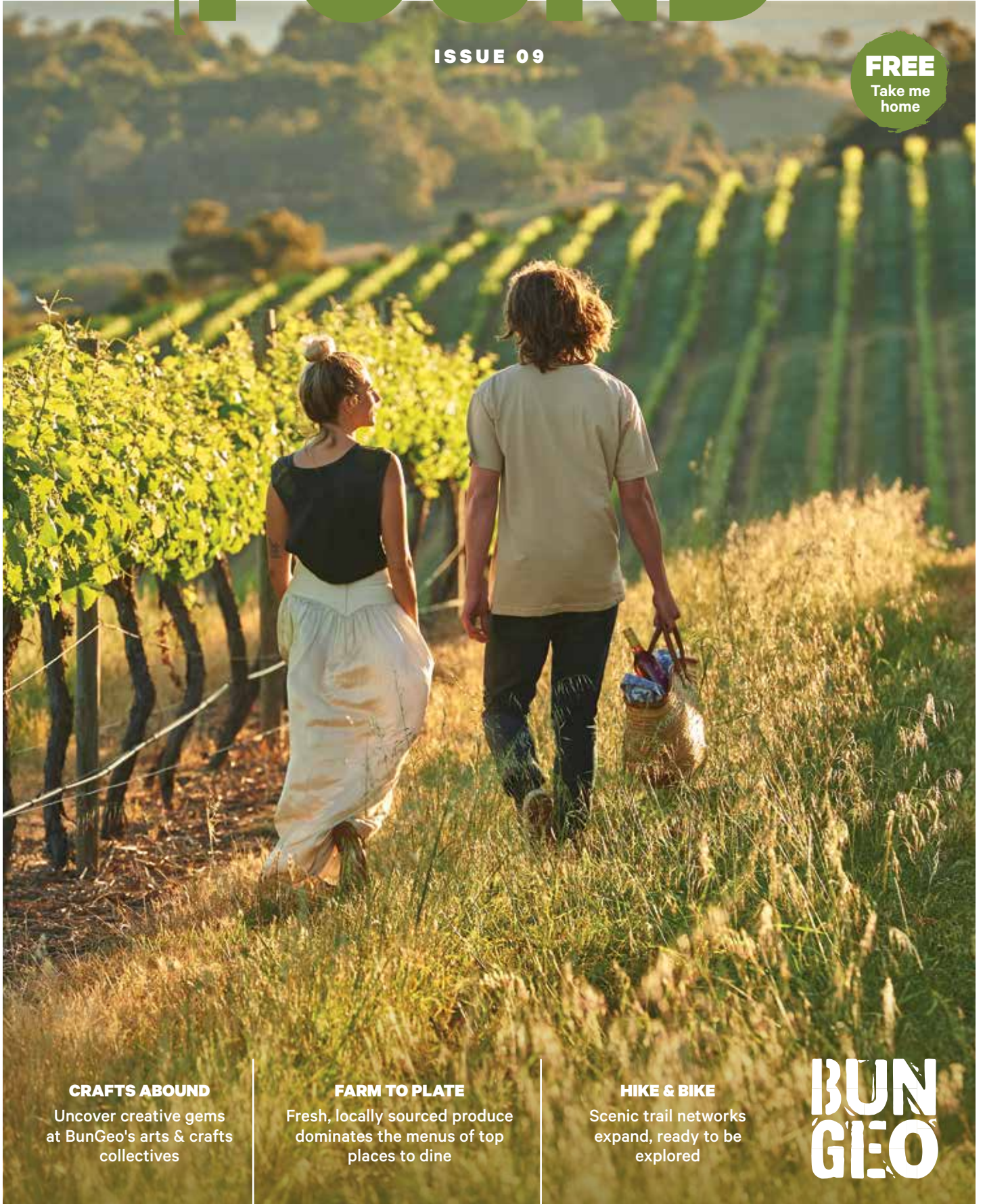


Bunbury Geographe

FOUND

ISSUE 09

FREE
Take me
home



CRAFTS ABOUND

Uncover creative gems at BunGeo's arts & crafts collectives

FARM TO PLATE

Fresh, locally sourced produce dominates the menus of top places to dine

HIKE & BIKE

Scenic trail networks expand, ready to be explored

**BUN
GEO**



Editor's Letter



BunGeo is your door to discovery

The BunGeo region comes to life in so many spectacular ways as the seasons evolve from cool and cosy winters, green and blossoming springs, brilliant glowing summers, to the falling golden leaves of autumn. Each season reflects a new chapter – creating something fresh to be discovered and the chance for new memories to be made each time you return.

As you flick through the pages of **FOUND Magazine**, uncover ubiquitous **creativity and culture** through BunGeo's buildings, streetscapes and stores; the freshest local fare, carefully curated menus, plus premium spirits, beer and wine flowing from **boutique producers**; nature-based retreats to rest your head; and **stunning landscapes** with serene swimming spots to adventure and explore.

With events keeping BunGeo abuzz all year, stay up-to-date with those that capture your attention to time your next trip. Annual headliners like **CinefestOz Film Festival**, **Lost & Found**, and **Bunbury Fringe Festival** will see food and culture flood the region.

Find yourself in sync with nature with an immersive two-night itinerary that takes you through the scenic spots of Ferguson Valley, Wellington National Park's **hiking and biking** tracks and top **camping destinations**, and Bunbury's interactive **Dolphin Discovery Centre** with mesmerising marine life.

Admire **hand-made treasures** by local artisans at the abundance of crafts collectives studded through the region. You can even try your hand at crafting your own stunning pottery pieces while 'meeting the makers' in Donnybrook-Balingup.

With the **Geographe Wine Region** being the most diverse in the state, discover the breadth of award-winning alternative varietals available for tasting (and taking home). Plus add six of the most immersive vino experiences in the region to your list of things to do while visiting.

For families, BunGeo knows no bounds. There are so many engaging and entertaining **family-friendly activities** available to captivate all ages. We take you through our current top 12 for a slice of what to expect.

This is just a taste of what you could experience on your next BunGeo stay. Whatever you choose for your time in the region, we can guarantee the faces and places will be authentic and the opportunities to explore, endless.

Enjoy,

Tori



DID YOU KNOW?

Just two hours from Perth, you will find the Bunbury Geographe region or BunGeo as we call it. Lose yourself within a vibrant seaside city and discover a captivating wine region, amazing produce, beautiful scenery, a banging arts scene and quaint towns. #BunGeo #VisitBunburyGeographe @VisitBunburyGeographe

bunbury geographe

FOUND

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@visitbunburygeographe

**BUNBURY
GEOGRAPHE**

AUSTRALIA'S
South West

**VANGUARD
PUBLISHING**

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BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE



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Donnybrook Festival



Donnybrook Festival



Balingup Medieval Carnivale

DISCOVER VIBRANT EVENTS CREATING A BUZZ AT ANY TIME OF YEAR IN BUNGEO.

Donnybrook Festival
Saturday, 8 April 2023

Two much loved events, the Donnybrook Apple Festival and the Donnybrook Food and Wine Festival, have combined to bring one vibrant spectacle of fresh produce, food, wine, and family fun. For the first time, the long-standing Donnybrook Apple Festival will extend beyond Egan park, taking to the streets for an immersive event that flows through the whole town. Indulge in fabulous local food, wine, beers and ciders, come and meet local producers and soak up the welcoming country atmosphere of apple town as the streets come alive with buskers, market stalls, apple olympics, artists, demonstrations, a vintage car and machinery exhibition, side show alley, the annual historical grand parade and a 'Future Farming' marquee. A tasting or three in the dappled autumn

sunshine? We can't think of a better way to enjoy the Easter long weekend. And as an extra added bonus, this year the festival is free. Expect another year of festive fun in April 2024.
Visit donnybrookfoodandwinefest.com.au

Balingup Small Farm Field Day
Saturday, 15 April 2023

Explore the endless wonders of small farms, machinery, animals and new technology at this year's Balingup Small Farm Field Day. This year's theme is 'Small Farms – Big Ideas' so come along and enjoy the animals, live talks, kid's stuff and exhibitors showcasing their skills, talent and ingenuity in a gorgeous setting in the heart of the Balingup shire.
Visit balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au

Dardanup Art Spectacular
Saturday & Sunday, 29–30 April 2023

Expect some of the region's best visual arts, sculpture, and photography from Dardanup Art Spectacular. The Spectacular brings established and emerging artists together for weekend exploding with



creativity, beginning with a major exhibition in Dardanup Hall and including a local Art Trail. This popular annual event has grown to feature more than 300 entries in the competition, while the art trail covers at least 20 venues, including studios, galleries, wineries, and private properties.
Visit dardanupartspectacular.com.au



Lost & Found Festival

7—10 September 2023

Lost & Found Festival is one to put on your calendar. Each year, the festival breathes life into the streets of Bunbury and the lush spaces of Ferguson Valley with a smorgasboard of special events created for lovers of great food, incredible wine, craft beer and live music. Get ready to immerse yourself in art, wine and culture.

Visit lostandfoundfestival.com.au

Dardanup Bull & Barrel Festival

Saturday, 8 October 2023

In its 20th year, this free festival by the Dardanup Community celebrates the diverse offerings of the region, with more than 150 market stalls, food, live music, demonstrations, a monster kids craft marquee and friendly animals to say 'hello' to. The festival ends spectacularly with the burning of the bull, as the Wespine Fire Sculpture lights up the night.

Visit bullandbarrel.net.au

Bunbury Fringe Festival

19–27 January 2024

Returning to the South West for 2024, Fringe will be full to the brim with fantastic live shows, events, and workshops. Every year Fringe curates a thrilling selection of cutting edge performances by dancers, musicians, circus performers and more, which are both diverse and eclectic, coming to Bunbury from all over the world.

