

AUSTRALIA'S

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION

RESOURCES FOR TRADE & MEDIA



WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH WEST

Comprising of the Bunbury Geographe, Margaret River, Southern Forests and Valleys and Great Southern sub-regions, Australia's South West is home to awe- inspiring natural attractions, ancient coastal and inland landscapes and premium food and beverage experiences, connected by more than 1000 kilometres of coastline, towering forest, charming country towns and farmland. More than just a destination, Australia's South West is a hotspot for once-in-a-lifetime experiences, genuine encounters and dream-like escapes.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

This trade kit is designed to support our trade representatives in booking product, services and experiences in Australia's South West, by providing valuable information throughout the dreaming, planning, booking, experiencing and sharing phases of travel. This trade kit is best used hand-in-hand with our consumer-facing, annually produced <u>Holiday Planner</u>, which provides a comprehensive snapshot of the best things to see and do in the region.

PAYING RESPECT TO COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the South West, the Noongar people, and their enduring connection to, and care for, Boodja. We recognise the Pinjarup, Willman, Wadandi, Pibelman, Kaneang, Menang and Koreng Aboriginal communities and invite visitors to respect and care for this ancient land and culture, contributing to its preservation for future generations.

Bunbury Geographe | Pijarup and Wilman Country Margaret River Region | Wadandi Country Southern Forests & Valleys | Pibelman & Kaneang Country Great Southern | Minang & Koreng Country

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OUR REGION



PLAN YOUR ROAD TRIP

DISTANCES BETWEEN TOWNS IN KILOMETRES AND HOURS

Tip: Take a break from driving every 2 hours to stay alert and avoid driving at dawn and dusk, when wildlife is more active on roads.

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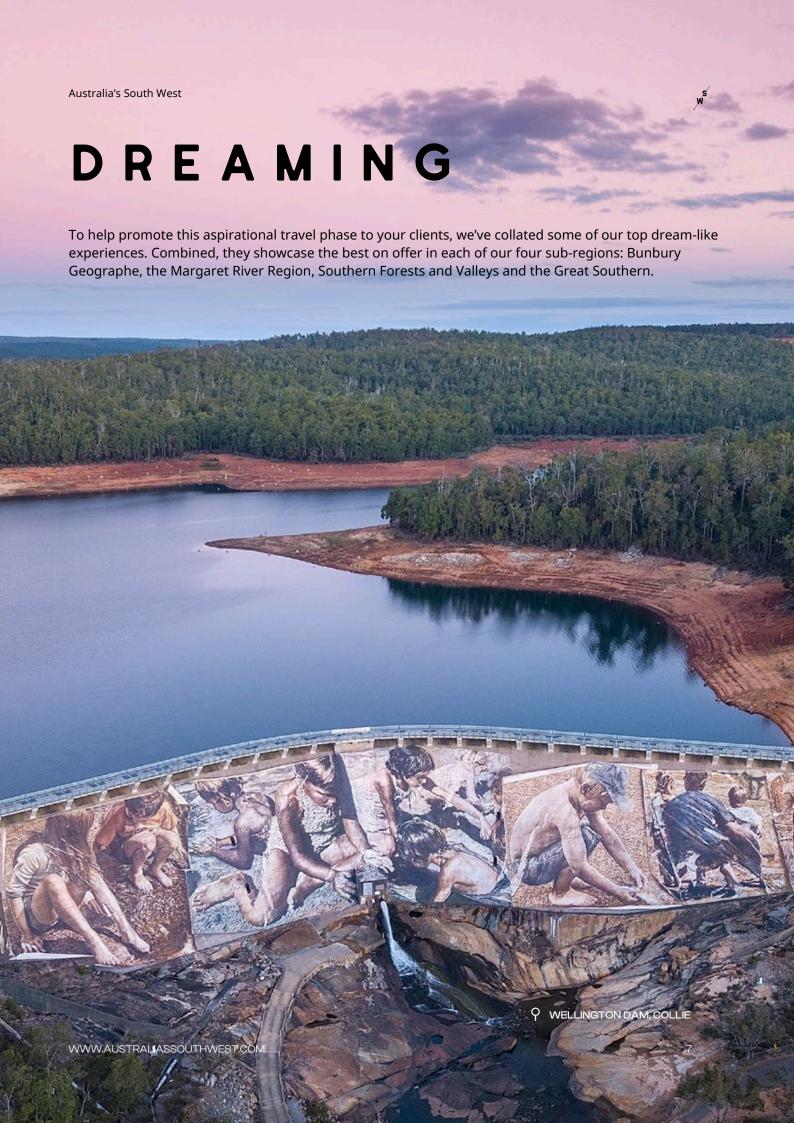
DREAM OF LEAVING THE EVERYDAY FAR BEHIND IN AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH WEST

