



North West WA Food Discovery Tour Mid West, Gascoyne & Pilbara

Following WA's Food Story Northwards
from Ocean & Orchard to Outback

11 days 10 nights | 2nd to 12th August 2027 | 12 people maximum

What's in store on this adventure

Created for the curious and quietly adventurous, this experience takes us through some of Western Australia's most spectacular landscapes and food-producing regions.

Beginning in Perth, follow the seasonal rhythm north through green rolling countryside, fertile orchards, market gardens, plantations and coastal fishing communities, immerse yourself in the beauty of Karijini before reaching the remote cattle stations and ancient landscapes of the Pilbara. Along the way we'll meet remarkable people, hear their stories and share memorable meals inspired by the places we travel through.

From fishing boats and tropical orchards to cattle stations and campfires beneath star-filled skies, this is a journey that blends breathtaking scenery with genuine connection to the people who produce our food.

Being remote doesn't mean going without good coffee. A coffee station has been fitted into the rear of our touring vehicle, so even when there's not a café for miles, we can still start the day properly - flat white, long black or espresso?

Accommodation ranges from country hotels and station stays to comfortable camping, with evenings spent around the fire enjoying relaxed long-table dining and the company of fellow travellers. This is a journey beyond the familiar, where spectacular scenery, warm country hospitality and a deeper understanding of Western Australia's food story come together in unforgettable ways.



Meet Your Hosts

Tracey and Anthony Cotterell have spent over thirty years connecting people through food. Tracey is a chef and food educator, endlessly curious about good food and the people who produce it - their knowledge, ingenuity, resilience and pride in what they do. She loves nothing more than taking beautiful produce, cooking with it and bringing everyone together around the table to share the food, conversation and discoveries of the day.

Anthony grew up on the land and brings a practical understanding of rural life, a love of the great outdoors and an unflappable ability to make things happen. Behind the wheel of Matters of Taste's purpose-built 4WD touring vehicle, he gets the group safely and comfortably into the more remote places that make this journey so extraordinary.

Together, Tracey and Anthony have built relationships with the people you'll meet and created a journey they can't wait to share. They'll be there throughout - behind the wheel, behind farm gates, cooking around the campfire and gathered around the table - making introductions, asking questions and ensuring everyone feels part of what's happening.

For them, the greatest pleasure is seeing their guests delight in the people they meet, the places they discover and the food they share along the way.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY ONE

Perth to Geraldton | Coastal Wheatbelt & Mid-West

It's a travelling day, but with ever-changing scenery and plenty of interesting stops along the way, there's never too long between adventures.

- **Coffee with wildflowers** Morning tea at Nilgen Lookout, with coffee from our onboard setup and some of Tracey's baked treats.
- **Green Head picnic** Packed lunch overlooking the Indian Ocean
- **Goat Dairy** Drop into a local goat dairy and meet the farmer. Discover his daily ritual of milking, then turning the fresh milk into mild, creamy goat's cheese.
- **Behind the scenes at 30 Knots Distillery** Meet the distiller, taste the range and discover the locally inspired Sea Spray Gin, awarded the impressive Double Gold at the 2026 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.
- **Taste of the Mid-West** An exclusive and special dinner showcasing regional produce. We'll be joined by the Executive Officer of the Mid West Food Industries Alliance, who knows the region, its produce and its people so well.

ACCOMMODATION: Oceanfront hotel accommodation, Geraldton

MEALS: Morning tea, picnic lunch & Taste of the Mid-West dinner

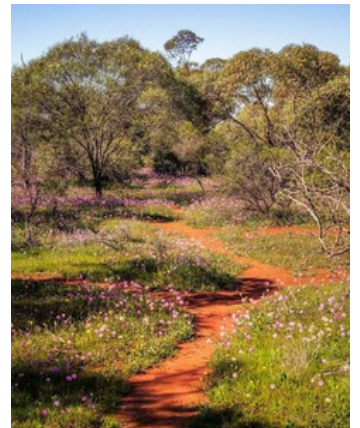
DRINKS: Wine included with dinner. House-made cocktails, G&Ts and other drinks available to purchase.

