

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARGARET RIVER REGION



Sugarloaf Rock, Cape Naturaliste

The Margaret River Region features more than 130 kilometres of pristine coastline hugging its side, enhanced by towering native forest, seasonal wildflowers, and rows and rows of grape-laden vines. An idyllic setting primed for relaxation and adventure, the Margaret River Region is a destination triple threat that should be part of your client's next Australian trip.

LEG ONE: ADVENTURE AWAITS

Perth > 2hr30min/225km > Busselton

Regarded as the gateway to Margaret River's beaches, forest and vines, Busselton is the first city on this Margaret River Region itinerary. Guests will spend the beginning of their South West journey here, right by the idyllic waters of Geographe Bay.

ENROUTE

It's an easy 2.5hr-drive from Perth to Busselton via the Forrest Highway, which links Perth to the South West. There are plenty of safe rest/toilet stops along the highway if needed, including the John Tognela Rest Area, which is about halfway between Perth and Busselton.

Just outside of Busselton visitors can pass an old growth, Tuart forest, before heading into town and then on to the Busselton Foreshore, which overlooks one of the most pleasant – and flat – coastlines in the state.

Here they'll find a family friendly beach that stretches for kilometres, as well as ocean-facing eateries, large expanses of grass (perfect for picnics) and playgrounds like Sea Play on the Bay – a shipwreck adventure playground complete with marooned ship and a whale tail that rains water.

MUST-DOS

Fly through the Ludlow-Tuart forest on **Forest Adventures's** adrenaline-packed, high ropes course, which features more than 500 metres of flying foxes, suspension bridges, climbing ladders and more.

Walk or ride down the iconic **Busselton Jetty**, a 1.8km wooden-piled jetty that stretches out over the beautiful Geographe Bay.

Go beyond the farm gate to meet the region's farmers and producers, before feasting on their spoils, during a **Forage Safaris's** paddock-to-plate tour.

Soak in prime views of the Busselton Foreshore over a locally brewed pint at **Shelter Brewing Co.**

MUST-STAYS

The largest resort in Margaret River, **Abbey Beach Resort** offers guests a range of rooms, including spa suites and multi-room apartments, two pools and conference facilities located on the shores of Geographe Bay.

For a villa-like vibe, try **Aqua Resort's** range of luxury apartments, some of which boast their own private plunge pools and direct access to Geographe Bay.

Surrounded by native bushland, **RAC Busselton Holiday Park** is an award-winning, family friendly holiday park that's just across the road from the beach.

A serviced apartment hotel, **The Sebel** is a great option for guests seeking proximity to the beach and city, and amenities like a resort-style swimming pool, gym and tennis courts.



