Australia’s CORAL COAST Holiday Planner 2018
Spanning from the northern suburbs of Perth to south of Dongara, the Indian Ocean Drive offers a scenic journey to the coastal towns of Cervantes, Jurien Bay, Green Head, Leeman, Dongara and Port Denison. The Indian Ocean Drive is a scenic but quick road, making the area an excellent day trip destination or the first port of call on your journey north.

These seaside towns are great short break destinations offering plenty of things to see and do on the coast and inland. Marvel at the Pinnacles Desert in Cervantes, observe endangered sea lions in marine parks and explore unique and rare wildflowers.

**BEST TIME TO VISIT:** All year round
CERVANTES
Distance from Perth: 200km
Cervantes is the ideal base to enjoy a range of land and water based activities. Known worldwide for the Pinnacles Desert in the Nambung National Park, the town also boasts beautiful beaches for fishing, swimming and tasty fresh seafood.

PINNACLES DESERT
Located in the heart of the Nambung National Park, the Pinnacles Desert is one of Australia’s most unique landscapes, featuring thousands of limestone spires up to 3.5 metres tall. The Pinnacles were formed thousands of years ago from a complex combination of shell grit, beach sand, decaying vegetative matter, rain and wind erosion. Explore the desert on the designated 4 kilometre driving trail or stroll through them at your leisure on the 1.2 kilometre walking trail. Learn more about the Nambung National Park’s fascinating geology, flora and fauna at the Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre.

FUN FACT: The Pinnacles were formed 250,000 to 300,000 years ago and they continue to form even today.

LAKE THETIS & THROMBOLITES
Located two kilometres south east of Cervantes, Lake Thetis is one of only five thrombolite, or ‘living fossil’, sites in Western Australia. An easy 1.5 kilometre walking loop around the lake showcases the experience via interpretative signage which provides information on the fossils, geology, flora, fauna and Indigenous culture. The first 300m of boardwalk, which passes the best examples of thrombolites, is universally accessible.

FUN FACT: It is estimated the lake was isolated from the sea about 4800 years ago when sea levels dropped and coastal dunes formed around the lake.

THE CERVANTES ART TRAIL
A community project developed by the Cervantes Historical Society, the trail provides point of interest, links to Spanish history and of course the ocean! There are 23 pieces around the town, with Cervantes local Murray Ford’s dhufish one of the most impressive pieces - constructed from scrap farm machinery parts.

VISIT A LOBSTER FACTORY
The Indian Ocean Rock Lobster Factory, or Lobster Shack, offers audio guide tours each day from 12-3pm in English, Mandarin, Japanese, French, Italian, German, Korean or a special version just for the kids. Be sure to pick up some delicious seafood to take away or enjoy a freshly cooked seafood meal at the café. The Lobster Shack also offers Australian sea lion watching tours and fishing charters which take passengers through the Cervantes islands.

Wander among thousands of golden limestone spires at the Pinnacles Desert.
2. Take a boat tour to see the endangered Australian sea lions off Jurien Bay.
3. Explore the Three Bays Walkway and camp at Milligan Island.
4. Learn about the Lake Thetis “living fossils” at Cervantes.
5. 4WD Hill River; 25km sand-dune track between Cervantes and Jurien Bay.
6. Between July to October, discover thousands of wildflower species within the Lesueur and Nambung National Parks.
7. Catch a movie on a summer’s eve at the Dongara-Port Denison drive-in.
8. Sandboard the ice-cream white sand dunes in Jurien Bay or carve the surf waves at Dongara.
9. Get artistic! Find sculptures on the Cervantes Art Trail and meet the ANZAC Memorial Soldiers in Port Denison.
10. Visit Dongara’s new Rum Distillery, Illegal Tender Rum Co.
JURIEN BAY
Distance from Perth: 220km
Just 20 minutes drive north of Cervantes along the Indian Ocean Drive, Jurien Bay is fast emerging as a popular short break destination. Whether you’re a wildflower enthusiast visiting to see the many unique species, a snorkeller discovering the underwater wonderland of the Jurien Bay Marine Park or a sky diver landing on a pristine white beach, you are sure to enjoy your stay.

