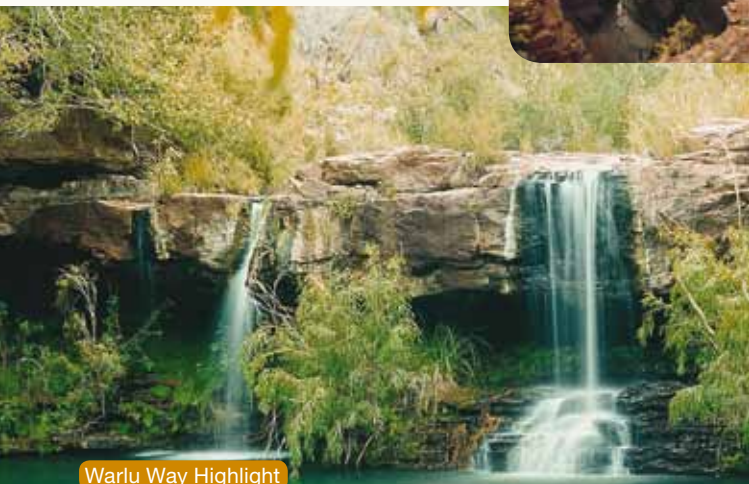


There are two camping areas in the Park. The first, Dales Gorge camping area is managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation. It has basic facilities including gas barbecues, picnic tables and long drop toilets. The second, Karijini Eco retreat is managed by Gumala Aboriginal Corporation and provides a range of camping experiences from tent sites to eco tents with ensuites.



The Karijini Visitor Centre provides information on the park and you can meet local Aboriginal people who are employed as rangers and visitor centre staff. Aboriginal culture is represented in a series of displays inside the visitor centre as well as information on the area's natural history including geology and plant and animal habitats.

A variety of ecosystems are represented in the park including precipitous gorges, hills, ridges and plateaus covered with Spinifex hummocks and scattered eucalypts. Low mulga woodlands and blankets of seasonal wildflowers bloom on lower slopes, valley plains and drainage lines.



Warlu Way Highlight

Forget time exists as you gaze over the mighty intersection of four magnificent gorges at Oxer Lookout within the magnificent Karijini National Park.

MILLSTREAM – CHICHESTER NATIONAL PARK

Millstream – Chichester National Park is the homeland of the Yindjibarndi people. The park's main attractions are it's significant cultural importance and the abundance of freshwater.

In Yindjibarndi Law it is said that in the beginning the sky was very low. When the creation spirits got up from the ground, they lifted the sky and the world out of the sea. The creation spirits are called Marrga and they still live in the rocky mountains and gullies. In the early morning, the mist over the water represents smoke

from their breakfast fires. The pools at Millstream are believed to have been created by the Warlu Serpent as he searched for two disobedient boys. After swallowing the boys he drowned the rest of their tribe. Aboriginal people believe that the Warlu continues to live in the murky depths of Deep Reach Pool.

Many birds live in the vegetation surrounding the pools, and others, adapted to dry conditions, out on the Spinifex plains. The park is home to more than 30 species of dragonfly and damselfly which can be seen flitting around the pools.

The park is managed jointly by the Department of Environment and Conservation and the Jirndawurrunha Park Council, which represents the interests of local Aboriginal people. The best time to visit is from April to October.



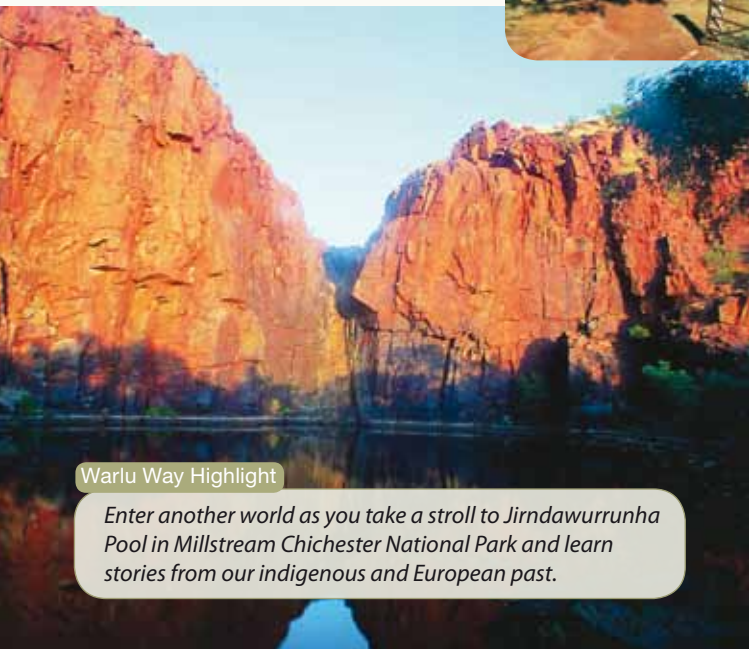
A walktrail takes you around Jirndawurrunha Pool, and another links the homestead with Crossing Pool and Cliff Lookout. Camping areas have basic amenities including gas barbecues, picnic tables and biolytic or composting toilets.

