



Great South West Edge Itinerary

PERTH TO PERTH

*This is undoubtedly
the most beautiful
and contrasting
corner of Australia.*

WANDER **FAR** with
REDSANDS™
CAMPERS



This unique road trip will take you along Western Australia's stunning coastline, through ancient forests and back through Australia's historical Goldfields.

Experience world class wines and local gourmet produce that will have you savouring every mouthful. Discover why this region is recognised as one of the world's 34 internationally recognised Biodiversity Hotspots, where you can see unique flora and fauna that is only found in this little pocket of the world.

A self-drive adventure that will have you returning for more!

Welcome to the The Great South West Edge Road Trip

Featuring Australia's South West and the Golden Outback.

START / END Perth

TRAVEL TIME Year-round - best travel times from October to May

LENGTH Approximately 3,500 kilometers

DURATION 17 days

VEHICLE RedSands Toyota Hilux 4WD camper or Toyota Land Cruiser Prado 4WD.

HIGHLIGHTS Perth, Geographe Bay, Margaret River, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, Pemberton, Valley of the Giants, William Bay National Park, Albany, Fitzgerald River National Park, Esperance, Cape Le Grand National Park, Cape Arid National Park, Kalgoorlie, Lake Ballard, Wave Rock.

WHERE TO STAY Along this route, travellers will find a variety of privately owned campgrounds and National Park campgrounds. If you prefer fixed accommodation, you can choose between bed and breakfasts, mid-range hotels, beach resorts and award-winning boutique hotels.

PLEASE NOTE Some campgrounds can get busy on weekends and during Western Australian school holidays (<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/future-term-dates>).



Photo by Shannon Corbett. Boat Harbour, Denmark

Your Adventure at a Glance

DAY 1 Perth – Busselton (About 225 Km)

DAY 2 Busselton – Margaret River (via Cape Naturaliste - Approx. 100 Km)

DAY 3 Margaret River

DAY 4 Margaret River – Pemberton (about 190 Km)

DAY 5 Pemberton – Albany (about 240 Km)

DAY 6 Albany

DAY 7 Albany – Bremer Bay (about 160 Km)

DAY 8 Bremer Bay – Fitzgerald River National Park East (about 200Km)

DAY 9 Fitzgerald River National Park East – Esperance (about 216Km)

DAY 10 Esperance

DAY 11 Esperance – Cape Le Grand National Park (55 Km)

DAY 12 Cape Le Grand National Park – Cape Arid National Park (about 110 Km)

DAY 13 Cape Arid National Park – Kalgoorlie (490 Km)

DAY 14 Kalgoorlie – Leonora (via Kookynie) (About 304 Km)

DAY 15 Leonora – Kalgoorlie (via Lake Ballard) (Approx. 387 Km)

DAY 16 Kalgoorlie – Hyden (about 520 Km)

DAY 17 Hyden – Perth (about 335 Km)



Photo by Jarrad Seng. Sugarloaf Rock, Cape Naturaliste.

DAY 1 PERTH – BUSSELTON



DRIVE

About 225 km



SEE

Dolphins
Sea Lions
Penguins



DO

Kayak
Busselton Jetty
Underwater Observatory

In the sheltered waters of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park at Rockingham, around 50km south of Perth, visitors can swim with wild dolphins. There are also kayak and boat tours to Seal and Penguin Island, where dolphins, sea lions and penguins can be seen up close.

Driving further south, you will reach the coastal town of Bunbury. A stop at the Bunbury Farmers Market is worth it. This shop highlights the amazing local produce on offer in the region, and is a good place to stock up for the next few days of travel. Also see the Dolphin Discovery Centre, where visitors can learn more about the wild but friendly dolphins of Koombana Bay. It is worth the trip to see these wild dolphins, whether on a guided boat trip or, with a bit of luck, just swimming near the banks of the Bay.

