



# 25 Epic ROAD TRIPS

*Through and around  
Australia's Golden Outback*



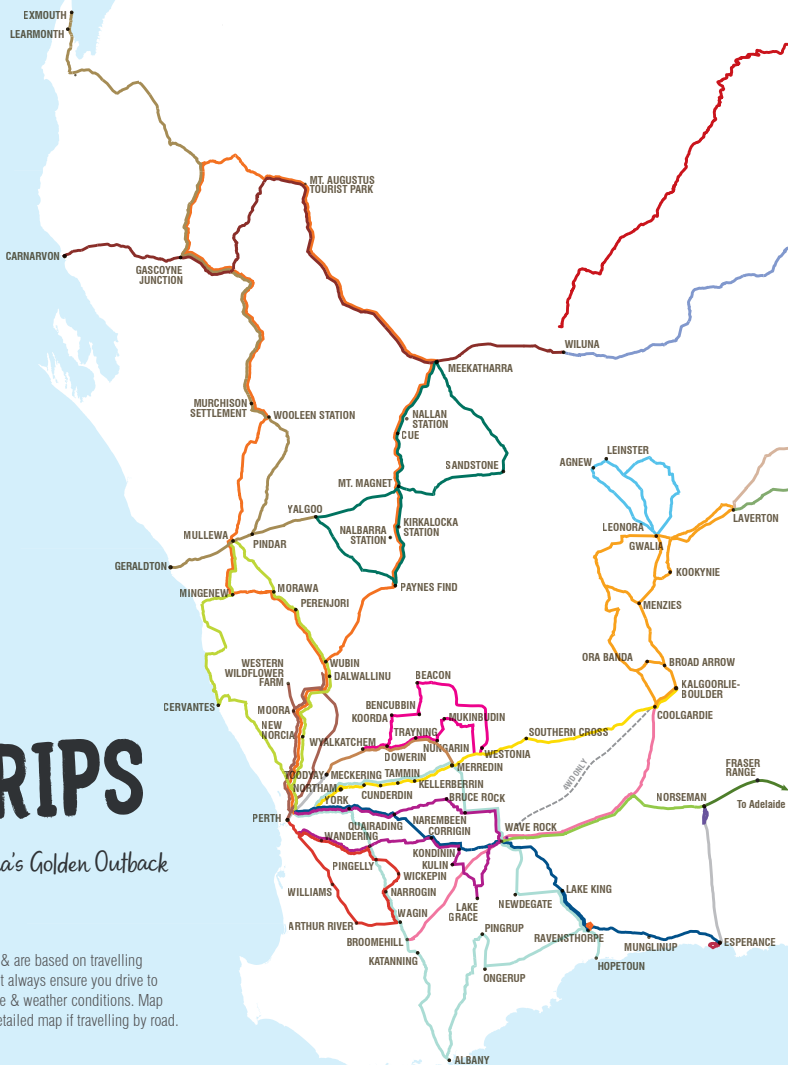
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WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA

# 25 Epic ROAD TRIPS

*Through and around Australia's Golden Outback*

Drive times in this guide are suggestions only & are based on travelling at 100kmph in 110kmph designated zones, but always ensure you drive to your capabilities and according to road, surface & weather conditions. Map intended as a guide only, please purchase a detailed map if travelling by road.



# WELCOME TO ROAD TRIP COUNTRY



## GASCOYNE MURCHISON



## The GOLDFIELDS



## WHEATBELT



## ESPERANCE and FITZGERALD COAST

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# GASCOYNE MURCHISON



Kennedy Range National Park,  
near Gascoyne Junction

# 1. ROAD TO THE ROCK

- 9 days
- Sealed and unsealed roads

This epic, 9-day road trip takes you from Perth, north to the Gascoyne Murchison region of Western Australia. You'll weave your way through gorgeous country towns, historical sites, station stays, carpets of wildflowers (in spring) and the world's biggest rock, Mount Augustus.

The Road to the Rock takes you more than 1,000km north of Perth to see Mount Augustus, the world's biggest rock – which amazingly, many Australians have never heard of. It is located within Mount Augustus National Park, a lush outback paradise with swimming holes, ancient rock art and a buzzing outback village. You will venture through historic towns like Paynes Find, Mount Magnet, Cue and Meekatharra whilst seeing amazing natural attractions like the Aboriginal rock art at Walga Rock.

Once you get to Mount Augustus National Park, you'll be wowed by the colours of the landscape which change from chalky white soils and fields of olive-coloured scrub to a dark, ruby red moonscape.

