

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL

3rd to 20th September 2024 (18 days)

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

wild flowers and endemic wildlife

"mindblowing...  
ten out of ten... eleven!"  
"I'd like to do this trip again"  
"all places visited were  
fascinating"

Western Australia 2014

The south-west of Western Australia is a vast botanical garden. Tall forest, woodlands, shrublands and heath are home to over 4,000 species, 80% of which grow nowhere else: a truly remarkable flora.

Mid-spring is the time when the flowers are at their best. Banksias and Grevilleas, Hakeas and myrtles, kangaroo paws, wreath-flowers, trigger flowers and a bewildering diversity of orchids, plus oh so many more, combine to create a colourful floral extravaganza.

We start and finish in Perth, concentrating on discovering the magnificent array of wild flowers in the state, while also gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of the wider natural heritage: the itinerary will give us plenty of opportunity to see mammals, reptiles and the chance to catch up with many of Western Australia's endemic birds.

The Perth hinterland is as diverse as it is fascinating. From the Darling Ranges we travel north through the Banksia-Eucalypt woodlands and mallee shrub and heathlands to Pinnacles National Park. Further north lies Kalbarri National Park, where a huge variety of wild flowers clothe the plains surrounding the Murchison River gorges.

Passing south from Perth through the coastal shrublands, many roads are lined with wild flowers, ablaze with colour. A canopy walkway will take us high into the famed Karri-Tingle and Jarrah-Marri forests. Coastal cliffs provide great viewing of breeding Southern Right Whales offshore of Fitzgerald River National Park. East lie the Dryandra woodlands home to endangered marsupials, while in the Stirling Range we will climb onto the summit ridge, with flowers in abundance and lizards much in evidence.



### Price

£5,175

### Single Room Supplement

£750

(does not include international flight)

### Full board

<b>Day 1</b>	arrive Perth
<b>Day 2</b>	Kings Park, Ellis Brook
<b>Day 3</b>	Pinnacles
<b>Day 4</b>	Hi Vallee Farm
<b>Day 5/6</b>	Kalbarri NP
<b>Day 7</b>	Tallering region
<b>Day 8</b>	Lesueur NP
<b>Day 9</b>	Perth
<b>Day 10</b>	travel to Hyden
<b>Day 11</b>	Hopetoun
<b>Day 12/13</b>	Fitzgerald River NP
<b>Day 14</b>	Stirling Range
<b>Day 15</b>	Jarra-Karri forests
<b>Day 16</b>	D'Entrecasteaux NP
<b>Day 17</b>	Dryandra
<b>Day 18</b>	return to Perth

### Leaders

Mark Hanger and Laurie Jackson

### Group size

min 4, max 14



## ITINERARY

**Please note that we may change the itinerary to suit local weather and road conditions or for other practical reasons, at the leaders' discretion.**

**Day 1, 3rd September.** The holiday starts in Perth, where we will meet up at our city centre hotel in time for dinner. o/n Perth.

**Please note: international flights and travel to/from Perth are not included in the holiday to allow you maximum flexibility in making your personal travel arrangements. Virgin and Qantas both fly to Perth.**

**Day 2, 4th September.** A gentle start to our holiday sees us visiting the renowned **Kings Park Botanic Gardens** with its views of the Swan River and Darling Range. In the afternoon we will walk among the granite outcrops at **Ellis Brook Valley Reserve**. The lower valley slopes here have some of the highest concentrations of wild flower species in the Perth region, set among dramatic scenery. o/n Perth.

**Day 3, 5th September.** We drive north from Perth to Cervantes, familiarising ourselves with the heathland flora of the sandplains to the north of Perth. We will also visit the renowned **Pinnacles** region, famed for its limestone formations. o/n Cervantes.

**Day 4, 6th September.** We take an excursion today on to the vast **Hi Vallee Farm**, exploring this botanical treasure trove by 4WD, stopping numerous times to further investigate the myriad of plant species. This region has an incredible array of Western Australian wild flowers and we will be visiting right at the time of peak flowering. We enjoy a full day driving around the station to view and photograph orchids, grevilleas and dryandras, not to mention many species of the region's birds. o/n Cervantes.

**Day 5, 7th September.** Our day starts with a visit to nearby **Lake Thetis** to see its 'living fossils', the fascinating stromatolites. We then depart for the spectacular **Kalbarri National Park**. As we travel, the Northampton roadsides will enthral, while the rugged Zuytdorp Cliffs we reach this afternoon, is home to a very different flora. o/n Kalbarri.

