

YOUR TRAVEL GUIDE 2026

# Esperance

In your element

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For the better

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OBSERVATORY BEACH  
CJ Maddock

[visitesperance.com](http://visitesperance.com)



# Shire of Esperance



ESPERANCE TOWN CENTRE

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GREAT OCEAN DRIVE

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ESPERANCE SURROUNDS

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EAST OF ESPERANCE

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NORTH OF ESPERANCE

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WEST OF ESPERANCE

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- Roads
- Unsealed road/track
- Railway
- Airport



# Welcome to Esperance / Kepa Kurl



TAGON BEACH

**W**elcome to Esperance. A place of raw and rugged natural beauty. Nestled along the south east coast of Western Australia, Esperance is home to some of the world's most stunning beaches, with sand so white and waters so clear they seem otherworldly. This haven offers more than just breathtaking coastlines; it invites you on an adventure that will reconnect you with the elements - earth, air, fire and water.

Discover the pristine landscapes of our national parks, teeming with unique wildlife and vibrant wildflowers. Hike coastal trails and granite peaks, where the only sounds are the crash of waves and the rush of the wind. Immerse yourself in the rich cultural tapestry of Esperance, where a thriving arts scene and local producers draw inspiration from nature.

In Esperance, you don't just visit nature; you become a part of it. With every walk barefoot on the sand, every swim in the cool sea, and every breath of fresh country air, prepare to be transformed by nature - just don't forget to pack a jumper!

For those with adventure in their heart, and salt in their veins.



## VISITOR CENTRE

Museum Village,  
Cnr Dempster &  
Kemp Streets,  
Esperance WA 6450



Ph: 08 9083 1555 or 1300 664 455  
Book: [bookings@visitesperance.com](mailto:bookings@visitesperance.com)  
Info: [info@visitesperance.com](mailto:info@visitesperance.com)  
Web: [visitesperance.com](http://visitesperance.com)

## The Esperance Promise

The Esperance Promise provides guidance on how to visit sustainably, and importantly - return home safely. By making the promise, you contribute to protecting the natural beauty and community spirit that make Esperance so special.

While travelling in Esperance / Kepa Kurl country, I promise to embrace the elements of this land and ensure my visit is sustainable and respectful.

I will enjoy following paths less trodden,  
Yet I will stay on the marked trails.

Camping under the stars will be a wonder,  
Enjoyed from designated camp areas.

Wildlife will remain wild,  
Never fed or touched by human hands.

I will feel the wind on my face, and swim in the cool sea,  
Leaving only footprints in the sand.

Walking on the earth will ground me,  
Boots scrubbed clean, to stop the spread of weeds and disease.

When embarking on a 4WD adventure,  
I promise to be prepared and respectful of others.

I will admire the power of the ocean,  
Being mindful of swell, rips, and slippery black rocks.

I will feel the sun on my back, or the warmth of a campfire,  
Never forgetting to be bushfire smart.

Time away from technology's range will recharge me,  
Yet, I will plan to have no coverage.

Where locals live in their element and visitors feel like locals,  
I agree to be kind, take it slow and go with the flow.

I make this promise with nature and the community of Esperance,  
To care for this special place that you call home.

## Esperance. In your element.

Make the Promise: [esperancepromise.com](http://esperancepromise.com)



## Where the water lies like a boomerang ...



Kepa Kurl ('Kepa' meaning Water and 'Kurl' meaning Boomerang) has been home for the local Noongar people "since time immemorial". The culture is embedded in the land, caring for the land means caring for our people, our culture and our heritage.



ALEXANDER BAY



CAPE LE GRAND NATIONAL PARK



TWILIGHT BEACH



THISTLE COVE

## Summer

December to February

Time to hit the beach! Immerse yourself in the ocean. Explore. This is the most popular time to visit Esperance, be sure to plan and book well in advance to avoid disappointment. Days are warm, long and typically clear. Ideal for outdoors adventures. It is windy - which helps keep conditions comfortable even on warmer days. Swimming, surfing, snorkeling. Hiking and picnicking. Or just lazing on the pristine white sand. You'll want to stay forever.

## Autumn

March to May

Invites you outside. To hike. Explore the wild coastline. National Parks and beaches beckon. Considered a shoulder season, the locals will tell you it is the best time to visit, so plan ahead. Winds are kinder than those of summer and usually not as strong. Temperatures are comfortable. Nights are crisp and starlit. Wear layers. Days are generally clear. Swells pick up through the autumn period and run through the winter months. Esperance's natural beauty remains a highlight.

## Winter

June to August

The Southern Right Whales return. It is the best time to visit if a) you don't like the crowds, b) you like to spend your nights cosy by a fire, or c) you enjoy spotting native wildlife. Or you like your wildness to be wild. Whales are in the waters from June to October and come right into the bays to calve. Most people don't realise that there are lots of sunny blue-sky days during winter. Wrap yourself up and embrace it. You won't be disappointed. The Esperance Visitor Centre will provide you with a personal itinerary tailored for any kind of weather.

## Spring

September to November

Wildflower season. The bushland is ablaze with colour. Fields of yellow canola brighten the landscape. The second-best time to visit (according to locals). Visitor numbers are still lower, so it is possible to feel the deliciousness of isolation. Swells drop off. The temperature warms up. The spring winds tend to pick up in the afternoons. But they are usually not as forceful as those in winter and summer. The best time to explore Esperance walking trails and coastal hikes. Perfect for botanical explorations. Join the Grounded Festival. Visit the Esperance Wildflower Festival.

**Embrace the seasons. Check the weather. Be prepared to be surprised. And you will enjoy nature as it is. Real. And sometimes unpredictable.**

## Noongar Seasons

Summer, autumn, winter and spring are the seasons that usually come to mind.

But with the seasons are variations. More subtle changes in nature recognised by local Noongar people. They know Esperance as Kapa Kurl. Traditional bush tucker like kangaroo, emu, various seafoods, roots and seeds, are among the food sources found according to six seasons.

### Birak

The first summer. Known for being very hot and dry. Includes the months of December and January.

### Bunuru

Second summer. The hottest of all seasons. The long days and short nights of February and March.

### Djeran

Autumn. The months of April and May. Heading into times of cooler nights and dewy mornings.

### Makuru

The first rains. The coldest and wettest time. The months of June and July.

### Djilba

The time of the second rains. Wet days and sunny warm days. A time of change. The months of August and September.

### Kambarang

Wildflowers in abundance. Longer dry spells. Warmer days of October and November.



# Events

The wild, natural beauty of the Esperance region is the backdrop for a vibrant cultural scene. Events reflect the nature of a place. Seasons, history and traditions frame the way life is celebrated, and memories are made. Music to party to. Shared thrills and adrenaline. Some events are seasonal fixtures on the local calendar that bring people together. But these are not the only events Esperance has to offer.

Year round, exhibition openings, live music gigs, sporting competitions, nationally touring shows and concerts, agricultural show and performances at the Bijou Theatre. The perfect counter to the quiet beach walks.

And the markets, which bring life and colour to the community.

## Museum Village Markets

Held fortnightly on a Sunday, the Museum Village Markets bring the hustle and bustle of community markets to the Esperance Museum Village. Lively chatter and laughter flitter through the air. Stallholders fill the Village Green. Along with an eclectic mix of wares to delight and surprise. Scrunchies and sweet treats, tie-dyed clothes, handmade earrings and chilli jam ... grab a bite to eat from Bistro Louis, or a market vendor. Find locally crafted treasures to prompt memories of your adventures.

Sundays 8.30am-12.30pm, fortnightly.

Follow [@museumvillagemarkets](#) for the latest news.

## Esperance Growers Market

On Saturday mornings every fortnight, alternating with the Museum Village Markets, the Esperance Growers Market provides fresh produce to sustain you. Fruit, veg, meat, eggs, honey, extra virgin olive oil, jams and preserves ... all on offer in the Esperance Scout Hall.

Peruse the stalls while enjoying a tasty treat as you wander. Fill your basket with luscious fruits. Chat with the growers. Connect with the people who produce the food in your hand. Feel a part of the community.

Saturdays 9am-11am, fortnightly.

Follow [@esperancegrowersmarket](#) for more information.

To find out about what's coming up, head to our online events calendar, [visitesperance.com/whats-on](https://visitesperance.com/whats-on)



## What's On

### JANUARY

- 'There Goes the Sun' — Live Music Event
- Australia Day in the Park
- Esperance Speedway Season
- Esperance Bay Turf Club Season

### FEBRUARY

- Esperance Speedway Season
- Esperance Bay Turf Club Season

### MARCH

- Esperance Deep Sea Angling Classic
- Esperance Bay Turf Club — Cup Day
- Esperance Speedway Season

### APRIL

- ANZAC Day Memorial Services
- French Week

### MAY

- Mothers' Day Classic Fun Run

### JUNE AND JULY

- Winter Solstice (Esperance Stonehenge)
- Winter Wonderland

### AUGUST

- Esperance Music Festival

### SEPTEMBER

- Esperance Wildflower Festival

### OCTOBER

- Esperance Agricultural Show

### NOVEMBER

- Remembrance Day
- Esperance Speedway Season
- Esperance Bay Turf Club Season
- 'Balmy Nights' and 'Balmy Brunch' — Live Music and Markets

### DECEMBER

- Edge of the Bay Festival
- Summer Solstice (Esperance Stonehenge)
- Christmas Pageant & Markets
- Christmas Carols
- Boxing Day Races
- 'Beach Dazed' — Live Music
- New Year's Eve on the Foreshore
- Esperance Speedway Season
- Esperance Turf Club Season

# Esperance Town Centre



WHALE TAIL SCULPTURE



ESPERANCE FORESHORE

## Town Foreshore Walk Trail

Setting off from the Castletown Quays and heading to the Port Authority Park. It hugs the shoreline. It immerses walkers in the smell of sea air and soothes them with the sound of surf rolling onto sand. Scooter, bicycles and dog walkers mingle with swimmers, runners and walkers. Especially in the early mornings as the town rises. The morning sun slides up over the horizon – creating spectacular sunrises. The unforgettable backdrop for the start of a day.

### Cannery Arts Centre and Lookout

A vibrant centre for community arts, the Cannery Arts Centre was built as a fish cannery in 1949. Now it is a place where art is created, and exhibitions are held. Behind it, stairs lead up to a look out. At the end of the climb, a panoramic view of the Esperance Bay awaits.

## Esperance Jetty Headland

Take a stroll. Or spend the morning fishing from the Esperance Jetty. A nature playground, food and coffee kiosks, beautiful walkways – there is plenty to do in this area. BBQs, restrooms and showers for public use make this a focal point for those keen to recharge between adventures.

The gracefully curved jetty was designed with memories of its iconic predecessor in mind. Echoing the past, built for the future.

A stroll along the Jetty is a chance to absorb the sea air. Fishing platforms and cleaning stations recognise the structure's importance to the Esperance way of life: eating from the land. Interpretative signs speak of the sea creatures below. Herring. Skippy. Whiting. Flathead. Squid are attracted by the overhead lights at night, as are the rugged-up fishers seeking them.

Above the water. Back on land. It is a short stroll from the Jetty to your next stop.

### Esperance Museum Village

Wander through the Museum Village and take a step back in time. Made up of historical buildings, the village preserves history while providing a lively shopping experience. The quaint buildings house a café, craft shops, artist's galleries, retail stores and the Esperance Visitor Centre.

### Railway Goods Shed – Esperance Museum

Located on James Street in the town centre, the old railway goods shed (thought to be the only one left of its kind in W.A.) is now the Esperance Museum. It is home to a wide variety of exhibits, a display of the Skylab, artefacts from shipwrecks, vintage vehicles, machinery, and much more.



ESPERANCE JETTY



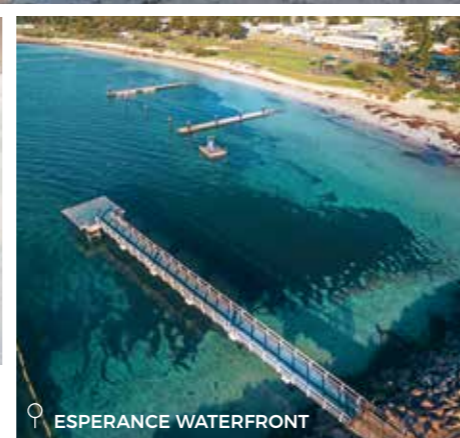
SWIMMING ENCLOSURE

Mary Blidstrup



SKATE PARK

Shire of Esperance



ESPERANCE WATERFRONT

CJ Maddock

### James Street Precinct

This precinct features an all-abilities playground, swimming pontoon, restrooms, and BBQs make this a fantastic picnic spot and a focal point for families.

The **Whale Tail Sculpture** was designed and created by Cindy Poole and Jason Wooldridge. Esperance's sun, sky and sea are reflected by this iconic piece. Featuring steel and Jarrah timber, it references the industrial nature of a port first frequented by timber hulled ships and serviced by wooden jetties.

### Skate Park and Pump Track

Surrounded by an expansive grassed area and situated right on the town waterfront recreational areas, the skate park is utilised by all generations with the design incorporating a number of different

skate elements to provide continued progression for beginners through to experienced users. The pump track contains three endless loops with rollers and berms and a pump bowl designed to be ridden without pedalling, instead using a pumping motion. Suitable for mountain bikes, BMX and cross bikes to improve mountain biking skills.

### Miniature Railway and Adventureland Park

All aboard for a fun train ride around the Adventure Land Park. Located along The Esplanade near the Taylor Street Jetty, this miniature train travels around ponds, under a bridge and through a tunnel, providing a thrill for the young (and young at heart) members of your family. The park also offers a playground and outdoor xylophone.

