Western Australia to South Australia across the Nullarbor



July 2027 | 15 Days

$9,200 pp, twin share
Solo Supplement: $2,250



Tour Highlights

- Crossing the mighty Nullarbor by road
- Scenic drive through towering Karri Forests in Denmark
- Explore the fishing port of Port Lincoln
- Scenic flight and whale watching over the Bunda Cliffs
- Cruise the pristine waters of D'Entrecasteaux National Park
- Marine and birdlife spotting at Fowler Bay
- Eyre Peninsula's spectacular Coffin Bay National Park
- Wine tasting at Margaret River



Western Australia to South Australia







Tour overview

Crossing the mighty Nullarbor is quite an experience. Vast, forbidding and raw, the land of 'no trees' is home to a plethora of limestone caves, soaring sea cliffs, and range land … interspersed with indigenous and pioneering history. Indigenous Australian people, the Mirning clans and Yinyila people, once seasonally occupied the Nullarbor. Traditionally, the area was called Oondiri, which is said to mean 'the waterless'.

The Southwestern corner of Western Australia is a pocket of lush green forests, farmland, rivers, and a rugged coastline that contrasts with the stark landscapes of the rest of the state. Fertile soils provide foodies with the best fresh produce and world-class wineries, while its waters are rich with marine life. A fascinating colonial history weaves through the charming towns along our route, and this part of the itinerary includes several fabulous scenic drives.

When we reach the west edge of South Australia, the landscape changes. The drive between Norseman in Western Australia and Ceduna on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula is around 13 hours, a distance of 1,200 kilometres, so we'll have a few stops along the way. We'll drive the Australia's longest straight bit of road, known as the 90 Mile Straight, 146.6 km between Balladonia and Caiguna. We'll likely meet a veritable host of characters. From the feral camels, kangaroos and wombats who call this desert home to the sunburnt holidaymakers, truckies, and adventure-seeking tourists on bikes, there'll be a smorgasbord of people-watching on our journey.

We'll also be able to watch whales and their calves frolic in the protected bays of the spectacular Great Australian Bight.

MODERATE

Activity rating: Moderate

You should be able to maintain a steady walking pace, manage flights of stairs, stand at attractions for periods of time, and board and disembark transport independently



Day 1, Friday 16th July PERTH TO FREMANTLE
Arrive in Perth around lunchtime. For Sydneysiders, Qantas offers a mid-morning flight that arrives in Perth in the early afternoon. Bill will meet you at baggage claim. (Alternatively, you can catch the train to Fremantle and meet the group at the hotel). Bill will drive the group to the hotel, centrally located in the heart of historic Fremantle. After settling in, we will have a walking tour of historic Fremantle and a visit to the Shipwreck Museum to see the Batavia, which was shipwrecked on the Abrolhos Islands off Geraldton in the 1600s. The Batavia story is the story of Australia's first mass murder. This will take approximately an hour and brings us back to the hotel in time for an aperativo. In the evening, a welcome dinner at a popular Fremantle restaurant such as Emily Taylor Bar and Kitchen in Fremantle's West End heritage area. We'll stay at Fremantle's Hougoumont Boutique Hotel (or similar). **D**

Day 2, Saturday 17th July FREMANTLE — MARGARET RIVER
We'll set off for Margaret River (approx 300 km) today. On the way, we'll see the famous Busselton Jetty, the longest timber-piled jetty in the Southern Hemisphere, where we will have a picnic lunch. We'll travel through the largest remaining forest of Tuart trees, a tree species found only in Western Australia. Arrive in Margaret River for a two-night stay. Accommodation at Central Apartments. **B/L/D**

Day 3, Sunday 18th July MARGARET RIVER
As we are staying in the heart of a celebrated wine region, we will have a long lunch at one of the high-end winery restaurants. After lunch, we have a short trip to the mouth of the Margaret River. This beautiful beach hosts world surfing competitions. We will return to Margaret River for some free time and to source your own supper if you are still hungry. Either rest or we can discuss a local excursion to fill in the afternoon. **B/L**

