



8 Day Pilbara Photography Tour, Karratha to Broome

Day 1 (D) - Thursday 16th August

Upon arrival into Karratha, please make your way to our hotel. Taxis are available.

This evening, we'll meet at the hotel at 4pm and you'll be driven to the town of Dampier, for our private sunset cruise (just our group !). En-route we'll stop to view the Red Dog statue, in honour of the famous hitchhiking, people-loving adventurer Red Dog whose adventures were made into a movie in 2011.

Discover the secrets of the magnificent Dampier Archipelago aboard 'Blue Marlin' 12 metre cruising vessel. Our 2.5 hour cruise includes a beautiful sunset experience with a slow cruise through Mermaid Strait.

We jump off the boat and straight into the nearby Hampton Harbour Sailing Club for dinner.

Overnight accommodation- Karratha International Hotel- motel room with en-suite

Day 2 (B,L,D) - Friday 17th August

You will be collected from your Karratha hotel at 7.30am this morning to begin your private 7 day Photography 4WD tour through the Pilbara.

We spend today in Millstream-Chichester National Park, which is a lush oasis of deep gorges and palm-fringed rock pools which provides a stark contrast to the surrounding landscape of rocky escarpments and rolling spinifex-covered hills.

We enter the park from the north and have a swim at Python Pool, a permanent freshwater plunge pool at the base of a cliff in the Chichester Range escarpment.

We also take a walk to the top of Mount Herbert, where we are treated to a splendid view of the savannah lands, including Pyramid, Sherlock and Warambie stations.

Departing the park, our destination this evening is Tom Price, the highest town in WA at 747 metres above sea level.

Dinner tonight is included at the hotel restaurant.

Overnight accommodation- Tom Price Hotel Motel- motel room with en-suite

Day 3 (B,L,D) - Saturday 18th August

This morning you'll take a guided tour to the Rio Tinto Iron Ore Mine site, one of the world's largest open cut iron mines. The 1.5 hour tour will take you into the heart of the mine site operation and includes viewing of the Haul Truck workshop area, visit the main pit area, view working trucks, shovels and drills, the crushing and screening plants and the train load out area.

After the tour, we continue into Karijini National Park, in the Hamersley Range. Karijini is Western Australia's second largest national park, encompassing some 627,442 hectares of spectacular, rugged scenery, ancient geological formations and a variety of arid-land ecosystems.

Massive mountains and escarpments rise out of the flat valleys. The high plateau is dissected by breathtaking gorges, and stony, tree-lined watercourses wind their way over the dusty plain. The slow process of erosion has carved the shape of the land out of rocks that are 2,000 million years old, to form this intriguing landscape and complex ecology.

A variety of ecosystems are represented in the park and these are home to a range of wildlife including a variety of birds, native rodents, native marsupial carnivores (such as the Pilbara ninguai- resident, but nocturnal and shy), red kangaroos, euros, Rothschild's rock wallabies, bats, dingoes, reptiles and amphibians such as frogs, geckoes, goannas, dragons and legless lizards. Termites and the pebble mound mouse also make their homes here in the form of mounds.

Our first stop within the park is Hamersley gorge, where we'll find amazing coloured banded iron formations. Take a dip in the natural spa pool at the Gorge and enjoy a spa treatment the way nature intended – surrounded by amazing rock formations almost as old as the Earth itself.

We make our way to our accommodation and after checking in, you may like to walk to nearby Joffre Lookout where rock steps take you down to the lookout to view this spectacular curved waterfall forming a natural amphitheatre.

Dinner for the next 3 nights is included at the Eco- retreat

Overnight accommodation- Karijini Eco Retreat, in eco tents with en-suites (3 night stay) on a Dinner, bed and breakfast basis

Day 4 (B,L,D) - Sunday 19th August

We travel to the western side of the park today, to Dales Gorge, through to Fortescue Falls, Fern Pool and Circular Pool.

Have a refreshing swim in the spring-fed permanent falls of Fortescue falls, ramble along the gorge floor to the lovely fern framed Fern Pool and enjoy the hidden gardens of Circular Pool.

This afternoon we take a walk through Kalamina Gorge, one of the most picturesque in Karijini. A short walk takes you down a steep track to the base of the gorge to a small permanent pool, complete with waterfall and draping ferns. There is a longer, more difficult walk for those who feel energetic. If you follow the trail deep into Kalamina Gorge, you will be rewarded with a lovely walk downstream, past rock pools and beautiful rock walls, finishing at Rock Arch Pool.

Overnight accommodation- Karijini Eco Retreat, in eco tents with en-suites

Day 5 (B,L,D) - Monday 20th August

This morning is spent exploring Handrail Pool, which is reached by walking through Lower Weano Gorge. We also enjoy the scenery at Junction Pool and Oxer Lookout, located at the junction of four mighty gorges and offering one of the most stunning panoramas in WA.

