

13 Day / 14 night Wildflowers of WA Tour

Day 0 - arrival day into Perth- Sunday 27th August (D)

Upon arrival into Perth, please call our Perth Airport hotel for a complimentary pick up to the hotel.

The rest of the day is at your leisure until dinner this evening, which will be our first as a group. Your driver guide and tour escort will run through the itinerary with you for the next week and this is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers and our wildflower guide.

Overnight accommodation- The Ingot Hotel at Perth Airport- motel room with en-suite

Day 1- Monday 28th August (B,L,D)

We depart the hotel at 7am to begin our 13 day Wildflowers tour.

The wildflower collection in Western Australia is the largest on Earth. With more than 12,000 species, over 60% of which are found nowhere else on Earth, they colour the landscapes from coast to forest and city to outback. The 6 month flowering season begins in June and July in the Pilbara, Goldfields and Coral Coast and by September, it has moved south and reached Perth.

Our first stop is the town of Moora, approx. 2 hours from Perth and situated on the banks of the Moore River in the Wheatbelt Region. Rare and beautiful species can be found along the Moora Wildflower drive, with nice views and plenty of wildflower photo opportunities. We also stop at Candys Bush Reserve in the town area.

Our destination this afternoon is the town of Cervantes, the gateway to the Pinnacles Desert and Nambung NP.

After checking into our accommodation and freshening up, we continue 17kms south to Nambung NP, home of The Pinnacles. These amazing natural limestone structures, some standing as high as five metres, which were formed after the sea receded and left deposits of sea shells. Over time, coastal winds removed the surrounding sand, leaving the pillars exposed to the elements.

You have a choice of taking the 1.2 walk through the park, or simply meander down to the Pinnacles and wander around. We'll stay in the park for sunset photo opportunities and keep your eyes out for Kangaroo and Emu.

Overnight accommodation- Motel room with en-suite in Cervantes (3 night stay)

Day 2- Tuesday 29th August (B,L,D)

Our first stop today is Lesueur National Park, which is home to over 900 plant species – 10 per cent of Western Australia's known flora. Lesueur National Park is a biodiversity hotspot and ranks as one of the most important reserves for flora conservation in WA.

We take the one-way 18.5-km scenic drive loop, which has many opportunities to stop and take a closer look or follow marked trails deeper into the bush, up Mount Lesueur or down into Cockleshell Gully.

The park is also home to a wide variety of fauna including 122 species of birds, 15 species of native mammals, 52 species of reptile and a variety of insects including 29 species of the colourful jewel beetle, all of which are protected. These insects can be distinguished by their bright metallic colouring, usually yellow, blue, red or orange. One insect we need to be prepared for is the bush tick, so we'll all need to wear insect repellent today !

Next, we'll take the Carnamah-Eneabba Wildflower Drive, which provides one of the largest and most spectacular wildflower displays in Western Australia.

We continue into historic Carnamah. The Carnamah Bell is an endangered wildflower found only within a 100km radius of Carnamah. Also known as the Harlequin Bell, this wildflower is a dwarf shrub with green, red or yellow coloured bell-shaped flowers.

Overnight accommodation- Motel room with en-suite in Cervantes

Day 3 - Wednesday 30th August (B,L,D)

Today we travel Coorow, where we'll hunt for wreath flowers.

We also have some time to visit any places we didn't have time to go to yesterday and visit any extra locations that have a good variety of wildflowers at the moment. Sometimes we're surprised by the varieties of wildflowers we find whilst driving along, and it's great to have the time to stop and enjoy these locations.

Overnight accommodation- Motel room with en-suite in Cervantes

Day 4 – Thursday 31st August (B,L,D)

Today we travel to the town of Mingenew, where we can take the Mingenew Wildflower Walk, located south west of the Mingenew Recreation Centre. This is an ideal place to experience many varieties of wildflowers.

We reach Geraldton and we visit the HMAS Sydney II Memorial, which commemorates the loss of The HMAS Sydney II and the ships company of 645 men on 19th November 1941.

There's some free time before dinner.

Overnight accommodation- Geraldton Motor Inn- motel room with en-suite.

Day 5 – Friday 1st September (B,L,D)

Departing Geraldton, we drive east to the town of Mullewa, one of the few places in the world that the wreath flower grows. Here we can take the Wildflower Walk, a picturesque 2,820 metre circuit through bush land renowned for its stunning wildflower displays.

