

Drive
the

GREAT SOUTH WEST EDGE



EXPERIENCE WESTERN
AUSTRALIA'S EXTRAORDINARY
LANDSCAPE, IN ONE GREAT
ROAD TRIP ALONG THE EDGE.



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Department of
Parks and Wildlife



PARKS
PEOPLE



THE WONDERS OF WA IN ONE GREAT ROAD TRIP



11 day Great South West Edge Touring Route

Drive one of Australia's most fascinating landscapes between Perth and Esperance, known as the Great South West Edge. This unique region comprises many contrasting landscapes; from ancient mountain ranges and rugged granite headlands along the south coast, to the towering karri trees in the Southern Forests and a network of spectacular caves further to the west. The regions' best attractions are dotted in and around pretty country towns and vast national parks harbouring some of the world's most unique flora and fauna.

This 11 day attraction itinerary gives visitors the option of covering the full route in an action packed 11 days. Optional detour routes are included which can extend your trip to accommodate individual travel times. If time is restricted, visitors can select sections of the itinerary to complete or plan to incorporate air travel, with airports in Albany and Esperance to reduce travel time.

This 11 day itinerary can easily be extended to cover a longer period as there is so much to see and do along the route.



A VARIETY OF LANDSCAPES THAT WILL AMAZE



White, sandy beaches and spectacular coastline

Surrounded by the Indian and Southern Oceans, the coastline along the Great South West Edge varies from rugged granite headlands and limestone cliffs to tranquil blue bays and wave beaches with conditions perfect for water sports. The sandy beaches include the squeakiest and whitest beaches in the world, fringed by some of the cleanest water and turquoise ocean.

Gourmet pit stops

The Mediterranean climate of The Great South West Edge not only makes it an ideal region for growing world-class wine but also a huge selection of fresh produce, seafood and meat. With five wine/produce regions within its borders, the south west is bursting with provisions to send food lovers to gourmet heaven. Look out along your drive for wineries, breweries, cheese and chocolate factories, berry farms, citrus orchards and venison and marron farms.

Adventure

Experiences to ignite your senses are aplenty, and there are a vast range of outdoor adventure activities to get your heart racing. In the ocean, conditions are ideal for diving, snorkelling, surfing and fishing, while on land the mountain bike tracks, walk trails, and four-wheel driving take you through some unforgettable landscapes. Underground, you can find immense limestone caves to explore as part of a tour or by yourself, and you can climb, abseil or skydive from above.



Forests, wilderness and wildflowers

The Great South West Edge is home to one of earth's biodiversity hotspots sustaining over 8,000 species of flora that can be found nowhere else in the world. The diverse range of wildflowers, forests and native animals found along the drive route contribute to the rare and unique nature of the area. Many trails run through national parks, signposting points of interest along the way.



DAYS 1-3

PERTH - MARGARET RIVER REGION



Day 1 Perth to Bunbury

Get an early start from Perth and take a scenic drive through Harvey and Dardanup with its picturesque rolling hills of farmland and orchards. Be sure to stop and see the colourful gnomes at Gnomesville in the Ferguson Valley.

In Bunbury, you can meet the friendly dolphins who frequent the shores in front of the Dolphin Discovery Centre. The wild, bottlenose dolphins come in close to shore daily (seasonal) to interact with humans. Eco-cruises and swim tours are also available. Out of Bunbury you can also visit Collie and Wellington National Park.

Day 2 - 3 The Margaret River Region

Continue south to Busselton and walk on or dive under one of the longest wooden jetties in the world or step down in the underwater observatory surrounded by an ocean full of vibrant coral and fish.

Base yourself in the Margaret River Region for a few days of exploring. As you pass through Dunsborough and Yallingup, uncover the spectacular formations of Ngigli Cave or discover the South West's history on an Aboriginal culture tour.

Take a drive out to the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse for sunset, past the pristine beaches of Bunker Bay and Meelup. Cape Naturaliste is one of two lighthouses marking the northern and southern capes of this region.

