

# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN & WILDFLOWER WONDER

23 August 2024





## Western Australia & Wildflower Wonder

Join us over 13 fabulous days as our adventure takes us to visit some of the best wildflower hotspots in the Western Australia Wildflower Country and Western Australian wheatbelt regions.

Boasting a stunning variety of wildflowers unmatched anywhere else in the world, we explore several of these spectacular locations, from the coastal plains to inland woodlands.

Our journey begins in Perth where we enjoy the charm of the Swan Valley and Rottnest Island before heading north by following the Indian Ocean Drive onto Nambung National Park, a remarkable destination that features the Pinnacle Desert, a striking landscape where thousands of limestone pillars emerge from the sandy terrain.

Our Wildflower adventure sees us exploring Lesueur National Park a wildflower wonderland, where the bushland scrub pops with some 900 species of native blooms and Kalbarri National Park, with its stunning gorges, coastal cliffs, and diverse wildflowers and the park showcases a variety of floral species that create a vibrant landscape.

We spend the day at Mullewa Outback Bloom Festival to experience the beauty and diversity of the native flora before joining a guided Wildflower Trial Walk to learn about the different species and habitats of the wildflowers, making this region so special.

Our journey back south and inland follows the Wildflower Way, a scenic route, passing through charming & historic Western Australia wheatbelt towns. Before arriving in Hyden, where a natural wonder awaits us at Wave Rock, a stunning natural formation resembling a giant wave frozen in time, we first pass through Dalwallinu, famous for its magnificent wattle trees that burst with their vibrant yellow bloom.

On our return to Perth, we visit the fabulous Kings Park, with a rich cultural history and home to the spectacular Western Australia Botanic Garden, housing more than 3,000 different kinds of plants native to this state, a unique experience that you won't find anywhere else in the world.

This tour is truly for both the flower lover and the explorer alike and you won't leave disappointed.





# Western Australia & Wildflower Wonder

24<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## FRI 23 Wellington

This afternoon you will be transferred from your home to Wellington Airport Rydges Hotel for our overnight stay, prior to our early morning departure tomorrow morning.

## SAT 24 Wellington – Perth

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This morning we depart Wellington and on arrival in Perth later today we will be transferred to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free for a rest and relax, prior to re-gathering this evening for our Welcome Dinner together at our hotel.

3 nights' accommodation in Perth is at the Duxton Hotel.

## SUN 25 Perth – Swan Valley Tour

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This morning after breakfast we spend the day relaxing as we enjoy the scenery on a **river cruise** along the **Swan River to the Swan Valley**. Gliding along the Swan River, admiring the views of the city skyline, parks, and wildlife, we will learn about the landmarks and stories of Perth and the Swan Valley.

After arriving in the Swan Valley, we see some of the finest wineries in the region, along with a tasting of their exquisite wines. After no doubt a fun-filled day, we return to our hotel with time to relax and refresh before dinner tonight together tonight.

## MON 26 Perth – Rottneest Island Tour

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This morning after breakfast, we make our way to Fremantle Wharf and take the short 30-minute ferry ride to **Rottneest Island**. Here we join a Grand Island tour to discover the island's fascinating history, breathtaking coastal views, and wildlife and we may even get to meet the "infamous" and friendly quokka, the island's star attraction.

After a full day of discovery, we head back to our hotel to freshen up before our dinner tonight.

## Trip Highlights

- Swan Valley River Cruise & Winery Tour
- Rottneest Island Tour
- Nambung National Park
- Pinnacle Desert & Discovery Centre
- Cevantes Lobster Shack
- Visit the seaside towns of Jurien Bay & Port Dennison
- Lesueur National Park
- Kalbarri National Park & Skywalk
- Mullewa Outlook Bloom Festival
- Wildflower Walk Trial
- Coalseam Conservation Park
- Visit the Wheatbelt towns of Mingenew, Morawa and Perenjori
- People's Pathway Interpretation Trail,
- Heritage Wheat Bin Museum
- Dalwallinu Discovery Centre
- Water Tank Mural Trial & Northam Silo Murals
- Wave Rock, Hippo's Yawn & Mulkas Cave, Hyden
- Travel the Tin Horse Highway
- Kings Park, Western Australia Botanic Garden





## TUE 27 Perth – Cervantes

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After breakfast this morning we begin our journey north following the picturesque **Indian Ocean Drive**, enjoying the beauty of the coast before reaching the charming seaside town of Lancelin famous for its gigantic sand dunes.

