



WEST COAST ADVENTURE (10 NIGHT)

A once a year cruise of Australia's scenic Western coast. Cruising from Geraldton to Dampier, you will enjoy 11 days of epic ocean adventures, diving, snorkelling, and swimming.

Day 1 & 2 – Abrolhos Islands

After your arrival at the Geraldton Airport terminal, you will be transferred to the Geraldton Fishermen's Wharf to meet your Great Escape crew. Once onboard, we will serve breakfast/morning tea as the Skipper delivers a welcome and safety briefing. The cruise is approximately 4 hours to the Easter group of the Abrolhos Islands. We will spend the rest of the day in this region, taking advantage of the beautiful beaches where you can wander, swim, snorkel, play with seals or fish for wonderful table fish like Bluebone, Coral Trout and Dhufish. If conditions are right, we can fish for a Pink Snapper. If weather permits, we will move to the north end of Rat Island to moor for the night.

Day 3 & 4 – Easter Group

In the morning, we will be cruising to the northernmost group of the Abrolhos, the Wallaby Group. The journey will take us past the Gosse Passage, Beacon Island, the Batavia Wreck site and Long Island. Over the next two days, we will explore the site of the well-known ship Batavia which ran aground in 1620. We will then visit the Wiebbe Hayes stone fort, the oldest surviving building in Australia. Survivors of the Batavia shipwreck and massacre built it. Weather permitting, we can snorkel and dive around the site to see the remnants of canons and other metal relics.

In this region, we should keep an eye out for Australian Seals and little Wallabies, and we will have the opportunity to Cray pot and fish for Coral Trout, Blue Bone Grouper, Snapper or Pelagics. We will cruise around Long Island and Beacon Island,

a small and unprotected island where some Batavia survivors first went ashore. On East Wallaby Island, you will see the stone forts built by Webbey Hayes and his group to protect them and their water from Cornelius. After leaving the Abrolhos Islands, we will spend the night cruising to South Passage between Steep Point and Dirk Hartog Island.

Day 5 – Dirk Hartog Island

Arriving in time for breakfast, we anchor in the protection of the south passage in Shark Bay and launch the dinghies. A variety of surf, snorkel, dive and beach walk options are available in this area. We can even walk up to Cape Inscription to see where Captain Dirk Hartog landed in 1616!

We will also do the lighthouse walk, which has been there since 1908 and see the replica of the inscribed plate. Fishing in the area is also available and will target pelagic species such as Spanish Mackerel and Tuna. If conditions are right, we also troll for Giant Trevally. In the early evening, we will set sail for an overnight steam to Mauds Landing, Maud Point Sanctuary Zone and Ningaloo Reef.

Day 6 – Ningaloo Reef

In the morning, we will arrive at Ningaloo Reef, and you can wake yourself up by snorkelling with the Dusky Grey Sharks or at a separate snorkel sight with turtles. We will then start steaming to Norwegian Bay through the passage of Ningaloo Reef, keeping our eyes out for possible snorkel areas and good places to drop a line as we go. We arrive at Norwegian Bay and anchor for the evening. You will have the opportunity to visit the Whaling Station there.

Day 7 – Yardi Creek/ Exmouth

You will wake at Norwegian Bay for breakfast and have the opportunity to snorkel on the Fin wreck site. We will steam through the Yardi Creek Boat Passage, keeping an eye out for Whale Sharks as we go. Yardi Creek is located at the southern end of the Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park. The coastline here is rich with good surf, dive and snorkel sites. When we arrive at Yardi Creek, you will be able to do the Yardi Creek walk. It is a lovely trail through the national park with beautiful cliffs. In this area, we are always on the look out for the Whale Sharks, which are common at this time of the year. We will refuel at Exmouth before making our way towards the Muriel Islands, enjoying a pre-dinner sunset drink on the bow on our way.

Day 8 – Serrurier Island

In the morning, we will have the opportunity to explore the dive and fishing zones in this area which offer blue Bone Groper, Coral Trout and Trevally. Later, we will steam to the south side of Serrurier Island which has great areas for snorkelling and diving. In the evening, we will set sail to the Montebello Islands.

Day 9 & 10 – Monte Bello Islands

The Montebellos are a magnificent group of over 100 islands that could easily keep us busy for weeks. In this area, we will visit the A-bomb sites, and there are plenty of activities here for any ocean lover to enjoy including, surfing, snorkelling, fishing, and diving.

Day 11 – Dampier

We disembark at Dampier at 9:00 am, where a bus or taxi will transfer you to Karratha Airport for your flight back to Perth.

