Day-trip checklist

Packing ticks, Perth ↔ Pinnacles order of stops, loop vehicle rules, and "don't get this wrong" notes. Print this page or save as PDF from your browser.

Verify before you go. Fees, Discovery Centre hours, alerts and closures change. Always check Explore Parks WA — Nambung and alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au. This checklist is independent and unofficial — not DBCA / Parks and Wildlife Service.

1. Before you leave home

Status & weather

- ☐ Explore Parks WA park page checked this morning
- ☐ alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au checked (bike/moto loop ban still listed 20 Aug 2026)
- ☐ emergency.wa.gov.au if fire / smoke is in the news
- ☐ Discovery Centre hours (usually 9:30 am–4:30 pm, closed Christmas Day)
- ☐ Someone knows your leave time + expected return to Perth or Cervantes

Packing (day pack)

- ☐ Water — do not assume taps on the desert
- ☐ Snacks / simple lunch
- ☐ Sun hat + high SPF
- ☐ Closed-toe shoes (sand + limestone)
- ☐ Fly net in warm months
- ☐ Phone + offline map / alert screenshots
- ☐ Emergency+ app (000 needs reception)
- ☐ Layers for wind after sunset if you stay late
- ☐ Cash/card for WA park entry (we do not sell fees)

2. Perth day-trip skeleton (≈2 hrs each way + 1–3 hrs on site)

- **Night before** — Agree: primary = Discovery Centre + one-way Pinnacles loop. Optional = Desert View Walk only if heat and energy allow. Confirm vehicle length (see loop rules).
- **Leave Perth early** — Fuel in the metro or a known stop. Wildlife at dawn. Cervantes is the last practical town before the turn-off.
- **On site 1–3 hours** — Toilets and shade first. Pay or display a Parks Pass. Drive the loop slowly. Pull-over bays only. Do not climb pinnacles.
- **Leave with buffer** — Do not start Lake Thetis or Hangover Bay if that blows the return. Watch dusk wildlife southbound.

3. Full-day rule (protect the day)

- **One** desert product (loop + optional lookout) + **at most one** extra stop if you already sleep in Cervantes.
- Do *not* stack loop + full sandy walk + lake + Hangover Bay + sunset on a late Perth start.
- Lookout-only is a valid visit if heat, crowds or energy fail.
- There is **no camping inside Nambung National Park**. Beds are in Cervantes / Jurien Bay / Lancelin.

4. Order-of-stops cheat sheet

First-timer priority

1. Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre
2. One-way desert loop (2WD, signed bays)
3. Optional: Desert View / Pinnacles View Lookout
4. If you sleep nearby: Lake Thetis *or* one beach — not both

Skip if short on time / heat

- Lake Thetis on a Perth day-trip
- Hangover Bay swim if the desert already ran long
- Full sandy 1.2 km Desert View in peak heat
- A second national park the same calendar day

5. Loop, parking & vehicles

☐ Vehicles longer than 7 m, caravans and trailers: not on the loop — long-vehicle bays at the Discovery Centre [VERIFY on official drive page]

☐ 2WD is the usual standard on the unsealed but typically firm sandy loop — not a 4WD park for this visit

☐ Motorbikes and bicycles: desert loop closed to them (DBCA alert from 30 Sep 2025, no end date on the alert as of 20 Aug 2026)

☐ Never park on vegetation or block the one-way track

6. Safety non-negotiables

- Do not climb, sit or stand on pinnacles. Limestone is fragile and the rule is official.
- Stay on marked roads and trails (dieback / Phytophthora).
- Open sand + UV: carry water; sea breeze does not cancel heat illness.
- Hangover Bay / ocean: rips and skill — not a pool.
- **Emergency: call 000.** 000 needs reception. Download Emergency+ on home Wi-Fi. This checklist cannot help with rescue.

7. Fees (stamp, not a live till)

Standard WA park entry as published on Explore Parks (page last updated 18 Aug 2026 when we last checked 20 Aug 2026): vehicle $17 / concession $10 / motorcycle $10. We do not sell park entry. Confirm on exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park-entry-fees.

8. Useful links

- **This guide:** https://www.nambungnationalpark.com.au/ — itineraries, trails, plan visit
- Official park: https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park/nambung-national-park
- Pinnacles drive: https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/site/pinnacles-desert-lookout-and-drive
- Alerts: https://alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au/
- Emergency WA: https://emergency.wa.gov.au/
- Fees: https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au/park-entry-fees

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www.nambungnationalpark.com.au

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