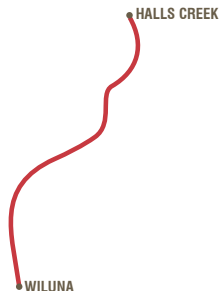


In Spring this area is awash with a kaleidoscope of wildflowers and carpets of everlastings. Mount Augustus is the star of this road trip, and it's easy to see why. At 1700 million years old, it is three times older than Uluru and twice the size, making it the largest rock in the world. There are a number of walk trails around the base of Mount Augustus, and a Summit Trail if you're keen for a climb and some epic views. This is an adventurous and rugged road trip for those wanting to truly experience the beauty of the WA outback.



## 2. CANNING STOCK ROUTE

- 15 days
- 4WD Track

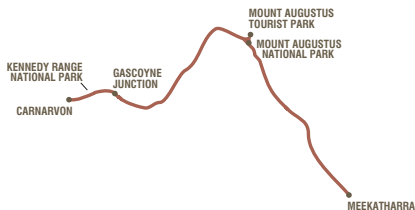


The Canning Stock Route is an internationally recognised 'Iconic Journey of Australia'. The remote trail runs from Halls Creek in the Kimberley region of Western Australia to Wiluna in the Northern Goldfields. Stretching 1,850 km, it is the longest historic stock route in the world and is perfect for experienced Outback 4WDers and we recommend travelling with another vehicle or in a convoy. Permits required.

The Canning Stock Route is rich in history, from both an Aboriginal and

pioneer perspective – and you'll feel this history with every kilometre you travel. This is a popular but very challenging four-wheel drive adventure trip which will take you through some of the most exciting and amazing scenery in WA. You'll cross four deserts en route - the Little Sandy, Gibson, Great Sandy and Tanami. As you cruise along, you'll be treated to amazing outback scenery including sand ridges that stretch to the horizon, spinifex grasslands, narrow gorges, sheer cliffs, ancient Aboriginal art sites, and engravings of explorers and drovers.





### 3. KINGSFORD SMITH MAIL RUN

- 3 Days
- Unsealed roads

Hit the Kingsford Smith Mail Run in your 4WD and head north on an outback camping adventure, following the original overland mail run to the magnificent Mt Augustus. This trail takes you from Carnarvon on the Coral Coast, inland to the historic gold mining town of Meekatharra.

This 3-day trail winds inland through beautiful pastoral land, to the iconic Mount Augustus, a massive monocline twice the size of Uluru. You'll find amazing walk trails and an incredible array of wildflower in spring. There are also incredible rock formations, caves and Indigenous art scattered throughout the Mt Augustus area. There's no shortage of swimming spots, places to fish and secluded picnic place. Adventure through the vast, timeless outback to finish your trip in historic Meekatharra. You can purchase the Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways Guidebook online or in local visitor centres to help plan your trip.



## 4. WOOL WAGON PATHWAY

- 3 days
- Unsealed roads

The Wool Wagon Pathway epitomises the true Australian outback. This self-drive trail takes you from Geraldton through the Gascoyne Murchison up to Exmouth in the Coral Coast. The drive takes you through historic and timeless towns like Pindar and Murchison Settlement whilst showcasing the real Aussie landscape.

Prepare yourself for wide open spaces, historic homesteads and plenty of wildlife. You can camp along the way or get a taste for life on the land by enjoying a station stay. There are lots of natural attractions to enjoy on this adventure, including natural springs, seashell fossils and gorgeous picnic spots. Take in the beauty of the Kennedy Ranges, boasting springs, cliffs, canyons and wildlife. Finish your trip in Exmouth where you can enjoy the spectacular Ningaloo Reef. You can purchase the Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways Guidebook online or in local visitor centres to help plan your trip.

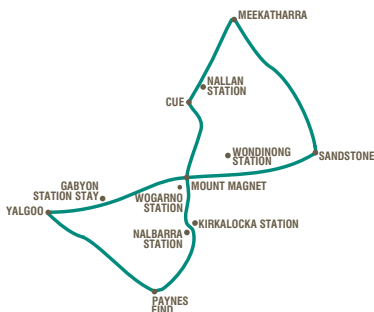






## 5. MINERS PATHWAY

- 4 days
- Sealed and unsealed roads



**Follow the Miners Pathway and explore the legacy of this remarkable period through the grand old buildings and the graveyards, the rusting machinery and the rich stories of those who lived in these whirlwind times.**

This 4-day trail takes you from Paynes Find to Meekatharra, or from Yalgoo to Sandstone. Venture along the Miners Pathway and explore the wild prospecting towns that rocketed to the forefront of Western Australia's gold rush in the 1800s, including

Mount Magnet and Cue. Soak up the open skies, amazing outback scenery and the richness of the great Murchison and Goldfields regions. In spring you'll be treated to an amazing array of wildflowers – but whenever you travel, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for wildlife including emus, wedge-tailed eagles and kangaroos. You can purchase the Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways Guidebook online or in local visitor centres to help plan your trip.