Continuing south, we drive to Morawa with a visit to Canna, en-route. Carpets of everlastings are a feature and attraction, as well as the unique and distinctive Wreath Flower.

Our destination today is Dalwallinu and en-route we stop in Perenjori and a couple of other spots if there's time.

Some of the many wildflowers we may be lucky enough to spot in the Perenjori district include carpets of Everlastings, the Wreath Flower as well as the bright orange Wild Pomegranate.

Overnight accommodation- Wheatland Motel in Dalwallinu- motel room with en-suite

Day 6 – Saturday 2nd September (B,L,D)

Today we travel south to the Wongan Hills region, in the Wheatbelt district. The name Wongan Hills comes from the Aboriginal words 'Wongan Katta', which translates to 'Talking Hills', referring to the wind whispering through the hills which rise North-West of the townsite.

Gathercole Nature Reserve is located just outside of Wongan Hills and offers a short scenic walk to view some fascinating sculptured rocks and further along the trail you may see native animals and superb displays of wildflowers including rare flora. Views across the farmland and into the distance are available along the walk.

The 2.5km Christmas Rock Walk is on the outskirts of Town. Wander along the rock wall used to divert water to the town dam, listen to the many birds and see the variety of colourful wildflowers.

Our accommodation this evening is in historic York, the first inland European settlement in WA and situated in the Avon Valley.

Overnight accommodation- Terrace motel room with en-suite –The York Palace Hotel and Terraces

Day 7 – Sunday 3rd September (B,L,D)

Our wildflower guide leaves us today, as we have several botanical guided tours booked over the next few days.

We have some free time this morning for you to have a look around historic York. You may like to take a walk to the nearby York Bush Garden.

We now start to make our way south, with a stop at the Orchid Nature Conservation Reserve en-route. Protecting the rich orchid and wildflower diversity there, the reserve is dissected by 7 small tributaries of the Avon River and is the perfect environment for a variety of orchids to grow.

This morning we drive down to the township of Narrogin.

This evening we have a wildlife experience at Barna Mia, a predator-proof animal sanctuary, situated within the Dryandra Woodland. It's a place to discover threatened native marsupials in a natural setting and experience the wonders of the woodland. Once the sun has set, the action begins and our ranger tour guide takes us on a delightful journey through the sanctuary. With the guides special torches, you can see threatened native animals such as bilby, woylie, mala, quenda and boodie.

Overnight accommodation- motel room with en-suite at the Narrogin Motel

Day 8 –Monday 4th September (B,L,D)

This morning we meet our wildflower expert guide at our motel, who will take us to the nearby Foxes Lair to explore. Foxes Lair is a 68 hectare bush reserve on the edge of Narrogin town. Situated between the Darling Range and the wheatbelt, Foxes Lair has landscapes, plants, and birds from both regions. There are over 240 species of flowering plants here and our guide is the caretaker of the reserve, so he knows all the best places to spot wildflowers.

Departing Narrogin, we now travel south towards the Stirling Ranges National Park. En-route we stop at Highbury Reserve, which has a large array of orchids and other wildflowers in the water-gaining sheoak woodland. The reserve is also great for bird watching and wildlife spotting.

Our destination today is the Stirling Ranges National Park. The mountain ranges of Stirling Range National Park rise to more than 1000m above sea level, featuring stark cliff faces, sheltered gullies, magnificent views and a rich diversity of unique and colourful wildflowers. The park is one of the worlds most important areas for flora with 1500 species, many of which grow nowhere else, packed within it's boundaries.

There are also a variety of flowers to photograph and enjoy within the retreat grounds.

Overnight accommodation at the Stirling Range Retreat, nestled against the majestic Stirling Ranges National Park – we have a mixture of accommodation booked here and all have en-suites. It's rustic but clean and I think you'll agree it's a fantastic location ! (2 night stay)

Day 9 – Tuesday 5th September (B,L,D)

After breakfast we depart for a morning of exploring with the retreats resident flower expert, who will show us the best orchid and wildflower hotspots and to discover well camouflaged blooms hidden under bushes. The tour changes daily, so we'll rely on their expert knowledge and local information.

This afternoon we take the spectacular 115 kilometre mountain drive, filled with enthralling views and stops along the way. You can use your new-found knowledge of flowers from this mornings tour, to see what you can spot today too !