We continue on to **Nambung National Park**, one of the most famous Western Australia national parks and home to the **Pinnacles Desert**. The region also comes alive with an abundance of seasonal wildflowers, including orange, red and gold catspaw and the blue star like tinsel lilies.

We visit the **Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre**, where we learn more about the geological and cultural history of the Pinnacles, a unique landscape of limestone pillars that rise from the yellow sand. These formations are the result of ancient marine life that was fossilised and eroded over millions of years by natural forces.

We arrive in **Cervantes** in time for a light lunch at the **Lobster Shack**, before exploring the region's multi-million-dollar lobster industry by visiting the live lobster processing plant at the Lobster Shack. Here we witness how the Western Rock Lobster is caught in the wild and brought to shore and follow the lobsters' journey from sorting to holding lanes, and then to the pack out room where they are ready to be shipped worldwide.

This afternoon we check-in our accommodation for the night and have some free time before we dine together tonight.

*Optional Tour (extra price): Evening tour including a BBQ dinner at the Pinnacles with stargazing experience.*

## WED 28 Cervantes – Geraldton

ⓑ Ⓛ ⓓ

This morning we bid farewell to Cervantes and continue our journey along the Turquoise Coast stopping along the way at the beautiful seaside town of **Jurien Bay**, a sleepy coastal town known for its playful sea lions and excellent fishing.

Today we explore **Lesueur National Park** a wildflower wonderland, where the bushland scrub pops with some 900 species of native blooms. Here we can marvel at the rare orchids, including glossy pink and purple enamel varieties and the white spider.

Continuing north we arrive at our lunch stop today, in **Port Denison** one of the largest and most productive fishing boat harbours in Western Australia.

We arrive in **Geraldton**, our home for the next three nights and have some time to relax before enjoying dinner together this evening.

## THU 29 Geraldton - Kalbarri

(B) (L) (D)

After breakfast we head out along the Coastal Highway enjoying the views along the way before arriving **Kalbarri National Park**, a stunning landscape of ancient sandstone formations that have been eroded by the Murchison River for over 400 million years and also home to the **Kalbarri Skywalk**. This is considered by many as one of the most beautiful places in the world.

The main attraction here however is for the wildflowers – more than 12,000 kinds of wildflowers covering the land, in various hues and forms, some so exclusive and special that they only exist here. Following our lunch together at the Skywalk Café, we continue our journey to Port Gregory, and step back in time to 1853 at Lynton Station, a former convict depot and homestead composed of a collection of historic limestone buildings.

Just as eye-opening is our next stop at **Hutt Lagoon**, an enormous lake that is sometimes bubblegum pink, sometimes lilac. The high salt concentration in the water affects its tint, creating a striking contrast with the surrounding landscape.

Following our fascinating day out today we return to Geraldton late this afternoon and dine together tonight.

## FRI 30 Mullewa Outlook Bloom Festival & Coalseam Conservation Park

(B) (D)

After an early morning breakfast, we head out for the day to the **Outback Bloom Festival** in **Mullewa**, a floral wonderland, where different geology and climate create stunning landscapes of everlastings and flowering shrubs along the roadsides and in the surrounding nature reserves.

During our time here we join a guided tour on the **Wildflower Walk Trail**, to marvel at the beauty of nature, admiring the vibrant colours, the exquisite shapes, and the amazing adaptations of the native plants. We also take time to visit the **Mullewa Wildflower Show**, learning more about the history, culture, and ecology of the wildflowers from local experts and enthusiasts.

This afternoon we visit **Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church**, built by Monsignor John Hawes and admire his architectural vision and craftsmanship that is evident in every detail of this sacred building. We then continue on to explore the **Coalseam Conservation Park**, a place where history and nature meet. Here, we witness the remnants of the coal mining industry that began in 1846, when the Gregory brothers discovered coal deposits along the Irwin River. The main attraction nowadays is the wildflowers and lots of them. Coalseam is the ultimate destination for Wildflower Country as it boasts a spectacular display of pink and white everlastings that carpet the landscape and dazzle the eye.

We arrive back in Geraldton late this afternoon with time to relax before we gather for dinner tonight.