RECOMMENDED



SUGGESTED TRIP LENGTH
3-5 days



TOTAL LEGS
5



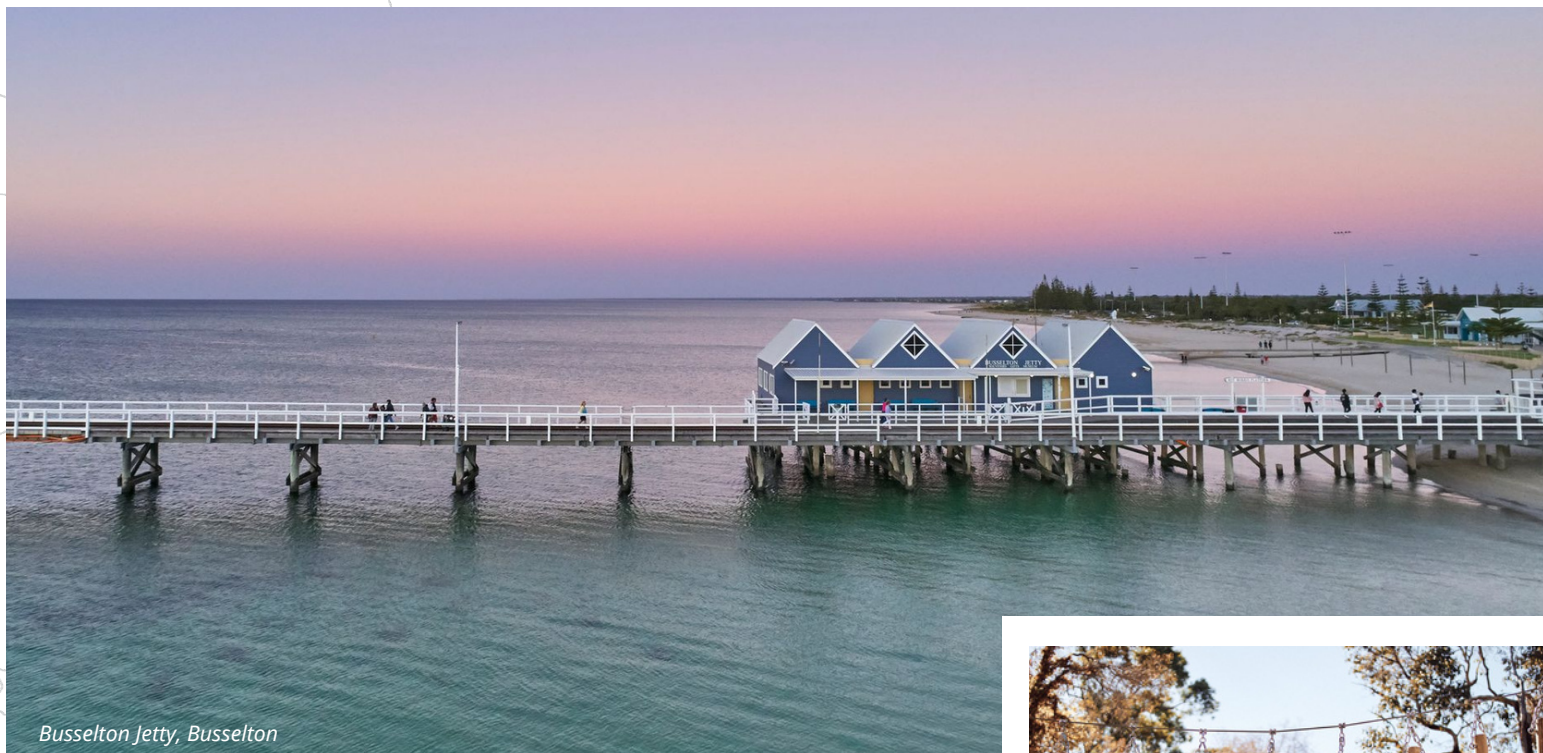
NUMBER OF TOWNS
5

NEED TO KNOWS

- We recommend travellers spend one to two days enjoying each leg of this itinerary.
- The easiest way to travel to the Margaret River Region 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 three times a week).
- For Perth Airport transfers, we recommend Australian Transit Group (ATG) and South West Coachlines.
- Avis, Avraa Car Hire, Busselton & South West Rent A Car, Europcar and Hertz car hire options are available at the Busselton Margaret River Airport.
- We have provided our top recommendations of trade-ready products and services below.



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



Busselton Jetty, Busselton

LEG TWO: SEASIDE BLISS

Busselton > 25min/23.5km > Dunsborough

Busselton shares its beautiful coastline with Dunsborough, a laidback holiday town frequented by many-a-West Australian family. With its collection of picture-perfect beaches, top-notch restaurants and cafes and its relaxed small-town vibe, your clients will want to visit too.

ENROUTE

Dunsborough is a 25-minute-drive from Busselton via Bussell Highway and Caves Road. Visitors will know they've hit town when they see **Palmer Winery's** bright red vintage car or the perfectly manicured lawns of the Dunsborough Lakes golf course.

From here, most roads lead to the ocean, including Cape Naturaliste Road – the route to the end of Cape Naturaliste, natural attraction Sugarloaf Rock, and the stunning Bunker and Eagle Bays.

Travellers can enjoy a bite to eat at a plethora of restaurants, cafes, bars, wineries and breweries in and around the town, with accommodation options just a hop, skip and jump away from Dunsborough's pristine, sandy shores

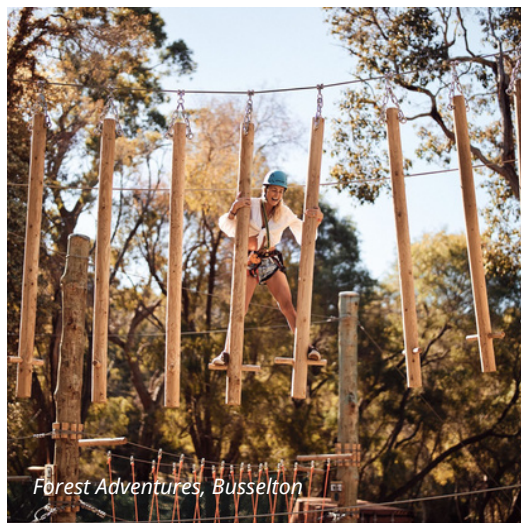
MUST-DOS

Climb to the top of **Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse** for spectacular views of Cape Naturaliste, the Indian Ocean and the occasional migrating whale.