Spend a day exploring the region's treasures, from mouth-watering gourmet produce to beautiful coastal scenery.

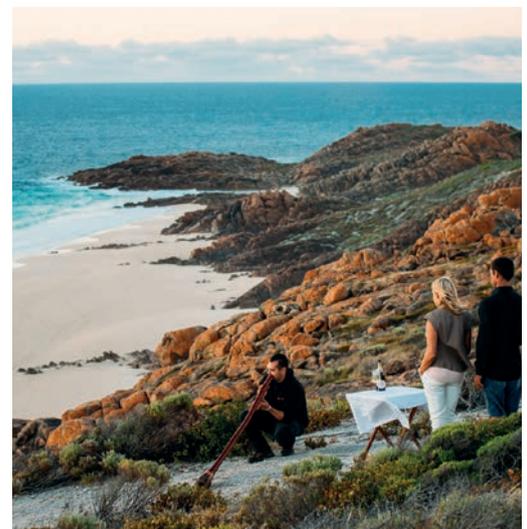
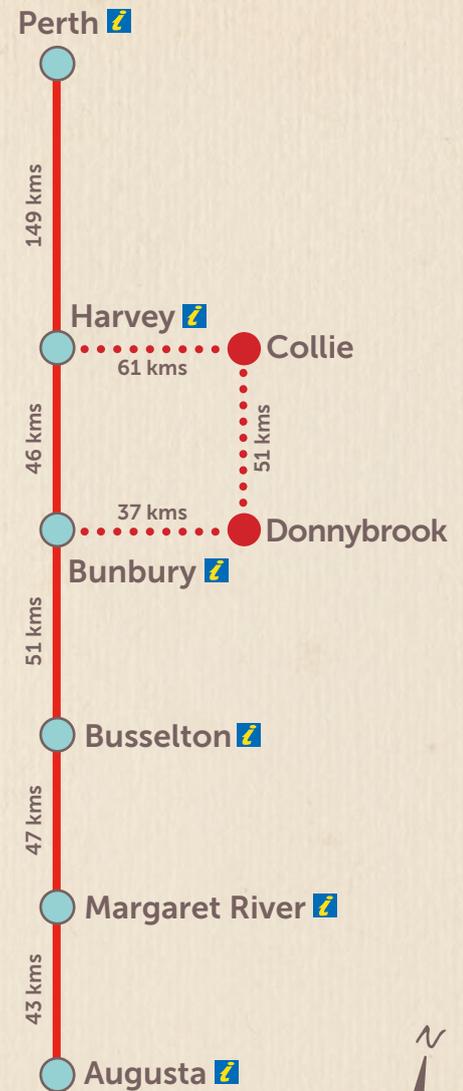
Indulge in the best gourmet experiences the region has to offer by visiting the many wineries and breweries and tasting local cheeses, chocolates and other delicious treats.

Hikers and bushwalkers will enjoy the Cape to Cape track – a 140 kilometre dedicated walk trail between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin, taking in parts of the coast only accessible on foot. It is also the perfect location for wildflowers (seasonal). Join a Cape to Cape tour for guided tours of the track.

Be sure to allow yourself the time to drive through the beautiful Boranup Karri Forest, explore one of the many underground show caves, and visit Augusta, where two oceans meet and the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse stands, Australia's tallest mainland lighthouse.

Between June and December, migrating whales pass close to shore between the capes. Spot them from the high cliffs or one of the many vantage points along the coast.

There is plenty of overnight accommodation options in the region ranging from quaint B&B's, private homes, luxury lodges and spa retreats set either in forest, vineyard or beach locations.



DAYS 4-6

MARGARET RIVER - ALBANY



Day 4 Margaret River to Pemberton

Travel from the Margaret River Region to the old timber town of Nannup. From there continue on to Pemberton where you can experience the beauty of the different terrains on offer: from dense forests and water cascades to the massive land locked Yeagerup Dunes and beach.

