

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL



2nd-19th September 2017 (18 days Perth-Perth)

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### Wild flowers and endemic wildlife

"Mindblowing...

ten out of ten... eleven!"

"I'd like to do this trip again"

Western Australia 2014

The south west of Western Australia is a vast botanical garden: tall forest, woodlands, shrublands and heath are home to over 4000 species, 80% of which grow nowhere else: a truly remarkable flora.

Mid-spring is the time when the flowers are at their best. Banksias, Grevilleas, Hakeas, Myrtles, Kangaroo Paws and a bewildering diversity of orchids, plus many more combine to create a colourful botanical extravaganza.

We start and finish in Perth, concentrating on discovering the magnificent array of wildflowers in the state, while also gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of the wider natural heritage: the itinerary will give us plenty of opportunity to see some of the state's many mammals, reptiles and the chance to catch up with a good number of Western Australia's endemic birds.

The Perth hinterland is as diverse as it is fascinating. From the **Darling Ranges** we travel north through the Banksia-Eucalypt woodlands and mallee shrub and heathlands to **Pinnacles National Park**. Further north lies Kalbarri NP, where a huge variety of wild flowers clothe the plains surrounding the Murchison River gorges.

Passing south through the **coastal shrublands**, many roads are lined with wildflowers, ablaze with colour. In the south west, we visit the famed **Karri-Tingle** and **Jarrah-Marri** forests, walking amidst the canopy of these magnificent tees on a canopy walkway. Heading east, coastal cliffs provide great viewing of breeding Southern Right Whales offshore of **Fitzgerald River NP**, while in the **Stirling Range** we will climb onto the summit ridge, with flowers in abundance and lizards much in evidence.

Finally we visit the famous **Dryandra** woodlands, home to endangered marsupials and more wonderful wild flowers.



**Price**  
£4625

**SRS** £650

**Full board**

- Day 1** arrive Perth
- Day 2** Rottneest Island
- Day 3** Leseur Nat'l Park
- Day 4** Hi Vallee Farm
- Day 5** Tallingering Region
- Day 6** Kalbarri Nat'l Park
- Day 7** Badgingarra
- Day 8** Cervantes, Karakamia
- Day 9** Perth
- Day 10** Travel south.
- Day 11** Pemberton
- Day 12** Jarrah-Karri Forests
- Day 13** Stirling Range
- Day 14** Qaalup
- Day 15** Fitzgerald River NP
- Day 16** Travel west
- Day 17** Dryandra
- Day 18** return to Perth

**Leaders**

Mark Hanger  
and Philip Precey

**Wildlife and culture holidays**



Our profits are donated to the **Wildlife Trusts**



## ITINERARY

**Please note that the itinerary may be changed to suit the weather or other practicalities or at the discretion of the leaders.**

**Day 1 Sat 2nd Sept** The holiday starts at **Perth**, where we will meet up at our city centre hotel in time for dinner. o/n Perth

**PLEASE NOTE International flights and travel to/from Perth are not included in the holiday to allow you maximum flexibility in making your personal travel arrangements. Virgin and Qantas both fly to Perth.**

**Day 2 Sun 3rd Sept** We start our holiday with a day trip out to wonderful Rottne Island. The island has a rich colonial history, but is perhaps best known for its resident Quokkas, an endearing marsupial now very rare on the mainland but common and easily observed out here. The island is also home to the large King Skink, Banded Stilts and Singing Honeyeater. In the afternoon we will take a whale watching excursion offshore to see Humpback Whales. o/n Perth.

**Day 3 Mon 4th Sept** We drive north from Perth to Cervantes. **Lesueur National Park** covers 27,000 hectares and is the third largest of Western Australia's National Parks. Amongst over nine hundred flower species are rare *Banksia tricuspis* and *Banksia attenuata*. We will look for the diminutive Flying Duck Orchid and *Xanthosia tomentosa* and spiny *Synaphea spinulosa*. En route we shall also visit the renowned Pinnacles region near Cervantes. o/n Cervantes.

**Day 4 Tue 5th Sept** A day excursion on to the vast **Hi Vallee Farm**. We explore this botanical treasure trove by 4WD, stopping numerous times to further investigate the myriad of plant species. This region has an incredible array of Western Australian (WA) wildflowers and we shall be visiting right at the time of peak flowering. We enjoy a full day drive around the station with the owners to view and photograph orchids, grevilleas and dryandras, not to mention many species of WA bird. Late afternoon we travel the short distance north to Dongara. o/n Dongara.

