



## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

AGENT: Belinda from Travel Insights

### DAY 1: PERTH

Perth effortlessly blends urban cool with raw natural beauty and makes the perfect base for your unique Western Australian experience. Bustling with new bars, restaurants, shopping and cultural spaces, Perth is also home to Kings Park—one of the world's largest inner city parks, beautiful wineries, and stunning beaches where you can even swim with wild dolphins.

Begin your day the way many Perth locals love to start theirs, by taking in the iconic cityscape on a morning walk, run, drive or cycle along the Swan River foreshore. From here, it's just a short hop up to the best views in the city from Kings Park and Botanic Garden – one of the largest inner city parks in the world. Catch the free CAT bus, make the five-minute drive, or take the 15-minute walk from the centre of Perth.

Then head back to Perth and discover the hidden gems of the West End, laneways and arcades – from chic fashion boutiques and quirky cafes, to cool small bars for lunch. After lunch Explore Fremantle and its beautifully preserved 19th century port streetscape, is just a 30-minute drive or train ride from central Perth. Or you can take the scenic route via the Swan River, on a cruise from Barrack Street Jetty.

Head for the Cappuccino Strip to ponder the impossibly long list of afternoon coffee options before hitting the history trail to World Heritage listed Fremantle Prison. On an insightful guided tour of this maximum security gaol you'll learn of the conditions endured by convicts and the daring escapes during its 136-years of operation.

If you're visiting on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday, experience the aromas, produce and crafts of Fremantle Markets – shoppers and visitors have been drawn here for more than a century. Or sample some local handcrafted beers at one of the city's brew houses, alongside a tasty small bites menu and a lively family-friendly atmosphere.

Select from Fremantle's eclectic mix of bars and restaurants for dinner, or take the 15-minute drive to Perth's iconic Cottesloe Beach for drinks and dinner beside an Indian Ocean sunset.

### DAY 2: PERTH

Head out to Perth's idyllic island playground – a car-free Class A reserve known as Rottnest Island, or 'Rotto' for short. A morning ferry from Fremantle will get you there in just 25-30 minutes. Regular ferries also run from Perth's Barrack Street Jetty and Hillary's Boat Harbour.

At only 11 by 4.5 kilometers, Rottnest is easy to explore in a day. Pick up maps and guides from the Rottnest Island Visitor Centre and choose your preferred method of transport – the Bayseeker Bus, bike hire or walking. Before leaving Thomson Bay Settlement, stock up on water and picnic supplies at the island's bakery, cafes or general store. Take your pick from the island's 63 white-sand beaches

and 20 clear bays for a lazy picnic lunch. Little Parakeet Bay is a picturesque spot for a swim and snorkel.

Keep a look out for Western Australia's cutest marsupial, the quokka, seeking shade under the trees and shrubs. Return to Thomson Bay and head for the cafes or bars for an afternoon drink, taking in the view of Perth's city skyline from across the Indian Ocean. Head back to the jetty to catch the afternoon ferry back to Perth, Fremantle or Hillary's.

#### DAY 3: MARGARET RIVER

After breakfast, it's an easy three-hour drive to the Margaret River region, where you can choose to base yourself in Busselton, Dunsborough, Yallingup or Margaret River. For your first taste of the South West, enjoy lunch in Busselton with stunning Indian Ocean panoramas. Take a stroll or a train ride on Busselton Jetty, the longest timber jetty in the southern hemisphere, and view Australia's best artificial reef at the Underwater Observatory.

Check in to your accommodation and then enjoy an evening beside the clear turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean indulging in culinary creations by one of the many world-class restaurants of the regions.

#### DAY 4: MARGARET RIVER

Start the day with some yoga at the beach, or try your hand at surfing before enjoying breakfast with an ocean view. Follow breakfast with a walk on one of the most diverse coastal trails in the world – the Cape to Cape Track. You can access the track from Cape Naturaliste.

