

BEYOND THE FARM GATE



Willow Bridge Estate, Fergusson Valley

From behind-the-scenes vineyard tours to gourmet truffle hunts – discover Australia's South West's authentic agritourism experiences on this 5-to-6-day itinerary.

LEG ONE: BIG ORANGES AND TINY GNOMES

Perth > 1hr30min/139km > Harvey > 35min/48km > Collie > 38min/52km > Fergusson Valley > 15min/15km > Bunbury

Australia's South West's unique ecology lends itself perfectly to agriculture, viticulture, and farming. The result: nature's pantry full of fresh produce just waiting to be tried, tasted, and sampled.

Cow-dotted countryside greets visitors on the first leg of this Beyond The Farm Gate road trip, which travels down the mighty South Western Highway and past some of the region's most fertile, agricultural lands.

ENROUTE

It takes approximately an hour-and-a-half to drive from Perth to Harvey, via the Kwinana Freeway and South Western Highway. Alternatively, travellers can head down the Freeway then turn left onto Forestry Road.

The first stop on this leg is at the Logue Brook Dam, just 15 minutes from Harvey's township. Stop for a paddle, fish or cycle (with the Munda Biddi Cycling Trail close by), then head on to the 10m-high Big Orange Tower. For a gold coin donation, travellers can climb to the top of the tower and look out over the orange orchards. While there, try some wines at the adjoining Harvey River Estate.

Also located along the highway is Harvey Cheese, a must-stop for lovers of cheese. Boola Bidi Dreaming offers workshops in bush tucker and medicine, tool-making, art, music, language and more.

This family owned and run cheesery is renowned for its deliciously creamy cheeses and its friendly farm animals, which include horses, sheep, and emus.

Continue along the highway for five minutes then turn left onto Mornington Road, past rolling farmland and state forest before making your way into Collie.

For another option, travel 15 minutes down the highway then turn left onto Coalfields Road, just after Roelands. Along this route, clients can stop at the Brugan Brewery for lunch and a house-brewed beer, before heading on to Collie and its surrounding natural and manmade attractions.

Visitors will find the idyllic, turquoise blue waters of former open-cut-mines Black Diamond Lake to the west and east of Collie.

Collie is also a short drive away from Wellington National Park, where an abundance of flora, fauna, the world's largest dam mural, walking trails and mountain biking tracks can be found. (We love the Wiilman Bilya Walk Trail, which loops around the Wellington Dam.)

Bordering the southern parts of the Wellington National Park is the picturesque Fergusson Valley, which can be reached by following either River Road or Falcon Road to Pile Road. Here travellers will find a handful of boutique wineries set in valleys or nestled between tree-lined hills (we recommend an indulgent lunch at Saint Aidan Wines, Green Door Wines or Hackersley Estate), and a quirky bushland village filled with miniature gnomes.

After wandering through Gnomesville, travellers can make their way to the city of Bunbury via Fergusson Road and the town of Dardanup. Forest Explorers offer tours along renowned routes such as the Collie Mural Trail, Throssel Street (Taphouse Tour), Bibbulmun Track, Wambenger Rail Trail, and Wellington National Park, or head on over to Adventure Connections - who offer a relaxing hike, a leisurely kayak, or an immersive pedal assist e-bike ride.



RECOMMENDED



SUGGESTED TRIP LENGTH
5-6 days



TOTAL LEGS
6



NUMBER OF TOWNS
12

NEED TO KNOWS

- We recommend travellers spend one to two days enjoying each leg of this itinerary, which can also be experienced in reverse.
- The easiest way to travel to Australia's South West is by flying to either Perth Airport or the Busselton Margaret River Airport (Jetstar flights depart from Melbourne and Sydney to the Busselton Margaret River Airport each 3 times a week)
- For Perth Airport transfers, we recommend Australian Pinnacle Tours, Australian Transit Group (ATG) and South West Coachlines.
- Tourists are advised to check for alerts and road/park closures before commencing their travel at www.emergency.wa.gov.au and alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au.
- Most of Western Australia's national parks have entry fees; we suggest buying a multi-park pass prior to travel.
- We have provided our top recommendations of products and services below.



[Click here for Australia's South West's full trade-ready list.](#)



Wellington Dam Mural, Collie

In Bunbury, guests should stop off at the Bunbury Farmers Market, for a browse and a bite to eat, or head straight to Koombana Bay Foreshore where they can spot wild bottlenose dolphins playing in the bay.