**Day 5 Wed 6th Sept** This morning we turn inland to the dry **Tallering region**. Here amidst the sand and shrubland grow one of the stars of WA's wild flowers, the wreathflower *Lechenaultia macrantha*. The flora in this region is markedly different from any other area on the trip. Other special plants may include Native Pomegranate *Balaustion microphyllum*, Pink Fountain *Stylidium brunoniamum* and Wells Dampiera *Dampiera wellsiana*. After lunch departure for **Kalbarri National Park**. The Northampton roadsides shall enthral, while the Zuydorf Cliffs region is home to a very different flora this afternoon. o/n Kalbarri.



**Day 6 Thu 7th Sept** A day in the Kalbarri National Park, discovering the huge variety of wildflowers, the **Murchison River gorges** and the coast. Both the sand plains and the coastal cliffs abound in magnificent displays of river gums, gold and orange banksias, grevilleas, kangaroo paws, featherflowers, starflowers and smokebushes. From lookouts above the gorge, Euros and Western Grey Kangaroos may be spotted, while lizards frequent the bluffs and parrots the valley tree tops. o/n Kalbarri

**Day 7 Fri 8th Sept** We turn south once again and travel back through Geraldton and down the coast to Cervantes. The arid shrublands and heathlands of **Badgingarra** are a wonderful insight to the West Australian flora. We shall discover the diversity of this protected area. o/n Cervantes

**Day 8 Sat 9th Sept** Lake Thetis near Cervantes is home to bizarre dome shaped stromatolites. The stromatolites are amongst the earth's most ancient life forms, and they continue to form in the sup-saline environment. On the afternoon drive to Perth many roads are lined with what appear to be veritable botanic gardens, including Black Kangaroo Paws, orchids, banksias and featherflowers all of particular interest.

This evening we shall visit the enchanting wildlife sanctuary at **Karakamia**: at dusk, we will walk through this predator-free sanctuary, looking for threatened and endangered marsupials such as Tammar Wallaby, Brush-tailed Possum, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Woylie. o/n Perth

**Day 9 Sun 10th Sept** A **free day** to explore Perth. Options today include taking a Swan River excursion, take in historic Fremantle, explore Perth's famed Kings Park or make a repeat-visit to Rottnest Island. o/n Perth

**Day 10 Mon 11th Sept** Depart Perth for the south-west and Pemberton. Morning walk on the granite outcrops at **Ellis Brook**. Here the lower valley slopes have some of the highest concentrations of wildflower species in the Perth region, while we will keep an eye out for skinks and lizards on the rock outcrops. o/n Pemberton.

**Day 11 Tue 12th Sept** This morning we will discover something of the timber heritage of this region, before heading west into the sand dune ecosystem of the D'Entrecasteaux National Park. Lunch in a local vineyard will round off our last day in the south west. This evening, we shall take a gentle walk in the forest to seek out the diversity of frogs that inhabit the Pemberton forest and lake verges, including Slender Tree Frog, Karri Frog, Quacking Frog, Bleating Froglet and the delightful Banjo Frog. o/n Pemberton.



Photos: Orchids of Western Australia (clockwise from top).  
*Caladenia multiclavia*, *Thelymitra antenifera*, *Elythranthera emarginata*, *C. flava*, *C. polychroma*, *Diuris laxiflora*

**Day 12 Wed 13th Sept** Continuing to the Stirling Range, via the south coast takes us through the renowned Jarrah and Karri forests. We walk amidst the canopy of these magnificent trees on a high level canopy walkway and gain a better understanding of the intricacies of the relationship between forest and fire. A new flora introduces itself as the wetter regions of the state are entered. Later afternoon arrival amidst the Stirling Range National Park. o/n Stirling Range Retreat.

**Day 13 Thu 14th Sept** An unmissable highlight of any visit to Western Australia is the Stirling Range. This dramatic National Park has over one thousand species of flowering plant and a wonderful array of birds, while a half day walk up onto the summit ridge is one of the most rewarding walks anywhere. Flowers are in abundance, Wedge-tailed Eagles soar overhead and on the ground a variety of lizards can be found. o/n Stirling Range Retreat.

**Day 14 Fri 15th Sept** The southern end of **Fitzgerald River National Park** beckons today. We'll explore the coastal heathlands, look out for Southern Right Whales as they loll in the clear waters just off shore, and enjoy the wildflower diversity of the Quaakup Homestead property. Quaakup is also home to threatened Carnaby's Cockatoo. After an early dinner at the homestead, we'll return to the Stirling Range Retreat for another night.

