

THE SOUTH WEST EDGE ROAD TRIP



The South West Edge is an epic 12-day road trip around the southern tip of Western Australia. It's a journey that'll take travellers into the heartland of an undisturbed and uncrowded Australia and past a vibrant urban port city, breathtaking coastline, ancient forests, awe-inspiring mountain ranges and vast open outback.

LEG ONE: ADVENTURE ISLAND

Perth > 90min/33km > Rottnest

The first leg of The South West Edge Road Trip introduces visitors to the iconic Rottnest Island; a tranquil getaway with beautiful beaches and bays, picturesque scenery and of course, the infamous Quokka – the country's happiest marsupial.

ENROUTE

Your guests's journey enroute along The Edge starts in Perth, Western Australia's capital city.

On day one, jump on a ferry ride from Fremantle to the picturesque Rottnest Island, located 19 kilometres off the coast of Perth. Rottnest ferries take approximately 25 minutes from Fremantle, 45 minutes from Hillarys Boat Harbour, or 90 minutes from Perth's Barrack Street Jetty.

We suggest travelling with **Rottnest Express** (Journey Beyond), **Rottnest Fast Ferries** or **Sealink Rottnest Island**, or arrive via the sky with **Rottnest Air Taxi**.

Once on Rottnest, travellers can hire a bike (there are no cars on the island), join a tour, follow a walking trail or use the hop-on-hop-off bus to discover the hidden beaches, historic attractions and wildlife, including the island's resident Quokkas!

Stop in at the Visitor Centre for information and maps, grab a coffee and breakfast from one of the cafés at Thompson Bay, then hit the road and explore.

If your guests are looking for adventure on the water, Rottnest Island has 63 beaches and 20 bays to choose from, where they can swim, relax, snorkel, dive and surf.

With over 135 species of tropical fish, 20 species of coral, and over 13 shipwrecks to explore, heading below the surface is a worthwhile experience, with snorkel trails at Little Salmon Bay and Parker Point.

Other popular beaches include Pinky's Beach, The Basin, Little Parakeet Bay and Geordie Bay.

Creating an itinerary for clients who prefer land? Get them to follow the Wadjemup Bidi – a series of walk trails that will take you across spectacular coastal headlands, past stunning inland lakes and to both natural and man-made attractions along the way.

Made up of five sections, the trails boast culturally and environmentally significant landmarks to interpret and experience, including Wadjemup Lighthouse offering ultimate views across the island.

RECOMMENDED



SUGGESTED TRIP LENGTH
12 - 14 days



TOTAL LEGS
13



NUMBER OF TOWNS
21 - 23

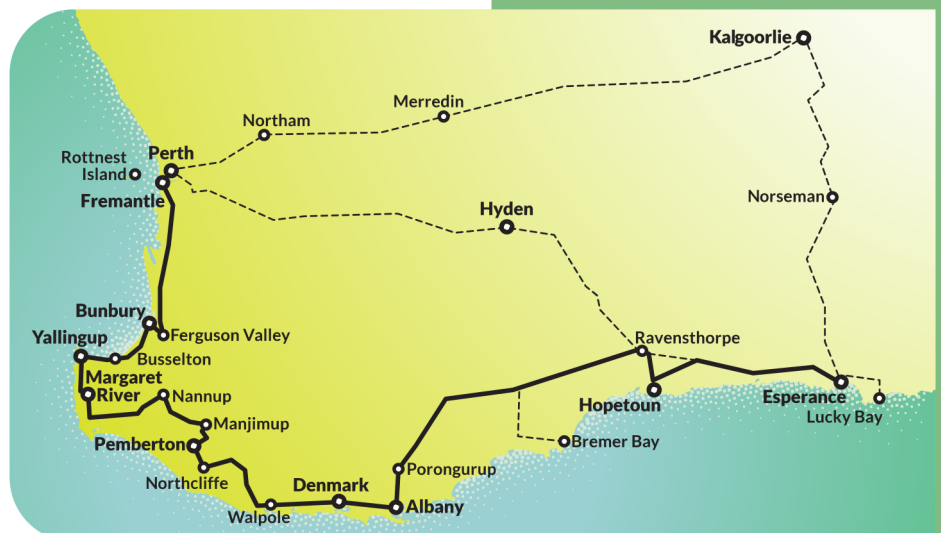
NEED-TO-KNOWS

- We recommend travellers spend two to three days enjoying each leg of this itinerary, which can also be experienced in reverse.
- The easiest way to travel to along the South West Edge is by first flying to Perth Airport.
- For Perth Airport transfers, we recommend Australian Pinnacle Tours, Australian Transit Group (ATG) and South West Coachlines.
- Please note: there are no bookable accommodation options available for legs 9, 10 and 12 of this journey. We have provided suggested alternatives/ recommended route changes instead.
- Clients interested in caravanning or camping can hire four-wheel-drive campers from Red Sands Campers and camper and caravan packages from Crikey Camper Hire.
- Tourists are advised to check for alerts and road/park closures before commencing their travel on 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 trade-ready products and services below. Please visit Destination Perth and Australia's Golden Outback for trade enquiries.



Click here for Australia's South West's full trade-ready list.

EN-ROUTE
ALONG THE EDGE





For lunch, stop in at **Geordies Cafe and Art Gallery** at Geordie Bay, or head back to Thompson Bay, before catching the ferry back to the mainland.

If your clients can spare the time, we suggest spending a night or two on the island.

There are a number of accommodation options available – from the premium ocean view hotel rooms and apartments to budget bungalows and cabins – and no shortage of things to do, including enjoying evening drinks and dinner at **Hotel Rottnest**, or **Riva Restaurant**.

For one of the most spectacular beachside views on the island, and locally inspired dishes and cocktails, visit **Pinky's Beach Club**.

MUST-DOS

Discover an underwater world during one of **Dive Traveller's** a professionally guided dive or snorkel tours.

Enjoy the spoils of the ocean aboard **Rottnest Cruises's Luxe Island Seafood Cruise** – a divine, floating degustation with the magical views.

Gain a bird's-eye-view of Rottnest before freefalling at least 8000 feet and landing smoothly on the shores of Thompson Bay, Bickley Bay or Salmon Bay, with **Skydive Geronimo**.

Short on time? Fly in **Kookaburra Air's** fixed-wing aircraft over Perth City, the Swan River, the port city of Fremantle and the stunning white sandy beaches of Rottnest, before returning home.

MUST-STAYS

For a full rundown of Rottnest's accommodation options – from heritage-listed cottages to family-friendly camping site – visit Rottnest Island Authority.