Learn about Aboriginal culture and history on an immersive bush walk, cave tour or native food tasting with **Koomal Dreaming**.



Koomal Dreaming, Yallingup

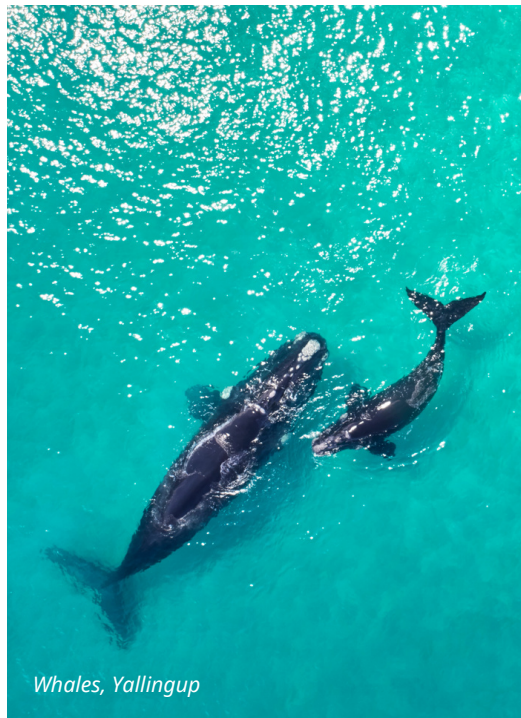


Forest Adventures, Busselton

MUST-STAYS

Nestled between bush and sea, **Pullman Resort Bunker Bay's** luxuriously appointed, bungalow-style villas are perfect for everyone from couples seeking a romantic getaway, to families looking for a comfortable – and luxurious – home-away-from-home.

Eight Willows Retreat is home to 25 self-contained, luxury chalets, surrounded by native bushland and located next to the beautiful Yelverton National Park.



Whales, Yallingup



Cape to Cape Track, Margaret River

LEG THREE: A NATURAL ATTRACTION

Dunsborough > 10min/11km > Yallingup

Unparalleled views of the Indian Ocean await travellers at the laidback surfing town of Yallingup, favourably positioned on a ridge surrounded by the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

Renowned for its world-class surf breaks, out-of-this-world natural attractions and food and drink to match, Yallingup is a great place to explore no matter the time of the year.

ENROUTE

A little further south of Dunsborough, on the west side of Cape Naturaliste, is where travellers will find the small township of Yallingup. There's just one way in and out – Yallingup Beach Road – which, unsurprisingly but not unimpressively, leads directly to the town's famous main break and kid-friendly Yallingup Lagoon.

Grab a coffee or a bite to eat at **Lagoon's restaurant or coffee kiosk**, located right by the main carpark, then head to the beach and watch the waves (and surfers) roll in.

The wider Yallingup region encompasses both the coast and the country, including natural rock formations Canal Rocks and Injidup Natural Spa, the serene Smiths Beach and parts of the Cape to Cape Track – a 135km coastal walking trail.

Head inland and discover beautiful country roads lined by native gums, karri and marri trees, art galleries full of vibrant artworks by local artists, award-winning restaurants, world-renowned and boutique wineries and family-run breweries.

MUST-DOS

Explore the coastal-hugging Cape to Cape Track and the breathtaking scenery it passes through, with the help of **Cape to Cape Explorer** Tours's local tour guides.

Swing into **Swings and Roundabouts** for their *Swings Backyard Stories* cellar door experience that allows guests to explore the winery's vineyard before enjoying a shared grazing feast (and wine, of course) while swinging on the venue's insta-worthy swing seats.

Learn all about the art of winemaking from the owners of **Windows Estate** during their *Organic Farm/Vineyard Tour and Tasting*, or simply kick back with a cheese and wine pairing and soak in the winery's beautiful vineyard views.

Once the sun goes down, discover some of the region's cute, furry and critically endangered animals – including the native Woylie – on **South West Eco Discovery's Nocturnal Animal Tour**.