The centre of town isn't far away, and we recommend dinner at **Market Eating House** or **Mojo's Kitchen**, then having a drink or two at some of the city's bars (**Lost Bills** and brewery **Froth**) Overnight in the Ferguson Valley or along the coast of Bunbury.

MUST-DOS

Swim and/or interact with the wild dolphins of Koombana Bay during an eco-friendly swimming (between November and April) or cruise experience with **Dolphin Discovery Centre**, or learn about these inquisitive mammals and other sea creatures in the centre's interpretive centre, which features a number of aquariums and a touch pool.

MUST-STAYS

Peppermint Lane Lodge's tranquil, adults-only studios each have ensuite bathrooms and private balconies that look out over native bushland and country gardens in the Ferguson Valley.

Find **Evedon Lakeside Retreat's** cabins and two-storey apartments set between jarrah forest and on the banks of the idyllic Evedon Lake.

In Bunbury, travellers looking for an affordable accommodation option can book a cabin, studio or caravan and camping site at the Koombana Bay-facing **Discovery Parks – Bunbury Foreshore**.

Quest Bunbury's apartment-style hotel rooms can also be found across the road from Koombana Bay.

LEG TWO: VINES AND TIDES

Bunbury > 43min/53km > Busselton

The second leg of Australia's South West's Beyond The Farm Gate itinerary takes travellers from vine and grove, to coast and sea – a delicious start to a journey full of Mother Nature's spoils.

ENROUTE

It's an easy 40-minute-drive to Busselton from Bunbury, via Bussell Highway. The city of Busselton, often referred to as the 'gateway to the Margaret River Region', hugs the idyllic Geographe Bay, where visitors can cast their eyes upon the glistening Indian Ocean. Busselton features a grassy foreshore, multiple playgrounds and parks, a nice mix of eateries and ample accommodation options to suit different budgets and tastes.

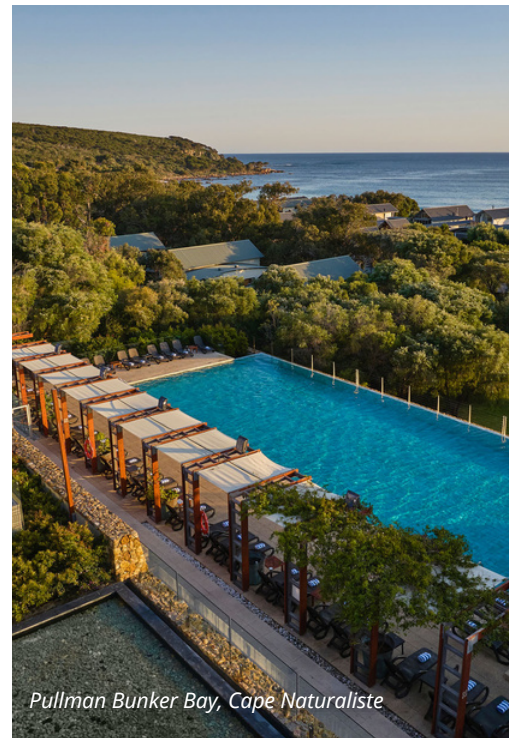
MUST-DOS

Sip on **Whicher Ridge's** small batch wine as you explore the winery's Wine Sensory Garden, which features fruit trees, herbs, flowers and seasonal vegetables that describe and match the flavours, textures and styles of their wines.

Gain rare and exclusive access to some of the region's farms and small producers during a **Forage Safaris's** food and farm tour.

Enjoy a seasonal native bush food gourmet barbecue during **Koomal Dreaming's** Food, Cave and Didge Tour at traditional custodian, Josh 'Koomal' Whiteland's Meeting Place in Yallingup.

Visit **Origin Market**, an undercover market with 60 vendors that's open year-round, to find the best of West Australian produce, craftspeople, and producers.



Pullman Bunker Bay, Cape Naturaliste

MUST-STAYS

RAC Busselton Holiday Park is a family-friendly, nature-encircled holiday park that's just a short stroll away from Geographe Bay.

Aqua Resort features fully self-contained, modern beach houses (some with their very own plunge pools) located by the beach in Busselton.

Pullman Bunker Bay Resort is home to 150 luxuriously appointed villas, an award-winning restaurant, opulent day spa and a guest concierge that can help organise agritourism-type tours and experiences for your clients before and during their stay.