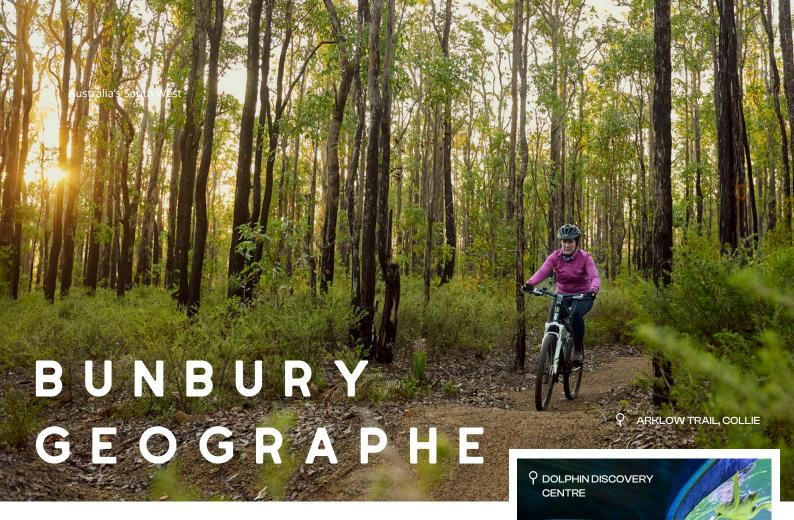
Starting just two hours south of Perth, Western Australia, Australia's South West is abundant in nature, ancient culture, adventure, exceptional produce, wellness, and simple joys. It includes the the indulgent, adventurous, and naturally generous Margaret River Region; the wildly perfect Great Southern.; laidback and effortlessly beautiful Bunbury Geographe; and the undiscovered charm of the Southern Forests and Valleys.

Our friendly and welcoming team lives and works in the region and are experts in new and mature bookable tourism experiences for all travellers.

Our Trade Kit has been compiled to assist you in crafting the best travel packages for your clients, including the latest itineraries and trade-ready products to make planning a visit to Australia's South West a dream.







Bunbury Geographe is the closest South West region to Western Australia's capital city, Perth, with just a 2hr-drive landing visitors in the heart of its central hub – Bunbury. The region boasts a mix of city-meets-country experiences for you to discover, including boutique wine tours, family friendly farmstays and mountain biking adventures.



TOP HERO EXPERIENCES

- Swim and/or interact with wild dolphins during an eco-friendly swimming (between November and April) or cruise experience with Dolphin Discovery Centre, or learn about these inquisitive mammals and other sea creatures in the interpretive centre.
 - Take in the wonder of one of one of the most massive artworks around. The Wellington Dam mural, depicting the history of the town of Collie, can be seen from three angles - the road below, the viewing platform beside, and by walking across the top
- Come across dreamy turquoise waters at former open-cut mines-turned-lakes Black Diamond Lake and Stockton Lake near Collie.
- Find a handful of boutique wineries set in valleys or nestled between treelined hills, as well as a quirky village filled with miniature gnomes called Gnomesville, in the Ferguson Valley.
- Wander through WA's largest arboretum the heritage-listed 60ha Golden Valley Tree Park in Balingup which feature an assortment of trees that turn the most wonderful and vibrant shades of oranges, reds and yellows in autumn/early winter.
- Unlock the ancient methods of weaving bulrushes and mixing traditional ochre paint. Hear about the world's oldest living culture on a Ngalang Wongi Aboriginal Cultural Tour in Bunbury.



