

Aussie Fly-Aways



FLYING SAFARIS

SOUTH WEST DISCOVERY

OCTOBER 30th - NOVEMBER 10th 2009



Western Australia is famous for its wildflowers, with the South Coast having the greatest concentration of different species. Our South West Discovery tour takes place at a time when the bushlands become an ever changing kaleidoscope of vivid colour, with flowering plants of every other hue and size, from the largest forest tree to the tiny unique jewels of the native orchids.



Day 1



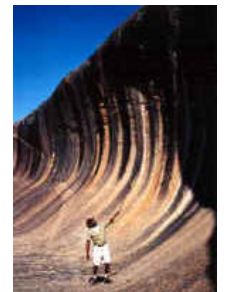
Arrive **Kalgoorlie-Boulder**, the gold mining centre of Australia. Check in at accommodation. Relax and unwind. Meet your fellow travellers for drinks prior to dinner at our hotel.

Day 2

Morning tour of **Kalgoorlie**. Discover the beautifully restored buildings and the fascinating history of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Visit the **KCGM Super Pit** which is the largest open-cut gold mining operation in Australia. A visit to Kalgoorlie would not be complete without a drive along **Hay Street** past the infamous red light district with its unique 'starting stalls'. Dinner and overnight **Kalgoorlie**.

Day 3

Depart **Kalgoorlie** for **Wave Rock**. 14 metres high, and 110m long, the face of Wave Rock appears ready to crash onto a pre-historic surf, now frozen in time. In addition to being an impressive tourist attraction, the rock has been converted into a catchment for the town's water supplies, with a foot-high concrete wall around the upper edge of Hyden Rock directing rainfall into a storage dam. One of the main attractions of Hyden are spectacular, exotic wildflowers, with particularly stunning displays throughout the Spring months. Overnight **Wave Rock**.



Day 4



Wave Rock-Beverley-York-Cervantes.

Our first stop is the heritage wheatbelt town of **Beverley** on the Avon River. We will have a quick look around the **Beverley Aeronautical Museum**. This museum is a tribute to the aviators of Western Australia. Historical highpoints of aviation in Western Australia are told in photographs and stories (including the amazing tale of the 'Silver Centenary' which was built in Beverley by Selby Ford and Tom Shackles) and there are replicas of a 'Plank Glider' and the 'Flying Flea'. At the entrance you'll see a Vampire Jet No. A79-638. Australia built almost two hundred of these two-seat trainer. You'll also see the 'Amana' nose

wheel which is a memorial to those who died in the Skymaster DC4 crash in 1950.

Depart **Beverley** for **York** where we visit the **York Motor Museum**, established in December 1979, housing the Peter Briggs collection of approximately 150 vehicles and now recognised as one of the finest private collections of Veteran, Vintage, Classic and Racing Cars in Australia, ranging from an 1894 Peugeot to the Williams FW07, which Australian Alan Jones drove on his way to becoming the 1980 World Grand Prix Champion.

Depart York for Cervantes. Transfer to accommodation. Watch the sun set over the Indian Ocean. Dinner and overnight **Cervantes**.



Day 5

The Pinnacles and Rottnest Island.

Cervantes is a quiet fishing village near the remarkable **Pinnacles**. Our tour today takes us to **Lake Thetis** and the Pinnacles desert. **The Pinnacles Desert** covers an area of approximately 190 hectares, is around 60 meters above sea level, and contains thousands of huge limestone pillars rising out of the stark landscape of yellow sand. In places they reach up to 5

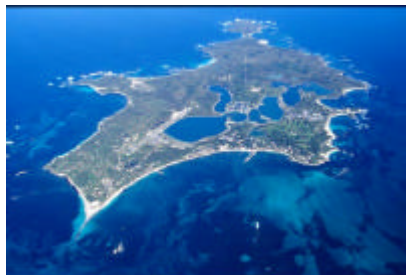


meters high. **Lake Thetis** is one of only a few places in the world with living marine stromatolites, or 'Living fossils'. They have been dated to about 3370 years old. Stromatolite communities grow as the layer of bacteria on their surface deposit calcium, cementing sediment into bulbous structures. Blister mats of cyanobacteria can also be found growing on the margins of the lake in the flood zone.



On return to Cervantes transfer to airstrip and depart for **Rottnest Island**.