Take a cruise on the Donnelly River and experience the stunning D'Entrecasteaux National Park from the water.

D'entrecasteaux National Park is only accessible via 4WD, with the exception of a sealed road to Windy Harbour. Windy Harbour is a quaint seaside village, perfect for fishing and 4WD holidays.

On the way back to Pemberton, you'll pass through the impressive Mt Chudalup, which offers fantastic views from the top and understorey – an 'art in nature' walk trail experience through the forest in Northcliffe.

Day 5 Pemberton to Denmark

Travel to Walpole and be sure to visit the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk, a 40m high walkway through the forest's canopy and home to old majestic tingle forests, found nowhere else in the world. If you prefer to be out on the water, enjoy a cruise through Nornalup National Park.

In Denmark make sure you travel to the southern most point of Western Australia, Cape West Howe National Park. Take time to drive to other spectacular ocean side locations such as Greens Pool and Elephant Rocks in William Bay National Park with its sandy beaches and giant granite boulders.

Hikers are well catered for on the Bibbulmun Track which commences in Perth and passes through Pemberton via Walpole and Denmark before ending in Albany. At 1,000km it is WA's longest walking trail but can be experienced in shorter sections as guided or self-guided itineraries. Or cycle a section of the world's longest off-road cycling trail, the Munda Biddi Trail.

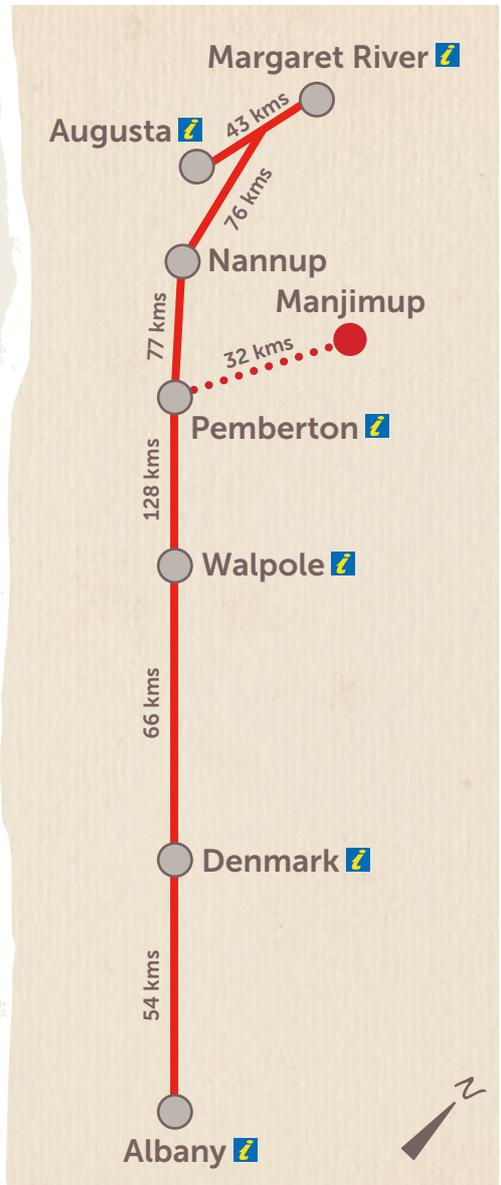
In Denmark, enjoy a gourmet trail on the Scotsdale and Mt Shadforth tourist drives, stopping off and enjoying the many wineries and local produce on offer along the route.

Day 6 Denmark to Albany

Head to Albany and perhaps spend the morning at Discovery Bay, an old whaling station and now an interpretive centre and flora/fauna park.

From Albany, take a drive and view the dramatic, make sure you stop at the new cantilevered lookout over the impressive twenty five metre 'Gap' in Torndirrup National Park, carved over time by the crashing waves of the Great Southern Ocean. Come and visit the brand new and extraordinary National ANZAC Centre.