Day 4, Monday 19th July MARGARET RIVER — PEMBERTON
Today's route will be about 170km. After breakfast, depart for Augusta's Point Leeuwin Lighthouse. Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse is on the southernmost point of Australia. A lighthouse tour is a must, including a climb to the top, where you get a great view of the Indian and Southern Oceans (the two oceans meet at Cape Leeuwin). From Augusta, we travel away from the Margaret River region and into the Great Southern Forests region. Near Pemberton, we take a scenic cruise down the Donnelly River through the pristine wilderness of D'Entrecasteaux National Park to a wild, isolated beach on the Southern Ocean. After the cruise, we will see Gloucester Tree, a 58-metre-high Karri. Once used as a fire lookout tree, you can still climb to the top via iron pegs hammered into the tree trunk (not for the faint-hearted). Back on the ground, we take a short Karri forest walk. After, we'll continue through more National Park forests to Pemberton, formerly a timber-producing town and now a charming heritage village. We will eat locally at Jasper's or similar, and stay at the Pemberton Best Western Hotel. **B/L/D**

Day 5, Tuesday 20th July PEMBERTON — ALBANY
The distance from Pemberton to Albany is approximately 300 km, including the Mt Shadforth Scenic Drive. Today we are driving through more incredible tall-forest scenery in WA's towering Karri forests around Denmark and Walpole. Firstly, our scenic drive takes us to the giant Tingle tree (in November 2022, a controlled burn got out of hand and areas near the Tingle tree were badly burnt). Tingle trees are a species unique to the Walpole area. Shortly after, it is time for a little more exercise at the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk, where we experience the majestic height of these trees from above their canopy. In the hinterland around Denmark, we will stop at Denmark Farmhouse Cheese dairy for a shared cheeseboard ploughman's lunch. A little further down the Mt Shadforth scenic drive is Singlefile Winery, where we have a wine tasting. Drive on to Albany, a historic port and whaling town, for another two-night stay. Dinner at the Earl of Spencer historic pub (or similar) and stay at the Spencer Suites (or similar). **B/L/D**

Day 6, Wednesday 21st July ALBANY
We explore two prominent aspects of Australian history, whaling and the ANZAC legend. First, we visit the Albany Whaling Station Museum, which was the last Australian whaling station to close in 1978. When the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company closed in 1978, they put down their tools and walked away, which makes today's experience so authentic. Also left behind at the whaling station was an operating whaling boat, which you can explore. En route to the whaling station, we will stop at the remarkable Gap and Natural Bridge. These are two natural features carved from granite by oceanic forces. We now head to the award-winning National ANZAC Centre on Albany's Mt Clarence, with views to King George Sound and from where Australian and New Zealand WWI troop ships sailed. The centre is quite poignant, and it will take you a couple of hours to wander around, take in the exhibits, and enjoy the view. Before we enter the exhibition centre, we will have lunch at the Garrison Restaurant at the National ANZAC Centre. After the ANZAC Centre, enjoy some free time to wander the interesting streets of Albany and find yourself some supper. **B/L**

Day 7, Thursday 22nd July ALBANY — ESPERANCE
Albany to Esperance is approximately 500 km. On the way, we visit Fitzgerald River National Park, within the Fitzgerald Biosphere and globally significant as a biodiversity hotspot (i.e., one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet). The scenery on the drive to the Fitzgerald River National Park is stunning. We will drive to Cave Point for dramatic views and take a short, easy walk to the cliffs. We will also stop at Barrens Lookout, closer to the Park's entrance, for different yet dramatic views. The stunning walk here is less than 200m long. We now head to Esperance on the south coast of WA, famous for stunning white beaches, turquoise waters and clear blue skies, for a two-night stay. A home-cooked dinner tonight. Accommodation at Island View Apartments (or similar). **B/L/D**

Day 8, Friday 23rd July ESPERANCE
The stunning white sand, set against the clear turquoise waters of the Esperance region, will forever be etched in your memory. To get up close to this stunning landscape, we will take a 3½ hr scenic wildlife cruise through the various islands of the Recherche Archipelago (105 islands). Regular wildlife sightings on the cruise include NZ Fur Seals, Australian Sea Lions, Cape Barren Geese, Common and Bottle Nose Dolphins, White-bellied Sea Eagles and whales. The rest of the day is at your leisure to rest or explore Esperance. If you want something more active, after you grab lunch in town, we will drive to Cape Le Grand National Park for more stunning scenery and a walk on the white-sand beaches. Dinner is home-cooked again. **B/D**