Endangered Australian Sea Lion
The Australian sea lion are among the rarest of the world’s seal species, found only in WA and South Australia. In 2008 the Australian sea lion was listed as an endangered species. Approximately 21% of the Western Australian sea lion population live and breed in the Jurien Bay Marine Park. Enjoy the privilege of observing sea lions in their own environment by joining a seal lion charter tour from Jurien Bay. Spy them from the boat as they duck and dive through the water off Jurien Bay, the Cervantes Islands or at Fishman’s Bay off Green Head.

Reminder: It is important to remember sea lions you encounter are not tame. Please don’t feed them as it creates dependence on humans.

Jurien Bay Marine Park
The Jurien Bay Marine Park is sheltered by a string of islands and reefs that make the surrounding ocean perfect for water activities. Look for interpretative signs at the main beach to learn about the marine species and bird life in the area. Swimming is safe in the tranquil inland harbour or beaches. All have pristine white sands and enticing clear waters, ideal for a swim during the summer months. It is also an excellent area for windsurfing or kitesurfing and for recreational fishing and crabbing.

Secret Sandy Cape
Secret no more – Sandy Cape has grown in popularity with visitors constantly Instagramming from the location. Located 13 kilometres north of Jurien Bay, this beautiful beach is situated in a small, sheltered bay offering great swimming, snorkelling, fishing and sandboarding. Licensed road vehicles are permitted in the park and are allowed to use the beach between the high and low water line. Look for signage before taking out the fishing line as some restrictions are in place. Dogs are allowed at Sandy Cape, but they need to be on a leash in some areas.

wildflowers and wildlife
Made up of 17000 hectares of coastal heathland, the Nambung National Park is home to a variety of native plants such as grass trees and animals. Wildflowers commonly found in the Nambung National Park during late winter and spring include wattles, quandong, yellow tail flower, thick-leaved fan flower, white clematis, cockies tongues, parrotbush and banksia species. Visitors will also delight in viewing wildlife such as western grey kangaroos, cockatoos, emus and bobtail skinks.

Hangover Bay & Kangaroo Point
Kangaroo Point and Hangover Bay are located a short distance from Nambung National Park and are great spots for snorkelling, swimming, windsurfing, fishing, surfing and boating. Picnic facilities include gas barbecues, gazebos/shelter and toilets.

lookouts & walking trails
Stunning views of ocean and bushland are offered at many lookouts in and around Cervantes. The Hansen Bay Lookout has a picturesque view of the ocean, Lake Thetis and the Cervantes town site. For different but equally scenic perspectives, check out the Thirsty Point and Molah Hill Lookouts. Located half way between Cervantes and Jurien Bay, the Molah Hill Lookout has panoramic views of the Indian Ocean and Mount Lesueur.

Cervantes Visitor Information
Pinnacles Visitor Centre
Cadiz Street, Cervantes WA 6511
Tel: 1800 610 660
E: enquiries@visitpinnaclescountry.com.au
Website: www.visitpinnaclescountry.com.au

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fun fact:
Jurien Bay’s snorkel trail was the first underwater (not land-based) trail in Australia.
TAKE TO THE TURQUOISE TRAIL
Bike and follow the Turquoise Way Trail, a 14.2 kilometre sealed track stretching along the coast from the Jurien Bay Marina to the Hill River (almost half way to Cervantes) which was upgraded and extended in 2017. With stunning views of the coast, the trail passes through the Dobbyn Park foreshore area that has beautiful grassed picnic spots, gazebos, toilets and playgrounds.

