



Margaret River & the Southwest Coast

POP 120,000

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rustico at Hay Shed Hill (p135)
- ➔ Piari & Co (p129)
- ➔ Eagle Bay Brewing Co (p131)
- ➔ Wills Domain (p135)
- ➔ Tall Timbers (p144)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Empire Retreat & Spa (p134)
- ➔ Acacia Chalets (p140)
- ➔ Burnside Organic Farm (p137)
- ➔ Wildwood Valley Cottages (p134)
- ➔ Foragers (p145)

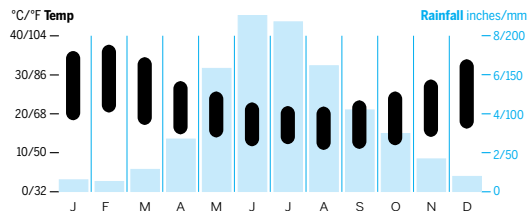
Why Go?

The farmland, forests, rivers and coast of the lush, green southwestern corner of Western Australia 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 Southbound festival to the beach.

Mar–Apr Catch the surf festival 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** (p130).
- 2** Getting active amid the dramatic seascapes and landscapes of the **Margaret River region** (p137).
- 3** Exploring the labyrinthine limestone caverns along Caves

Rd, especially beautiful **Lake Cave** (p139).

- 4** Fronting up to the impressive coastline at Augusta's **Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse** (p141), at the confluence of the Indian and Southern Oceans.

- 5** Sinking into the dappled depths of the karri forests

surrounding **Pemberton** (p144).

- 6** Revelling in wild and beautiful coastal scenery of **Cape Naturaliste** (p129).
- 7** Canoeing from the forest to the sea along the Blackwood River, starting at **Nannup** (p142).