### Taylor Street Jetty

This is where your cruising adventure starts, and on your return, walk through the Don Mackenzie Gardens and meander along the Yacht Club Marina.

### Southern Ports

From this sheltered beach, the hustle and bustle of a working port can be seen. A popular place for a picnic.

### Esperance Street Art

With your guide *Explore the Murals* in hand, visitors can find their way to over fifteen works of public art. Created by a combination of local and visiting artists, these pieces are inspired by the region's natural and cultural heritage. The all-encompassing environment. And its past.



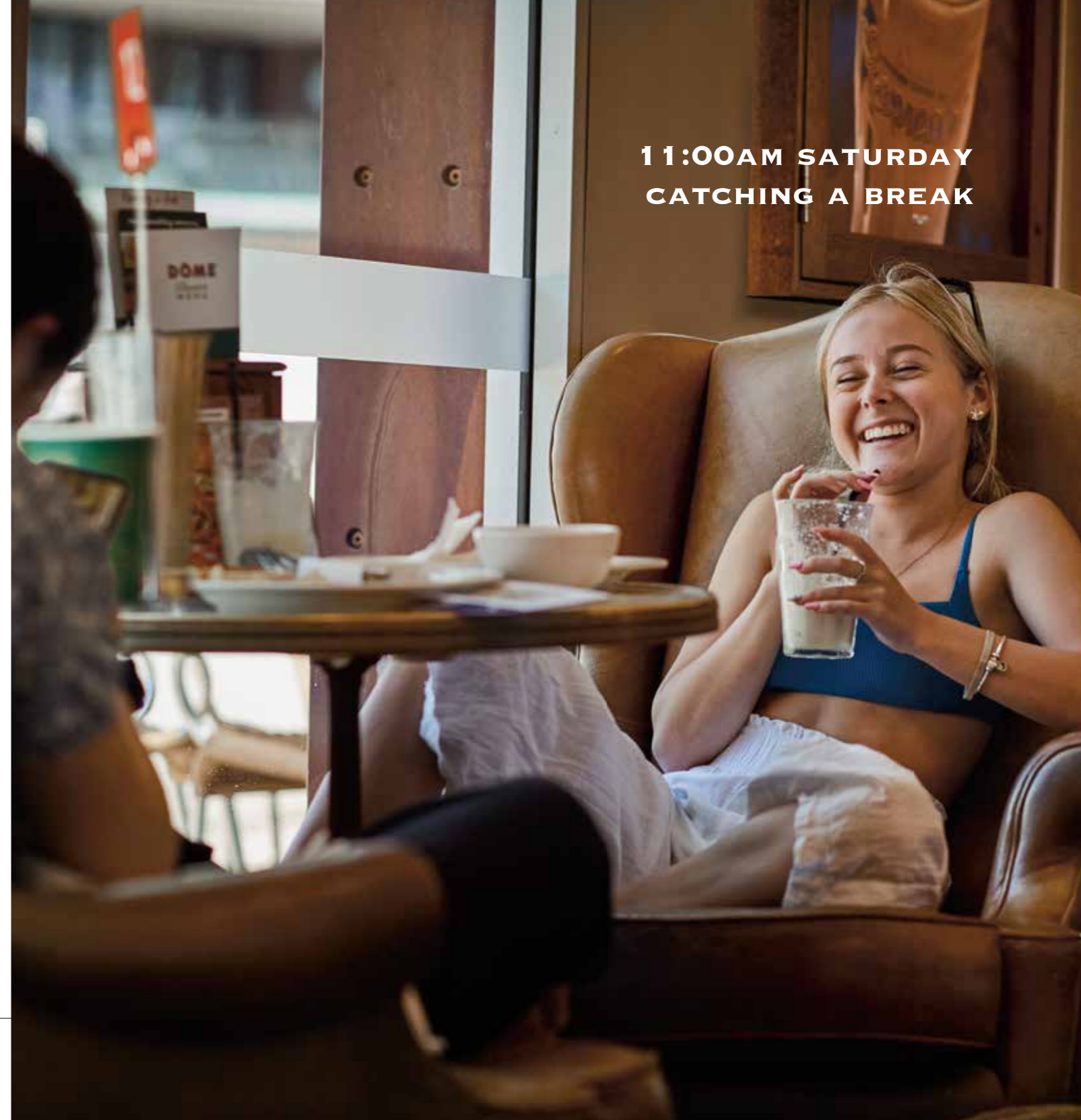
## Esperance Miniature Railway Society Inc.

### MINIATURE TRAIN RIDES FOR YOUNG & OLD

Open 9am-2pm daily during school holidays and weekends. Open from start of September school holidays to end of April school holidays.

\$5 per ride — bookings not required

Taylor Street, Esperance (opposite the Yacht Club)



11:00AM SATURDAY  
CATCHING A BREAK

Driving down the coast with the windows down as the salty air flows through your hair... freedom has never felt so good. You were up at the crack of dawn to catch some early waves before packing up and heading off to your next spot a bit further south. Luckily, you're ahead of schedule, so you have some time for a pit stop to chat over a cold drink and a few cheeky snacks. For taking a break between breaks, there's no place like Dôme.

Perth Metro, WA Regional: Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Newman, Northam, Port Hedland, Rottneest.



DOMECOFFEES.COM



# Great Ocean Drive

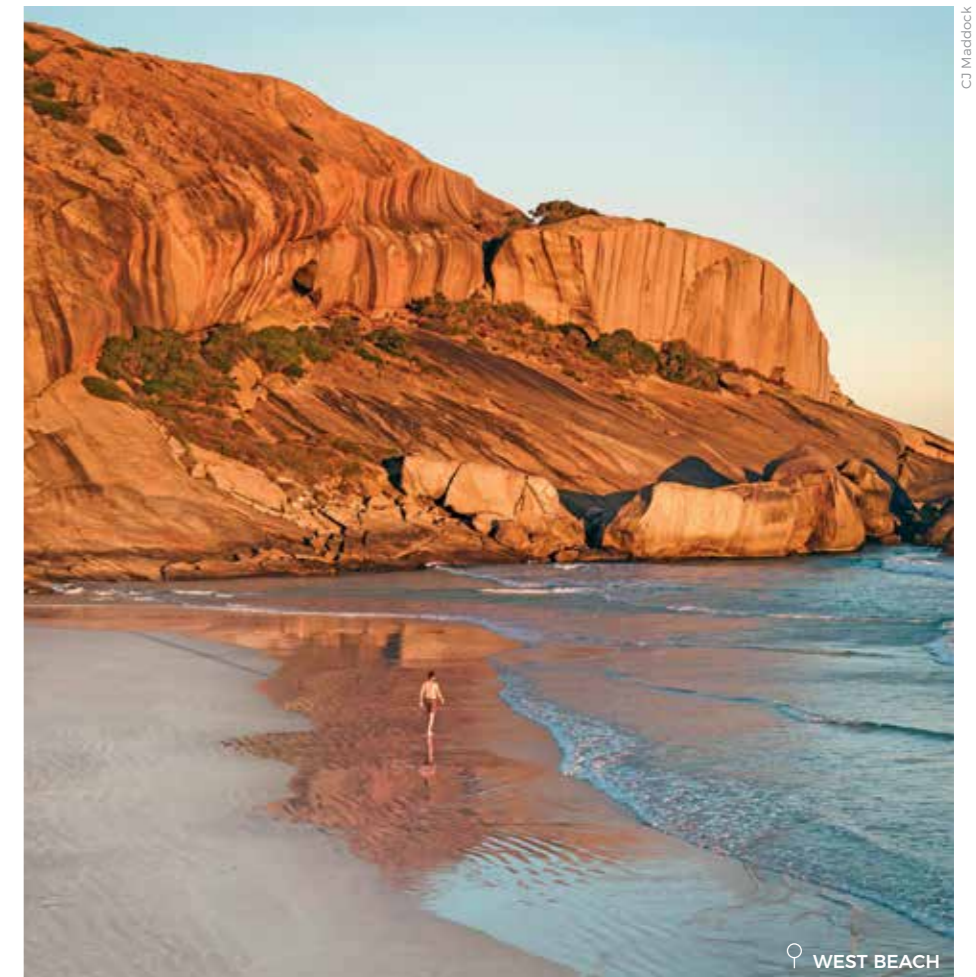



 TWILIGHT BEACH

A 40km self-drive experience that takes the breath away. The circular route embraces Esperance's spectacular coastline. Tranquil bays. Soaring cliffs. Sprawling views over the 105 islands that make up the Recherche Archipelago. Also known as the Bay of Isles. From a vantage point like no other. But it is not just a drive. Get out and dip your toes in the hidden ocean pools. Walk on the stunning beaches. Explore the rocky headlands and small bays. Gaze in wonder at the steep cliffs.

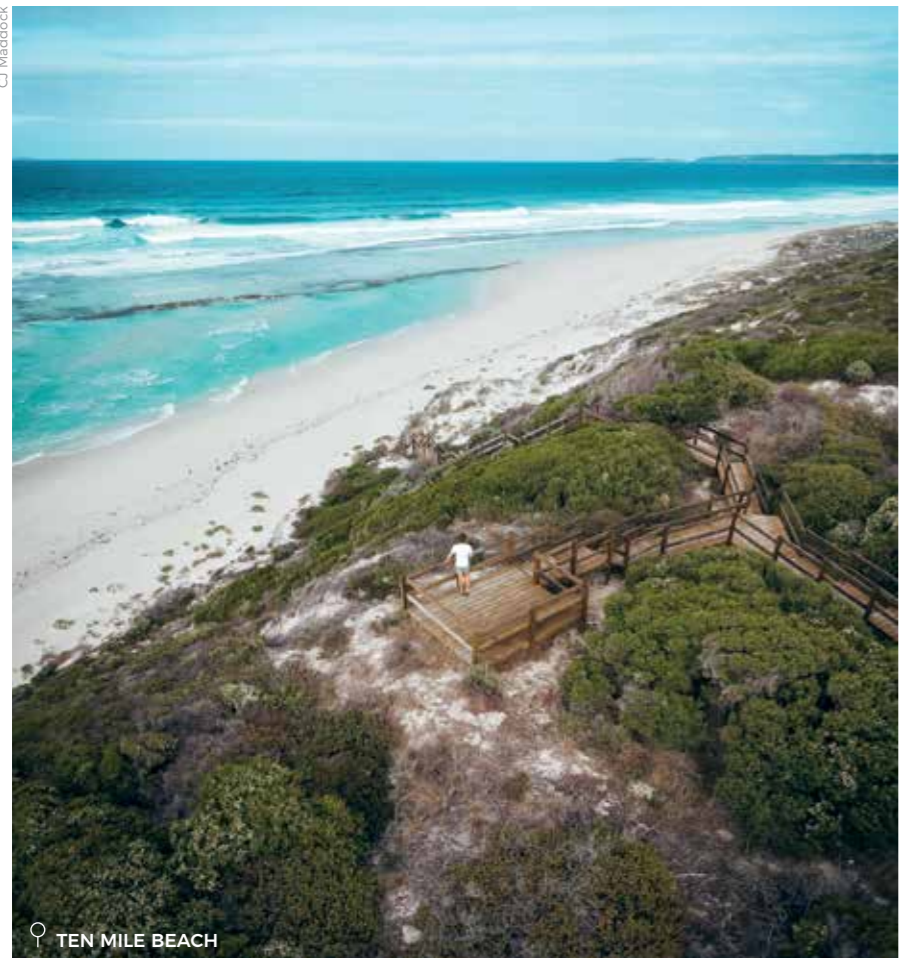
Snorkelling, surfing, swimming. Bike riding, bush walking, whale watching (July-October). The Drive is an adventure. Lookouts along the way and coastal vantage points are entry points to experience nature as Esperance offers it. Wild. Impossibly real. Yet easy to access.

Take the time to savour everything the drive has to offer.



 WEST BEACH





**Great Ocean Drive**

**Dempster Head Rotary Lookout & Walk Trail**

A place where it is possible to take in a 360° view of the town, farmland and the archipelago. Walk on a defined trail through bushland and coastal country with ocean views. Always spectacular, whether crystal calm and turquoise blue, or a deep sapphire colour shot with the dramatic white horses of the wild sea.

**Salmon Beach Windfarm Display**

A reminder of the fact that Esperance was the site of Australia's first commercial wind farm. Where six turbines once stood, one remains. The heritage walk trail provides a chance to stretch the legs. A lookout tower provides a vantage point and elevated views of the Esperance coastline.

**Twilight Cove**

One of Esperance's most recognisable beaches. Patrolled by the local surf lifesaving club on Sundays over summer, it is a great place to kick off the shoes. Put your toes in the sand. Build sandcastles. And relax.



**Nine Mile Beach**

An explorer's delight. Rock pools for dabbling and paddling. Protected lagoons for snorkelling and face to face encounters with sea creatures.

