



wandering out  
**WEST**

With Western Australian borders shut for some time to international and interstate travellers, the impact has been felt by the Aboriginal tourism sector. As locals enthusiastically 'wander out yonder', we are encouraged to see the State through the eyes of a Traditional Owner and add a cultural experience to our intrastate itinerary.

BY JACKIE CROOKS AND DI BELOW







**T**ravelling to foreign lands is an experience filled with excitement and intrigue. Immersing in traditional culture as we explore new places is one of the great joys of travel but something that is often left to tourists.

When it comes to exploring the Indigenous culture of our home country, the desire among locals is somewhat different. Traditionally, it has been the international visitor (and to a lesser extent those from the east coast) who have sought out and participated in Aboriginal tourism experiences in Western Australia.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history is taught in schools and there is great interest in connecting with and learning about Aboriginal culture, but Western Australians are less likely to take up the opportunity to immerse themselves in cultural experiences.

The impacts of COVID-19 have meant that intrastate travel has increased so Aboriginal tourism operators have pivoted and refocused on the intrastate market, encouraging WA residents to learn and experience local Aboriginal culture.

## WONDERS OUT WEST

WA has one of the oldest living cultures on Earth and its tourism potential is largely untapped. WA's ruggedly



picturesque landscapes have been home to Aboriginal people for more than 60,000 years, comprising a vast network of ancient tracks that link more than 120 language groups, each with their own unique story and heritage.

With a size comparable to western Europe, WA has an enormously diverse range of Aboriginal culture throughout the State and the experience you receive in the north is very different from the south. No one Aboriginal experience is the same.

Experiencing WA through the eyes of Traditional Custodians opens up a whole new way of seeing things. The bush becomes a supermarket full of an array of foods to sustain and heal. Exploring a limestone cave is magical and intriguing, but visiting with an Aboriginal guide as they play a didgeridoo in the cavernous underground takes the experience to a whole new level.

## WHAT'S NEXT

Through the support of State Government and member organisations such as the WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC), Western Australians are opening their eyes to what Aboriginal culture is really about.

*The Jina: Western Australian Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2021–2025* (Jina Plan) was launched in May 2021 and outlines 69 actions aimed at building, developing and growing the Aboriginal tourism sector in WA.

The vision is for WA to become the premier authentic Aboriginal tourism destination in Australia—a place for sharing cultural experiences and enriching the lives of Aboriginal people. The Jina Plan sets out how to achieve this through strong partnerships, enabling Aboriginal people to develop their own businesses to showcase their culture on their country.

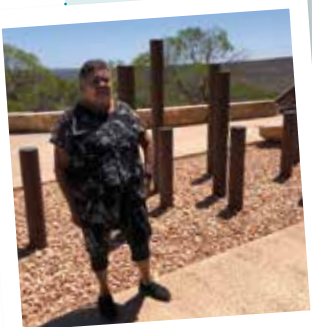
### **Discover the Dreaming**

Colleen Drage is a Nanda woman and cultural leader who lives and works on Yamatji country. Along with fellow artists Mauretta Drage and Kayla Hampton, Colleen's art enlivens the new Kalbarri Skywalk with cultural meaning.

DBCA is working with Colleen to deliver cultural talks at the skywalk under the 'Discover the Dreaming' program. These small-group talks provide visitors with a cultural perspective on the landscape and are a wonderful way to connect with country and enrich your visit. The talks have been designed to be affordable and are less than one hour to suit families and visitors exploring other parts of the park.

Colleen is planning to provide a range of unique experiences for visitors to learn about the culture and history of Nanda country.

Join Colleen on a visit to Kalbarri as she shares her knowledge of ancient culture and country. Information is available at [exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/whats-on](https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/whats-on).



*Previous page*

**Main** Peedamulla Campground, Pilbara.

*Photo – WAITOC*

**Inset (previous page) and above** Uptuyu Aboriginal Adventures.

*Photos – Tourism WA*

**Inset left** Colleen Drage delivers a cultural talk in Kalbarri National Park.

*Photo – Tracy Shea*



Hear more about  
Aboriginal  
tourism in WA

Scan this QR code or  
visit Parks and Wildlife  
Service's podcast.



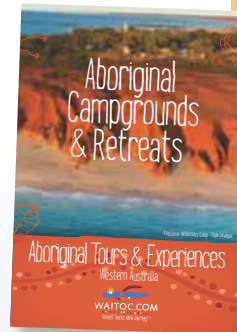




49 Mercedes Cove Coastal Retreat

## Camping and retreat experiences

The Aboriginal communities who own and operate private campgrounds and retreats are passionate about sharing their country with visitors. These spectacular and often secluded locations are on traditional lands, some with private beaches, uncrowded fishing spots, pristine bushwalks and abundant wildlife. Income generated from these businesses helps sustain the communities that own and operate them, often providing employment and training. ‘Camping with Custodians’ campgrounds offer visitors the opportunity to truly experience country and culture by connecting with Traditional Owners. Each campground provides a unique experience—tour ancient limestone caves and rock art sites, visit an Aboriginal art gallery, stay close to iconic natural attractions or just enjoy a yarn around the campfire. See map on page 44–45.