If you're clients are seeking a relaxed, coastal vibe in a luxe setting, we recommend staying at the brand-new **Samphire Rottnest**.

For eco-luxe, don't pass on Discovery Rottnest Island's eco-tents, which are located close to, if not overlooking, **Pinky Beach**.

LEG TWO: A HISTORIC PORT CITY

Rottnest > 25min/19km > Fremantle

The next leg of the South West Edge sees visitors meander through Fremantle, a historic portside town home to Western Australia's largest display of heritage buildings.

Its numerous historic attractions, museums and galleries tell stories of convict prisoners, maritime heroes and pioneers, while its vibrant streets brimming with weekend markets, pop up food outlets, casual and alfresco dining, exciting events, festivals, and heritage pubs, make it a popular place to wine and dine.

ENROUTE

Visitors travelling directly from Rottnest to Fremantle will disembark at the B Shed Ferry Terminal at Victoria Quay, which is just a short stroll from the Fremantle CBD and adjacent to the historical West End of Fremantle.

Visitors can also hop onboard Fremantle's free orange CAT (Central Area Transit) buses, which runs every 20 minutes and transports passengers from Victoria Quay (bus stop is located on the corner of Phillimore and Cliff streets) to stops within the CBD and South Fremantle.

For a true sense of the culture and character of Fremantle, a visit to the [Fremantle Markets](#) is a must.



From jewellery, to homewares, fashion, food and a selection of artisan stalls, guests are almost guaranteed to find a trinket or two to take home with them.

But it's not just the stallholders that make this market special – guests will also experience the atmosphere of over a hundred years of vibrant culture and heritage, perhaps even hearing a local busker or two along the way.

Feasting in Freo is easy with the town's plethora of cafés, restaurants and eateries. Given its seaside locale, it'd be rude not to order fresh fish and chips from one of the many cafes situated along Fremantle's Fishing Boat Harbour.

Find some of the best (and oldest) Italian coffee shops and restaurants along Fremantle's South Terrace, affectionately referred to as the "Cappuccino Strip" by locals, or check out the collection of eateries at **The Old Synagogue** – the former site of WA's first synagogue.



MUST-DOS

Dip below the water's surface and find all sorts of marine critters on a night dive with **Bucket List Diver** (Open Water certification required).

Sail into the sunset and along the Fremantle coast aboard **Charter 1's** luxury, bright yellow catamaran.

Head underground to discover a labyrinth of tunnels built by prisoners at the old **Fremantle Prison**, or explore the old gaol above ground during one of its day/night tours.

Spend the afternoon lapping up luxury and beautiful ocean views with **Super Yachts Perth**.

Join **Leeuwin Ocean Adventure** for a 3-hour sail along the coast aboard the STS Leeuwin II – Australia's largest sail-training tall ship.

From exhilarating 270-degree spins and power brake stops, to donuts and fishtails – whizz through the water at up to 90km/hour with **Cicerello's Jet Adventures'** Jet Boat Thrill Ride.

MUST-STAYS

For spacious, well-appointed studio one, two, or three-bedroom serviced apartments overlooking Fremantle's Fishing Boat Harbour or the Royal Perth Yacht Club marina, book **Be. Fremantle**.

The family-friendly **Discovery Holiday Parks – Woodman Point** holiday and caravan park is located 15 minutes from Fremantle and features a range of comfortable – and affordable – accommodation options, as well as a plethora of park facilities including a bouncing pillow, playground and swimming pool.

Situated in the heart of Fremantle and overlooking Esplanade Park, the **Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges** is a 4.5 star hotel with resort-style leisure facilities and two restaurants on site.

Gallery Serviced Apartments offers spacious, 3-bedroom apartments with contemporary interiors, WIFI and complementary onsite parking, right in town.

Hougoumont Hotel Fremantle is a modern boutique hotel made using innovative sea container construction (although you wouldn't be able to tell!), located 20 metres from Fremantle's Cappuccino Strip.

Nautica Residences by Seashells short-stay and corporate-furnished accommodation are great for clients looking for stylish, apartment-style living in East Fremantle.

Once the homes of Fremantle's warders, the **Warders Hotel** comprises old limestone cottages that have been transformed into stunning, old-meets-new boutique accommodation.





LEG THREE: ROLLING HILLS AND INSTAGRAMMABLE LAKES

Fremantle > 1hr50min/170km > Ferguson Valley > 17min/15km > Bunbury

Travellers will head to Bunbury via the rolling hills of the Ferguson Valley.

Home to boutique wineries and cellar doors, the Wellington National Park and some of the most Instagrammable waterways in Western Australia (hello, Black Diamond Lake!).

Then it's onto the ocean-hugging city of Bunbury, where a unique, interactive wildlife experience awaits.

ENROUTE

It takes just under two hours to drive from Fremantle to the Ferguson Valley, via the Kwinana Freeway and Forrest Highway.

Clients will start their Ferguson Valley adventure along Ferguson Road, which starts in the small town of Dardanup and stretches all the way down past the Wellington National Park and on to Lowden.

Here they'll spend the morning wine tasting and exploring Wellington National Park by car, bike, kayak or feet. Flowing rivers, leisurely bushwalking and ample picnic spots await in the park, which, also features the world's largest dam mural (spanning a massive 8000sqm) painted on the wall of the Wellington Dam.

Surrounded by jarrah, marri and blackbutt forests, over 300 species of wildflowers bloom in the park during spring. Take a picnic hamper or go for a swim at Honeymoon Pool, where the cool, crisp waters of the Collie River are shaded by an overhanging canopy of peppermint trees.

Soak up the sun on the wooden platform, wander the trails along the banks of the river, or explore by water on the kayak trail.

While in the region, don't miss a visit to the beautiful Black Diamond Lake, which has risen to Instagram fame due to its vibrant aqua colour. The former mine site filled with water after it was decommissioned in the 1950s and has been a popular swimming hole for locals ever since.

The town of Collie is only 5 kilometres southeast of the lake, so make sure to drop in for a bite to eat and to do a bit of shopping.

From Collie, it's just a 45-minute drive to Bunbury; a seaside city that offers protected beach bays mere minutes from budding local bars, trendy restaurants, boutique shops and alluring coffee houses and cafés dotting street art corners and hidden alleyways.

Roll through the **Bunbury Farmers Market**, where you can fill baskets full of the best fresh, produce and gourmet eats, before heading on to the centre of the city shop in local boutiques and spot vibrant street art.

Spend the evening immersed in the nightlife at one of the many bars and restaurants. Overnight in Bunbury and rise early – there are dolphins swimming in Koombana Bay and they're waiting to play.

