

Matters of Taste

FOOD DISCOVERY & TRAVEL



North West WA Food Discovery Tour Pilbara, Gascoyne & Mid-West Following WA's Food Story Southwards from Outback & Orchard to Ocean

11 days 10 nights | 16th to 26th 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 Port Hedland, trace the seasonal rhythm south from remote cattle stations and the ancient landscapes of Karijini to fertile orchards, market gardens and coastal fishing communities that help keep Western Australia supplied throughout winter before our journey concludes in Perth.

Along the way we'll meet remarkable people, hear their stories and share memorable meals inspired by the places we travel through. From cattle stations and campfires beneath star-filled skies to fishing boats and tropical orchards, this is a journey that blends breathtaking scenery with genuine connection to the people who produce our food.

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 with an endless curiosity for the stories behind what we eat, while Anthony grew up on the land and brings a down-to-earth practicality, capability and love of the great outdoors to every journey.

Travelling in Matters of Taste's purpose-built 4WD touring vehicle, Anthony is the perfect person to get the group safely and comfortably into places few others can reach, while Tracey brings the flavours of the journey to life. Together, they'll host this



adventure from behind the wheel, behind farm gates and around the campfire, introducing you to extraordinary people, spectacular landscapes and the stories behind the food that connects them.

Expect warm hospitality, plenty of laughs and the kind of experiences that can only come from travelling with people who genuinely love what they do.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY ONE

Port Hedland via Marble Bar to Yarrie Station | Into Station Country

We waste no time getting into the spirit of the Pilbara. From Port Hedland we head inland through vast, rugged country to Marble Bar before our first taste of life on a working cattle station at Yarrie.

- **Marble Bar** Take in the remarkable landscape before lunch at the wonderfully eccentric Iron Clad Hotel, where an Outback Beef burger gives us our first taste of Yarrie Station - our destination later today.
- **Welcome to Yarrie** Arrive at the station during muster season, settle into camp and meet some of the young crew who live and work in this remote part of the Pilbara.
- **Around the campfire** Tracey will cook dinner before we join the station crew around the fire - a wonderfully informal introduction to the people and realities of station life.

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

MEALS: Outback Beef burger lunch & dinner prepared by Tracey

DRINKS: Wine included with dinner

DAY TWO

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 during muster season, getting to know the crew and seeing first-hand the many skills 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, 'loo with a view'.

MEALS: Breakfast, picnic lunch & campfire dinner

DRINKS: Wine included with dinner



DAY THREE

Yarrie to Pardoo Station | From Red Dirt to Blue Water

Today brings a dramatic change of scenery as we farewell Yarrie and travel north 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 a campfire breakfast, take a look around the homestead, Yarrie's HQ, before saying goodbye to the station and crew.
- **Pardoo Station** Arrive for lunch in the Mess before settling into our ensuite cabins and enjoying some downtime.
- **Sunset by the ocean** As the afternoon progresses, head to the coast for sunset and a stunning, relaxed 80 Mile beach BBQ featuring Pardoo Wagyu.

ACCOMMODATION: Ensuite cabins, Pardoo Station

MEALS: Breakfast at Yarrie, lunch in the Pardoo Mess & beach BBQ dinner

DRINKS: Wine included with dinner

DAY FOUR

Pardoo Station | Coastal Station Life

Today we get beneath the surface of Pardoo, discovering how this vast cattle station operates in a seemingly dry coastal landscape supported by an extraordinary underground water source - and how that water helps produce 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 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 a high marble score Pardoo Wagyu from the property around us.

ACCOMMODATION: Ensuite cabin, Pardoo Station

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

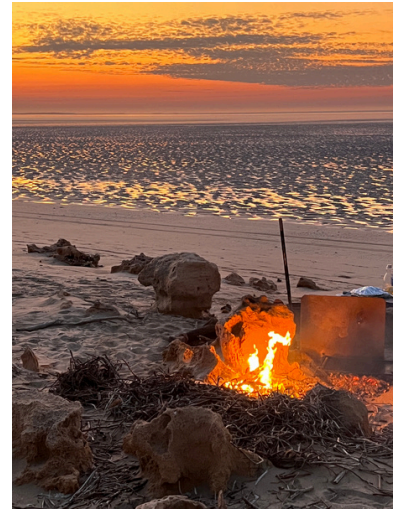
DRINKS: Wine included with dinner

DAY FIVE

Pardoo Station via Port Hedland to Karijini | Coast to Ancient Country

Today takes us from the Pilbara coast into its ancient heart, with a fascinating look at the immense scale of Port Hedland's working harbour before we turn inland for Karijini.