Sunsets are spectacular when viewed from Cliff Lookout.



Large freshwater bodies are unique in the arid Pilbara, and Millstream proves to be a popular spot with weary dusty travellers. The delta is a unique wetland, fed by a natural aquifer within the Fortescue River catchment. It's large permanent water holes are shaded by cadjeputs or paperbarks (*Melaleuca argentea*) river red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and native Millstream Palms (*Livistona alfredii*).

Millstream was once a pastoral station and the old homestead building is now a visitor centre. Euros and Kangaroos often graze the homestead lawns.



Warlu Way Highlight

Enter another world as you take a stroll to Jirndawurrunha Pool in Millstream Chichester National Park and learn stories from our indigenous and European past.

THE BURRUP PENINSULA

The Burrup Peninsula is a small landmass with a large range of habitats, a diverse array of wildflowers and wildlife, and an ancient outdoor art gallery. It is situated about five kilometres north-east of the town of Dampier.

The Burrup Peninsula is one of the most prolific indigenous art sites in the world. It is believed that Aboriginal occupation of the Pilbara dates back more than 40,000 years.

The Yaburarra people, who once inhabited the peninsula and the adjacent islands of the Dampier Archipelago, left a rich cultural heritage. The Burrup contains one of the most prolific sites for prehistoric rock art in the world.

Thirty per cent of all plants and animals that occur in the Pilbara are found on the peninsula – an amazing statistic for a relatively small area. At least 23 plant species found here either have restricted distribution or are poorly known. Plants such as the native fig are more typical of the wetter Kimberley region, but here they grow in humid, fire-protected pockets and creek beds. Mammals include the northern quoll, Rothschild's rock wallaby, echidna, euro, common rock rat and delicate mouse.

The Burrup Peninsula is proposed to become a Conservation Reserve and managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation in partnership with the Traditional Custodians of the land.



The Burrup Peninsula

Karratha



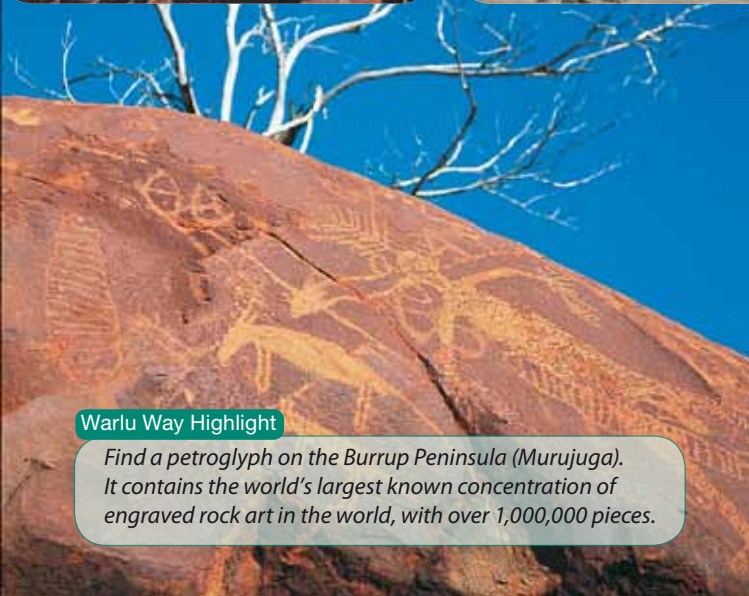
The Burrup Peninsula will allow you to explore and view the many different petroglyphs, some thought to be estimated around 20,000 years old.