# The **GOLDFIELDS**



Antony Gormley 'Inside Australia' exhibit  
at Lake Ballard, near Menzies

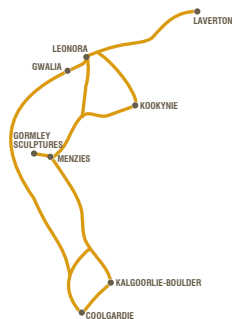
## 6. GOLDEN QUEST DISCOVERY TRAIL

- 6 days
- Sealed and unsealed roads

The Golden Quest Discovery Trail unearths the riches of the Goldfield's 120-year gold rush history – from the mind-blowing buzz of one of the largest open-cut gold mines on earth, to amazing ghost towns and the striking Antony Gormley Statues on Lake Ballard.

The Golden Quest Discovery Trail takes you from Kalgoorlie Boulder on an amazing loop trail from Coolgardie to Laverton, through incredible Goldfields towns, rich in heritage, history and charm. This is a true outback adventure where you can explore the gold rush legends, landmarks, outback pubs and eerie ghost towns of what is still one of the world's biggest gold producing regions.

The 965km trail leads you from the mind-blowing buzz of one of the largest open-cut gold mines on earth, the Super Pit, to the striking beauty of the 51 steel sculptures on Lake Ballard. You'll find outback pubs oozing with character,



perfect for enjoying a bite and a cold drink. There are a number of beautiful nature reserves and campsites, including the man-made lake, Niagara Dam. Tour the old prosperous town of Kookynie, which has a pub well worth the stop as well as old camps in the town of Gwalia, near Leonora, where the 31st United States President, Herbert Hoover, lived and worked.

Linking in with the Golden Quest Discovery Trail, the Green Trail highlights sites in the Kambalda and Coolgardie areas with outstanding environmental, historical or cultural values such as beautiful woodlands and natural salt lakes.

You can purchase the Golden Quest Discovery Trail Guidebook online or in local visitor centres en route to help plan your trip.





## 7. THE OUTBACK WAY

- 4 days
- Unsealed roads

The Outback Way is one of Australia's great odysseys. Known as 'Australia's Longest Shortcut', the route runs from Laverton, Western Australia to Winton in Queensland. The Outback Way crosses central Australia and is fast becoming one of the must-see and must do drive routes coast to coast. Permits required.



The 2,800km Outback Way offers an awe-inspiring journey through the red centre – taking you from the goldrush towns of Kalgoorlie and Laverton, through the Great Victoria Desert where you'll encounter vast salt lakes, scenic nature reserves, waterholes, natural springs and caves. The route takes you through Uluru, Alice Springs and Winton before arriving into Cairns. Learn

about ancient Aboriginal culture, life in the outback, and the natural environment of Australia's central desert. Visitors can enjoy searching for treasure boxes hidden along the 'Outback Way Geocache Trail'.

You can purchase the Outback Way Atlas from the Great Beyond Visitor Centre in Laverton as you embark on your adventure.



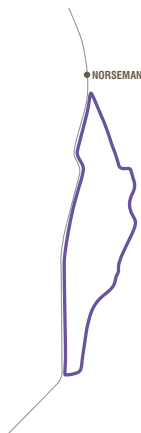
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## 8. NORSEMAN HERITAGE TRAIL

- 1-2 hours
- Sealed roads

The Dundas Coach Road Heritage Trail is a historic and fascinating loop trail, spread over 50km around Norseman. The trail features 10 key places of interest and each site features fascinating interpretive stories that help build a picture of life in the early years along the Coach Road.

This trail, which runs between Norseman and the site of the original township of Dundas, is easily done over a couple of hours and is a great way to explore a part of the beautiful Great Western Woodlands. In spring, this area is lush and alive with wildflowers. There are many picnic spots, walk trails and each point of interest has interpretive signage so you can learn more about the life and times of the hardy folk who flocked to the Dundas Goldfields during the gold rush.