Visit bunburyfringe.com



of gourmet food to feast on, with cider and mead tastings to wash it down. Don your best medieval costume and immerse yourself in the festive spirit.

Visit balingupmedievalcarnivale.com.au

CinefestOZ Film Festival

29 August to 3 September 2023

CinefestOZ is bringing its showstopper events back to the South West for 2023. Expect feature films, community events and famous ambassadors to light up the streets. Set against the stunning backdrop of Western Australia's South West region, film lovers, filmmakers and stars will share five days of immersive film experiences at the region's cinemas, wineries, boutique breweries, small bars and galleries.

Visit cinefestoz.com

Groovin' the Moo

Saturday, 6 May 2023

Featuring Amy Shark, Ball Park Music, Fatboy Slim, Choomba, Sophie May, Royal Otis, Denzel Curry and many more, this year's Groovin' the Moo features a magic line-up. Hay Park will come alive to banging beats as 'Moosic' fills the air.

Visit tm.net.au/bunbury/line-up

Balingup Medieval Carnivale

Saturday & Sunday, 26–27 August 2023

Get ready to step back in time at Balingup Medieval Carnivale, here you'll find lords and ladies of the court mixing with knights and rogues in two days of colour and fun. There's a parade, fire performers, live combat and a 'Burning of the Dragon' plus market stalls, arts and crafts and plenty





Bunbury Fringe Festival
Image: Taj Kempe

City of Bunbury Skyfest
Friday, 26 January 2024

Every Australia Day as the sun sets, Bicentennial Square lights up with a spectacular fireworks display. With a range of activities for the whole family to enjoy, SkyFest respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, while also celebrating everything that makes us Australian.
Visit bunbury.wa.gov.au

Bunbury Beer & Cider Festival
February 2024

Every year Koombana Bay hosts the Bunbury Beer & Cider Festival where lovers of a good brew come together to sample local delights and take in the awesome view. Enjoy refreshing brews by the bay as you sample from food trucks, and enjoy a mini sideshow alley and lawn games.
Visit bunburybeerfest.com

South West Multicultural Festival
February 2024

Travel the world in just a few hours at the South West Multicultural Festival. Free to the public, the festival celebrates multiculturalism while giving diverse cultural communities the opportunity to showcase their cultures in a safe, relaxed and open-minded environment. There are demonstrations, performances, market stalls and interactive workshops for the whole family to enjoy as well as dance, music and food.
Visit bunburymulticulturalgroup.com.au

Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (BRAG)

If you love art, there's no better place to frequent in Bunbury than the resplendent

pink art gallery, BRAG. A stand-out event, from 1 April to 5 June, 2023, the Bunbury Biennale will inspire artists to create works that relate to the themes of culture/nature, with the intention to acquire exceptional pieces for the gallery's collection. *Noongar Country* from 17 June to 24 September 2023 is another major gallery



Collie Art Gallery

exhibition to give attention to, showcasing work from established and emerging Aboriginal artists living on Noongar Boodja. This year's theme will be "For our Elders." Throughout the year, take your time wandering through rotating exhibitions such as *Groundswell* brought to by Northern Territory-based artist community group ArtbackNT from 17 June 2023, *Twenty Four Reflections on Abstraction* by Col Jordan from 24 June 2023, *Lunch Bars* by Australian photographer Brett Leigh Dicks from 21 October 2023, and a collection of ceramics by respected Western Australian ceramic artist Stewart Scambler from 30 September 2023. Check BRAG's website for updates to discover what's to come in 2024.

Visit brag.org.au

Collie Art Gallery (CAG)

Home of the prestigious Collie Art Prize, showing until 30 April, CAG has a range of fantastic exhibitions to explore all year round. The gallery also hosts workshops and houses the impressive Collie Collection a private collection of works from renowned Australian artists such as Norman Lindsay, Guy Grey Smith, Elizabeth Durack, and Arthur Boyd (senior).

Visit collieartgallery.org.au

Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre

Enjoy evenings with the WA Ballet, WASO, opera, live theatre, music, film festivals and plenty of shows for the kids during school holidays at BREC. There's always something new on the stage for lovers of the arts.

Visit bunburyentertainment.com BG

**1:15PM THURSDAY.
SCHOOLING THEM IN
THE CLASSICS.**



This holiday, you introduced them to all the greats – Scrabble, Pictionary, Cluedo, Connect Four, and their favourite of all, Uno. As soon as you sit down, the cards are out. ‘Can we go now?’ had been replaced by ‘Just one more round, pleeeeee!’ They barely even reacted when you told them you ‘forgot’ to pack the charger for their devices – they were too busy debating whether you’re allowed to play a Draw 2 card on top of another Draw 2 card. For unplugging and reconnecting, there’s no place like Dôme.

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Vineyard 28



DISCOVER THE LATEST AND GREATEST OF WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND BUNGEO.

By ALEXANDRA CASEY

New lake-side campgrounds in Collie

Lake Kepwari, which translates to “playing in water” in the local Wiilman language, is home to a new campground and picnic area, named after two dedicated community members. Located 10km south-east of Collie, the old open cut coal mine has been transformed into a water-based hotspot for all things boating, swimming, water-skiing and camping.

The David Ugle Campground comprises 32 campsites at the northern edge of the lake, while Mick Murray Campground is perched on the eastern side. Impressive new trails in Collie are also well-worthy of a gander while exploring the area (read more from page 44).

Mangrove Cove playground

As if Bunbury wasn't already swimming in family-friendly spaces — add Mangrove Cove to the list of top spots to take the kids. Influenced by the unique mangrove system found in the Leschenault Inlet,

this all-abilities nature play area opened in February 2023 and features mangrove root inspired facilities, from climbing frames, ladders and slides, to rope nets and bridges. A wheelchair accessible sand pit and

tunnels, a water play area, basket swings, drums, chimes and cubbies are located on ground level for maximum inclusivity. Take a stroll along the walkway to reach a lookout deck with sweeping views of the Lechschenault Inlet and settle in for the day by making use of the onsite picnic and barbeque facilities.

X-Golf is coming to Bunbury

Indoor entertainment venue, X-Golf, is coming to Bunbury and bringing with it, state-of-the-art simulators, delicious food, cocktails and a community focus. The South West venue will be the third to grace West Australian shores, as a place for people to take to the greens while enjoying a nibble and tipple. It's expected to open between the end of April and beginning of May.

X-Golf offers players unparalleled accuracy and realism, through a combination of high velocity camera systems, infrared lasers, impact sensors and advanced gaming software. While the data can be used to guide and improve ability.

Capel Marron Farm — Aquafarms

Aquafarms are currently in the planning and development phase of an agritourism facility on one of Australia's largest marron farms. The development is due to open in 18 months and will involve an interactive and educational offering where guests will see and learn about one of the South West's best kept secrets.

Guests will have the opportunity to enjoy a culinary experience guided by local and seasonal produce at the onsite restaurant, and a large wilderness-inspired play area will be built for kids.





Mangrove Cove Playground



St Duke's Distillery at Harvey Cheese



Capel Marron Farm

Italian-inspired Vineyard 28 & Picnic Cheer collaboration

Renowned for Italian varietals, Vineyard 28 is partnering with Picnic Cheer to offer a European-inspired picnic and wine tasting adventure at their cellar door. The collaboration began in December 2022 and has guests experience the full range of Vineyard 28 wines paired with a delicious grazing board of local produce, set up and styled as a lavish picnic by Picnic Cheer.

Yarloop-based winery co-owner Pippa Nielsen, or co-owner and winemaker Mark Cumbers, will share their story, and guide you through your tasting while you feast upon their vineyard vistas. The experience is available for up to six people and must be booked well in advance.

Donnybrook's Railway Hotel makeover

After more than a century, the Railway Hotel is in for a makeover, with the new owners planning to restore and renovate the original

building, repurposing it as a brewery, distillery, restaurant and boutique hotel.

Brett Nottle and Nick Sattler — the duo behind the rustic-meets-sophisticated Samson's Paddock in Mosman Park — picked up the venue 18 months ago and will transform the country icon into a family-friendly venue. Culinary offerings will be a step above standard pub grub, curated by the capable hands of Bulgarian executive chef Georgi Partenov.

At the conclusion of renovations, 17 of the 24 rooms will remain, with 10 of those being high-end offerings. Renovations are likely to begin mid-2023 with the venue due to open 12 months from commencing.

St Duke's Distillery at Harvey Cheese

In a West Australian first, award-winning gourmet cheese producer Harvey Cheese is using cow's milk to produce spirits. In May 2022, owners of 20 years Robert and Penny St Duke began using the whey from

their cheesemaking to formulate a unique line of gin and vodka. Their spirits are also distilled using WA-made stills and local botanicals like macadamia nut and lemon myrtle.

Fresh faces at Kiosk at the Dam

Recently taken under new ownership, you can expect ongoing alterations to Wellington National Park's Kiosk at the Dam, as owners Trevor and Gabriella Messenger look to put their stamp on the casual licensed café. Expect a refreshed layout and a new menu already in place, with added changes to come.

The recently renovated Potters Gorge campsite, set on the banks of Wellington Dam, is also managed by the kiosk. The campground boasts 54 new sites, suitable for recreational vehicles, caravans, trailers and tents, with refreshed amenities, including camp kitchens, barbeques and bathroom facilities. Hire a bike from the Kiosk to explore some of the cycling trails around the park, too.