- **Port Hedland from the water** Board the Seafarers launch for a harbour tour, getting remarkably close to the enormous ships and seeing this extraordinary port at work from the water.



DAY FIVE cont.

- **Meet the seafarers** Visit the Seafarers Centre and learn about the lives of the international crews who arrive aboard the ships - an often unseen community at the heart of this global operation.
- **Lunch together** Enjoy a picnic lunch prepared by the chefs at Pardoo during our Seafarers presentation.
- **Into Karijini** Travel inland to Karijini National Park and settle into our remote bush campsite amongst one of Australia's most extraordinary ancient landscapes.

ACCOMMODATION: Remote bush camping at Karijini National Park with simple bush toilets and no showers. A swim in one of Karijini's beautiful rock pools is a wonderful alternative.

MEALS: Cooked breakfast at Pardoo, picnic lunch & dinner prepared by Tracey

DRINKS: Wine included with dinner



DAY SIX

Karijini National Park | Nature's Masterpiece

Today is devoted entirely to Karijini - a landscape more than 2.5 billion years in the making. 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 discovering dramatic gorges, waterfalls, lookouts and natural pools, with time to walk, swim or simply 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 bush camping at Karijini National Park with simple bush toilets and no showers. 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 to Cheela Plains Station | Through Ancient Country

We leave Karijini behind, but not the ancient Pilbara landscape. Keep an eye out for distinctive native flora along the way, including purple mulla mulla and, if we're lucky, the striking Sturt's desert pea.

- **On to Cheela Plains** Travel through the rugged Pilbara landscape to Cheela Plains Station, where ancient geology, natural gorges and pastoral country come together.
- **Explore the station** Head out on an adventure drive through this remarkable property before finding a beautiful spot to enjoy our picnic lunch prepared by Cheela Plains.



DAY SEVEN cont.

- **Sunset at the station** Settle in before sunset drinks and dinner at communal tables in the station restaurant — a contemporary two-course menu inspired by rustic French cooking.

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

MEALS: Breakfast prepared by Tracey, picnic lunch & two-course station dinner

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

DAY EIGHT

Cheela Plains Station to Carnarvon | Back to the Coast

Today we farewell the ancient landscapes and vast pastoral country of the Pilbara and make our way towards the coast and Carnarvon - where tomorrow we'll discover just how much food can be produced in this seemingly dry landscape.

- **Farewell to Cheela Plains** Enjoy breakfast at the station before we begin our journey towards the Gascoyne and the coast.
- **On to Carnarvon** Watch the landscape change as we travel south, arriving in Carnarvon with time to settle into our accommodation and relax.
- **Dinner at accommodation** The extensive menu here was a wonderful surprise when we visited, with a talented chef confidently cooking across multiple cuisines with skill and flair.

ACCOMMODATION: Country motel, Carnarvon

MEALS: Breakfast at Cheela Plains & dinner at Sails. Lunch is not included.

DRINKS: Available to purchase from the fully licensed motel bar.

DAY NINE

Carnarvon | A Pocket of Fertility

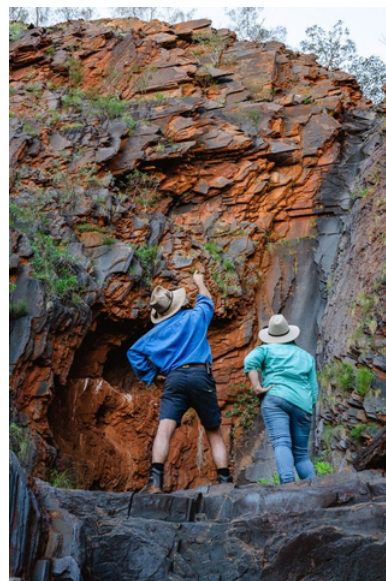
Today we discover how an apparently dry landscape produces an extraordinary abundance of fresh food - and the vital role the Gascoyne River plays in making it possible.