## 9. GUNBARREL HIGHWAY

- 6 days
- Unsealed roads

Set off on the Gunbarrel Highway and experience one of Australia's most famous and challenging 4WD tracks. Built by surveyor Len Beadell, this 1,400km outback adventure is perfect for the confident 4WD enthusiast. Remote, experienced and well prepared 4WD only. Recommend travel with another vehicle. Permits required.

The Gunbarrel Highway runs from Wiluna in Western Australia's Northern Goldfields to Yulara in



the Northern Territory. Highlights of the highway include Giles Weather Station, Banjo Creek, Mt Beadell, Lasseter's Cave and Docker River. Follow the trail and keep an eye out for the interpretative plaques. You'll also find original bores and blaze trees along the trail, and keep your eyes peeled for outback animals like wild camels, dingoes and birdlife. Those who tackle this track will enjoy retelling the story of how they conquered the rugged and unforgiving "Gunbarrel".



## 10. ANNE BEADELL

- 5-7 Days
- Unsealed roads

The Anne Beadell Highway is an awe-inspiring route that passes through extremely remote desert areas. Stretching 1,350km from Laverton in the Northern Goldfields region, through to Coober Pedy in South Australia, this is a remote trail for experienced and well prepared 4WDers. Recommend travel with another vehicle. Permits are essential.

4WD enthusiasts will appreciate the vastness of the landscape on this route, as well as the dense scrub and challenges of the sandy track. Watch in awe as the terrain slowly changes from clay pans and salt lakes to red sand dunes. Be sure to stop by and experience the old Yeo Homestead, Yamarna Station and Djinkagara along the way. There are lots of unexpected sights on the trail, including the wreck of an old aircraft on the WA side of the track, and Emu Field, the former British atomic test site.

LAVERTON

TO COOBER PEDY





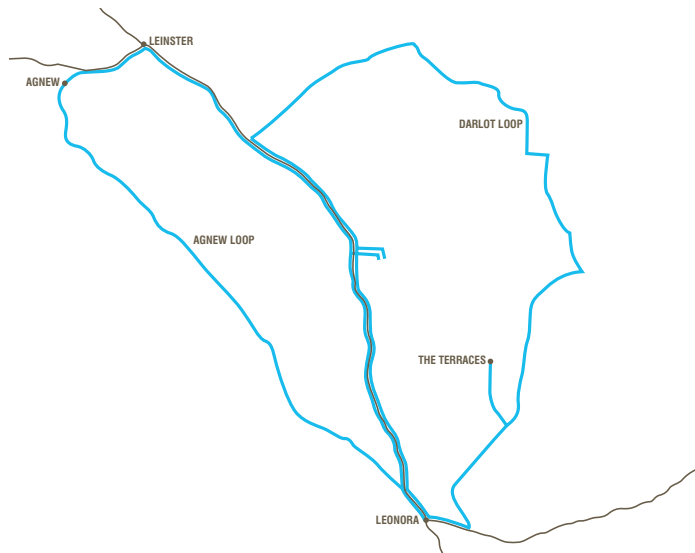
## 11. LEONORA LOOP TRAILS

- 1-3 hours
- Unsealed and sealed roads

Leonora is rich in history with amazing stories of the gold rush era. Throw in some incredible natural attractions and you've got a pretty amazing outback location! Two trails make up the Leonora Loop Trails – both with different themes. Do one or do both!

The Agnew and Darlot Trails are a great way to see the sights and soak up the stories of the Leonora Shire. Each trail has 15 interpretive sites across spaced roughly 15-30 kms apart. At each of these locations on the trail, you'll find an interpretive panel and, somewhere nearby, a figure, a 'ghost' from the past or a creature from the present, is waiting to share their story with you.

You can purchase a Leonora Loop Trail Guidebook at the Leonora Visitor Centre to find out more.



# WHEATBELT



PUBLIC Silo Art Trail, Merredin

## 12. PUBLIC SILO TRAIL

- 5 days
- Sealed roads

Explore this colourful route through the Wheatbelt and Great Southern following the PUBLIC Silo Trail, which has transformed by a string of massive grain silos into works of art. What better way to get off the beaten track and explore the Wheatbelt than following these larger than life murals?