FOLLOW THE SNORKELLING TRAIL
Located at the old Fishing Jetty, 78 concrete reef balls have been placed to create a diverse underwater habitat and a snorkel trail for novice swimmers to follow. The trail encourages a number of marine life to make their home in the Jurien Bay Marine Park. New sources of food, sponges and coral are continually growing on and around the reef balls, ensuring new fish ‘visit the reef’ in addition to the core residents (including a dhufish and rock lobster nursery), making every snorkelling experience unique.

SUP AND KAYAK THE BEACH
Bring your own stand up paddleboard and immerse yourself in the turquoise waters off the town beach at Jurien Bay. Experienced SUPers can explore the ocean, or the marina at the northern end of town which offers calmer waters. Equipment hire is available from the foreshore.

4WD AT HILL RIVER
Accessible by 4WD track, the Cervantes to Jurien Bay track (accessible via the Indian Ocean Drive) is 25km and will take you over the sand dunes onto the beach and crossing to Hill River. The track is only wide enough for one car, so you may have to reverse for quite a distance if you meet another vehicle! The area offers some excellent kayak experiences along the river or in the ocean. Like kayaking, fishing options at Hill River include the river and ocean.

FISHING AT THE MARINA
Take a stroll past the Jurien Bay Marina to see rock lobster fishermen as they return with their daily catch. The marina has four boat launching and retrieval ramps with a floating pontoon located adjacent to the ramps to allow easy access to the boats. The marina has a fish cleaning facility, a protected beach, toilets and a shower. Walking trails extend north and south of the bay.

TURQUOISE COAST VISITOR CENTRE
67 Bashford St, Jurien Bay WA 6516
Tel: +61 8 9652 0870
E: visitor@dandaragan.wa.gov.au
Website: www.visitturquoisecoast.com.au
GREEN HEAD

Distance from Perth: 250km

Situated on a headland, Green Head’s white sandy beaches are great for swimming and snorkelling. Offshore islands and reefs are perfect for fishing and scuba diving and inland areas are awash with wildflowers during spring. Green Head is also home to a resident population of endangered Australian sea lions.

IT’S DYNAMITE!

Green Head’s Dynamite Bay was been awarded #19 out of Australia’s 11,761 best beaches in 2017. The bay is enclosed by sandbars making the swimming cove safe for children or novice swimmers. Further explore this classic coastal beachscape by taking to the Three Bays Walkway.

THREE BAYS WALKWAY

A walkway trail designed to let visitors immerse themselves in the landscape, experience its natural beauty and learn about the Aboriginal and European history. The Three Bays include the sweeping South Bay, the picturesque and protected swimming beach Dynamite Bay, and the peaceful Anchorage Bay.

WALK THE WILDFLOWERS OF LESUEUR NATIONAL PARK

Lesueur National Park is home to almost 900 species of wildflowers, some of which are found nowhere else in the world. More than 100 species of birds are found in the park where they rely on the flora for survival. The best time to visit is in spring, when wildflowers are in full bloom. Explore the dramatic landscapes created by the Lesueur Fault and Cockleshell Gully formation on the 18 kilometre bitumen loop road. Hike to the top of Mount Lesueur for a magnificent panoramic view of the park and coastline. Group wildflower walking tours are available from Perth and Jurien Bay.

HALF DAY HIKE IN THE NATIONAL PARK

At the foot of the Gairdner Range, having driven half-way along the Lesueur Scenic Drive, there is a trailhead including interpretative signs explaining the biodiversity and natural heritage values of the region. The first 250m of the trail leads to the Wilson Lookout, a wide and compacted limestone gravel trail. The remaining of the 4 kilometres of the trail is sand. Please make use of the boot baths at the trail to preserve the plant life and not introduce any diseases.

FUN FACT: Lesueur National Park features approximately 10% of Western Australia’s total known flora.
LEEMAN
Distance from Perth: 260km
Leeman boasts turquoise waters and offshore islands harbouring a great diversity of marine life. The picturesque coastline offers great conditions for an array of water activities. Leeman is a windsurfing and sailing hub with consistent strong summer winds providing excellent conditions, while inland the Stockyard Gully National Park features caves and fantastic four-wheel driving opportunities.

