



Margaret River & the Southwest

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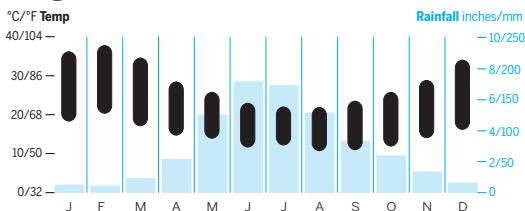
Why Go?

The farmland, forests, rivers and coast of the lush, green southwestern corner of Western Australia (WA) contrast vividly with the stark, sunburnt terrain of much of the state. On land, world-class wineries beckon and tall trees provide shade for walking trails and scenic drives, while offshore, bottlenose dolphins and whales frolic, and devoted surfers search for – and often find – their perfect break.

Unusually for WA, distances between the many attractions are short, and driving time is mercifully limited, making it a fantastic area to explore for a few days – you will get much more out of your stay here if you have your own wheels. Summer brings hordes of visitors, but in the wintry months from July to September the cosy pot-bellied stove rules and visitors are scarce, and while opening hours can be somewhat erratic, prices are much more reasonable.

When to Go

Margaret River



January

Follow the party crowds from the Southbound festival to the beach.

March

Catch surf and wine festivals in Margaret River, and the Nannup music festival.

August

Head to empty beaches, Margaret River wineries and Busselton's film festival.



Margaret River & the Southwest Highlights

- 1** Sample the first-class wine, food and architecture of the **Margaret River wine region** (p125)
- 2** Explore the labyrinthine limestone caverns along Caves Rd, especially beautiful **Lake Cave** (p132)
- 3** Front-up to the impressive coastline at Augusta's **Cape Leeuwin lighthouse** (p133), at the confluence of the Indian and Southern Oceans
- 4** Sink into the depths of the tall trees surrounding **Pemberton** (p137)
- 5** Revel in the wild beauty of **Cape Naturaliste** and **Bunker Bay** (p124)
- 6** Canoe from the forest to the sea along the Blackwood River, starting at **Nannup** (p134)
- 7** Get all your blues out in the charming little town of **Bridgetown** (p135)