

# Gems of the West, 2022

Date	Activity	Overnight
	<p><b>Broome to Exmouth – via the Pilbara Gorges – pre-tour options:</b></p> <p>Rooms, boats and buses are being held for the following pre-tour options to give you a unique insight into the magical west Kimberley/Broome region and the Pilbara.</p> <p><b>Broome/Cockatoo Is/Horizontal Waterfall etc:</b> Be in Broome by Sept 1, 2022 for guided touring of Broome region (2 nights)/return flights to Cockatoo Is (2 nights)/ and boating through the magical west Kimberley Buccaneer Archipelago. (12 max'm)</p> <p><b>And/Or... Broome/Port Hedland/Pilbara/Karijini NP gorges/Exmouth:</b> Be in Broome by Sept 3 for guided touring of Broome region (2 nights) then overland to Port Hedland and the Pilbara Gorge region (3 nights). This expedition arrives in Exmouth in time to commence the Gems of the West farm tour on Sept 8. (20 max'm)</p>	
<b>DAY 1</b> <b>Wed, Sep 7,</b> <b>2022</b>	If you're not part of the optional Broome/West Kimberley/Pilbara tour above, own arrangements for travel to Perth today as there are currently no same day flight connections from the eastern states and up to Exmouth. If you prefer, you can travel across earlier to WA to spend a few extra days in and around Perth but the whole group will be spending 2 nights exploring the capital at the end of this tour.	<b>Perth</b>
<b>DAY 2</b> <b>Thu, Sep 8</b>	Early morning transfer to the airport for your 7.00 am 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?	<b>Exmouth</b>
<b>DAY 3</b> <b>Fri, Sep 9</b>	Various Exmouth/Ningaloo/Cape Range activities.	<b>Exmouth</b>
<b>DAY 4</b> <b>Sat, Sep 10</b>	Various Exmouth/Ningaloo/Cape Range activities.	<b>Exmouth</b>
<b>DAY 5</b> <b>Sun, Sep 11</b>	We board our afternoon flight back to Perth today where we are met by our charter coach for transfer to New Norcia, 1.5 hrs to the north. Founded in 1847 by Spanish Benedictine Monks, the town has had many purposes – a mission, a monastery and more recently, a provider of education and farm supplies to the locals.	<b>New Norcia Monastery</b>
<b>DAY 6</b> <b>Mon, Sep 12</b>	After a guided tour of this historic location we board our coach and head southeast and into the heart of the WA Wheatbelt region. We enjoy farm visits and the wildflowers on our way to Corrigin for overnight.	<b>Corrigin</b>
<b>DAY 7</b> <b>Tue, Sep 13</b>	<p>We'll continue southeast today before arriving at 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. Then, for a bit of adventure and nostalgia and weather permitting, we'll travel along a dusty road for a while in the middle of nowhere.</p> <p>In the mid 1980s, 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 Lake King to Cascade – 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 travel onto Esperance. With a population of more than 12,000, Esperance is a thriving port with its major industries being agriculture, tourism and fishing.</p>	<b>Esperance</b>
<b>DAY 8</b> <b>Wed, Sep 14</b>	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. We'll visit farms in the region before a free evening.	<b>Esperance</b>
<b>DAY 9</b> <b>Thu, Sep 15</b>	Today we travel to the west of Esperance for a farm visit and then it's onto Ravensthorpe and the famous Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show. More than 650 fresh wildflower specimens will be on display and there will be a number of botanists on hand to answer any questions you have. In addition, there will be art and craft stalls and other wonderful exhibits and food outlets that only country shows can offer.	<b>Ravensthorpe</b>

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<b>DAY 10</b> <b>Fri, Sep 16</b>	Today 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. We then continue southwest through the spectacular Stirling Ranges – with wheat, barley, canola and other crops all in their springtime glory – before arriving at Albany. The breathtaking beauty of Albany’s rugged coastline creates a fitting backdrop to a dramatic whaling, convict and settler history.	<b>Albany</b>
<b>DAY 11</b> <b>Sat, Sep 17</b>	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. Albany was the last glimpse of Australia that these ANZACs had before entering the fray. Free evening in Albany.	<b>Albany</b>
<b>DAY 12</b> <b>Sun, Sep 18</b>	Continue westwards today and into the ‘Valley of the Giants’ an iconic region on the south coast 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 will also do the world famous Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk suspended 40 metres high in the canopy of the ancient tingle forest. Overnight at Pemberton.	<b>Pemberton</b>
<b>DAY 13</b> <b>Mon, Sep 19</b>	This morning we travel on to 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.	<b>Margaret River</b>
<b>DAY 14</b> <b>Tue, Sep 20</b>	The Margaret River 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.	<b>Margaret River</b>
<b>DAY 15</b> <b>Wed, Sep 21</b>	We board our coach this morning and head north to 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 Perth with time to take in the major city sights.	<b>Perth</b>
<b>DAY 16</b> <b>Thu, Sep 22</b>	This morning we’ll head 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 our farewell dinner.	<b>Perth</b>
<b>DAY 17</b> <b>Fri, Sep 23</b>	Flights home today or you might like to stay on in Perth/WA for a few days for some of your own exploring and sightseeing.	