With so many dolphins living along the coast, Bunbury and Koombana Bay offer the perfect opportunity for dolphins and humans to meet and interact.

The Interaction Zone at the **Dolphin Discovery Centre** has been designated as a special dolphin protection area for this very purpose. Under strict license conditions set out by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (BDCA), the Centre has been able to offer a unique interactive experience on the beach right in front of the Centre since 1989.

Dolphin Volunteers have been trained to ensure the interaction guidelines are followed and they will always be present on the beach to answer questions and manage the interaction should dolphins visit.

Inside the Centre guests will find a beachside cafe and a new Interpretive Centre, which showcases an expanded range of themed fish and coral aquariums.



MUST-DOS

Meet dolphins in their natural habitat – yes, the ocean – during a three-hour Swim with Dolphins experience (November- April) with the **Dolphin Discovery Centre**. Rather not get wet? Opt for a Dolphin Eco Cruise.

MUST-STAYS

Stay across from Koombana Bay at the family-friendly and affordable **Discovery Parks – Bunbury Foreshore** or, for serviced apartment-style accommodation, try **Quest Bunbury**.

Prefer to spend a night or two in the Ferguson Valley? **Peppermint Lane Lodge** offers beautiful adults-only rooms surrounded by trees and gardens, while **Evedon Lakeside Retreat** presents cosy cabins nestled by its very own lake.



LEG FOUR: THE GATEWAY TO THE MARGARET RIVER REGION

Bunbury > 45min/53km > Busselton > 22min/24km > Dunsborough > 10min/11km > Yallingup

Leg four introduces guests to the northern towns of the Margaret River Region – Busselton, Dunsborough and Yallingup.

Here they'll find endless white, sandy beach, most of which is hugged by a calm and protected sea, plus seaside adventures aplenty.

ENROUTE

Find Busselton 43 minutes south of Bunbury, along Bussell Highway. A note for self-drive travellers: there are major roadworks between Bunbury and Busselton; beware of changing road conditions and speed limits, and do follow any signage.

Once in Busselton, visitors can walk along a seemingly endless white, sandy beach towards Cape Naturaliste, 30km to the west.

A cycle path runs adjacent to the Busselton Foreshore, making this stunning bay accessible to all. The calm, protected waters of the bay make Busselton a perfect launchpad for water lovers who can swim, snorkel, sail, dive, row, fish or water-ski. The city's safe swimming beaches and amenities also make it the perfect base for families. Numerous caravan parks located directly behind the beach also make Busselton a great stop-off for travellers with caravans, campers or tents. The newly refurbished Busselton Foreshore is a lovely place to enjoy a relaxing afternoon, with free barbecues, a skate park, new children's playground and beautiful views of the bay and the iconic Busselton Jetty. There are cafés, kiosks and a brewery, plus a Hilton Garden Inn is currently being developed to add to the area's appeal (and boost accommodation capacity).

A little down the way, clients will find the towns of Dunsborough and Yallingup. The township of Dunsborough features a number of coastal-meets-chic boutiques, trendy cafes and modern eateries, making it a great place to wander through on a lazy afternoon.

Head out towards the tip of Cape Naturaliste to find some of the most spectacular, picture-perfect beaches this side of the equator, and the start of the Cape to Cape Track – a 125km walking track that stretches from Cape Naturaliste all the way down to Cape Leeuwin in the Margaret River Region's south.

Is it real, or a simulation? Rising above the ocean like a tessellated pyramid, Margaret River's famous Sugarloaf Rock draws an open-mouthed audience each day as the descending sun sets into the ocean, framing the enormous rock formation with a clear, rose-hued light.

Clients may also wish to follow the lead of other clever picnickers and bring their own champagne hamper; there's plenty of space to find a snugly viewing spot within the wildflower-dotted scrub nearby.

Yallingup is a small coastal hamlet nestled into the hillside, overlooking one of the region's well-known surf beaches.

The coastline here is dramatic. Jagged rocks and high cliff faces are met by a haze of sea spray from the swell below. Visitors can learn to surf and hire a board at one of the surf schools, or sit and watch the pros from any of the vantage points.

Experience unique rock formations and gushing ocean at Canal Rocks. Stand on a wooden bridge and watch crystal-clear waves flow beneath.

Long enjoyed by locals, Injidup Natural Spa is the result of a high rock shelf on one side, which creates a natural barrier against the ocean's tidal movements. As waves crash onto the rocks, they filter through cracks like natural bubble jets, causing a temporary 'spa' in the stunningly clear water.

Yallingup is also home to a collection of the finest wineries, restaurants, cafes and galleries nestled between trees and the sea. Overnight in Yallingup for a truly wonderful experience.



MUST-DOS

Extending 1.8kms over the protected waters of Geographe Bay, the heritage-listed **Busselton Jetty** is the longest wooden-piled jetty in the Southern Hemisphere. Walk or catch the electric solar-powered train to the end of the jetty, where unique coral and sea-life can be viewed in its Underwater Observatory.

Looking for the perfect watering hole post-dip-or-jetty trip? Located just across from the Busselton Jetty, **Shelter Brewing** offers a laidback place in which to enjoy a locally brewed beer and a pub-style feed.

Feeling adventurous? Hike the Cape to Cape Track between the lighthouses with the help of **Cape to Cape Explorer Tours**, or connect with the world's oldest living culture through an Aboriginal experience with **Koomal Dreaming**.

Swing the day away at **Swings and Roundabouts**, a winery, cellar door and restaurant boasting breathtaking bushland and vineyard views.

ENROUTE
ALONG THE EDGE



For a sustainable dining experience, head to **de'sendent** for lunch by head chef Evan Hayter, who produces food in sustainable and ethical ways.

MUST-STAYS

Bina Maya Yallingup Escape offers the perfect mix of parred back luxury and tranquil seclusion between towering trees in the Yallingup hills.

Old country charm awaits at **Cape Lodge**, a country estate with a sophisticated vibe and its very own award-winning restaurant.

Smiths Beach Resort presents stylish beach apartments that ooze coastal luxe, just a two-minute walk from Smiths Beach.

Surrounded by native bush, national park and idyllic gardens, **Eight Willows Retreat's** 25 self-contained chalets are a great option for couples, families and groups alike.

LEG FIVE: FOREST, BEACH, AND CAPE

Yallingup > 30min/37km > Margaret River > 31min/44km > Augusta > 31min/44km > Margaret River

The Margaret River Region is world-renowned for its coastline, gourmet food and award-winning wine, ancient limestone caves and world-class surf, all of which can be experienced in leg five of this South West Edge journey.