GUIDED CAVING AT STOCKYARD GULLY
Located 20 kilometres inland of Leeman, the Stockyard Gully National Park is accessible by four-wheel drive only. Be sure to take your torch to explore the fascinating, below ground river system of the Stockyard Gully caves. The caves form part of the Old North Stock Route, once used by stockmen on their journey south. Guided walking tours are available from Jurien Bay - if not visiting on a tour please take care, as the caves are subject to flooding after large rainfalls.

SURF & DIVE POINT LOUISE
The main surf break at Point Louise is a highlight for many, and is also a great spot for snorkellers and divers. The water is very clear and visitors will enjoy getting up close to the area’s diverse array of tropical and temperate marine species. There is more than enough reef to explore and it starts just off the shore. A short drive north are numerous bays ideal for kayaking, with picnic areas dotted all along these bays.

SUNSET CAMPING AT MILLIGAN ISLAND
Between the towns of Green Head and Leeman, Milligan Island is the only ‘nature-based’ short term (72 hours maximum) camping site within the Shire of Coorow. Nestled behind dunes amongst natural vegetation with a short walk to a secluded beach, this eco camping site is perfect for the RV or self-contained tourist. A shallow reef lies off the usually calm beach and is an ideal fishing spot, dotted with a series of small rocky islands.

GREEN HEAD AND LEEMAN VISITOR INFORMATION
Shire of Coorow
Leeman Administration Centre
20 Morcombe Rd, Leeman WA 6514
Tel: +61 8 9953 1388
Website: www.coorow.wa.gov.au

GET WET at POINT LOUISE
#AUSTRALIASCORALCOAST
DONGARA & PORT DENISON

Distance from Perth: 350km

Dongara and Port Denison boast true coastal village charm, with the Irwin River creating a scenic landmark as it meanders between the two towns. Beautiful beaches provide ideal conditions for sailing, fishing, windsurfing, kitesurfing and swimming.

MEET AN ANZAC SOLDIER

The Centenary of ANZAC 2014 to 2018 is a significant piece of Australian history commemorating World War I. The Shire of Irwin and the Dongara RSL commissioned 15 soldier silhouettes in various poses made out of 2D metal art as a visual memorial. The sculptures are designed to rust to a point which will create a protective surface and withstand the salt air. Find them on Ocean Drive, opposite the Lookout, next to Nunn’s Pool in Port Denison. The best time to view the sculptures is at sunset.

RV FRIENDLY TOWN

The town of Dongara provides a free overnight rest area located within the Dongara town centre for self-contained vehicles for up to 24 hours within a 28 day period. The Shire of Irwin offers free camping on the coast for up to 72 hours at either Cliff Head or Seven Mile Beach. Camping at Seven Mile Beach is for self-contained vehicles only. Please support local businesses in Dongara and Port Denison by purchasing your supplies there.

WEEKEND MARKETS

Stop in at the Dongara Markets to stock up on local produce, arts and crafts. The markets are held on the first Saturday of every month from 8.30am to 12.30pm at the Dongara Town Park.

EVENTS OVER EASTER

Dongara Port Denison is popular with holiday makers over Easter with an action packed weekend for the whole family. Annual events include horse racing, art exhibition, markets, live music and a Easter egg hunt for the kids.

MOVIE STARS UNDER THE STARS

Dongara Denison Drive In is one of two operating in Western Australia (opened in the 1960s) and screens new release movies every second Saturday night from October until May. Gather on camp chairs or snuggle up in the car to watch the big screen stars, under the stars! The on-site kiosk offers meals and snacks. Bookings for private functions are available.

WALKING THE THUNGARA TRAILS

Dongara and Port Denison offer six walking trails, traversing the twin towns’ most scenic locations near the river and ocean. Stroll the banks of the Irwin River, enjoy scenic views of the ocean and spot native flora and fauna.