The Margaret River Region is home to the most awarded fine wine region in Australia, pristine beaches, tall timber karri forests, renowned surf breaks and ancient underground caves, making it one of the most unique destinations on Earth. Each of the towns can be found hugging the coast of the Indian Ocean, nearby vast landscapes of vineyards and kangaroo dotted farmland. Here you can indulge at fine restaurants and boutique breweries, seek out wildflowers and wildlife, explore bespoke art galleries and immerse yourself in nature.

AUGUSTA.BUSSELTON.DUNSBOROUGH.COWARAMUP.
MARGARET RIVER.YALLINGUP

TOP HERO EXPERIENCES:

- Head to the sunken depths of one of only 6 underwater observatories in the world at Busselton Jetty, Take the vibrant train the1.8km journey out, or just enjoy the gentle half-hour stroll surrounded by turquoise blues.
- Sip on award-winning, world-class wine at one (or a few) of the Margaret River Region's top wineries, or go behind-the-scenes and behind the cellar door on a private wine tour.
- Glimpse some of the ocean's rarest and most spectacular wildlife up close on a whale watching tour from Augusta or Busselton. Or stop by Hamelin Bay to say hello to the stingrays in the shallow.
- Go underground on a tour to explore the magic of the region's four ancient limestone caves Jewel, Lake, Mammoth and Ngilgi. Be guided by Aboriginal traditional custodian, Josh Whiteland from Koomal Dreaming and experience the hauntingly beautiful sounds of the didgeridoo in the Ngilgi Cave
- Try your hand at surfing at one of the many breaks located along the coast or try stand up paddle boarding, snorkelling or simply relaxing by the water.
- Be greeted by dappled sunlight, quiet seclusion, birdsong and the scent of eucalyptus as you wander the world-class Boranup Forest.



The Southern Forests and Valleys is full of undiscovered adventure, with amazing forests, scenic country drives, pristine beaches and local produce at every turn. It is home to some of the most beautiful natural landscapes and charming small towns in the entire South West and will leave travellers feeling a world away from the every day.

BRIDGETOWN.BOYUPBROOK.GREENBUSHES.MANJIMUP.NANNUP.
NORTHCLIFFE.PEMBERTON.WALPOLE

TOP HERO EXPERIENCES:

- Strike gold on a hunt for the elusive Périgord Black truffle. Delicacies devoured the world over, these earthen treasures lurk in the abundant soils of Manjimup, and are celebrated gems during winter
- Explore the D'Entrecasteaux National Park (approximately 20 minutes from Pemberton) and the Southern Hemisphere's largest land-locked dune system, the Yeagarup Dunes, with Pemberton Discovery Tours.
- Scale the 75m-high Dave Evans
 Bicentennial Tree, a former fire
 lookout tree that has huge metal
 pegs hammered into its trunk to
 form a spiralling ladderwhich is
 located within the nearby Warren
 National Park.
- Walk through the canopy of trees via a 40m-high suspension bridge at the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk, a sky-high attraction set in a forest of towering tingle trees.
- Be adventurous and head out on one of the region's many mountain biking and cycling trails in Nannup and Pemberton, including the world-famous Munda Biddi Trail.
- Dive into the depths of the serene Pemberton Pool. Expect picture perfect views in every shade of green.



