



## WESTERN WILDFLOWERS DISCOVERY

### PERTH - PERTH

#### SAMPLE ITINERARY

*This is a sample itinerary and may be subject to change. We may need to alter or amend itineraries, excursions, accommodation, or sightseeing arrangements from those published, with little or no notice. This may be due to road conditions, weather, cultural considerations, safety factors and other operational considerations or government regulations. Final itineraries are sent to passengers approximately 2-3 weeks before travel.*

#### DAY 1 – Perth

Today you will be met by our friendly and professional Tour Directors. This afternoon we take an informative tour of the city including scenic Kings Park. Kings Park also features the Perth Botanic Garden and here we enjoy a wander through the magnificent display of the area's wildflowers. We later check-in to the Crown Promenade at the Burswood Entertainment Complex for our overnight stay. (D)

Please Note: Your city tour is dependent on your flight arrival time.

#### DAY 2 – Perth - Wave Rock - Hyden

This morning we depart Perth and travel east through the John Forrest National Park. Visit York and the historic York Motor Museum before continuing to Hyden, arriving mid-afternoon.

This tiny town located in Western Australia's semi-arid wheat belt is home to the fascinating and unique geological formation known as Wave Rock. After exploring Wave Rock we overnight at the Hyden Wave Rock Motel. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 3 – Coolgardie - Kalgoorlie

Today we depart Hyden and continue our travels towards the far-east mining district of Kalgoorlie-Boulder. Since 1893 the area of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has produced over 50 million ounces of gold, one of only 4 districts in the world to have reached such a milestone. We arrive this afternoon and enjoy a town tour followed by a tour of the incredible Super Pit mine. The Super Pit is now nearly 600 metres deep, 3.5 km long and 1.5 km wide! Enjoy expert commentary from your local guide as we drive along

internal haul roads and get up close to the operations of this massive mine. This afternoon we check-in to the Rydges Kalgoorlie Resort for our overnight stay. (B,L,D)

\*\*\*All passengers will need to wear long sleeves and pants with enclosed shoes for the Super Pit Mine tour. No sandals or high heels allowed. This is due to their strict OH&S Policies \*\*\*\*

#### DAY 4 – Norseman - Esperance

This morning we head south through the villages of Kambalda and Norseman to the seaside town of Esperance. Along the way there are generally some spectacular wildflower displays that we will stop to enjoy. Upon our arrival at the coast we take the scenic Great Ocean Drive which includes Rotary Lookout which showcases Esperance's spectacular coastline of tranquil bays, soaring cliffs and beautiful beaches.

Upon our arrival into Esperance this afternoon we check-in to the Comfort Inn Bay of Isles Motel, located along the foreshore. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 5 – Stirling Range National Park - Albany

This morning we travel west through Ravensthorpe and Jerramungup stopping along the way for lunch. Later this afternoon we visit Bluff Knoll Lookout in the majestic Stirling Range National Park before arriving in the whaling town of Albany. We spend the next two nights at the Dog Rock Motel. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 6 – Discovering Albany

This morning we take a drive to view the Natural Bridge and The Gap located in Torndirrup National Park. The Natural Bridge is a granite formation that looks like a giant rock bridge caused by the gradual wearing away of the granite rock by the force of the Great Southern Ocean.

We then visit the 'Discovery Bay Tourism Experience', a magnificent whaling museum in Albany. Take an interactive journey through the last operating whaling station in Australia, supported by a series of audio visual displays, artefacts and whaling history.

This afternoon we board a catamaran for a spectacular cruise in Albany's harbour followed by a self-guided audio



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tour at the National Anzac Centre. We return to the Dog Rock Motel for our final night in Albany. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 7 – Ancient Empire & Valley of the Giants – Margaret River**

Today we travel to the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, home to a grove of veteran Karri and Tingle trees known as the Ancient Empire. These are some of the largest trees in the world, measuring up to 16 metres around the base. To get a closer look, we'll visit the world class Valley of The Giants Tree Top Walk which soars gently upwards amidst the Tingle foliage to a world of birds and flowers.

We also visit the Gloucester Tree, the second highest fire lookout tree in the world. (The tree can be climbed by the more adventurous! Subject to accessibility).

This afternoon we continue through the various state forests of the south west before arriving into Margaret River, Western Australia's premium wine growing region which boasts over 40 world class wineries. Here we check in to Stay Margaret River for our two-night stay. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 8 – Cape Leeuwin - Margaret River**

This morning we enjoy some local touring before heading to Cape Leeuwin where we join a guided tour of the old historic lighthouse. We then head back to the Margaret River region for some lunch and a wine tasting at Swings and Roundabouts. We return to the hotel for our second night stay. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 9 – Busselton - Fremantle**

This morning we depart Margaret River to visit Busselton on Geographe Bay and visit the 1.7 km jetty, the longest in WA. Travel via the Tuart forests to Bunbury, where we take in the impressive view over the harbour and city from the local lookout. We then continue on through Australind and Mandurah before arriving in the cosmopolitan city of Fremantle mid-afternoon.