PET-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION

Of all the locations on the Coral Coast, Dongara-Port Denison has the most pet-friendly accommodation available for those who like to travel with a furry friend. Obtain a list of accommodation options from our website or at the Visitor Centre.

ALL OUR FAVOURITE BEACHES

Take a stroll along the coast or cruise along South Beach in your vehicle. South Beach is ideal for surfing, body boarding, kitesurfing and stand up paddle boarding. Snorkel the Leander Reef, Granny’s Beach or Nunn’s Pool. The Marina jetties are great for fishing and crabbing, or book in a fishing charter.

IRWIN RIVER BIRD WATCHING

Black swans, pelicans and numerous other water birds make their home in the sheltered estuary of the panoramic Irwin River mouth. Bird watching is possible from nature trails and the board walk.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The best way of viewing Dongara’s charming historic buildings is on the Heritage Walk. Purchase a booklet from the Visitor Centre and begin your journey back in time. The 4km walk highlights 28 heritage buildings. Focal points of the walk include the Royal Flour Mill built in 1894, the Old Police Station built in 1870 and Russ Cottage circa 1893.

FISHERMEN’S LOOKOUT OBELISK

The Fishermen’s Lookout Obelisk at Port Denison features sweeping views of the ocean. Stand on the boardwalk and watch the waves rolling in over the reef and the activity at the fishing boat harbour during lobster fishing season. The reef also offers great snorkelling.

ARE YOU ON PAR?

Visitors can enjoy a round of golf on 18 holes (par 72) of grassed greens or a game of bowls while on holiday in Dongara and Port Denison. The golf course overlooks the town and the Indian Ocean, is 5.5km metres in length and one of WA’s well priced courses. Clubs and buggies are available for hire.

DONGARA AND PORT DENISON VISITOR INFORMATION

Dongara Port Denison Visitor Centre
9 Waldeck St, Dongara WA 6525
Tel: +61 8 9927 1404
E: tourism@irwin.wa.gov.au
Website: www.dongaraportdenison.com.au
SOUtherlys

Great food. Great service. Great location.
Your hosts Callum & Sonia Kerr invite you to lock in the co-ordinates for great food, great service and good times @ Southerly’s on the Port Denison Marina foreshore.

A unique “family friendly” environment with a great atmosphere – Indoor and Alfresco dining in the courtyard overlooking the beautiful Indian ocean. Full TAB facilities available.

Voted AHA’s “WA’s Best Steak Sandwich 2013” and Finalist “Regional pub of the year”

60 Point Leander Drive Port Denison WA 6525
Ph: +61 8 9927 2207 Mob: 0408 776 609 / 0438 940 893
E: southerleys@bigpond.com

INDIAN OCEAN DRIVE EVENTS

LOBSTER AND LAND FOOD FESTIVAL
Visit Dongara on 28 April 2018 to enjoy an amazing feast including food tastings, cooking demonstrations, food stalls and live entertainment. Be part of the Long Table Lunch which will dazzle the taste buds with a blend of the ocean and land produce to celebrate the array of delicious world class food grown and produced in the Shire of Irwin where Dongara is located.

FORESHORE SPRINT PLUS SHOW AND SHINE
Heled over the Queen’s Birthday (long weekend) in late September 2018, the Port Denison Foreshore Sprint with the Mid West Show and Shine is a full day of classic vehicle entertainment for the whole family. The Sprint involves 50 competitors racing classic cars (pre 1985) in a time trial sprint along the picturesque Port Denison Foreshore. The Mid West Show and Shine is a car show where entrants from around Western Australia display their all-out street machines.

For more information on these events, contact the Dongara and Port Denison Visitor Centre.

Illegal Tender Rum Co
Midwest’s home of rum

Illegal Tender Rum Co’s Cellar door is a must see when visiting Dongara, with tours and tasting available year round, this distillery is sure to impress. Take a tour through the magical world of distilling where we turn rainwater into Rum, being sugar-free, and preservative free, our products truly are the mark of a world-class spirit.