**Ten Mile Lagoon**

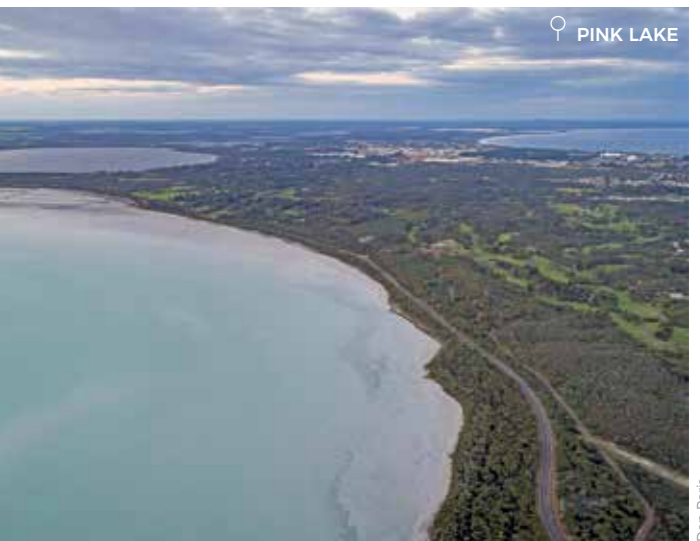
Swim. Fish. The access point for "Free Beach", where clothes are optional for those who want less restriction in their lives.

**Pink Lake Lookout**

Even though it is no longer the famed pink that it was, sunsets over the once-pink lake are special. Information on the lake's history, and the science behind why it is no longer pink, can be found at the site.

**Cindy Poole Glass Gallery**

Visit the studio of one of the creators of the Whale Tail sculpture. The gallery offers a diverse range of jewellery and art works inspired by her environment, relationships and experiences. 23 Longbottom Lane.



**Great Ocean Walk/ Cycle Trail**

There's more than one way to experience the Great Ocean Drive. The Great Ocean Walk Trail is a 25km cycle/walk path that winds through the landscape. It follows the coast from the Esplanade. Out of town to Twilight Beach (10km). It winds through stunning native bushland on its way to the Pink Lake Lookout (7km) And brings you back in to town via Pink Lake Road (8km).



# Esperance Surrounds



J. Guest



📍 CASTLETOWN JETTY

Just outside the town centre, nature surrounds and people astound. There are beaches, lakes, walking trails and fishing spots to explore. And people working with nature to produce beautiful things.

## Baarndi Walk Trail

Stroll along this coastal trail from the end of Castletown Quays to Bandy Creek - you can even walk all the way to Lucky Bay Brewing!

## Esperance Distillery Co.

A boutique distillery showcasing the flavours of Esperance in their range of small-batch spirits using local native botanicals. Tastings and gin making classes available.

## Woody Lake Nature Reserve (Kepwari Trails)

The salt lakes networks surrounding town are of ecological importance to Esperance. Lake Warden is recognised by Ramsar as wetlands of international significance due to the prevalence of waterbirds. Woody Lake Nature Reserve is the perfect spot to enjoy the lakes system; hike the Kepwari Trail or Kayak the wetlands to enjoy the peaceful lake and surrounding paperbark trees and birdlife.

Stephanie



📍 KEPWARI TRAILS



WYLIE BAY SAND DUNES  
Tourism WA

### Wylie Bay

Wylie Bay is regarded as a 4WD beach, providing access to the sand dunes and hours of adventure. Be prepared for soft and boggy sand sometimes adding to the challenge.

### Lucky Bay Brewing

An Esperance favourite! Lucky Bay Brewing is the only brewery in WA using raw barley directly from local farmers. Every beer has a story, inspired by local spots around Esperance. A family and dog friendly venue with a huge lawn play area for the kids, a great selection of food, quiz nights, and live music on Fridays and Sundays.

### Mudjar Aboriginal Corporation

Mudjar Aboriginal Corporation showcases indigenous pieces inspired by our region. Full of contrasts and



MUDJAR ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

colour. Located on Wood Street, the shop stocks unique works of art and craft. Sculptures, hand braided rugs, glassware, paintings and boomerangs.

### Mermaid Leather

Mermaid Leather is Australia's only specialist fish and shark leather tannery. Visitors are welcome. Discover how raw fish skins are transformed into unique leather. Feel the sensual texture of Barramundi and Snapper. Test the robust strength of Shark. Enjoy a browse through the studio, appreciate the leather crafts on sale.



MERMAID LEATHER



The Esperance Chalet Village offers casual and considered rooms for those seeking accommodation with a difference. Nestled amongst nature the village is a secluded and stylish holiday hideaway.



### Bandy Creek Boat Harbour

About 10km east of Esperance, this place is home to Esperance's commercial fishing fleet. But its calm and protected beaches make it popular with families. And there are many islands and reefs nearby to explore.

The west side of the harbour is home to recreational vessels. Mediterranean style boat pens, boat ramp, car and trailer parking cater for those keen to enjoy the water. Summy's Park offers public toilets, BBQ and fish cleaning facilities making it the perfect place to end a day on the water.

The harbour's east side is about business. Commercial vessels moor there. There is a service wharf, slipway, fuelling and maintenance facilities, fish factory and shop, and boat pens.

Though there is easy access between the two sides of the harbour via the water, they are several kilometres from each other by road.



LUCKY BAY BREWING

Maddock



WYLIE BAY

Tourism WA

### ESPERANCE CHALET VILLAGE

Book your stay today  
[www.esperancechaletvillage.com.au](http://www.esperancechaletvillage.com.au)

Tel: (08) 9071 1861  
Frank Freeman Drive  
Esperance, WA, 6450



# East of Esperance



WHARTON BEACH  
CJ Maddock



- 1 Esperance Stonehenge
- 2 Lucky Bay
- 3 Hellfire Bay
- 4 Frenchman Peak
- 5 Condingup Tavern
- 6 Condingup Vineyard
- 7 Duke of Orleans Bay
- 8 Yinri Grove



Chris Overby

ESPERANCE STONEHENGE

The journey east of Esperance challenges expectations. Isolated beaches regarded as some of the region's finest treasures. Camping spots favoured by locals. The drive takes you through farmland, and wild country. Natural beauty abounds. And there are surprises.

Merivale Road winds through rolling farmland, reminiscent of the English countryside. Particularly in winter when it is green and there is a chill in the air.

## Esperance Stonehenge

The only full-size replica of the original UK Stonehenge, built of pink granite quarried less than 1 km away and consisting of 137 stones. Time your visit with winter or summer Solstice to view the sun's rays shine through the Heel and Altar Stones. Check the website for events including sound healing sessions.



FRENCHMAN PEAK

### Cape Le Grand National Park

One of the Southern Coastal region's most spectacular parks. A 45-minute drive (60km) from Esperance, but a world away. Rolling heathlands, sheltered bays and turquoise waters are watched over by the ancient presence of Mandooboornup, known as Frenchman Peak.

Within Cape Le Grand National Park lies **Lucky Bay**, voted World's Best Beach in 2023. Home to the iconic Western Grey kangaroos. Often spotted meandering across the white sand of the bay, these "roos" remain wild. Sometimes they are there. Sometimes they are not.

**Hellfire Bay** and **Little Hellfire** are also in the Cape Le Grand National Park. Hellfire Bay is magnificently sheltered. BBQs and toilets make this the perfect place for a family adventure. Little Hellfire is only a short walk away.

**Frenchman Peak/Mandooboornup** rises up out of the heathlands. A marked trail guides hikers 262 metres to the summit. And panoramic views of the bush and wild Southern Ocean below. The cave at the top is a natural wonder.

Drive back out of the national park, up Tyrrell Road and East along Fisheries Road to Condingup.



LITTLE HELLFIRE

### Yirri Grove

Visit either at the start of the adventure east, or on the return journey to Esperance (on Fisheries Road – seasonal opening hours). An olive grove and paddock to plate experience. Overlooking sprawling farmland and the Recherche Archipelago. The Yirri Grove Restaurant and Farm Shop offers olive tastings, coffee, cakes and lunches. A gift shop stocks treasure to remind you of your eastern Esperance adventure.

### Cape Arid National Park

Wild and remote. White sandy beaches. Clear blue water. Big granite hills shaped by winds and seasons roll into mallee and banksia woodlands. Camping, hiking. This area is mostly rough 4WD driving – check road conditions and plan ahead. Enjoy responsibly, return home safely.



HELLFIRE BAY

### Condingup Tavern

This stone building houses a café, restaurant, bar and general store. A 20km drive from the Duke of Orleans Bay, and 65km from Esperance, it is a highlight at the end of your drive east, or a refreshment stop as the journey continues further.

### Condingup Vineyard

Western Australia's most easterly winery. Artisan wines specialising in small batch production. Estate grown fruit, 100% hand-picked, 100% basket pressed.

### The Duke of Orleans Bay

Nestled between Cape Le Grand and Cape Arid National Parks. Magnificent coastal scenery. Small sheltered bays. Ideal for swimming, fishing, boating, paddle boarding, surfing and diving ... all year around. During the wildflower season the bushland is ablaze with colour. **Wharton Beach** has sand so fine it squeaks underfoot. An hour's drive from Esperance. But worth it, according to the locals. If you prefer you can also base yourself at the **Orleans Bay Caravan Park** and explore from there.

# the CONDINGUP TAVERN

family owned since 1977

BAR  
CAFE

RESTAURANT  
BEER GARDEN

STORE  
FUEL



The Condingup Tavern has been proudly family owned and operated for three generations.

The perfect day trip from Esperance.

Enjoy our great food and warm hospitality as you explore Australia's most beautiful coastline.

We look forward to welcoming you!



1. Cape Le Grande National Park
2. The Duke of Orleans Bay & Wharton Beach
3. The Condingup Tavern
4. Cape Arid National Park

Follow us

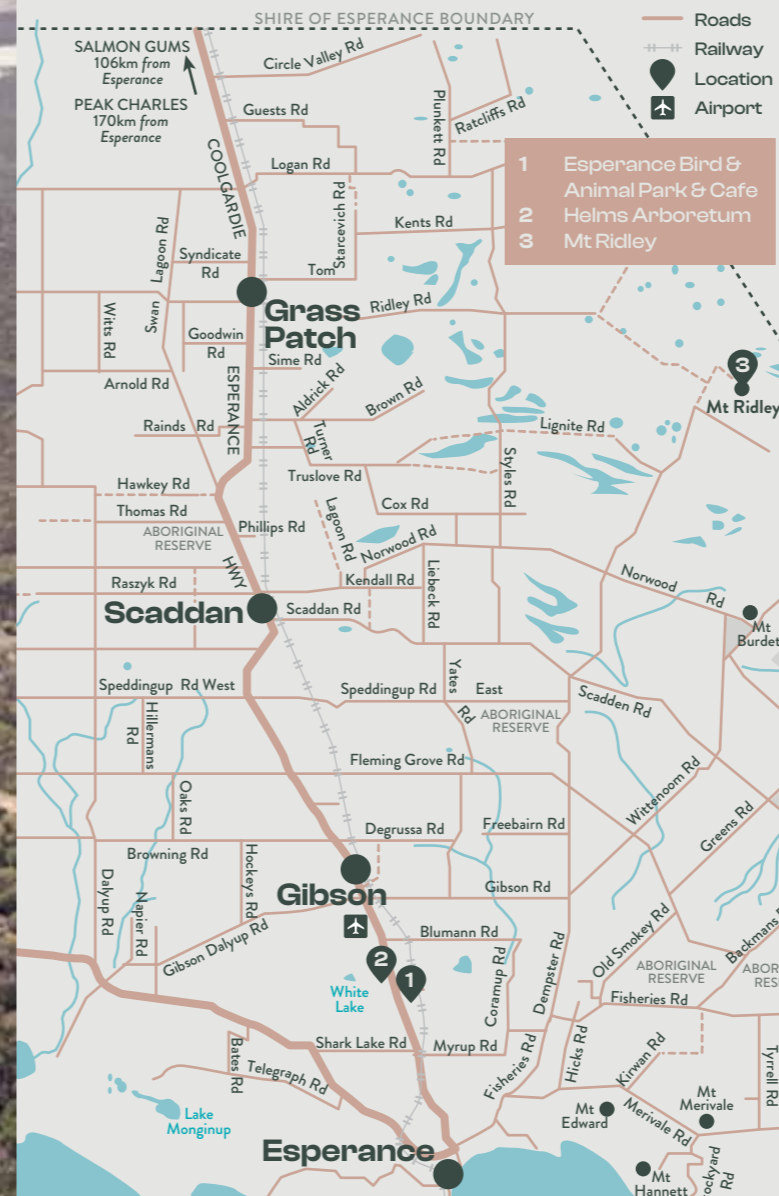
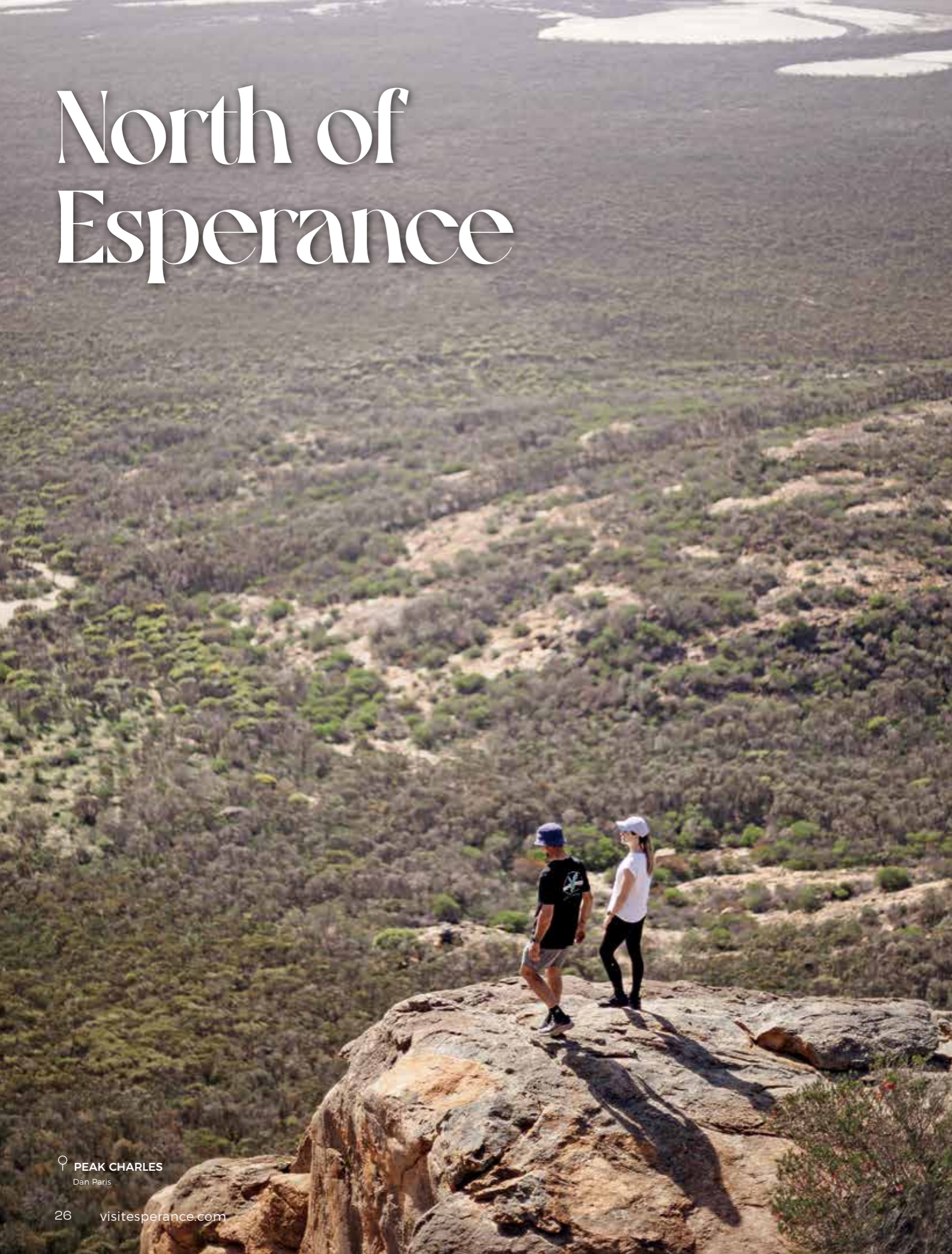
@thecondinguptavern

