

# Warlu way dreamtime trail 10-15 days



The Warlu Way follows the path of the Warlu, or Dreamtime sea serpent, as it traverses North West Australia and the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia - ancient and sacred landscapes rich in natural beauty and enchanting Aboriginal stories. Your journey takes you back in time to the mystical Dreaming era when the Warlu emerged from the sea and travelled through the pulsing red heart of the outback, forming magnificent waterways as he moved. Beginning on the shores of the world's largest fringing reef, Ningaloo, the Warlu Way leads you 2,480 kilometres from sapphire seas to the

lush oases, soaring gorges, rugged ranges and ancient Aboriginal art of North West Australia's 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. Coral Bay and Exmouth are the gateways to Cape Range National Park and the dazzling marine life of the Ningaloo Reef.

### Suggested itinerary

#### Day 1-2 » Coral Bay to Exmouth 152km

The landing of the schooner 'Maud' in 1884 is the earliest recorded European activity in the Coral Bay area. The town now survives solely on tourism.



**Need maps, guides, atlases or a GPS for your journey?**

RAC members save up to **15% off** our entire range.

Call RAC Travel on **9436 4840**, go to [rac.com.au/holidayguides](http://rac.com.au/holidayguides) or pop into your local RAC Travel Centre

A marine paradise in the Ningaloo region of Australia, Coral Bay is one of WA's (Western Australia's) favourite holiday spots. With beautiful coral gardens just metres from the pristine white beaches of this tiny, laidback seaside town, it's a nature lover's dream. You'll discover a host of land and sea adventures to suit everyone, and with beach weather all year round it's a favourite for travellers young and old. 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. Industries such as fishing, pastoral, oil exploration and tourism now comprise the economic fabric of Exmouth. Detour to Onslow or continue onto inland Paraburadoo.

### Day 3-5 » Exmouth (detour option to Onslow) and Karijini National park 404km

The original town of Onslow was proclaimed in 1883, and named after Sir Alexander Onslow the Chief Justice of WA at the time. Located a short 22kms off the Onslow coast are the Mackerel Islands. Dive, snorkel, fish or just relax. Onslow to Paraburadoo [approx. 391 kms]: Lying 24kms north of the Tropic of Capricorn, on the sealed road linking Nanutarra Roadhouse and Tom Price, Paraburadoo is another of the mining towns affiliated with Pilbara Iron. Paraburadoo to Tom Price [approx. 80 kms]: At 747 metres, Tom Price is the highest town in WA and is nestled deep in the Hamersley Ranges. 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. Deep in the Pilbara, the Warlu Way reaches Karijini National Park, an adventure playground of plunging gorges perfected over two billion years.

### Karijini Detour to Newman 277km

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. At Millstream-Chichester National Park, 300kms from Newman, you enter the home of the Warlu – a fairytale desert oasis of clear pools, water lilies and palm fronds.

**On the Burrup peninsula (Murujuga) 155km** from Millstream], just outside of Karratha, lies the world's largest known collection of Indigenous rock art - and BHP Billiton's Port Hedland operations.

### Burrup to Dampier 14km

Dampier was built to accommodate employees and their families by Hamersley Iron in the 1960's.

### Dampier to Karratha 20km

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. Beyond the coastal towns of Onslow, Dampier and Karratha, your Warlu Way adventure brings you to one of WA's most bio-diverse marine environments, the Dampier Archipelago. The Dampier Archipelago comprises of 42 islands, inlets and rocks lying within a 45km radius from the towns of Dampier and Point Samson. Ideal for swimming and snorkelling or just lazing the day away.

### Karratha to point Samson 60km

Point Samson was built in 1910 as a shipping port with facilities to handle bigger vessels than was possible at nearby Cossack. Now it offers safe swimming and snorkelling all year round. The historic towns of Cossack [approx 15 kms from Point Samson], and Roebourne boast rich and colourful gold rush, pastoral and Indigenous heritage, not to mention delicious seafood.

### Cossack to Whim Creek 100km

Situated on the road between Roebourne and Port Hedland. In 1887, with the discovery of gold and copper, the town was born. After nearly a century, mining activity ended in 1986. In early 2004 construction activities commenced again at Whim Creek with the first copper produced in June 2005.

### Whim Creek to port Hedland 120km

Located on the 'island' of Port Hedland the town site combines a unique history of Indigenous, pastoral and mining influences. Tour BHP Billiton's Point Nelson port facilities and witness massive salt piles Dampier Salt accumulate on the way into town, an unmistakable Port Hedland sight. Australia's hottest town, Marble Bar [203 kms from Port Hedland] is a unique example of a pioneering outback settlement established in the gold rush of the late 1800s. The Marble Bar is an immense band of Jasper which spans the Coongan River 5kms from town.

### Marble Bar to Broome 715km

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. The famous Cable Beach got its name from a telegraph cable that was laid between Broome and Java in 1889. Finishing in the exotic pearling town of Broome, drink in the sunsets at Cable Beach, or head to the Dampier Peninsula for more Indigenous cultural experiences.

## Highlights

- » Ningaloo Marine Park
- » Karijini National Park
- » Millstream Chichester
- » Burrup Peninsula
- » Cossack and Roebourne
- » Dampier Archipelago
- » Port Hedland
- » Marble Bar
- » Broome

## Visitor Centres

Exmouth	(08) 9947 8000
Onslow	(08) 9184 6644
Tom Price	(08) 9188 1112
Newman	(08) 9175 2888
Karratha	08 9144 4600
Roebourne	(08) 9182 1060
Port Hedland	(08) 9173 1711
Broome	1800 883 777
Karijini National Park	(08) 9189 8147
Millstream-Chichester	(08) 9184 5144
Millyering	(08) 9189 8147
Main Roads	1800 013 314

[www.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au)

## Accommodation

Check out the latest star rated accommodation and book on online. [rac.com.au/accommodation](http://rac.com.au/accommodation)

## Useful tips

Need a car? Hire a car through Thrifty car rental and save. [rac.com.au/carhire](http://rac.com.au/carhire)

RAC

Call 9436 4840, go to [rac.com.au/driveaustralia](http://rac.com.au/driveaustralia) or pop into your local RAC Travel Centre