The open-air gallery stretches from Northam to Albany. You'll wind your way through gorgeous Wheatbelt country towns like Merredin, rich with bright-yellow canola fields and wildflowers in spring. There are heaps of picnic spots and nature walks around this area, as well as Aboriginal tours. Go via Hyden and see the famous Wave Rock, before heading south to Newdegate where Perth muralist Brenton See has depicted, on an epic scale, the area's local wildlife; the Western Bearded Lizard, Mallee Fowl, Thigh Spotted Tree Frog and a Red-tailed Phascogale across four silos.



As you leave the countryside behind, you'll head towards the beautiful and expansive coastline of South West WA. Enjoy some time in quaint Hopetoun and be sure to explore the Fitzgerald River National Park, a stunningly rugged and beautiful park with many walk trails, camping spots and picnic places. You'll then head along the coast to Albany, home to the ANZAC Centre and amazing whale watching trips in season. For the home stretch, head back in-land towards the charming farming towns of Katanning and Pingrup and take in those wide landscapes and open skies.





## 13. GOLDEN PIPELINE HERITAGE TRAIL



- 3 Days
- Sealed roads

The Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail celebrates one of the world's greatest engineering marvels – a pipeline built 100 years ago to carry water from Mundaring Weir just outside Perth to the remote and semi-arid Goldfields of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The trail is full of historic gems and interesting stops.

The heritage trail, like the pipeline itself, runs from Mundaring Weir in the Perth Hills to Mt Charlotte in Kalgoorlie. The trail is punctuated with stops, most centred around pump stations and historic points of interest. You can see the many engineering points from the pipeline's construction, the Meckering earthquake fault line,

Cunderdin No.3 Pump Station Museum, true blue Aussie country pubs, one of the giant silo artworks that's part of the PUBLIC art trail west of Merredin. There are a number of beautiful camping and picnic places along this trail. You'll arrive into Kalgoorlie-Boulder where you can learn more about those heady gold rush days.



## 14. GRANITE AND WOODLANDS DISCOVERY TRAIL

- 2 Days
- Unsealed roads

Explore one of the world's greatest untouched temperate woodlands, right here in Western Australia. Stretching 300km from Hyden and Wave Rock to Norseman, the Granite and Woodlands Discovery Trail is an adventurous road trip through a remarkable landscape.

The Granite and Woodlands Discovery Trail passes through part of one of the world's greatest untouched temperate woodlands, a vast wilderness mosaic that is both beautiful and fascinating. The trail has 16 designated stopping places, each with interpretative signage that explains an aspect of natural or cultural history. You'll also find a scattering of beautiful walk trails, picnic spots and camping areas. There is a Guide to the Granite and Woodlands Discovery Trail which provides all the information you need to plan your trip. Find it at [australiasgoldenoutback.com/granitediscovery](http://australiasgoldenoutback.com/granitediscovery) or pick up a copy from the local visitor centre in Hyden or Norseman.



## 15. WHEATBELT WAY

- 4 Days
- Sealed roads

Take a trip through the fascinating Northern Wheatbelt with the Wheatbelt Way! This is an area that boasts a rich and extensive history, charming and friendly people, and all located in a diverse and truly Australian landscape.

Throughout this self-drive route you'll be treated to stunning natural surrounds, sites of historical significance, and the laid-back country atmosphere of the Wheatbelt. There are lots of campsites along the trail as well as walk trails and pretty picnic



spots. The trail takes you from cute country towns like Dowerin, Koorda and Beacon through to the Hood-Penn museum at historic Westonia and onto charming places like Bencubbin, Mukinbudin and Westonia where you'll find amazing, large granite outcrops perfect for exploring. Highlights include Wyalkatchem CBH Museum, Nungarin Markets and Mangowine Homestead. You can download a free Wheatbelt Way trail map or app from the Wheatbelt Way website.



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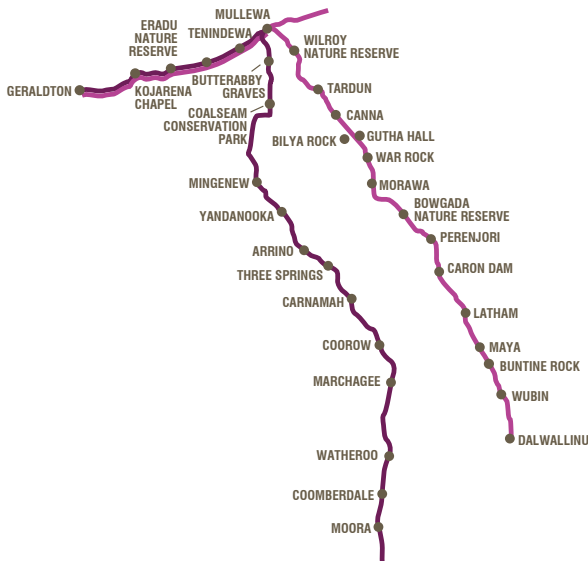


## 16. WILDFLOWER WAY

- 3 Days
- Sealed roads

WA is home to thousands of species of wildflowers, some found nowhere else on earth. Spring is the perfect time to explore the blooms, so mark your calendar and set off on a beautiful, colourful drive through the stunning Northern Wheatbelt, finishing in the coastal town of Geraldton. For your return to Perth, follow the new Midlands Route. Both trails are sign-posted and feature interpretive panels.