Measuring just 11 Kilometres and less than a few Kilometres wide in most places **Rottnest Island** is a region of natural beauty with spectacular flora and abundant marine life and wildlife. Famous for the quokka, a small marsupial unique to this region, it has a fascinating history as an Aboriginal penal settlement, an internment camp during both World Wars, a place for salt gathering and processing and a World War II military installation. There are no cars allowed on the island, the most popular transport is by bicycle, so why not hire a bike to cycle around the island and explore at your leisure. A quicker way to see the Island is to use the Bayseeker Bus, running approx every hour, with stops around the Island allowing you to visit most of the Island attractions. You can join the dedicated



voluntary walking guides on several very informative free tours available starting from the Salt House. Keep an eye out for the Quokka, possibly the most well known animal on Rottnest. The island gained its name from this small marsupial when early Dutch explorers visited, they mistook these creatures for unusually large rodents, and referred to the island as "Rottenest", a rats nest. They couldn't have been more wrong about these creatures or the island, and the small friendly quokkas which are now a protected native animal, still inhabit this island today in large numbers. Rottnest Island has a variety of marine inhabitants, from exotic tropical fish, sea lions, sea stars to marine marvels such as the manta ray.



Overnight **Rottnest Island**.

Day 6

Rottnest Island.

Take a ferry across to **Fremantle**, the vibrant port city, affectionately known by locals as Freo, it is rich in heritage buildings and attractions, maritime history and culture. It has Western Australia's largest collection of heritage listed buildings, many of which house attractions, museums, offices, art galleries and shops. Maritime experiences include a visit to the working Fishing Boat Harbour and Fremantle Port as well as the new Maritime Museum which overlooks the working port. When you need a break stop for some refreshments on South Terrace, otherwise known as the Cappuccino Strip. Buskers can often be seen performing in the streets and at various stations in Fremantle. A great influence in Fremantle's history was in 1983 when Australia stunned the yachting world by winning the America's Cup, ending a 132 year run of success by the New York Yacht club in this event. This exciting time in Fremantle's history gave rise to a new look Fremantle. Among Fremantle's many attractions to visit are: Army Museum of Western Australia, Chocolate Factory, History Musuem, Fremantle Prison, Kailis Australian Pearls, Maritime Museum, Round House and Whalers Tunnel,



Shipwreck Museum, The Proclamation Tree, Fremantle Arts Centre & Fremantle markets. The free CAT bus runs around Fremantle every 10 minutes during the day from Fremantle Station.

Perth city is only a 30 minute trip by train. The CAT bus runs within the central city and is free. Nestled in a picturesque natural amphitheatre, bordered by Kings Park botanical gardens and the beautiful Swan River. Situated only a few minutes from the centre of Perth, Kings Park, overlooking the city of Perth and the Swan River has much to offer with its sweeping parklands, Botanic Garden, wildflowers (which are spectacular, especially in Spring), and native bushland (two-thirds of the park).

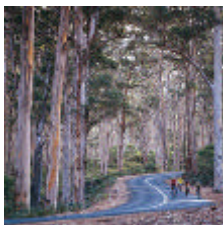
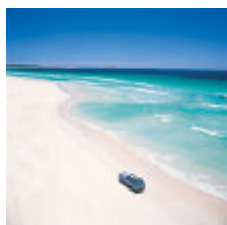


Day 7

Rottneest Island to Margaret River.

Depart **Rottneest Island** for a lovely coastal flight over **Geographe Bay** and **Cape Naturaliste**. Watch out for whales all around this coastline as southern right, humpback and pygmy blue whales move along the coast from Cape to Cape and in Geographe Bay at this time of the year.

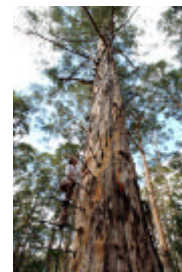
Arrive **Margaret River**. The pristine natural environment with its contrasts of wild surf, soaring Karri forests and rugged coastline give the Margaret River Region a stunning beauty which is complemented by picturesque vineyards. After transferring to accommodation enjoy a tour of the region including **Karri and Jarrah forests**, the mighty waves at **Surfers Point**, local history near the mouth of the **Margaret River** and all the flora and fauna unique to the region. Followed by lunch with wine at one of the region's finest wineries and a complete afternoon of winery visits.