Located at the mouth of the Swan River, Fremantle is a major Australian port city and serves as the port for Perth. It's also been ranked as one of the best cities to travel to in the world. This afternoon we'll enjoy a tour of the town before checking into the centrally located Esplanade Hotel by Rydges. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 10 – Fremantle - Rottnest Island - Swan River - Perth**

This morning enjoy a visit to the Western Australian Maritime Museum. This spectacular museum has six themed galleries, one of which houses the famous racing yacht Australia II, with the winged keel that won the America's Cup. The museum also houses the retired HMAS Ovens Submarine which was built in 1969 and donated to the museum.

Later this morning we depart Fremantle B-Shed jetty and take a ferry transfer to Rottnest Island! A new inclusion on this tour!

Here we enjoy lunch and an informative coach tour visiting the island's most spectacular locations with insightful commentary. You might even meet a quokka or two along the way!

After some free time, sit back and relax while the Rottnest Express ferry back from the island takes you up the Swan River all the way back to Perth.

Our overnight stay is at the Crown Promenade (B,L,D)

*\*Please note: due to Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary undergoing major works, we are unable to visit this attraction.*

### **DAY 11 – Nambung National Park (The Pinnacles) - Kalbarri**

After breakfast the South West Explorer passengers depart the tour, while we trek north to the famous Nambung National Park, home to the interesting formations known as the Pinnacles. Here thousands of limestone pillars rise from the shifting yellow sands, resembling a landscape from a science fiction movie. This afternoon continue north through Geraldton and on to the small scenic town of Kalbarri. We spend the next two nights at the Kalbarri Edge Resort. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 12 – Kalbarri National Park**

Today we enjoy exploring the Kalbarri National Park including a visit to Red Bluff, which features a lookout with panoramic ocean views from atop the 100m cliffs, a perfect vantage point to spot whales, dolphins and other marine life. From here, we visit Z-Bend to take in the vibrant



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displays of wildflowers, renowned as being some of the best during the wildflower season.

Later we visit the new \$20 million Kalbarri Skywalk, a breath-taking project featuring twin skywalks which float more than 100 meters above the Murchison River Gorge.

This afternoon we return to the township for our second and final night in Kalbarri. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 13 – Shark Bay Marine Cruise - Monkey Mia**

This morning we continue our journey north, arriving in Denham for lunch before heading to Monkey Mia on Shark Bay.

World Heritage Listed in 1991, Shark Bay is one of only 16 sites worldwide that satisfy all four criteria for World Heritage listing. It features one of the largest and most diverse seagrass beds in the world and is home to 10% of the world's dugong population. There's a myriad of other marine life including dolphins, whales, manta rays, turtles and sharks.

The best way to experience Shark Bay is on a cruise, so this afternoon we'll board a modern catamaran and head off to spot the bay's rich marine life. Upon getting back to shore we head to the Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort and check in for our overnight stay. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 14 – Denham - Hamelin Pool - Geraldton**

This morning we visit the Shark Bay Discovery Centre, which celebrates the region's rich biodiversity and explores the area's World Heritage listing. We then head south and enjoy a visit to the Hamelin Pool Marine Nature Reserve.

This afternoon we continue south to Geraldton, where we'll overnight at the Ocean Centre Hotel on the beachfront. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 15 – Wildflower Way - New Norcia**

After breakfast we visit the magnificent HMAS Sydney II memorial - the second memorial recognised to be of national significance outside of Canberra. Completed in 2001, the memorial has become the country's premier site for honouring the 645 Australian sailors who were lost off the Western Australian coast during a World War II battle

with German raider HSK Kormoran. The location of both wrecks remained a mystery for over 66 years until they were located in March 2008 by the Finding Sydney Foundation.

Departing Geraldton, we return to Perth along the "Wildflower Way". We also travel via Australia's only monastic town, New Norcia. Here we take a tour through this interesting village which was, once upon a time, locked up behind closed doors. We arrive back at the Crown Promenade late this afternoon for the final night of the tour. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel. (B,L,D)

### **DAY 16 – Perth**

This morning we experience a gold pouring at the historical Perth Mint before being transferred to the airport, or any further accommodation booked. (B)

*Every effort will be made by your crew to ensure that the above itinerary is followed. However, Outback Spirit reserves the right to alter the itinerary once on tour as required due to weather and track conditions or other operational considerations.*