Take a long lunch at a local winery, and then unwind with a massage at one of the many local spas before dinner in Dunsborough, Yallingup or Margaret River.

#### DAY 5: MARGARET RIVER

Return to the coast for brekkie. Head to beautiful Bunker Bay or Prevelly, where you can watch the surfers test their skills on some of the best breaks in the world. Drive to Boranup Forest for a morning walk among some of the tallest hardwood trees on Earth. Or descend into the magical underground world of Jewel Cave to gaze in awe at the longest straw stalactite on show in the world. Grab some lunch, before the road trip back to Perth. Overnight Perth.

#### DAY 6: BROOME

A mere two-and-a-half-hour flight from Perth gets you to Broome. Spend a relaxing afternoon soaking up the beauty of Broome's world famous Cable Beach. Find your own little slice of paradise on this 22-kilometre stretch of pristine sand and clear turquoise waters. Linger into the late afternoon, and you can experience one of the most unforgettable ocean sunsets from a Cable Beach camel train. For dinner feast on the tropical flavours and fusions that have evolved from Broome's melting pot of cultures and check out the town's colourful calendar of events.

#### DAY 7: BROOME

On a low tide, you can zoom across the mudflats of Broome's Roebuck Bay on a hovercraft tour to view the footprints of dinosaurs that roamed Gantheaume Point over 125 million years ago and discover more recent local history. This area of striking rust-red cliffs is also accessible by road, just five minutes' drive from Broome, and sunset tours are available when tides and times are aligned. Take a wander around the town, or join a guided town tour to discover the fascinating and tragic tales of Broome's original Japanese, Afghan and Malay pearlers who flocked to Broome to seek their fortune. Browse the South Sea pearl and Argyle diamond showrooms of Chinatown, and admire the works of some of the Kimberley's most celebrated contemporary and Aboriginal artists in the local galleries.

If your visit happens to coincide with a full moon and low tide between the months of March and October, be sure to head over to Roebuck Bay to witness the rare natural phenomenon known as the Staircase to the Moon .

#### DAY 8/9: CAPE LEVEQUE

Take a scenic flight over Broome and the dramatic west Kimberley coast, or join a 4WD tour to meet one of the world's oldest surviving cultures at Cape Leveque. From here, you can learn the ancient art of mud crabbing, or explore the 1,000 islands and islets of the Buccaneer Archipelago and take a thrilling jet boat ride on the only horizontal waterfalls on Earth. Choose to stay overnight at Cape Leveque or return back to Broome.

#### DAY 10/ 11: BUNGLE BUNGLE RANGES

Take a scenic flight to the East Kimberley, or join a 4WD tour and travel by road to discover the Bungle Bungle range in the World Heritage Listed Purnululu National Park is one of Western Australia's most fascinating landmarks and the ultimate place for outback adventure. From the air, the Bungle Bungle range is an awesome site, rising 300 metres out of the plain. The orange and black stripes of these massive sandstone structures are breathtaking best seen from above in a scenic flight. As you sweep over the range, a hidden world of gorges and pools is revealed with fan palms clinging to walls and crevices in the rocks. Stay overnight at one of the luxury safari wilderness tents at The Bungle Bungles.

#### DAY 12/13: EL QUESTRO STATION

Transfer by scenic flight or 4WD to El Questro Station. The El Questro Homestead sits in stark contrast to Western Australia's rugged Kimberley landscape surrounding it - one million acres of the most spectacularly remote countryside in the world.

Explore the 200 foot escarpments of the ancient Chamberlain Gorge by boat. Take a helicopter to remote waterholes to fish for barramundi or swim in the pools of Zebeedee Springs. Finish the day with a table for two on a private cliff top, take a gourmet picnic to a pristine rock pool, or share a bottle of champagne by a cascading waterfall. With a choice of accommodation from safari tents to luxury cliff top rooms at the homestead.

#### DAY 14:

Transfer to Kununurra airport for your return flights back to the East Coast.