



Margaret River & the Southwest Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- Laundry Cafe (p124)
- Eagle Bay Brewing Co (p130)
- The Studio Bistro (p130)
- Vasse Felix (p131)
- Foragers Field Kitchen (p142)

Best Places to Stay

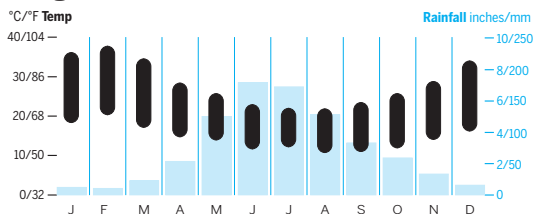
- Injidup Spa Retreat (p129)
- Old Picture Theatre Holiday Apartments (p140)
- Acacia Chalets (p135)
- Burnside Organic Farm (p133)
- Foragers (p140)

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 and craft breweries beckon, and tall trees provide shade for walking trails and scenic drives. 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



Jan Follow the party crowds from the South-bound festival to the beach.

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

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



Margaret River & the Southwest Coast Highlights

- 1** Sampling the first-class wine, food and architecture of the vineyards of **Margaret River** (p127)
- 2** Getting active amid the dramatic seascapes and landscapes of the **Margaret River** (p135) region
- 3** Exploring the labyrinthine limestone caverns along Caves Rd, especially beautiful **Lake Cave** (p134)
- 4** Fronting up to the impressive coastline at Augusta's **Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse** (p136), at the confluence of the Indian and Southern Oceans
- 5** Sinking into the dappled depths of the karri forests surrounding **Pemberton** (p139)
- 6** Revelling in the wild beauty of **Cape Naturaliste** (p126) and **Bunker Bay** (p126)
- 7** Canoeing from the forest to the sea along the Blackwood River, starting at **Nannup** (p137)