Keep to the pathways and if wanting to view this amazing art up close, please walk around it rather than on it.

Please respect the land you are on.



Shady valleys contain temporary pools, and provide interesting wildlife homes. The Pilbara olive python lives amongst the rock piles, and evidence of rock wallabies can be seen beneath overhanging rocks, where they frequently shelter from the heat.



Warlu Way Highlight

Find a petroglyph on the Burrup Peninsula (Murujuga). It contains the world's largest known concentration of engraved rock art in the world, with over 1,000,000 pieces.

THE DAMPIER ARCHIPELAGO

The Dampier Archipelago including the Burrup Peninsula has been placed on the National Heritage List, to continue to protect the Aboriginal and European cultural diversity.

The Dampier Archipelago comprises 42 islands, islets and rocks lying within a 45 km radius from the town of Dampier. Twenty-five of these islands are incorporated into reserves for the conservation of flora and fauna and are managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation.



The islands were formed 6000 – 8000 years ago when rising sea levels flooded coastal valleys, leaving hills and ridges exposed as islands. Many of the islands resemble the rugged Burrup Peninsula, with coastal cliffs and steep-sided rock piles separated by alleys, sand plain and beaches.

The relative isolation of the islands has shielded them from the effects of the introduced flora and fauna that have devastated the mainland. They support plant and animal populations which are close to their natural state and allow for the conservation of native species which are vulnerable to feral predators. Quarantine relies on the visual inspection of material transported from the mainland and the destruction or removal of problem plants, animals and materials before they reach the islands.

The Dampier
Archipelago



Swimming, snorkelling and diving are popular past times, and fishing can be carried out in all but the sanctuary zones.

The waters around the islands are soon to be vested as the Dampier Archipelago Marine Park and Regnard Island Marine Management Area.

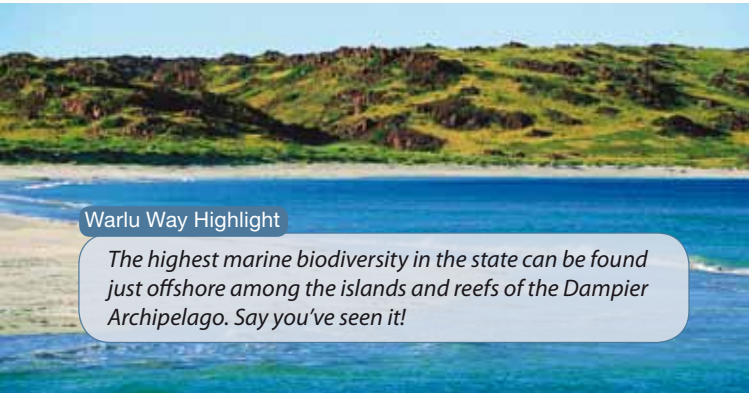


There are over 30 species of terrestrial reptiles, including the gazetted rare Pilbara olive python. Green loggerhead flatback and hawksbill turtles use the beaches for nesting, along with over 25 species of birds. These include the fairy and bridled terns, which are only present in the Archipelago during their breeding season.

A number of marine mammals are frequently sighted in the waters surrounding the islands including dugongs, bottlenosed dolphins and humpback whales as they make their way to temperate and subtropical waters to mate and give birth.



Early Aboriginal occupation by the Yaburarra people is evident in the forms of rock etchings, middens, fish traps and hunting hides. Introduced disease, exploitation and violent confrontation with settlers reduced the group's numbers. Some descendents remain, but care of the country has been taken over by surrounding language groups.



Warlu Way Highlight

The highest marine biodiversity in the state can be found just offshore among the islands and reefs of the Dampier Archipelago. Say you've seen it!

EXMOUTH

The town of Exmouth was officially gazetted in 1967, its role as support town for the communication base set up by Australia and the US. However the first recorded landing in the area in 1618 was by Dutch Captain Jacobz and the North West Cape and Exmouth Gulf was later named in 1818 by Australian Captain Phillip Parker King.

In early pearling history, luggers from Broome would visit the area and during WWII the area became important for a military operation known as, 'Operation Potshot'. Other industries such as fishing, pastoral, oil exploration and tourism now comprise the economic fabric of Exmouth.