**Day 6, 8th September.** Our day is spent in the Kalbarri National Park, discovering the huge variety of wild flowers, the **Murchison River gorges** and the coast. Both the sand plains and the coastal cliffs abound in magnificent displays of river gums, gold and orange banksias, grevilleas, kangaroo paws, featherflowers, starflowers and smokebushes. From lookouts above the gorge, Euros and Western Grey Kangaroos may be spotted, while lizards frequent the bluffs, and parrots the valley tree tops. o/n Kalbarri.

**Day 7, 9th September.** This morning we turn inland to the dry **Tallering region**. Here



amidst the sand and shrubland grow perhaps the most spectacular of Western Australia's wild flowers, the Wreathflower *Lechenaultia macrantha*. The flora in this region is markedly different from any other area on the trip. Other special plants may include Native Pomegranate *Balaustion microphyllum*, Pink Fountain *Stylidium brunoniamum* and Wells Dampiera *Dampiera wellsiana*. o/n Dongara.

**Day 8, 10th September.** Today we visit **Lesueur National Park**, covering 27,000 hectares, this is the third largest of Western Australia's National Parks. Amongst over 900 flower species are rare *Banksia tricuspis* and *Banksia attenuata*. We will look for diminutive Flying Duck Orchid, *Xanthosia tomentosa* and spiny *Synaphea spinulosa*. We then continue on to Perth. o/n Perth.

**Day 9, 11th September.** Today is a **free day** to explore Perth at your own pace.

Highly recommended is a day-trip to **Rottneest Island**, home to the ever-smiling Quokka, one of Western Australia's most endearing endemic mammals, along with King's Skink, Banded Stilt and the endemic Rottneest Island Pine, while Humpback Whales are a frequent sight just off-shore.

Instead, you might choose to take an excursion on Swan River, explore historic Freemantle, or spend more time in Kings Park. o/n Perth.

**Day 10, 12th September.** Today is a travel day as we head over 300km east, inland towards Hyden. This brings new landscapes as the **vast interior of Western Australia** beckons, and we will no doubt stop along the way to enjoy the flora at the roadside. o/n Hyden.

**Day 11, 13th September.** We depart for the southern coast, heading to the Ravensthorpe Range and Hopetoun region.

Features en route will be the salt pans of Lake King, and widespread roadside shrublands ablaze with colourful flowers. In this region Western Tiger snakes may be seen and Southern Heath Monitors are often seen in the heathlands. o/n Hopetoun.

**Day 12, 14th September.** A region of remarkable contrasts, **Fitzgerald River National Park** lies near Hopetoun. We'll check out the shorebirds on the nearby lagoon before enjoying shrublands



**Photos:** Orchids of Western Australia (clockwise from top). *Diuris laxiflora*, *Caladenia multiclavia*, *Elythranthera emarginata*, *Caladenia macrostylis*, *Thelymitra antennifer*, *Leptoceras menziesii*.

including such world-renowned species as Royal Hakea, Pincushion Hakea, Four-winged Mallee, Scarlet Banksia, Qualup Bell, and Barrens Regelia.

We walk up East Mount Barren before continuing west to Stirling Range Retreat. En route along the Albany Highway, a fascinating array of orchids may include such wonderful (and wonderfully named!) species as the Zebra Orchid, Fringed Mantis Orchid, Wispy Spider Orchid, Silky Blue Orchid and Sugar Candy Orchid. o/n Stirling Range Retreat.

**Day 13, 15th September.** The southern end of Fitzgerald River National Park beckons today. We'll explore the coastal heathlands, look out for Southern Right Whales as they loll in the clear waters just off the shore, and enjoy the wildflower diversity of the Quaalup Homestead property. Quaalup is also home to the Endangered Carnaby's Black-cockatoo, endemic to the south-west of Western Australia. After an early dinner at the homestead we'll return to Bremer Bay. o/n Stirling Range Retreat.

**Day 14, 16th September.** An unmissable highlight of any visit to Western Australia is the **Stirling Range**. This dramatic National Park has over 1,000 species of flowering plant and a wonderful array of birds, while a half-day walk up onto the summit ridge is one of the most rewarding walks anywhere. Flowers are in abundance; Wedge-tailed Eagles soar above, and on the ground a variety of lizards can be found. o/n Stirling Range Retreat.