Day 9, Saturday 24th July ESPERANCE — FRASER RANGE STATION
Esperance to Fraser Range Station is approx. 300 km. In the morning, we will stroll along some of Esperance's coastal walks against the stunning backdrop of the Recherché Archipelago before driving along the spectacular Great Ocean Drive, stopping at the many vantage points. After lunch and a coffee in Esperance (might be the last good coffee for a while), we will start our 3-day road trip across the Nullarbor. We stop for afternoon tea at a woodland nature reserve at Norseman. We also recommend a short nature walk through the woodland to stretch your legs. Our luggage trailer is fitted with a mobile kitchen, which we will try out here by making afternoon tea. Norseman is named after a horse that "discovered" gold (Norseman got a gold-bearing rock stuck in its hoof). We'll drive past a number of gold mines this afternoon. From Norseman at the western end of the Nullarbor, we start driving through Western Australia's Great Western Woodland. This woodland is special as it is the largest and healthiest temperate woodland on earth. Accommodation at Fraser Range Station (or similar). **B/D**



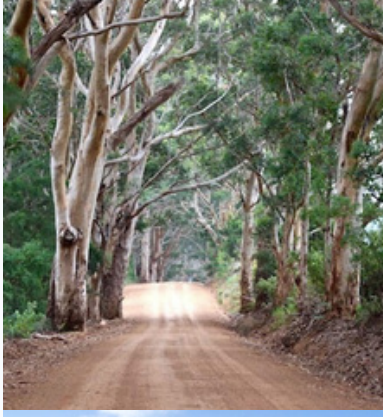








Day 10, Sunday 25th July FRASER RANGE STATION — EUCLA
Fraser Range Station to the Nullarbor Roadhouse is approx. 600 km. As we cross the Nullarbor, we will have a couple of longish drives, but generally, they will go quickly as there are no towns to go through and nice straight roads - in fact, it is the longest straight road in Australia (146.6 km)- nothing to slow you down. For those old enough to remember Skylab falling to earth in outback Australia, it was near Balladonia, and the Roadhouse Museum has a curious exhibition. Each pitstop we pass as we cross the Nullarbor has a golf fairway, which makes up Nullarbor Links, the world's longest golf course. Nullarbor Links is an 18-hole par 72 golf course spanning 1,365 km, with one hole in each participating town from Ceduna in SA to Kalgoorlie in WA. Each hole has a synthetic green but a somewhat rugged, outback fairway. Lunch is at one of the roadhouses that we pass as we cross the Nullarbor. We overnight in Eucla on the SA-WA border. After checking in, we take a short excursion to explore the ruins of the Eucla telegraph station. The transmission room was split into two sections: SA employees at the eastern end and WA employees at the western end. WA employees in Eucla received messages from Perth and handed them to SA employees, who relayed them to Adelaide. **B/D**



Day 11, Monday 26th July EUCLA — NULLARBOR
Eucla to Nullarbor is approx. 200km. After the WA border, the road travels close to the dramatic cliffs of the Great Australian Bight a few times, so we will make a couple of stops to take in the spectacular views. We continue along the Nullarbor, watching the landscape and vegetation slowly change as we pass classic Australian roadhouses that serve these remote regions. Eventually, we arrive at the Nullarbor Roadhouse. In the afternoon, we will have a scenic flight and a trip to the whale centre. Our afternoon scenic flight depart from the Nullarbor Roadhouse and takes us over the Bunda Cliffs and the Head of Bight, allowing for some aerial whale spotting. Not far from Nullarbor Roadhouse, we visit the Head of Bight whale-watching centre near Yalata. The Head of Bight Whale Interpretive Centre is one of Australia's most spectacular whale-watching sites. The Centre has an information centre, a boardwalk, and a viewing platform. Southern Right Whales visit the upper reaches of the Great Australian Bight each year to give birth, mate and socialise. They arrive in May and depart around October. They spend the rest of the time travelling to or feeding well offshore in the Southern Ocean. Most of the whales we will see in June and July are adults. We may be lucky enough to observe these 70-tonne mammals mating (look for groups rolling around on the surface), but numbers vary each season significantly (no guarantees). By late August, mothers can be seen swimming along the cliffs with their young calves at their side. There are often 70 or more whales in the area. By the time the whales leave in October, the calves have grown and have become strong enough to join their mothers on the long migration south. Overnight at the Nullarbor Roadhouse. **B/D**