DAY TWO

Geraldton to Carnarvon | Following the coast north

From Geraldton's working fishing harbour to a picnic then stop for a dip in artesian waters, today takes us north along the coast to Carnarvon.

- **Geraldton Fishermen's Co-op** Go behind the scenes at the lobster grading facility, walk the working fishermen's harbour and discover the western rock lobster industry and life on this stretch of WA's coastline.
- **Picnic on the road** With lunch freshly prepared and packed, we'll find a scenic spot along the way to stop and enjoy it.
- **Wooramel River Retreat** Time to explore the impressive new billabong swimming hole or soak in the naturally heated artesian baths. Bring your bathers!



DAY TWO cont.

- **Carnarvon Arrival** Settle into our accommodation with time for a stroll along the Fascine or a pre-dinner drink before eating together.

ACCOMMODATION: Hospitality Motel, Carnarvon

MEALS: Continental breakfast, picnic lunch & two-course dinner

DRINKS: Available to purchase from the motel's fully licensed bar

DAY THREE

Carnarvon | A Pocket of Fertility

Today we discover how an apparently dry landscape produces an extraordinary abundance of fresh food - and the vital role the Gascoyne River plays in making it possible.

- **The Gascoyne River** Discover how this often-dry river supports Carnarvon's remarkably productive horticultural region.
- **Bananas from the inside** Tour a banana plantation, packing shed and value-adding facility.
- **Meet the growers** Visit local horticultural properties, meet the people growing Carnarvon's diverse produce and locals favourite roadside stalls.
- **Growing for the future** Learn how growers and DPIRD are researching soils, varieties and crops suited to this unique climate.
- **Dinner at sunset** A Vietnamese feast prepared especially for us, overlooking the historic One Mile Jetty.

ACCOMMODATION: Hospitality Motel, Carnarvon

MEALS: Picnic lunch & cafe dinner

DRINKS: Available to purchase from the cafe's fully licensed bar

DAY FOUR

Carnarvon to Cheela Plains Station | Into the Pilbara

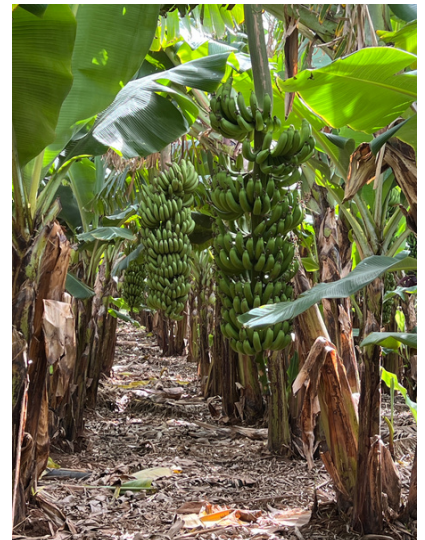
This is the day we leave the coast and horticultural country behind as we make the journey inland and cross into the Pilbara.

- **On the road** straight after breakfast at the motel, we journey inland towards the vast landscapes of the Pilbara.
- **Cheela Plains Station** Meet station owner and discover a landscape of ancient geology, natural gorges and a pastoral history shaped by this remarkable country.
- **Sunset at the station** Settle in before sunset drinks and a social dinner in the station restaurant - a contemporary two-course menu inspired by rustic French cooking.

ACCOMMODATION: Overnight camping at Cheela Plains Station, sleeping on comfortable individual raised stretcher beds under cover. Hot showers and ablution facilities are available.

MEALS: Breakfast & two-course station dinner. Lunch is not included but can be purchased at roadhouse stop.

DRINKS: Wine at pre-dinner sunset drinks. One glass of wine, beer or soft drink included with dinner. Additional drinks available to purchase.



DAY FIVE

Cheela Plains Station to Karijini | Ancient Landscapes

We're now immersed in the ancient Pilbara landscape, with its rugged geology and distinctive flora and fauna. Keep an eye out for purple mulla mulla and, if we're lucky, the striking Sturt's desert pea.