22 Girloorloo Tours at Mimbi Caves

Left Information about Aboriginal-owned and operated accommodation is available at [waitoc.com](http://waitoc.com).  
Photos this page – WAITOC, Tourism WA



57 Peedamulla Campground



31 Imintji Campground



11 Bush Ghoodhu Wongutha Tours



56 Oongkalkada Wilderness Camp

# Tours and experiences, and Aboriginal-owned and operated campgrounds and retreats

## Tour operator



1. Ardyaloon Hatchery			•
2. Banana Well Getaway	•		•
3. Baiyungu Dreaming			•
4. Bilya Koort Boodja Cultural Centre		•	•
5. Bindi Bindi Dreaming		•	•
6. Borrgoron Cultural Tours		•	•
7. Brian Lee Tagalong Tours		•	•
8. Bundy's Cultural Tours		•	•
9. Bungle Bungle Guided Tours		•	•
10. Bungoolee Tours			•
11. Bush Ghoodhu Wongutha Tours	•	•	•
12. The Crossing Inn	•		
13. Darnngu Heritage Cruises			•
14. Dale Tilbrook Experiences		•	•
15. Deadly Divas Experiences		•	•
16. Djirriily Dreaming		•	•
17. Djurandi Dreaming	•		•
18. Doon Doon Campground	•		
19. Echo Tours			•
20. Experience Murujuga			•
21. Fitzroy River Lodge	•		
22. Girloorloo Tours at Mimbi Caves	•	•	•
23. Go Cultural Aboriginal Tours and Experiences			•
24. Goojarr Goonyool Whale Research and Campground	•		
25. Goolarabooloo Millibin Yarli			•
26. Goolamwiin	•	•	•
27. Goombaragin Eco Retreat	•	•	•
28. Gumbanan Wilderness Retreat	•	•	•
29. Gwoonwardu Mia			•
30. Honeymoon Bay	•	•	•
31. Ilkurlka Roadhouse Gallery and Campground	•		
32. Imintji Campground	•		
33. The Kodja Place		•	•
34. Jilnya Adventures		•	•
35. Kaarak Dreaming		•	•

## Tour operator



36. Karalundi Caravan and Camping Park	•		
37. Karijini Eco Retreat	•		•
38. Kimberley Country Tours	•	•	•
39. Kimberley Cultural Adventures		•	•
40. Kingfisher Tours	•	•	•
41. Koomal Dreaming		•	•
42. Kuarla Bed and Breakfast	•		
43. Kurrah Mia		•	•
44. Lombadina Community	•	•	•
45. Lucky Bean Café		•	•
46. Luridgii Tours	•	•	•
47. Mabu Buru Tours		•	•
48. Mandjoogoodap Dreaming		•	•
49. Mercedes Cove Coastal Retreat	•	•	•
50. Narlijia Experiences Broome		•	•
51. Ngalang Wongi Aboriginal Cultural Tours		•	•
52. Ngurrangga Tours		•	•
53. Njaki Njaki Aboriginal Cultural Tours		•	•
54. Nyamanka Honeyant Hunting Tour		•	•
55. Ngungar Tours		•	•
56. Oongkalkada	•	•	•
57. Peedamulla Campground	•		•
58. Pilbara Tours			
59. Ribinyung Dawang Ord River Cultural Tour	•	•	•
60. Roelands Village		•	•
61. Southern Cross at Lullumb		•	•
62. Uptuyu Aboriginal Adventures		•	•
63. Unguu Visitor Pass and Munurru Campground	•		•
64. Violet Valley Campground	•		
65. Waringgarri Aboriginal Art		•	•
66. Warrang-Bridil			•
67. Wijingarra Tours		•	•
68. Wuddi Cultural Tours		•	•
69. Wula Gura Nyinda Eco Adventures Shark Bay	•	•	•
70. Wunan House	•		

 **Camping and accommodation**

 **Bushfood**

 **Tours**

### Reconciliation Barometer

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer shows that the majority of Australians believe it's important to learn about Aboriginal history and cultures. The biennial national research study undertaken by Reconciliation Australia in 2020 showed that 86 per cent of the Australia's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people agree that it is important that all Australians know about Aboriginal cultures.





"Experiencing WA through the eyes of Traditional Custodians opens up a whole new way of seeing things."