If time is limited and you need to return to Perth, you can head north to Kojonup's Kodja Place. Built around the theme of 'One Story, Many Voices', Kodja Place includes the farm experience, life on the "reserve" of the indigenous community and the heartfelt stories of early settlers.



Whale Spotting

Australia has one of the longest whale watching seasons where from June to December you can join a whale watching tour and be mesmerised with Southern Right and Humpback whales frolicking in the ocean. The whales come close to shore and can be seen from many vantage points along the southern coast.



Walpole Wilderness

From Walpole hikers and wildlife enthusiasts can head inland to explore the Walpole Wilderness Area. There are nine national parks within this area, and it protects half of the old growth karri and jarrah forests in the south west, plus many rare plant and animal species.

Hikers can also enjoy the world class Bibbulmun Track which is a 1,000km bush walking track from Perth to Albany. Experience the only coastal section of the Bibbulmun Track between Denmark and Albany.

Walks and Mountain Bike Detour

Mountain bike riders can attempt all or sections of various trails including the Munda Biddi Trail the longest off-road cycle route in the world. Walkers can experience the 800km Bibbulmun Track. For those a little less energetic there is the shorter Cape to Cape walk. For more information on these and other trails visit www.trailswa.com.au

Manjimup Detour

Food and wine enthusiasts will appreciate exploring the regional wineries and experiencing the prized black Perigord truffles in Manjimup. The adventurous will enjoy the challenge of climbing one of the towering fire lookout trees.

DAYS 7-8

ALBANY - ESPERANCE



Day 7 Albany to Hopetoun

Today will be one of the longest drives along this route so please make sure you set off early. Depart Albany via one of the oldest ranges in the Porongurup National Park and climb the Granite Sky Walk. Rising 670m, this suspended walkway gives an incredible view of the landscape allowing you to experience one of the most bio diverse places in the south west. The Porongurup Range is an incredible area to discover the biodiversity of the region with 750 native plant species within a relatively small area of 2,600 hectares.

Continue your journey along Chester Pass Road, and take in the Stirling Range National Park, home to Western Australia's second highest peak, Bluff Knoll (1,095m) and renowned for its unusual cloud formations. The Stirling Range is a hot spot for wildflower enthusiasts, bird watchers and hikers.

In Ongerup, discover the conservation efforts for the shy native bush turkey at the Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre before heading to Ravensthorpe and the pretty coastal town of Hopetoun, located near one of the most biodiverse places in Western Australia, the Fitzgerald River National Park.

Mount Barker Detour

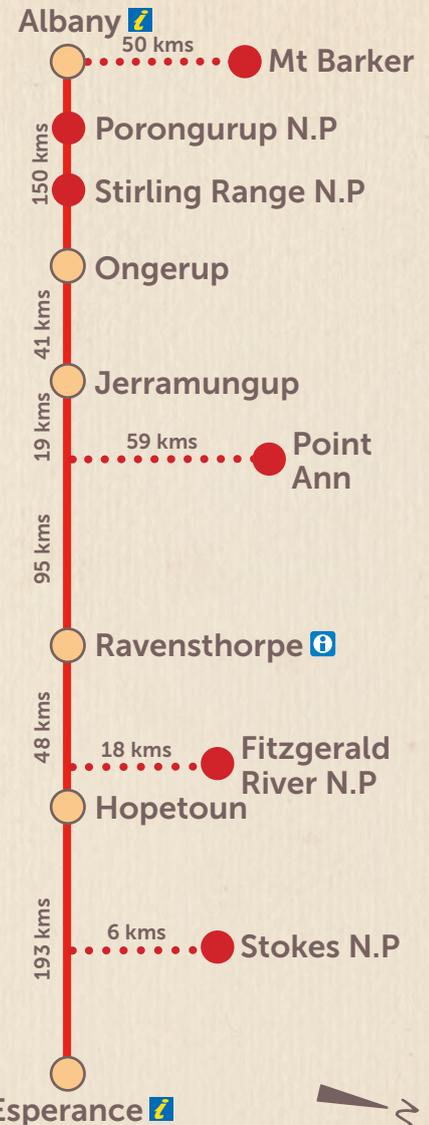
Located just 15 minutes adjacent to the Porongurup Range and within easy reach of the Stirling Range, Mt Barker is a quaint, small agricultural town rich in history and heritage that has diversified into viticulture and wildflower cultivation. Spend some time grazing your way around Mt Barker and Porongurup wine sub regions.

