South Australia to Western Australia across the Nullarbor



July 2027 | 15 Days

$9,200 per person, 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



South Australia to Western 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'.

When we reach the west edge of South Australia, the landscape changes. The drive between Ceduna in South Australia's Eyre Peninsula and Norseman in Western Australia is around 13 hours, a distance of 1,200 kilometres, so we'll have a few stops along the way. We'll drive Australia's longest straight bit of road, known as the 90 Mile Straight, 146.6 km between Balladonia and Caiguna. Along the way, 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.

The Southwestern corner of Western Australia is a pocket of lush green forests, farmland, rivers, and a rugged coastline, in contrast to 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 offers several fabulous scenic drives.

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



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, Thursday 1st July ARRIVE PORT LINCOLN
Arrive at Port Lincoln. Bill will pick you up at the Port Lincoln airport. We will head straight to the hotel to drop off your bags, then we'll head to Port Lincoln National Park. For the next 2 nights, we will stay at the Port Lincoln Hotel overlooking Boston Bay. Port Lincoln and, more broadly, the Eyre Peninsula are Australia's seafood capital. 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. Our food focus is seafood while we are on the Eyre. At Port Lincoln National Park, we will explore the vast dune system, 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 for 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). **D**



Day 2, Friday 2nd July EYRE PENINSULA AND COFFIN BAY NP
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. Native Angasi oysters were wild-harvested and taken to Adelaide for sale. Overfishing led to declines in catches and the industry's cessation 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 enjoy an oyster experience, including the chance to taste Coffin Bay's internationally famous oysters, along with local Eyre Peninsula king prawns washed down with 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). On the way back to Port Lincoln, we will stop at the Port Lincoln Smokehouse to taste their interesting and tasty range of smoked seafood products. We finish the day with a quick tour of the tuna boat harbour. Tonight is our delayed welcome dinner at Sarrins, our hotel restaurant. Sarrins will feature local seafood (non-seafood options are available). **B/L/D**



Day 3, Saturday 3rd July CEDUNA
Today, we work our way along the west coast of the Eyre Peninsula, following the seafood trail to Venus Bay and Ceduna. It is an explorer's wonderland of cliffs, blowholes, crevasses, caves and isolated beaches. The scenery along this section of the Eyre Peninsula is rugged and spectacular. We'll stop at places like Cummins Lookout for amazing photo opportunities and 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. We will also stop at Lock's Well Beach, which reveals yet more dramatic coastline of the Eyre Peninsula. Our luggage trailer is fitted with a mobile kitchen, which we will try out at Lock's Well Beach by making morning tea. Next stop is pretty Venus Bay, which has a vibrant king prawn industry. The local general store does a great lunch with local king prawns and King George whiting. After lunch, we'll visit Murphy's Haystacks and do the short hiking trail around these monolithic granite boulders. Our final stop for the day is Streaky Bay (another picturesque small town with a strong oyster industry). We take a short break to have a walk along the jetty. Accommodation and dinner at the Ceduna Foreshore Hotel (or similar). **B/D**



Day 4, Sunday 4th July THE NULLARBOR
The drive from Ceduna to Nullarbor Roadhouse is approximately 300 km, with an extra 80 km to Fowlers Bay & back to the Highway. This morning, we travel the short distance to Penong for a quick look at Australia's largest windmill in the local open-air museum. If the weather is fine, we will make a short detour to 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. One side of the causeway is Pink Lake, the other is Green Lake, and Blue Lake is further down over the small bridge. Salt-loving algae and halobacteria secrete carotenoid pigments in Pink Lake, turning the water bright 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). We travel on to Fowlers Bay for a 10 am whale-watching cruise. 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. You may be lucky enough to observe these 70-tonne mammals mating (look for groups rolling around on the surface). By late August, you can commonly see the mothers swimming along the cliffs with their young calves at their side. Often, 70 or more whales are in the area, but numbers vary significantly each season. 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. If whale activity is low, our cruise will take in the rugged cliffs and magnificent little coves of Point Fowler. Here you're likely to see playful interactions with the Australian Sea Lions. Fowler's Bay is home to an abundance of endangered, vulnerable, and protected marine mammals and seabirds, 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. During the cruise, you'll see pods of whales (expectedly, hopefully, but no guarantees with nature), discover the fascinating yet brutal history of Fowler's Bay, learn about the Whale Baleen Plate, hold some very rare ambergris, and listen to real-time underwater acoustics. After the cruise, we'll have a picnic lunch at Fowler's Bay before heading to the Head of Bight Whale Watching Centre near Yalata. Located near the Nullarbor Plain on the Far West Coast of South Australia, the Head of Bight Whale Watching Centre is one of Australia's most spectacular whale-watching sites. The Head of the Bight Interpretive Centre has an information centre, a boardwalk, and a great viewing platform. We end the day at Nullarbor Roadhouse Motel. **B/L/D**