Ferguson Valley Art Trail

A new art trail is expected to wind its way through Ferguson Valley, reflecting the beauty and creativity of the area through the theme "Grow". Set to become a 15-stop series, the first completed installation, by South West artist Andrew Frazer, is comprised of reflective steel rings, framing a scenic view-point found at the Pile Road pull-in bay.

Farm to Fridge

Farm to Fridge is a new hands-on experience for visitors to the 2023 Brunswick Agricultural Show showcasing Harvey Region produce. From potato digs to cheese making, visitors will enjoy gastronomic feast of information on how food ends up in the fridge at home! Held Saturday, 28 October 2023 at Brunswick Junction, visit brunswickshow.com.au for more info. **IG**

BunGeo for NATURE LOVERS

FIND YOURSELF IN SYNC WITH NATURE WITH THIS IMMERSIVE TWO-NIGHT OUTDOORS ITINERARY.

Bunbury Geographe is home to an incredible abundance of outdoor, nature and wildlife experiences, making it the ultimate getaway for any nature lover. Wake up to bird song, walk among some of the tallest and oldest trees in the world. Hike through beautiful forests and spot pretty little wildflowers during spring. Swim in secluded bays or with wild dolphins. Even observe kangaroos hopping throughout the region. West Coast sunsets don't come much better than watching the bright orb sink below the horizon, and the dark skies make star gazing mesmerising.

This two-night itinerary takes in the wonderful nature experiences on offer, with some wineries and breweries included in the mix. After all, you need nourishment.





is particularly pretty in spring when the wildflowers are blooming and is accessible in the wet. The covered shelter has picnic tables accessible for wheelchairs.

Take a short 15-minute drive down Wellington Mill Road to **Gnomesville**, a quirky little place filled with thousands of gnomes, one of the world's biggest gnome communities — it's where they go to live happily ever after. Be sure to check out the 'Gnoman Empire'.

It's just a ten-minute drive to **St Aidan Wines** and **Bush Shack Brewery**, both good options for tastings and for lunch.

St Aidan Wines is a family run boutique winery, restaurant and events centre. After tasting wine described as "art in a bottle", the restaurant at St Aidan's is ideal for lunch, featuring a seasonal menu designed around local ingredients. The mouth-watering menu includes seared Western Australian scallops with bresaola crumb, grilled Harvey haloumi with romesco and salsa verde and confit duck with blistered cherry tomatoes and charred sweet corn. Another option for an afternoon feast — come prepared and fire up the provided gas barbeque and picnic on the banks of the Ferguson River. Check the website for events that include watercolour painting classes, wine and yoga, and outdoor movie screenings in the warmer months.

Bush Shack Brewery offers hearty classics such as a Black Angus and cheddar burger, fish and chips, and salt and pepper squid; as well as more adventurous dishes like crunchy Korean chicken wings, southern fried chicken salad, and jackfruit and bean tacos. The brewery specialises

in all-natural, unfiltered beers and ciders. Think chilli beer, chocolate milk stout, strawberry blonde hazy pale ale, twisted lemon lager, ginger hard cider, and black cherry bliss inspired by retro cherry cola — just to name a few.

After lunch, drive 13 minutes to **King Jarrah**, a majestic jarrah tree that stands 36m tall and is estimated to be between 300 and 500 years old.

Take a walk through the nearby **Wellington Discovery Forest** and you might even find a friendly kangaroo hopping about to wave hello to.

Drive to your accommodation, check in, and have an easy evening enjoying your surrounds. It's just a one minute drive to **Wellington Forest Cottages** from the forest, 12 to **Ferguson Farmstay**, and 20 minutes to **Evedon Lakeside Retreat**.



DAY ONE: PERTH TO DARDANUP

Depart Perth nice and early and drive just over two hours to Dardanup for morning tea at the famous **Dardanup Bakery**. Savoury or sweet, find a delicious morning tea treat from flaky croissants and handmade pastries to sandwiches, sausage rolls and house made pies with interesting flavours, plus specials such as Chinese barbeque pork apple and crackle. Pick up some fresh sourdough bread and perhaps some dinner provisions.

Drive 11 minutes to the **Crooked Brook Forest** for an easy bush walk along the 600m forest path, a concrete loop that circumnavigates Crooked Brook. The trail



Need to escape the rat race?

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Nestled in the state forest and overlooking the blue waters of Logue Brook Dam, we are only an hour and a half south-west of Perth (off South West Highway, just before Harvey).

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Every camp site has its own fire pit (during the winter months) where you can relax and unwind under the stars and roast your marshmallows around the campfire. Our campsites are also pet friendly.

Our café is open 7 days for great coffee, breakfast, lunch and light snacks.

Book your next camping getaway at **Lake Brockman Tourist Park** or **Logue Brook Campground** online today or call our friendly staff on (08) 9733 5402.

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www.lakebrockman.com.au

**G'DAY
PARKS**





The Wagon



TraaVerse

**DAY TWO:
WELLINGTON NATIONAL PARK**

Waking up in the country is peacefully blissful with just the sounds of rustling leaves and birds to rouse you. After coffee and breakfast, drive 30 minutes to **The Wagon**, a cute coffee stop in an old railway wagon. Stop for a delicious coffee sourced from the Margaret River Roasting Co or try a cold pressed juice, green smoothie, a turmeric or beetroot latte, or gluten-free cupcakes. Takeaway some morning tea provisions such as sandwiches and sweet treats for later.

Walk five minutes to the **Collie Town Mural Trail** (you can download the map online). There are 40 public artworks on the trail, and the useful map will help discover colourful works by the likes of Ketones6000, Kyle Hughes-Odgers, Amok Island, Andrew Frazer, Shakey and more, hidden down alleyways and brightening up schoolyard walls. The artworks tell a great story of the local flora and fauna, language, history, and culture.

From town, either cycle one and a half hours, or drive 27 minutes, to view the world's largest dam mural at **Wellington Dam Wall**

covering 8000m2. An unlikely place for incredible work of public art, the mural at the dam is called 'Reflections' and by Australian artist Guido Van Helten, depicting local life from yesteryear that includes portraits of migrants, Aboriginal children and locals. The best view of mural is from the WaterCorp lookout. The dam mural is adjacent to the **Wagyl Biddi trails** which are free and open every day. The name Wagyl Biddi comes from two Aboriginal Noongar words — the Wagyl is the serpent that moved across the land in the dreaming creating the rivers, inlets and lakes, and Biddi means 'path



Collie Town Mural Trail

through the forest'.

Walk through meandering jarrah forest on the edge of the **Collie River** or take to two wheels and ride some of the tracks. The moderate (blue) trails to tackle include the rocky and densely forested **Marri Meander** (800m), and **Rocky Horror** (1.5km) — a single track that balances rocky and flowing terrain and recommended to be ridden in conjunction with **Drop Dead Fred** (1km) to complete a 2.5km loop.

Spend the afternoon exploring the **Wellington National Park**, recharging and nature bathing, or enjoying more active pursuits such as hiking, hill walking, mountain biking, fishing and swimming. Pre-book a SUP, kayak, cycle, or walking tour with **TraaVerse**, **Adventure Connections**, or **Forest Explorers** for a spectacular way to experience **Collie River Valley**. There are plenty of other ways to explore and the serene forest including bird watching, photography, or simply sit back with a glass of wine and a good book. **The Kiosk at the Dam** is a licenced venue and great place for a casual bite to eat.

There is also camping in the **Wellington National Park**. From the moment you arrive your senses will come alive with the sight and smell of native jarrah, marri



Wellington Dam Wall



Honeymoon Pool

and blackbutt trees over 17,000 hectares of forest. The Collie River cuts through the Collie River Valley and has carved out many scenic spots where you can picnic, swim, canoe, and fish. There are three campgrounds at **Honeymoon Pool** for tent camping only. **Potters Gorge Campground** has campsites suitable for caravans, campervans and tents.

Drive back to your accommodation (20 minutes) in time for dinner. Book ahead into the restaurant at **Evedon Lakeside Retreat**, open Friday and Saturdays for dinner; drive (under 30 minutes) to **Collie** where you'll find plenty of dining options; or self-cater and have a quiet night in.

**DAY THREE:
DOLPHIN ADVENTURERS**

Up early — we suggest 6am — for a quick coffee, check out of your accommodation and drive 22 minutes to Dardanup for round two of **Dardanup Bakery**. Leave by 7.30am.

From the bakery, drive 15 minutes to the impressive **Dolphin Discovery Centre**, ensuring you arrive well before 8am (bookings essential). This is a special experience where you're able to observe dolphins in the wild and watch them feed, socialise, jump and play. For an extra special experience, jump in the ocean and swim with the curious creatures. Wetsuits, masks, snorkels and fins are provided, and if you're not a confident ocean swimmer, there are buoyancy vests too. The cruise and swim takes about three hours and there's a 90-minute eco cruise too. Spend some time in the informative and interactive Dolphin Discovery Centre to learn about the ocean and sea life of Geographe Bay.

From the Dolphin Discovery Centre, drive about 30 minutes to the **Old Coast Road Brewery** for lunch. After a swim, you're likely to be thankful for the hearty dishes on the menu and there are also lighter bites. Think smoky barbeque pork ribs, woodfired pizza, Szechuan squid



Dolphin Discovery Centre



Scan for more info

and plenty of vegan options too like tofu Thai salad. There are 12 brews available for sampling including bitter ale, wheat beer, amber ale, kolsh, stout and saison, and two ciders made from Donnybrook apples including one with ginger and pear. Owners Andrew and Ivanka have Italian and Croatian heritage and pay homage to their roots with a 1000-tree olive grove reminiscent of those in the Mediterranean. Pick up some take-away beers and cider to reminisce about your BunGeo getaway once you're back home.