The first day of the journey ends with a visit to the Busselton Jetty, a jetty that is two kilometers long, located in the pristine waters of Geographe Bay. You can walk the 1.7km to the end of the jetty or take a small train. Once there, another highlight awaits you: in the observatory you can marvel at the breathtaking underwater world from the bottom of the sea - without getting wet!



OVERNIGHT

Busselton The family-friendly Beachlands Holiday Park is highly regarded and is just 100 meters from the beach.

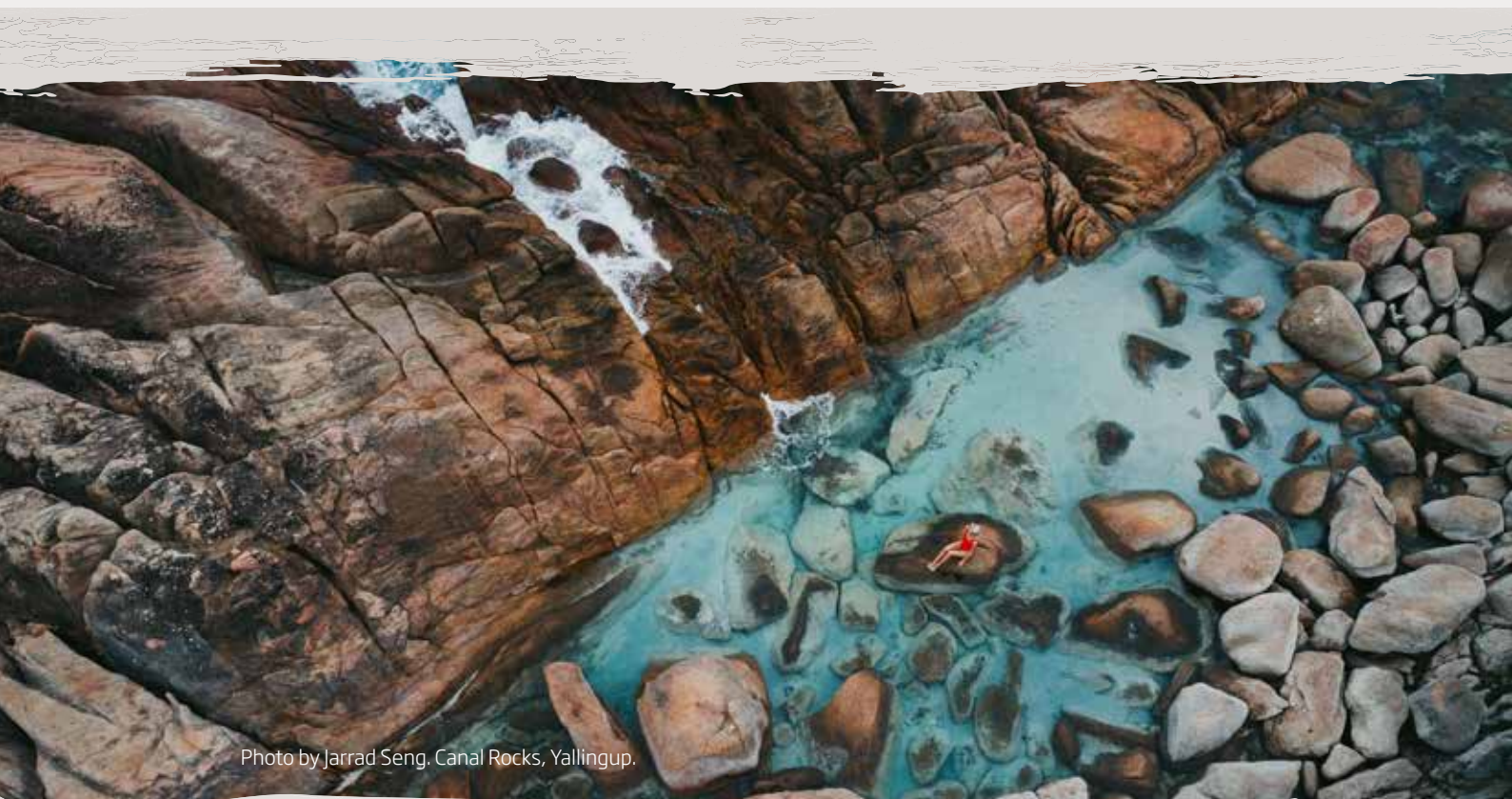


Photo by Jarrad Seng. Canal Rocks, Yallingup.