The Great Southern is a destination for seekers of paths less-trodden, jaw-dropping natural environments that look out of this world, and authentic experiences with just the right amount of adventure. The largest and most diverse region within Australia' South West, the Great Southern varies from unspoilt coastline and idyllic seaside towns, to sprawling agricultural lands and national parks harbouring some of the world's rarest species of flora and fauna.



ALBANY.BREMER BAY.CRANBROOK.DENMARK.FRANKLAND RIVER. KATANNING.KOJONUP.MOUNT BARKER.PORONGURUP

TOP 5 HERO EXPERIENCES:

- Hike to the top of one of Western
 Australia's highest peaks, Bluff Knoll, for
 spectacular views of the Stirling Range
 National Park, or climb to the top of the
 Granite Skywalk for just as impressive
 views of the Porongurup National Park.
- Explore rugged coastlines at The Gap, where you can walk on a cantilevered, accessible viewing platform that hangs off the edge of a 45m-high cliff and watch the waves crash below.
- Immerse yourself in rich cultural heritage at the National Anzac Centre, which uses an innovative blend of interactive technology and historical artefacts to tell unique and engaging stories of World War One.
- Spot one of the largest congregations of orcas (killer whales) in the Southern Hemisphere on a whale watching expedition out to the Bremer Canyon a known, killer whale feeding ground between December and early April every year.
- Paddle in the peppermint-green waters found at Greens Pool and Elephant Rocks, popular destinations known for heir white, sandy beaches and large, elephant-like boulders.
- Explore the rich and vibrant history and heritage of Kojonup with a stop at The Kodja Place. Get lost in the rose maze, wonder at Aboriginal stories, and enjoy an ever-changing gallery of artworks.



PLANNING

From detailed self-drive itineraries to some important need-to-knows – this section provides all the information you need to plan out your clients' next South West trip.

BOOKABLE DESTINATION ITINERARIES

To aid you in curating the best itineraries for your clients, we've put together a number of comprehensive and highly detailed itineraries filled with important information, top trade product recommendations and more.

THE ULTIMATE AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH WEST ROAD TRIP

There's something for everyone in Australia's South West, a destination that's home to awe- inspiring natural attractions, ancient coastal and inland landscapes and premium food and beverage experiences. Meet the very best of the South West on this 10- to 14-day road trip.

THE SOUTH WEST EDGE

The South West Edge is an epic 12-day road trip around the southern tip of Western Australia. It's a journey that'll take travellers into the heartland of an undisturbed and uncrowded Australia and past a vibrant urban port city, breathtaking coastline, ancient forests, awe-inspiring mountain ranges and vast open outback.

A SNAPSHOT OF AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH WEST

From ancient mountain ranges and rugged coastal cliffs, to towering karri trees and seaside bliss – experience a snapshot of Australia's South West during this 6- to 8-day itinerary.

AN ECO CONSCIOUS JOURNEY ALONG RAC'S ELECTRIC HIGHWAY

Discover the very best of an ecoconscious Australia's South West, which encourages participants to leave nothing but footprints behind, during this 12-day itinerary along RAC's Electric Highway.

BEYOND THE FARM GATE

From behind-the-scenes vineyard tours to gourmet truffle hunts – discover Australia's South West's authentic agritourism experiences on this 5- to 6-day itinerary.

WWW.AUSTRALIASSOUTHWEST.COM



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GREAT SOUTHERN

The Great Southern is a destination for seekers of paths less-trodden, jaw-dropping natural environments, and authentic adventure experiences. This South West road trip is well-worth the five-hour drive (or one-hour flight) from Perth, showcasing some of Western Australia's most impressive natural and manmade icons over the course of 3- to 6-days.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARGARET RIVER REGION

With more than 130 kilometres of pristine coastline hugging its side, enhanced by towering native forest, seasonal wildflowers and rows of grape-laden vines. An idyllic setting primed for relaxation and/or adventure, the Margaret River Region should be part of your client's next Australian trip. Plan their itinerary today, with this 3- to 5-day Margaret River best-of compilation.