Day 8 Hopetoun to Esperance

Visit the UNESCO recognised, international biosphere of the spectacular Fitzgerald River National Park. It is one of the largest and most botanically significant national parks in Australia with over 1,800 beautiful and unique species of plants, 22 species of mammal, 200 bird species as well as 41 species of reptiles. The park has had major improvements with new scenic coastal roads, whale lookout and interpretive sites.

Travel east to the stunning coastal town of Esperance perhaps detouring to the Stokes Inlet National Park. Esperance is located on the Recherche Archipelago with its snow white beaches and turquoise blue waters.

Spend the afternoon exploring Great Ocean Drive along Esperance's western beaches or call into some of the local artisan galleries and attractions.



Point Ann Detour

Travel to the small seaside town of Bremer Bay for overnight. From here, every February to April, you can join an expedition off the coast to see the largest pod of Orcas in the Southern Hemisphere. Head to Point Ann (located on the west side of the Fitzgerald National Park) where during winter you can visit a whale nursery, one of only two places in Australia where Southern Right whales come to calve during their migration. Purpose built platforms make it one of the best and most picturesque whale watching sites on the Fitzgerald Coast. Continue exploring the park to the east before heading to Hopetoun.

DAYS 9-11

ESPERANCE - PERTH



Day 9 Esperance

Set aside a full day to explore some of the attractions of Esperance like a cruise into the Recherche Archipelago to view Australian and New Zealand fur seals, sea eagles and other wildlife.

Esperance is also famous for Lake Hillier, a pink lake on Middle Island off the coast of Cape Arid. Take a drive to Cape Le Grand National Park only 40 minutes on sealed roads from town. On the way see the unique Esperance Stonehenge, a full size replica of UK's original or perhaps consider taking an escorted 4WD tour with Eco Discovery Tours along the beaches to Cape Le Grand National Park.

Lucky Bay boasts the whitest beach sand in Australia with kangaroos on the beach.

Returning to Esperance call in to the Esperance Museum with its Skylab exhibit, pop in and see some local art and craft outlets and also wander the Museum Park Period Village and beautiful landscaped foreshore with its whale tail sculpture.

Days 10 - 11 Return to Perth Options.

Departing from Esperance you have two options for a return back to Perth.

Option 1 Esperance/Wave Rock/Perth

The shortest route to Perth from Esperance is via Hyden (Wave Rock). This route is some 700kms but can be broken up into a two day drive.