Dinner and overnight **Margaret River**

Day 8

Margaret River to Manjimup. You can follow the coastline around **Cape Leeuwin**, Australia's most south westerly point, where the Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean meet. Don't forget to look out for the whales again and fur seals around the islands. Arrive **Manjimup**, land of tall timbers and proud birthplace of the Pink Lady apple. Here we will be visiting the **Timber and Heritage park** and steam museum housing a unique variety of historical and contemporary timber related exhibits, followed by a tour of the area to see the huge 600 years old **King Jarrah tree**, at 47 metres high and 2.69 metres diameter at chest height, the 51m **Diamond Tree Lookout** where the energetic can climb to the top for spectacular views over the trees, the **Four Aces**, a row of Karri trees that are over 300 years old and **One Tree Bridge** made from a single karri tree which was felled to cross the



Donnelly River in 1904. We will also learn all about truffles at **The Wine & Truffle Company**.

Dinner and overnight **Manjimup**.

Day 9

Manjimup to Albany.

On the way we will land at **The Lily Dutch Windmill**. At 5 stories high with a 22 tonne cap and sail length of 24.6 metres it is the only one of its kind in Australia and is a fully operational flour producing windmill. After a tour of the windmill, lunch at the restaurant alongside the airstrip.

Depart **The Lily Dutch Windmill** down along the coast and Western Australia's most southerly point at **West Cape Howe** to **Albany**. Set on the beautiful **King George sound** and **Princess Royal Harbour**, it is the oldest town on the west coast, the site of the first European settlement in Western Australia and steeped in early Western Australian maritime history. There is much to see and do here. **York Street** is the main shopping precinct and includes a number historic buildings. **Princess Royal Fortress**, built in the 19th Century because of its strategic importance in the protection of the King George Sound and Princess Royal Harbour serves today as a





military museum and heritage centre. The **Desert Corps and War Memorial** are located at Mt Clarence in the heart of Albany, in the same locality as the Fort. It stands as a stark reminder of their valiant war effort and also a reminder that the Australian Army contingent departed from Albany for Gallipoli. **Brig Amity**, a full scale replica of the original vessel which brought the first settlers and convicts to Albany in 1826 is located at the Harbours edge. The old English style Pub '**The Earl of Spencer**', in the centre of Albany is a good place to enjoy a refreshing ale.

Overnight **Albany**

Day 10

Albany celebrates its heritage with the **Whaleworld Museum**. Today we will take an interactive journey through the site of the last operating whaling station in Australia. With the old whaling ship, Cheynes IV, restored as the centrepiece, state-of-the-art technology has been used to recreate the dramatic sounds and images of the old whaling station. Albany's location on the southwest coast was a boon for hunters from the United States, France and the other colonies in the east. The Cheynes Beach Whaling Company was established and became the towns leading industry, killing up to 850 whales each season. In the later part of the 20th century, science was able to replicate, or better, the by-products of whaling, people also became increasingly aware of the senseless killing, whaling became illegal in the waters of the Southern Ocean off Albany and the whaling industry in Albany ended and the factory was closed in 1978. The whales, predominantly southern right whales, have returned in large numbers and can be seen during whale season.



Overnight **Albany**

Day 11

Albany to Esperance. On arrival transfer to the jetty for cruise via the port and closer beaches of **Esperance** before heading out to various islands in the **Recherché Archipelago**. Enjoy a full commentary during the viewing of wildlife in its natural environment. 1 hr (approx) stay on beautiful **Woody Island** for morning tea and half hour short guided walk to **Twiggy's Landing**. Esperance boasts the most stunning coastal scenery with squeaky white sand and turquoise water and the Archipelago of the Recherche, or the Bay of Isles comprising over 100 islands. Esperance's museum has a diverse collection with displays covering the region's early pioneering history, maritime exhibits and farm machinery. A unique feature of the museum is the world's most comprehensive display of NASA Skylab memorabilia. Skylab was America's first space station and plummeted to the earth in 1979 - to the northeast of Esperance.



Farewell dinner and overnight **Esperance**.

Day 12

Depart **Esperance** and the **West**.

Notes:

Accommodation, tours, park entries, transfers, and most meals included.

Accommodation ranges from 4 Star to budget according to availability and location.

All dates and times are correct at the time of publication however Aussie Fly-Aways Pty Ltd reserves the right to change any dates, activities, tours, accommodation depending on availability and any unforeseen circumstances.