A LUXURIOUS MARGARET RIVER ESCAPE

Lavish long table lunches, exclusive vineyard wine tastings and idyllic retreats surrounded by nature – no other destination in Australia's South West radiates luxury and splendour quite like Margaret River. For the traveller looking for a little more luxury, this 3- to 5-day itinerary covers all they need to experience an indulgent Margaret River holiday.

NEED TO KNOWS

Flights into Western Australia from a number of capital cities across the world and all Australian capital cities. East Coast visitors can also access Perth via rail.

Australia's South West is located just a few hours' drive south of Western Australia's capital city, Perth, making it a great self- drive destination.

The easiest way to travel to Australia's South West is by flying to either Perth Airport, the Busselton Margaret River Airport (Jetstar flights depart from Melbourne and Sydney to the Busselton Margaret River Airport) or the Albany Airport (via Rex).

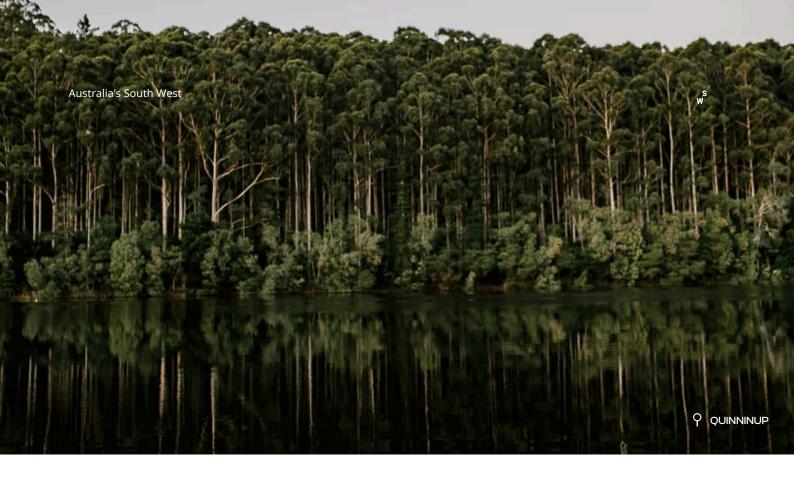
For Perth Airport transfers, we recommend Australian Pinnacle Tours, Australian Transit Group (ATG) and South West Coachlines.

Avis, Avraa Car Hire, Busselton & South West Rent A Car, Europcar and Hertz car hire options are available at the Busselton Margaret River Airport. For Albany Airport transfers, clients can hire a taxi or organise a charter with Albany Tours.

Most of Western Australia's national parks have <u>entry fees</u>; we suggest buying a multi- park pass prior to travel.

Australia's South West aims to be an inclusive tourist destination, and as such, is continually developing products, services, amenities and infrastructure to allow everyone to access its beautiful sights and experiences. For more information on accessible tourism destinations in the South West visit bit.ly/SWaccessibility.





BOOKING

Help make your customers' dreams a reality by booking the best products and experiences for their trip. Here are some of our favourite bookable experiences in Australia's South West:

FOOD AND WINE

Taste Margaret River on a plate at Cullen Wines, which focuses on serving the finest of produce, most of which is grown on the secluded Wilyabrup property.

For a premium wine experience, visit one of the Ultimate Winery Experiences
Australia's Margaret River wineries –
Leeuwin Estate, Vasse Felix or Voyager
Estate – and embark on a wine tasting or tour that goes beyond the cellar door.

Or if you prefer to be guided by a local expert, book a tour with Harvest Tours and indulge in a delightful day filled with the region's top wineries, gourmet eateries, and hidden gems.

NATURE AND WILDLIFE

Between May and November, join Naturaliste Charters aboard their luxury 20-metre catamaran and cruise between the Capes in search of Humpback, Southern Right, Blue and Minke whales.

Discover some of the region's cute, furry and critically endangered animals – including the native Woylie – on South West Eco Discoveries' Nocturnal Animal Tour.

