



INDIAN PACIFIC

## SOUTHWEST ESCAPE

### INDIAN PACIFIC

PERTH TO ADELAIDE

DEPARTING MONDAY (JANUARY TO DECEMBER)

8 Days / 7 Nights

Touring Western Australia's beautiful Margaret River region is the perfect primer for the culinary adventure ahead on the Indian Pacific. Margaret River is an internationally acclaimed producer of not only premium wines and is also home to regional specialty food and artisan providores, along with stunning natural assets. This makes for a wonderfully indulgent start to your journey.

#### INCLUSIONS

- 3 nights' accommodation in Perth, including breakfast daily
- 3 day Margaret River Escape, including accommodation and personalised touring
- 1 day Discover Rottnest tour, including lunch
- Transfer from hotel to East Perth Rail Terminal
- 2 nights aboard the Indian Pacific, Perth to Adelaide, including all meals, beverages and Off Train Experiences in Kalgoorlie and Cook
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Stroll along Busselton Jetty, the longest timber jetty in the Southern Hemisphere
- Delight in the flavours of Margaret River wine, coffee, cheese, olive oil and chocolate
- Go underground at the spectacular Mammoth Cave
- View the tallest lighthouse on mainland Australia, Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse
- Meet the quokkas on Rottnest Island
- Experience outback mining heritage in Kalgoorlie
- Ponder the vastness of the Australian continent as you cross the Nullarbor Plain

Please note itineraries are subject to change.

#### DAY 1 – ARRIVE PERTH

After making your own way to Perth, settle into your accommodation and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights DoubleTree by Hilton Perth Waterfront

#### DAY 2 – ROTTNEST ISLAND

Make your way to Barrack Street Jetty and board Rottnest Express, bound for Rottnest Island, 22kms offshore. A 90-minute air-conditioned bus tour around 'Rotto' takes you to some spectacular locations, including Wadjemup Lighthouse and the boardwalk lookout at the rugged west end. Feast on a delicious lunch before exploring the island at your leisure – make sure you meet a quokka. Return to Perth by ferry in the afternoon. (B,L)

#### DAY 3 – PERTH TO MARGARET RIVER

Your day starts with a picturesque drive south to the fabulous Margaret River region, with several stops along the way. In Mandurah, a coffee break by the foreshore is followed by a visit to the Featured Wood Gallery in Bunbury. At Busselton, walk off your delicious lunch with a stroll along the longest timber jetty in the Southern Hemisphere.

Next is a visit to everyone's favourite, the Margaret River Chocolate Company, with its beautiful handmade chocolate truffles and more. From here, we travel along the coast and see the action at Surfers Point, where the world's best surfers come to compete. We'll also see where the Margaret River meets the Indian ocean.

Visiting the quaint coastal town of Prevelly, we'll learn of the fascinating wartime connection with Crete and see Prevelly's charming Greek memorial chapel. (Please note we sometimes switch this around and include this on Day 4 or 5). Continuing along the coast, we'll arrive at our overnight accommodation.

The evening is at leisure. Your guide will suggest options for dinner, which is at your own expense. (B,L)

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights Margaret's Beach Resort or Margaret In Town

#### DAY 4 – MARGARET RIVER

Today is all about exploring the region's stunning scenery and fantastic natural and cultural attractions. We'll start by visiting Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park and see remains of megafauna over 50,000 years old found at Mammoth Cave, a gigantic, underground limestone cave.

Next is a scenic drive through the majestic Boranup Karri Forest, where awe-inspiring trees tower over 65m tall.



INDIAN PACIFIC

## SOUTHWEST ESCAPE

This forest is a feast for the senses, with the forest floor carpeted with wildflowers, orchids and fungi (in season), together with the sounds of native birds and the fresh smell of eucalyptus.

We'll continue south to picturesque Hamelin Bay, where a jetty once stood. Built for exporting timber, this old jetty has been in ruins for many years. The bay is now known for the friendly stingrays that cruise the shallow waters.