From there, the drive back to Perth is just an hour and a half. Hopefully you purchased some craft beer, wine, cheese and more during your travels so you can continue to enjoy BunGeo at home. **BG**

DOLPHIN DISCOVERY CENTRE
• BUNBURY, WA •

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Premier Wild
Dolphin
Experience**

dolphindiscovery.com.au



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To book your next holiday, or to see where Transwa can take you, call **1300 662 205** or visit transwa.wa.gov.au.

*Terms and conditions apply.





From the ART

BUNGEO IS TEEMING WITH CREATIVES CRAFTING BRILLIANT ARTISAN WARES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS. DISCOVER CREATIONS OF ALL KINDS AT THESE COUNTRY ART COLLECTIVES.

By BEVERLY LIGMAN

Australind Artisan Collective

Everything at the Australind Artisan Collective is handmade with love. From mugs and crochet dolls to aprons, bags, finger puppets and more, you'll find something to cherish here. There's also massage oils, soaps and skincare available, including beautiful roll-on essential oil blends by Wellbeing for Mind Body and Soul.

Visit [facebook.com/australindartisancollective](https://www.facebook.com/australindartisancollective)

Donnybrook Artisans

If you're in Donnybrook, don't look past Donnybrook Artisans — a hub in the centre of town selling a diverse range of arts and crafts made by talented locals. Here you'll find art, hand-knitted or crocheted pieces, pottery and ceramics, jewellery, tapestry and mosaics. There's plenty inspired by the natural surroundings of the town to admire, like cards, paintings and prints.

Visit [facebook.com/DonnybrookArtisans](https://www.facebook.com/DonnybrookArtisans)

Bizee Hands

This not-for-profit arts collective is all about showcasing the fruits of Harvey — whether it's made or grown. On your next visit, pick up locally grown produce and flowers, home-made jams, chutneys and pickles, hand-crafted wood works and artisan goods, freshly baked delights and farm eggs. Fresh from the farm to you.

Visit [facebook.com/HarveyBizeeHands](https://www.facebook.com/HarveyBizeeHands)

The Old Cheese Factory

As the name suggests this historic old cheese factory found in Balingup has been turned into a gallery and craft space. One of the largest craft centres in WA, the Old Cheese Factory sells handmade local wares including stoneware pottery, timber products, Aboriginal crafts, furniture, jewellery, art and memorabilia. The vast range is mesmerising.

Visit [facebook.com/Theoldcheesefactorybalinup](https://www.facebook.com/Theoldcheesefactorybalinup)



Village Pedlars

If you're looking for winter knits, gifts, children's clothes, bags, soaps, preserves, plants or metal work art then Balingup's Village Pedlars is the place to visit. This co-op shop sells wares made by talented locals, such as hand-woven bowls, quilts and tea cosies, and is designed to take you back in time to a more handmade era.

Visit [facebook.com/villagepedlars](https://www.facebook.com/villagepedlars)

Fuller Co + Op

The Fuller Co + Op gives makers and entrepreneurs of Bunbury the opportunity to grow their business in an inspiring and



Donnybrook Artisans



Donnybrook Artisans

“

THE VAST
RANGE IS
MESMERISING ...

supportive co-working environment. At the heart of the idea for Fuller Co + Op is a space for creatives to work, trade and belong.

In this innovative environment, you'll find stylish items made from hand-dyed Merino wool and silks, laser cut and engraved gift wares, hand-crafted and reclaimed timber antiques and fine art, sculptural works and custom-made furniture, farmhouse home décor, bags, natural beauty products, plants and succulents, and more.

Visit fullers.net.au/pages/coop

Bunbury Visitor Centre

Two new locations

**Bunbury Museum
and Heritage Centre**

1 Arthur Street, Bunbury

**Dolphin Discovery
Centre**

Koombana Bay



Scan QR code
for website

Freecall 1800Bunbury | +61 8 9792 7205
welcome@bunbury.wa.gov.au



Need supplies? Look no further...

Whichcraft Quilting

For all your quilting needs, gifts and gorgeous local wares, make the trip to Capel. Whichcraft Quilting crafts timeless quilts, made to order, as well as offering an extensive range of fabrics and accessories for any experienced or aspiring sewer. **28c Forrest Rd, Capel**

Cat and Canvas

If you're looking for a special yarn or button to give the final flourish to your creative project, Cat and Canvas is the place to peruse. Located in Balingup, you'll find specialty yarns from all around the world including raw and carded wool ready for spinning, cottons, wools, Alpaca blends, bamboo blends, tencel, linen blends and acrylics. **29 Bridgetown Road, South Western Highway, Balingup**

Chook Scraps

Chook Scraps is your go-to for craft supplies that don't cost an arm and a leg. Stocks all the essentials for a crafts project, expect scrapbooking supplies, knitting



GET CRAFTY *BunGeo abounds with crafts and creative outlets. Australind Artisan Collective (top and bottom) and Fuller Co + Op (below) are two must-visits.*



and crochet wools and yarn, quilting fabrics, papers and stamps, plus classic art supplies. Keep an eye out for workshops and retreats to expand your skills. **93 Throssell St, Collie**

Craft Collections

For patchwork and quilting enthusiasts, Craft Collections is queen. One of the largest patchwork and quilting shops in WA, customers come from all over the state to explore the exquisite range of over 5,000 fabrics in-store. With passionate staff and all the latest patchwork books and patterns, plus quirky giftware and in-house classes, this is a patchworker's dream come true. **13 Mummery Cres, Bunbury**

ARTS & CRAFTS EVENTS

AND IF YOU LOVE YOUR ARTS AND CRAFTS, YOU'LL ALSO ENJOY THESE EVENTS...

Dardanup Art Spectacular 29-30 April 2023

The Dardanup Art Spectacular, hosted in the Ferguson Valley over one weekend, is one of the Bunbury Geographe region's most iconic arts events. It kicks off with a major exhibition in the Dardanup Hall that showcases innovative artworks across a range of mediums including painting, sculpture and photography and there's also generous prize money for winning artists. Explore the local Art Trail through the back roads of the Valley to meet local artists at work in their studios. **Visit dardanupartspectacular.com.au/**

Festiv Arty September 2023

Collie's big arty party is on again this year with a fresh new theme: 'Metamorphosis'. With a street fair, performing arts, street art and workshops, this 10 big days of events is a cultural extravaganza. Keep an eye out for 2023's theme and events calendar and expect the entire town to come to life with creativity. **Visit festivarty.com**

Stirling Street Arts Centre Last Sunday of the month, February to October

Home to cultural events, workshops and creative groups, the Stirling Street Arts Centre is a not-for-profit organisation, dedicated to community and creativity in the South West. Lovers of the creative arts can get involved with the centre by attending workshops, visiting an exhibition, hiring a space or becoming a member. There's also a range of groups to join for creatives. **Visit stirlingstreetarts.com.au**

Tree Street Arts Safari March 2024

Get involved in this free self-guided walking tour to explore a world of creative activities and connect to and engage with local artists. Walk your safari and discover beautifully restored homes, stunning gardens and peek inside artist's studios. You'll find sculpture, textiles, paintings, crafts, floral and creative technologies on your safari adventure. **Visit treestreetartsafari.com.au** **BG**

BUNBURY HOTEL



KOOMBANA BAY



THE BEST HOTEL TO STAY IN BUNBURY

Looking over a scenic waterfront view of Koombana Bay within a 5 minutes' walk to the CBD, Bunbury Hotel Koombana Bay is the perfect accommodation for you to experience the best Bunbury has to offer. Featuring a heated indoor swimming pool, tennis courts, Hush Day Spa, art gallery and the fine dining restaurant, we offer different types of studio rooms to suit singles, couples, families, and groups overlooking a beautiful scenery.



1 Holman St, Bunbury WA 6230

Ph: (08) 9721 0100

www.bunburyhotelkoombanabay.com.au/

Email: reservations@bhkb.com.au



Wellington

HOTEL



BUNBURY'S HISTORICAL PUB

Taking you back to a slice of history, the 150-year-old English pub is the oldest in Bunbury WA, offering a modern yet classic style character, featuring a spacious beer garden, a kids play area and a sport bar, keeping everyone entertained throughout the venue.

The Wellington Hotel offers a mouthwatering new menu carried out by our British chef, proudly introducing a range of classic pub food in an innovative style. If you're looking for a place to quench your thirst and satisfy your tummy, The Wellington is the place for you and your loved ones.

- Beer on tap • Function room
- Live sport on projector screen • TAB
- Pool tables • Live music • Kids play area

36 Victoria St, Bunbury WA 6230

(08) 9724 3900

www.wellingtonhotelbunbury.com.au

reservations@wellingtonbunbury.com.au

@WellingtonHotelBunbury @wellingtonhotelpub

CALL IN Get to know Lynlee Rutter (below), Cindy Armanasco and Tarlz Leaf (right and top right), and WA's Smallest Art Gallery (bottom right).



Meet the Makers

DEEP IN THE FOREST-BASED TOWNS OF BUNGEO, CREATIVITY FLOURISHES AND ARTISANS WELCOMING YOU TO VISIT THEM AROUND.

By TORI WILSON & BEVERLY LIGMAN

Cake Lady Ceramics

A woman of many talents, when Lynlee Rutter — famed for her incredibly morish cakes — closed her Lady Marmalade Café in 2020, it was a sad day for the people of Kirup and travellers to the town. But as one door closed, another one opened and the opportunity to indulge in Lynlee's delicious cakes was once more a possibility once launching her new business, Cake Lady Ceramics, based near Donnybrook.

Applying her creative streak to clay, Lynlee doubles as a baker and talented potter, producing contemporary ceramics with plenty of character and offering immersive workshops with her cakes included as an added treat.