- **Explore Cheela Plains** Head out on an adventure drive through the station's ancient landscape, stopping to enjoy our catered picnic lunch surrounded by nature.
- **Into Karijini** Travel deeper into the Pilbara to Karijini National Park and settle into our campsite, within walking distance of magnificent gorges and pools.
- **An evening at camp** There may be time for a pre-dinner walk before gathering back at camp for dinner cooked by Tracey.

ACCOMMODATION: Camping at Karijini National Park. This is remote bush camping with simple bush toilets and no shower facilities, however a swim in one of Karijini's beautiful rock pools is a wonderful alternative.

MEALS: Picnic lunch then dinner cooked by Tracey. Breakfast is not included.

DRINKS: Wine with dinner



DAY SIX

Karijini National Park | Nature's Masterpiece

Today is devoted entirely to Karijini. We'll wander gorge rims, take in breathtaking lookouts and discover cool pools tucked between towering red cliffs. It's a day to slow down, look closely and marvel at the immense forces of nature that have shaped this extraordinary place.

- **Explore Karijini** Spend the day exploring with time to walk, swim or simply relax and take it all in.
- **An ancient landscape** Look closely at the layers of iron-rich rock, formed on an ancient seafloor more than 2.5 billion years ago and gradually carved into the landscape we see today.
- **Tracey's camp kitchen** Out here, Tracey is our resident chef, preparing simple, delicious food throughout the day before we gather for dinner beneath the vast Pilbara night sky.

ACCOMMODATION: Remote camping at Karijini. This is remote bush camping with simple bush toilets and no shower facilities, however a swim in one of Karijini's beautiful rock pools is a wonderful alternative.

MEALS: Breakfast, lunch & dinner prepared by Tracey

DRINKS: Wine included with dinner



DAY SEVEN

Karijini via Marble Bar to Yarrie Station | Life on the Land

Today takes us deeper into Pilbara life - from the colourful character of Marble Bar to Yarrie Station during muster season, where we'll get a rare glimpse into the people, work and realities of running cattle in this remote country.

- **Marble Bar** Take in the remarkable surrounding landscape before heading to the wonderfully eccentric Iron Clad Hotel for a delicious Outback Beef burger made with beef from our next destination; Yarrie Station.



- **Yarrie Station** Meet Annabelle Coppin and the young station crew during their busiest time of year. Muster can continue for months, with cattle, people and camps constantly on the move - a fascinating glimpse into the realities of life on a working Pilbara cattle station.
- **Around the campfire** Tracey will cook dinner before we join the station crew around the fire - a chance to relax, chat and hear more about their lives on the land.

ACCOMMODATION: Camping at Yarrie Station, with basic bush shower and toilet facilities - the 'loo with a view'.

MEALS: Simple camp breakfast, Outback Beef burger lunch then dinner prepared by Tracey

DRINKS: Wine included with dinner



DAY EIGHT

Yarrie Station | Life on a Pilbara Cattle Station

Some places simply stop you in your tracks, and Yarrie is one of them. The sheer scale, silence and beauty of this remote Pilbara landscape is breathtaking, but equally memorable are the people who work within it - a young, extraordinarily capable crew whose skill, resilience and connection to the land leave a lasting impression.

- **Life on Yarrie** Spend the day around the station, getting to know the crew and seeing first-hand the many skills, resilience and teamwork required to keep a remote cattle station running.
- **Explore the station** Head out across Yarrie's vast landscape to discover remote waterholes, rocky ranges and viewpoints rarely seen by visitors.
- **Paddock to plate** Tonight we eat alongside the station crew, cooking Yarrie's own Outback Beef steaks over the coals. There can be few better ways to understand the connection between the land, the people who care for it and the food on our plates.



ACCOMMODATION: Camping at Yarrie Station, with basic bush shower and toilet facilities - the 'loo with a view'!