MUST-STAYS

With 22 luxurious guest rooms and suites, **Cape Lodge** is a great choice for those seeking an idyllic, private retreat.

Seashells Yallingup is set within the beautiful, heritage-listed Cave House Hotel estate, and boasts a number of room styles to suit anyone from singles and couples, to families and small groups.

Overlooking the scenic Smiths Beach, **Smiths Beach Resort's** minimalistic- yet-stylish beach houses, villas and apartments exude luxe coastal living.

LEG FOUR: THE MARGARET RIVER

Yallingup > 30mins/35kms > Margaret River

This leg of the Highlights of The Margaret River Region itinerary encompasses the stunning sights, scenery and environment located between Cape Naturaliste and the Margaret River.

Arguably the best (and easiest) ways to take in this beautiful part of the world is to travel down Caves Road. One of Western Australia's most iconic drives, it weaves between native bushland and wildflowers, towering karri forest, vineyards and green pastures, and past towns like Cowaramup, Gracetown and the Margaret River township.

With an eclectic mix of shops, restaurants, cafes and one of the top farmers markets in the world – the Margaret River Farmers Market – Margaret River is also home to the river of the same name, national parks that feature tranquil bushwalks and bike trails, and surfing hotspots like Surfers Point, Redgate and Contos.



Smith's Beach Resort, Yallingup



Jewel Cave, Augusta

ENROUTE

While it only takes approximately 30 minutes to travel, non-stop, from Yallingup to Margaret River, we recommend guests take their time along Caves Road, making sure to stop at the many natural attractions, wineries and providores along the way.

The road does get very busy, so please be mindful of other vehicles, road conditions and the speed limit, which is predominantly 80km/hr. Reception can also drop in and out, so GPS routes should be pre-loaded to avoid any navigational hiccups.

MUST-DOS

Ride through the bush, farm and forest while on one of **Jesters Flat's** horse-riding tours.

Canoe down the actual Margaret River with **Margaret River Discovery Tours**.

For all things sweet and chocolatey, stop by and stock up at the **Margaret River Chocolate Factory**.

MUST-STAYS

Nestled between tall timber trees in the heart of the Wooditjup National Park, **RAC Margaret River Nature Park** offers a beautiful nature-based, eco-experience for travellers, who can pick from the park's self-contained accommodation, caravan bays or campgrounds.

For the perfect blend of nature and glam, try lakeside glamping at **Olio Bello**.

Stay Margaret River has a range of comfortable accommodation options, including semi-self-contained apartments, located a short walk from town.

Find **Margarets Beach Resort's** apartments just a 5-minute walk from Gnarabup Beach, or for a forest setting just steps away from the Margaret River town centre, try **Margarets In Town Apartments**.

LEG FIVE: THE HEART OF WA

Margaret River > 30min/45km > Augusta > 3hr20min/315km > Perth

We're not quite done with Caves Road yet. Heading south from Margaret River, travellers will pass through the magical Boranup Forest then on to the quiet seaside hamlet of Hamelin Bay.

Caves Road then joins Bussell Highway, which carries on south until it hits Augusta – the furthest south of WA you can go.

This part of the Margaret River Region varies from thick coastal scrub and rocky bays, to natural sea pools and picturesque riverbanks that hug the Blackwood River.

The town of Augusta is set along these banks and Flinders Bay, where the river meets the sea. A sleepy seaside town, Augusta is a great place to slow down, cast a fishing line and watch the setting sun.

ENROUTE

We suggest taking a leisurely drive down Caves Road then on to Bussell Highway to get to Augusta, then opting for the quicker highway option for the return journey home.

Once in Augusta, head down Leeuwin Road to find a beautiful, rocky coastline dotted with white, sandy bays, and at the very end the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse – the tallest lighthouse on mainland Australia.

Looking for lunch? A visit to the **Colour Patch** for fish and chips or a seafood feast is a must, or stop by farm-to-table restaurant **Glenarty Road** in Karridale before heading back to Margaret River.

Guests can then spend one last night in town or can drive straight back up to Perth.



Jesters Flat, Margaret River

MUST-DOS

Travelling to the region between May and August? Spend a few hours whale watching aboard **Whale Watch WA's** luxury, 25-metre catamaran, which departs from the Augusta Harbour.

Prefer dry land? Soak in spectacular views of Cape Leeuwin, the Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean from the top of **Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse**, or head underground and explore one of the display caves in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge, such as **Jewel Cave**.