@condinguptavern

90766024



# North of Esperance



## Gibson

25km north of Esperance on the same highway. The Gibson Soak, originally a wayside inn serving travellers, now the local post office, shop, fuel station and pub. Shaded by Moreton Bay figs and pine trees and often visited by raucous Black Cockatoos.

Journeying on and entering farmland, sheep and crops start to flash by.

## Scaddan

Approximately 50km north of Esperance, this farming community is predominantly focused on wheat and barley cultivation, contributing significantly to the region's agricultural output. Scaddan was established in the early 20th century, and while it remains a modest settlement, it embodies the resilience and spirit of rural Australia.

## Grass Patch

80km from Esperance, named after a nearby farm of the same name that had been settled around 1896 and was renowned for bountiful crops and good grass. The townsite was proposed in 1910 when land in the area was being opened up, and as a watering spot for the planned Esperance to Norseman Railway, which was completed 15 years later. The Grass Patch Pioneer Memorial commemorates the pioneers of the Grass Patch area.

## Salmon Gums

A small, picturesque town 106km north of Esperance. Named after the distinctive salmon gum trees that populate the area, it offers a glimpse into rural Australian life. Established in the early 20th century as a railway settlement, Salmon Gums has a rich agricultural heritage, primarily centered around wheat and sheep farming.

If you have a 4WD, go on a side quest to Peak Charles National Park (off the Coolgardie Esperance Highway) and Mt Ridley (at the end of Dempster Rd).

## Peak Charles

This striking granite peak located within the National Park towers 500 meters above the surrounding plains. Part of the Great Western Woodlands, the park is known for its rich biodiversity and stunning landscapes. Visitors can enjoy bushwalking, birdwatching, camping, and the challenging climb to the summit offers breathtaking views.

## Mt Ridley

A notable geological feature known for its rich deposits of rare earth elements. The landscape around Mount Ridley is characterised by its rugged terrain and unique biodiversity, making it a point of interest for both geologists and nature enthusiasts. This is also where you can see the Esperance Wave Rock.

**A** drive north of Esperance takes you through the sandplain country and on into the mallee, where coastal heaths have given way to stands of gimlet, red dirt and tall salmon gums.

### The Esperance Bird & Animal Park & Café

A 10-minute drive north of town. Home to over 300 birds and various animals. A popular spot for children, who can interact with the critters. Bags of animal food are available for purchase. Enjoy a meal and drinks while viewing the aquarium and lizard displays.

### Helms Arboretum

The nature reserve is a patchwork of different tree species, just past the Bird and Animal Park, on the opposite side of the highway. Named plantations of exotic and native species grow side by side. All flowering at different times. Picnic tables, walk and cycling trails make this a special place. Enjoy tall timber and feel like you are immersed in forest country.

# West of Esperance



**G**o wild and head west of Esperance. Sheltered waters and wildlife abound. Wondrous flowers and birds bring colour to wild places. Fish, swim, surf, boat on the waters. Camp near their shores. Savour special time surrounded by nature.

### Lake Monjingup Nature Reserve

A natural wonderland just 14km from Esperance, on Telegraph Road. The reserve extends over both sides of that road. The first entrance is on the left-hand side, with the second entrance further on the right-hand side of Telegraph Road.

The perfect place for a picnic. Take a stroll on the wooden boardwalk that meanders between the gnarled and wizened paperbarks. Watch the water birds. Enjoy the delight that wildflowers bring. A lovely outing for hikers and birders.

### Quagi Beach and Campsite

Located 80km west of Esperance at the end of Farrells Road (off the South Coast Highway). A popular fishing and snorkelling site. Coastal vistas entice bushwalkers keen to wrap themselves in nature. The Quagi camp site is serviced by a good gravel road, making it accessible by 2WD. Dogs are allowed (on a lead).

### Stokes National Park

Located 81 km west of Esperance. It is a place of wonder. Stokes Inlet (accessible by 2WD) is one of the most picturesque estuaries along WA's southern coastal region. Fishing, camping, canoeing, bushwalking and birdwatching. Interactions with nature are what make this place so special. Catch and cook a fish, with Black Bream, Australian Salmon, King George Whiting and Mullet among the species frequenting the waters. (Fisheries regulations apply.) Camp near the inlet where there are toilets and BBQs on site. Other areas like Fanny Cove, Shoal Cape and Skippy Rocks, are nestled within the park's coastal heathland and by the sea. But these places are for the adventurers with a 4WD. Toilets only at these places. Camping and park fees apply at all sites; Benwenerup campground requires online booking.

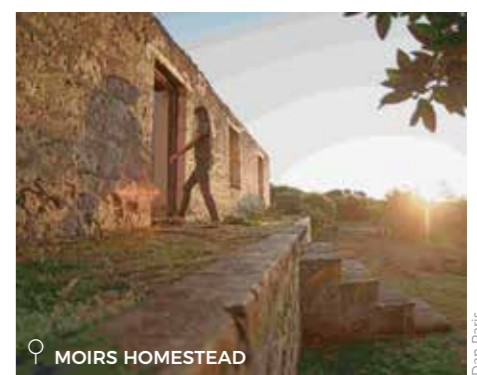
### Moirs Homestead

The historical ruins of Moirs Homestead lie a short distance from the Stokes Inlet's shores. Limestone walls delineate grass floored rooms. Though the roof is gone, a wander through the homestead and surrounds provides a portal into a colonial past. Accessible only by high clearance 4WD via the Fanny Cove track.

### Munglinup Beach and Campsite

Munglinup Beach and reef are about 130km west of Esperance and near the small town of Munglinup, which sits on the South Coast Highway between Ravensthorpe and Esperance. Ideal for safe swimming and snorkelling. Spectacular views of the winding inlet into the Oldfield Estuary. Small boat access for fishers keen for a feed of salmon, skippy, herring, or gummy shark. The perfect place for a kayak or canoe. Paddle between the beach and the reef, or in the inlet. A nature bush walk trail follows the river to the ocean. The trail is sprinkled with wildflowers all year round. And there is a good chance of viewing local wildlife.

A good gravel road surface makes this beach accessible by 2WD, and there is camping close to the beach, or at the nearby Munglinup Beach Caravan Park.



MUNGLINUP BEACH  
CJ Maddock

MOIRS HOMESTEAD



# Adventure

THISTLE COVE  
Dan Paris



GREAT OCEAN WALK TRAIL  
Dan Paris

## Trails

Esperance offers various bush, beach and wetland trail experiences. Ranging from gentle strolls to serious hikes for committed adventurers. Grounded – Esperance Hiking Festival was launched in September 2024 and is now an annual event.

### Town Foreshore and Baarndi Trail

Stroll along the Esplanade from the Port Authority Park to Castletown Quays (5km one way). You can also keep going on the Baarndi trail, starting at the end of Castletown Quays and following the coastline to Bandy Creek, across the creek, all the way to Lucky Bay Brewing (3.5km).

### Rotary Lookout Dempster Head / Lovers Cove Walk Trails

The Rotary Lookout is the start of two walk trail loops.

The first one over Dempster Head is quite steep at the start and leads down towards a viewing platform and picnic table overlooking Lovers Cove. Up a few steps. Over exposed granite rock to the top of Dempster Head, overlooking West Beach. Allow 30 minutes.

Seeking a more challenging hike? Take the trail down to Lover's Cove – it's a steep but brief trek, with some

potentially slippery sections. Wear sturdy shoes for this one.

### The Great Ocean Pathway (West Beach to Twilight Cove)

Popular with local walkers, runners and cyclists, the Great Ocean Pathway meanders along the Southern Ocean coastline. This well-maintained trail can be accessed from several different beach car parks to provide various distance options. Total 7km (one way). Time: Allow 2 hours. Classification: Moderately easy.

This is part of the longer **Great Ocean Drive Walk/Cycle Trail**. If you're up for a challenge, walk/cycle all the way. Walking takes between 6 and 8 hours, cycling between 2 and 3 hours. More info in the Great Ocean Drive section.

### Salmon Beach Wind Farm Heritage Trail

This easy stroll around the site of Australia's first commercial Wind Farm is 1.5km and takes about 45 minutes. It is located along the Great Ocean Drive. The Salmon Beach Wind Farm Heritage Trail acknowledges the now decommissioned wind farm. One remaining wind turbine towers over the site, and a lookout tower provides an elevated view of Esperance's spectacular coastline.

### Cape Le Grand National Park

Within 45 minutes' drive of Esperance, this grand park features sweeping heathlands, rugged coastal peaks and white sandy beaches voted Best in Australia.

#### Frenchman Peak (Mandooboornup)

A walk to the summit up the east slope of Frenchman Peak is rewarded with panoramic views over the National Park, southern coastline and Recherche Archipelago islands. The trail surface is made up of gravel paths, wooden boardwalks and exposed granite. Not to attempt when it's raining as the rock becomes very slippery. Time: 1-3 hours. Classification: Hard.

#### Cape Le Grand Coastal Trail

The Coastal Trail is a spectacular but hard 20 kilometre (one way) hike. Wander from bay to bay, enjoying excellent coastal views and colourful wildflowers (in spring). This trail is ideal as a multiple day walk, taking approximately two days to complete, however it can also be done in a shorter time frame of approximately 8-9 hours.

The track runs from Le Grand Beach to Rossiter Bay (or in reverse). With additional access points at Hellfire Bay, Thistle Cove, and Lucky Bay it can be broken into four shorter sections.

### Cape Arid National Park

120km east of Esperance, Cape Arid is vast, remote and wild, with wide open skies above rocky headlands. Calling out to be explored. Most of the park is 4WD access only (check road conditions).

#### Len Otte Nature Trail

The walk winds through woodlands and thickets, showcasing the tremendous variety of plants in the area. You'll see views across coastal heathland to Thomas River and Yokinup Bay. The trail surface is made up of rock including exposed granite and gravel. Starts off Thomas River Road. Distance: 2km. Time: 1.5 hours. Classification: Moderately easy.

#### Tagon Coastal Trail

Featuring views over the rugged coastline, this trail winds through coastal heath and across rocky headlands, and offers spectacular views of the coastline and a great vantage point for watching migratory whales (July-October). Trail consists of exposed granite, gravel and beach sand. Some parts of the track may be eroded after heavy rain. Start from the western end of Yokinup Bay. Distance: 14km. Time: Half a day. Classification: Moderately difficult.

#### Mt Ragged Trail

Taking you to the summit of Tower Peak on Mount Ragged (594 metres), this trail has steep ridges, and is

overgrown in some parts. You'll need to hoist yourself up some decent sized rock faces if you want to enjoy the impressive views. Distance: 3km. Time: 1-3 hours. Classification: Difficult.

#### Mt Arid Trail

The hike to Mt Arid provides magnificent views of the coastline, islands of the Recherche Archipelago and Cape Arid's interior landscape. Access is by four-wheel drive only along the beach (around 20km) during suitable tide and swell conditions. Competence with beach driving is essential. Distance: 4km. Time: 3 hours. Classification: Moderately difficult.

### Stokes Inlet Heritage Walk Trail

80km west of town and featuring one of the most picturesque estuaries along WA's southern coast, Stokes National Park is a great place for bushwalking and birdwatching. The 6.4km return Stokes Inlet Heritage Walk Trail is an easy stroll (allow 1-2 hours). With on-site plaques describing the changing nature of the inlet environment. Two lookouts along the way provide sweeping views over the estuary.