ENROUTE

The boundaries between Yallingup, Margaret River and Augusta invisibly weave between miles of grassy green fields, native bush and grape-laden vines, dotted with restaurants, wineries, breweries and distilleries.

From Yallingup, it's a picturesque drive along Caves Road to Margaret River. On the way, visit cellar doors and meet the makers on guided tours with nature-meets-gourmet experiences.

Once in Margaret River, adventure seekers can ride the waves at Surfers Point, the Rivermouth and Gnarabup, go rock climbing or abseiling, or take a kayak or canoe along the Margaret River.

Overnight in Margaret River and wake up to savour the town's natural surroundings, before heading to the magical Boranup Forest. Drive south from Margaret River along Caves Road and watch as the sun sparkles through the karri trees, some of which are over 60 metres high.

Just a 25-minute-drive from Margaret River, this is a fantastic spot to take a break and marvel at the nature around you. Our tip: Pull over at the Boranup Forest lookout for a better view.

Just a little down the way, a visit to the stunning white beaches of Hamelin Bay is definitely a must-do! Think white sand, turquoise waters and amazing hike trails.

The sheltered bay is great for swimming, snorkelling and fishing, and divers can explore the nearby shipwreck.

It's also possible for travellers to spot a stingray, as they sometimes swim close to the shoreline. Keep in mind that these are wild creatures, and travellers should maintain their distance to respect these animals' space. It takes about 15 minutes to get to Augusta from Hamelin Bay.

As the tallest lighthouse on mainland Australia, Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse is a must-see attraction in the Margaret River Region.

This historic lighthouse is situated just south of Augusta, at the tip of a spectacular peninsula – where the Southern and Indian Oceans meet – the most south-westerly point of Australia.

Take a trip through maritime history and learn how this famous landmark was constructed from local limestone in 1895, and how it still operates as a vital working lighthouse for vessels navigating the treacherous cape.

It's also one of the best land-based vantage points for spotting whales from May through to September.

Visitors can enjoy a coffee or delicious light refreshments in the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse Café, or head to the family-friendly Flinders Bay for a picnic (or fish and chips from **The Colourpatch**) before heading back to Margaret River for the night.



MUST-DOS

Climb to the top of the 40m-high **Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse**, which presents views of both the Indian and Southern Oceans.

Go underground and explore **Jewel Cave**, which is filled with stunning, ancient crystal structures, or **Lake Cave**, which features a tranquil lake that reflects the pristine cave chamber above.

Discover most of the region's caves and lighthouses on a guided Ultimate Caves and Lighthouse tour with **Margaret River Exposed**.

Indulge in a premium wine tasting or tour that goes beyond the cellar door at one of Australia's Ultimate Wineries – **Leeuwin Estate**, **Vasse Felix** and **Voyager Estate**.

Experience the beautiful Margaret River from the water during **Margaret River Discovery Tours's** Sunset Canoe Tour.

For a tailored, chauffeur-driven luxury Margaret River experience, book **South West Luxury**.

MUST-STAYS

For apartment-style accommodation by the sea, book **Margaret's Beach Resort's** studio and multi-room apartments, near Gnarabup Beach.

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

Stay Margaret River features spacious guest rooms with a verandah, many of which overlook a tranquil garden setting, an outdoor swimming pool, mini golf and a children's playground.

LEG SIX: COUNTRY ROADS

Margaret River > 50min/72km > Nannup > 45min/58km > Manjimup > 23min/32km > Pemberton

Drive through the heart of the Southern Forests and Valleys – a sub-region renowned for its charming country towns, rolling hills, towering karri trees and fresh produce galore – during leg six of this itinerary.

ENROUTE

Nannup is a place to relax and recharge, get close to nature, discover WA's heritage or have an adventure.

To get to Nannup from Margaret River, head south towards Augusta before turning left onto Perimeter Road. Take a right at **Stella Bella Wines** (Rosa Brook Road) and follow the bitumen until it reaches Nannup.

Along this route visitors will find Barrabup Pool. The quiet swimming hole and campground is just a 10-minute drive from the Nannup town centre and the perfect spot to cool off when the temperatures soar.

Clients can launch off the pool's wooden platform and into the deep, cool water below, or take the less adrenaline-filled approach and walk into the water via the stairs adjacent. Note: the wet stairs can get very slippery.

Land dwellers can tackle a section of the Old Timberline Rail Trail, a 22km walking trail that follows the old tramway from the pool's timber milling days.

Camp in the shade of towering native trees and settle in for the night at the nearby Workmans Pool camping ground, or continue on to Nannup, Manjimup or Pemberton for a range of other accommodation options.



Situated on the banks of the Blackwood River, Nannup has been perfectly preserved as a historic and character-filled timber town from the early 1900s.

Bullnose verandahs, weatherboard shop fronts and colourful flower boxes all enhance the delightful appeal of the town and keep it in character.

Known as Australia's truffle heartland, Manjimup has some of the most nutrient-rich soils perfect for growing truffles. In winter, join a truffle dog hunt to search for this black gold and indulge on truffles at one of the region's restaurants.

Feast on other local delights such as marron, trout, cherries and chestnuts along the way.

Clients travelling with kids? We recommend a pitstop at the Manjimup Heritage Park, where they'll find an interactive museum, a playground and a 17m-high slide (plus a café stocked with plenty of coffee for mum and dad).



Pemberton's only a 23-minute tree-line-drive away. Here visitor can ride one of the many mountain bike trails surrounding Pemberton, or tackle the Munda Biddi, hike the Bibbulmun Track and/or admire Beedelup Falls.

Overnight in Pemberton before exploring one of the world's largest moving sand dune systems, Yeagarup Dunes, on a four-wheel drive tour.

MUST-DOS

Pick prickly chestnuts at **Chestnut Brae**, a working chestnut and pig farm 15 minutes south of Nannup, in April and May.

Epicurious? A truffle experience at **Truffle Hill** in Manjimup is a must.

Four-wheel-drive through the D'Entrecasteaux National Park and the Yeagarup Dunes on a Beach and Forest Eco Adventure with **Pemberton Discovery Tours**.

MUST-STAYS

The English manor-style **Holberry House** is a 7-room guesthouse perched atop a wooded hill that overlooks 4.5 acres of landscaped country gardens in Nannup.

The family-friendly **RAC Karri Valley Resort** has a range of chalets, cabins and rooms nestled between tall karri trees and/or overlooking a tranquil lake that leads to Beedelup Falls.

Wake up to beautiful forest and vine views from one of **Ampersand Estates's** newly renovated, luxury country cottages, located half-an-hour south of Nannup via Vasse Highway.

