

Family fun trail 5 days



The best Aussie holidays involve a mix of wonderful beaches, superb natural environments and exciting child friendly attractions. It's the perfect place to kick back and relax on a fun filled family holiday. Whether your family enjoys swimming, four wheel driving, bushwalking or boating, there are plenty of activities for everyone.

Suggested itinerary

Day 1 » Perth to Bunbury 170km

Bunbury two hours south of Perth. Take a dolphin watch cruise in Koombana Bay and visit the Dolphin Discovery Centre. Here wild but friendly bottlenose dolphins will interact with people as

they visit the shore. After lunch check out the Big Swamp Wildlife Park to see over 60 varieties of Australian native birds and marsupials. To get your bearings and for 360 degree views over the city, ocean and inlet climb the Marlston Lookout. Connected to Victoria Street by a timber stairway it sits on the site of Bunbury's first lighthouse. For a less rigorous climb Boulter's Heights between Wittenoom Street and Haig Crescent. It offers fabulous city views from a network of paths and boardwalks. While strolling the CBD keep an eye out for historic buildings and public artworks or relax amongst the greenery in one of the city parks. Bunbury city sights include: Centenary Gardens; Corner Prinsep and Wittenoom Streets. This beautiful garden was established in 1936 to commemorate the town of Bunbury's centenary. A large floating granite stone gifted to the city by Aqwest is a feature of the area. Pioneer Park, Wellington



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Street. Pioneer Park is the site of cemetery used between 1842 and 1925. Many of the areas first pioneers were buried here. The park has been transformed into an attractive garden that provides interpretative signage about its former use. Anzac Park, Stirling Street. This heritage listed precinct is used both as a park and a place of remembrance. It contains several memorials including the Bunbury War Memorial dedicated to lives lost in world wars one and two. Queens Gardens, Cobblestone Drive. Curved around the Leschenault Inlet, the open grassed areas of Queens Gardens are perfect for a picnic.

Day 2 » Bunbury to Margaret River 100km

Continue south to the Sunflower Animal Farm near Margaret River to feed and interact with the farm and native animals. Next, head underground for a tour of one of the region's show caves: Ngilgi, Mammoth, Lake or Jewel. There's an array of unforgettable gastronomic delights to be discovered at the region's fine dining restaurants, casual cafes, cellar doors and purveyors of fresh produce. Taste exquisite cheeses, olive oils, condiments, jams, chocolates, boutique beers, crisp ciders and, of course, first class wines. For more information about culinary delights around Margaret River, visit the Food and Wine pages. Cowaramup is located in the centre of the region and a great place to start your exploring from. The Margaret River Wine Region is an adventure playground with amazing surfing, fishing, diving, snorkelling and sailing experiences. Marine life is in abundance here, and the sight of the magnificent humpback and southern right whales is a special thrill. The journey south along the western coastline brings you to the international surfing paradise of Margaret River with its legendary breaks. The town is 10 kilometres up river, and is home to fine restaurants, cafes and a diverse community of artists. The beautiful limestone caves nearby also attract many visitors. The region begins in the coastal town of Busselton in Geographe Bay. From here, the pristine sands and aquamarine waters stretch south to the favourite family holiday and surfing spots of Yallingup and Dunsborough. On the southern tip of the region is the coastal town of Augusta, just nine kilometres from where the warm Indian and cooler Southern Oceans meet and whales play just off the shore.

Day 3 » Margaret River to Pemberton 140km

Characterised by lush rolling hills and charming historic towns, the Blackwood River Valley is breathtakingly picturesque and naturally beautiful. It's particularly beautiful in springtime, when the wildflowers and local award-winning gardens put on a dazzling show of colour. At night, clear skies give stargazers an awe-inspiring view of the constellations, and by day art-lovers will discover outstanding craftsmanship in the local galleries. Food and wine lovers will be delighted by the array

of products on offer for tasting throughout the region. The Southern Forests begin just outside Manjimup, where agricultural land is dotted with tall stands of magnificent karri trees. Further south is the timber town of Pemberton. Here the forest is more established, with many virgin karri trees over 300 years old. Towards the southern coast lies the small town of Northcliffe, surrounded by towering forests and rich coastal plains and wetlands. Northcliffe is the gateway to the D'Entrecasteaux National Park and the spectacular cliff tops of Point D'Entrecasteaux. Head east from Margaret River for a journey through the forest on the Pemberton Tram, traveling to the Warren River Bridge and return. After lunch it is off to the coast and the Yeagerup Dunes, a series of vast mobile sand dunes that are slowly moving inland. Access to the dunes is by a short walk from Yeagerup Lake or via 4WD.

Day 4 » Pemberton to Albany 240km

In the Great Southern region of Australia's South West, dramatic forested cliffs are pounded by the wild Southern Ocean, providing shelter for cosy coves and calm bays. Coastal and country towns are steeped in the history of early European settlement. Rolling pastoral landscapes and majestic mountain ranges are home to a rich variety of flora and fauna and fine wines are carefully crafted in the region's vineyards. Framed by the rugged Porongurup and Stirling Range National Parks, the port city of Albany was Western Australia's first European settlement. Continue east from Pemberton to Denmark Dinosaur World and Parrot Jungle Bird & Reptile Park. Home to the only replica T-Rex skeleton in Australia. From here it is time for more interaction with animals at Pentland Alpaca Stud and Animal Farm.

Day 5 » Albany to Perth 420km

The Great Southern coast was once home to a thriving whaling industry. Today it's classed as a world-class site for whale watching. In season, these majestic creatures can be seen from many lookout platforms along the coast. It's likely that you'll spot dolphins, sea lions and penguins playing in these coastal waters too. Travel inland and follow winding rivers and streams, passing picturesque farmland and visiting pioneering farming communities to explore the region's rich rural heritage. Taste delicately flavoured fine wines on a tour of the countryside around Mount Barker, Frankland, Denmark and the Porongurups. This area is rapidly establishing itself as one of Western Australia's premier wine regions and there are also a number of olive groves, berry farms and honey producers here. Take a whale watching tour (seasonal) and visit Whale World for an interactive journey through the last operating whaling station in Australia. Travel back to Perth via Albany Highway. Be sure to venture out of the car to view the wildflowers from September to November.

Highlights

- » Dolphins and whales sightings
- » Interactive animal farms and eco parks
- » Caves
- » National Parks and wildflowers
- » Wine regions
- » Historic architecture
- » River cruises, sand-boarding, canoeing, kayaking and rafting, diving and snorkelling, fishing, golf, mountain biking, rock climbing and abseiling, sailing and house boats, swimming beaches, walking trails and surfing.

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

Bunbury	(08) 9792 7205
Margaret River	(08) 9780 5911
Pemberton	(08) 9776 1133
Denmark	(08) 9848 2055
Albany	(08) 9841 9290

Accommodation

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