For a superb, insightful and entertaining tour of the Torndirrup National Park and/or Stirling Range National Park, choose one of Albany Tours' day trip experiences.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Go off the beaten track and explore the natural beauty of the Wambenger Trails in Wellington National Park on an emountain bike with Adventure Connections.

Ride through the bush, farm and forest while on one of Jesters Flat's horse-riding tours.

Experience the beautiful Margaret River from the water during Margaret River Discovery Tours' Sunset Canoe Tour.

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ART, HISTORY AND CULTURE

Soak in spectacular views of Cape Leeuwin the Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean from the top of Australia's tallest mainland lighthouse.

Forage and taste native bushfood, or hear the stories of the Wadandi people on one of Koomal Dreaming's immersive cultural tours.

For a history lesson, go on an interpretive, personalised adventure through the National Anzac Centre. Learn about the lives of ANZAC servicepeople during the wars, and whether or not they survived.

Discover unique, nature-complementing artworks along the Understory Art & Nature Trail, a 1.2km walk trail that meanders through pristine native forest.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Glide through the trees like a flying fox at the eco-certified Forest Adventures* – a high ropes adventure park located, mostly, in a canopy of old-growth Tuart trees

Located by Frenchman's Bay and next to the Torndirrup National Park, Albany's Historic Whaling Station offers an insight into Albany's whaling history through interactive exhibits, a full-size replica ship and a giant sperm whale skeleton.

Watch chocolate being made then eat it at The Margaret River Chocolate Company.

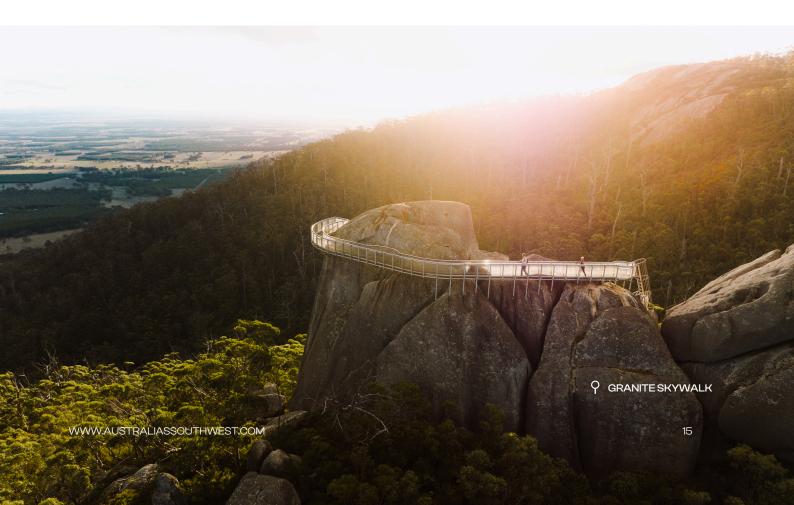
LUXURY

Experience the Great Southern or the Margaret River Region's world-class attractions and pristine scenery from above with Scenic Helicopters.

Cruise in six-star comfort along the turquoise blue, calm waters of Geographe Bay onboard Eclipse Expeditions' premium sailing catamaran for an all inclusive luxury experience.

Take the afternoon to relax and recharge with a treatment at Empire Spa Retreat in Yallingup or Chimes Spa Retreat in Denmark

For our full trade-ready list of Australia's South West operators, <u>click here.</u>





EXPERIENCING

Make your clients' journeys that extra bit easier with these handy contacts and top travel tips.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Emergency services (police, ambulance, fire brigade): 000 or 112 (mobile) Roadside assistance (RAC): 13 11 11 Road conditions (Main Roads): 13 81 38. mainroads.wa.gov.au

BEACH AND SWIMMING SAFETY

Australian beaches are some of the best in the world. We hope you enjoy them, but please take a moment to learn about rip currents and coastal dangers at mybeach.com.au.