Lynlee works with both the wheel and hand sculpts her pieces, resulting in a varied collection with an array of

textures, colours, curves and seemingly intentional imperfections making each piece unique. From vases with little feet and cups with indents and undulating rims, to meticulously crafted plates, and mugs with dainty patterns and skillfully made handles — each is made with care while having fun in the process.

Lynlee's studio is just as special as the creations that come out of it. Like a fairy's den in the forest, hanging ceramic pots and unique artworks adorn the walls of the intimate space.

It's here that you have the chance to spend three hours crafting your own wonderful creation with Lynlee's guidance in a small group setting. She'll help you hand sculpt your own mug, a salad bowl and spoons, a garden planter, or even a vase depending on which workshop you

choose; all the while it'll feel like a casual catch up with a friend, thanks to her warm and patient approach.

Learning to let go and not get too attached is all part of the process. As you shape and mould your large lump of clay, it's surprisingly therapeutic and it won't be long before you get lost in the journey of creating, wondering where the time went.

Visit cakeladyceramics.com.au

Clay Dragons

When Cindy Armanasco and Tarlz Leaf purchased their property in Mullalyp 44 years ago it seemed like fate had led them to it.

Unbeknown to Cindy, who had always had a passion for the arts, the beautiful property in the rolling country hills of the Balingup region was filled with glacial black clay.

"I love working with our clay, it's such a



WA's Smallest Art Gallery

Sam Bariesheff was living and working in Perth spending his days in the construction industry when Covid hit and life changed forever. The pandemic inspired him and his wife to move out of the city and have a country tree change.

The Balingup region appealed to the pair as they had family in Donnybrook, and now Sam is owner, founder and curator of WA's Smallest Art Gallery, often exhibiting his own works — which are most recently birds painted with acrylics on wooden pieces.

Unpretentious and generous Sam's keen to share his love of art with visitors to the region and relishes the opportunity to showcase talented local artist's work. Join Sam for a workshop painting stunning blue wren birds on wood, and create your own special piece to take home.

"Balingup is magical and time flies in the gallery, it's so much fun," says Sam.

33 South Western Hwy, Balingup. BG

beautiful medium, it's premium black clay, but when it's fired it goes white, so it's perfect for sculpting our dragons and all of the whimsical creatures we make," says Cindy.

Cindy says the visitor experience for people at Clay Dragon Arts differs every time, depending on what she and Tarlz are working on in the studio.

"Sometimes people will come and we're just taking pieces out of the kiln from firing, so they can literally choose fresh pieces, other times we'll be throwing or Tarlz will be glazing.

"I think people are quite interested in pottery again, it's a slow art that requires you to be in the moment. People want to reconnect with making things and slow down."

This year Cindy and Tarlz will be releasing some new creatures, including sea goddesses and octopus cups and said they haven't ruled out hosting workshops in the future.

"We get a lot of requests for that, so we might do one soon," says Cindy.

"But for now, we have some exciting new creatures to bring into the world and we're enjoying working with our clay and bringing them to life."

Visit [facebook.com/TheClayDragonArtsStudio](https://www.facebook.com/TheClayDragonArtsStudio)



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Escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

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www.skatinggoosefarm.com.au

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0409 646 178



The Sweet Stuff

INDULGE IN A DOSE OF SWEETNESS TO BRING A SMILE TO YOUR DAY.

By GAIL WILLIAMS



Guardians of Happiness

There's good news for those who occasionally indulge in a guilty sweet treat and for those whose hearts skip a beat at the mere mention of a gooey, molten lava cake or a sensuous lick of fluffy ice cream in a crisp, waffle cone.

Sweet treats do actually make you happy. The surge in dopamine as you bite into a square of chocolate also triggers memories of childhood sweet treats and feelings of happiness, excitement, and joy.

We all know the importance to our health of putting the emphasis on the word "treats". But, hey, we do deserve an indulgence sometimes. And the Bunbury Geographe region is full of outlets to reward oneself with a mouthful of dopamine-inducing joy.

Here are a few to put a skip in your step...

Taffys

Twenty years ago, Sam Morris followed his sweet tooth and gave up teaching history to open a candy store with his daughter, Chelsea, and created history of his own in Australia's only saltwater taffy shop with customers calling in from all over the world.

Using recipes handed down from his mother, grandmother and aunts, the pair recreated the delicate American treats from Sam's childhood spent growing up in Cincinnati. Taffys is still going strong and is Bunbury's waterfront treasure trove for

sweet teeth and a legion of young and old saltwater taffy fans who regularly pop in for Mum's Fudge, Aunty Dorothy's Peanut Brittle as well as the old-fashioned taffy which takes around two-and-a half hours to make and is pulled by machine.



It's a secret recipe but Sam says, despite its name, it does not include saltwater.

"It does include salt though," he says. "And it comes in flavours of strawberry, banana, passion fruit and is cooked in a big copper kettle, cooled, and placed on a specially made pulling machine."

Life is certainly sweet at Taffys.

4/21 Holman St, Bunbury

Visit taffys.com.au

Guardians of Happiness

You don't have to ask why pastry cooks are the guardians of happiness. You just have to walk into Natalie Moremon's colourful store, which is absolutely brimming with happiness as people deliberate between nine different flavours of brownies, to see smiles abounding.

It's like walking into an edible rainbow, with layers of different-coloured creamy icing decorated with butterflies and roses, and cartoon characters and fruit. Put in an order, and you too, can have your super-sized share of cakey bliss. There's also a daily-changing assortment of donuts, cupcakes, fudge, macarons, truffles, chocolates and pastries.

13 Stephen Street, Bunbury

Visit guardiansofhappiness.com

Dardanup Bakery

Want to know what they eat in heaven? Chocolate custard croissants made by John Obermeier, the Dardanup baker, that's what.

And closely followed by a Berliner donut or if there's room — a sneaky cinnamon scroll.

Rumour has it that when John and his wife, Laine advertise for staff applications come with a proviso they get paid in donuts. Easy to see why.

13 Charlotte St, Dardanup West

The Bean and Cone

If a lick of artisan gelato is what transcends you to your happy place head to The Bean and Cone, a tropical coloured gelato paradise, where Margaret Adams oversees around 38 different flavours on sale every day. Burnt fig? Passionfruit? Turkish Delight? It's all made — and eaten — to the mantra "I licked it, so it's mine." We like their style. Oh and here's another scoop — there's dairy free sorbet and waffles and enough Dutch sweets to satisfy any lolly lover's cravings. And best downed on site with a woodfired Frothin' Coffee.

115 Victoria St, Bunbury

Visit thebeanandcone.com.au/bunbury

Choccy-licious Bouquets & Gifts

It might be the lure of The Pink Gin Goddess basket that gets customers into this den of decadent delights in the

Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre — owned and operated by Trish Fostinelli for the past four years — but they leave with a bouquet of chocolate hearts, a packet of Chocobee honey-whipped chocolate and, just for fun, a cuddly teddy bear. Oh, and a big, satisfied smile on their face. Trish also delivers intrastate and interstate.

Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre, 33/63

Sandridge Rd, East Bunbury

Visit choccy-liciousbouquets.com.au **BG**


TREAT YOURSELF *Indulge in sweet joy at Bunbury's decadent dessert cafés, sweet shops and country bakeries.*



Guardians of Happiness



Guardians of Happiness



Green Door Wines

From **FARM** to **PLATE**

FEAST ON THE BEST OF BUNGEO AT THESE LOCALLY-FOCUSED, FARM-TO-PLATE VENUES.

A bundant in fertile plains and idyllic agricultural conditions, Bunbury Geographe is brimming with fresh produce and farm-to-plate experiences. Discover top venues dishing up drool-worthy dining options with a locally-sourced and environmentally conscious ethos, making the most of the incredible produce at their doorsteps.

St Aidan Wines

The team at St Aidan Wines firmly believes the more local the produce the better the understanding of the product. The terracotta-hued rammed earth cellar door houses a restaurant where chef Jake Walker presides over a seasonally changing menu that makes the most of what can be grown on site.

“Most of the fruit and vegetables come from our own garden, or the local farmers. We have an extensive vegetable garden and hydroponic set up, and from this we produce most of our seasonal greens, tomatoes, cucumber and soft herbs,” says Jake.

What isn’t available on site is sourced from local producers, with marron, honey, nuts, olive oil, eggs, berries, figs and stone fruit all sourced from nearby properties in Ferguson Valley, while excess is used for



St Aidan Wines

jams, relishes and pickles or returned to the land through composting practices.

The dining team's Moreish Monday experience is a great way to get a taste of the farm-to-plate way of life. Using the freshest produce from co-owner Mary Smith's garden, you'll indulge in as many as five creative share plates, often offering an early iteration of dishes that will be making their way onto the menu in due course.

Visit saintaidan.com.au

Green Door Wines

Another Ferguson Valley mainstay, Green Door Wines is a striking venue from which to appreciate the bounty of a fertile region.

For co-owner Kath Keeffe the Bunbury Geographe region was an obvious choice for the winery, which sits on the Darling Scarp slopes and offers enviable views of rolling hills and distant coastal stretches. For the owners, however, the soil was the selling point rather than the view, with Kath and partner Ashley in agreement that quality soil grows quality fruit.

The same principles are carried through to the venue's Spanish inspired café, where wine is served by the carafe alongside carefully curated grazing platters showcasing the best local produce. Its food menu evolves seasonally, featuring handmade chutneys, relishes, and dukkahs like the tomato chutney from Busselton's Fat Hippo; locally crafted cheeses such as the Halls "Suzette" from Halls Family Dairy in Harvey, local raw honeycomb, olives from Boyup Brook, Margaret River Rickles Pickles, and house made fruit crackers.

