



The Weekend West

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Gemma Nisbet

WA SHORTCUTS

Have a whale of a time at Ningaloo, drive the south coast or explore our remote north on a heli-safari

SWIM WITH HUMPBACKS

Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef, in Cape Range National Park near Exmouth, will be one of the first operators in WA to offer the chance to swim with humpback whales next year. Available from August 1-October 31, the day-long experience will include the services of an expert guide, lunch, drinks and snorkelling equipment. It will be in addition to the whale-shark swim excursions already available from April 1-July 31. Sal Salis will also increase its accommodation from nine to 16 ensuite tents, all of which sit above ground and are accessed via a network of boardwalks to minimise impact on the environment. Prices are from \$750 per person twin share per night, including accommodation, all meals and drinks, snorkelling equipment, wetsuits and activities such as guided snorkels, kayaking and guided walks. Prices for the humpback-whale swim and whale-shark experiences start from \$500 per person. salsalis.com.au and 9949 1776.



Sal Salis will offer humpback whale swim experiences next year.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

See the remote Kimberley in style with Truenorth Helicopters' new 2016 Luxury Heli-Safari Experiences. Six of the nine-day luxury outback helicopter safaris are available from June-August, travelling in an air-conditioned EC145 twin-engine helicopter. The itinerary begins in Darwin, with highlights including the Bullo River Station in the Northern Territory plus the Kimberley's Purnululu (Bungle Bungles), Kimberley Coastal Camp and three nights at the Berkeley River Lodge. "These heli-safaris are a totally unique experience," Truenorth Helicopters' Bridget Ryan said. "There is nothing like them operating in Australia's far North West and the wildlife and ancient Aboriginal art, combined with the stunning

landscapes and amazing waterfalls of the Kimberley region, are really something to behold." The itinerary costs \$22,500 per person ex-Darwin. truenorthhelicopters.com.au or 1300 145 407.

SOUTHERN WONDERS

Explore WA's wild southern coast on Global Gypsies' Brilliant Bight self-drive, self-catering tour. The company's first tag-along four-wheel-drive tour of next year runs from February 4-17 and travels from Kalgoorlie to Albany, via Toolinna Cove, Mt Ragged, Israelite Bay, Cape Le Grand, Esperance, Point Ann, Bremer Bay and more. Participants will travel in a small convoy with tour leader and Global Gypsies director Jeremy Perks, with 4WD guidance and practice provided en route. Plus, the company will provide a free Super in Sand full-day 4WD training course for participants before departure. Activities will include welcome and farewell dinners, guided bushwalks, stargazing, damper cooking demonstrations, a bush survival skills' presentation and optional fishing outings. The trip costs \$1850 per vehicle (for one or two people), including camping and park entry fees. globalgypsies.com.au or 9341 6727.

Conditions apply and deals are subject to change without notice. Prices are subject to change and availability.