**Day 15 Sat 16th Sept** A region of remarkable contrasts, Fitzgerald River National Park lies nears Hopetoun. We'll enjoy the scrublands as we travel through the National Park, including such world renowned species as Royal Hakea, Pincushion Hakea, Four-winged Mallee, Scarlet Banksia, Quaakup Bell and the Barrens Regelia. We will walk up East Mount Barren before continuing east to Hopetoun. En route a fascinating array of orchids may include such wonderful (and wonderfully named!) species as the Zebra Orchid, Fringed Mantis Orchid, Wispy Spider Orchid and Sugar Candy Orchid. o/n Hopetoun.

**Day 16 Sun 17th Sept** We head back inland: this brings new landscapes as the vast interior of Western Australia beckons. It is a travel day, as we head directly westwards through the Ravensthorpe Range. Features en route will be the salt pans of Lake King and widespread roadside shrublands ablaze with colourful flowers. In this region Western Tiger Snakes may be seen, while monitors are often spotted in the heathland. o/n Narrogin.

**Day 17 Mon 18th Sept** Dryandra is a very special place and one of the few remaining areas of pristine south-western woodland in the state. During the day we will explore the woodlands; a huge array of leguminous and proteaceous shrubs will astound, while larger mammals such as the Black-gloved Wallaby, Short-beaked Echidna and if we are really lucky, even a Numbat may be encountered.

After dinner, we will have an evening excursion to view more of the endangered marsupials for which this reserve is one of the last strongholds, and learn of the Project Western Shield programme to conserve WA's endangered mammals.



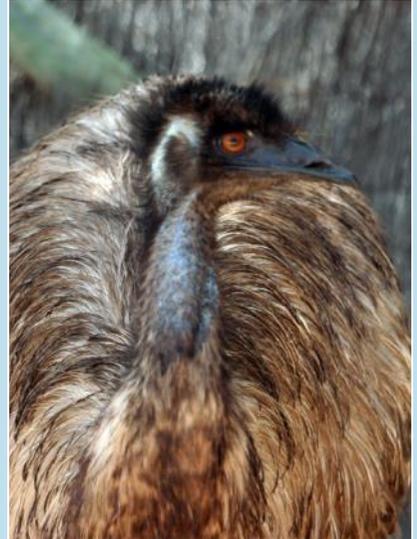
This is an unforgettable nocturnal experience, as wonderful marsupials with evocative names, Bilbies, Boodies, Woylies, Mala and Quenda come hopping around our feet in a semi-wild setting. o/n Narrogin.

**Day 18 Tue 19th Sept** We bid farewell to the South Coast as we make the three hundred kilometre drive back to Perth. We'll have time to stop en route to sample yet more roadside colour and maybe a last few orchid species, before we arrive back in Perth, where the holiday ends. **Late afternoon and evening flights out of Perth.**



## Leaders

**Mark Hanger** is a Director of Nature Quest New Zealand. A graduate in Botany from Otago University, Mark was employed with the National Parks and Reserves Service in Otago for 7 years, concentrating on interpretation of the natural environment to the public. Along with a professional involvement in conservation since 1979, Mark has had an equally long private interest in conservation. Mark will be familiar to many as our inimitable guide for our visits to New Zealand, as well as our previous holidays to Western Australia and Tasmania.



Mark will be joined by **Philip Precey**, a Director of Wildlife Travel who has led many of our holidays in recent years, from Galapagos and Botswana to the Isles of Scilly and Bulgaria. Philip joined Mark in leading our 2014 trip to Western Australia, as well as our recent visits to Tasmania and New Zealand. Never far from his binoculars and camera, Philip will help you to enjoy all the aspects of the natural history that we encounter.



Photos: Wildlife of W Australia (clockwise from top) Brush Bronzewing, Emu, Singing Honeyeater, Quokka, Short-beaked Echidna, Tamar Wallaby



## Weather

We will be travelling in Western Australia's springtime. Days are long and sunny, nights are mild. Spring is an excellent time for walking in the bush and a variety of other outdoor activities. Western Australia has a relaxed lifestyle, so dress will be informal at all times. Bring comfortable clothing and anticipate a similar range of temperatures to a British summer - it should be pleasantly warm: likely temperature range around Perth in September is 10 C to 25 C: it will be warmer in the north and inland, cooler in the south and on the coast. Rain is always possible at all times.

## Transport and travelling

We shall be using an air-conditioned coach throughout the trip with microphone, ample luggage storage in the trailer, and tea and coffee provisions.