Clients who love camping will love **WA Wilderness Camping**, who provide full camping setups at the best campsites in Warren National Park.

LEG SEVEN: WILDERNESS CALLS

*Pemberton > 23min/30km >
Northcliffe > 1hr5min/97km >
Walpole > 50min/66km > Denmark*

Welcome to the wilderness leg, which sees visitors traverse through some of the most spectacular old-growth forest, rugged coastal landscapes and calm, picture-perfect waterways in the west.

ENROUTE

Clients should get an early start with a walk through one of Pemberton's national parks, before travelling down the winding Pemberton-Northcliffe Road and on to Walpole.

On the way, travellers can stretch their legs at the **Understory Art & Nature Trail** – an outdoor sculpture exhibition that weaves through the forest right next to the Northcliffe Visitor Centre.

It's then just over an hour to Walpole through state forest and past national park. Once in Walpole, visitors will find mountains, ancient tingle forests and rugged coastal cliffs with wild Southern Ocean views.

Enjoy 360-degree-views over the surrounding karri forest at Mount Chudalup, via the 1.5-kilometre Summit Walk Trail.

At the **Valley of the Giants Treetop Walk**, explore the beauty of the treetops on a lightweight cabled walkway, which leads adventurers high above the leafy canopy through a series of aerial platforms that gently sway back and forth with the breeze.

Then, back on the ground, follow a twisting pathway through the forest floor to see their size and grandeur up close. As well as the famous karri trees native to the region, the valley is home to red tingle trees which, fittingly, often impart a sense of tingling wonder in those who come to see them.

On the way to [Denmark](#) visit Greens Pool – framed by huge boulders which act as a protective shore break for the peppermint-tinged waters, this sanctuary is perfect for snorkelling. Local tip: small multi-coloured coral communities have sprung up underwater around the base of the boulders; pack a snorkel for a close-up look.

A stone's throw from Greens Pool, Elephant Rocks features humongous rock formations that resemble the world's largest land mammals; giving the coastal gem its name.

It's 20 minutes into town from Greens Pool and Elephant Rocks, both located within the William Bay National Park. We recommend travellers head along Scotsdale Tourist Drive and Mount Shadforth Scenic Drive to sample the food and drink on offer by gourmet producers and cellar doors before overnighing in Denmark.

MUST-DOS

Discover the coast of the D'Entrecasteaux National Park, including Black Point's 135-million-year-old Lava flow and Basalt columns, during **Margaret River Exposed's** Black Point Off Road Discovery tour.

Sip on fine, cool-climate wine and feast on a two-course, lavish food platter by the lake and vines at idyllic **The Lake House Denmark**.

MUST-STAYS

Encircled by private nature reserve, **Cape Howe Cottage** is a secluded retreat with 4-star, self-contained holiday homes.

For a cosy, comfortable and down-to-earth accommodation offering with a breathtaking view of the Wilson Inlet, try **Karma Chalets's** cedar chalets.



LEG EIGHT: WILD AND WOOLLY

Denmark > 40min/54km > Albany

Next stop is Albany, a city that's full of history and charm, wild rugged ocean and much more. Albany was Western Australia's first established European settlement – yes, even before Perth!

In modern Albany visitors will find farmers markets, fresh oysters, and some of the most pristine beaches this side of the equator.

ENROUTE

From Denmark, it's an easy, 42-minute drive past tree-dotted fields to Albany. Albany's city centre is situated on a gently sloping hill that rolls down to Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound.

Heritage-listed buildings, shops, cafes and business fronts line the main street, York Street, and the adjoining Princess Royal Harbour-facing Stirling Terrace.

Explore **Albany Boatshed Markets** (Sundays from 9 until 1) and try freshly shucked oysters and locally caught marron, before paragliding at Shelley Beach or wreck diving in King George Sound.

Then it's time to head to the Torndirrup Peninsula, about 16 minutes from Albany's town centre.

Whoosh... BANG! What was that? As travellers ease closer to the edge of The Gap, in Torndirrup National Park, the booming oceanic rumblings will intensify until – CRASH! – suddenly the spectacle reveals itself.

Brace yourself as the water rushes head-first into the cliff walls. The viewing platform – high enough to make you dizzy – is the ultimate spot to watch the show; the force of the ocean put things into humbling perspective.

On particularly woolly days, the waves can reach the top of the platform (and sometimes even the carpark). As such, travellers are advised to heed any warning signs or road blocks.

Admire the surrounding coastline, aflame with native wildflowers, and check out The Gap's equally beautiful counterpart, the rock formation known as Natural Bridge.

A beautiful coastal walk along The Albany Wind Farm, which overlooks the spectacular Sand Patch Beach and the occasional migrating whale, can be accessed from the Albany Wind Farm carpark.

The paths and boardwalks stretch past a number of the giant wind turbines, which visitors can hear whooping in the wind.

On the other side of the peninsula, travellers will find Tourism Australia's Best Beach of 2022, Misery Beach – a secluded and sheltered bay that's walled on one side by a giant granite hill.

They can also explore several walking trails along the Vancouver and Flinders Peninsulas, which stretch out on the north and east sides of the Torndirrup Peninsula.

Ready to take a safari, South West-style? Spend an extra day between January and April to join a Bremer Bay orca tour, chasing the largest-known pod of orca in the Southern Hemisphere. Overnight in Albany.

MUST-DOS

For a history lesson that's actually interesting, go on an interpretive, personalised adventure through the **National Anzac Centre**. Learn about the lives of ANZAC servicepeople during World War I, and whether or not they survived.

Located by Frenchman's Bay and next to the Torndirrup National Park, **Albany's Historic Whaling Station** offers an insight into Albany's whaling history through interactive exhibits, a full-size replica ship and a giant sperm whale skeleton.

For a superb, insightful and entertaining tour of the Torndirrup National Park and/or Stirling Range National Park, choose one of **Busy Blue Bus's** day trip experiences.

Travel to Bremer Bay (approximately 2 hours northeast of Albany) then hop on board one of **Whale Watch WA** or **Naturaliste Charters's** voyages out to the Bremer Canyon to spot pods of orcas.

MUST-STAYS

Both **Ibis Styles Albany** and **Quality Apartments Banksia Gardens** are located along Albany Highway, five minutes from Albany's town centre. Ibis offers guests standard, deluxe and family hotel rooms with balconies, while Quality Apartments has affordable, self-contained, apartment-style room options.