When swimming at lifeguard patrolled beaches, stay safe by swimming between the flags. If you are exploring coastal areas and rock pools, be sure to take extra care and check tide times at willyweather.com.au before you travel to coastal areas.

Water at recreation areas including Black Diamond Lake, Minninup Pool and Stockton Lake is tested regularly for the presence of harmful organisms. Stay upto-date with the latest safety information and check recent water tests of natural water bodies on the Shire of Collie website.

TRAVEL TIPS

Tourists are advised to check for alerts and road/park closures before commencing their travel on www.emergency.wa.gov.au and alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au.

In Australia, vehicles drive on the lefthand side of the road. You must wear a seat belt if you are travelling in a moving vehicle.

You must carry an international driving permit if your driver's licence is not in English.

Be sure to appoint a designated driver when visiting cellar doors or if you plan to drink alcohol, as driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is considered an offence in Australia.

It is illegal to use your mobile phones while driving. Our tip – enjoy the view instead.

When two lanes merge into one, the vehicle in front has the right of way.

When entering a roundabout, always give way to any vehicle already in the roundabout, and to your right.

You may cross a broken line if it is safe to do so, but continuous unbroken lines should not be crossed unless you need to avoid an obstruction.

Give way to cyclists and when overtaking, allow a distance of 1.5m between your vehicle and the cyclist.

When making a U-Turn give way to all other road users and use the indicator to signal your manoeuvre.

Tips for driving on gravel roads:

- Slow down on bends.
- Don't break suddenly.
- Be prepared for dust and stones from passing vehicles.

Avoid driving in hazardous weather. Turning your headlights on is a great way to be seen at day or night.

There can be limited phone reception in some areas of the South West. Always plan your route beforehand and pack a hard copy of a map, just in case.

Wildlife is most active at dawn and dusk, so try to avoid driving at these times.

Stick to designated trails and heed warning signs alerting you to cliff risk areas, king waves and strong ocean currents.

Plan ahead, check weather conditions and always let somebody know your itinerary.

WWW.AUSTRALIASSOUTHWEST.COM

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VISITOR SERVICING

To get the most out of your Australia's South West holiday, speak to the experts at one of the many visitor centres or Community Resource Centres (CRCs) in the region. The friendly staff can offer advice on accommodation, tours, services and the best things to see and do in the region. Look for the blue and yellow italic or white and blue 'i' signs to find a visitor centre on your holiday route.

BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE

Balingup Visitor Centre South Western Highway, Balingup Tel: (08) 9764 1818 www.balinguptourism.com.au

Boyup Brook Visitor Centre 84 Abel Street, Boyup Brook Tel: (08) 9765 1444 www.boyupbrooktourism.com.au

Bunbury Visitor Centre Bunbury Museum & Heritage Centre, 1 Arthur Street, Bunbury Tel: 1800 286 287 www.visitbunburygeographe.com.au

Collie River Valley Visitor Centre 156 Throssell Street, Collie Tel: (08) 9734 2051 www.collierivervalley.com.au

Donnybrook Visitor Centre Old Railway Station, South Western Highway, Donnybrook Tel: (08) 9731 1720 www.donnybrookwa.com.au

Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre 5 Ferguson Road, Dardanup Tel: (08) 9728 1551 www.fergusonvalley.net.au

MARGARET RIVER REGION

Busselton Visitor Centre 17 Foreshore Parade, Busselton Foreshore

Margaret River Visitor Centre 100 Bussell Highway, Margaret River Tel: (08) 9780 5911 www.margaretriver.com

SOUTHERN FORESTS AND VALLEYS

Bridgetown-Greenbushes Visitor Centre 11 Stewart Street, Bridgetown Tel: (08) 9761 1740 www.bridgetown.com.au

Manjimup Visitor Centre 151 Giblett Street, Manjimup Tel: (08) 9771 1831 www.manjimupwa.com

