



Around Perth

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Cervantes & Pinnacles Desert.....	114

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ RiverBank Estate (p106)
- ➔ Dear Friends (p106)
- ➔ M on the Point (p98)
- ➔ Cervantes Country Club (p116)
- ➔ Rustico (p97)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Faversham House (p108)
- ➔ Amble Inn (p116)
- ➔ Mundaring Weir Hotel (p103)
- ➔ Rottne Island Authority Cottages (p94)
- ➔ Lancelin Lodge YHA (p114)

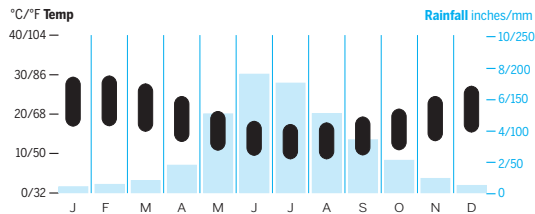
Why Go?

Although Western Australia (WA) is huge, you don't have to travel too far from the capital to treat yourself to a tantalising taste of what the state has to offer. A day trip could see you frolicking with wild dolphins, snorkelling with sea lions, scooping up brilliant-blue crabs or spotting bilbies in the bush. Active types can find themselves canoeing, rafting, surfing, windsurfing, sandboarding, diving, skydiving and ballooning. Those who prefer pursuits less likely to ruffle one's hair can linger at vineyards or craft breweries, settle down for a culinary feast, or explore historic towns classified by the National Trust.

We've designed this chapter so that the main headings can be tackled as day trips, or better still, overnights. If you're embarking on a longer trip, whether north, south or east, you'll find your first stop within these pages.

When to Go

Mandurah



Mar Good beach weather and a fine time to spot thrombolites in Lake Clifton.

Jun Food and wine excellence at the Avon Valley Gourmet Food & Wine Festival in Northam.

Aug Wildflowers bloom, and brave paddlers take on the Avon River Descent in Northam.



Around Perth Highlights

- 1** Cycling your way to a private slice of coastal paradise on **Rottne Island** (Wadjemup; p91), then spending the afternoon swimming, sunning and snorkelling
- 2** Enjoying a sublime sunset over the other-worldly **Pinnacles Desert** (p114)
- 3** Getting chipper with Flipper while palling about with scores of wild dolphins in **Shoalwater Islands Marine Park** (p96) off Rockingham
- 4** Splashing about with sea lions at **Green Head** (p117)
- 5** Exploring the intriguing monastery town of **New Norcia** (p110)
- 6** Getting your foodie fix at the vineyards, breweries and artisan producers of the **Swan Valley** (p104)
- 7** Immersing yourself in the wonderful wildflowers of the **Lesueur National Park** (p115)