For an opulent, luxurious accommodation option with all the bells and whistles, including a 20-seat theatre, helipad and landing strip, check out the holiday homes and homestead at **Maitraya Private Retreat**, which is perched atop a cliff overlooking the Southern Ocean.

Overlooking Albany's Princess Harbour the newly opened **Hilton Garden Inn Albany** is a great choice for travellers wanting a new accommodation option that is superbly located close to the best things to see and do in Albany.

Hosted accommodation never looked as cosy and sweet as the **Beach House at Bayside**.

Big 4 Caravan Park Middleton Beach offers great, family-friendly accommodation options, including beachfront cabins and caravan and camping sites, right on the shores of Middleton Beach.

Dog Rock Motel is nicely situated close to the start of York Street. This simple, spacious motel accommodation offers rooms with free wifi, satellite TV and ensuite bathrooms.



LEG NINE: TOUCH THE SKY

Albany > 38min/48km > Porongurup

Porongurup is an inland playground enroute along The Edge, where visitors can climb the Granite Skywalk, sip Great Southern wines, and search for an abundance of wildflowers in spring.

ENROUTE

Start early today and drive inland where it's another world entirely. The small village of Porongurup, and the monolithic, ancient rock formations found in the Porongurup National Park, can be reached from Albany via Chester Pass Road.

Here, travellers will find walking trails galore, beautiful wildflowers and cool-climate wineries.

The Granite Skywalk is an icon of Porongurup. Adventure along the 3km round trip walk that takes hikers to a skywalk set into a giant granite boulder perched atop the Porongurup Range.

The stunning landscape seen from here is well worth the final 200m scramble over the rocks. The Porongurup Range rises from the landscape like an island surrounded by a sea of giant Karri trees, rewarding climbers with spectacular views across the jarrah, marri and karri forest, and undulating farmland.

Back on the ground, visitors can search for wildflowers in spring, or grab lunch at one of the region's boutique wineries, some of which boast stunning mountain backdrops.

MUST-DOS

Join a **Busy Blue Bus** guide as they meander through karri and marri forest and climb up granite rocks to the top of the breathtaking, 650m-high Granite Skywalk, sharing stories of the region's history, heritage and culture along the way. Savour a fine Porongurup wine over lunch at a local winery, before riding the blue bus back to Albany.

MUST-STAYS

For a true Aussie outback experience, we recommend hiring caravan or camping gear from **Crikey Camper Hire** or **Red Sands**.

The **Sleeping Lady Private Retreat** is a cosy and private, 2-bedroom chalet with spectacular views of the property's vineyard and the Stirling Ranges beyond.

The closest bookable accommodation options are located in Albany. If clients wish to stay in Albany, we suggest doing day trips out to the Porongurup and nearby Stirling Range National park instead.

LEG TEN: WILDFLOWER COUNTRY

Porongurup > 3hr21min/320km > Hopetoun

Leg 10 of our South West Edge journey takes visitors through the gateway of the Fitzgerald River National Park, where they'll discover awe-inspiring landscapes that appear seemingly untouched by man.

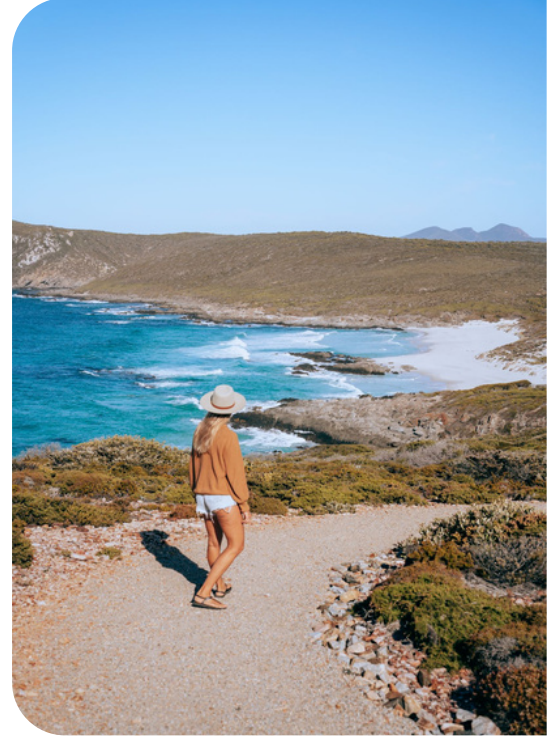
ENROUTE

Hopetoun is a small seaside town in Australia's Golden Outback and the gateway to the Fitzgerald River National Park.

Hopetoun is a great coastal town to overnight, allowing visitors to rise early to explore the unique wildflowers and fauna of Fitzgerald River National Park, which also boasts dramatic coastal views perfect for whale spotting during winter and spring.

With 20 per cent of Western Australia's wildflowers found here alone, not to mention dramatic views of the Southern Ocean, clients will want to spend some time exploring this beautiful part of the world.

The Fitz, as the locals call it, stretches more than 300,000 hectares and includes beaches, bays and some magnificent hiking opportunities.



If clients have time up their sleeve, they can walk a portion of the Hakea Trail or climb East Mount Barren, which offers sprawling views over the park.

In spring, the landscape is dotted with colourful wildflowers including banksias, hakeas, bottlebrush, feather flowers, Quaalup bell and many others.

Spot them, and endangered native animals like the dibbler – a small marsupial which has recently been rediscovered in the park.

MUST-DOS

Wildflower lovers? Book them a seven-day wildflower tour through the South West (including Hopetoun) with **Luxury Outback Tours**, who will show them the very best of the region's rare and wonderful wildflowers while also organising transport, accommodation, some meals, National Park entrée fees and true blue Australian entertainment.

MUST-STAYS

There are four caravan parks in and near Hopetoun – **Hopetoun Beachside Caravan Park**, **Wavecrest Tourist Park**, **Green Haven Tourist Park** and **Munglinup Beach Holiday Park** – all featuring a range of caravan, camping and cabin sites.

For self-contained options try **Hopetoun Chalet**, **Blue Vista Cottage** or, for a slightly lavish option, **Ocean View Retreat**.



LEG ELEVEN: THE LUCKY ROO-UTE

Hopetoun > 2hr5min/192km > Esperance

From icy-white beaches and lucky royal blue ocean pools, to wildlife weaving around your walks– leg 11 of the South West Edge road trip is full of vibrant hues.

ENROUTE

Phone reception between Hopetoun and Esperance can be a little patchy, so do tell your clients to download any maps they need prior to travel.

It's just over two hours to drive to Esperance – home to some of the whitest beaches in the world. Here clients can sip on refreshments at Esperance's local brewery, sample local produce and take in the town museums and craft shops, before watching a sunset at twilight.

