

The Parting Shot



Passionate French wildlife photographer **Frank Deschandol** (Instagram: @frankcanon_image_in) tells the story behind this stunning image of a Perentie or Giant monitor: "During 3 weeks, I did a lonely trip to Western Australia, driving for about 8500km from Perth to the Pilbara region. I went to some very good places for monitor lizards and especially for the spectacular Perentie *Varanus giganteus*. Unfortunately this species was elusive.

After staying a week at Shark Bay, I decided to leave because the bad weather did not allow me to see many animals there. I woke up early in the morning, starting to head south, when suddenly, I spotted a large monitor crossing the road, about 20m from me. I stopped the car and took my camera, 7DII + 300mm f/4 IS... The animal, which walked slowly, stopped under a bush and remained there immobile for almost 15 minutes, watching all

around, head up. I managed to get very close (about 2.50m). Then, the animal moved towards a big bush and it was difficult to photograph. Instead of my camera, I used my iPhone to take some videos. Finally the lizards fled from behind and unfortunately I couldn't find it again. A great experience, especially since I was convinced at first that it was *Varanus panoptes*, a much more common species. *V. giganteus* is actually rare in this area!" ●