

The Best Day Walks in **SW WESTERN AUSTRALIA** “THE SOUTH-WEST LOOP”

Saturday 6 November – Sunday 21 November, 2027



This tour offers an exploration of the **southwestern part** of Western Australia, including the **best walks** in the most well-known and popular national parks and conservation parks. The itinerary balances the rugged Golden Outback with the towering forests and turquoise coastlines.

November is widely considered one of the **best times** to visit the southern part of Western Australia. As the final month of spring, it offers a "sweet spot" of warming temperatures and low rainfall before the peak summer crowds and heat arrive in December.

Weather Highlights

November brings mild, pleasant conditions ideal for being outdoors without the intense 30°C+ heat of mid-summer.

- Temperatures: Average daytime highs range from 20°C to 26°C (68°F–79°F), though it can occasionally reach much higher. Nights remain cool, averaging around 12°C to 15°C (54°F–59°F).
- Rainfall: This is one of the driest months for the region, with very little chance of rain, making it perfect for hiking and coastal drives.
- Sea Temperature: The water is approximately 19°C–20°C (66°F–68°F). It may feel crisp initially, but it is generally suitable for swimming as the air warms up.

Top Reasons to Visit in November

- Wildflowers: November is the grand finale of the world-famous wildflower season. While the blooms start in the north, they finish in the South West and South Coast in late October and early November.
- Whale Watching: This is the peak time to see Humpback whales migrating south with their calves. You can often spot them in the calm waters of Geographe Bay (Busselton and Dunsborough) until late November.
- Hiking & Nature: The mild temperatures are perfect for tackling the Cape to Cape Track or the Bibbulmun Track. Unlike in summer, the trails are comfortable for long walks with minimal shade.
- Wineries & Food: Regions like Margaret River are lush and vibrant. You can enjoy outdoor tastings and dining before the busy Christmas holiday rush begins.

16 days ex-Perth

Leader: Phillip Donnell

Price: \$5450 (excluding airfares)

Based on a minimum of 10 participants and subject to currency fluctuations.

Price is estimated at May 2026, so subject to change until fully paid.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation – shared rooms in self-contained hotels, cabins, motels, rental houses.
- Transport in a comfortable vehicle.
- Breakfasts (continental).
- Experienced Kiwi trip leader throughout.
- National Park entry fees.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Flights to / from Perth
- Airport transfer fees.
- Lunches and dinners.
- Travel insurance.
- Personal incidentals, excursions, and entry to attractions.

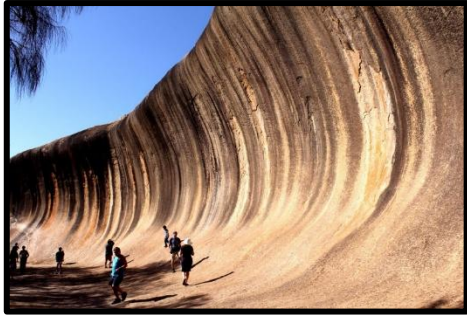
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2027 ITINERARY

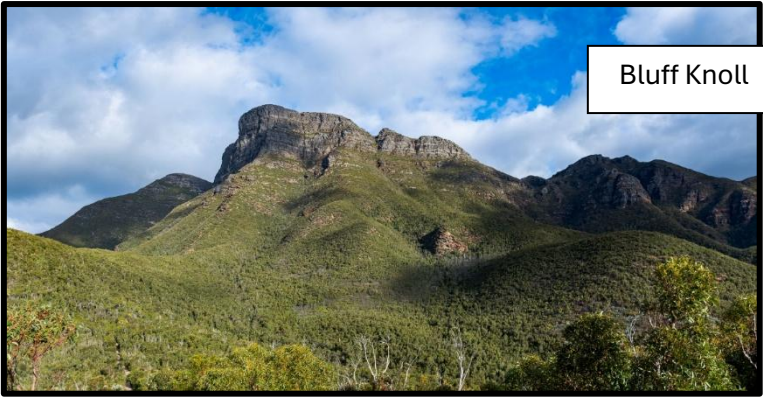
You should arrive in Perth for the initial briefing on Saturday 6 November at 8 a.m.