Travellers can overnight here for a couple of nights, taking day trips or tours from Esperance.

The nearby Lucky Bay in Cape Le Grand National Park lives up to its name in plenty of ways – translucent water and sand like icing sugar, not to mention sunbaking kangaroos!

Cape Le Grand National Park is a chocolate box of natural treats, but this standout attraction is its must-visit. Famous for its troop of resident roos, which can be found on the beach almost all day every day, it's also a wonderful swimming spot (in fact, its sheltered waters are the reason why Matthew Flinders named this bay "Lucky" when exploring in 1802).

Admire the unusual water colour – a translucent iced mint that seems to glow – before having a freshwater shower, which can be found by the walking track back to the car.

Hellfire Bay and Frenchman Peak are also found in the Cape Le Grand National Park.

A secluded beach nestled between giant, granite rocks, Hellfire Bay boasts some of the most impressive turquoise ocean views in Western Australia.

As this beach is a little less well known than nearby Lucky Bay, visitors may even be lucky enough to have the entire beach to themselves.

The Recherche Archipelago sits in the distance, with the silhouettes of islands popping up through the ocean. This scenic bay is a perfect spot to swim in calm conditions followed by a picnic on the sand, with barbecue facilities at hand.

The climb to Frenchman Peak is a lot like the trajectory of a firework – short, steep and dazzlingly memorable. It takes just 40 minutes to reach the top of this local icon (though people tend to take longer due to soaking in the spectacular views), but it's no casual stroll.

Follow the markers, which curve around the east side of the mountain; the walking path turns into something more like a scramble as hikers navigate the rocky incline on approach to the summit.

Arrive to spectacular views stretching over the park, along the coastline and out to the islands at sea; a bonus vantage point, framed by the mouth of a cave-like rock formation, is on offer when travellers retrace their steps back down the mountain.

NB: Clients are advised to wear appropriate footwear suitable for the trek. Here are some other [trails at Cape Le Grand](#) worth considering.

At Lake Hiller you can picnic on the beach by an almost 100-year-old shipwreck, spot dolphins and sea lions playing by the foreshore, or hunt for the grave of Matthew Flinders' right-hand man, said to be buried here.

There's even a set of ruins to be explored, thought to be left by Australia's first and only pirate, Black Jack.

Keep the adventure rolling by exploring the numerous lagoons and beaches along the breathtaking 40km loop of the Great Ocean Drive before getting ready for the final two legs of this epic journey.





MUST-DOS

Treat the mind, body and soul to a four-day wellness retreat in the region, with **Untamed Escapes**.

Take a scenic flight over the stunning coastline and the many islands of the Recherche Archipelago, including the bubblegum-pink Lake Hillier, with **Fly Esperance** or **HeliSpirit**.

Ocean lovers can cruise through the Recherche Archipelago and get up- close- and- personal with spectacular wildlife along the way, with **Esperance Island Cruises**.

MUST-STAYS

Esperance Chalet Village's unique, A-frame chalets are stylish, comfortable and very 'grammable'.

Relax and unwind **Comfort Inn Bay Of Isles Esperance**, a beachfront accommodation option featuring 62 affordable rooms located in the heart of Esperance.

Esperance Island View Apartments offers guests world-class, one- and two-storey apartments beautifully appointed with natural timber or terracotta floors and a crisp, contemporary design, just a mere stone's throw from exceptional Esperance Bay and less than a kilometre from the town centre.

Located in the town centre and overlooking **Esperance Bay**, **Hospitality Esperance** offers spacious, affordable and well-appointed motel rooms ideal for both business and leisure guests.

LEG TWELVE: A ROCKY WAVE GOODBYE

*Esperance > 4hr/383km > Hyden > 3hr40min/332km > Perth
Esperance > 4hr/11min/390km > Kalgoorlie > 6hr33min/593km > Perth*

A giant, wave-shaped rock or a 500m-deep mining pit – discover a whole new scale on the route back to Perth, a fitting way to farewell the South West.

ENROUTE

Clients have the option of travelling back to Perth via Hyden, stopping off in Ravensthorpe along the way; or Kalgoorlie via Norseman.

Hyden and Kalgoorlie are about the same distance from Esperance, but the Hyden route back to Perth is several hours shorter. We recommend clients overnight in either town before making the journey back to Perth.

In Hyden, travellers should visit the impressive Wave Rock – a huge, wave-shaped rock formation seemingly suspended in time.

Thought to have formed some 130 million years ago, Wave Rock is entirely natural and measures about 15km (roughly three stories) in height.

Alternatively, clients can travel back to Perth via Kalgoorlie. Kalgoorlie-Boulder, or Kalgoorlie as it is more commonly known, is the hub of the Western Australian Goldfields and the largest city in the Australian Outback.

From wild beginnings as a gold rush town full of fortune-seekers, it has grown into a bustling twin city with a distinctive character.

Rich with history, heritage and complemented by a dynamic and cosmopolitan vibe, Kalgoorlie offers a unique adventure.

Historic buildings, character pubs and even the brothels of Kalgoorlie are remnants of more than a century of gold rush history.



No trip to Kalgoorlie would be complete without a trip to the Super Pit – one of Australia's largest open pit gold mines, almost 500 metres deep.

The ghost towns of Leonora and Gwalia are worth a visit too – telling the story of early gold prospecting dreams that have long since been abandoned.

Guests can still try their luck at gold prospecting and fossicking here, or can discover the region's diverse natural riches found in the tranquil eucalyptus forests, wide sweeping plains, low lying scrub land and spinifex fields.

The region is also home to a wide variety of bird species, the threatened bilby, chuditch (western quoll), mallee fowl and dunnart.

If staying in Kalgoorlie for a couple of nights, we suggest guests take the two- hour trip up to Lake Ballard, where they can explore the world's largest outdoor art gallery, with 51 iron statues that can be reached along a 10km walking trail.

Travellers can follow the Brookton Highway from Hyden, or the Great Eastern Highway from Kalgoorlie, to get back to Perth.



MUST-DOS

Discover the wild gold rush past on a walk around the City's grand historic buildings and fascinating museums by undertaking the **Kalgoorlie-Boulder Audio Walking Tour**.

See the inner workings of the Super Pit with **Kalgoorlie's Tours & Charters**.

Head to **The Palace Hotel** for a hearty, pub-style meal with friends and locals.

Golf client? We suggest teeing off at the premier **Kalgoorlie Golf Course**, an 18-hole grass golf course boasting spectacular desert views.