DAY 2 BUSSELTON – MARGARET RIVER



DRIVE

About 100 km
via Cape Naturaliste



SEE

Bunker Bay Beach
Whales (Sept-Dec)
Canal Rocks



DO

Ngili Cave
Learn about
Noongar Culture

On the way to the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse, visitors should make sure they stop at Bunker Bay Beach. On the magnificent “Cape to Cape Track”, which winds over 136km from Cape Naturaliste in the north to Cape Leeuwin in the south, you can even watch whales from the rugged sea cliffs between September and December. On their way back to the Southern Ocean, the whales stop here with their calves to rest in the calm waters of Geographe Bay. Whale watching tours are available from Dunsborough at this time of the year. In Yallingup, just 20km from Cape Naturaliste you will find Ngili Cave, one of over 150 limestone caves in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

TIP Join a tour of the cave with a local Aboriginal tour guide for an interesting insight into Noongar culture.



OVERNIGHT

Margaret River Region

CAMPERS In addition to beautiful privately owned campsites (check out Wharncliffe Mill and Munday’s Campground), there are also simply equipped campsites in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. At Contos Field Campground you can wake up to the sound of the surf on the beach and hike directly to the beach from the campsite. The campsite is located near Lake Cave and only two kilometers from the famous surfing beach of Conto Springs. Another beautiful campsite in the National Park is the Boranup Campground, located in the middle of the vast Karri Forest near Margaret River. National Park campgrounds (run by the WA Parks and Wildlife Service) are available at Conto, Boranup Forest, Point Road and Jarrahdene. For more information on National Park campgrounds visit <https://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park-stay>.



Photo by Jarrad Seng. Karri Forrest, Pemberton.

DAY 3 MARGARET RIVER



SEE

Surfer's Point
Whales (May-Aug)
Jewel Cave



DO

Visit Stingrays at Hamelin Bay
Wine and Gourmet Food
Fabulous Beaches

In Margaret River you can sunbathe on the pristine sandy beaches, kayak along the river or watch the daring surfers at the famous Surfer's Point. Every year the Margaret River Pro Surfing World Championships are held at this surf spot. A trip to this region is incomplete without indulging in the fresh local produce and a few wineries. This area has it all... cheese, olive oil, home-brewed beer, fresh seafood and delicious chocolate. There are also many fantastic tour companies that can take you to these places and usually offer a long lunch at one of the many exquisite local wineries.

A detour to Augusta to the lighthouse at Cape Leeuwin is a must. Here at the most south-westernmost point of the Australian continent, the Indian and the Southern Oceans meet. From mid-May to August, visitors can watch whales migrating up to the warmer waters of the Kimberley and beyond. On the way back to Margaret River you should drive along the beautiful Caves Road, even if the trip takes a little longer than on the highway. Caves Road is a highlight of the Margaret River region, known for its excellent wineries, local gourmet produce, fabulous beaches and excellent surfing spots.

Jewel Cave, the largest limestone cave in the region, can also be found along Caves Road. You will also be able to visit Hamelin Bay, where you can meet huge stingrays on the beach at certain times of the day. The route then leads back through the impressive Boranup Forest with Karri trees towering over the road, up to 70 meters high.



OVERNIGHT

Margaret River Region



Photo by Jarrad Seng. Cape Mentelle, Margaret River.