Each spring, this country bursts into bloom (normally between late August and October) with 'carpets' of everlastings through to the unique wreath flower. Make your way north from Perth through the picturesque Swan Valley, historic New Norcia and into gorgeous Dalwallinu. There are many wildflower trails around here, so you'll be spoilt for choice! Continue through wildflower hotspots including Wubin, Perenjori, Morawa and Mullewa searching for those elusive blooms and engaging and informative interpretive panels and sculptures along the way. Wildflower can sometimes bloom for as little as two weeks, so we recommend checking our Wildflower Hotspots page or ringing the local visitor centres before setting off on your trip.



## 17. PIONEERS' PATHWAY



- 3 Days
- Sealed roads

**Delve deep into Western Australia's fascinating pioneering history on the Pioneers' Pathway and retrace the well-worn paths of our early farming pioneers.**

Start your journey in the charming town of Toodyay and soak up the atmosphere of colonial era pubs and scenic riverside picnic spots, before heading north-east through quaint Wheatbelt towns such as Goomalling with its 1856 Slater Homestead (which doubles as a B&B!) and Dowerin where the colossal Tin Dog sculpture greets you.

Springtime is dazzling with pretty orchids and everlastings, but there are also great museums to explore. The Wyalkatchem CBH Museum features an impressive collection of 20th century farm memorabilia, Nungarin's Heritage Machinery and Army Museum with keepsakes from both world wars, The National Trust's 1876 Mangowine Homestead, the magnificent Cummins Theatre and Merredin's Railway Museum and History Museum. The trail concludes in Merredin, from where you can continue your epic road trip adventure and join up with the Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail or PUBLIC Silo Trail.



## 18. NORTHERN WHEATBELT WONDERS

- 3 Days
- Sealed roads

**The Northern Wheatbelt is a remarkable part of Western Australia, with golden wheatfields as far as the eye can see and clear night skies just perfect for skygazing. But come springtime you'll find yourself in wildflower heaven, you'll never want to leave!**

You can attempt this 3 day trail any time of year, but spring is the best time to take a road trip north and see the wildflower blooms.

Head via the Swan Valley and famous Bindoon Bakery calling into Australia's only monastic town at New Norcia. Explore the reserves around Calingiri and Lake Ninan, before reaching Wongan Hills with its 1,300 flora species, picturesque hills and wildflower walk trails.

Dalwallinu is a wildflower hot spot (and first town on the Wildflower Way, see page 21), and if you're lucky you might even see the rare wreath lechenaultia flower. Turning south west, Moora's town clock welcomes you. Take a stroll along the Carnaby Cockatoo Trail with its stunning salmon gums and try and spot these rather shy birds in their natural habitat. Close to Moora there are two wildflower farms to visit where you can even purchase dried Western Australian wildflower as a souvenir of your trip.





## 19. PATHWAYS TO WAVE ROCK

- 3 Days
- Sealed roads

**Ready to surf an inland wave?** Then it's time to hit the road and head to Wave Rock in beautiful Hyden. If you're looking for a fun and action-packed itinerary to get you there from Perth, Pathways to Wave Rock is the one for you.



This road trip is best done over 3 days and will take you on a journey of discovery through the changing landscapes and charming farming communities of the Western Australian Wheatbelt. Stop at gorgeous country towns to enjoy some authentic country hospitality. The trail is punctuated

with massive granite outcrops which are perfect for hiking and feature spectacular views. You'll see natural bushland, bright-yellow canola fields and in spring, amazing displays of vibrant wildflowers and rare orchids. There are lots of places to camp and you'll see some of the most spectacular night skies in the world. Highlights include Kokerbin Rock, the Grain Discovery Centre, Tin Horse Highway, Lake Grace with its outback winery and of course, Wave Rock.