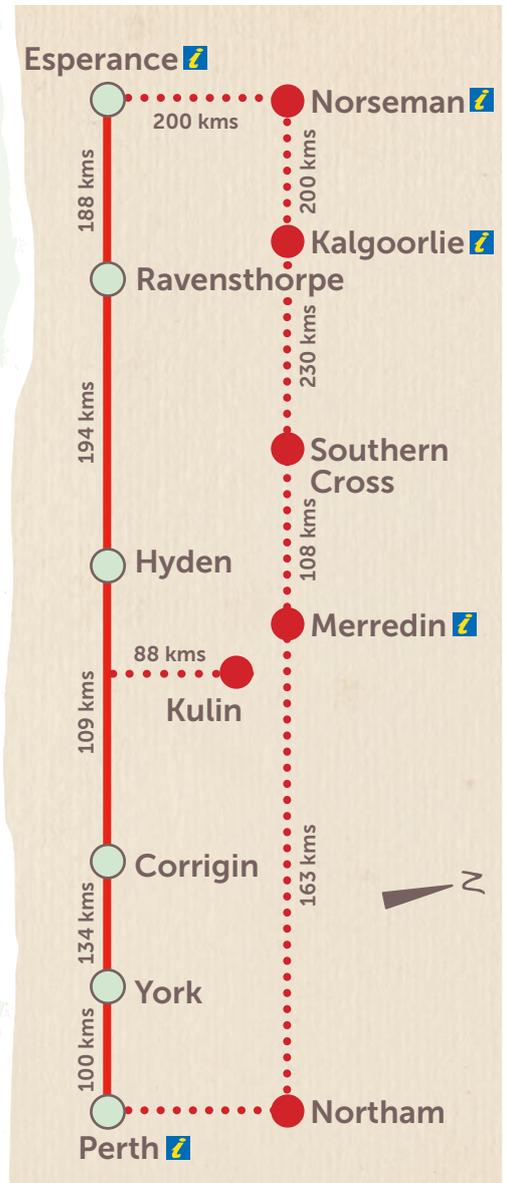
Day 10 Travel Esperance to Hyden. Hyden is famous for Wave Rock, a fascinating 3 billion year old rock formation in the shape of a wave. The area also boasts historic Aboriginal hand print art in Mulka's Cave.

Day 11 Drive from Hyden back to Perth perhaps making a slight detour along the Tin Horse Highway to Kulin before driving through Corrigin and historic York before entering Perth city.

Option 2 Esperance/Kalgoorlie/Perth

Day 10 Depart Esperance via Norseman and Coolgardie to the famous gold mining town of Kalgoorlie. This route takes you north from farmlands near Esperance into the red earth outback country of the historic Goldfields. Norseman, Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie are all part of gold rush pioneering history with the area producing 60% of Australia's gold. That afternoon visit the Super Pit or drive 1.5 hours north of Kalgoorlie to take in the Antony Gormley Inside Australia exhibit, 51 sculptures set in a 10km² salt lake at Lake Ballard.

Day 11 Set off early this morning to drive 600kms from Kalgoorlie back to Perth. The countryside changes from red earth to golden Wheatbelt farmlands. Along the way stop at several towns, view the museum at Southern Cross, take a slight detour off the highway to Westonia, just before you arrive in Merredin. From here call in to Cunderdin Museum with its Meckering Earthquake simulator then finally wander the historic streets of York before heading into Perth.



Kulin Tin Horse Highway

When driving from Hyden back to Perth you have an option to take the slight detour from Karlgarin along what has now become known as the Tin Horse Highway. Once a year Kulin hosts one of the state's most fantastic bush horse races. Horses from around the state race around a bush track in a beautiful country setting. Some farmers were so enamoured with the races, they have created numerous horse sculptures/figures that line the roadside for some 20 kilometres.



Kalgoorlie Super Pit

The gold rush history of Kalgoorlie is truly fascinating. Since 1893 when gold was discovered the town's historic streetscape has barely changed and today it is still one of Australia's largest gold producing areas. The town has many historic attractions such as Burt Street, Boulder, The Metropole Hotel with its mineshaft in the main bar floor and also the Western Australian Museum, the Flying Doctor Museum and Hannans North Tourist Mine. Something not to be missed is the spectacular Super Pit, the largest open cut mine in the Southern Hemisphere.