Overnight accommodation at the Stirling Range Retreat

Day 10 – Wednesday 6th September (B,L,D)

This morning we'll depart for the small coastal town of Bremer Bay.

Many rare species are found only in and around Bremer Bay. The Fitzgerald River National Park boasts an abundance of over 1800 unique species of flora and over 200 types of fauna. Orchids are also a big highlight of the area with many different species recorded and they can be seen walking around the townsite from the footpaths and walk trails.

You have free time this afternoon to explore Bremer Bay.

Overnight accommodation- Bremer Bay Resort - motel room with en-suite

Day 11 –Thursday 7th September (B,L,D)

This morning we drive out to a nearby bushcamp for a special tour of the property with their resident botanist. This is an eco tour in a sensitive area, bordering Fitzgerald River National Park, so the group will be split into 2 for the day. One group will head off for a 3 hour tour with the botanist while the 2nd group has time to explore the wildflowers around the camp area. And then the groups swap over. These are small group private tours for just our tour group and there's plenty of time to learn about and photograph the wildflowers.

After the tours finish, we drive to Albany for our overnight accommodation.

Overnight accommodation- Dog Rock Motel in Albany- motel room with en-suite

Day 12 – Friday 8th September (B,L,D)

We head further west today, driving to Denmark and onto the tree-cloaked Walpole-Nornalup National Park, home to tingle forests, which occur nowhere else in the world. Here we take The Valley of the Giants – Tree Top Walk, featuring a stunning walkway positioned 40 metres above the ground amid the dizzying heights of the tingle forest canopy. Experience walking in the Tree Top canopies of tall karri trees with views over core wilderness and then venture to the Ancient Empire of 400 year old red tingle trees along a boardwalk that meanders across the forest floor. The trail follows the story of the lost era of Gondwana.

Our next stop is inland, to Pemberton and the Gloucester Tree. The Gloucester Tree is one of only 3 remaining tall Karri trees that were made into lookouts during the 1930's and 1940's. This was a way of spotting fires in the tall Karri forest. Visitors can take a lovely walk through the forest and have the option to climb the 61m for spectacular views of the Karri forest.

The Southern Forests region is known for its biodiversity with more than 2500 species of plants including over 100 terrestrial orchid species.

Overnight accommodation- Pemberton, motel room with en-suite

Day 13 – Saturday 9th September (B,L,D)

We start making our way back to Perth today, with a stop for lunch en-route.

We arrive into Perth mid afternoon, so there's time to freshen up before our last group dinner together.

Overnight accommodation- The Ingot Hotel at Perth Airport- motel room with en-suite

Departure day from Perth – Sunday 10th September (B)

After check out, please make your way to Perth Airport for your onward flight. A free shuttle service is available at the hotel.

END OF TOUR

B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner

AUD \$8645 per person, twin share, based on a minimum of 10 adults travelling

AUD \$10,125 single room

Maximum 15 guests

Prices include GST and are valid for travel in Aug / Sept 2023

Itinerary is exclusive to Sacred Earth Safaris, subject to availability road, weather and cultural conditions

Extra nights at The Ingot Hotel at Perth Airport on a B & B basis can be booked through us at \$140 pp twin share and \$240 single

For solo travellers who prefer to twin share, we'll try our best to match you up with someone else of the same sex but this cannot be guaranteed. If we're unable to find you someone of the same sex to share with, you'll need to have your own room and pay the single supplement.

Itinerary is exclusive to Sacred Earth Safaris and subject to availability, road, weather and cultural conditions as well as availability of wildflowers. Wildflowers vary from year to year depending on the weather. Each night's accommodation will remain the same but the itinerary may be changed slightly nearer the time, to give us better wildflowers viewing opportunities.

Inclusions:

- Sole use of 24 seat 6WD tour coach, with professional driver guide and tour escort
- Botanical guide for the first 6 days of the tour
- Private wildflower tours of Foxes Lair, Stirling Range NP and Bremer Bay with specialist local botanical guides

- 1 night pre and 1 night post tour accommodation in Perth
- Most meals as stated
- 12 nights accommodation while touring
- Park entry fees
- Private (for our group only) Barna Mia nocturnal mammal experience at the Dryandra Woodland
- Valley of the Giants tree top walk

Exclusions:

- Arrival/departure flights into Perth
- Travel Insurance
- Alcohol and soft drinks (iced water is provided with lunch and dinner)