Having won 8 international Spirit medals to date, the cellar door is a good chance to get a souvenir of the Coral Coast to take home with you - if you can wait that long.

35 Illyarrie Rd, Springfield WA 6525 • Tel: 0435 818 887
Email: admin@illegaltenderrumco.com • www.illegaltenderrumco.com

#australiascoralcoast

The Big LOBSTER, Dongara
Jurien Bay Motel Apartments

Jurien Bay's newest accommodation!
Stay in the Bay's brand new holiday apartment complex right in the heart of Jurien Bay and a short walk to the jetty and foreshore. Featuring self contained 1 & 2 bedroom apartments as well as a number of studio rooms, we are the perfect choice for your next holiday to Jurien Bay. We offer free Wifi and Foxtel and our rooms have everything you need, so just pack your bags, sit back and relax!

7 Murray St, Jurien Bay
Tel: (08) 9652 2062
admin@jurienbayapartments.com.au
www.jurienbayapartments.com.au

Jurien Bay Tourist Park

Stay with Summerstar
Jurien Bay Tourist Park is an ideal holiday location for either a weekend break or an extended stay. Close to restaurants, cafes and across from a safe, sheltered swimming beach, Jurien Bay has a lot to offer. Our deluxe holiday units and sheltered drive through sites offer something for everyone. Jurien Bay is pet friendly when you stay on a site.

1 Roberts Street, Jurien Bay
Tel: +61 8 9652 1595
Email: stay@jurienbaytouristpark.com.au
www.jurienbaytouristpark.com.au

Skydive Jurien Bay

World’s most beautiful beach skydive
Get the rush at Australia’s most positively reviewed skydive. Jump from 14,000ft & experience freefall above the magnificent Turquoise Coast & land on the stunning white sand beach in Jurien Bay.

Tel: 1300 293 766
Instagram: @skydivejbay
www.skydivejurienbay.com

Seaspray Beach Holiday Park

Apartments, chalets, cabins, ensuited powered caravan sites
Situated on the shores of Dongaras Seaspray Beach and a short stroll to the centre of town, the Seaspray Beach Holiday Park offers 22 outstanding one, two and three bedroom self contained luxury apartments, chalets and budget cabins along with 39 grassed ensuited caravan sites complete with camp kitchen. Add to this a sparkling pool, spa, barbecues, café restaurant, WiFi and you will soon realise Seaspray Beach Holiday Park is the perfect base to explore all the mid-west has to offer.

79-81 Church Street, Dongara
Ph: +61 8 9927 1165  •  stay@seaspraybeachholidaypark.com.au
www.seaspraybeachholidaypark.com

Come Fishing, Watch the Seals & Grab some Seafood Tucker!

Lobster Shack

Call: 08 9652 7010  www.lobstershack.com.au
Visit our multi award winning, accredited and heritage listed Dongara Port Denison Visitor Centre offering friendly, local up-to-date advice on what’s happening in the twin towns, accommodation information, free brochures, maps, destination merchandise and local products, bus and rail bookings, information throughout the state and more.

Contact us:
9 Waldeck Street, Dongara  Phone: (08) 9927 1404
Email: tourism@irwin.wa.gov.au
Facebook: Dongara Port Denison

www.dongaraportdenison.com.au

Turquoise Coast Visitor Centre
67 Bashford Street, Jurien Bay 6516
P: (08) 9652 0870 E: visitor@dandaragan.wa.gov.au
www.visitturquoisecoast.com.au
F: www.facebook.com/TurquoiseCoastWA

Located in the centre of Jurien Bay, our visitor centre can help make the most of your Turquoise Coast experience. Visit the Pinnacles, check out our amazing wildflowers, visit the sea lion islands, see ancient Stromatolites, go sand boarding, explore caves, visit a lobster factory, snorkel & swim, go fishing and explore all our region has to offer. Come and see our friendly staff for tours, accommodation, maps, brochures and friendly local advice.