

wa's Southern Wonders

\$3964ppts
\$1275s/s incl
flights

20
September
2010
14 Days

Margaret River, Albany, Esperance, Kalgoorlie, Wave Rock, Perth, Wildflowers, Wildlife, Wine & Spectacular Scenery, Hippos Yawn, Kalgoorlie Super Pit, Mining Hall of Fame



Day 1: Home—Perth (D)

We will pick up at Thornton and head to Sydney Airport to meet the rest of the group for our Flight. Once in Perth we will be met at the airport, have a short town tour before checking into our motel located on the banks of the Swan River, part of the Burswood Casino Complex. **We will enjoy a delicious buffet in the Atrium Restaurant.**

66 Holiday Inn Burswood 08 9362 5803 (3 nights)

Day 2: Perth—Fremantle Tram Tour (BLD)

Our first stop will be Fremantle, where we will join the local tram for a guided tour of this town brought back to life by the America's Cup Challenge. We will have fish and chips for lunch and then time to browse among the shops before visiting Perth's famous Kings Park. If we are lucky we will see some of their displays prepared for their Wildflower festival. Spectacular views over the city and Swan River can be photographed from this vantage point.



Day 3: Perth Free Time (B)

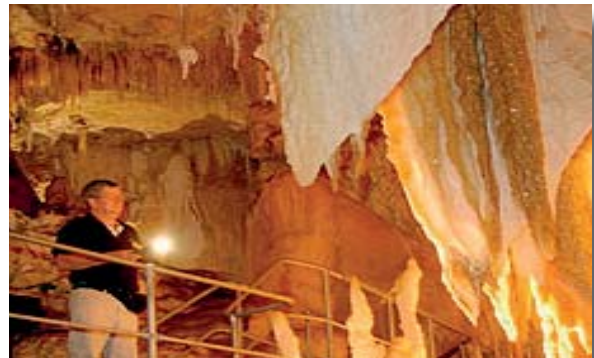
Today enjoy your free day in the West's Capital to explore the shops, visit the Mint, Museum, or Art Gallery. Buses and the train connect to the city centre from the Casino.

Day 4: Perth—Margaret River (BLD)

Travelling south through the suburban coastal towns of Rockingham and Mandurah, we will stop at Bunbury to visit

the Dolphin Centre to see if these graceful mammals are in Koombana Bay. We will follow the coastline to Busselton Jetty, the longest timber jetty in the southern hemisphere. After lunch at Busselton we will visit the Margaret River Chocolate Company then a local dairy to taste the local cheeses and yoghurts. We will then call into the village of Cowaramup to visit the Candy Cow to sample Fudge, Honey Crunch and Nougat.

Margaret River Resort 08 9757 0000 (2 nights)



Day 5: Margaret River (BLD)

Our day starts with a visit to the Jewel Cave. The lofty entrance chamber contrasts with the magnificent straw stalactites, limestone forest sculpture and intricate jewel case. We will visit Augusta and the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet. We will then head north with a visit to the Eagle Heritage Raptor Centre which houses the largest collection of native raptors in Australia. This afternoon we will be able to sample Margaret River's famous wine products at Watershed Winery and visit Voyager Wine Estate to look at their magnificent Dutch style gardens, buildings and showrooms.

Day 6: Margaret River—Albany (BLD)

Travelling through the vineyards, farms, wildflowers and magnificent Karri Forests on our way to the timber town of Pemberton we will stop for an opportunity to climb the Gloucester Tree or enjoy a bushwalk to photograph blossoms. We will visit the Fine Woodcraft Gallery in Pemberton before lunch, then continue through Walpole to the Valley of Giants Tree Top walk, a 400 metre suspended bridge structure 40 metres above the forest floor. The Ancient Empire Forest Walk among the old Tingle Trees will complete our visit. We pass through Denmark, home of the Blue Wren, as we make our way to Albany.

Ace Motor Inn 08 9841 2911 (2 nights)



Day 7: Albany—Whale World & Sightseeing (BD)

This morning we will have a **guided tour of Whale World**, Australia's last whaling station which closed operation in 1978 and has now become a museum.

The spectacular coastline of **King George's Sound** is experienced when we visit the **Natural Bridge**. After lunch (at own expense) we will tour the oldest settlement in WA and visit **Mount Clarence War Memorial Lookout**. Our last call will be to **Mount Romance Sandalwood Factory** where fine cosmetics are made.

Day 8: Albany - Wave Rock Hyden (BLD)

We will travel through rich grazing and cereal crop farms to the Stirling Ranges where **Bluff Knoll lookout** will provide outstanding views of WA's highest peaks. Orchids, Myrtles, flowering Mallees and the unique Southern Cross Flower will delight wildflower enthusiasts. We will head north through Lake Grace to **Hyden and Wave Rock**. This amazing rock formation sculpted and coloured by chemicals over 2,700million years ago, resembles a giant wave about to break. We will visit the **Wildflower Centre** to enjoy the **Wildlife Park** with its white kangaroos and **Margaret Blackburn Lace Collection** before a guided tour of **Hippos Yawn and Wave Rock**.

Hyden Hotel Motel 08 9880 5052



Day 9: Hyden—Esperance (BLD)

We drive south towards Lake King past **several salt lakes** coloured pink by algae towards **Ravensthorpe**, centre of a wide variety of flowers, including the Qualap Bell and several orchids. Once in **Esperance** we will take the scenic route past the Pink Lake, Wind Farm and the spectacular coastline of the Bay of Isles. Our last stop will be a visit to the **unique Mermaid Leather Factory**.

Bayview Motel (2 nights) 08 9071 1533

Day 10: Esperance (BD)

We will have a **free morning** to explore the water front, local shops, museum or enjoy a cruise on the Bay of Isles to Woody Island (own expense). In the afternoon we will visit **Cape Le Grande National Park** for outstanding views of Frenchman's Peak, Lucky and Hellfire Bay. **Beautiful displays of Flowers and Orchids** are often seen here.

Day 11: Esperance—Kalgoorlie (BLD)

We take the Esperance Highway north to the old **gold mining town of Norseman**. After a town tour we will continue towards **Coolgardie** where we will have lunch and admire the gracious stone buildings built when this was a prosperous gold town. After lunch we will visit the **Coolgardie Mining Town Museum** as well as their very interesting **Pharmacy Museum**. We will continue through to **Kalgoorlie for a town tour and some free time**.

Accommodation TBC (2 nights)



Day 12: Kalgoorlie—Gold Museum (BD)

We tour the famous **Golden Mile** taking in the **Super Pit Lookout**, the largest open cut mine in the Southern Hemisphere. At **Hannan Street** we will admire the Victorian architecture of public buildings and hotels before visiting the new **Mining Hall of Fame** including museum and the old Hannan North Mine. We **don a hard hat** and visit the underground mine before watching a **gold pour and pan for the precious metal ourselves**.

Day 13: Kalgoorlie—Perth (BLD)

Our first stop heading westward is the pretty gold mining town of **Southern Cross**. Merredin, heart of the wheat belt will be the next town on the Golden Pipeline trail. Our afternoon stop will be at **York**, the first inland town in WA, with **time to browse the antique shops, photograph the historic main street** or enjoy an icecream.

Holiday Inn Burswood 08 9362 5803

Day 14: Perth—Home (B)

We will take you to the airport for your journey home. Those returning by train will leave us at this point. Once in Sydney we will return our guests to the Hunter.