Windows Estate, Margaret River

LEG THREE: WINE COUNTRY

Busselton > 40min/52km > Margaret River

Welcome to wine country, also known as the Margaret River Wine Region. This relatively young wine region has been turning heads and swirling glasses for the past 50+ years.

Between Caves Road and Bussell Highway is where visitors will find the majority of the region's wineries and vineyards, which vary greatly in terms of age, styles and offerings. It's easy to spend all day (or a few) wandering between the vines and tasting the spoils of the land. As such, we suggest allocating a couple of days to this leg of the itinerary.

ENROUTE

Margaret River is just 40 minutes from Busselton via Bussell Highway. For a more scenic route, we recommend travellers meander down Wildwood Road and then Caves Road. This route winds past some of Margaret River's best wineries and eateries, across endless paddocks dotted with grazing cows, and through the magnificent Boranup forest with its towering karri trees.

Note: Caves Road is windy and narrow in some areas, with the speed limit being between 80-90km/hr. Do keep an eye out for traffic pulling out of concealed driveways, especially on the weekends and school holidays.

Once in Margaret River, clients can explore the Margaret River township and its diverse range of shops, cafes and providores, or can embrace nature with a walk, ride or canoe through the Wooditjup National Park and along the river in which the town gets its name.

Close by, find farms like **Burnside Organic Farm**, which offers tours that delve into the farm's organic pursuits, as well as **Fair Harvest**, which presents courses, workshops and events focused on sustainability and permaculture throughout the year.

Western Australia has strict drink-driving laws, so for clients wishing to do wine tastings, we recommend joining a wine tour, organising a chauffeur or allocating a skipper to drive for the day.

MUST-DOS

Looking for the crème de la crème of wine experiences? Visit three of Australia's ultimate wineries – **Leeuwin Estate**, **Vasse Felix** and **Voyager Estate** – and indulge in a premium wine tasting or tour that goes beyond the cellar door.

Go behind-the-scenes and through the vines on an intimate vineyard tour at **Fraser Gallop Estate**, **Clairault Streicker**, **Swings and Roundabouts** and/or **Windows Estate**.

Harvest Tours has a Margaret River tour for everyone, but we love their *Full Day Wine Tour*, which encompasses some of our favourite wineries with the best coffee (Yahava, FYI), chocolate and brews.

For a paddock-to-plate gourmet feast, book dinner at **de'sendent** boutique winery and restaurant.

And for the perfect take-home gift, do visit **Vasse Virgin** – a skincare and soap factory that only uses natural ingredients, including olive oil, to make its products.

Stock up on artisan meats and small goods at the family-owned butchery and smoke house, **The Farm House**.

You can't miss the award-winning **Cherubino**, run by Australian winemaker Larry Cherubino and his wife Edwina, the Cherubino label has earned a reputation for innovation and success in the Australian wine industry.



Olio Bello Glamping Margaret River

MUST-STAYS

Eight Willows Retreat is home to 25 self-contained luxury chalets, set across 30 hectares of native bushland on Metricup Road.

Seeking a rural escape? **Big4 Taunton Farm Margaret River** is a holiday park situated on a working beef and sheep farm. When guests aren't out and about, they can feed the friendly farm animals, walk around the farm and/or simply kick back and relax.

Find **Olio Bello Glamping's** six safari-style bungalows nestled around the lake of the business's 320-acre, organic olive farm. Even if they don't plan on staying, we highly recommend clients have a moreish lunch at Olio Bello's café.

RAC Margaret River Nature Park is located close to the Margaret River township, on the edge of the Wooditjup National Park, and offers guests a range of cabins, glamping tents and caravan and camping sites surrounded by leafy trees.



Main township, Nannup



Chestnut Brae, Nannup

LEG FOUR: BACK IN TIME

Margaret River > 50min/72km > Nannup > 1hr/77km > Pemberton

Travellers will step back in time on leg three of this agritourism journey, which ventures through two of Australia's South West's most charming inland towns – Nannup and Pemberton.

Clients will want to make the most of their last morning in Margaret River savouring the lip-smacking breakfast treats on offer at the **Margaret River Bakery** (don't pass on the best cinnamon scroll you'll ever have!).

If in town on a Saturday morning, the Margaret River Farmers Market is an absolute must too. It features your usual farmgate fresh produce as well as delicious artisan products, baked goods and hearty, wholesome meals. Meet the farmer, producer and/or maker while filling baskets to the brim.