**Day 15, 17th September.** Returning west via the south coast takes in the southern Jarrah-Karri forests. **Tomdirrup National Park** has a spectacular granite coastline and a range of coastal shrublands. We will pay a short visit to the fascinating and scenic William Bay, before continuing west into the renowned Jarrah and Karri forests. We walk amidst the canopy of these magnificent trees on a high-level canopy walkway, and gain a better understanding of the intricacies of the relationship between forest and fire. A new flora introduces itself as the wetter regions of the state are entered. o/n Manjimup.

**Day 16, 18th September.** We travel south today to seek out the enthralling and rare Albany Pitcher Plant, before visiting the fascinating and vast dune systems that stretch along 130km of coastline within **D'Entrecasteaux National Park**, near Pemberton. o/n Manjimup.

**Day 17, 19th September.** We depart north today for **Dryandra Woodland National Park**. Dryandra is a very special place and one of the few remaining areas of pristine south-western woodland in Western Australia. We will explore the Dryandra woodlands in more detail: a huge array of Leguminous and Proteaceous shrubs will astound.

Short-beaked Echidnas are regularly seen foraging during the day, while larger marsupials such as the Black-gloved Wallaby, Tammam Wallaby and the wonderful termite-eating Numbat may be encountered, if our luck is in. o/n Narrogin.



**Day 18, 20th September.** It is farewell the Southern region as we complete the drive back to Perth. We'll have to time to stop en route a few times to sample yet more roadside colour and maybe a last few orchid species! We will arrive back at Perth Airport during the early afternoon.

### Leaders and guides

Our guide for this exploration of Western Australia will be **Mark Hanger**, a Director of Nature Quest New Zealand. A graduate in Botany from Otago University, Mark was employed with the National Parks and Reserves Service in Otago for seven years, concentrating on interpretation of the natural environment to the public. Along with a professional involvement in conservation since 1979, Mark has had an equally long private interest in conservation. He has been a member of the Catlins Forest Park Committee, on the Otago branch committee of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society for twelve years.

Mark led our previous holidays to Western Australia, as well as our visits to Tasmania, New Caledonia and his home country of New Zealand.

Our Wildlife Travel leader for this trip will be **Laurie Jackson** an excellent all-round naturalist and professional ecologist, who will be familiar to our travellers as an experienced Wildlife Travel leader.



**Photos:** Wildlife of Western Australia (clockwise from top) Spotted Burrowing Frog, Galah, Western Grey Kangaroo, Short-beaked Echidna, Western Pygmy Possum, Quokka



## Weather

We will be travelling in Western Australia's springtime. Days are long and sunny, nights are mild. Spring is an excellent time for walking in the bush and a variety of other outdoor activities. Western Australia has a relaxed lifestyle, so dress will be informal at all times. Bring comfortable clothing and anticipate a similar range of temperatures to a British summer - it should be pleasantly warm: likely temperature range around Perth in September is 10 C to 25 C: it will be warmer in the north and inland, cooler in the south and on the coast. Rain is always possible at all times.

## Travel

We will be using an air-conditioned coach throughout the trip with microphone, ample luggage storage in the trailer, and tea and coffee provisions. On the longer journeys we will make plenty of comfort stops and have time to stretch our legs a little and explore some of the places en route.

## Accommodation and Meals

All accommodation is of a very comfortable standard and all rooms have en-suite accommodation. In most locations it is average to good standard, 3 star equivalent, although higher than this on occasion.

Direct dial phones, in room tea/coffee facilities, laundry facilities, irons and hair dryers are usually available at most locations.

Evening meals will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotels, and we will have picnic lunches, or use local cafes and restaurants along the way. All meals are included in the holiday price, with the exception of lunch and dinner on day 9, your free day in Perth.

## Health and Fitness

This is an 18-day tour, stopping at several locations, and you therefore need to be generally fit and able to cope with 'living out of a suitcase' and frequent journeys between areas, with some long travel days.

On some days we will not be walking very far, but on others we will take longer walks. We do not do any strenuous hikes but we may be out for a few hours at a time on some days. Most walking will be at a slow pace to give us the time to enjoy the plants, scenery and wildlife. If you are a slow walker however, please ring us to discuss whether any of the walks will be a problem. All walks are, of course, optional, with less energetic options available.

To see the best of the flowers, it is necessary to walk on rougher **ground and up small slopes**. Comfortable footwear is essential, and it must be strong enough to withstand



rough or rocky ground underfoot: walking boots or stout walking sandals are essential for all areas out of the towns.