Visit greendoorwines.com.au

Hackersley Estate

Hackersley Estate's wines are well worth visiting in their own right, but when paired with the food from its gold plate awarded restaurant — helmed by chef Aaron Devitt and overlooking an idyllic dam and a sweeping vineyard — it's an unmissable experience.

"With a menu that changes every eight weeks, a big part of the menu design is driven by the seasonal fruit and vegetables that are available at the time. We have many local growers from Harvey to Donnybrook that supply us with herbs, vegetables, fruits and eggs," says Aaron.

The three-course set lunch on offer demonstrates this seasonal approach at its finest, with Aaron serving meals reflecting the best produce available. Alongside locally grown seasonal produce, you'll find the menu peppered with



Green Door Wines

DIG IN BunGeo boasts a smorgasboard of venues making the most of the region's range of fresh produce.



Hackersley Estate

speciality products including Ferguson Valley truffles, black garlic and marron, Pont L'evêque cheese made from Harvey-raised Normandy cattle, while southwest-raised meat is sourced from the Dardanup Butchering Company.

Visit hackersley.com.au

Coughlan Estate

A whitewashed cellar door tucked among towering native gums in the rolling hills of Donnybrook, Coughlan Estate maintains an emphasis on homemade and locally sourced. For owner Preeti Nirgude, who often gets hands-on in the kitchen, supporting local growers was an easy choice given the abundance of produce available in a small radius.

"We are located in an amazingly abundant fruit bowl in the South West, reducing food miles, increasing freshness and flavour, and encouraging sustainability," says Preeti.

"We source our produce for the cellar door menu as locally as possible, and our talented kitchen staff make all our delicious gourmet pies, quiches, chutneys, icecreams, cakes, desserts — almost everything on our menu is housemade. We grow our own herbs and olives at the estate, and our friendly



Coughlan Estate



Mojo's Bunbury

“

WE ADOPT A TOTAL HEAD TO TAIL AND MOUTH TO TAIL APPROACH WITH LAMB AND FISH”

~ Juliana Frisina, Mojo's Bunbury



Mojo's Bunbury

EAT WELL *Farm-to-plate ethos is all about minimising waste while showcasing the best produce available locally.*

free-range chickens provide the eggs.”

A selection of ploughman-style tasting boards available on the menu offer visitors a way to sample a cross section of the incredible homemade goods made at Coughlan Estate, alongside select produce sourced from Preeti's favourite local suppliers. It's homemade soups — such as the mushroom, pork and black truffle soup; and the flaky, gourmet pies — like the beef, shiraz and rosemary — are true soul-food comforts.

Alongside what they can grow and produce onsite, which includes olive oils, chutneys, relishes, dukkah, and honey, Preeti works with local producers and growers including Yubberup Studio, Cambray Cheese, Halls Family Dairy, Donnybrook

Butchers, Truffle Hill, Farm Fresh Truffles, Rickles Pickles, Hufflepuff Honey, NewLeaf Orchard, Black Garlic & Co, and fruit and vegetable producers including Riverside Produce and Biffo's Farm.

Visit coughlanestate.com.au

Mojo's Bunbury

All about nose to tail dining, Mojo's Bunbury — a combination kitchen, bar and bottleshop — is committed to minimising environmental impact and operating as sustainably as possible every step of the way. For owner Juliana Frisina, this means working with local producers and suppliers and preparing amazing dishes with a 'whole animal approach'.

Juliana looks to local fisherman Anthony Heslewood of Revolution Fisheries, and local farmer Andrew Broun of Marigold Lamb, to supply whole fish and lamb, with the kitchen endeavouring to use every part of the animal and allowing available cuts to

dictate a changing menu.

“We adopt a total head to tail and mouth to tail approach with lamb and fish,” explains Juliana. “The fish cheeks are used as fish scallops, bladder is deep fried and used as garnish, the eye is used in sauces as its very gelatinous, and leftover bits become fish bites or fish sausages.”

The approach is important to Juliana, not only for minimising waste but also delivering a better food experience.

Visit mojosrestaurant.com.au

Brugan Brewery

Country pub-meets-brewhouse, Brugan Brewery is a contemporary venue with ample farm-to-plate fare to feast on.

“One of our strong values is working within our community by supporting community groups through to local businesses,” says co-owner Megan Hardwick.

Hops for the beer is sourced locally,



Bragan Brewery



Bragan Brewery

some as close as half a kilometre down the road, while the wines and spirits list is overwhelmingly Ferguson Valley and Harvey heavy. In the kitchen, vegetables are sourced from local growers Shepherds Gate and Melville Park, and cheese from Harvey Cheese, with the menu changing seasonally to reflect what producers have on offer. Think along the lines of Middle Eastern lamb ribs, Southwest brisket burgers, buttermilk fried chicken wings, red spotted emperor and more.

Visit bragan.com.au

FARM-TO-PLATE FESTIVITIES

Time your trip with one of these top farmhouse foodie events.

Bunbury Chefs Long Table Charity Lunch

March 2024

The Bunbury Chefs Long Table Charity is seriously one to put on the calendar for any true foodie. Some of Western Australia's top chefs come together for this event, to dish up an eight-course dining experience featuring produce from the Bunbury Geographe region and locally produced wines. The event is an inimitable chance to learn more about the region's incredible produce, with chefs walking guests through choice ingredients.

Visit chefslongtable.com.au

Lost and Found

7-10 September 2023

Over four days in September, the Lost and Found festival brings a plethora of foodie events to Bunbury Geographe, from vibrant Bunbury through to picturesque Ferguson Valley. From wine workshops to long table dining to boozy brunches, the long weekend offers an in-depth introduction to the incredible produce of the region. **16G**

Visit lostandfoundfestival.com.au



Balingup Heights

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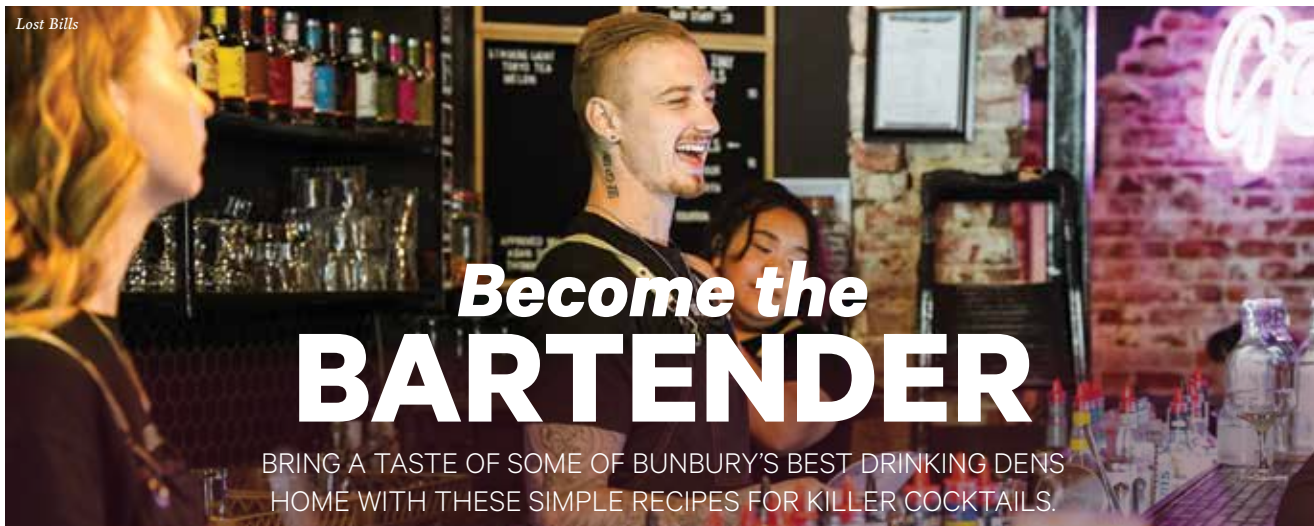


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Dreams

Based in Bunbury, Cuprum Distillery crafts artisan spirits inspired by the South West. Visit for a tasting, book in for a masterclass to distil your own bespoke gin, and keep an eye on exciting pop-up events such as popular paint and sip workshops.

Ingredients

- 45ml Cuprum Rosé Vodka
- 45ml cranberry juice
- 15ml fresh lime
- 10ml agave syrup
- 2 x sprigs fresh thyme
- 90ml soda water

Pour your vodka, cranberry juice, fresh lime and agave syrup into your shaker with ice and shake hard. Strain into a tall glass over ice. Top with soda water and garnish with fresh thyme.



Pomegranate & Raspberry Gin Sour

A kitchen, bar and bottle shop all rolled into one, Mojo's knows good food and drink and is a fierce advocate for local producers. Using locally crafted spirits where possible, they craft some delectable cocktails that will kick-start any weekend.

Ingredients

- 30ml lemon juice
- 30ml lime juice
- 30ml sugar syrup
- 45ml Cuprum Raspberry Gin
- 15ml pomegranate liqueur
- 1 egg white

Pour all ingredients into a cocktail shaker and dry shake (no ice) with a Hawthorne Strainer spring (the coiled spring from this strainer helps the shake along).

Remove spring, fill shaker with ice and re-shake. Strain into small rocks glass over ice.

Garnish with a dash of pomegranate liqueur onto foam and fresh raspberries.

**Supporting Local, Mojo's use Cuprum Distiller spirits, proudly distilled in Bunbury.*



Stroebe light

A 'badass' small bar found on Victoria Street in Bunbury, Lost Bills is an authority on all things drinks, with a passion for crafting great cocktails and curating a captivating atmosphere. Bring your choice of take away to dine on, and hang out.