Once bellies and baskets are full, travellers can make their way to Nannup via Rosa Brook Road and Mowen Road. Nannup is known for its semblance to the English countryside, reflected in the town's many green hills and farmland.

The Blackwood River runs between old trees and grassy knolls just before the town, which has a delightful, village-like atmosphere thanks to its old weatherboard shop fronts and colourful tulip-filled flower boxes that bloom throughout August and September.

Pick up some colourful soaps at the **Nannup Soap Factory**, before heading next door for a beer at **Nannup Brewing Co** or across the road to **Stopping Place Cafe** for a coffee.

In town, stop by the main stretch and wander into tiny coffee houses, and quaint country pubs like the **Nannup Hotel**.

he town also has a number of forest and river walking and cycling trails worth exploring. To start, try the 5km Blackwood River Trail, which commences at the Old Railway Bridge.

Clients can overnight in Nannup or make their way to Pemberton – a quiet, timber cottage town set between towering karri trees. Its cool, Mediterranean climate produces the perfect conditions for grape-growing, resulting in small-scale wineries that specialise in top-notch Pinot and Bordeaux-style wines; and its abundance of streams, rivers and dams make is a prime place to fish for trout and marron.

As such, expect to feast on the finest of food at the town's wineries, restaurants, bars and cafes. We love the bohemian vibe and generous servings at **Hidden River Estate**, the whisky selection at **Jaspers Pemberton**, and the pancakes at the **Lavender & Berry Farm**.

After a decent feast, we recommend a forest stroll, of which Pemberton is not in short supply. Not far from Hidden River Estate is Big Brook Dam, which guests can walk around via a sealed walking trail.

The Warren National Park also features an incredibly scenic Warren River Loop Trail that makes for a great day hike.

Note: Most of the roads in these national parks are unsealed; clients who are travelling in a hire car should check the conditions of their rental before travel. Those planning to visit these parks will also need to buy a National Park pass from the Pemberton Visitor Centre (or online) first.

MUST-DOS

Ride horseback through farmland and native bush with **Jesters Flat**.

See Margaret River's spectacular beaches, forests, caves and wildlife (hello kangaroo!) in between visits to the region's best wineries and breweries with **McLeod Tours**.

Once in Nannup, pick chestnuts (April-May) at **Chestnut Brae**, a working chestnut and pig farm.

Setting up base in Pemberton? Explore the D'Entrecasteaux National Park (approximately 20 minutes from Pemberton) and the Southern Hemisphere's largest land-locked dune system, the Yeagarup Dunes, with **Pemberton Discovery Tours**.

MUST-STAYS

England or Nannup? The English manor-style **Holberry House** will have guests second-guessing thanks to its whimsical interior styling and stunning country gardens.

Located near Nannup, **Little House Republic** have off-grid houses immersed in the beautiful landscape, perfect for an escape where you can connect with nature in style.

Ampersand Estates's newly renovated, luxury country cottages are set on a working vineyard and overlook vines and forest.

The family-friendly **RAC Karri Valley Resort** has a range chalets, cabins and rooms nestled between tall karri trees and/or overlooking a tranquil lake that leads to Beedelup Falls. There's also a small animal farm onsite.

WA Wilderness Camping is a great option for clients who love to camp but don't have the equipment or time to setup/pack down, providing full camping setups at the best campsites in the stunning Warren National Park.

Diamond Forest Farm Stay, located near Pemberton and Manjimup is a family and pet-friendly location on the edge of the beautiful tall timber forest.



Truffle hunt, Manjimup

LEG FIVE: WA'S FOOD BOWL

Pemberton > 23min/32km > Manjimup > 25min/36km > Bridgetown > 17min/26km > Balingup

Forest, orchard and farm converge in leg four of this agritourism tour, which leads travellers from the quiet and quaint township of Pemberton, to one of Western Australia's major fruit and vegetable producing towns: Manjimup.

ENROUTE

It's a 23-minute-drive between tall karri trees from Pemberton to Manjimup, also known as WA's food bowl. It's here where a lot of the state's fruit and vegetables are grown; Manjimup is regarded as the birthplace of the Pink Lady and Bravo apples, and is one of the largest producers of the Black Périgord truffle.

Visitors can find (and buy) fruit and vegetables at stalls at the front of farm gates located around town, or they can head to Manjimup's fresh food shops and/or farmers market (held at Manjin Park most Saturdays) to stock up on top-quality, locally grown produce.

