



Millstream-Chichester National Park, Pilbara

Pilbara Trail

Over half a million square kilometres of mangroves, off shore islands, deep gorges, mountain ranges, desert sand dunes and river pools ensure the Pilbara's flora is as diverse as the landscape. Vibrant floral shades contrast with the dusty red earth and golden spinifex grass. The Pilbara's flora is yours to explore.

Plants and flowers in the Pilbara have evolved unique adaptations to survive in an arid climate that receives most of its rainfall during summer by way of tropical cyclones.

Watercourses are lined with river red gums, coolibah, silver cadjeput and desert bloodwood trees. Gorges contain permanent water supplies to support moisture loving plants like the common rock fig and rock kurrajong.

From July to September wildflowers of all colours, sizes and shapes, like the unmistakable Sturt's desert pea, fluffy mulla mulla, the tall majestic Ashburton pea or any number of the 65 species of Acacia (wattle) can be seen throughout the region.

For the local Aboriginal people the plants and flowers of the Pilbara provided much more than just aesthetic qualities, and are still used today for food, medicine and ceremonial use.

1 Onslow

81km off the North West Coastal Highway

Features: Detour 82km towards Onslow and look for yellow flame Grevillea and Robinson's desert rose. The landscape changes to red sand dunes littered with termite mounds and after rain the vivid magenta ground cover known as Parakeelya.

Flora: The fragrant apple bush and the unique green birdflower adorn the landscape.

2 Road to Paraburdoo

Travel east from Nanutarra Roadhouse for 276km

Features: As the impressive Hamersley Range begins to appear you know you are nearing Karijini country. Disturbed roadside soil and collection of rainfall often causes the Sturt's desert pea and bush tomato to flower extensively.

Flora: Poison morning glory, burra (*Eremophila frazeri*) and northern bluebell are common here.

3 Karijini National Park

Travel from Paraburdoo, Tom Price to Karijini National Park to Newman

Features: The second largest national park in WA, Karijini is one of the most spectacular sights in the Pilbara. Set in the Hamersley Range, walk trails lead deep into

breathtaking gorges, with crystal clear rock pools and waterfalls. The area is steeped in indigenous culture. Maps outlining incredible walk trails through Karijini can be collected at the award winning Karijini National Park Visitor Centre.

At first glance the ancient Hamersley Ranges are covered in spinifex grass, desert bloodwood and snappy gum, however closer inspection reveals northern bluebell, mulla mulla, native tomato and limestone Cassia. Permanent water from the gorges nourishes the common rock fig, lemongrass and silver cadjeput. Entry fees apply at Karijini National Park.

Flora: Acacia, including the prolific mulga, desert poplar, Robinson's desert rose, slender *Petalostylis* and Ashburton pea are often seen from the vehicle window as the seemingly endless kilometres melt past.

4 Road to Port Hedland

Travel north from Newman for 458km

Features: Range country dominates the landscape until Auski Roadhouse where the land begins to flatten and endless horizons become the view until reaching Port Hedland.

The parasitic harlequin mistletoe, an attractive bright red tubular flower relies on host plants like wattles, Cassias, native Hibiscus and royal mulla mulla for support.

Pilbara Trail

Must see and do

- Explore the colourful marine wonderland of the Mackerel Islands
- Witness turtle nesting on pristine beaches
- Drive to the top of Mount Nameless for the view of a lifetime, Tom Price
- Take a day tour to marvel at the Pilbara Iron Ore Mine, Tom Price
- Explore the dramatic gorges, secret canyons and enticing rock pools of Karijini National Park
- Have a swim and explore the natural beauty of Newman's waterholes
- Check out local indigenous artists at work in Cossack
- Wander along the Onslow Boardwalk for spectacular sunrises and sunsets
- Catch the breathtaking views from Koombana Lookout, Port Hedland



Flora: Spotted emu bush, desert poplar, yellow flame Grevillea, twinleaf mallee and coolibah are stand out features along the trail.

5 Marble Bar

Travel 193km from Port Hedland to Marble Bar via the sealed Marble Bar Road

Features: A flat landscape dotted occasionally by the odd hill slowly becomes more dramatic as the road approaches the Gorge Range just north of Marble Bar. The road twists and winds across the Coongan River and through Doolena Gap.

Flora: Statuesque river red gums and Coolibah can be spotted along the drive. The Aboriginal people would cut the thick bark from the coolibah to make dishes for carrying. Keep an eye out for the fluffy yellow flowers of the Acacia.

6 Millstream-Chichester National Park

Port Hedland to Millstream-Chichester National Park

Features: River crossings dominate the road south from Port Hedland, so keep an eye out for river red gums, coolibahs and the yellow flowers of the candlestick Cassia. The desert walnut is common around South Hedland and south to the Turner River.

Whilst passing through the hills near Whim Creek look for the beautiful flowers of the corkwood tree.

Located along the Fortescue River is the Millstream oasis, a haven for birdlife. It has a landscape of rolling hills, impressive escarpments and winding tree-lined watercourses.

The Chichester Range rises sharply from the coastal plain and includes rocky peaks, tranquil gorges and hidden rock pools.

No trip would be complete without a swim at the memorably named Python Pool, before traveling on to Millstream Homestead which houses the national park visitor centre.

Entry fees apply at Millstream-Chichester National Park.

Flora: The rare Millstream fan palm (*Livistona alfredii*) is found on the walk trail to Chinderwarriner Pool. Bright golden sticky Cassia, rock kurrajong, lace flower, Sturt's desert pea, Robinson's desert rose, morning glory, tall mulla mulla, Spinifex, snappy gum and the common rock fig feature in the landscape.



7 Cossack

Travel to Roebourne. Cossack lies just 11km away

Features: Make a stop at the fascinating restored pioneer settlement and visit the first pearling port in Australia's North West.

Flora: Shore stability is maintained here by coastal plant species such as ocean bean, holly leafed Grevillea and 7 species of mangroves.

8 Roebourne to Karratha and Dampier

Travel west 40km from Roebourne to Karratha

Features: Look for quartz outcrops with coastal caper, Sturt's desert pea and rock kurrajong.

Flora: A long living wattle called snakewood grows well on the flats leading into Karratha.