### Peak Charles National Park

Towering 500 metres above the surrounding area, Peak Charles is

visible for more than 50 kilometres in all directions. It attracts experienced rock climbers as its steep eastern face offers high quality climbs of up to 300 metres in length.

The trail to the summit of Peak Charles consists of three sections. The start of the trail takes you through open woodland across mildly undulating terrain with loose rocks to exposed rock at the base of Peak Charles. Some high stepping onto rocks is required. This section of the trail ends at Mushroom Rock (600m return).

The next section, Central Ridge walk, involves steep inclines, and rough, unstable surfaces. It can be very slippery when it's been raining. Beware of strong winds.

Only experienced climbers should attempt the last section, Peak Charles Summit. (3.4km return, 3 hours, very difficult.)



BETWEEN THISTLE COVE AND HELLFIRE BAY

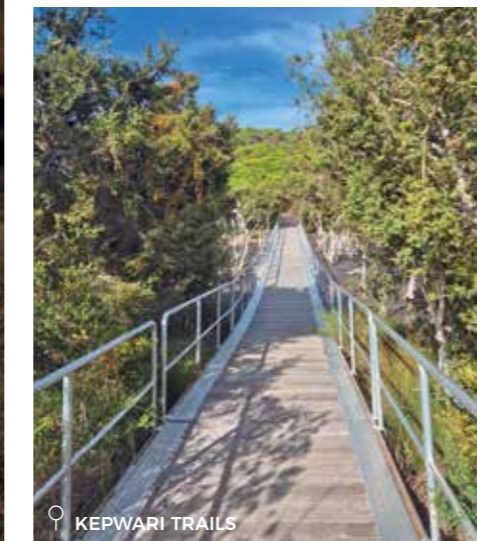




FRENCHMAN PEAK



WOODY ISLAND



KEPWARI TRAILS

### Mount Ridley - Marbeleerup

An hour north of Esperance, on Dempster Road (off Fisheries Road), a rough 4WD track leads you to Mount Ridley. Features Esperance's own 'Wave Rock', a glorious array of wildflowers and incredible rock formations. A site of significance to our First Nation's people – please be respectful during your visit.

### Woody Lake Nature Reserve

#### Kepwari Walk Trail

The Woody Lake Nature Reserve is part of a wetland network that supports a variety of wildlife on the south coast. A wonderful place to explore and take in the peaceful surrounds of the paperbark trees and prolific birdlife, such as ducks, pelicans, swans and egrets. Kepwari is the local Aboriginal word for 'place of moving water' and this easy interpretive walk trail is a learning experience with bird hides and seating along the way. Trail distance is 7.2km return, allow 2.5 hours.

### Kepwari Wetlands Canoe Trail

The Esperance Lakes Canoe Trail is a wonderfully relaxing way to appreciate the peace, beauty and birdlife of the Esperance Lakes system on a paddle craft. June to December, when water levels are at their highest, is the best time to attempt this trail. Canoes can be launched at the Woody Lake boat ramp or at the Lake Wheatfield car park. Reflective trail markers are placed at intervals every 200 meters or so to help you navigate your way.

### Woody Island

Woody Island Eco Tours is the only operator to get you over and onto Woody Island, one of 105 islands in the Recherche Archipelago located just 15km off the coast of Esperance. Enjoy the views from the southern end of the island with a short walk to Twiggy's Landing. Continue along the path past Twiggy's Landing to Shearwater Lookout.

The Island Top Walk Trail climbs to a lookout that provides sweeping views of the Recherche Archipelago and mainland. From the lookout the trail is a 1.6km loop through coastal shrublands.

And explore the northern side of Woody Island on a peaceful walk to Skinny Dip Bay. This moderately difficult walk will take you to a small, rocky, yet sheltered bay.

### Lake Monjingup Reserve

Situated just 10km west of Esperance, Lake Monjingup is an ideal location for a picnic, bushwalk, birdwatching and wildflowers (in season). You'll discover a wooden boardwalk which meanders through the paperbarks, as well as an Environmental Centre providing information about the various plants and animals which live there. The walk trail is easy, only 1.2km return. With toilets and picnic tables, Lake Monjingup Reserve makes for a fun day out for everyone.



Esperance is famous for its beaches and many access points to the ocean – before you embark on your favourite water-based activity, refer to the Esperance Coastal Safety website [esperancecoastalsafety.com.au](http://esperancecoastalsafety.com.au)



Not sure which beach to go to? Scan to check out the official Esperance Beaches Guide.



## Fishing

Esperance is an angler's dream.

With so many beach fishing locations to choose from, fishers are spoilt for choice.

If beach fishing is not your thing,

there is the option of freshwater fishing in the calmer, more protected waters of Bandy Creek, Lake Windabout or Stokes Inlet National Park.

Or perhaps fishing from a boat is more your style. Boat ramps are located at Bandy Creek Boat Harbour, and down along the Esplanade near the Skate Park (look for the large carpark). If your reversing and launching skills are better than average and you have a small trailer boat, then Lucky Bay Beach, Stokes Inlet and Orleans Bay are other possible options.

Keen for a deep-sea angling experience but don't own a boat? Try **Esperance Diving and Fishing** or **Black Jack Charters**.

Hook Yourself Up With The Fishing Rules & Tools. Scan here:



## Swimming

The water is clear and all shades of blue. Refreshing. Jump in and enjoy the gentle waves of Twilight Beach (the only beach patrolled by Surf Lifesavers on Sundays during the summer months). Or swim the lanes of the enclosure at the James Street jetty for complete peace of mind. Lounge in one of the lagoons while the kids splash around.

## Surfing

Esperance has hundreds of islands, reefs and sandbanks that when conditions are right, can offer good surfing waves. These beaches along the Great Ocean Drive usually boast the best surfing:

### West Beach

Fairly consistent beach and reef breaks, better at low tide, with northerly winds and south-westerly swells. Watch out for very strong rips and currents. Conditions can change quickly.

### Chapman's Point

This is a powerful point break over a patchy reef which is best in south-west to southerly swells and north-west to north-easterly winds. You need to pull out at the exact time to avoid the sharp reef. We advise only competent surfers try this break.

## WHERE YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE BEGINS...



**DOWN TO EARTH**  
Adventure & Camping

(08) 9071 1823  
65 Dempster St  
@downtoearthau

**Open**  
8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri  
8:30am-1pm Sat

 **CAMPING**

 **FISHING**

 **BIKES & HIRE**

 **WATER SPORTS**

 **SURFING**

 **OUTDOOR RECREATION**

### Fourth Beach

You can find quite a few different sand bank breaks (depending on weather conditions) right along this stretch of beach. It's best in up to 2-metre south to south-westerly swells and north-westerly to north-easterly winds.

### Twilight Beach

This beach is more protected due to the large rocks that break the open waves. It's a safe beach, the only one patrolled by Surf Lifesavers, on Sundays during the summer months. Performs best in up to 2-metre south to south-westerly swells and north-westerly to north-easterly winds.

### Give surfing a try

If you want to give surfing a go, contact Mossy from **Twilight School of Surf** on 0433 128 102 or [mossyb57@gmail.com](mailto:mossyb57@gmail.com) (also for board hire).

Esperance is a great place for kite surfing and wind surfing too. Fourth Beach and Observatory Beach are especially popular for this.

## Snorkelling

Tucked away and waiting for you to discover them, the Great Ocean Drive has some brilliant natural ocean pools. When the tides are right, they're perfect for families with small children as the water is usually calm and shallow.

### West Beach

West Beach has two large reefs which, when the tides are right, create natural ocean pools. Please keep in mind that in certain conditions waves may wash over the reefs and there could be strong currents present.

### Nine Mile Beach

Wander down the stairs to access rock pools perfect for exploring and snorkelling. Some rocks are rather sharp, make sure you take your thongs.

### Ten Mile Lagoon

Good for swimming and fishing, this beach is also the access point to 'Free Beach', where clothing is optional.

### Eleven Mile Beach

Great for a swim in the calm lagoon or a wander through the rock pools.



## Diving

Beneath the Esperance Jetty life abounds. A dive trail entices ocean lovers deep into the underwaters of the Esperance Bay. A platform provides a launching pad for a 50-100m swim from the Jetty's end to an artificial reef. Below the water, wondrous seaweed species thrive. The perfect place for the delicate Leafy Sea Dragon – Esperance is one of the few places in the world home to this delicate creature.

## Four-Wheel Driving

A four-wheel drive adventure is the ultimate way to explore this stunning corner of South Western Australia. From the breathtaking Wylie Bay, to the iconic Lucky Bay, to the beauty of Stokes Inlet and Cape Arid National Parks - a 4WD gives adventurers access to the wildest and most peaceful spots around Esperance.

Don't forget to stay on the tracks and watch for wildlife and beach-goers as you navigate the diverse terrain. Keep your car clean to prevent the spread of dieback (a weed spreading disease that destroys native bushland), and be sure to leave no trace, keeping the area pristine for future explorers.

The rewards are endless, with jaw-dropping views at every turn. Wharton Beach, Alexander Bay, and the hidden gems that only the locals know. Respect track closures, and you'll be rewarded with an off-road experience that will leave you rejuvenated and eager to return.



## Bush Camping

Esperance's beautiful isolation is part of its magic – a place where wide open spaces, rugged coastlines and untamed wilderness invite you to reconnect with the outdoors.

With four spectacular national parks and three Shire-managed bush camps, the region offers countless opportunities to slow down and indulge in life's simple pleasures.

But remote adventures require care. Be prepared and travel responsibly – stay on track and camp only in designated areas, check road closures and weather updates before you set out.

Use this guide as a starting point to plan your camping adventure in Esperance's great outdoors.

For more information:

Camping: [parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au/search-availability/information](http://parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au/search-availability/information)

Road Closures: [alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au)

The shire overflow opens when all caravan parks in town are full, check the Shire of Esperance website for updates. Scan here:



## NATIONAL PARKS BUSH CAMPGROUNDS

National Park Campground (NO DOGS)	No. of sites	Access	Facilities	Bookings & Payments
<b>Cape Le Grand</b> (Entry fee applies) — 50km SE of Esperance via Fisheries Rd, Merivale Rd, Cape Le Grand Rd				
Le Grand Beach	14	2WD	🚻🚰🏠	Book/pay online
Lucky Bay	53	2WD	🚻🚰🏠	Book/pay online
<b>Stokes</b> (Entry fee applies) — 80km West of Esperance				
Fanny Cove	5	4WD	🚻	Pay on arrival
Shoal Cape	4	4WD	🚻	Pay on arrival
Benwenerup	14	2WD	🚻🚰🏠	Book/pay online
Skippy Rock	9	4WD	🚻	Pay on arrival
<b>Cape Arid</b> (Entry fee applies) — 120km East of Esperance via Fisheries and Tagon Rd				
Mount Ragged		4WD		Pay on arrival
Seal Creek	11	4WD		Pay on arrival
Jorndee Creek	9	4WD	🚻	Pay on arrival
Belinup	11	2WD	🚻🚰🏠	Pay on arrival
Thomas River/Yokinup Mia Mia	17	2WD	🚻🚰🏠	Pay on arrival
<b>Peak Charles</b> — 174km NW of Esperance				
Peak Charles (free entry)		4WD	🚻	Free

## SHIRE OF ESPERANCE BUSH CAMPGROUNDS No booking – \$20 per site per night

Campground (DOGS ALLOWED ON LEASH)	No. of sites	Access	Facilities	Payments	
Quagi Beach	80km West	18	2WD	🚻	Honesty Box
Munlingup Beach	130km West	15	2WD	🚻	Pay at Munlingup Beach CP
Alexander Bay	100km East	20	2WD	🚻	Honesty Box

ESTD 1989

# ESPERANCE CAMPING GALORE

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# Accommodation

Esperance is a popular destination and stays book out quickly. Whether it's camping under the stars, a nature-based retreat or a comfortable motel, accommodation fills fast, so book early to secure your slice of paradise. [visitesperance.com](http://visitesperance.com)

## Caravan Parks

Esperance is made for those who love the open road. With six caravan parks in town and more scattered through the region, you can plug in, pitch up or park under the stars. Many offer cabins, pet-friendly sites and easy access to beaches, walking trails and town attractions.

**RAC Esperance Holiday Park**  
Premium park with modern facilities and prime foreshore location.

**Esperance Bay Holiday Park (Summerstar)**  
Family favourite, walking distance to town and beaches.

**Bathers Paradise Caravan Park**  
Quiet, relaxed setting ideal for couples and travellers seeking calm.

**Pink Lake Tourist Park**  
Leafy, shaded sites and affordable family-friendly cabins.

**Pine Grove Holiday Park**  
Friendly, affordable and nestled in parkland.

**Bushlands Caravan Park**  
Rustic charm with a bushland backdrop.

Beyond Esperance, explore quieter stays at **Dunns EcoPark**, **Orleans Bay Caravan Park**, **Munglinup Beach Caravan Park**, or venture inland to **Grass Patch** and **Salmon Gums**. To the west, **Wavecrest Tourist Park**, **Hopetoun Beachside Caravan Park**, and **Green Haven** in Ravensthorpe, make excellent road trip stops.

\*See also page 35 for National Parks and Nature Based Campgrounds.



## Hotels and Motels

Perfect for travellers who want everything close at hand. Esperance's hotels and motels offer comfortable rooms, convenient amenities and unbeatable locations near the town centre and foreshore.