CORAL BAY

The landing of the schooner 'Maud' in 1884 is the earliest recorded European activity in the Coral Bay area. Coral Bay township is located just south of what's known as 'Maud's Landing'. Formal settlement began in 1968 with the establishment of a hotel, caravan park, and service station. The town now survives solely on tourism.



ONslow & THE MACKEREL ISLANDS

The original town of Onslow was proclaimed in 1883, and named after Sir Alexander Onslow the Chief Justice of WA at the time. In early settlement the town was homeport to a fleet of pearling luggers. Due to the situation of the river over the years, it was decided that the town needed to be moved to a better port. The new town of Onslow was established in 1925 and many of the buildings from the old town site were relocated to new Onslow.

Located a short 22kms off the Onslow coast are the Mackerel Islands. The islands and surrounding reef system provides a valuable link for marine life between other marine environments to the south and north. Dive, snorkel, fish or just relax.



TOM PRICE

At 747 metres, Tom Price is the highest town in WA and is nestled deep in the Hamersley Ranges. The jointly named peak known as Jarndrunmunhna and Mt Nameless is situated approx 4km from town and stands 1128 metres above sea level. The Aboriginal name, Jarndunmunha, translates to 'wallabies live near here'. In 1962 a huge iron ore deposit was discovered at Mt Tom Price. Following this discovery was the construction of two towns – Tom Price and Dampier, a mine, a port and a railway to carry the iron ore for export.



PARABURDOO

Lying 24kms north of the Tropic of Capricorn, on the sealed road linking Nanutarra Roadhouse and Tom Price, Paraburdoo is another of the mining towns affiliated with Pilbara Iron. Construction of the town commenced in January 1970. Paraburdoo was named after the Aboriginal name Pirupardo, 'piru' means meat and 'pardu' means feathers, so named because of the proliferation of Corellas which frequent the area. The town offers a motel/hotel complex, hospital, a college, a variety of sporting facilities, and a well stocked shopping centre.

NEWMAN

Newman takes its name from Mt Newman (1053m) which was named in 1896 after explorer Aubrey Woodward Newman. In 1957 veteran prospector A.S. 'Stan' Hilditch discovered a massive iron ore deposit at Mt Whaleback. Mt Whaleback is now the largest single open-cut iron ore mine in the world with the township of Newman servicing the mine.

Prepared and eager for many 4WD adventure choices, Newman is the gateway to the East Pilbara. Waterholes, ancient Aboriginal art sites, The Canning Stock Route (which stretches out like a dare to enthusiasts), and the remote and huge Karlamilyi National Park (the largest in the state) are there to explore.

The four day Fortescue Festival held in August begins with the Fortescue Ball, continues with the Newman Outback Drags on the airport runway, Speedway, Festival Show Day and concludes with the Newman Races. Truly unique North West entertainment!



KARRATHA

The name 'Karratha', which originated from a pastoral station, comes from the Aboriginal word meaning 'good country' or 'soft earth'. The town came into being in the late 1960's due to the tremendous growth of the iron ore industry, the need for a new regional centre and the lack of further available land in Dampier. Karratha now sprawls almost 10km in an east – west direction.

Held on the first weekend in August every year, the FeNaClNG Festival gets its name from the chemical symbols of the three main commodities produced in the region - iron ore, salt and natural gas.

DAMPIER

Dampier was built to accommodate employees and their families by Hamersley Iron in the 1960's. The town of Dampier takes its name from the Dampier Archipelago which was named after the English buccaneer/explorer William Dampier who first visited the area in 1688. The first specimen of the distinctive, Sturt's Desert Pea (*Wilddampia Formosa*), was collected by William Dampier on East Lewis Island, in the Dampier Archipelago.

The Dampier Archipelago comprises of 42 islands, islets and rocks lying within a 45km radius from the towns of Dampier and Point Samson. Many of the islands resemble the rugged Burrup Peninsula, with coastal cliffs and red rock piles, dissected from the blue waters by green mangroves and white sandy beaches, ideal for swimming and snorkelling or just lazing the day away.



ROEBOURNE

Established in 1866, Roebourne is the oldest town in the North West. Named after Sir John Septimus Roe it was the administrative capital for the North West, while Cossack was the port. The nearest towns at the time were Geraldton to the south and Darwin to the North.