Day 12, Tuesday 27th July NULLARBOR — CEDUNA
Nullarbor Roadhouse to Ceduna is approximately 300 km, plus an extra 80 km to Fowlers Bay and back to the highway. We travel first to Fowlers Bay for a 2½ hours whale-watching cruise. Fowlers Bay is home to an abundance of endangered, vulnerable and protected species of marine mammals and oceanic bird life, including Southern Right Whales, Humpback Whales, Common Dolphins, Bottlenose Dolphins, Australian Sea Lions, New Zealand Fur Seals, Little Penguins, Albatross, and White Bellied Sea Eagles. In this interactive and informative cruise, you'll (expectedly, hopefully, but no guarantees with nature) see pods of whales, discover the fascinating yet brutal history of Fowlers Bay, learn about the Whale Baleen Plate, hold some very rare Ambergris and listen to real-time underwater acoustics. After the cruise and picnic lunch, we will make a short trip to Penong for a quick look at Australia's largest windmill in the local open-air museum. Near Penong is Lake MacDonnell. The lake is famous for its half-pink, half-green water. High in salt concentration, the lake appears salmon-pink on clear days (if the weather is overcast or the lake's water level is low, the colour does not stand out). One side of the causeway is Pink Lake, the other is Green Lake, and Blue Lake is further down over the small bridge. Pink Lake is caused by salt-loving algae and halobacteria that secrete carotenoid red pigments, turning the water pink. These unique waters are why the Lake is also known as Watermelon Avenue. Unfortunately, the colour difference is more marked in summer, and on overcast days, it doesn't stand out. Nonetheless, it is a pretty lake and worth the detour if it hasn't been raining (dirt road). Accommodation and dinner will be the Ceduna Foreshore Hotel (or similar). **B/L/D**

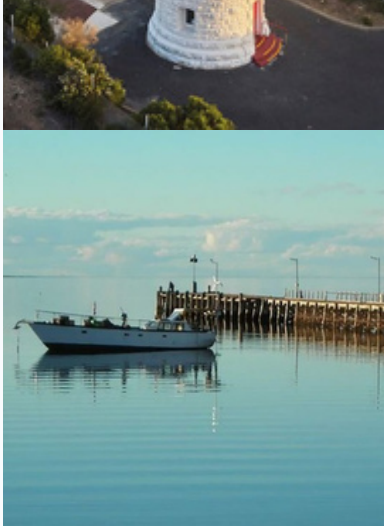




Day 13, Wednesday 28th July CEDUNA — PORT LINCOLN
Today we work our way down the Eyre Peninsula, following the seafood trail to Port Lincoln (about 400km). We will travel down the coast to Streaky Bay and onto Venus Bay (our lunch stop). As we head south, the scenery along this section of the Eyre Peninsula becomes increasingly rugged and spectacular. Our first stop is Streaky Bay (a picturesque small town with a strong oyster industry). We take a short break to have a walk along the jetty. Next, we'll visit Murphy's Haystacks and do the short hiking trail around these monolithic granite boulders. Lunch is at pretty Venus Bay, which has a vibrant king prawn industry. The local general store serves a great lunch with local king prawns and King George whiting. After lunch, we stop at Lock's Well Beach, which reveals yet more dramatic coastline of the Eyre Peninsula, and Talia Caves. Our final stop for the day is Cummins Lookout for amazing photo opportunities and to see if the endangered osprey is nesting on the jagged tor off the coastal cliffs. Like many stretches of the Eyre Peninsula coastline, this is a significant breeding habitat for raptors such as the southern osprey, white-bellied sea eagle and peregrine falcon. Port Lincoln is renowned for its Southern Bluefin tuna, King George whiting, Spencer Gulf king prawns and Southern Rock lobsters. Port Lincoln is home to a large tuna-fishing fleet. Accommodation is at the Port Lincoln Hotel, with dinner at our hotel restaurant Sarrins (or similar). **B/D**