This afternoon we explore Hancock Gorge, where we climb down a ladder and walk deep into the gorge, through narrow chambers and to beautiful rock pools, for a swim.

We finish the day at Knox Lookout, where we'll take the steps down to the lookout and watch the view spread out in the distance.

Overnight accommodation- Karijini Eco Retreat, in eco tents with en-suites

Day 6 (B,L,D) - Tuesday 21st August

We depart Karijini this morning and drive north to the mining town of Port Hedland, one of the largest and busiest iron ore ports in the world.

We'll arrive mid- afternoon and after checking into the hotel, it's time to jump on our private harbour cruise, operated by the Port Hedland Seafarers Centre. This tour consists of a quick presentation at the Seafarers Centre, followed by a lap around the harbour in one of our working Seafarers Launch Service boats. You will be accompanied by an informative member of the Seafarers Centre Staff who will provide commentary and to answer any of your questions, while picking up seafarers wishing to come back to the Seafarers Centre.

While this isn't a special cruise for photography- it's very interesting to see the working harbour and port and our cruise is booked so we can have sunset on the water.

Overnight accommodation- The Esplanade Port Hedland, hotel room with en-suite

Day 7 (B,L,D) - Wednesday 22nd August

We don't travel very far today, so we have a later start ! We continue just over an hours drive north to Pardoo Station, a 200,000-hectare working cattle property covering a diverse range of landscapes from rich tidal flats to rolling spinifex plains.

Bird watchers at Pardoo Station are spoilt for choice- many species can be viewed around the accommodation facilities and we also go exploring the property for the afternoon (locations will depend on accessibility due to tides).

The station is home to more than one hundred native bird species including the spinifex pigeon, spotted nightjar, pied cormorant, Eastern great egret, white-faced heron, glossy ibis, white-bellied sea eagle, wedge-tailed eagle, brolga and Australian bustard.

Shore birds include the sooty oystercatcher, black-winged stilt, red-capped plover, masked lapwing, black-tailed godwit, whimbrel, Eastern curlew and terek sandpiper.

Dinner tonight is served at the station bistro.

Overnight accommodation- Pardoo Station.

All accommodation has air-conditioning. Double and king single rooms have TV and en-suites. Twin share rooms use shared bathroom facilities and do not have a TV. The upgrade from twin share to a king single room (just for tonight) is \$30 per person. If you are a single and would prefer a double bed, the upgrade price from a king single to a double room (just for tonight) is \$30 per person.

Day 8 (B,L,D) - Thursday 23rd August

We continue north again today to the popular holiday town of Broome, which sits on the western edge of the massive Kimberley Region. With its sweeping white beaches, rich red outcrops and blazing turquoise water, Broome is a great place to relax and unwind.

Our lunch stop is the pristine Eighty mile beach, where the Great Sandy Desert meets the Indian Ocean. The area is also a protected RAMSAR listed wetland of international significance and regularly supports over 400,000 shorebirds.

We'll arrive into Broome late afternoon and our final meal together will be dinner served at our hotel, where we can reminisce over our adventures of the past 8 days !

Overnight accommodation- Mercure Broome, motel room with en-suite

Day 9 (B)

Please make your way to Broome Airport today for your onward flight.

Alternatively, you may like to stay a few more days in Broome and additional nights at the same hotel can be arranged through us, on a B & B basis for an extra \$170 pp twin share and \$310 single.

END ITINERARY

B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner

Itinerary is exclusive to Sacred Earth Safaris, subject to availability road, weather and cultural conditions

***to access the gorges in Karijini, we have to walk up and down rock steps (mainly without railings and often uneven) and while in the gorges, there will be some stepping between rocks. We have plenty of time to do these activities and hiking poles can be brought along with you if needed. Some great photos can be taken from the lookouts (the colours are incredible) and Fern Pool/ Fortescue falls and Kalamina Gorge are relatively easy walks but to access the other gorges, we would recommend reasonable mobility and fitness ***

Minimum 10 guests and maximum 16 guests

AUD \$5665 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE- double bedding

AUD \$5630 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE- twin bedding (allows for the difference in cost between rooms at Pardoo)

\$810 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

Inclusions:

- Sole use of 6WD tour coach, with air conditioning, tinted windows, reclining coach seats and speaker system with professional driver guide & escorted by a professional photographer
- All meals and some snacks
- 8 nights tour accommodation, as listed
- Entry fees to National Parks

- Mine tour at Tom Price
- Private 1 hour harbour cruise facility at Port Hedland
- Private 2.5 hour sunset Dampier Archipelago cruise from Dampier

Exclusions:

- Arrival/departure flights
- Travel insurance
- Alcohol