The sun can be very strong and **sun protection is essential**. Personal travel insurance providing good medical cover is essential for this trip. Safety advice given by the leaders must be heeded at all times particularly when walking in the countryside. We will send you advice on health and safety issues before the tour.

You are recommended to wear a face mask (FFP2 or equivalent) in the airports and on all flights.

General travel inoculations are recommended: for details, visit [fittfortravel.nhs.uk](https://www.fittfortravel.nhs.uk)

## Entry requirements

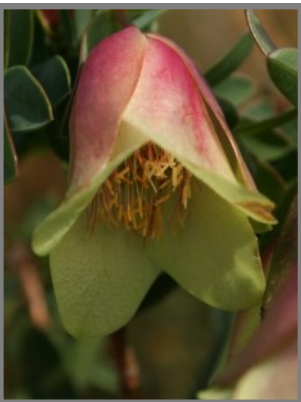
If you are a British passport holder, your passport should be valid for the proposed duration of your stay. If you are transiting another country on your way to or from Australia, check the entry requirements for that country.

British passport holders must apply for an eVisitor visa before arranging their travel to Australia. The eVisitor is free, and can be applied for at [www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/evisa](https://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/evisa)

There are no COVID-related entry requirements currently in place for travel to/within Australia.

For up to date information, please check <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/australia>. Holders of other passports should check with the relevant embassy.

**Photos:** Wildflowers of Western Australia (clockwise from top)  
*Banksia menziesii*, *Stylidium schoenioides*, *Banksia coccinea*, *Grevillea insignis*, *Pimelea physodes*, *Anigozanthos rufus*, *Verticordia grandis*



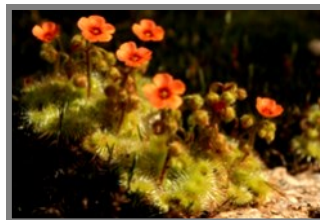
## Travelling to Western Australia

**PLEASE NOTE International flights and travel to/from Perth are not included in the holiday to allow you maximum flexibility in making your personal travel arrangements.** You may want to extend your holiday in Western Australia, spend time elsewhere in Australia or have a stopover in Asia. Several major airlines fly to Perth, including Qantas, Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines and Emirates. We can arrange extra nights' accommodation in Perth before or after the tour.

If you would like Sunvil to book your flight, please ring their Sales Department on 0208 847 3041. The flight will be invoiced and needs to be paid for separately. Other travel agents are, of course, available to book your flights.

### Insurance

Personal travel insurance providing good medical cover is essential for this trip.



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**TO BOOK:** Contact us to check availability and reserve a place. Then complete the Booking Form and send to Sunvil Holidays (CAA-ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218), our tour operator, with your deposit. All details about booking are given in the Booking Pack.

**DEPOSIT PER PERSON £500, SECOND INSTALMENT ON CONFIRMATION OF HOLIDAY £1,500 (to cover committed costs) BALANCE DUE BY 04/06/2024**

**INCLUDED:** Local transport as specified in the itinerary. 17 nights accommodation, full board basis: all meals from dinner day 1 to lunch day 18, EXCEPT lunch and dinner on Day 9. All excursions as described in the itinerary. Admission fees and National Park permit fees, where appropriate. Services of leaders and guides.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International flights and transfers from Perth airport to the hotel. Optional activities. Lunch and evening meal on Day 9. Refreshments. Entrance fees during any optional sightseeing (e.g. museums). Items of a personal nature. Gratuities. Travel insurance. Visa costs.

\*Deposit and cancellation amounts are set in order to allow us to confirm the holiday as soon as possible based on the minimum number of clients needed to cover shared costs and to prevent us from having to cancel the holiday if any individual bookings are cancelled thereafter.

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### WILDLIFE TRAVEL

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*Directors: Brian Eversham, Laurie Jackson, Philip Precey, Michael Russell, Tim Upson  
Wildlife Travel Ltd. Reg. No 2237697; (for Registered Charity numbers, please contact us)*

**Photos (front):** *Lechenaultia formosa*, *Verticordia nobilis*, Red-capped Parakeet, Stirling Range NP.  
(above): *Drosera glanduligera*, flowering heath at Dryandra Woodlands.

A trip report from our 2014 visit can be found on our website, along with a gallery of photos on our Flickr pages.