Nannup Visitor Information Tel: (08) 9756 1018 www.experiencenannupwa.com.au

Northcliffe Visitor Centre Muirillup Road, Northcliffe Tel: (08) 9776 7203 www.southernforestsandvalleys.com/Nor thcliffe

Pemberton Visitor Centre Brockman Street, Pemberton Tel: (08) 9776 1133 www.pembertonvisitor.com.au

Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre South Coast Highway, Walpole Tel: (08) 9840 1111 www.walpole.com.au

GREAT SOUTHERN

Albany Visitor Centre 221 York Street, Albany Tel: (08) 6820 3700 www.amazingalbany.com.au

Bremer Bay Community Resource and Visitors Centre 7 Mary Street, Bremer Bay Tel: (08) 9837 4171 www.bremerbaycrc.com.au

Broomehill-Tambellup Community Resource Centre 34 Norrish St, Tambellup Tel: (08) 9825 1177 www.tambellupcrc.net.au

Cranbrook Tourist Centre Gathorne Street, Cranbrook Tel: (08) 9826 1008 www.cranbrook.wa.gov.au

Denmark Visitor Centre 73 South Coast Highway, Denmark www.denmark.com.au

The Kodja Place & Kojonup Visitor Centre 143 Albany Highway, Kojonup Tel: (08) 9831 0500 www.kojonupvisitors.com

Mount Barker Visitor Centre 6/622 Albany Highway, Mount Barker Tel: (08) 9851 1163 www.mountbarkertourismwa.com.au

In the towns of Frankland River, Gnowangerup, Katanning, Ongerup and Pingrup, visitor information is available at the local Community Resource Centre.



SHARING

If your clients would like to share their stories, experiences and journeys with us, we encourage them to like and follow us on the accounts below, and tag us in their posts, stories, videos and reels.

- @Australias_SouthWest@AustraliasSouthWest
- AustraliasSouthWest
- AustraliasSouthWest
- @Australias_SouthWest #AustraliasSouthWest

THE SOUTH WEST EDGE

Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Denmark, Esperance Ferguson Valley, Fremantle, Hopetoun, Hyden, Margaret River, Nannup, Pemberton, Perth, Porongurup, Rottnest Island, Walpole, Yallingup https://thesouthwestedge.com.au/

- @thesouthwestedge@thesouthwestedgeThe South West Edge

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

@westernaustralia #WATheDreamState

AUSTRALIA

SeeAustralia #HolidayHereThisYear

BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE

Boyup Brook, Bunbury, Capel, Collie, Donnybrook, Ferguson Valley, Harvey www.visitbunburygeographe.com.au

- @visitbunburygeographe
- @visitbunburygeographe #Bungeo

THE MARGARET RIVER REGION

Augusta, Busselton, Cowaramup, Dunsborough, Gracetown, Margaret River, Yallingup www.margaretriver.com

> @margaretriver @themargaretriverregion_ #margaretriver

THE GREAT SOUTHERN

Albany, Denmark and Great Southern Treasures www.discovergreatsouthern.au

- ② @discovergreatsouthern
- @discovergreatsouthern #wanderwiththewild

GREAT SOUTHERN TREASURES

Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Gnowangerup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet, Woodanilling, Jerramungup www.greatsoutherntreasures.com.au

- @greatsoutherntreasures
- @greatsoutherntreasures_ #greatsoutherntreasures

GREAT SOUTHERN TREASURES

Balingup, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Greenbushes, Manjimup, Nannup, Northcliffe, Pemberton, Walpole www.southernforestsandvalleys.com

- () @southernforestsandvalleys
- @southernforestsvalleys #southernforestsandvalleys

CONTACT

Please contact the Australia's South West team if you have any further questions.

Phone: +61 8 9791 9197

Email: admin@australiassouthwest.com

Website: www.australiassouthwest.com

Address: PO Box 252 Bunbury, WA 6231

AUSTRALIA'S