### Do it yourself

Information about cultural tours and experiences, and Aboriginal-owned and operated campgrounds and retreats, as well as Aboriginal art galleries, is available on the WAITOC website.

For more information visit [waitoc.com](http://waitoc.com) or scan this QR code.



Above Bundy's Cultural Tours.

Inset right Koomal Dreaming.

Below right Uptuyu Aboriginal Adventures.

Below Wula Gura Nyinda Eco Adventures, Shark Bay.  
Photos – Tourism WA



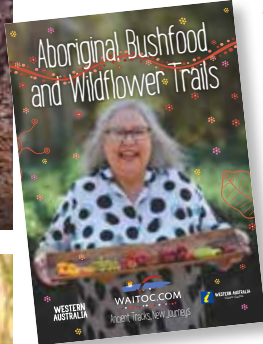


## Bushfood and wildflower experiences

WA's wildflowers rank among the most spectacular flower displays in the world. Between July and October, many parts of the State become blanketed with colour. Everything from tiny crimson myrtles, dainty smokebushes, fiery mountain bells and more than 150 species of orchids come into bloom. For Aboriginal people, these flowers are also a traditional source of food and medicine—part of WA's great big bush supermarket, full of highly nutritious foods that can be found throughout the land, the seas and the waterways. On an Aboriginal bushfood tour, you will be treated to interactive and delicious cultural encounters as your Aboriginal guides share ancient cultural knowledge of what the land has to offer. See map on page 44–45.



40 Koomal Dreaming



Left Information about bushfood and wildflower experiences is available at [waitoc.com](http://waitoc.com).  
Photos pages 46–47 – Frances Andrijich, Tourism WA, WAITOC



5 Bindi Bindi Dreaming



51 Ngalang Wongi  
Aboriginal Cultural Tours



Pigface and icecream



Maalingup Aboriginal Gallery

### **Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*)**

This tree has attractive round, succulent fruits that turn bright red when ripe and make a tasty snack. They have red outer skin, like orange peel, surrounding a hard outer kernel, which can be cracked open to reveal the nut. The nuts are delicious when roasted. The outer part of the fruit can be made into jams or jellies. Quandong is a close relative of sandalwood, and it too parasitises other plants through its roots.

**Other names** Dumbari, jawirli, native peach, Vasse apple, walku, wanga, wayanu, wongil.

**Where it grows** Quandong is found in all Australian states, but in WA it grows from Carnarvon southwards, and into inland areas. In metropolitan Perth it is largely a plant of coastal dunes and limestone areas, but also grows on the Darling Scarp.

**Other uses** Pounded quandong leaves were reportedly used by some Aboriginal people to treat diseases introduced by European settlers. The seed contains a large amount of oil, which can be used as a moisturiser for the skin. Children may use the stones as beads or marbles.



Left Learn more about Noongar plant food in *Bush Tucker Plants of the South-West* bush book, available for \$6.95 from [shop.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://shop.dbca.wa.gov.au).

Right Fruit of the quandong.  
Photo – Greg Keighery







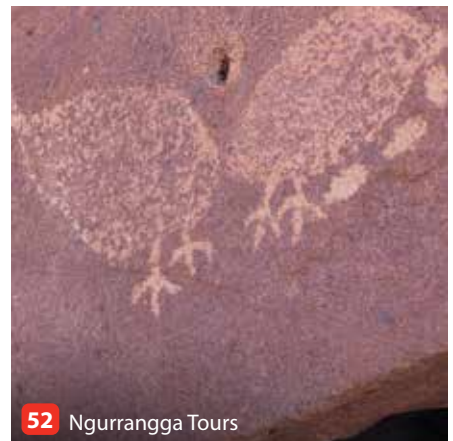
50 Narlijia Experiences Broome



16 Djirrily Dreaming

## Cultural tour experiences

Cultural tour experiences provide opportunities to interact with new environments. Passing on skills and ancestral knowledge has been part of traditional Aboriginal culture for millennia. Practising lore and maintaining customs has preserved the Aboriginal way of life, making it the oldest living culture in the world today. The tours include hands-on examples such as hunting and gathering, making tools and implements using only natural resources and fostering a deeper understanding of the unique cultural identity of the first Australians. Many of the tours offer authentic 'on country' experiences, interacting with Traditional Custodians and elders, who share their knowledge of the land and offer an insight into Aboriginal culture through Dreaming stories, song, dance and a range of activities that encourage group participation and cooperation. See map on page 44–45.



52 Ngurrangga Tours



53 Njaki Njaki Aboriginal Cultural Tours



6 Borrgoron Cultural Tours

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Find out more at [westernaustralia.com](http://westernaustralia.com) or [waitoc.com](http://waitoc.com)