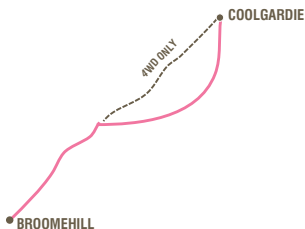


## 20. THE HOLLAND WAY AND THE JOHN HOLLAND TRACK

- 3 Days
- Sealed and unsealed roads

Embark on a real Australian outback adventure following a pioneering route created by John Holland through rugged bushland and woodlands. Connecting Broomehill to Coolgardie in the Goldfields, this is an adventurous and fun 4WD route.

The trail can actually be undertaken in two sections, each with different driving conditions. The Holland Way route consists of mainly bituminised roads and usually good surface gravel roads. The John Holland Track also starts in Broomehill, but from the Hyden/Norseman Road north it follows a different route that is a proper, 4WD adventurers track! Both offer an amazing drive through gorgeous countryside, beautiful salt lakes, granite outcrops and rock formations and nature reserves. There are lots of gorgeous camping spots but come prepared as much of this track is remote.



## 21. WINERIES, WOODLANDS AND WHEATBELT TRAIL

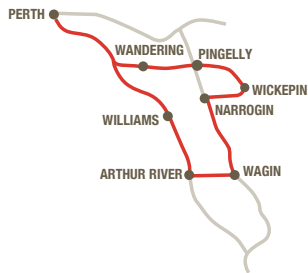
- 3 Days
- Sealed roads

Taking a trip 'south' to the Southern Wheatbelt is full of surprise. Packed with rich pioneering and Aboriginal history, award-winning wineries, nature and heritage trails, you'll also see some of the incredible conservation efforts to help preserve WA's endangered marsupials such as super cute numbats and woylies.

This trail takes you to the heart of the Great Southern through Wheatbelt wine country and charter-filled towns such as Williams, Darkan, Arthur River, Wagin, Narrogin, Wickepin. Marvel at WA's largest timber structure built since the second world war at Pingelly (the multi-million-dollar Pingelly Recreation and Culture Centre).

At Wagin, visit the biggest merino wool ram in the southern hemisphere, also home of the

Woolorama, held annually in March. Nature lovers will appreciate the conservation areas of Boyagin Rock, Tutanning Reserve, Foxes Lair and the Dryandra Woodlands with its Barna Mia sanctuary. Lake Towerrinning is the perfect spot for lakeside camping, astrophotography and water sports. Before heading home call in at the Williams Woolshed for souvenirs, fine woollen garments and local wines.





## 22. EYRE HIGHWAY AND NULLARBOR LINKS

- 2 Days
- Sealed roads

Driving across the Nullarbor is a bucket list experience and considered one of the world's most epic road trips. Spanning from Norseman in WA to Ceduna in SA, it's only when you're on the road, that you'll truly gain an appreciation of its vast and wide interior.



Along the Nullarbor you can play the world's longest golf course, the Nullarbor Links. This 18-hole par 72 'golf course' spans 1,365km with one hole in most of the participating towns or roadhouses along the Eyre Hwy. Before heading off from Norseman check out Beacon Hill Lookout for great views and call into the brand new Woodlands Cultural Centre. In Balladonia, see the

Skylab space station debris which crashed nearby. Take a look at the Caiguna Blowhole and drive the '90 Mile Straight', Australia's longest stretch of straight road. Enjoy scenic views of the escarpment from Madura Pass or check out the Nullarbor Museum at Mundrabilla Motel. At the WA border in Eucla, wander the old telegraph station ruins, and check out the historical collection at the Eucla Motel.



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A scenic view of a rocky coastline with turquoise water and two people on paddleboards. The image shows a steep, rocky hillside with sparse green vegetation overlooking a calm, clear turquoise bay. Two people are standing on paddleboards in the water, one further up than the other. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

# ESPERANCE *and* FITZGERALD COAST

Esperance and the Fitzgerald Coast  
are renowned for their amazing beaches



## 23. ROAD TO ESPERANCE

- 5 days
- Sealed roads

**Esperance is an absolute haven of natural wonders. You'll find an abundance of white-sand beaches, rugged national parks and the clearest ocean water. Esperance is just over 700km from Perth and the drive to get there is one EPIC road trip!**

There's so much to see on the Road to Esperance - you can take two routes so mix it up on the way home and see two different perspectives of this part of the Golden Outback. On the way there go via Hyden so you can catch a wave at the famous Wave Rock and see some super-sized art at Ravensthorpe along the PUBLIC Silo Trail. On the way back, more supersized art at Newdegate, Pingrup and Katanning heading through the Southern Wheatbelt countryside with wineries and vast salt lakes.