DAY 4 MARGARET RIVER – PEMBERTON



DRIVE

About 190 km



SEE

National Parks
Gigantic Karri Trees
Huge Sand Dunes



DO

Wine Tasting
Hiking
Tree Climbing

In the morning, continue on to Pemberton, a sleepy village in the midst of the South-West Karri forests. Here amongst giant eucalypts and wildflowers, local viticulturalists grow Chardonnay, Merlot and Pinot Noir wines. Some of Western Australia's finest wines along with local produce such as freshly caught rainbow trout, marron (freshwater lobster, native to Western Australia) or black Manjimup perigord truffles are some of the delights you can sample in this area.

In the numerous National Parks in the region, there are some hidden treasures for adventurous folk. In the Gloucester and Warren National Park you can climb some of the gigantic Karri trees, such as the 61-meter-high Gloucester Tree or the 75-meter-high Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree. The viewpoints were formerly used by local bushfire brigades to spot forest fires. Today, thrill seekers can test their steel and climb the towering trees to enjoy the magnificent view. There are also great hiking trails through these forests, including the famous long-distance hiking trail the "Bibbulmun Track".

TIP Another adventure can be experienced in Warren and D'Entrecasteaux National Park. With a RedSands 4WD you can drive through the gigantic Karri forests and then over the huge sand dune system of the "Yeagarup Sand Dunes" down to the beautiful Southern Ocean. Adrenaline rush guaranteed!



OVERNIGHT

Pemberton

CAMPERS In addition to excellent commercial campsites in the region, you can stay at Warren Campground located in Warren National Park, next to the Warren River. A little further towards Walpole is also another great campground, Shannon National Park Campground, where you can enjoy a warm shower (so long as you 'stoke the donkey'! ~ A 'donkey' is an old fashioned hot water system).



Photo by Freiseindesign. Yeagarup sand dunes.

DAY 5 PEMBERTON – ALBANY



DRIVE

About 240 km



SEE

Giants Tree Top Walk
Quokkas
Greens Pool



DO

Hiking
Wine tasting
Swimming

Driving to Albany along the coast, visitors should not miss the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk at Walpole-Nornalup National Park. This 600m long path, which leads directly through the treetops at a height of 40m, gives great views of the old giant trees. Here you will also find cute quokkas. These furry marsupials are always associated with Rottnest Island, but they were once widespread across the mainland. Walpole-Nornalup National Park is the best place to find these little marsupials outside of Rottnest Island.

Shortly before Denmark lies William Bay National Park with its huge heathland and gigantic granite rocks. The beautiful beaches of Elephant Rocks, Elephant Cove and Greens Pool are absolutely worth a visit for sightseeing and (temperature permitting!) a swim in the tranquil waters of the National Park. A stop in the picturesque town of Denmark for lunch, or a trip to a local winery, cheese factory or ice-cream shop is highly recommended. Visitors will also find the long-distance hiking trail "Bibbulmun Track", crosses through this town on its way to Albany. It is worthwhile exploring a part of this award-winning hiking trail on your own or on a guided tour.



OVERNIGHT

Albany or surrounds

CAMPERS There are some highly rated caravan parks in the City of Albany. Alternatively campgrounds can be found away from Albany, including Peaceful Bay, Parry Beach, Shelley Beach and Cosy Corner. For more information, visit <https://www.rainbowcoast.com.au/areas/rainbowcoast/camping-in-denmark-albany-walpole.htm>



Photo by Jarrad Seng. The Gap, Albany.

DAY 6 ALBANY



SEE

Historic Albany
Torndirrup National Park
The Gap, Natural Bridge



DO

Whale Watching
Hiking
Two Peoples Bay

Albany is the oldest settlement founded by Europeans in Western Australia. Here visitors should not miss the Torndirrup National Park, which features attractions such as the Blowholes, The Gap and the Natural Bridge. The spectacular views are particularly worthwhile between June and October, when you can watch whales directly from the huge rocks. Alternatively, join a whale watching tour and visit the Discovery Bay Museum, where you can learn more about the history of the Albany whaling station, which closed to whaling in 1978.