- **The Gascoyne River** Discover how this often-dry river supports Carnarvon's remarkably productive horticultural region and see just how dramatically the landscape changes when the river runs.
- **Bananas from the inside** Walk through a Sweeter Banana plantation before visiting the packing shed and value-adding facility to see the journey from growing and packing to making clever use of second-grade fruit.
- **Meet the growers** Visit a variety of horticultural properties, meet the people growing Carnarvon's diverse produce and call into a favourite roadside stall where the locals shop.
- **Growing for the future** Learn how local growers and DPIRD are researching soils, plant varieties and crops best suited to this unique climate.
- **Dinner at sunset** Finish the day overlooking the historic One Mile Jetty with a Vietnamese feast prepared especially for us by our local host.

ACCOMMODATION: Country motel, Carnarvon

MEALS: Breakfast, picnic lunch & Vietnamese dinner

DRINKS: Available to purchase from the café's licensed bar



DAY TEN

Carnarvon to Geraldton | Following the Coast South

Today we continue south towards Geraldton, with time for a soak in artesian waters before finishing the day discovering some distinctly Mid-West flavours.

- **Wooramel River Retreat** Stop to explore the impressive billabong swimming hole or soak in the naturally heated artesian baths. Bring your bathers!
- **On to Geraldton** Continue south to Geraldton and settle into our oceanfront accommodation before heading out for the evening.
- **Behind the scenes** at 30 Knots Distillery Meet the distiller, taste the range and discover Sea Spray Gin, awarded Double Gold at the 2026 San Francisco World Spirits Competition.
- **Taste of the Mid-West** Enjoy a special dinner showcasing regional produce, joined by the Executive Officer of the Mid West Food Industries Alliance, who knows the region, its produce and its people so well.

ACCOMMODATION: Ocean Centre Hotel, Geraldton

MEALS: Continental breakfast & Taste of the Mid-West dinner. Lunch not included.

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



DAY ELEVEN

Geraldton to Perth | From the Sea to Spring Landscape

There's still plenty to discover on our final day. We begin at Geraldton's working fishing harbour before following the coast south, meeting a cheesemaker and watching the landscape become greener as we make our way towards Perth.

- **Geraldton's fishing industry** Go behind the scenes at the lobster grading facility and working fishermen's harbour to discover more about western rock lobster and the people behind this important Mid-West industry.
- **Lunch for the road** Collect a freshly prepared local lunch in Geraldton to enjoy somewhere scenic along our journey south.
- **Goat dairy visit** Drop into a local goat dairy, meet the owner and discover his daily ritual of milking the herd and turning the fresh milk into beautifully mild, creamy goat's cheese.
- **Wildflowers at Nilgen** One final stop to stretch our legs amongst the spring wildflowers.
- **Home to Perth** Arrive at Barrack Street Jetty where our North West adventure comes to an end.

MEALS: Continental breakfast, picnic lunch.



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

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.
- Meals as per itinerary 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 pick-up at Port Hedland, timed around the morning 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 begins at Port Hedland Airport, with timing designed to suit morning flight arrivals from Perth. Daily flights are available with Qantas and Virgin Australia. The tour concludes at the Red CAT Tourist Bus Stop at Barrack Street Jetty, Perth late afternoon on the final day.

Travel Insurance - Guests are encouraged to obtain comprehensive travel insurance appropriate to their circumstances, including cover for cancellation, medical expenses and other unforeseen events. 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 Pardoo through to Karijini. 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. Comfortable walking shoes, a hat and sunscreen are essential. Please use a soft bag or backpack for your belongings. These fit well into our vehicle's compact storage spaces.

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 Southbound

16-26 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 **\$650.00 per person deposit** is required 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 North West tour web page carefully before confirming your place. Comprehensive travel insurance is recommended.

BOOK ONLINE



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