Passing through the hilltop coastal town of Augusta, we'll have views of the Blackwood River on the way to the historic Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse, Australia's tallest mainland lighthouse. Here, you will be able to see the Southern Ocean meeting the Indian Ocean. Learn what life was like for the lighthouse keepers and their families on a guided tour.

Lunch will be at either The Colour Patch, overlooking the beautiful Blackwood River, or at Hamelin Bay Wines, with magnificent views over there Karridale vineyard. Both have delicious options for lunch to match with a glass of wine or beer.

This afternoon, there is time to explore the town of Margaret River before returning to your accommodation. Your evening is at leisure, with dinner at your own arrangements. (B,L)

### DAY 5 – MARGARET RIVER TO PERTH

Today is all about food and wine. Visit Yahava Koffee Works, where the proprietors are so passionate about coffee that they travel the world looking for the best coffee beans, which are then roasted in house. Indulge in tastings while you learn how to make the perfect cup of coffee.

Margaret River is famous for award-winning wineries and cellar doors. Today, we visit two wineries for tastings.

At the second winery, your premium wine tasting will be paired with local cheeses from the Margaret River Dairy Co.

Your gourmet day continues at Olio Bello, an olive oil farm. Experience first-hand the subtle flavours of extra virgin olive oil, including citrus pressed oils and enjoy a tasting of the incredible range of condiments. The Olio Bello Café has a menu inspired by their award-winning oils and fresh farm produce and this is where we sit down for a delicious lunch accompanied by a glass of wine, beer or juice.

After lunch, your Margaret River Escape concludes as you return to your Perth accommodation. (B,L)

**OVERNIGHT:** 1 night DoubleTree by Hilton Perth Waterfront

### DAY 6 – BOARD THE INDIAN PACIFIC IN PERTH

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before checking out and being transferred to the Indian Pacific.

Your transcontinental adventure begins in Perth, where you'll gather with fellow travellers for a warm welcome and a celebratory start to your journey.

As the Indian Pacific readies to depart, anticipation builds for the days ahead – crossing the country from ocean to ocean, along the world's longest stretch of straight railway track. With the sun dipping low over the west, settle into your cabin, meet new friends in the lounge, and savour your first dinner on board. (B,D)

**OVERNIGHT:** 2 nights Indian Pacific

### DAY 7 – INDIAN PACIFIC, KALGOORLIE AND COOK

Awake to see the sunrise across the vast Nullarbor before arriving in Kalgoorlie, Australia's largest outback town. This morning, delve into the region's fascinating past and present with a visit to its gold-rush heritage and the modern-day Super Pit mine. Choose your Off Train Experience to explore Kalgoorlie in your own way, with morning refreshments included.

Reboarding mid-morning for brunch, spend the afternoon at leisure on board. Relax with fine hospitality as the endless sweep of the Nullarbor passes by. Crossing borders and time zones, you'll arrive late evening in the near-ghost town of Cook, South Australia.

Once bustling, today only a handful of residents remain, yet its stories endure. Step into this outback outpost to explore the ghost-like town, and as evening falls look skyward – here, under a canopy of stars unspoiled by light, you'll join a guided stargazing experience to spot the Southern Cross and other constellations that shine bright with dazzling clarity.

Later, return to the train for a regionally inspired dinner and the gentle rhythm of the rails as you continue eastward. (B,L,D)



## SOUTHWEST ESCAPE

### **DAY 8 – INDIAN PACIFIC, ADELAIDE**

Spend the morning travelling through the pastoral heart of South Australia, with sweeping views of the Flinders Ranges, Spencer Gulf, and the Adelaide Plains unfolding beyond your window. A leisurely breakfast and lunch are served on board, inviting you to savour the relaxed rhythm of train travel. Mid-afternoon, the train arrives in Adelaide where your Margaret River Escape comes to an end. (B,L)