DATE	POSSIBLE WALK(S)	OVERNIGHT
<p style="text-align: center;">For further information on walks, go to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails WA: Widely considered the most comprehensive local database for WA. It lists over 1,000 trails across categories like bushwalks, urban walks, and mountain biking. You can search by region, difficulty, and distance. • Explore Parks WA (DBCA): The official government site for WA National Parks. It provides critical, up-to-date information on park alerts, safety, and trail closures. It's particularly useful for major trails like the Bibbulmun Track and Cape to Cape. • Life of Py: A highly regarded independent blog that features detailed trail reviews, high-quality photography, and first-hand accounts of many WA hikes. <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Where multiple walks are listed, the group will make a selection...</p>		
DAY 1: PERTH		
<p>Day 1 Saturday 6 November</p>	<p>Perth has an incredible variety of short walks, ranging from riverside city paths to rugged bushland trails in the hills. Most of these are loops and can be completed in under 90 minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City & Riverside Views • Law Walk Loop (Kings Park): A classic 3.7km trail. It offers the best views of the Perth CBD and Swan River, winding through the Botanic Gardens and native bushland. • Heirisson Island Loop: A 4.3km flat path in the middle of the Swan River. It's famous for its resident mob of Western Grey Kangaroos, which are best seen at dawn or dusk. • Matilda Bay: A gentle 2km out-and-back walk along the river near the University of WA, perfect for spotting dolphins or enjoying a coffee by the water. ○ Coastal Strolls • Cottesloe Foreshore: A 4.8km paved path between the iconic Norfolk Island pines and the Indian Ocean. It's an easy, accessible walk with many sculptures and cafes along the way. • Point Peron Loop: A 2.5km circuit in Rockingham (about 45 mins south of Perth). It features rugged limestone cliffs, turquoise coves, and historic WWII bunkers. 	<p>Perth</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reabold Hill Summit (Bold Park): A short 2km walk to the highest natural point on the Swan Coastal Plain, providing panoramic views of the ocean and the city. ○ Nature & Waterfall Hikes • Lesmurdie Falls Loop: A popular 2km trail in the Perth Hills. It leads to one of the region’s most spectacular waterfalls and is best visited in winter or spring after rain. • Bells Rapids Loop: A 5.5km trail in the Swan Valley. It's a great spot for watching the roaring white water in winter and is known for its frequent kangaroo sightings. • Noble Falls Walk: A very easy 3.5km loop near Gidgegannup that follows the Wooroloo Brook, particularly beautiful during wildflower season (August–October). • Whistlepipe Gully, Kalamunda This is a reasonably easy walk in the Mundy Regional Park, although there are a few rocky descents. (3.5km, 1h to 1h30m) • Rocky Pool, Kalamunda NP (5km, 2h). This loop walk has some difficult steep loose descents. There are beautiful views with many wildflowers and creeks. It includes a section of the Bibbulmun Track. • Kings Park Perimeter Loop (10km, 2h30m, Moderate) 	
--	---	--


DAYS 2-3: THE GRANITE OUTBACK AND WAVE ROCK		
--	--	--

<p style="text-align: center;">Day 2 Sunday 7 November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perth to Hyden: Drive east through the Wheatbelt (340km,4h) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wave Rock & Hippo's Yawn (5km). An easy loop exploring the famous granite "wave" and strange rock formations. ○ Kalarri Track at The Humps to Mulka’s Cave (2km loop, Moderate) <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hyden</p>
--	--	--