*Optional Extra (extra Cost): Optional 1 hour wildflower photography workshop ~ additional cost, booking essential (subject to availability and the workshop being offered in 2024)*

## SAT 31 Geraldton – Daliwallinu

(B) (D)

Today we leave Geraldton and head to Dalwallinu along the Wildflower Way, enjoying the picturesque views as we pass through the Western Australia Wheatbelt towns of the region.

**Mingenew** is a lovely town with elevated spots and here we pause to appreciate and admire the panoramic views of the vast landscapes and marvel at the gorgeous wildflowers. The flowers' vivid colours form a striking contrast with the red soil and the blue sky.

The next destination on the **Wildflower Way** is **Morawa**, a town with a striking church that resembles a Tuscan villa. **The Church of the Holy Cross** has a unique architecture that stands out with the surrounding landscape of greenery and hills.

Continuing on we reach the town of **Perenjori**, where we admire the beautiful St Joseph's Church, a masterpiece of architecture created by John Hawes, a priest and a visionary, in the 1900s. We explore the history and culture of Perenjori by walking along the People's Pathway Interpretation trail and the Pioneer Museum provides even more windows to the past.

We continue the scenic drive from Perenjori to Wubin, where the roadside is adorned with vibrant wildflowers before arriving in **Wubin**, we explore the **Wheat Museum** and discover the history and culture of the wheat industry in Western Australia.

Arriving in **Dalwallinu**, renowned for its magnificent wattle trees that brighten the roadsides with their vibrant yellow bloom and in time for the Wattle Week Festival. We visit the **Dalwallinu Discovery Centre** a local attraction that showcases the culture and heritage of the region.

Late this afternoon we check into our accommodation and dine together this evening.

## SUN 1 SEPT Daliwallinu – Wongan Hills – Northam - Hyden

(B) (D)

This morning we bid farewell to Daliwallinu for Hyden, stopping at some of the most beautiful nature reserves for wildflowers along the way, such as **Reynoldson Reserve**, a natural area that showcases a spectacular array of everlastings, orchids, wattles, grevilleas and verticordias and take a relaxing stroll among the vibrant blossoms.

As we travel to Dalwallinu, we will see the new everlasting and water tank mural trail which showcases the artistic talents of the local community. We marvel at the impressive silo art in **Northam**, created by international artists **Phlegm and HENSE** in 2015. The silos took over 16 days to complete and used 740 litres of paint. Before reaching Hyden, we visit the **Corrigan Dog Cemetery**, a touching and unique tribute to the loyal companions of the past.

We end the day with a relaxing dinner together at our hotel this evening.





## MON 2 Hyden Sights

(B) (L) (D)

Today is a leisurely day of discovery in this region as we explore the Hyden area and marvel at the vibrant wildflowers that decorate the terrain.

A remarkable sight awaits us at the iconic **Wave Rock**, a massive granite structure that looks like a huge wave about to crash. The Wave Rock is made of granite and measures 15 meters in height and 110 meters in length, and it is the result of millions of years of erosion. The rock has a curved shape because it eroded at different speeds along its surface, and it displays various colours from the minerals and lichens that grow on it.

We visit the Wave Rock Visitor's centre and enjoy a light lunch together at the **Wildflower Shoppe & Wave Rock Café**.

For a unique and fascinating experience, we take time at the The Lace Palace and **Toy Soldier Display**, home of the biggest collection of lace and toy soldiers in Australia, with more than 10,000 items on display. You will be amazed by the delicate artistry of the lacework and enjoy the diversity of toy soldiers, which include historical personalities and fantasy characters from various countries and eras.

We continue our adventure by exploring the **Hippo's Yawn**, a fascinating rock formation that looks like a giant yawning hippopotamus and learn about the Indigenous Dreamtime story associated with it. The rock is about 12.6 metres tall, and you can enter the rock through its gaping mouth for a unique photo opportunity and we explore the **Mulkas Cave**, a sacred site for the Njunga people, and admire the ancient rock paintings.

After a lovely day of discovery, we return to Hyden with time to rest before dinner tonight.

## TUE 3 Hyden - Perth

(B) (D)

This morning we begin our journey back to Perth taking us through the scenic **Tin Horse Highway**, a unique attraction that showcases the creativity and honour of the local farmers and where wildflowers own the landscape and create a colour-filled path to **York**.

Stepping back in time in York, the oldest inland town in Western Australia, we have time to stroll the historic streetscapes and lunch at one of the local cafes or restaurants (not included) before continuing on to Perth.