Day 5, Monday 5th July THE NULLARBOR
Nullarbor to Belladonia Roadhouse is approx 700km. Today is a long drive, but it 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. We will have a few great distractions, including a scenic flight over the Bunda Cliffs and aerial whale spotting at the Head of Bight. Heading towards 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 enter WA at Eucla; our vehicle will go through an inspection for fruit and vegetables, which aren't allowed into WA. At Eucla, on the SA-WA border, we take a short break to explore the old Eucla telegraph station. We continue along the Nullarbor, passing classic Australian roadhouses that serve these remote regions as we watch the landscape and vegetation slowly change. We will have lunch at one of these roadhouses and overnight at another, most likely Balladonia, but depending on availability (they can book out in one go if a long-distance bus is scheduled). 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. **L/D**



Day 6, Tuesday 6th July ESPERANCE
Balladonia to Esperance is approximately 391km. The world's longest golf course is the Nullarbor Links. Nullarbor Links is an 18-hole par 72 golf course spanning 1,365 km, with one hole in each participating town or roadhouse from Ceduna in SA to Kalgoorlie in WA. Each hole has a synthetic green and a sand-rugged outback fairway. As we drive closer to the western end of the Nullarbor, we come to Western Australia's Great Western Woodland. This woodland is special as it's the largest and healthiest temperate woodland on earth. We stop for lunch at a woodland nature reserve at Norseman. We also recommend a short nature walk through the woodland to stretch your legs while lunch is prepared. 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. We are heading to Esperance on the south coast of WA, famous for stunning white beaches, turquoise waters and clear blue skies, for a two-night stay. Dinner will be home-cooked tonight. Accommodation at Island View Apartments (or similar). **B/L/D**

Day 7, Wednesday 7th July ESPERANCE
The stunning white sand, set against the clear turquoise waters, is what will stay in your memory of the Esperance region. To get up close to this stunning landscape, we will take a 3½ hour 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 for more stunning scenery and a walk on the white-sand beaches. Dinner is home-cooked again. **B/D**

Day 8, Thursday 8th July ALBANY
Drive to Albany, a historic port and whaling town, for another two-night stay (Esperance to Albany is approximately 500 km). On the way, we visit Fitzgerald River National Park, which is within the Fitzgerald Biosphere, a globally significant biodiversity hotspot (i.e., one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet). The scenic drives and short walks in the Fitzgerald River National Park are stunning. We will drive to Cave Point for dramatic views and take the short, easy walk to the cliffs at the Point. We will also stop at Barrens Lookout, closer to the park entrance, for different yet dramatic views. The stunning walk here is less than 200m long. We have a picnic lunch in the National Park by the beach. Dinner at the historic Earl of Spencer pub or similar and stay at the Spencer Suites (or similar). **B/L/D**

Day 9, Friday 9th July ALBANY
We explore two prominent aspects of Australian history, whaling and the ANZAC legend. First, we visit the Albany Whaling Station Museum, Australia's last whaling station, which closed in 1978. Cheynes Beach Whaling Company closed in 1978; they simply 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. The award-winning National ANZAC Centre is on Albany's Mt Clarence, with views to King George Sound from where WW1 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 a large lunch at the Garrison Cafe and Restaurant at the National ANZAC Centre. After the ANZAC Centre, enjoy some free time to wander the interesting main streets of Albany and find yourself some supper. **B/L**