Travelling with kids? Make a pitstop at the Manjimup Heritage Park, which features a playground with a huge, 17m-high viewing platform and slide, walking trails and a museum that look at the history of electricity in Western Australia and its timber industry.

Have lunch at Park Manjimup right next to the Heritage Park, or head to **Tall Timbers** for a feast and a glass of local wine.

Rather takeaway? It'd be rude of us not to mention **Manjimup Meat Mart's** huge pies and sausage rolls, which are (arguably) the best bang-for-buck takeaway treats guests will find on this trip.

It's then on to Balingup, stopping off at the heritage-listed town of Bridgetown along the way. With its steep hills, deep valleys and the Blackwood River running through its backyard, Bridgetown presents ample opportunity for outdoor adventure.

Travellers can immerse in Bridgetown's beautiful scenery along one of the many walking, riding or bridle trails in and around town (try [Total Trails](#) for suggestions) or by canoeing down the Blackwood River.

For a delicious delight, head to **The Cidery** for a taste of its premium boutique ciders.

Another picturesque town connected to the Blackwood River, Balingup is just 17 minutes from Bridgetown via the South Western Highway. Balingup's town centre is small but bursting full of colour, due, in part, to the quirky, mismatched scarecrows that line its main street.

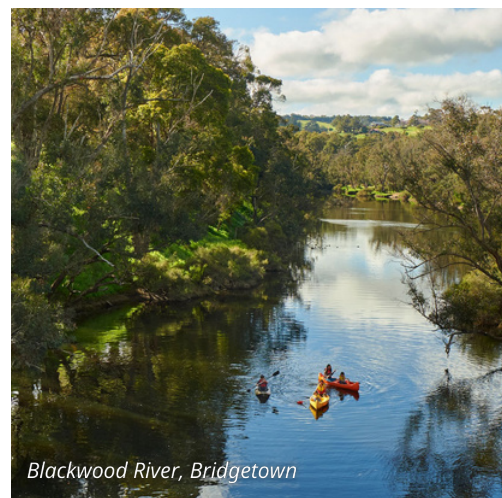
Not far from town, travellers will find the 60-hectare Golden Valley Tree Park – a large arboretum full of trees that turn the most wonderful and vibrant shades of oranges, reds and yellows in autumn/early winter. Soak in the beautiful countryside for a night, and wake to dreamy, mist-shrouded rural views.

MUST-DOS

No trip to Manjimup would be complete without a truffle hunt (June-August) at **Truffle Hill**, where guests can help the truffiere's canine hunters sniff out prized black gold before tasting their bounty.

Meet the locals who run the farms and vineyards in the Southern Forests and Valleys (and enjoy dinner cooked by some of them too), during one of **Southern Forests Experiences's** vine- to-wine and paddock-to-plate agri-food multi-day tours.

Meet genuine, down-to-earth farmers and truly experience where your food comes from on an all-inclusive **Southern Forests Food Council Food and Farm Tour**.