MEALS: Breakfast, lunch & campfire dinner prepared by Tracey

DRINKS: Wine included with dinner

DAY NINE

Yarrie to Pardoo Station | From Red Dirt to Blue Water

Today brings another dramatic change of scenery as we farewell Yarrie and travel west to Pardoo, where vast cattle country stretches all the way to the Indian Ocean. Red dirt, blue water and Wagyu beef - it's a very different side of Pilbara station life.

- **Farewell to Yarrie** After breakfast, take a look around the historic homestead before saying goodbye to Annabelle and the station.
- **Pardoo Station** Arrive in time for lunch in the 'Mess' dining room before settling into our ensuite cabins and enjoying a little downtime.
- **Dinner by the ocean** Head to the coast as the afternoon cools for sunset on the beach and a BBQ dinner featuring Pardoo Wagyu.



DAY NINE cont.

ACCOMMODATION: Ensuite cabins, Pardoo Station

MEALS: Camp breakfast at Yarrie, lunch at the Pardoo Mess & beach BBQ dinner

DRINKS: Wine included with dinner

DAY TEN

Pardoo Station | Coastal Station Life

Today we discover what makes Pardoo possible. Like Carnarvon, this seemingly dry landscape sits above a vast underground water source — here supporting an extraordinary cattle operation producing world-class Wagyu beside the Indian Ocean.

- **Behind the scenes at Pardoo** Join the station manager for an insider's tour of the cattle operation, an experience usually reserved for trade buyers, and discover what goes into producing Pardoo's Wagyu.
- **Cape Keraudren** Head to the coast for a picnic lunch and discover the story of the historic rabbit-proof fence where it reaches the sea.
- **Time to relax** Return to the station for some downtime before our final evening at Pardoo.
- **Wagyu on the verandah** Gather on the historic homestead verandah for a three-course dinner prepared by the homestead manager, who is also a chef, showcasing Pardoo Wagyu from the property around us.

ACCOMMODATION: Ensuite cabins, Pardoo Station

MEALS: Cooked buffet breakfast, picnic lunch & three-course Wagyu dinner

DRINKS: Wine included with dinner

DAY ELEVEN

Port Hedland | Where the Pilbara Meets the World

Our final day reveals another side of the Pilbara as we reach Port Hedland and one of the world's largest and busiest bulk export ports. Here, the sheer scale of the region's resources, infrastructure and global connections comes sharply into focus.

- **Port Hedland from the water** Board the Seafarers launch for a harbour tour, getting remarkably close to the enormous ships and seeing the scale and workings of this extraordinary port from the water.
- **Meet the seafarers** Visit the Seafarers Centre and learn about the lives of the thousands of international crew who arrive aboard the ships - an often unseen community at the heart of this global operation. Enjoy lunch during presentation.
- **Homeward bound** We'll drop you at Port Hedland Airport in time for afternoon flights back to Perth.

MEALS: Cooked buffet breakfast at Pardoo & picnic lunch



What's included on this experience

- Small group of just 12 guests, creating a relaxed and personal way to travel.
- A casual pre-departure get-together in Perth to meet your fellow travellers, hear final updates and ask any questions before the adventure begins.
- 11 days fully hosted by Tracey and Anthony Cotterell, travelling through some of Western Australia's most remarkable food-producing regions and landscapes.
- 10 nights accommodation, including comfortable hotels and motels, working station stays and remote camping.
- Travel throughout in our comfortable purpose-built 4WD touring vehicle, with Wi-Fi, charging facilities and excellent elevated views.
- Over 30 meals featuring produce from the regions we travel through — from restaurants and station hospitality to picnics, beach BBQs and campfire cooking.
- Wine and beer with hosted dinners at Karijini, Yarrie Station and Pardoo Station.
- Proper coffee wherever we are! Our onboard coffee station, espresso machine and personal barista (Anthony) mean a flat white, long black or espresso is never too far away. Drinking water is also provided throughout.
- Behind-the-scenes producer visits and special access, including working cattle stations, horticultural properties, fishing and food businesses.
- All tours, tastings, producer visits, National Park entry fees and experiences described in the itinerary are included.
- Airport transfer arrangements at Port Hedland, timed around the recommended flights between Perth and Port Hedland.
- And, of course, the company of a small group of curious people who enjoy good food, discovering new places and a little adventure.