<p>Day 3 Monday 8 November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyden to Katanning (150km, 1h45m) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lake Magic & Salt Pond (6km). A flat, ethereal walk around shimmering salt lakes. 	<p>Katanning</p>
DAYS 4-5: THE GREAT SOUTHERN REGION AND ALBANY		
<p>Day 4 Tuesday 9 November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katanning to Albany (175km, 2h) Stop at Porongurup and Stirling Range National Parks en route. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Granite Skywalk (5km moderate). A steady climb to a suspended walkway with 360-degree views of the Southern Ocean. ○ Bluff Knoll (6.8km, 4h) A steep path with numerous steps to negotiate. The views from the summit are spectacular and worth the effort to get there. <div data-bbox="416 913 1182 1308" style="text-align: center;">  <div data-bbox="1005 958 1197 1025" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Bluff Knoll</div> </div>	<p>Albany</p>
<p>Day 5 Wednesday 10 November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albany Heritage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ellen Cove Boardwalk to Albany Port (10km return). A paved path with historical markers and stunning harbour views. ○ Luke Pen Walk (6km one way, 2h). Wildflowers along Kalgan River. It is very sheltered from the ocean winds and is famous for its peaceful, reflective water. 	
<p>Day 6 Thursday 11 November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torndirrup National Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stony Hill Heritage Trail (4km). Highest point in the park with panoramic views. ○ The Gap & Natural Bridge (4km loop). Easy, scenic paths around dramatic ocean cliffs. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bald Head (12.5km,4-5h) is a challenging return hike offering spectacular 360-degree views of the Southern Ocean, King George Sound, and granite coastal scenery ○ Bibbulman Track: Wind Farm to Sand Patch (6km, 2h) ○ Middleton Beach to Ellen Cove (6km return, Easy). A paved coastal path. 	
DAYS 7-9: DENMARK AND WALPOLE INLETS		
Day 7 Friday 12 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albany to Denmark (55km, 1h) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bibbulman Track: Greens Pool to Mudfish Bay (12km, 3-4h). Moderate coastal walking through turquoise bays. ○ Cosy Corner to Shelley Beach (8.5km one way, 2-3h, part of the Bibbulmun Track) Rugged coastal cliffs and beach sections. ○ Greens Pool to Elephant Rocks (2.4km return). Famous for its large granite boulders, green turquoise water and white sandy beach. ○ Bibbulman Track: Mount Hallowell Trail (5km,2h) 	Denmark
Day 8 Saturday 13 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denmark Peaks & Forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monkey Rock (4.5km moderate). A short hike for the best view in Denmark. ○ Harewood Forest (4.5km easy). A lush walk through regrowth Karri forest. 	Denmark
Day 9 Sunday 14 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denmark to Walpole (70km, 1h) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bibbulman Track: Conspicuous Cliffs to Peaceful Bay (15km, 4-6h) ○ The Ancient Empire & Valley of the Giants Treetop Walk (5km). An easy walk through 400-year-old Red Tingle trees. ○ Bibbulman Track: Coalmine Beach to Monastery Landing (6km) Dense forest along the edge of the Nornalup Inlet. 	Walpole

DAYS 10-12: WALPOLE TO PEMBERTON		
Day 10 Monday 15 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Walpole to Pemberton (120km, 1h30m) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mount Clare Loop (5km). Moderate forest trail featuring Tingle and Karri trees. 	Pemberton
Day 11 Tuesday 16 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Karri Forest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Warren River Loop (10km moderate). A deep forest immersion among some of the tallest trees on Earth. 	Pemberton
Day 12 Wednesday 17 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pemberton to Augusta (130km, 1h45m) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Big Brook Dam (4km easy). A flat, sealed loop around the water—very social for a group. ○ Augusta River Walk (4km, 1h) 	Augusta
DAYS 13-16: MARGARET RIVER AND THE RETURN		
Day 13 Thursday 18 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Augusta to Margaret River (50km, 45m) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cape Leeuwin Waterwheel to Lighthouse (6km). Easy coastal walk where the Southern and Indian Oceans meet. ○ Cape Leeuwin to Skippy Rock (4.5km one way). Rugged coastal terrain with some sandy and rocky sections. ○ Cape Leeuwin to Quarry Bay (6km return) ○ Cape to Cape: Contos to Redgate (7km one way. 2-3h). Some challenging sections. ○ Lighthouse Scenic Loop (9km, 4-6h). ○ Boranup Forest Loop (5km, 1h30m). 	Margaret River
Day 14 Friday 19 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Rails to Trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wadandi Track (14km easy). A flat, historical railway line through bushland and vineyards. ○ Chimney Trail (Wooditjup NP) (3.4 km, 1h30m, Moderate), Shaded forest, gentle hills. 	Margaret River
Day 15 Saturday 20 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Margaret River to Busselton (55km, 45m) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meelup Coastal Trail (7km moderate). Beautiful coastal path ending at the iconic Meelup Beach. 	Busselton

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cape to Cape Track: Yallingup to Cape Naturaliste (14km, 4-5h) ○ Cape Naturaliste to Sugarloaf Rock , (4km one way 2-3h, Moderate) <div style="text-align: center;">  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> Cape to Cape Track: Yallingup to Cape Naturaliste section </div> </div>	
<p>Day 16 Sunday 21 November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Busselton to Perth (230km,2h30m) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Busselton Jetty (3.6km easy). Walk the length of the Southern Hemisphere’s longest timber jetty before the final drive back to Perth. <p style="text-align: center;">Trip concludes. Own arrangements. (Flights departing from Perth after 2 p.m. recommended)</p> 	

Booking Conditions, Registration and Waiver forms are below...

WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 2027

Booking Conditions

1. Participants agree to all terms and conditions by signing the Registration Form.
2. Phillip Donnell and *Footsteps Walking and Travel Club* are not responsible or liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may arise from weather, pandemic, defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or through the acts or default of any person or company engaged in carrying out any of the arrangements of the trip. Everyone participates at their own risk. The separate waiver form must be completed.
3. We reserve the right to cancel the trip if minimum numbers don't eventuate. In such an event, all monies paid will be refunded. The minimum number for this trip is ten.
4. *Footsteps* reserves the right to make any modifications to the trip that may be necessary. The walks undertaken each day are determined by group consensus, but as far as possible we endeavour to meet your personal preferences.
5. The trip fee includes subsidisation of the leader/driver administrative and travel expenses, as well as a gift of appreciation/gratuity.
6. Registrations close on **1 August, 2027** or earlier if all the spaces are filled.
7. Registrations are accepted in good faith on a first comer's basis on receipt of the Registration form, Waiver form and passport scan. A deposit of \$500 per person is paid at the time of registration. The balance of the trip fee is due to be paid by **1 October 2027**.
8. Our preferred method of payment is internet banking to Footsteps, Kiwibank PJ Donnell/Katrina Tulip 38-9002-0435674-03. Please write your surname and the name of the trip ("WestAust") in the reference box.
9. Cancellations: If you need to cancel your registration for any reason, you must advise Phillip in writing as soon as possible. An email is acceptable, a phone call alone is not. Full refunds are given up to 90 days prior. Following that, refunds are by negotiation, with the aim of refunding the maximum amount possible. Travel insurance can cover you for unexpected changes of plan that have a valid reason. If you find a suitable replacement person, cancellation fees MAY be waived.
10. Personal travel insurance is compulsory.

Registration and waiver forms are below. Complete these and send them to us, with a copy of your passport, then pay your deposit, to secure your place.

***Footsteps Walking & Travel Club of Aotearoa New Zealand
Western Australia 2027: Trip Registration Form***

Complete and send this (along with a passport scan and the waiver form) to our postal address (see base of page) or scan and email. The deposit required is \$500 per person. Our preferred payment method is internet banking into Kiwibank PJ Donnell/Katrina Tulip 38-9002-0435674-03 (with covering email please, or your surname/name of trip in reference column).

Your full name(s) and please underline or highlight your preferred first name(s):

Postal Address:

Day/Night phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Date(s) of birth:

Are you comfortable in close contact with like-minded travellers with all the give and take needed for harmony? Please extend your answers overleaf or on separate paper, or by email.

Specify any dietary requirements, allergies or medical conditions:

Contact person in NZ for any emergencies : name, address, contact phone numbers, email and the relationship to you.

I/We have read the trip information and booking conditions. I / We enclose the deposit of \$500pp. I / We agree to pay the remainder of trip costs by the due date. (signed and dated by each person registering):

3/B Te Arawa Place, Welcome Bay, Tauranga 3112, footstepsanz@gmail.com.

FOOTSTEPS WALKING & TRAVEL CLUB OF AOTEAROA / NEW ZEALAND

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY FORM

PROVIDER: Footsteps Walking and Travel Club (Phillip John Donnell)("Footsteps")

PARTICIPANT:

("the Participant")

I, the Participant, release and forever discharge and hold harmless Footsteps from all and any liability, claims, demands and damages, of whatsoever kind or nature, whether foreseeable or otherwise, either at law or in equity, which arise or may arise from the services and activities provided and arranged by Footsteps.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Waiver discharges Footsteps from any liability or claim that I may have against Footsteps in respect of personal injury, illness, medical treatment, death, property loss or damage, and otherwise howsoever, resulting from the services and activities provided and arranged by Footsteps. I hereby waive all such rights and remedies.

I accept that I participate in the services and activities entirely at my own risk.

I acknowledge and accept that this Release and Waiver:

- (a) Extends to and covers all contractors, agents, volunteers and employees of Footsteps; and
- (b) Binds the executors, administrators, successors, attorneys and assigns of both parties.

Signed by the Participant:

Date: _____