**Hospitality Esperance, SureStay Collection by Best Western**  
Some waterfront views and onsite dining.

**Comfort Inn Bay of Isles**  
Resort-style stay with pool and onsite dining.

**The Jetty Resort**  
Popular with families, close to the town jetty.

**Bayview Motel and Esperance Central Accommodation**  
Comfortable and central, perfect for exploring on foot.



## Apartments

For a little more space and the freedom to self-cater Esperance offers a range of apartments with coastal charm.

**Esperance Island View Apartments and Foreshore Apartments**  
Contemporary style, some with ocean views.

**Clearwater Motel Apartments**  
Well-equipped for couples or families wanting flexibility.

**Driftwood Apartments**  
Boutique touches and an easy stroll to cafés, shops and the beach.

## Nature Stays

If you want to reconnect with the elements, Esperance delivers. Wake to birdsong, breathe in the crisp coastal air and step into nature.

**Esperance Chalet Village**  
A dreamy, design-led hideaway tucked into tranquil bushland.

**Box Hill**  
Luxe eco-stay with understated elegance and a deep connection to the land.

**Woody Island Eco Stays**  
Rustic, off-grid accommodation where the wilderness is your neighbour.

For business or leisure,

*there's always a little something extra ...*

- Central town location opposite the bay
- Pool, restaurant, cocktail bar, BBQ & guest laundry
- FREE Wi-Fi and FOXTEL (including sport)
- Complimentary continental breakfast daily



**Hospitality Esperance, SureStay Collection by Best Western**

44-46 The Esplanade, Esperance P: 9071 1999

E: [esperance@hospitalityinns.com.au](mailto:esperance@hospitalityinns.com.au) W: [www.hospitalityinnesperance.com.au](http://www.hospitalityinnesperance.com.au)

## Private Homes

For those seeking the comforts of home with a local touch, private holiday homes offer a relaxed, authentic way to experience Esperance. Ask the Visitor Centre for more information.

## Plan Ahead

Esperance is a popular destination in the warmer months, and accommodation fills quickly from **September through May**. Whether you're pitching a tent or booking a luxury apartment, **advance planning is key**.

Secure your stay early and give yourself the best chance to experience Esperance — In your element.



WOODY ISLAND

Tourism Australia

## Accommodation by the sea ...

### THE JETTY RESORT

Offers all the key ingredients for a rejuvenating getaway by the water's edge, with our luxury rooms overlooking the ocean.

Top class facilities include outdoor swimming pool, BBQ and gazebo, large playground, guest laundry, Foxtel on large TVs, and undercover parking.



The  
Jetty  
Resort

### ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

The Jetty Resort provides a variety of accommodation options to suit all budgets and travellers, and there's a style to match every visitor's needs.

2 Dempster Street, Esperance WA 6450

Phone (08) 9071 3333

reservations@thejettyresort.com.au

www.thejettyresort.com.au



Perfectly private and ideally located between the jetty and town centre, these stunning multi-award winning apartments are yours to enjoy for either business or pleasure. Luxuriously spacious with ocean views, these fully self-contained one and two storey apartments suit couples, families or friends holidaying together.

Equipped with every comfort including: free wifi, CD Stereo, LCD TV, DVD, fully equipped kitchen, private laundry and BBQ on your spacious balcony or courtyard. Spa apartments and facilities for disabled are also available. Facing north-east, Esperance Island View Apartments are perfect for any season, attracting the winter sun, or cool breezes in the summer time. Directly opposite the revitalised Esplanade foreshore and offering picturesque island views of the Esperance Bay. Complimentary use of board games and DVDs.

e: [admin@esperanceapartments.com.au](mailto:admin@esperanceapartments.com.au)  
[www.esperanceapartments.com.au](http://www.esperanceapartments.com.au)

14-15 The Esplanade (PO Box 716)

Esperance, Western Australia 6450

ph: (08) 9072 0044 or 1800 440 508



ESPERANCE  
ISLAND VIEW

APARTMENTS

# Nature and Wildlife



Dan Paris

Nature bestowed upon Esperance a wide range of natural wonders. Virtues sure to make your holiday experience unforgettable. Listed below are some of our most popular natural attractions. The gems of our region that keep us here.

But first, reconsider your preconceived ideas. Esperance's Pink Lake has been an iconic landmark for as long as we can remember, but the reality is that it is no longer pink. Environmental changes mean that Pink Lake may sometimes be blue; sometimes a silvery hue, and sometimes it dances with pink and orange as the sunset is reflected on the water. It is still a spectacular body of water and a feature of the Great Ocean Drive.

Similarly, Lake Hillier on Middle Island is no longer the bubble pink it used to be. Nature is unpredictable and may bring that bright colour back one day!

The kangaroos at Lucky Bay may not choose to sunbathe when you happen to be walking on their beach. They are wild. And free. Enjoy the walk and the wildness. They may be watching you from the bush above. Waiting for you to pass by.



Rod Western

## Bird Watching

The Esperance area has a diverse range of habitats supporting over 190 species of bushbirds, waterbirds and shorebirds. These habitats include the extensive wetlands of the Lake Warden System, a Ramsar listed and internationally recognised site. There are shorelines stretching east and west, including several large estuarine inlets, island habitats and many inland kwongan heathland areas and lakes.

The opportunities range from within walking distance of the CBD along beach/coastal bush trails and through wetlands, Recherche Archipelago island visits, short trips to Lake Monjigup and Helms Arboretum and further afield to Stokes, Cape Le Grand and Cape Arid National Parks. It is also possible to access the southern edge of the Western Woodlands at Salmon Gums, Peak Charles and Mount Ridley.

Scan to access the detailed Birdwatching around Esperance guide put together by the Esperance Bird Observers Group.



## Wildflowers

During the months of August through to November the Esperance wildflower season comes into full bloom. The South Coast is well known for its incredibly rich and unique biodiversity, which includes native orchids, banksias, grevilleas and many other species. The best way to see the region's diverse flora is to park your car and explore on foot.



## Wildflower Hot Spots

### Helms Arboretum

The reserve is home to eucalyptus, melaleucas, casuarinas, acacias, and many exotic pines. During spring you'll find spider orchids, cowslips, and leschenaultia, enamel and donkey orchids, plus banksia. Red flowering gums in summer, silver princess late winter, and the glorious royal hakea is on show all year round.

### Dempster Head - Rotary Lookout

The walk trails display several species of flowering Eucalypts, Dryandras, Banksias, twining Clematis, Australian Bluebells, Fringe Lilies in early summer, Pimelea, Agonis, and Hakea. Make sure you carefully observe the ground for those pretty orchids too.

### Woody Lake Nature Reserve – Kewari Trails

Home to over 20,000 waterbirds, mostly from November to April, you'll also find here bandicoots, possums and banjo frogs. Go for a wander along the Kewari Walk Trail which winds through fringing sedgeland, heathlands and paperbarks to discover wildflowers along the path edges in springtime which become lined with spider orchids, cowslips, banksias, wattle and kangaroo paws.

### Lake Monjigup Nature Reserve

Featuring an over-water boardwalk through sensitive paperbark wetland and an easy walk showing diverse Proteaceae and Myrtaceae. The vegetation of the Reserve is typical of the Esperance sandplains.

### Cape Le Grand National Park

The park's rolling heathlands are home to pygmy possums, western grey kangaroos and an abundance of colourful wildflowers including dense thickets of showy banksia, native grass trees, kangaroo paws and the celebrated Western Australian Christmas Tree.

### Stokes National Park

Stokes National Park protects the wildlife habitats of Stokes Inlet and the surrounding heathland and lake systems. Yate, swamp yate, melaleucas, and paperbark trees form dense low forests, supporting a variety of waterbirds. At different times of the year, the bushwalk trails out at Stokes Inlet provide opportunities to view colourful flora; and in autumn you're sure to see the magnificent yellow flowers of the bell-fruited Mallee (*Eucalyptus preissiana*).

### Cape Arid National Park

Cape Arid National Park is a wildly beautiful and biodiverse area. Coastal sand plain heaths, mallee and low granite hills extend inland to Mount Ragged after which the vegetation is transformed into woodlands dominated by saltbush and bluebush. The park can be closed after heavy rain to prevent the spread of dieback; check conditions before you go.

## Wildflower Festivals

If you're a wildflower fan you mustn't miss the annual Esperance Wildflower Festival and Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show & Spring Festival. Held each September, the Esperance event showcases more than 500 local species and includes a photographic exhibition. The Ravensthorpe event has developed into one of the biggest wildflower shows in the world.

## Wildflowers Sightseeing Tips

When searching for wildflowers, it may be a good idea to wear insect repellent – where there's a large array of flowers, there's sure to be insects nestled between them. We also recommend you wear sunscreen, a hat and long-sleeved clothing. And remember, wildflowers are protected. Please resist the urge to pick them. Take only pictures, leave only footprints.



Tourism WA



## Whales

On the southern coastline, the sheltered bays around Esperance host southern right whales and their calves, plus the occasional humpback whale from June to October.

Check for whales at West Beach, Twilight Beach and Observatory Point as you potter along the Great Ocean Drive. Mums and calves can also be spotted at Thomas River and Cape Arid National Park (check road conditions). For the immersive experience, book a nature cruise with Esperance Island Cruises.

The Facebook group **Whale, Dolphin and Shark Sightings - Esperance WA** is a useful tool to see where they might be.



# History, Culture and Art

Harry

## History

### Nyungar Boodja

The local Noongar people were the first known inhabitants in the Esperance region and populated the area around 20,000 years ago. Kepa Kurl is the local Noongar name for Esperance, which roughly translates to "where the waters lie like a boomerang". Back then, the region provided a wide variety of food, so the Noongar people did not tend to venture far from the area.

Strong traditional ties to land have created a significant range of native title claims and determinations within the Shire, including:

**Esperance Nyungar**, managed by Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation

**Ngadju**, managed by Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation

Tjaltjraak comes from the Esperance Nyungar name for the Mallee (also known as Tallerack or Blue Mallee *Eucalyptus pleurocarpa*) which Esperance Nyungars believe mark the extent of their country.

The Ngadju people have lived on country between Kalgoorlie and Esperance for perhaps as long as 50,000 years.

Like most tribal groups, the Ngadju people developed their own language and are proud of their important role as the carers and

custodians of their land. Being spiritual people, they practiced sacred ceremonies and dances, and many sites of significance remain important places for men and women to connect to country today.

### European Australians

Esperance Bay was named by the French navigator d'Entrecasteaux in 1792 as his two ships took shelter near Observatory Island during a storm. The place was named after one of the French ships, *L'Esperance* (Hope, in French). The other ship, *Recherche*, gave its name to the Archipelago.

In 1802, British navigator Matthew Flinders sailed through the Recherche Archipelago and named several landmarks, including Lucky Bay. In 1841, Edward John Eyre and Aboriginal guide Wylie, met Captain Rossiter. Wylie Bay was named by Edward Eyre in honour of his guide.

Colonial settlement did not occur until 1864, when the pioneering Dempster Brothers drove sheep, cattle and horses from Northam to establish the Esperance Bay Pastoral Station. The journey was on foot, and the Dempsters were helped in their southern move by Aboriginal guides.

In 1876, famous tracker and guide, Tommy Windich, accompanied John Forrest on an expedition constructing the overland telegraph line from Perth to Adelaide. While in Esperance, he contracted the

pneumonia that led to his death in February 1876. He was buried on the edge of the Esperance Bay. The Tommy Windich Cultural Precinct, located at the entrance of Southern Ports is a memorial at a site believed to be that of Tommy's original grave.

The townsite of Esperance was gazetted in 1893 after the discovery of gold in the Eastern Goldfields. The town experienced a rapid and incredible transformation as fortune seekers from all over Australia and around the world flooded the once sleepy little port on their way to the Goldfields.

In September 1895, Esperance was declared a municipality. But the number of residents fluctuated as it endured the good times and the bad. The population stabilised in the 1960s, when the Esperance sand-plain began to emerge as a major agricultural region. Agriculture stayed steady, and its rise as a key industry led to an increase in the population, and, eventually, the construction of the Esperance Port Authority in 1962. A build that furthered the diversification of the local economy.

There are now about 14,000 people living in the Shire and the economy is diverse, but with industries like tourism, agriculture, mining and fishing playing their part.

For a more in depth look at the rich history of Esperance visit the Esperance Museum.

### Railway Goods Shed — Esperance Museum

Located on James Street in the town centre, the old railway goods shed (thought to be the only one left of its kind in W.A.) is now the Esperance Museum. It is home to a wide variety of exhibits, a display of the Skylab, artefacts from shipwrecks, vintage vehicles, machinery, and much more.

### Bijou Theatre

Roughly translated as 'little gem' in French, the Bijou Theatre opened in 1896 and over the generations it's been used for dances, meetings, agricultural shows, a cinema, and even a roller-skating rink. These days, the Bijou plays host to community theatre performances.



### Dempster Homestead

Built in 1867 this was the homestead of Esperance's most famous pioneering family, the Dempsters, and the first home to be built in what



Harry

would later become the townsite of Esperance. It is privately owned but can be viewed from the road at 155 Dempster Street.

### RSL Memorial Park

The War Memorial sits on the corner of Dempster and Andrew streets, surrounded by Norfolk Pines. The old RSL building, once a classroom, then a council room, now stands for community. An old army tank sits outside. Look for the mural showing charging horsemen.

## Culture

### Esperance Civic Centre and Esperance Public Library

The Civic Centre is Esperance's premier performance and multi-function space. Hosting a variety of shows throughout the year.