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve is 35km east of Albany and is an important coastal reserve which hosts two endangered species – the Gilbert’s Potoroo and the Noisy Scrub Bird. There are some incredible hiking trails in this Nature Reserve and some stunning beaches, such as Little Beach with its stark white sand and turquoise blue waters.



OVERNIGHT

Albany or surrounds.

CAMPERS Available at Waychinicup Inlet Camping Area, Betty’s Beach, Norman’s Inlet and East Bay Road, although spots are limited.



Photo by Jarrad Seng. The Gap, Albany.

DAY 7 ALBANY – BREMER BAY



DRIVE

About 160 km



SEE

Killer Whales (Orca's)
(Jan - March)
Pristine Beaches



DO

Granite Sky Walk
Bluff Knoll
Hiking Trails

The route continues east along the rugged granite coastline, intercepted by isolated and picturesque beaches and inlets. At Bremer Bay, visitors can stop by and join a tour to see killer whales (Orca) - a truly unforgettable experience. This area has the largest known congregation of Orca's in the southern hemisphere, with the best time to see them being between January and March.

Whilst in Bremer Bay, you can explore the western side of Fitzgerald River National Park, with its pristine beaches and unique flora and fauna. This National Park is one of the largest and most botanically significant national parks in Australia. A large number of plant species found here cannot be found anywhere else, and is therefore now internationally recognised as a UNSECO Biosphere Reserve. The rolling hills, rugged cliffs, inlets and white sandy beaches can be explored on foot along sign-posted hiking trails. The wildflower season from September to November is spectacular and worth the visit.

Alternative route to Bremer Bay: Porongurup National Park is just 40km north of Albany. A hike to the stunning Granite Skywalk is highly recommended. Only 45km away from the Skywalk is Stirling Range National Park. Here you can hike to the summit of Bluff Knoll, which is 1095m above sea level and listed as one of Australia's top 25 hikes.



OVERNIGHT

Bremer Bay or surrounds.

CAMPERS Available at St Mary Inlet right on the beach, where you can watch whales pass by in the season (July to October). Bremer Bay also has a privately run campsite.



Photo by Jarrad Seng. Mount Barren (East), Fitzgerald River National Park.

DAY 8 BREMER BAY – FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK EAST



DRIVE

About 200 km



SEE

Magnificent Views
Fitzgerald National Park



DO

Hiking
Explore
Mt Barren

Fitzgerald River National Park is a whopping 2,972km² – that is larger than the whole of Luxembourg! Due to its conservation status the area is separated into two recreational zones by a ‘wilderness core’, which is off limits to traffic. The eastern side of Fitzgerald River National Park is not to be missed, but bring your hiking boots! You can hike up East Mt Barren and enjoy the everlasting views of West Beach and Quoin Head. This is a 2.6km return hike through some steep and rocky terrain (moderately difficult classification). Allow 2-3 hours return, which includes some time to stop and soak in the magnificent views. Once you leave the park, you can stop at the sleepy village of Hopetoun and visit some of its local beaches.



OVERNIGHT

The eastern side of the park has two campgrounds

Hamersley Inlet and Four Mile Campgrounds. Both have new facilities (toilets and BBQ facilities).



Photo by Jarrad Seng. Fitzgerald River National Park.

DAY 9 FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK EAST – ESPERANCE



DRIVE

About 216 km



SEE

Local Artworks
Munglinup Beach



DO

Ravensthorpe Museum
Snorkelling
Swimming

On the way to Esperance you can travel through the agricultural town on Ravensthorpe. Here you can enjoy some lunch at one of the local cafes and explore the Ravensthorpe Museum where local volunteers are always happy for a chat! Driving into town you cannot miss the massive silo art work of native Banksia flowers. This painting took 31 days and 338 litres of paint to create!

Alternative route: Munglinup Beach is located 80km east of Ravensthorpe and an hour's drive from Esperance. There are camping spots right by the beach (toilets only) or at the local privately run Munglinup Beach Park. This little beach is protected by reef, so is perfect for snorkelling, swimming and fishing. This is a hidden gem!