## Accommodation

All accommodation is of a very comfortable standard and all rooms have private facilities. In most locations it is average to good standard, 3 star equivalent, although higher than this on occasion.

Direct dial phones, in room tea/coffee facilities, laundry facilities, irons and hair dryers are usually available at most locations.

## Fitness and health

- This is an 18 day tour, stopping at several locations, and you therefore need to be generally fit and able to cope with 'living out of a suitcase' with some long road journeys between areas.
- On some days we will not be walking very far, but on others we will take longer walks. Most walking will be at a slow pace to give us the time to enjoy the plants, scenery and wildlife. If you are a slow walker however, please ring us to discuss whether any of the walks will be problem. We do not do any strenuous hikes but we may be out for a few hours at a time on some days. All walks are optional and you can choose to enjoy a day around the hotel if you prefer (or half a day if this fits in with the transport arrangements), providing we are not moving on to another location that day.
- To see the best of the flowers, it is necessary to walk on rougher **ground and up small slopes**. Comfortable footwear is essential -as it must be strong enough to withstand rough or rocky ground underfoot walking boots are essential for all areas out of the towns.



- The sun can be very strong and **sun protection (hat, sunglasses and sun cream) is essential.**
- Personal travel insurance providing good medical cover is essential for this trip. Safety advice given by the leaders must be heeded at all times particularly when walking in the countryside. We will send you advice on health and safety issues before the tour.

**It is essential that, PRIOR TO BOOKING, you ring us to discuss any potential fitness or health problems that may affect you on this trip, 01954 713575.**

## Passports and Visas

You must have a valid passport for this trip (valid for at least 6 months after the end of the holiday).

Holders of UK or EU passports must apply for an eVisitor visa before arranging their travel to Australia. The eVisitor is free, and can be applied for at [www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/evisa](http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/evisa)

For holders of other passports it is essential that you check with your embassy or consulate and obtain the necessary documents prior to travel.

**Please note that you need a machine-readable passport as well as an ESTA visa if you will be passing through the USA during your journey.**

Photos: Wildflowers of W Australia (clockwise from top)  
*Banksia menziesii*, *Drosera glanduligera*, *Stylidium schoenioides*, *Pileanthus peduncularis*, *Pimelea physodes*, *Grevillea insignis*, *Verticordia grandis*



## Travelling to Western Australia

**PLEASE NOTE International flights and travel to/from Perth are not included in the holiday to allow you maximum flexibility in making your personal travel arrangements.** Several major airlines fly from the UK to Perth, including British Airways, Qantas, Virgin Australia, Malaysian Airways and Emirates. If you wish to extend your holiday, we can arrange accommodation before or after the tour.

If you would like Sunvil to book your flight, please ring their Sales Department on 0208 847 3041. The flight will be invoiced and needs to be paid for separately. Other travel agents are, of course, available to book your flights. Please ensure we have confirmed the holiday and your place before booking your flight.

### Insurance

Personal travel insurance providing good medical cover, including emergency rescue and repatriation, is essential for this trip.



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### TO BOOK

Contact us to check availability and reserve a place. Complete the Booking Form and send to Sunvil Holidays (CAA-ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218), our tour operator, with your deposit. All details about booking are given in the Booking Pack.

**DEPOSIT £1000 per person, SECOND INSTALLMENT ON CONFIRMATION OF HOLIDAY £1500.**

**BALANCE DUE BY 03/06/2017**

**INCLUDED:** Local transport as specified in the itinerary. 17 nights accommodation, full board basis: breakfast, picnic lunch and dinner, except lunch and dinner on day 9 (Sept 10th). All excursions as described in the itinerary. Admission fees and National Park concession fees, where appropriate. Services of leaders and guides.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International flights. Optional activities. Lunch and evening meal on day 9. Refreshments, including dinner wine. Entrance fees during any optional sightseeing (e.g. museums). Items of a personal nature. Gratuities. Travel insurance.

\*Deposit and cancellation amounts are set in order to allow us to confirm the holiday as soon as possible based on the minimum number of clients needed to cover shared costs and to prevent us from having to cancel the holiday if any individual bookings are cancelled thereafter.

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### WILDLIFE TRAVEL

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Wildlife Travel Ltd. Reg. No 2237697; (for Registered Charity numbers, please contact us)*

All photos taken on our 2014 trip to Western Australia: a trip report is available to download from <http://www.wildlife-travel.co.uk/reports.php>

Front cover (clockwise from top): *Darwinia citriodora*; *Verticordia nobilis*; Quokka on Rottnest Island; Bluff Knoll, Stirling Range NP. Back: Regents Parrot.