Day 10, Saturday 10th July PEMBERTON
A scenic drive through sections of WA's towering Karri forests around Denmark and Walpole. Albany to Pemberton is approximately 300 km, including the Mt Shadforth Scenic Drive. After a short stop at Elephant's Rock beach, we stop at Singlefile Winery for a wine tasting in the important Denmark wine region. We will visit the Denmark Cheese Factory for a shared cheeseboard ploughman's lunch, then take a little exercise on the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk to experience the majestic height of the trees from above their canopy. More scenic drives through the majestic forests in the afternoon before a stop at the giant Tingle tree (in November 2022, a controlled burn got out of hand and areas near the Tingle trees were badly burnt). Tingle trees are a species unique to the Walpole area. After, we'll continue through more National Park forests to Pemberton, formerly a timber-producing town and now a charming heritage village. We will stay at the Pemberton Best Western Hotel for 2 nights and eat local. **B/L/D**

Day 11, Sunday 11th July PEMBERTON
Our next activity is a short drive away. 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. Find your own lunch in one of the local cafes. After lunch, we travel into the forest on the logging tram. It is now a scenic tour, as logging in the region has finished. The afternoon is a relaxed-paced afternoon. We visit the local Pemberly Winery for a guided paired tasting and a walk through the vineyards (weather permitting). Return early to the hotel to rest before dinner at the cosy Jaspers Restaurant (or similar). **B/D**

Day 12, Monday 12th July MARGARET RIVER
Pemberton to Augusta's Point Leeuwin Lighthouse, approximately 150 km. Then approximately 50 km to Margaret River from Augusta. First off, we visit the Gloucester Tree, a 58-metre-high karri. Once used as a fire lookout tree, it has a 40 m observation tower that reaches into the treetops. The brave and energetic can be rewarded with a great view and a greater sense of achievement by climbing 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. Following the walk, we set off for Margaret River for a two-night stay. On the way, we detour to Augusta and the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse at the southernmost point of Australia. A lighthouse tour is a must, including climbing to the top for great views of the Indian and Southern Oceans (the two oceans meet at Cape Leeuwin). After we check into our accommodation, we have a short trip to the mouth of the Margaret River. This is a beautiful beach where world surfing competitions are held. We will eat either at a local restaurant or have a home-cooked meal. We stay at Central Apartments (or similar). **B/D**

Day 13, Tuesday 13th 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. 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. Accommodation is at Central Apartments. **B/L**

Day 14, Wednesday 14th July FREMANTLE
Today, we set off to Fremantle, the last leg of our journey (approx 300 km). On the way, we'll see the famous Busselton Jetty, the longest timber-piled jetty in the Southern Hemisphere. From here, we travel through the largest remaining forest of Tuart trees, another tree species found only in Western Australia. Our destination is in the heart of historic Fremantle. Free time, or join Bill for a 1-hour stroll around Freo's historic centre before an aperitivo at our hotel. In the evening, we celebrate the end of our journey at a special farewell dinner. Stay at Hougoumont Boutique Hotel with dinner at Emily Taylor (or similar). **B/L/D**

Day 15, Thursday 15th July DEPARTURE
This brings our epic SA-to-WA tour to an end. Bill will drop you off at the airport after breakfast at 10 am. **B**

Note. The accommodation on this tour will offer the best level of comfort we can provide. We'll 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, your bathroom may not be an ensuite, but you'll have sole use of it). You may want to extend your stay in Fremantle. As our hotel is in the heart of Fremantle, you'll be within walking distance of many attractions, so you can 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 get to Perth Airport; the maximum fare is only $5. Walk to Fremantle Station and catch a Perth-bound train. At Claremont Station (several stations before Perth), change to the airport service, which departs regularly from the same platform. If your flight leaves from terminals T1 or T2, alight at Airport Central Station, which is practically beneath the terminals. If your flight departs from T3 or T4, alight at Redcliffe Station and take the bus to the terminal.

















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 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 a 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 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.

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