

Gems of the West

Farm Study Tour 2021

| Date | Activity | Overnight |
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| DAY 1 Tue, Sep 7 D | Own arrangements for travel to Perth. The group will meet up at our downtown hotel for a welcome dinner and an outline of the fantastic days ahead. | Perth |
| DAY 2 Wed, Sep 8 B,L | We take in a few of the Perth city sights before heading west to the port city of Fremantle. 'Freo' is known for its maritime history, Victorian architecture and remnants of its early days as a British penal colony. Return to Perth for a free evening. | Perth |
| DAY 3 Thu, Sep 9 B,L,D | We board our coach this morning and travel south to the Margaret River region. On the way we'll call into Busselton with its 150-year-old, 1.8 km long jetty – the longest timber-piled jetty in the Southern Hemisphere. We'll board the jetty train with the chance of seeing whales on their migratory (Jun-Nov) path and dolphins before disembarking at the jetty's Underwater Observatory. Here we go 8 metres below the surface to an observation chamber to view more than 300 individual marine species in their natural habitat through 11 viewing windows. Back on board our coach and onto the Margaret River region, famous for its beaches and surf breaks, wineries, craft breweries, boutiques and generally stunning scenery such as the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. The region is known around the world for its top quality wines and food. While the region produces less than 3% of Australia's wine, it accounts for more than 20% of its premium wine. We'll make sure we get to sample some of the region's wine and culinary gems. | Margaret River region |
| DAY 4 Fri, Sep 10 B,L | The region is particularly beautiful in the springtime when wildflowers dot the landscape. The area boasts over 150 orchid species and some 2500 wildflower species alone! For those interested, there are a number of wildflower walking and/or 4WD guided tours we'll have to choose from, depending on where the best display is at the time of our visit. Free evening. | Margaret River region |
| DAY 5 Sat, Sep 11 B,L,D | This morning we travel eastwards and into the 'Valley of the Giants' an iconic region on the south coast of Western Australia between Denmark and Walpole. We visit the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, famous for its towering karri and tingle trees – some of the biggest trees on the planet. We continue on to the Frankland River in the Great Southern region. Orchids such as the Leopard Sun can be found near the river and are a spectacular sight. Our accommodation tonight is on the Frankland River. | Valley of the Giants |
| DAY 6 Sun, Sep 12 B,L,D | Continue eastwards today to Albany. Along the way we call into the world famous Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk suspended 40 metres high in the canopy of the ancient tingle forest. The breathtaking beauty of Albany's rugged coastline creates a fitting backdrop to a dramatic whaling, convict and settler history. | Albany |
| DAY 7 Mon, Sep 13 B,L | We visit sights in and around Albany today including the WWI National Anzac Centre. Ships carrying the Australian Imperial Force and the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (later known collectively as ANZACs) set off from Albany bound for Egypt to join WWI. Two detachments departed in convoy in late 1914. Tragically, for some, Albany was the last place in Australia they saw. Free evening in Albany. | Albany |

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| DAY 8 Tue, Sep 14 B,L,D | <p>We leave Albany early this morning and travel northeast through the spectacular Stirling Ranges. We see wheat, barley, canola and other crops and all in their springtime glory (hopefully). We call into the small town of Ongerup and visit the Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre. This is a multipurpose facility, spread over 5 hectares of native bush and two vermin-proof aviaries, dedicated to the Malleefowl conservation and local community development.</p> <p>After an early lunch at the Centre we continue eastwards through Ravensthorpe, Munglinup and onto Esperance. The main town on the WA South Coast, and with a population of more than 12,000, Esperance is a thriving port with its major industries being agriculture, tourism and fishing.</p> | Esperance |
| DAY 9 Wed, Sep 15 B,L | <p>Today we enjoy a visit to the Esperance port and other nearby attractions including the beach at Lucky Bay, located in Cape Le Grand National Park. Lucky Bay is probably the most famous of the Esperance beaches – it's the one that the Lucky Bay kangaroos call home. Free evening in Esperance.</p> | Esperance |
| DAY 10 Thu, Sep 16 B,L,D | <p>We turn our heads westwards today. We'll enjoy a farm visit or two – and for a bit of adventure and nostalgia, weather permitting – we'll travel along a dusty road for a while in the middle of nowhere. In the mid 80s, driven to despair by successive governments not fulfilling commitments, and in true frontier spirit, a handful of local farmers took matters into their own hands and built a 70 km road from Cascades to Lake King – which happened to include a bit of an additional short cut through a National Park! Carting distances, time and costs were slashed.</p> <p>We'll call into the Lake King Bush Engineers Tractor Museum housing a collection of home made tractors, built by the region's farmers in the 1970s and 80s. Continue on to the Corrigin area for overnight.</p> | Corrigin |
| DAY 11 Fri, Sep 17 B,D | <p>Another farm and wildflower visit today as we travel through to New Norcia. Founded in 1847 by Spanish Benedictine Monks, the town has had many purposes – a mission, a monastery and a provider of education and farm supplies to the locals.</p> | New Norcia Monastery |
| DAY 12 Sat, Sep 18 B,L,D | <p>This morning we travel south to Perth airport for our lunchtime flight to Exmouth in the state's northwest. Over the next few days we will have plenty to do in the region with sights such as Cape Range National Park with its sheer cliffs and red, rocky gorges and Ningaloo Reef (the world's largest fringing reef). This place – and deservedly so – is regarded as one of the world's last great ocean paradises. Care for a swim with a whale shark or a more sedate whale spotting cruise?</p> | Exmouth |
| DAY 13 Sun, Sep 19 B,L | <p>Various Exmouth/Ningaloo/Cape Range activities.</p> | Exmouth |
| DAY 14 Mon, Sep 20 B,L | <p>Various Exmouth/Ningaloo/Cape Range activities.</p> | Exmouth |
| DAY 15 Tue, Sep 21 B | <p>Flight back to Perth at lunchtime today with same day connections to eastern state capitals. Or you might like to continue your adventure north to Broome (via the Pilbara gorges, 80 Mile Beach etc) and the magnificent West Kimberley.</p> <p>Please contact us for more details about the various add-on options.</p> | |