What's not included on this experience

- Flights from Port Hedland to Perth
- Any incidental purchases of food drink or any other item are at your own expense



Handy things to know

Departure and Return - The tour departs from the Red CAT Tourist Bus Stop at Barrack Street Jetty, Perth. Departure time is 8.30am. The tour concludes at Port Hedland Airport, with timing designed to suit afternoon flights back to Perth. Daily flights are available with Qantas and Virgin Australia.

Travel Insurance - Comprehensive travel insurance is strongly recommended. While the Royal Flying Doctor Service provides emergency retrieval throughout remote Western Australia, travel insurance offers additional protection for illness, cancellations and unforeseen circumstances.

Dietary Requirements - Due to the remote nature of the journey and our constantly changing locations, we are unable to cater for allergies or special dietary requirements. Guests should be comfortable with a varied menu and simple meals on travel days.

Safety and Permits - Matters of Taste carries public liability insurance and all required permits and approvals for National Park access and station visits are maintained. Your safety and comfort are always our priority.

Our Vehicle and Experience - Your hosts, Tracey and Anthony Cotterell, will accompany you throughout the journey. Anthony grew up on the land and has extensive experience driving in regional and remote Western Australia. Our comfortable purpose-built 4WD touring vehicle allows us to safely access places that larger coaches simply cannot reach, while providing excellent visibility and a relaxed travelling experience.

Meals and Drinks - Meals included in the itinerary are provided. Additional meals and snacks may be purchased individually. Wine and beer are included with hosted dinners from Karijini through to the end of the tour. Alcoholic beverages at restaurants and licensed venues are available for guests to purchase.

Camping - Camping is comfortable and private, with each guest having their own lightweight sleeping tent and raised stretcher bed. Guests will be responsible for setting up and packing down their own stretcher bed and tent at each camping location, with guidance from Tracey and Anthony if needed. The equipment is simple and lightweight, but guests should be comfortable managing this independently. Shower and washing facilities vary and are simple where available, with basic toilet facilities at all campsites. Camping beneath the vast Pilbara night sky is all part of experiencing these wonderfully remote places.



What to Bring - Please bring a sleeping bag, pillow, towel and head torch, along with toiletries and casual clothing suitable for warm days and cooler evenings - layering is the way to go! Comfortable walking shoes/elastic sided boots, a hat and sunscreen are essential. A soft bag or backpack for your belongings is essential to fit well into our vehicles compact storage spaces. No hard suitcases please.

Typical August Weather - Early August brings some of the most pleasant weather of the year. Geraldton averages around 20°C during the day and 13°C overnight. Carnarvon enjoys daytime temperatures around 23-25°C with cool evenings around 12°C. In the Pilbara, daytime temperatures are typically 27-30°C, while nights can cool to 14-18°C. A jacket, windcheater or fleece is recommended for evenings and early mornings.

Ready to pack your bags?
We'd be delighted to have you join us.

2027 North West WA Food Discovery Tour

Northbound

2-12 August 2027

11 days 10 nights | Maximum 12 guests

Tour Price

\$6,660 per person twin/double share

\$6,950 per person single

All prices are in Australian dollars (AUD) and include GST.

Secure Your Place

A **\$1,700 deposit per person** is required at the time of booking to secure your place. The final balance is due **90 days before departure**. For bookings made within 90 days of departure, full payment is required.

How to Book & Pay

Book online - Book securely through our website and pay by credit card.

Pay by bank transfer - Email or call us to request an invoice and we'll send you a short guest registration form to complete.

Before You Book

Please read our **Terms and Conditions** found on the tour web page carefully before confirming your place. Comprehensive travel insurance is strongly recommended.

BOOK ONLINE



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