MAKE SURE YOU OBTAIN LOCAL INFORMATION FROM THESE FRIENDLY VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

Albany Visitor Centre

Old Railway Station, 55 Proudlove Parade, Albany 6330
Tel: (08) 9841 9290
www.amazingalbany.com

Augusta Visitor Centre

Corner Blackwood Ave and Ellis St, Augusta 6290
Tel: (08) 9758 0166
www.margaretriver.com

Balingup Visitor Centre

South Western Hwy, Balingup 6253
Tel: (08) 9764 1818
www.balinguptourism.com.au

Bremer Bay Community Resource & Visitor Centre

Mary St, Bremer Bay 6338
Tel: (08) 9837 4171
www.bremerbay.com

Bunbury Visitor Centre

Old Railway Station, Carmody Place, Bunbury 6230
Toll Free: 1800 286 287 (Aus)
Tel: (08) 9792 7205
www.visitbunbury.com.au

Busselton Visitor Centre

Busselton Foreshore, Beach end of Queen St, Busselton 6280
Tel: (08) 9752 5800
www.margaretriver.com

Central Wheatbelt Visitor Centre

85 Barrack St, Merredin 6415
Tel: (08) 9041 1666
www.wheatbelttourism.com

Collie Visitor Centre

156 Throssell St, Collie 6225
Tel: (08) 9734 2051
www.collierivervalley.com.au

Cranbrook Visitor Information Centre

Gathorne St, Cranbrook 6321
Tel: (08) 9826 1008
www.cranbrook.wa.gov.au

Denmark Visitor Centre

73 South Coast Hwy, Denmark 6333
Tel: (08) 9848 2055
www.denmark.com.au

Donnybrook Visitor Centre

Old Railway Station South Western Hwy, Donnybrook 6239
Tel: (08) 9731 1720
www.donnybrookwa.com.au

Dunsborough Visitor Centre

Dunn Bay Centre, Shop 1 / 31 Dunn Bay Rd
Tel: (08) 9755 3517
www.margaretriver.com

Esperance Visitor Centre

Museum Park Village Dempster St, Esperance 6450
Tel: (08) 9083 1555
www.visitesperance.com

Harvey Visitor Centre

Cnr 285 South Western Hwy & James Stirling Place, Harvey 6220
Tel: (08) 9729 1122
www.southwestattractions.com.au

Kalgoorlie Boulder Pure Gold Visitor Centre

Cnr Hannan & Wilson Sts Kalgoorlie 6430
Tel: (08) 9021 1966
www.kalgoorlietourism.com

Katanning Visitor Centre

14 Austral Terrace (next to the Town Hall), Katanning 6317
Tel/Fax: (08) 98212634
www.katanningwa.com

Kodja Place & Kojonup Visitor Centre

143 Albany Hwy, Kojonup 6395
Tel: (08) 9831 0500
www.kojonupvisitors.com

Manjimup Visitor Centre

Giblett St, Manjimup 6258
Tel: (08) 9771 1831
www.manjimupwa.com

Margaret River Visitor Centre

100 Bussell Hwy, Margaret River 6285
Tel: (08) 9780 5911
www.margaretriver.com

Mount Barker Visitor Centre

Old Railway Building, Albany Hwy, Mt Barker 6324
Tel: (08) 9851 1163
www.mountbarkertourismwa.com.au

Norseman Visitor Centre

68 Roberts St, Norseman 6443
Tel: (08) 9039 1071
www.norseman.info

Pemberton Visitor Centre

Brockman St, Pemberton 6260
Tel: (08) 9776 1133
www.pembertonvisitor.com.au

Perth - WA Visitor Centre

William St, Perth WA 6000
Tel: (08) 9483 1111
www.bestof.com.au/wa

Walpole - Nornalup Visitor Centre

South Coast Hwy, Walpole 6398
Tel: (08) 9840 1111
www.walpole.com.au

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Or visit www.australiassouthwest.com or www.australiasgoldenoutback.com

Conditions: This brochure is produced as a guide for driving The Great South West Edge coastal route. Whilst all care has been taken in compiling information, variations beyond our control may occur from time to time. Driving distances and maps provided are intended as a guide only and it's highly recommended detailed maps be obtained from motoring organisations, service stations, book stores or Visitor Centres. Please ensure you drive your capabilities and according to the road surface and weather conditions at the time.



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SHIRE of AUGUSTA
MARGARET RIVER