Arriving in Perth we visit **Kings Park**, home to the **Western Australian Botanic Gardens**. Here we admire more than 3,000 species of the state's unique flora and learn about their cultural and ecological significance.

We check into our accommodation tonight, with time to refresh before dinner together this evening.

## WED 4 Perth - Home

(B)

Sadly, we have reached the end of our amazing journey through Western Australia and its beautiful Wildflowers and today we have an early morning check-out prior to our mid-morning flight departure back to New Zealand.



# Western Australia & Wildflower Wonder

## 13 Day Tour Includes

**YOURTours home pick up (T&C's apply)**

**Fully hosted from NZ with a YOURTours Host**

**All flights, including domestic flights in NZ and arrival and departure transfers (T&C's apply)**

**Premium accommodation**

*NOTE: this tour does include motel 3\* style accommodation in Wheatbelt towns, due to the availability of accommodation in these location.*

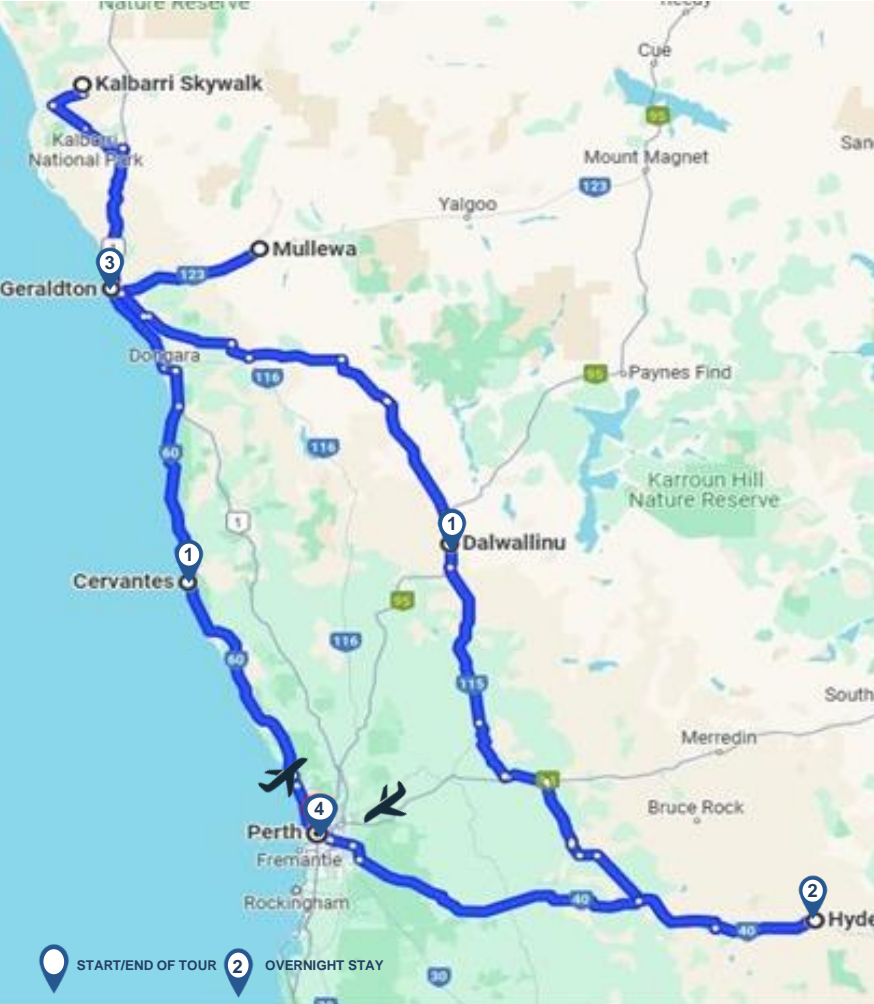
**All excursions and activities as per itinerary**

**Meals as per itinerary & gratuities**

**Departs 23 August 2024**

**Price from \$9,450 pp twin share**

**Single Price \$11,450 pp**



**You are invited to join us on one of our fully hosted small group tours, with a maximum of 18 guests.**

We are based on the beautiful Kapiti Coast with our guests joining us from all corners of New Zealand. We believe you will be pleasantly surprised by just how much we include in our tour price.

You can be reassured that your tour host will always be one of our friendly well-experienced YOURTours Hosts, ensuring everything is taken care of from start to finish, allowing you to relax and enjoy your tour.

**YOURTours**<sup>®</sup>

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