OVERNIGHT

Esperance or surrounds.

There are some great caravan parks in Esperance, however, if you prefer somewhere a little quieter, other campgrounds are available. Munglinup Beach, Starvation Bay, Mason's Bay and Stokes Inlet are all found west of Esperance. There are fewer options East of Esperance, unless you want to head out to Cape Le Grand National Park.

Photo by Jarrad Seng. Fitzgerald River National Park.

DAY 10 **ESPERANCE**



SEE

Twilight Beach
Pink Lake -Lake Hillier
Cape Le Grande National Park



DO

Boat Cruise
Great Ocean Drive
Scenic Flight

Begin the day with a half-day boat cruise and explore the island world aboard Esperance Island Cruises. Then you have enough time to explore the spectacular coastal scenery along the 38km long Great Ocean Drive. The road leads past deserted dreamy beaches, such as Twilight Beach and Pink Lake, whose waters glow pink under certain weather conditions. Alternatively, if you feel like a big treat, you could take a scenic flight out to Lake Hillier and over Cape Le Grande National Park. Lake Hillier is a permanently vibrant pink colour, due to the presence of a naturally occurring salt-loving bacteria *Dunaliella*.



OVERNIGHT

Esperance or surrounds



Photo by Kyle Bowman. Lake Hillier, Esperance.

DAY 11 **ESPERANCE – CAPE LE GRAND NATIONAL PARK**



DRIVE

About 55 km



SEE

Frenchman Peak
Lucky Bay
Pristine Beaches



DO

Relax
Explore Coastal Trail
and Breathtaking Views

The pristine Cape Le Grand National Park is known for its stunning scenery and idyllic beaches. Bush walks, fishing and camping are some of the more popular activities that are possible here. Massive granite rocks on the coast, uninterrupted heath and incredibly white sandy beaches dominate the landscape in the park.

Visitors can explore the park via the 17km coastal trail or enjoy breathtaking views of the 100+ picturesque islands of the Recherche Archipelago from the 262m high Frenchman Peak. On the snow-white beach of Lucky Bay even the kangaroos like to sunbathe! And this is exactly where you should also relax - the Lucky Bay campsite has solar showers, gas BBQs and toilets. Alternatively, there is another well-equipped campsite a few kilometres away at Cape Le Grand Beach.



OVERNIGHT

Cape Le Grand National Park



Photo by Jarrad Seng. Lucky Bay, Cape Le Grand National Park.

DAY 12 CAPE LE GRAND NATIONAL PARK – CAPE ARID NATIONAL PARK



DRIVE

About 110 km



SEE

Night Skies
Beautiful Landscape
Granite Cliffs



DO

Four-wheel Drive
Hiking
Swimming

If you like the idea of driving your RedSands 4WD along endless white beaches, camping under a starry night sky and swimming in crystal clear water, you should not miss Cape Arid National Park east of Esperance.

The majority of roads in the park are accessible only with four-wheel drive, so there are typically less visitors here than at Cape Le Grand. Please check road conditions with the National Park Rangers or at the information bays before venturing along 4WD tracks as some can be closed when heavy rains occur.

Those who venture to Cape Arid are rewarded with a beautiful coastal landscape of granite cliffs, sand dunes and groves of Mallee trees, Banksia and Paperbarks. Signposted hiking trails take between one and four hours and take you deep into the native bush and along the coastal heathlands overlooking the Southern Ocean.



OVERNIGHT

Cape Arid National Park or surrounds

CAMPERS Available at Belinup, Yokinup Mia Mia (Thomas River Campground - a RedSands favourite!), Seal Creek, Jorndee Creek and Mt Ragged. Alternatively, you can stay at Duke of Orleans Bay Caravan Park, although you will miss the delight of sharing your morning coffee with the Honeyeater Birds in the National Park!