The Library offers free WiFi to visitors and locals alike. Looking for a book to read, or somewhere to recharge your devices while you browse a vast selection of magazines? Visitors are more than welcome to head to the Library and borrow a book or three.

# WHITE SANDS

GALLERY | GIFTS | SOUVENIRS | UGGS

12 Andrew Street, Esperance WA 6450

[www.WhiteSandsGallery.com.au](http://www.WhiteSandsGallery.com.au)

[White\\_Sands\\_Gallery](#)





### Esperance Stonehenge

The Esperance Stonehenge is the only full-size replica of the original Stonehenge in the UK. It appears as the original would have looked around 1950BC. It consists of 137 stones of Pink Granite. You'll find this marvel along Merivale Road, 18km from the centre of town.

### Aunty Joan's Dolly Mix – Andrew St

Not-for-profit Doll Museum and Event Space located at 104 Dempster Street, pay as you feel donation basis, all proceeds to local charity. Amazing

collection of nearly 1,000 elaborate modern porcelain dolls.

### Music

Esperance's thriving music scene is built on performances from local and visiting artists, with several venues enabling an exciting live music programme throughout the year. Enquire about upcoming music events at the Cannery Arts Centre, Lucky Bay Brewing, the Pier Hotel, The Quarters and 33 Degrees - these venues host local talents as well as visiting artists and touring bands. The Cannery serves as a hub, fostering

local musicians through open mics, music workshops and ticketed events. Balmy Nights, There Goes the Sun and the Club 75 series are all events that have encouraged local artists and attracted visiting musicians to the local stage.

The Pier Hotel houses the only nightclub in town, The Snakepit, which hosts a variety of live music concerts and other shows as well as DJ's to make you dance all night.

The Esperance Civic Centre offers a varied programme of events.

For details about current live events, or to purchase tickets, visit [kызapresents.com](http://kызapresents.com)



The Visitor Centre's What's on Calendar can be found here:



### Galleries and Studios

The range of creative endeavours pursued by some incredibly talented individuals is astounding. From glass sculptures and jewellery to Australia's only fish and shark leather specialist, woodworking, painting and photography, you will find a special memento to remember your visit. The artistic scene in Esperance is big, with workshops and visiting and local exhibitions popping up all year round.



### White Sands Gallery

Shop for the ultimate Esperance souvenir. Images of Esperance on a range of products printed in-house, from framed photographs to tea towels, coasters, stubby holders, key rings, coffee mugs and much more. Range of locally made jewellery and Emu Australia's iconic Aussie sheepskin footwear (Ugg boots).

### Cannery Arts Centre

The Cannery Arts Centre is a heritage building initially used as a fish cannery. Located on the foreshore, the Centre is a dynamic arts facility presenting exhibitions by local and touring artists, offering a diverse selection of contemporary art. All exhibitions are free to visit to ensure our visual arts program is accessible and inclusive to everyone. This vibrant not-for-profit charity organisation also offers a wide range of creative workshops for adults and kids, presents an eclectic menu of music concerts and events, hosts artists in their residency program, is home to the Esperance Potters Club, has a quaint community garden for you to forage and an impressive lookout to conquer. Bring home a lovely souvenir from the Cannery Shop. There is always a reason to visit.

### Mudjar Aboriginal Corporation

The gallery showcases indigenous pieces inspired by our region. Full of contrasts and colour. The shop stocks unique works of art and craft. Sculptures, hand-braided rugs, glassware, paintings and boomerangs.

### Museum Village

A collection of small historical buildings that now house little shops (selling all types of wares), and the Esperance Visitor Centre. Located in the centre of town, the Museum Village is on the site of the town's old railway marshalling yards, and the buildings have been relocated from various sites around Esperance. Information hand-out available at the Visitor Centre.



## ESPERANCE MUSEUM VILLAGE



### MUSEUM VILLAGE MARKETS – 2025/2026 DATES

December 2025 7th, 14th & 28th	July 12th & 26th
January 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th	August 9th & 23rd
February 8th & 22nd	September 6th & 20th
March 8th & 22nd	October 4th & 18th
April 5th & 19th	November 1st, 15th & 29th
May 3rd, 17th & 31st	December 13th, 20th & 27th
June 14th & 28th	



Tiny gallery, home to South Coast fine art and heartfelt design. Curated pieces to collect, creative workshops to nourish. Open Sept–June. @art.galley.plus.workroom



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Market Day: 9am–12:30pm  
Ph: 0415 388 420 [esposperance](http://esposperance.com)



**JUST ONE MORE STITCH**  
A small, quirky patchwork, quilting and craft shop specialising in Quiltworx and Legit Kits foundation paper piecing patterns and classes.  
0427 922 373

### La Breeze

Unique gifts, souvenirs, artwork & accessories.  
Seasonal wildflower tours.  
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[LaBreezesperance](http://LaBreezesperance.com) Ph: 0476 071 510



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**NATURALLY ESPERANCE**  
Mon: 9am–2pm | Tues–Fri: 9am–4pm  
Sat: 9am–1pm | Sunday market days  
0458 798 841 [naturallyesperance.com.au](http://naturallyesperance.com.au)

### Esperance. In your element.

Esperance Visitor Centre  
Open 7 days (except Christmas Day & Good Friday)  
For opening hours, itineraries and attractions:  
[visitesperance.com](http://visitesperance.com) | Ph: 1300 664 455



**THE ♥ OF ESPERANCE AND THE HOME OF THE SUNDAY MARKETS**  
Museum Village, 54 Dempster St, Esperance, WA  
[museumvillage](https://www.facebook.com/museumvillage) [museumvillagemarkets](https://www.facebook.com/museumvillagemarkets)

# Guided Tours

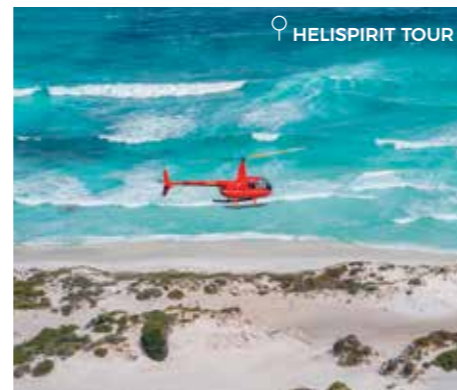
ESPERANCE ISLAND CRUISES  
Tourism WA

With so much to see and do, allow passionate locals to maximise your time in Esperance with a guided tour — by land, air, or sea.

As a marine paradise, there is no shortage of aquatic adventures to dive into. Experience the sea from new vantage points with **Esperance Island Cruises and Esperance Diving and Fishing**. **Black Jack Charters** will

have you exploring the hidden gems of Esperance's marine environment, perhaps even catching your next meal, while **Woody Island EcoTours** offers immersive day or overnight adventures to one of the 105 islands in the Recherche Archipelago.

**Helispirit** offers breathtaking aerial views of the stunning coastline and landscape.



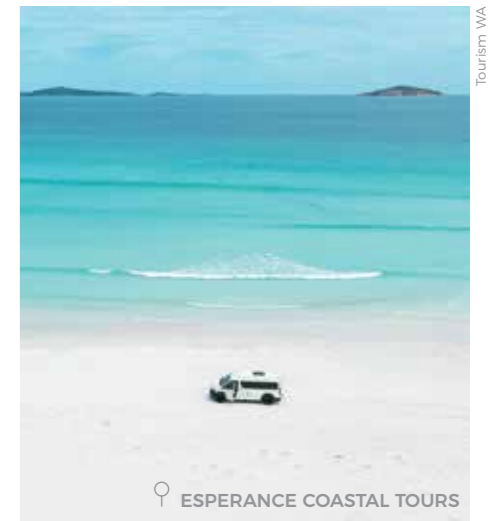
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If you prefer keeping your feet on the ground, embark on a 4x4 adventure with **Esperance Coastal Tours** or **Tour Esperance** for some off-road fun.

Esperance is not only a picturesque location where nature reigns supreme, but it's also home to a wealth of creative and cultural attractions. **Cindy Poole's Glass Gallery** is a favourite pick, showcasing an enchanting collection of glass artworks reflecting the area's natural beauty. Make your own glass creation by booking a 'discover and create' experience.

Delve into the six seasons on country with the team at **Dabungool Cultural Experiences**. Local Nyungar guides will walk with you, sharing knowledge of plants, animals and life as you experience Kapa Kurl Nyungar Boodja through a cultural lens. With no set tours, every experience is booked at a convenient time for you.

For more information, scan QR code.



Tourism WA



Stephanie



## SCENIC HELICOPTER ADVENTURES EXPLORE THE PRISTINE COASTLINE OF ESPERANCE



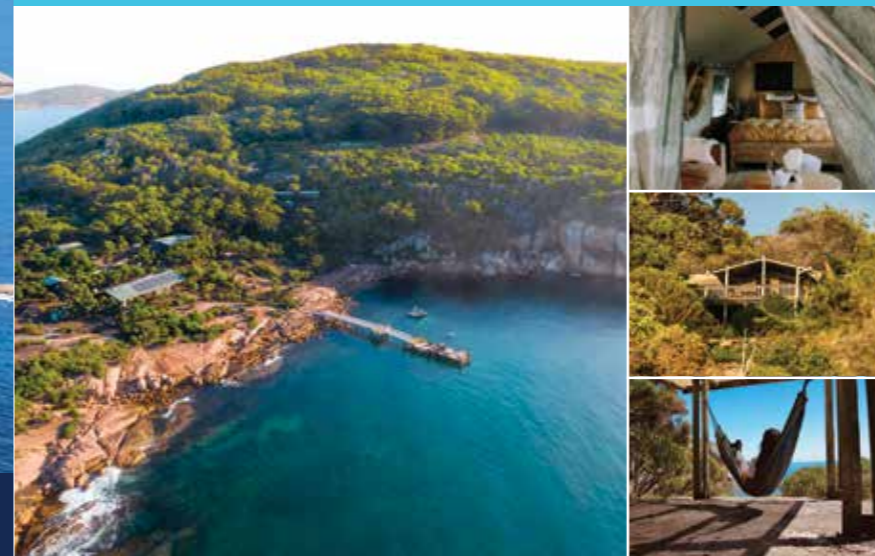
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FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS



**Helispirit**

BOOK ONLINE [helispirit.com.au](http://helispirit.com.au) | 0428 721 776



**WOODY ISLAND  
ECO TOURS**  
Esperance • Western Australia

Woody Island Eco Tours will ferry you to the unique, untamed, iconic Woody island. Return ferry, guided bush walk, morning tea, and a range of accommodation options are available throughout the season. Food, drinks, ice-creams and souvenirs are also available from our kiosk on the island. We operate from November 2025 to May 2026 with a half-day tour running daily depending on numbers and weather. **Departing Daily: Taylor Street Jetty**



# Eat and Drink



PEAK CHARLES

In Esperance, good food and drink isn't just about what's on the plate — it's about connection to place.

Owing to its isolation, this creative and resilient community has perfected the art of producing world-class flavours straight from its backyard. From backyard bakers and brewers to olive farmers, winemakers and distillers, Esperance's natural abundance

inspires a food scene that's humble, inventive and distinctly local.

Eating out here is a choose-your-own adventure. Each day of the week brings different flavours and opening hours (this is a small coastal town, after all). Insider tip: check opening times before you go and follow the locals' lead — they always know the best spot for the day.



YIRRI GROVE

## Farm to Table

### Lucky Bay Brewing

Craft beers brewed from locally grown barley and named after Esperance's iconic beaches. A relaxed, family-friendly venue on Bandy Creek Road serving great pizza and live music on weekends.

### Esperance Distillery Co

Australia's smallest distillery, crafting small-batch gin with native botanicals found only in this region. Tastings and gin-making classes available.

### Yirri Grove

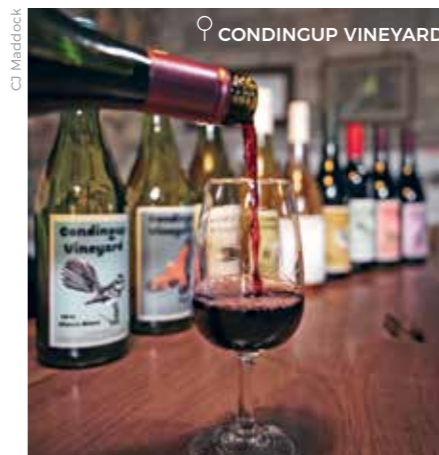
A charming olive farm just 15 km from town. Enjoy paddock-to-plate meals featuring house-pressed olive oil, fresh garden produce and homemade treats. Olive tastings and local gifts available in the farm shop.

### Patroni Olives

Homegrown, cold-pressed olive oil and pickled olives — a true Esperance gem. Drop in on Fisheries Road if the owners are around for an authentic farm-gate experience.



LUCKY BAY BREWING



CONDINGUP VINEYARD



ESPERANCE DISTILLERY CO.

### Condingup Vineyard

Western Australia's most easterly winery. Small-batch artisan wines, estate grown and hand-picked. The perfect weekend tasting adventure.

### Local Honey

Ecovalley Honey, Esperance Honey and Hannett's Honey produce rich, floral honey from local blossoms — available at markets and supermarkets.

### Bread Local

A cult favourite and a must-visit. This backyard bakery is a labour of love, famed for its naturally leavened sourdough, sausage rolls, deluxe sandwiches and seasonal sweet treats. Open a few days a week, it's worth lining up early — or settling into the leafy garden with a coffee in hand. Bread Local embodies Esperance's ethos: simple, slow and made with care.



BREAD LOCAL

## Coffee and Cafés

Start the day right with a good brew and a dose of ocean air.

