

Coastal and Esperance 7-10 days



Follow the Coastal and Esperance selfdrive from Perth to Esperance, travelling through quaint Wheatbelt towns to the breathtaking southern coastline of Western Australia. Here you'll discover superb fishing, pristine nature and the whitest beaches you've ever seen.

Suggested itinerary

Day 1-3 » Perth - Albany 420km

Enjoy an idyllic days' driving through the quaint towns of the Wheatbelt region, stopping at museums or to sample the locally-produced wines of Narrogin, Williams or Mt Barker before arriving in Albany. The beautiful Princess Royal Harbour and King George Sound surround the City of Albany, renowned for

its history, whales and dramatic coastline. With breathtaking island and ocean views from Mount Clarence and Mount Melville, visitors can also spot dolphins and seals frolicking in the waters and whales on their annual migration. Albany's attractions are diverse enough to cater for everyone. Indulge in local wines and produce in gourmet restaurants or from the farm gate. Explore local galleries, absorb the city's unique history or take a tranquil bushwalk in one of the national parks. With stretches of beautiful landscape and alluring white sandy beaches it's easy to find your own piece of paradise. This port city was Western Australia's first European settlement.

Day 3 » Albany - Hopetoun 340km

Depart historic Albany, heading east to the delightful township of Hopetoun. Nestled on the tranquil shores of Mary Anne Haven, this was once a thriving port for the Phillips River goldfields. See the new Southern Discovery Centre at Hopetoun and explore



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the magnificent Fitzgerald River National Park, one of the country's last great wilderness areas. Hopetoun offers a great variety of activities and attractions and scenic drives for the active visitor. Go bushwalking, camping and surfing at the nearby Fitzgerald River National Park, renowned for its rugged inland and coastal scenery and 1,800 species of wildflowers. View the local seal colonies and other marine life at the Southern Ocean Discovery Centre located at The Deck. Try your luck at on-shore or off-shore fishing and check out the fishing competition held at Easter. Spend the evening gazing at the magnificent night sky where the Southern Cross points its way across the Southern Ocean. Follow the Southern Ocean Road east of Hopetoun to access breathtaking coastal lookouts and beaches with quiet pools for fishing or swimming, including Mason Bay and Starvation Bay.

Day 3-7 » Hopetoun - Esperance

205km Travel to the historic settlement of Ravensthorpe, where you'll find historic mining relics, scenic lookouts, untouched bushland and beautiful spring wildflowers. On the way to Esperance, stop by at Munglinup Beach for a swim and Stokes National Park to admire the inlet scenery or walk the 4.3 kilometre heritage trail. As you continue on to Esperance take in island views of the Recherche Archipelago and watch for humpback and southern right whales migrating along the Southern Ocean coast (seasonal). Esperance is a picturesque town nestled on the south coast of Western Australia, about 9 hours' drive from Perth. The year-round temperate climate, beautiful beaches and pristine coastal landscapes, including the famous Cape Le Grand National Park, make it a popular holiday destination. Esperance is an ideal base from which to explore a string of stunning beaches and the natural wonders on the south coast of Western Australia, including Cape Le Grand National Park, Cape Arid National Park and the paradise islands of the Recherche Archipelago. Follow the coastal roads out of Esperance and within minutes you'll be passing a string of unspoilt white sand

beaches, perfect for a picnic or a photo stop. Off the coast, a necklace of 110 islands known as the Recherche Archipelago has earned the town its title as the 'Bay of Isles'. You can take a cruise around the archipelago, stopping at Woody Island for bushwalks and snorkelling, or an overnight stay in the island's tents and safari huts (available September to April). For many visitors, the untouched beaches and bushland of the outback coast's national parks, such as Cape Le Grand National Park, are a big drawcard. Follow one of the many coastal walk trails and take in the stunning views of white sandy beaches, rust-stained granite headlands and rugged islands.

Day 7-10 » Esperance to Albany to Perth

898km If you have your camping gear or caravan in tow, check out the range of caravan parks and camping sites, attractions and tourism services available in Australia's Golden Outback, via Kalgoorlie or Hyden and back to Perth. Alternatively return westward via Ravensthorpe. Situated south-east of Perth, between Esperance and Albany, it enjoys a temperate Mediterranean climate with beautiful sunny winter days and cool summer nights. The town of Ravensthorpe is surrounded by ancient rocky ranges, rugged river valleys, vast sand plains, rare animal species and historical mining sites. Visit in spring and you'll also be treated to an awesome display of Western Australian wildflowers. Stop and enjoy the town's facilities, including a rest area, public toilets and barbeque facilities in Jubilee Park on Morgan's Street. Take the southern route via Walpole, Manjimup, Bridgetown and the South West highway, or through the Margaret River region back to Perth.

Highlights

- » Wheatbelt town
- » Great Southern Winery Region
- » Historic and heritage listed attractions
- » Museums and art galleries
- » National Parks
- » Seasonal whale sightings
- » Heritage trails, walking trails
- » Wartime monuments and memorabilia

RAC Recommends

Inattention affects all drivers, especially in rural WA. Fatalities in the Wheatbelt are 6x higher than that of the WA state average. RAC recommends rest, before driving, stopping regularly, sharing the drive and allowing enough travel time.

Visitor Centres

Albany	(08) 9841 9377
Mount Barker	(08) 9851 1163
Esperance	(08) 9083 1555

Accommodation

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