

FIRSTLIGHTTRAVEL



*Your South Pacific Travel Specialists*

# AUSTRALIA

2023-2024 GUIDED HOLIDAYS



**FIRST CHOICE** 5-21 day Fully Curated Experiences **From page 24**

**BEST BUYS** 3-15 day Flexible Guided Holidays **From page 58**



# Western Wonderland



## Highlights

### ✂ Flexible Holidays

From its beaches to its history, Albany is the kind of town you could lose yourself in. And you have a day to do just that. Ask us for tips.

### 📍 Iconic Sites

From dramatic geological formations (we're looking at you Wave Rock) to blindingly blue water (Lucky Bay) and record-breaking attractions (Busselton Jetty), we've got you sorted.

### 📷 Time For You

Make sure you have your phone ready for selfies with quokkas on Rottnest Island – their smile is infectious, as is the landscape of sandy coves and gin-clear water.

### 🌿 Sustainable Travel

MAKE TRAVEL MATTER EXPERIENCE Australia is home to the oldest living culture in the world. It's brought into full focus exploring Yancheep National Park with a traditional landowner.

### 🏞 Natural Wonders

The colours of Monkey Mia sear into your memory, the turquoise ocean here home to a famously friendly pod of resident dolphins.

## 1 Welcome to Perth

Perth may be the West Australian capital, but it's home to a remarkable amount of green space. Follow your Tour Director to Kings Park to witness 3,000 floral species in the Botanic Gardens, overlooking the Swan River, not to mention art installations and the Anzac Memorial. **Hotel: Rendezvous. D**

## 2 Perth – Wave Rock

Wave Rock deserves its name – the cliff resembles an enormous surf wave above the bush. The rainbow-hued granite swell is a short walk from another imaginatively named rock formation: Hippo's Yawn. You can climb through the 'neck' to grab a happy snap. Wave Rock locals are a friendly bunch, passionate about the place they call home. But don't take our word for it. Meet Sheenagh, who will show you her farm and talk life on the land. Which can be harsh, but also healing, in a way unique to the Aussie outback. Feed her cattle and glimpse her collection of vintage cars. **Hotel: Wave Rock Motel. B D**

## 3 Wave Rock – Kalgoorlie

Get your bearings on a Kalgoorlie town tour, with vistas over the staggering 'Super Pit' open-cut gold mine. Today's outings continue to gleam as you visit Hannans North Mine; nothing puts life into perspective like standing next to enormous U-Haul trucks and loaders. **Hotel: Rydges. B D**

## 4 Kalgoorlie – Esperance

More than 31,000 hectares of sweeping heathlands, rugged coastal peaks and white sandy beaches... it's no wonder Cape Le Grand National Park is voted among the most alluring of its kind in Australia. Just when you thought WA couldn't get any prettier, you arrive at Thistle Cove – sun, sand, sea and sculpted rock formations that 'whistle' with the sounds of the wind and waves – and Lucky Bay, a postcard-worthy cove where kangaroos sunbake on the sand. **Hotel: Comfort Inn Bay of Isles. B D**

## 5 Esperance – Albany

Today's journey takes you through Fitzgerald River National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, then Stirling Range National Park, blanketed with 1,500 species of wildflowers, some of which are found nowhere else on Earth. Enjoy perspective from the Bluff Knoll Lookout, one of WA's highest peaks. **Hotel: Dog Rock Motel, 2 nights. B D**

## 6 Albany Free Time

Nature, history, food and wine... there's not much that Albany can't do. The hardest thing you have to decide is which direction to wander. Perhaps opt for a tour to the last port of call for ANZAC troopships departing Australia in WWI. Maybe explore Torndirrup National Park, where steep cliffs give way to dramatic rock formations and whales are a common sight. Or get a taste for the region on a culinary excursion. The choice is yours. **B**

## 7 Albany – Margaret River

Suspended 40 metres above the forest floor, the Tree Top Walk offers a bird's-eye view of the tangle trees that stand large through the Valley of the Giants. More lofty attractions await at the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse, the tallest of its kind in Australia, set where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet. You'll feel like you're on the edge of the Earth. Being amid nature makes you thirsty. It's a good thing the Margaret River wine region is on the horizon. **Hotel: Stay Margaret River, 2 nights. B D**