MUST-STAYS

At the base of Wave Rock find Hyden's premium caravan park, **Wave Rock Caravan Park**, and its range of caravan and camping sites and self-contained cabins. Guests won't get any closer to the iconic Wave Rock than this!

Wave Rock Lakeside Resort and Caravan Park caters for guests who would like to get away from it all in a 'home-away-from-home' setting.

Hyden Wave Rock Motel offers 55 well-appointed units and three executive units with luxury furniture and fittings, spa, bar and private garden.

In Kalgoorlie, book **Ibis Styles Hotel** for guests seeking modern rooms and friendly service.

Hospitality Kalgoorlie offers friendly country hospitality ideally located just one-and-a-half kilometres from the city centre on historical Hannan Street.

Offering 92 studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom rooms, a resort-style swimming pool and heated spa, plus versatile function areas, a contemporary all day dining restaurant and an al fresco dining area all surrounded by native gardens, the **Rydges Kalgoorlie** is the perfect destination to complete your guests' holiday.

LEG THIRTEEN: THE END OF THE EDGE

Perth city > 30min/30km > Perth surrounds

This epic journey into the heartland of an undisturbed, uncrowded Australia may be coming to and end, but it's not quite over yet!

Visitors are encouraged to spend a couple of days soaking in the sights and experiences on offer in Western Australia's capital city, Perth, before they depart for their next destination.

Perth is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city that features a mix of modern developments and heritage buildings along with a wide range of accommodation and dining options, tours and attractions, and free public transport within the CBD, making it easy for visitors to get around.

We recommend guests spend an evening discovering Perth's bar and restaurant scene – they won't have to stray too far from key accommodation options in order to find some of Perth's best fine-dining restaurants or to take in a sunset and enjoy the idyllic climate at a trendy rooftop bar.

Enjoy rooftop cocktails at **The Art Gallery of Western Australia's Rooftop Bar, QT Perth** or at **Quay Perth's HQ Bar + Kitchen**, which boasts views of Elizabeth Quay and the Swan River.

Perth is situated on the banks of the Swan River, a vast waterway that flows from the northern reaches of the Swan Valley and exits into the Indian Ocean north of Fremantle.

The river is surrounded by dual-use walk and cycle trails, and experiences on the water including kayaking, sailing, water biking, jet skiing, boating and stand-up paddle boarding.

The Barrack Street Jetty and Elizabeth Quay Jetty are the departure points for river cruises to Fremantle and the Swan Valley, as well as ferries to South Perth and Rottnest Island.



Kings Park is one of the largest inner-city parks in the world with huge expanses of natural bushland, native botanic gardens, grassy lawns and magnificent views over the Swan River and Perth City.

It showcases an outstanding collection of more than 3000 species of West Australian flora and is a popular place for picnics, walks and cultural and ceremonial events.

Visitors can walk among the treetops on a suspended bridge, join an Aboriginal cultural experience with a local Nyoongar tour guide, browse the gift shop, enjoy a coffee or lunch at the café, visit the State War Memorial and enjoy an outdoor concert in summer.

There are also a variety of excellent playgrounds and picnic areas for families.

Free guided walks are led by the Kings Park Volunteer Guides, self-guided walking trail maps are available from the Visitor Information Centre and several tour operators offer guided tours, with the Park free to enter and open 24 hours a day.



The surrounding suburbs of Northbridge, Mount Hawthorn Leederville, North Perth, Mount Lawley, Burswood, South Perth, Victoria Park and Subiaco are easily accessed by public transport and offer visitors a range of dining and entertainment options.

Located 25 minutes north-east of Perth, the Swan Valley is home to some of the oldest vines in WA and is Perth's premier food and wine region.

There are more than 150 places to discover including wineries, breweries, distilleries, cideries, gourmet producers, restaurants and cafes, markets and artist studios. Join a wine tasting bus tour, cruise from the city or hire a car and follow one of these themed [Swan Valley Trails](#).

The Mandurah and Peel area, just 50 minutes south of Perth, has plenty of drawcards for visitors eager to experience a relaxing coastal holiday atmosphere.

Along with great beaches, vast waterways and canals, dining and entertainment and a world-class golf course, Mandurah is also host to a series of enormous wooden sculptures designed by renowned Danish artist Thomas Dambo.

The WA-themed sculptures feature are up to five metres tall and placed in secret locations waiting to be discovered and explored.

Once your clients are done exploring our river and coastal capital city, they can make the short 15-minute ride by car, bus, taxi, rideshare, private transfer or train (end of 2022) to the Perth Airport, and make their way home/to their next destination.

MUST-DOS

Meet WA's native animals at **Caversham Wildlife Park** or watch a gold pouring display at **The Perth Mint**.

Learn about and taste a variety of wild bush foods, such as quandong, native limes, sandalwood nuts and local coastal greens, during an interactive, Aboriginal cultural experience with **Dale Tilbrook Experiences**.

Are your clients brave enough to climb to the top of Perth's Matagarup Bridge with **Matagarup Zip and Climb**? This is no walk in the park – this is a true climb. Participants will be required to climb, shimmy and slide past the bridge beams to reach the SkyView – an open-air viewing platform 72 metres above the river. Walk down or go large and zip back to home base travelling at up to 75km/hr.

Clients have a passion for whisky? Experience the best of Perth's bars on **Two Feet & a Heartbeat Tours's** exclusive and limited World of Whisky tour. The tour company offer a range of tours that lead guests through Perth City, including themed walking tours and progressive dinners.

MUST-STAYS

Featuring panoramic views of Perth's city skyline and a rooftop infinity pool, **Doubletree By Hilton Perth Waterfront** is situated in Elizabeth Quay, with access to local attractions and experiences such as the Rottne Express Ferry and Kings Park right at its door step.

Pure luxury awaits at **COMO The Treasury**, a 48-room contemporary luxury hotel in Perth's newly revitalised, historic heart.

Fall in love with the wild, quirky and decadent boutique art hotel, **QT Perth**, which is also home to an amazing rooftop bar and award-winning restaurant.

The Westin Perth is a rejuvenating haven with luxury accommodation, 5-star amenities, world-class food and beverage outlets and elegant meeting and event venues.

Experience five-star service at **Fraser Suites Perth's** luxury serviced apartments, which comprise 151 one- and two-bedroom fully-furnished apartments and 85 studios.

Heading to the Swan Valley? **The Colony at Mandoon Estate** is made up of 32 beautifully appointed rooms, overlooking the winery's historic Verdelho vines and the banks of the Swan River.

Take it easy in 4-star comfort at **Novotel Vines Resort Swan Valley**, set in unspoiled bushland 35 minutes from Perth.