Day 14, Thursday 29th July COFFIN BAY
Awake, breakfasted and ready to explore Coffin Bay. Contrary to some beliefs, Coffin Bay isn't named after anything related to burying the dead. Matthew Flinders named it after Resident Naval Commissioner Sir Isaac Coffin in early 1802. Coffin Bay is a pretty coastal holiday area with beautiful bays and beaches. The oyster industry in South Australia began soon after the colony was established. People wild-harvested native Angasi oysters and took them to Adelaide for sale. In Adelaide's early days, Angasi oysters were seen as just another protein source. Even jail inmates were served Angasi oysters. Overfishing led to declining catches and the industry's collapse by the late 1800s. In the late 60s, Japanese Pacific Oysters were introduced, rekindling the industry. Firstly, we visit Coffin Bay National Park. The NP offers some of the most spectacular, accessible, pristine and dramatic coastal views in the state. Later in the morning, we'll have an oyster experience, including an opportunity to taste the internationally famous oysters of Coffin Bay as well as local Eyre Peninsula King Prawns washed down with some sparkling wine. The oyster experience includes wading out to the oyster beds with our guide, who will explain the industry and provide a hands-on demonstration on how to shuck an oyster (eat what you shuck). We return to Port Lincoln and head to Port Lincoln National Park, where we explore the rugged offshore islands and secluded white-sand beaches. The fit and willing can head off on a short hike to the top of the ridge, which offers spectacular views of the coastline, while the unwilling can wander the beach for an hour. On the way back to Port Lincoln, we stop at the Fresh Seafood Factory for an early dinner, where you can select fresh local seafood (non-seafood options are also available). **B/L/D**



Day 15, Friday 30th July DEPARTURE
This brings our epic tour from WA to SA to an end. Bill will drop you off at the airport after breakfast around 9 am. Aim for a mid-morning flight to your city of origin. **B**

Note. *The accommodation on this tour will offer the best level of comfort we can provide. We stay at roadhouses when crossing the Nullarbor as this is the only accommodation available. You'll have your own bathroom at every stay (when we stay at apartments, sometimes your bathroom will not be an ensuite, but you have sole use of it). The exception will be when we stay at Fraser Ridge Station. This is a working farm, and the accommodation is rustic. The bathrooms are clean and serviceable but you may need to share with others in the group. You may like to consider arriving early in Fremantle. As our hotel is in the heart of Fremantle, you'll be within walking distance of many Fremantle attractions, allowing you to soak up the atmosphere at leisure. The Port of Fremantle is within walking distance, with regular ferry services to Rottnest Island. The new airport train has opened, and it is easy to travel to Perth Airport at a low cost.*









Accommodation

Our hotels are carefully chosen to capture the local atmosphere and set you up in an ideal location. You can expect accommodation that comprises a mix of standard hotels, motels, and smaller, independently owned apartments. Below are some of the hotels on this tour. Final hotels may change, and a complete list will be shared with you.

Islandview Apartments, Esperance
www.esperanceapartments.com.au

Ceduna Hotel, Port Lincoln
www.cedunahotel.com.au

Central Avenue Apartments, Fremantle
www.centralavenue.com.au

Nullarbor Roadhouse, Nullarbor
www.nullarborroadhouse.com.au

Why Blue Dot?

Travel is more than just moving from one place to another; it is an opportunity to explore this vast planet, connect with its people and marvel at its beauty. We have established a group of loyal, like-minded travellers who share this feeling and have taken multiple tours with us. With Blue Dot, you'll experience

- Thoughtfully designed itineraries with unique experiences
- Small, inclusive groups with a maximum of 16 travellers (this tour has max. 6 travellers)
- The support of both an Australian tour leader* and experienced local guides
- Programs designed to meet the needs of mature-age travellers
- Hands-on, personalised service including customised flight bookings
- Tipping is included in your tour cost

Blue Dot welcomes solo travellers

In fact, over half of our clients are solo travellers. We understand it can be daunting to travel on your own, and we'll ensure your travel is safe, inclusive and enjoyable. You can confidently join our groups, knowing that we bring solo travellers together to share the camaraderie of an unforgettable adventure.

Enquiries and bookings

A $500 deposit is required to secure your booking.

For more information:

02 9906 5770

enquiries@bluedottravel.com.au