## 8 Margaret River

The Margaret River's 200 vineyards produce 25 per cent of Australia's premium wines. And then there are the gourmet purveyors in between... you're in for a tasty day. Vasse Virgin makes olive oil that's sweet enough to drink. We recommend you savour it with bread, however. Lunch is leisurely, at a vineyard with plenty of time to sip and savour local products. If you still have room for dinner, ask us for recommendations. **B L**

## 9 Margaret River – Fremantle

The Margaret River's coastline follows you to Busselton, home to the longest wooden jetty in the Southern Hemisphere. Tip your cap to those who built this 1.8-kilometre structure out into Geographe Bay. The afternoon is all yours in Freo. Hot tip: The city's markets feature 150 stalls under one roof. **Hotel: Esplanade Fremantle by Rydges, 2 nights. B D**

## 10 Fremantle Free Time

Sometimes, the most memorable travel moments are those when you lose yourself wandering the foreshore, lingering over lunch or a cool ale. Spend your day of leisure doing just that (Freo's Little Creatures Brewery is legendary). Of course, having a local show you around also has its benefits,





Kalbarri Skywalk



## 24 Included Experiences

### Departure Dates

2022	2023
Oct 01, 08, 15, 22	May 21
	Jun 04
	Aug 06, 20, 27
	Sep 03, 10 <sup>^</sup> , 17 <sup>^</sup> , 24 <sup>^</sup>
	Oct 01, 08, 15, 22

<sup>^</sup> Expected wildflower season departure.  
A limited number of single rooms are available.  
Ask your travel agent at time of booking.

See available prices and departure dates from 01 May 2024 at [atkings.com](http://atkings.com). Or contact your local travel agent.

### Dining

14 Full breakfasts B                      9 Dinners D  
1 Lunch L                                      1 Farewell Dinner FD

### Flight Information

Day 1 – flights to arrive prior to 12 noon into Perth Airport  
Day 15 – flights to depart anytime from Perth Airport  
Flights are not included in the holiday price

with a walking tour revealing those hidden haunts most visitors pass right on by. If you're catching the ferry to Rottnest Island, make sure you have your phone ready to capture selfies with the island's smiley quokkas. **B**

#### 11 Fremantle – Geraldton

Yanchep National Park is incredibly spiritual, as you'll discover on an Aboriginal cultural experience revealing First Nations history through Dreamtime stories and didgeridoo sessions. We've left some of the best to last: entering Nambung National Park you're greeted by a moonscape spiked with the Pinnacles, a series of head-scratching limestone formations. This afternoon, Geraldton's HMAS Sydney Memorial beckons. **Hotel: Mantra. B**

#### 12 Geraldton – Monkey Mia

The colours of World Heritage listed Shark Bay are so vivid, you'll think they're painted on, a patchwork of blues fading into powdery white sand. This is what awaits in Monkey Mia, where the day is all yours. Other than a cruise to spot sea creatures great and small, perhaps the best way to gain perspective is on a scenic flight over the Marine Park. **Hotel: Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort. B D**

#### 13 Monkey Mia – Kalbarri National Park

Bring your stamina – today's adventures begin early. But if there's anything worth getting out of bed for, it's Monkey Mia's wild dolphins, which swim close to shore to greet visitors every morning. Keep your sunnies handy at Shell Beach, a powder-white cove formed from billions of coquina bivalve shells, and Hamelin Pool, the world's best-known colony of stromatolites. Arriving at Kalbarri National Park you'll take in the Murchison River Gorge from the Kalbarri Skywalk. If you're here during wildflower season, expect acacia, banksia and caladenia in full bloom. **Hotel: Kalbarri Edge Resort. B D**

#### 14 Kalbarri National Park – Perth

Just when you thought you couldn't get any more colourful, Hutt Lagoon appears – one of the state's bubblegum pink lakes. Arriving in Perth you have one final dinner to swap contact details with your new friends and reminisce about the last two weeks. Where to begin? **Hotel: Rendezvous. B FD**

#### 15 Farewell from Perth

Fourteen days of wild adventures – it's hard to pick a WA highlight. That's what your journey home is for. **B**