Ingredients

- 30ml lemon juice
- 30ml melon liqueur
- 15ml vodka
- 15ml gin
- 15ml white rum

Pour all ingredients into a shaker with ice and shake hard.

Strain into a tall glass over ice.

Garnish with green apple pearls, sliced lime and a maraschino cherry. **BG**



BR
AG

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REGIONAL
ART GALLERY
WILGER
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brag.org.au

arts and
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CENTRE



bunburymuseum.com.au

history and
heritage



BUNBURY
WILDLIFE PARK

bunburywildlifepark.com.au

nature and
adventure



Alternatives ON SHOW

RAISE A GLASS AS THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ALTERNATIVE WINE SHOW CELEBRATES AND ADVANCES THE RICH DIVERSITY OF THE GEOGRAPHE WINE REGION.

By TORI WILSON

Gone are the days of walking into a decent wine bar and finding only Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Sauvignon Blanc and fellow tried-and-true classics. With over 10,000 different varieties of wine in existence, a taste for the lesser known — or alternative varieties — is on the rise, and there's no wine region within Western Australia satisfying this demand quite like the Geographe Region.

Home to 57 growers, 26 producers and 36 grape varieties, Geographe is the most diverse wine region in the state. So, it only seems fitting that what was once the Geographe Wine Show now reflects its excellence in producing alternative varieties with the new title, The Western Australian Alternative Wine Show (WAAWS), which it will operate as in September 2023 for the second year.

"The objective of a wine show is obviously to determine the best wine, but also, to help winemakers and growers produce better wines," says WAAWS Committee chairman and Vinyard 28 owner, Mark Cumbers.

In previous years, the level of focus on traditional varieties and a narrow look at alternatives meant the opportunity to advance alternatives was lacking, Mark says, despite a growing number of producers doing so well in the area and a rising demand among consumers for the tasty new drops.

"We wanted to grow and evolve the wine show and incorporate alternative varieties," says Mark, who explains any producer within the state can submit an alternative varietal wine into the show, while traditional entries are exclusive to Geographe producers.

"It's giving an avenue for Western

Australian producers of alternative varieties to get a better idea of where their wines are standing up against other examples of the same varieties.”

Barbera, Nero D'Avola, Dolcetto, Zinfandel, Fiano, Vermentino and Verdicchio are just some of the alternative varieties currently thriving in the Geographe Wine Region.

When asked why these varieties excel in Geographe, Mark says it's down to a combination of factors, with climate packing the most punch.

“Go back to the old, French word ‘terroir’; it's a combination of the soil, the climate, the humidity — even down to what side of the bed the winemaker gets out of — which comes together to make the wine at the end of the day.

“Geographe is very much a Southern Mediterranean climate, which is why Spanish and Italian varieties grow so well here.

“It's about picking the right region (for the variety) and Geographe is a very young region led by people willing to experiment,” says Mark.

TOP WINES TO TRY

While there's ample appetite for alternative options to keep on expanding, there'll always be a place for the classics that do well in the Geographe Wine Region.

For 2022, Smallwater Estate's 2021 Shiraz claimed the top spot of Geographe Wine of the Show, as a wine of exceptional quality.

This was certainly no fluke for Smallwater, which is prolific in its award winning. It was awarded Best Geographe Red the past three years for its Shiraz. Its 2021, which has yet to be released, has also already claimed gold at the Wine Show of WA. It's 2021 Rob's Block Cabernet Sauvignon recently won gold and a trophy at the national Winewise Awards and the Australian New Zealand Boutique Wine Awards. The list goes on.

“Good wine is grown on the vine,” says owner John Smallwater. “Geographe is quite vast. We're coastal plains up until the escarpment. We grow a lot of incredibly good fruit.

“With that being said, I employ exceptionally talented winemakers and we don't shortcut on barrel selection, which can make a huge difference. It's just attention to detail for the whole process, really.”

In Smallwater's vineyards, you can find an array of varieties including Chardonnay, Shiraz, Cabernet, Zinfandel, Petit Verdot, and more recent plantings of Fiano and Saperavi.

A Fiano claimed the Best Geographe

White Wine for WAAWS 2022, belonging to Vineyard 28, which produces a number of alternatives, also including Arneis, Dolcetto and Nebbiolo.

“Fiano is very much an emerging variety in Australia and suits this region very well,” says Mark.

“Green Door is another producer that's been making it for many years and has had great success with it.”

Mark recommends freshly shucked oysters with Fiano, “a beautiful food wine”.

In the case of Vineyard 28's, you can expect orange peel on the nose, a palate full with citrus and lime, firm acidity, length and a subtle beeswax texture. Predominately clean and fresh, it's been softened slightly with a few months on old oak to finish.

With so many outstanding producers present within the region and ample award-winners, a wine tour is well worth planning a trip around. Visit geographewine.com.au to find a few that tickle your fancy and go forth from there. **BG**



COLLECTIVE GROWTH WAAWAS brings the producers of the Geographe Wine Region together in one place to evaluate and advance its wines (all images).





Green Door Wines; Image: The Uncommon Creative



Vineyard 28



Vineyard 28

Indulge in a New Side of Wine

IGNITE YOUR SENSES WITH THESE SIX IMMERSIVE WINE EXPERIENCES.

By DANIELLE AUSTIN

While sensational wine can be found all around in the Geographe Wine Region, there are a few spots offering particularly immersive experiences that are worth delving into. From sensory-engaging wine tastings, to pizza and primavera pairings, to a taste of Italian wine in the South West, these are some of the best immersive and interactive wine experiences in the region.

Blind tasting at Green Door Wines

For true oenophiles and aspiring sommeliers, Ferguson Valley's Green Door Wines offers a blind, or black glass, tasting experience. Owner Kath Keeffe describes it as a "sensory experience", where guests are put to the challenge of using just their

sense of taste and smell to identify four taster wines — any visitor able to correctly identify all four wines is treated to a glass of their choice. The tasting is a great way to test and expand on your wine knowledge and have some fun at guessing, with the team taking you through each of the wines following the tasting.

Visit greendoorwines.com.au

Italian immersion at Vineyard 28

Vineyard 28, which the owners describe as 'Geographe's little Italy', offers an immersive experience in Mediterranean viticultural traditions and classic Italian wines on its 'Taste of Italy' tour.

Awarded winemaker Mark Cumbers walks and talks guests through the Italian

varietals on offer — Arneis, Pignoletto, Fiano, Dolcetto, Nebbiolo, and Moscato alongside some select Sauvignon Blanc Semillon and Cabernet Sauvignon — while exploring the vineyard and winery. With Geographe's Mediterranean climate mirroring that of areas of Italy, naturally these alternative varietals thrive in the region. 'Taste of Italy' is available by appointment only — bookings essential.

Visit vineyard28.com.au

Pizza pairings at Ferguson Falls

The Guimelli family brings a taste of Italy to Bunbury Geographe at Ferguson Falls with their pizza and wine pairings. This humble winery has been awarded a Gold Plate for its stone-baked gourmet pizzas and, in a



Whicher Ridge

“

... ITS PICK AND SIP EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE WINERY'S SENSORY GARDEN HAS RECEIVED NATIONAL ACCLAIM

creates small batch, single vineyard wines on its sumptuous estate. The venue offers a number of intimate experiences, including tastings with a winemaker or a sip and savour session in the stunning gardens, but its pick and sip experience through the winery's sensory garden has received national acclaim.

The one-of-a-kind experience allows guests to explore the garden, designed and planted by owners Cathy and Neil Howard, on a guided tour. Fruit trees, herbs, flowers and seasonal vegetables are planted in seven distinct sections, each dedicated to a different grape variety and reflect or pair with the given wine. The sensorily indulgent experience has guests take in the tastes, smells and sights of each part of the garden, as guided by Cathy, as they sip the complementary vino, enhancing not only the experience of the drink, but also your wine knowledge and understanding of pairing wine and food.

Visit whiccherridge.com.au IG

nod to their Northern Italian heritage, the family produce Italian-style wines, like their Primavera Rosso and Autunno Bianco, which pair perfectly with their menu.

Visit fergusonfalls.com.au

Horses and Harris River Estate

Country experiences don't come much more idyllic than exploring the Harris River Estate vineyards and incredible surrounding bushland on horseback. Bordering the Collie River, the estate stretches over an expansive 350 acres of farmland, where the vineyards grow six grape varieties including Chardonnay, Verdelho, Viognier, Cabernet, Merlot and Shiraz, and boasts its own picturesque dam. Your guided horseback tour offers incredible countryside views, and ends with a picnic and wine tasting experience on the estate's stunning timber deck.

Visit harrisriverestate.com.au

Watch and wine at St Aidan Wines

Passions for fine film and wine converge when the outdoor movies return to the lawns of St Aidan Wines in 2024, on select Fridays throughout January, February and early March. Enjoy the venue's own wines as well as a range of beer and cider from the comfort of a picnic blanket or bean bag as you take in a blockbuster film on

the outdoor screen. The winery also has a selection of snack-style food on offer, including antipasto and cheese boards for a truly luxe experience.

Visit saintaidan.com.au

A Sensory Experience at Whicher

A little further afield, nestled in the Whicher Range near Busselton, Whicher Ridge Winery





Image: Rebecca Rose

Homely Little Hop House



Image: Jarrad Seng



Image: Bee Wood

THE ULTIMATE ANTIDOTE TO CITY-LIVING, STAY A WHILE AT LITTLE HOP HOUSE AND EXPERIENCE SHEER, UNINTERRUPTED SERENITY.

By TORI WILSON.