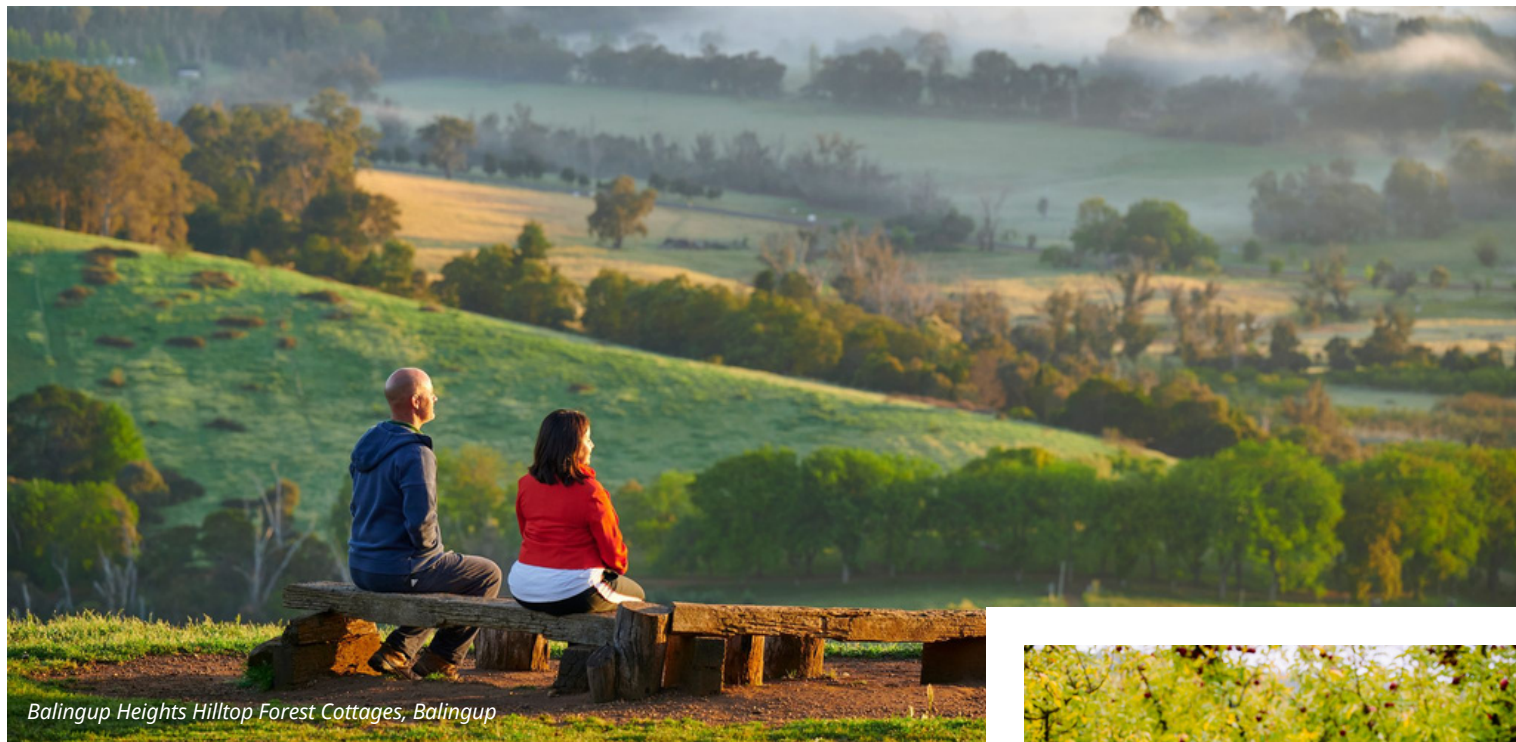
Blackwood River, Bridgetown



Cherry Festival, Manjimup

MUST-STAYS

Balingup Heights Hilltop Forest Cottages is a 46-acre property with 6 cosy bush cottages that overlooking breathtaking, misty hills and valleys curtained by trees. The property, which seemingly sits above the clouds, is home to a number of farm animals that guests can feed in the mornings.



Balingup Heights Hilltop Forest Cottages, Balingup

LEG FIVE: AN APPLE A DAY

Balingup > 22min/30km > Donnybrook > 2hrs/200km > Perth

The last leg of this Beyond The Farm Gate journey is all about keeping the doctor away with a bucket full of apples, a case of boutique wine and plenty of outdoor exercise fun.

ENROUTE

Mornings in Balingup should be enjoyed early and slowly. Early risers will be greeted with a sunrise that's more than picture-perfect, gently rising over the town as mist lingers between the trees and houses.

Then, when the rest of the house is ready to move, it's a short 22 minutes to Donnybrook along the South Western Highway.

In-season (late-March-June), some orchards in Donnybrook open to the public and allow them to pick-their-own apples. For more details we suggest contacting the Donnybrook Visitor Centre or local fruit and vegetable store **Fruit Barn**.

Spend the morning picking or head into town to find one of the largest free playgrounds in the state, the Donnybrook Apple Fun Park.

From giant twisting slides and trampolines, to swings and climbing frames, the Fun Park has something for everyone and is sure to tire out little explorers.



Oakway Estate, Donnybrook

Peckish? Visitors will find **Park Donnybrook** (the sister café to Park Manjimup) a short walk away. The café is a fantastic spot for a coffee and cake.

Feeling fancy Head to one of Donnybrook's small, family-run wineries for lunch and some wine. We love **Coughlan Estate's** homemade pies and vineyard views, as well as **Oakway Estate's** winemaker-guided wine tastings and antipasto platters.

Once clients have packed their selves and their cars with a pantry's-worth of food and wine, it's time to bid the South West farewell and head back to Perth, full, content and with plenty of stories to tell.



Apple harvesting, Donnybrook



Feeding farm animals, Balingup