



4WD tours, wildlife cruises &  
beachfront accommodation  
**Freecall 1800 241 481**

## Things to see and do between the Highway & Monkey Mia

About 25kms in from the highway you can enjoy a stay on the working sheep station, **Hamelin Pool Station**, with the best amenities blocks in Shark Bay.

About 5 kms away, next door is the Telegraph Station stop at **Hamelin Pool Telegraph Station and Caravan Park** to see what our planet looked like three and a half billion years ago, by visiting the stromatolites.

The **stromatolites** were our first oxygen generator and created the atmosphere that ultimately enabled our evolution. Without them, we would not be here today. If you're a photographer, you'll find the stromatolites look best in the softer light of late afternoon/sunset.

The Telegraph Station is located on a part of Shell Beach (it's over 100kms long) and contains the world's only shell block quarry. It's with shell block carved from this quarry that a handful of the world's only shell block buildings have been crafted in Denham (the Old Pearler Restaurant & the Church). Call into the shop grab a cold drink and ice cream and get directions to the **shell block quarry**. Girls will be surprised to find a great collection of lovely clothes at a very affordable price in this out of the way, country shop.

11kms along the main road from the Hamelin Pool Telegraph Station turn-off is the turn-off for the unsealed Useless Loop Road turnoff to **Tamala Station**, 43kms away. The beach camping at Tamala Station is spectacular and parts are accessible by 2WD. A small fee is payable and you must contact the station 9948 3994 for permission and a key. Australia's most westerly point, **Steep Point, the Zuytdorp Cliffs and the Blowholes at False Entrance** are only 70kms away. For camping contact DPW 9948 1208.

34kms further down the main road is the turn-off to Nanga Bay Resort, a handy place if you're running low on fuel, cold drinks or ice cream.

About 5kms past the Nanga turn-off you'll pass through a feral barrier fence and within a few hundred metres, on the right hand side, brings you to that amazing quirk of nature, **Shell Beach**. It's a much larger version of the one at Hamelin Pool Telegraph Station and it's a good place for a swim at high tide, the water is twice as salty as normal ocean water so you'll be extremely buoyant.

About 30kms from Shell Beach is **Eagle Bluff**. Best visited late morning/early afternoon when the sun is high and the wind is low. It's a scenic place with a boardwalk along the edge of the bluff from which you can expect to see stingrays and sharks and the giant piles of salt (1 million tonnes/year) at Useless Loop across the bay.

10kms from the Eagle Bluff turn-off brings you to **Ocean Park Aquarium** where you & the animals are not separated by glass. You'll get a great look at sharks, rays, fish and turtles and enjoy the really informative, relaxed, personalised tour with a passionate guide. The coffee and cake on the beachfront deck are excellent.

Another 8kms from the Ocean Park turn-off and you're in picturesque, **seaside Denham is the commercial hub** of the area with a selection of waterfront shops, butcher, baker, supermarkets, fuel, hotels, eateries, accommodation, post office, newsagent, chemist and Mini Golf and the **Old Pearler Restaurant** built of shell block quarried at Hamelin Pool. If you are wanting to stay in Denham then we've got 2 very cosy, fully equipped, beachfront units where you'll feel right at home, from only \$99 per night.

On the waterfront you'll find the Visitor Information desk in the **\$7M Shark Bay World Heritage Discovery & Visitor Centre** that beautifully illustrates the history and nature of Shark Bay. Here you can easily enjoy many hours and discover, incredibly, that Shark Bay matches the Grand Canyon, Galapagos Is & Great Barrier Reef in global significance. The Centre beautifully illustrates the history and nature of Shark Bay and you can easily enjoy many hours there.

Leaving Denham via Stella Rowley Scenic Drive means you are now just 25 kms and 15 traffic free minutes from the beautiful dolphins at Monkey Mia.

About half a kilometre from the end of the Drive is a left hand turn to the **creek that flows into Little Lagoon**. Drive down to the creek and you'll find a track off to the left that follows the creek and takes you to a **sheltered viewing platform**. The creek is crystal clear and careful watching from the platform will reveal marine wildlife (polarised sunglasses will give the best viewing)

Where Stella Rowley Drive intersects with Monkey Mia Road, turn left and about 1/2km further along the road you can turn left to **Little Lagoon**. It should have been called Little Blue Lagoon, as it is spectacular on a blue sky day.

Where the road begins to bend to the right, on the left hand side of the road, is the turn-off to the **Francois Peron National Park** and the **Peron Homestead precinct**. The homestead road is 2 wheel drive but thereafter it's definitely 4 wheel drive only. See the National Park info over the page.

At the precinct you'll find the **Interpretation Centre** for the very ambitious **Project Eden** and a **hot tub** fed by 38 degree artesian water, the hot tub is a great place for **star gazing**. The old **sheep shearing shed** complete with an early wool press made of timber showcases the rugged life of shearers.

Still about 20kms from Monkey Mia, on the right hand side is the western-most golf course in Australia. Opposite this is a birrida (salt-impregnated clay pan) which was the former Shark Bay Airport.

#### **4WD areas**

**Francois Peron National Park** (for camping contact DEC 9948 1208). If you have a 4WD then head into the Francois Peron National Park for a spectacular day. On two occasions visitors have said that the Park is on a par with the Galapagos Islands! There is an excellent air pump at the beginning of the track so please drop your tyre pressure to 20psi to preserve the track and avoid getting bogged in the loose sand.

The most scenic area begins at **South Gregories** with a glimpse of the past sea floor with shells embedded in the exposed limestone. A little further north you'll find **Gregories**, a tiny sandy "bay" protected by a fringing reef that provides good snorkelling (there are stone fish so be careful). **Bottle Bay** has access for a beach drive along the beach to gorgeous deep red sandstone cliffs. Walk to the cliff top for a beautiful view of the beach to the north. Keep an eye of the reef beside you for marine wildlife.

Be prepared to spend an hour at a well kept secret and a highlight, **Skipjack Point lookout**, for the passing parade of marine wildlife in the shallows below. Dolphins, dugong (seasonally), turtles, stingrays, sharks.

**Cape Peron** marks the end of the road. If you are a keen photographer you can spend hours wandering on either side of the Cape for stunning shots of vividly contrasting colour.

#### **Exploring Shark Bay**

The myriad tracks that run off from the main road will generally lead you to the east or west coast. They are in reasonable condition but are often narrow and your paintwork may get scratched. Be aware that there's little traffic and you need to be capable of getting your self out of difficulty. Only cross clay pans using existing tracks. Never venture off the track onto the clay pan, you could easily break through the surface crust and be instantly, inescapably, bogged chassis deep. If there's been significant rain avoid tracks that cross the clay pans.

For more info contact us 8am - 6pm daily, on 1800 241 481. Tell the world about us and come back soon.

Cheers,

*Harvey Raven*

## Distances

28kms Monkey Mia to Denham

8kms Denham to Ocean Park

12kms Ocean Park to Eagle Bluff

30kms Eagle Bluff to Shell Beach

5kms Shell Beach to Nanga Resort

34kms Nanga to Useless Loop turnoff - 43kms to Tamala Station - 70kms to Steep Point

11kms Useless Loop turnoff to Hamelin Pool stromatolites

5kms Stromatolites to Hamelin Pool Station Stay

25kms Hamelin Pool Station Stay to Overlander Roadhouse