

# Nigaloo Reef

We stayed in Denham, Australia's most westerly town. We drove 7 hours yesterday from Exmouth to here across very desolate country. It was hot and there was very little to see apart from emus, kangaroos, goannas, goats and eagles. The vegetation was low scrub. It is very very dry and the earth was a rich red colour. We did not realize how desolate this area was and how far it was between places. Apart from a couple of road houses there are no farm houses or anything. Very eerie. If you break down you had better have water.



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**THE DESOLATION OF THE INTERIOR IS COUNTER BALANCED BY THE BEAUTY OF THE WATER AND WHAT'S IN IT.**

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The time we spent in Exmouth was a short couple of days but it was great to catch up with Janine and the boys – Luke, Liam and Nickolas. We are very impressed with them – watch out for Luke in the future as he is being groomed for AFL and hopefully will get drafted into a team next year.

The Nigaloo Reef area around Exmouth is pristine and the waters are fully protected against fishing. The beaches are absolutely beautiful with white sand and turquoise water. Fish swim with you and want to be fed. We were surrounded by at least 20 small shark fish which were not scared at all and came swimming right up to and around us as we waded in hip high water. We got out of the water when we saw a menacing sand shark approaching. We were sorry we did not hire snorkel gear so we could go see more of the reef.

The area around Monkey Mia (Shark Bay) is, like Nigaloo Reef, also protected. In the morning we watched as dolphins came in to the beach and were fed fish. Then we went on a boat trip and saw dugongs, leopard and reef sharks, dolphins and sea snakes. Amazing trip despite the wind. Thousands of migratory birds stay here for a few months to feed before flying back to the Asia, Europe and even the Arctic. Tomorrow we head back to Perth.