Once in Esperance, make sure to take a day trip to Cape Le Grand National Park and meet the kangaroos of Lucky Bay, swim, snorkel or just sunbathe at some of the most incredible beaches in the world, or climb Frenchman's Peak for some epic views of the ocean and the islands of the Archipelago. Back in Esperance town, you can enjoy more coastal adventures along the Great Ocean Drive, grab a beer at a craft brewery or walk along the gorgeous Esplanade.

If you want to get out onto the water, we'd recommend taking a cruise and exploring the nearby islands. If you're feeling adventurous, you can take a scenic flight over Lake Hillier in Middle island to see the incredible bubble-gum pink lake.



## 24. RAVENSTHORPE RANGE

- 2-3 hours
- Sealed and unsealed roads

The Fitzgerald River National Park and the Ravensthorpe Range which forms part of the UNESCO recognised Fitzgerald Biosphere, is one of the most botanically significant parks in Australia, containing 20% of WA's 12,000 unique plant species. This accessible wilderness is an area of outstanding natural beauty and biodiversity showcasing the very best of the pristine bushland and coastal landscape.

The Ravensthorpe Range is 45km long and has a number of walk and drive trails that offer panoramic views of the district, and its mining history, home to one of the largest collection of Eucalyptus species in the world and simply exploding with wildflowers during spring. It is accessible by all vehicles via Ethel Daw Drive or Archer Drive although a 4WD is required to access the Range Top Drive.

Whilst you are in the area, head to the National Park with its rugged and unspoilt beauty, where you can leave the hustle behind and trade the sound of traffic to bird calls and melodic tunes of the ocean. Here you will certainly find a picnic spot,



hike trails or pristine beach location that's totally yours. Take the scenic Hamersley Drive from Hopetoun with sealed road access to the park that will take you on a spectacular journey with breathtaking vistas and ocean views. A park entry pass is required.



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
OUR EPIC ROAD TRIPS:**  
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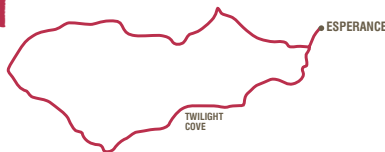


## 25. GREAT OCEAN DRIVE

- 1-2 hours
- Sealed roads

Is this the best stretch of coastline in Australia? Renowned for having some of the finest beaches in Australia and the clearest, crystalline waters; Esperance packs a coastal punch that's hard to beat. This drive takes just an hour or two to complete and showcases some of the best beaches in Australia.

The Great Ocean Drive is circular loop that showcases a vast range of coastal elements such as stunning beaches, rocky headlands, small



bays, steep cliffs and hidden ocean pools. If you're feeling adventurous, you can also cycle or walk the trail, following the coast from the Esplanade all the way to Twilight Cove. The drive may only take a couple of hours to complete, but we'd recommend stopping at whichever spot takes your fancy to enjoy a spot of snorkelling, surfing, swimming, walking or just taking in the amazing view!

## TIPS AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

Driving around Australia's Golden Outback may take you into remote areas where forward planning is important to ensure your experience is safe and enjoyable.

- Always tell someone where you are going, return dates & travel itinerary.
- Make sure your vehicle is in top condition. In event of a breakdown in remote locations, remain with your vehicle. Carry extra food, water, fuel & spare tyres & pack a first-aid kit.
- Check road conditions before leaving as rain can make tracks/roads impassable. If driving on corrugated/unsealed roads, exercise caution & slow down.
- Food/fuel are generally available every 100-300kms, but plan ahead as some petrol stations/supermarkets/food outlets have restricted hours & limited bank/credit facilities. LPG Autogas is not available in all areas.
- Take care at all railway crossings as not all crossings have flashing lights.
- Road trains are common & often have up to 4 trailers. Always leave approx. 200m between vehicles in a convoy. Only overtake if the road is clear for a long distance ahead.
- Slow-moving agricultural machinery may be encountered, so take care when overtaking. Dust can obscure vision when travelling on dirt roads. Beware of wandering livestock/ wildlife, especially at dusk & dawn.
- Plan to travel for no longer than 8-10 hrs a day & take a break every 2 hrs.
- Please dispose of your rubbish properly.
- During the summer months obtain fire danger information. Only light fires when permitted in the designated areas. Check advice from the local visitor centre or Ranger/DPaW office.

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