Photo by Jarrad Seng, Frenchman Peak, Cape Le Grand National Park.

DAY 13 CAPE ARID NATIONAL PARK – KALGOORLIE



DRIVE

About 490 km



SEE

The world's largest
Gold Mine
Gold Rush History



DO

Fascinating Museums
Guided Tours

The route continues north via Esperance and the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway. Kalgoorlie is steeped in history and a visit to one of the many museums is a must. Its well-preserved and restored Victorian-style houses make the city look like a living museum. The former goldmine settlement is home to the world's largest gold mine, Australia's eight-square-kilometer 'Super Pit'. From the lookout you can admire the huge mine up close, alternatively, you can participate in a guided tour of the mine area. At the end of the day, enjoy dinner on the balcony of the time-honored Palace Hotel.



OVERNIGHT

Kalgoorlie

DAY 14 KALGOORLIE – LEONORA (VIA KOOKYNIIE)



DRIVE

About 304 km



SEE

Golden Quest
Discovery Trail



DO

Ghost Town
Finding Gold
Gold Washing

While driving along the Golden Quest Discovery Trail, visitors can learn the ABC of gold washing and visit abandoned gold mining towns. On your journey north, take a short break at Niagara Dam before reaching Kookynie, where you can try your luck at finding gold. The ghost town of Gwalia, three hours by car from Kalgoorlie, is worth a detour. In the historic town you can still visit gold rush accommodation and shops. Even the former home of mine manager Herbert Hoover, who later led the fortunes of the United States as the 31st President, still exists. Today, the building serves as a bed and breakfast for travellers.



OVERNIGHT

Leonora or Gwalia

DAY 15 LEONORA – KALGOORLIE (VIA LAKE BALLARD)



DRIVE

About 387km



SEE

Art Exhibition
"Inside Australia"

After about 100km you will reach the town of Menzies, here you should definitely turn to Lake Ballard (another 51km). Here, in the middle of the huge salt lake, you can admire the exhibition "Inside Australia" by Antony Gormley. Situated over a ten-square-kilometer area are 51 incredible sculptures, which represent the residents of nearby Menzies.

FUN FACT Adam Sands, Founder and Managing Director of RedSands Campers used to live in Kalgoorlie and nearby Menzies as a child. He would go looking for 'yabbies' in Kookynie Dam and go gold prospecting with his Dad.



OVERNIGHT

Kalgoorlie or Lake Ballard.

CAMPERS At Lake Ballard, you can camp for free - right next to the huge, dried up salt lake. The campsite has fire pits and self-composting toilets, but you have to bring water (supplied in your RedSands 4WD Camper).



Lake Ballard. Photo by Tourism WA.

DAY 16 KALGOORLIE – HYDEN



DRIVE

About 520 km



SEE

Wave Rock
White Kangaroos
Aboriginal Rock Art



DO

Climb Wave Rock
Wave Rock Wildlife Park

From Kalgoorlie you track west along the Great Eastern Highway to Merredin. From there, the route continues to Hyden to the largest wave in Australia: the 15m high and 110m long granite 'Wave Rock'. This 2.7 billion year old rock can be climbed while admiring the beautiful sunset with the golden wheat fields in the background. More information is available at the Wave Rock Visitor Center. Around the Wave Rock are more small rocky waves and the Mulkas Cave, where you can visit ancient Aboriginal rock art. Another highlight is the Wave Rock Wildlife Park with its rare white kangaroos and koalas.



OVERNIGHT

Hyden

DAY 17 HYDEN – PERTH



DRIVE

About 335 km



SEE

Changing Landscape
Historical York

The final leg of the journey is an approximately four-hour drive back to Perth. Starting in Hyden, you travel through Kondinin and Corrigin. From here, the landscape changes from golden wheat fields to green hills. Stop in the historic city of York to have a coffee and visit the town's attractions before embarking on the final 90km back to Perth.





Photo by Jarrad Seng, Elephant Rocks, Denmark.

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