The original Roebourne was built on the land which falls within the boundaries of the Ngarluma country, a language group that inhabited 'flood country' from the Maitland River in the West to the Peewah River in the East, an area approximately 6,400 square kilometres. There are differing dialects within this language group, with the most dominant in Roebourne today being Yindjibarndi.

COSSACK

Originally named 'Tien Tsin' after the first boat to bring settlers in 1863, its changed name was a result of a visit by Governor Weld aboard the warship 'Cossack' in 1871. Home to a large fleet of pearling luggers it was a major shipping port along the North West coast. Divers came from Japan, Malaysia, China and the Philippines and made temporary homes in the nearby sand dunes.

Cossack's port also saw hundreds of prospectors hoping to strike it rich in the gold rush days and thousands of sheep as the pastoral industry also pushed into North West. Sadly Cossack's role became impractical as the harbour silted and there was a growing need for an increase in the size of ships. The town was eventually abandoned by 1950.

The 'Cossack Art Awards' are held annually in August with the Bond Store coming to life with artists work from around the country. The award has evolved into the richest regional acquisitive art award in Australia.



POINT SAMSON

Point Samson was built in 1910 as a shipping port with facilities to handle bigger vessels than was possible at nearby Cossack. Point Samson was named after Michael Samson, second officer aboard the ship 'Tien Tsin' (the original name for nearby Cossack) which sailed into the area in 1863. For many years it was misspelt 'Sampson', but the error was eventually corrected by the government in 1918.

This tranquil seaside town is a delight. The beautiful sandy beaches of Point Samson are protected by fringing coral reefs, offering safe swimming and snorkelling all year round. A large commercial fishing fleet still operates out of the town.

WHIM CREEK

Whim Creek is situated on the road between Roebourne and Port Hedland. In 1887, with the discovery of gold and copper, the town was born. In its heyday Whim Creek sported two hotels, a blacksmith, a general store, stables and a horse track, plus many more local businesses. After nearly a century, mining activity ended in 1986. Today, with the advent of time and many cyclones, the Whim Creek Hotel is the only one of the original buildings to remain standing. However, the history, character and feelings of a bygone era are kept alive through this grand old lady. Photos and mining implements, depicting the early days, are displayed and give insight into the town's fascinating history.

In early 2004 construction activities commenced again at Whim Creek with the first copper produced in June 2005.



PORT HEDLAND

Located on the 'island' of Port Hedland the town site enjoys an interesting blend of lifestyles. It combines a unique history of Indigenous, pastoral and mining influences. Port Hedland is situated on the traditional land of the Kariyarra People. The Kariyarra name for Port Hedland is Marapikurrinya (mara – hand, pikurri – pointing straight, nya – a place name marker) meaning where five tidal creeks begin.

Tour BHP Billiton's Point Nelson port facilities and be amazed as trains kilometres long trundle in and out of town carrying millions of tonnes of high grade iron ore. Witness the massive salt piles Dampier Salt accumulate on the way into town, an unmistakable Port Hedland sight.

In contrast Pretty Pool is aptly named and is great for a refreshing dip in the waters of the Indian Ocean. Nearby Cooke Point and Cemetery Beach come alive during the winter months for the 'Stairway to the Moon' phenomenon and during summer when Flatback turtles drag themselves ashore to nest and hatchlings emerge.

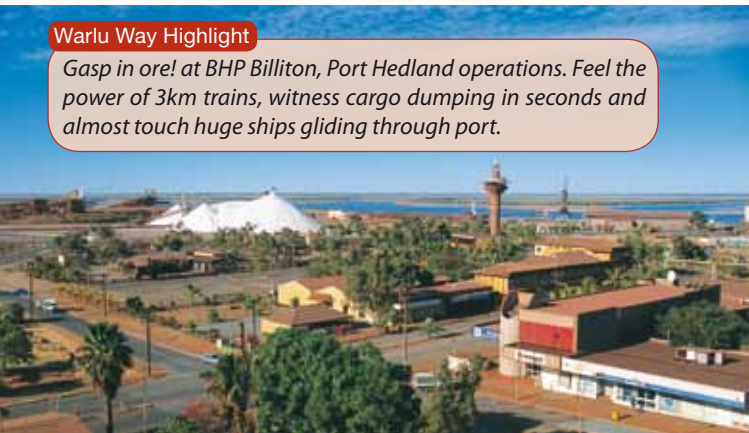
MARBLE BAR

Marble Bar is a unique example of a pioneering outback town established in the gold rush days of the late 1800's. The Marble Bar is an immense band of Jasper which spans the Coongan River 5kms from town. It was this bar which pioneers mistook for 'marble' that gave rise to the towns unmistakable name.

