This journey offers a memorable contrast of open farmlands, large rocky outcrops, surrounded by fascinating bushland, roadside floral displays in winter and spring, with a profusion of bird and animal life.

**Suggested itinerary**

**Day 1 » Perth to Wongan Hills 195km**

Travel to Goomalling and take the turn to Wongan Hills. Call in at the informative and friendly Visitor Centre for what to see and do around Wongan. Travel 85km from Perth before reaching Toodyay, turn left into Sandplain Road then travel along Racecourse Road and Drummondi Drive. Stop on another 48kms to Goomalling, 15km north of Toodyay. Oak Park Reserve is a particularly attractive picnic area during spring when wildflowers are in abundance. The park supports a variety of wildlife and a distinguishing aspect is the presence of gnamma holes (holes made by Aboriginal people for the collection of water in earlier days). Goomalling is a Noongar word meaning ‘place of possums’ (but possums are very rare here now). The original Indigenous people, the Balardong people, spoke the Tjapanmay dialect of the Noongar language.

Take a walk and discover a delightful display of many varieties of flowers including everlasting. Pelham Reserve in the townsite is a rare example of York gum/yam tree woodland and provides a great view of the town. Toodyay has over 10 parks, drives and reserves for seeing a great variety of wildflowers in the area. Call into the Toodyay Visitor Centre for a wildflower map for further information. Continue on another 48kms to Goomalling, 15km north of Goomalling. Oak Park Reserve is a particularly attractive picnic area during spring when wildflowers are in abundance. The park supports a variety of wildlife and a distinguishing aspect is the presence of gnamma holes (holes made by Aboriginal people for the collection of water in earlier days). Goomalling is a Noongar word meaning ‘place of possums’ (but possums are very rare here now). The original Indigenous people, the Balardong people, spoke the Tjapanmay dialect of the Noongar language.

**Needs maps, guides, atlases or a GPS for your journey?**

RAC members save up to **15% off** our entire range.

Call RAC Travel on **1300 655 179**, go to rac.com.au/holidayguides or pop into your local RAC Travel Centre.
Many place names in Goomalling today are the original Noongar names. The district was explored in 1854 by Assistant Surveyor Austin and the earliest white settler in Goomalling was George Slater, whose historic ‘ Slater Homestead’ can be visited 3km east of the Goomalling townsite. The Benedectine Monks of New Norcia once held extensive grazing rights in the area. Goomalling was declared a township in 1903, a year after the railway line from Northam was officially opened. Moving on to Wongan hills, 2 hours drive North East from Perth. The name Wongan Hills translate from the Aboriginal Wongan Katta or “Whispering Hills”, referring to the wind whispering through the greenstone latelite hills which rise just North-West of the townsite. These hills are the largest single area of natural vegetation remaining in the northern wheatbelt. Surveyor General JS Roe and his exploration party were the first Europeans to visit these hills in November 1836. Wongan Hills is a modern, progressive town due to the prosperity of farming. Wongan Hills flora is extremely diverse with more than 1400 species of flowering plants. Of greater importance is that 24 of these species are unique to the Wongan Hills. The concentration of wildflowers in Wongan Hills is equal to Mount Lesuer National Park, Stirling Range National Park and Fitzgerald Nation Park. There are numerous species of priority flora.

**Day 2-3 » Wongan Hills to Billiburning Rock 200km**

Head east to Koorda enjoying the nature reserves along the way. During spring ask the Shire where to find the Koorda “roose”. Visit the Koorda hospital museum. Then travel on to Bencubbin, take a peek at the sandalwood wood-cutters wagon. Travel North to Beacon, there is a good picnic spot 30 kms north of Beacon at Billiburning Rock. Billiburning Rocks is a recommended picnic area adjacent to a large tract of natural forest north of Beacon. A relatively undisturbed bushland area, it is one of the largest rock outcrops in the area and provides many opportunities for birdwatchers. It is quite close to the Rabbit-proof fence and often has good sightings of Wedge-tailed Eagles, Budgerigars, Black Cockatoos, Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Major Mitchells and Mallee Fowl.

**Day 4 » Billiburning Rock to Elachbutting Rock 50km**

East of Beacon a selection of magnificent granite outcrops awaits exploration. Birrongoombing has the largest water catchment in the Southern Hemisphere. It has a free camping area with a toilet, barbeque and picnic table. Look for its amazing balancing boulder, a huge gnamma hole and indigenous Kalamara tribe paintings. Elachbutting offers magnificent views from the top, a large wave, a 40m tunnel, a cave, a prospector’s well and wildflowers in season. Take the track around this gigantic granite outcrop or drive to the top for awe-inspiring views. A popular camping spot, the Rock/amazingly coloured wave (similar to Wave Rock at Hyden) has a 30m tunnel and an unusual cave-like amphitheatre.

**Day 4-5 » Elachbutting Rock to Perth 370km**

Nature Reserve with its laterite breakaway. This untouched 5,000 ha granite rock and bushland that teems with wildlife is for the enthusiast that doesn’t need tracks and signage. With 90 bird species and 33 native orchids documented, the creek bed walk along the Echo Valley rewards visitors with prolific wildflower sightings, including the wild form of the silver princess tree. Continuing west will take you into Mukinbudin – the Pioneer Botanical Walk and rare species garden is a must visit location. Travelling to Nungarin, take the route past Eaglestone Rock and its salt lake views. Visit the Military Museum and Mangowine Homestead, 14 kms north of town. As you head back along the Pioneers’ Pathway to Perth, you can admire the beautiful salmon gums at Kununoppin. Drop into the numerous nature reserves, explore the history of the bulk handling of wheat at the Wyalkatchem Museum and Visitor Centre. The rare and endangered native foxglove is found in the main street flower gardens. Wyalkatchem Reserve, with its interesting open heathland, is a good location for flowering shrubs.

**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**

Central Wheatbelt  (08) 9041 1666
www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

**Accommodation**

Visit racparksandresorts.com.au or contact your nearest RAC travel centre to book today.

**Park Passes**


**Useful tips**

Need a car? Hire a car through Thrifty car rental and save. rac.com.au/carhire

**Call 9436 4840, go to rac.com.au/greatdrives or pop into your local RAC Travel Centre**