### Coffee on the Go

#### Downtown Espresso Bar

A local favourite for quality coffee.

#### Bean Break

Food van positioned outside RAC Holiday Park.

#### Coffee Cat

Beachside coffee with ocean views.

#### Witches Brew

Convenient drive-through coffee.

### Cafés

#### Cloud Eleven

Sleek and modern, perfect for brunch.

#### Dome

Classic coastal café.

#### Breakaway Café

Relaxed, friendly service.

#### Roast and Toast

Hearty sandwiches and good coffee.

## SEASONS RESTAURANT



*Superb dining location overlooking the Bay*

Modern, innovative cuisine and tempting menu

Enjoy a pre-dinner drink in the cocktail bar

Open daily for breakfast and dinner

Bookings essential - 9071 1999

44-46 The Esplanade, Esperance WA  
E: [esperance@hospitalityinns.com.au](mailto:esperance@hospitalityinns.com.au)  
W: [www.hospitalityinnesperance.com.au](http://www.hospitalityinnesperance.com.au)

## Dining Out

Esperance evenings are best spent slow and social, with a growing mix of bistros, breweries and casual coastal venues.

### Bistro Louis

French-inspired dining.

### The Quarters

Modern fare overlooking the Yacht Club.

### Lucky Bay Brewing

Relaxed dining with beer brewed on site.

### The Pier Hotel

Classic pub vibes and hearty meals.

### Sandy Hook Bar & Bistro

Casual and family-friendly.

### Fish Face

Locally caught seafood, cooked beautifully.

## Pubs & Taverns

A cold drink and warm hospitality are part of Esperance's DNA and the perfect way to reflect on the day.

### 33 Degrees

Stylish waterfront bar with views.

### Travellers Inn

A relaxed local favourite.

### Gibson Soak

Friendly country pub 20 minutes from town.

### Condingup Tavern

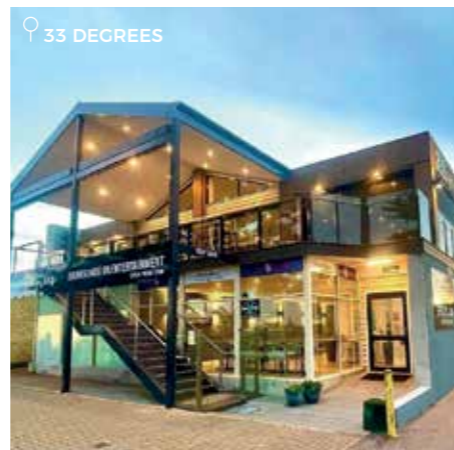
The ultimate stop on any road trip east.



Tourism WA



© J. Meadlock



# Getting to Esperance

Miriam Joanna

## Driving

Road tripping your way is the first part of your Esperance adventure. Various routes and excellent sealed roads entice you on your journey. Your route will depend on your starting point and what kind of experience you want to have. Esperance is about eight hours' drive from Perth, four hours from Kalgoorlie, and five hours from Albany.

## Flying

If you want to get to Esperance quickly to make the most of your holiday break, flying is the way to go.

Esperance is serviced by REX (Regional Express) Airlines, with daily flights to and from Perth. The journey takes approximately 90 minutes.

Our airport is a 25-minute drive north of the town. We recommend you either reserve a hire vehicle (AVIS and Budget have a service desk at our regional airport), or organise a taxi through Esperance Taxi Service before you arrive to ensure you aren't left waiting.

## By Bus

Phase one of your reconnection with nature. Immerse yourself in the country you travel through. Or prepare for wild times ahead by enjoying some quiet time. Watch a movie. Catch up on some reading. TransWA operates regular coach services from Perth, Albany and Kalgoorlie to Esperance.

Visit [transwa.wa.gov.au](http://transwa.wa.gov.au) or telephone 1300 662 205. Bookings can also be made at the Esperance Visitor Centre.

## Getting Around Esperance

You can hire a car. Or a bicycle. And walking is a great way to get to most places in town. Great pathway access encourages strolling. To enjoy a particular sense of freedom, download the Beam app from [ridebeam.com](http://ridebeam.com) for access to bright and cheerful purple scooters scattered conveniently around town. And during the day from Monday to Friday, the TransEsperance public bus service runs from town to either West Beach, Castletown or Nulsen (timetables available from the Esperance Visitor Centre). Taxis are just a phone call away, and our local Rideshare app can be found on [roorides.com.au](http://roorides.com.au)

Tourism WA



Family & pet friendly, live music, beer, wine, cider, wood-fired pizza, full menu, fire-places, beer tasting, tours, gifts.

[LUCKYBAYBREWING.COM.AU](http://LUCKYBAYBREWING.COM.AU)  
63 Bandy Creek Rd, Esperance





GREAT OCEAN DRIVE, FOURTH BEACH

JV Media

## Responsible Tourism

Esperance covers a large area with a varied and diverse landscape. The Esperance Promise was created to help visitors enjoy these adventures and experiences safely and responsibly – visit [esperancepromise.com](http://esperancepromise.com) to learn more and make the promise.

Read on for tips to help you plan your visit and return home with nothing but good memories. Here are a few more tips to ensure you have a great time during your visit and return home with nothing but good memories.

## Where are you staying?

Hotels, caravan parks and other short stay accommodation places in Esperance are often booked up to 12 months in advance. Over the period from September through to the end of April, if you have not booked a place to stay prior to arrival you are running the risk of being caught short.

Camping outside a designated camping ground in Esperance is illegal. Ranger patrols occur and “free camping” can result in an infringement.

Over the busy period from December through to as late as April, the Shire of Esperance may operate a basic overflow campground with limited availability – check with the Visitor Centre prior to travelling to Esperance to confirm this is suitable for you.

## Remote locations

The Esperance region covers over 500km of coastline. Once leaving the township of Esperance, services, supplies and phone range are very limited. If you plan on venturing to more remote places, it is imperative you research the area and make adequate arrangements for fuel, vehicle repairs and recovery equipment, camping equipment, food and water supplies and have a solid contingency plan should things go wrong. Let someone know of your whereabouts and time of return before venturing out of town.

## Coastal Camping Tips and Rules

Campsites within the Shire of Esperance are situated in fragile coastal country. You can help to preserve these areas:

- BYO firewood. Deadwood is essential to the ecosystem.
- Take a portaloos to campsites without facilities.
- Take your rubbish home.
- No open fires at Shire managed sites from 1 November to 30 April (dates may change.) No fires permitted in National Parks at all.
- Generators to be set up within camp sites and only used between certain hours (varies on area).
- Please do not feed the wildlife.
- Cats and dogs are permitted in

Shire managed sites (must be on lead or contained within camp site). No pets allowed in National Parks.

- There are no waste dump points at bush camp sites. The nearest one is located on Shelden Road, Esperance.
- Bring plenty of drinking water and food and don't forget to wear sunscreen.

## Coastal Safety

In Esperance and along the South East Coast, a black algae grows on the rocks at the water's edge. It makes the rocks as slippery as ice. The proximity of the algae to the water often means slipping on this algae can result in injury and/or ending up in the water – and in trouble.

When walking on rocks:

- Stay off the black rocks
- Be mindful of big waves and swells
- Wear appropriate footwear
- If fishing, tie off on rock bolts.



[esperancecoastalsafety.com.au](http://esperancecoastalsafety.com.au)



Stephanie

FOURTH BEACH

## Track conditions

Roads and tracks can vary greatly in drivability and can deteriorate quickly. It is important to understand where you are travelling and being mindful of what you may encounter at varying times of the year. Please check conditions with the Esperance Visitor Centre.

## Visiting with Pets

Esperance provides many places to stay with your dog whilst on holidays, with a list of pet-friendly accommodation available from the Esperance Visitor Centre. Be sure to double check where your pooch can visit, as Esperance is surrounded by several National Parks and nature reserves where dogs and cats are prohibited. There are, however, many areas of dog-friendly bushland and beaches, various attractions, and dining out places. Ask the Visitor Centre for the *Holidaying with Dogs* brochure.

## Important Contacts

Fire, Police & Ambulance  
**000**

Esperance Taxi Service  
**(08) 9071 1782**

Department of Parks & Wildlife  
**(08) 9083 2100**

DPIRD  
**(08) 9083 1111**

DFES - Bushfire Advice  
**13 33 37**

Shire of Esperance  
**(08) 9071 0666**

WA Road Conditions  
**1800 013 314**

Esperance Police Station  
**(08) 9079 8999**

Esperance Hospital  
**(08) 9079 8000**

Water Police – shark sightings  
**(08) 9442 8600**

Poole

GLASS ARTIST

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Book a 'Hands On Behind the Scenes' Workshop

Gallery Experiences from \$5

Uncover, experience and delve into the magic of kiln-formed glass art, creation of 'The Whale Tail', and the untapped beauty in glass waste.

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Visit our Studio to view our complete range of finished products. Gain insight into the unique world of fish, shark & stingray leather.

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# Along the Way

## Roadtrips to Esperance


The road to Esperance may be part of a far bigger adventure. Be sure to investigate places along the way. Regional visitor centres provide travel tips (road conditions, picnic, camping/RV facilities...) and the stories behind the remote places you travel through. For more inspiration, Australia's Golden Outback put together a digital booklet called *27 Epic Road Trips* (scan QR code). Break up the drive, stretch the legs. Absorb the nature of your surroundings. Truly discover and create colourful memories.



**From the East, driving across the Nullarbor Plain** is a journey that takes you through one of the most remote and starkly beautiful landscapes in Australia. The Nullarbor is a vast, treeless expanse. The journey begins in South Australia, and spans approximately 1,200km along the Eyre Highway to Norseman in Western Australia. Along the way, drivers encounter endless horizons, dramatic cliffs along the Great Australian Bight, and the longest stretch of straight road in Australia. Despite its desolate appearance, the

Nullarbor is rich in natural wonders and wildlife, including kangaroos, emus, and the occasional camel. Roadhouses provide essential services and a sense of camaraderie among travellers.

**Download the map here:**



**From Kalgoorlie**, the route takes you south through the Great Western Woodlands. Larger than England and Wales combined, this 16-million-hectare forest is home to 3,300 species of flowering plants. Richly biodiverse, it is populated by mallee fowl, pebble dragons, and other animals including red-tailed phascogale. Along the way, journey through places like Kambalda or Coolgardie.

Stop to refresh at Norseman, a historic mining town 200km from Esperance. Founded in the late 19th century following the discovery of gold, Norseman retains much of its old-world charm with heritage buildings and a rich mining history. The town is named after a horse called Norseman, which is said to have unearthed the first gold nugget with its hoof. Today, Norseman offers travellers a range



of amenities, including shops, cafes, and accommodation options. Visitors can stop at the Woodland Cultural, Community and Visitor Centre to admire an array of engaging exhibits and informative displays that highlight the town's intriguing past, as well as gather information on the local attractions such as the Norseman Historical Museum and the scenic lookout points nearby.

**A route to Esperance from the west** could bring you from the deep south, through Albany, the Stirling and Porongurup Ranges, and rich farming country of the Great Southern. Bremer Bay is a lovely spot to visit along the way.

Or you could arrive from Perth, down through The Wheatbelt, with wildflowers in Spring and spectacular salt lake country breaking up the farmland. Small towns dot these routes and there are plenty of places to stop and take a break. Wave Rock, Tin Horse Highway, Ongerup's Malleefowl Centre... The Esperance Visitor Centre can help you plan your adventure.

Ravensthorpe, 200km west of Esperance, is resplendent in its mantle of wildflowers in spring. The Ravensthorpe Museum & Dance Cottage offers visitors information, and is a hidden gem of local

memorabilia. You can ask the staff about the scenic drives, walk trails, silos and Farm Gate Art Trail.

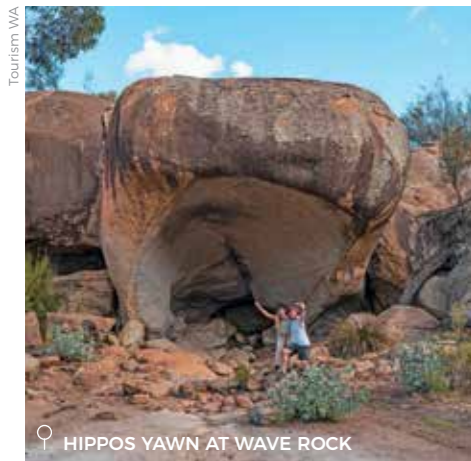
Make sure to stop at the brand new Ravensthorpe Cultural Precinct, including the interpretive centre where visitors will learn about the Shire of Ravensthorpe by using the digital displays and interactive maps.

Just down the road is Hopetoun, a picturesque coastal town a short drive down from Ravensthorpe, known for its stunning natural beauty and tranquil ambiance. Nestled along the southern coast, with kilometres of stunning beaches, this charming locale offers visitors breathtaking views of the Southern Ocean and access to the renowned Fitzgerald River National Park, a botanical wonderland.

**Scan for more info:**



RAVENSTHORPE SILOS



HIPPOS YAWN AT WAVE ROCK



**Norseman Woodlands Cultural, Community and Visitor Centre**

The Woodlands Centre is a must-see, with friendly staff ready to welcome you to Norseman.

Whether you're after travel information, exploring the interpretive displays that highlight Dundas' history, culture and community, admiring the beautiful murals, or finding the perfect souvenir to remember your journey, the Woodlands Centre has it all.

78 Prinsep St, Norseman WA 6443  
 T: (08) 9039 0040  
 E: tourism@dundas.wa.gov.au  
 W: visitdundas.com.au



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