Also famous for its Guinness Book of Records entry stating, "Temperature reached 37.8C on 160 consecutive days, October 1923 to April 1924", the nickname of 'Australia's hottest town' has stuck. Set in a rugged landscape, where gorges cut into hill ranges and form oasis like water holes with sheer ancient rock faces, the road to Marble Bar is sealed, however there is no better way to see the pristine wilderness around Marble Bar than by 4WD.

Warlu Way Highlight

Gasps in ore! at BHP Billiton, Port Hedland operations. Feel the power of 3km trains, witness cargo dumping in seconds and almost touch huge ships gliding through port.



BROOME

Founded in the late 1880's as a pearling port, Broome now boasts a multicultural population of the many nationalities lured here by the promise of finding their fortunes. Koepanger, Malay, Chinese, European and Aboriginal cultures have all blended to create a captivatingly friendly and flamboyant personality that is the heart and soul of Broome.

The famous Cable Beach got its name from a telegraph cable that was laid between Broome and Java in 1889. Roebuck Bay is considered to be one of the most bio-diverse bays in the world, home to thousands of migratory birds who flock here to feast on the food rich tidal flats.

Warlu Way Highlight

The phenomenal 'Staircase to the Moon' occurs along the Warlu Way coast from Exmouth to Broome, March to October.



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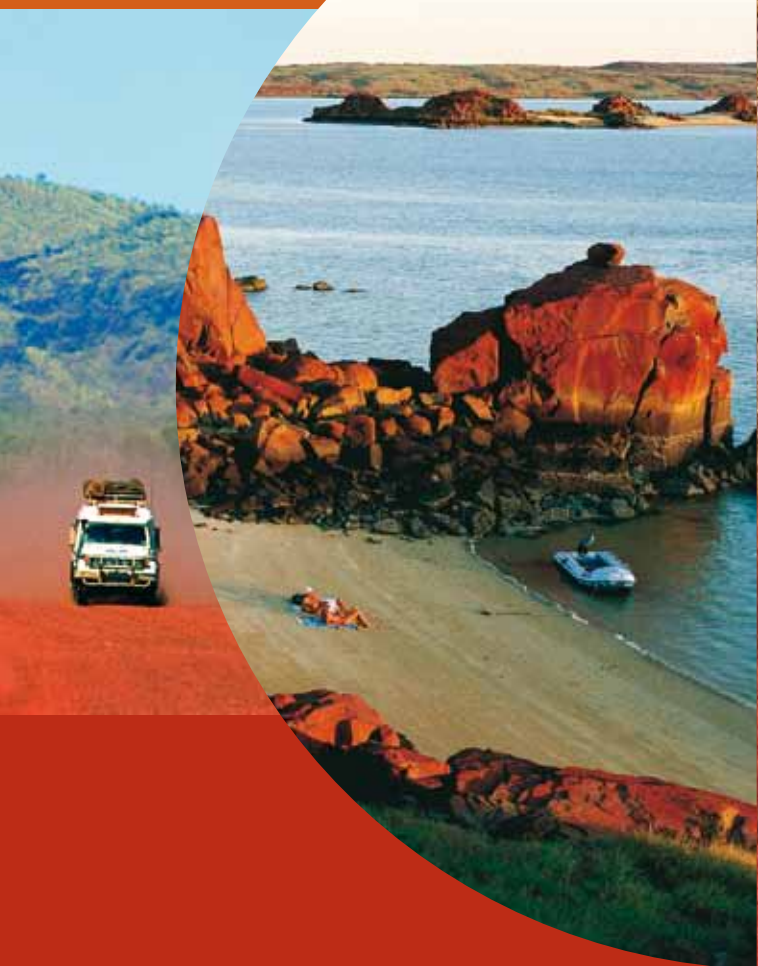
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