A peaceful little town where orchards abundant in rainbows of fruit fill surrounding fields, in Donnybrook distilled serenity blossoms. There's no place to bask in its quiet tranquillity quite like Little Hop House.

Owned by brewer Aaron Davy and hop farmer Alexis Davy, these attentive hosts have paid every attention to detail to ensure their guests' experience at this secluded retreat is pure calm.

A refined slice of farm life, roll down the long stretch of driveway onto the property and be greeted by sweeping fields studded

with friendly animals living freely. Aaron and Alexis' retired jersey cow, Heidi, might be spotted here, along with their two cheeky British Alpine goats Nugget and Phoenix. If you're keen on a closer look, Aaron or Alexis will give you a personal introduction, letting you feed the animals and give them a pat. They'll give you the lowdown on farm life and can tee up a tour with a nearby orchard, too, if you want more.

As for the accommodation, the quaint, contemporary cottage is nestled beside the family home, with fruit trees and stored tractors acting as a buffer; while directly

in front you'll find vibrant green strings of hop vines (depending on the time of year), hanging almost decoratively just outside the bedroom window. It's here that the gaggle of white geese reside, too, painting a picture like that out of a Beatrix Potter book.

The best views, however, would have to be the vistas experienced from the open-plan living area of Little Hop House. Perched atop a slight hill, looking out from the lounge, kitchen and dining room table, a field of grass and the stretch of trees that line the property's perimeter fills your vision. At the time of visiting, Heidi's daughter, Honey, roamed here freely, alongside her little bull calf, Smokey.

Better still, step outside and take in the sights from the expansive decked patio while soaking in the outdoor bath at dusk. Or simply take a seat, and with a glass of local wine in hand, or one of the locally made teas provided, and watch as the sky turns to pink and the stars and moon begin to glimmer 'hello'. In winter, you may choose to sit around the corner of the house by the open outdoor fire pit and gaze up at the brilliant night sky, or cosy up on the lounge in front of the potbelly stove.

It's highly recommended you stop in at one of the local wineries earlier in the day for both a decadent lunch and a chance to pick up some local vino and produce for later, so you can make the most of your time settling in at your sanctuary.

Take a drive to Smallwater Estate, near Balingup, for a taste of their award-winning wines and a grazing board if booked in advance.

Closer to home, Barrecas, produces incredible reds and alternative varietals.

Also just around the corner, you'll find the stunning, self-sustaining vineyard and winery, Coughlan Estate, serving the most comforting homemade food, with ingredients sourced locally as much as possible (read more on page 24).

On your way out, pick up some locally crafted cheeses, chutney, relish and honey and ask for the house-made crackers to take home and pair with your wine.

Breakfast at Little Hop House is equally as inspiring, as dappled sunlight lights up the space. If you're lucky, you may even find a few farm eggs in the fridge to cook up a morning feast to go with a freshly brewed coffee using the coffee machine, beans and milk provided. If you're a fan of beautifully crafted mugs, you'll get an added dose of joy out of drinking from local potter Lynlee Rutter's stunningly designed Cake Lady Ceramics mugs.

Image: Jarnad Song

“STEP OUTSIDE AND TAKE IN THE SIGHTS FROM THE EXPANSIVE DECKED PATIO WHILE SOAKING IN THE OUTDOOR BATH AT DUSK.”



THE SIMPLE LIFE Little Hop House is the ideal destination for disconnecting and soaking in the spirit of Donnybrook farm life.

What's even more magic is the fact that Lynlee offers workshops from her home studio just around the corner, where you can also browse her current collection of hand-sculpted and wheel-crafted vases, mugs, plates, bowls, candle holders and other creations. Her contemporary designs are rare treasures that will add an artisan's touch to any home. Stay for a workshop session and be treated to some of the best cakes around. Having previously owned café Lady Marmalade in Kirup, she knows how to bake (read more on page 20).

For fresh air and nature-based activities, Wellington National Park is about a 40-minute drive away and a haven for hiking and mountain biking. The 12km (approximately three-hour return when walking) Jabitj trail takes you along a particularly scenic route by the Collie River, before reaching the tranquil Honeymoon Pool where you can take a refreshing dip. Stop for a bite to eat and a drink before or after at the licenced Kiosk at the Dam, where you can also hire a mountain bike. Make sure to wander down to the Wellington Dam to admire the massive mural painted across the entire dam wall.

Whether you opt to tour the award-winning wineries, get creative with a hands-on pottery class, embrace the great outdoors on a hike, or simply stay in to read away the hours and soak in the tub, you'll leave Little Hop House feeling more at ease than ever. **IG**

Visit prestonvalleyhops.com.au/farm-stay




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By BEVERLY LIGMAN

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Balingup Heights

Skating Goose Farm

Stunning off grid 'escape pods' situated in the Ferguson Valley, Skating Goose Farm is a luxury couples retreat you won't want to leave. Close to gorgeous local wineries such as St Aidan and Hackersley Estate, you can while away the days exploring the valley, then snuggle up by night, breathing in the fresh country air and enjoying a sky full of stars.

Gerde View, Lowden

Visit skatinggoosefarm.com.au

Peppermint Lane Lodge

Soak up the peace and quiet at this fabulous bed and breakfast located in Wellington Mills in the scenic Ferguson Valley. Peppermint Lane Lodge is the perfect place to relax and let the beauty and tranquility of nature wash over you as you wind down. Hosts Kim and Simon know all of the best gourmet spots to enjoy food and wine locally and will be on hand to make sure your stay is a memorable one.

351 Wellington Mill Rd, Wellington Mill

Visit peppermintlanelodge.com.au

Evedon Lakeside Retreat

Wake up to the fresh country lifestyle as you take in the delights of Evedon Lakeside Retreat with the family. There's plenty for



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the kids to explore, climb and conquer, while Mum and Dad reconnect with the family and each other, enjoying a coffee and cake on the balcony of the restaurant space overlooking the lake. Enjoy fishing, bush walking, kayaking, wildflowers and an art gallery, all on the doorstep of the Ferguson Valley. Fill your cup in the country as you enjoy this spectacular setting and escape to the lake for the weekend or a whole week.

205 Lennard Rd, Burekup
Visit evendon.com.au

Wellington Forest Cottages

Originally built to house the government foresters who worked in the area, these eight rustic self-contained cottages are wonderful places to rest, rejuvenate and reconnect with family and friends. Harking back to a more simple time, the pace of life slows right down here, allowing you to connect back to nature, away from technology and create your own magical memories together. Here, the kids can roam until dinner time, as they explore the forest and make their own fun.

333 Wellington Forest Rd, Wellington Mill
Visit wfccc.com.au

Glen Mervyn Lodge

A farmstay getaway surrounded by lush greenery on 50 acres, and just a short walk from Glen Mervyn Dam, Glen Mervyn Lodge is the perfect place to unwind and disconnect from the stresses of city life. Go



Jalbrook Estate

hiking or kayaking and end your hike with a hearty lunch at the Mumby Pub down the road, or simply explore the farm to get to know it's animals and the many serene picnic spots. Enjoy a stay in either the cottage or the farm house and feel yourself exhale as you watch the sun go down over the rolling hills.

Collie-Preston Rd, Mumballup
Visit glenmervynlodge.com.au

Riverside Cabin Park

Find your family holiday paradise on the banks of the Collie River at Eaton Foreshore's Riverside Cabin Park. A great spot for those searching for a simple family getaway in a gorgeous location with all the amenities you could hope for, Riverside is perfectly placed to explore the BunGeo region, just 8km from Bunbury city. Comfortably fitted out cabins will give you all the rest and respite you need after a hard day hiking, kayaking and exploring, or you can camp or park up in a caravan or bus. And with swimming pools, barbecue areas and tennis courts, the fun doesn't



Evedon Lakeside Retreat

have to stop when you get back to camp. There's plenty of breweries and taverns nearby to enjoy lunch or an evening meal and you can make the most of the park's well equipped kitchens if you feel like staying close to home.

5 Pratt Rd, Eaton
Visit riversidecp.com.au

Balingup Heights

Nestled high in the hill tops overlooking the forest, it's hard to find a more peaceful location than Balingup Heights. You can bring the family, book a couples retreat or come solo, but however you fancy your stay, you'll find everything you need here to soothe your soul and be hugged by nature. All cottages are self-contained, with spacious balconies and one or two bedrooms.

65 Balingup-Nannup Rd, Balingup
Visit balingupheights.com.au

Jalbrook Estate

Set on a breathtaking property in the heart of the Blackwood River Valley, Jalbrook Estate was literally created to let you stop and smell the roses. Home to six deluxe rammed earth cottages, this private haven is surrounded by lush gardens which are the owner's pride and joy and feature a mix of roses, wisteria, cherry blossoms and well established trees that bloom all year round. A wonderful place to take your special someone or to book a group stay, Jalbrook Estate is just minutes from Balingup.

127 Jayes Rd, Balingup
Visit jalbrook.com.au IG



Best Destinations to Say

BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE IS WHERE LOVE IS FOUND ... AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, KEPT.



‘I Do’

A bundant in diverse and stunning natural landscapes, Bunbury Geographe is brimming with glorious destinations that make the ideal backdrop for your special day. We've compiled a list of some of the coolest types of places to say 'I do' to make your decision of where to base your dream day easier.

WITH OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD VIEWS

Edith Valley is a secluded, private property just 25 minutes from Bunbury, in the Roeland Hills. This unique, purpose-built venue overlooks an incredible, man-made, freshwater lake with captivating undulating views beyond.

OOZING HISTORY

The **Old Thomson Brook Church** (formerly an Anglican Church) is a historic small church building surrounded by natural bush and rolling hills just south of Donnybrook. Finished in 1909 with red bricks handmade on site and jarrah trimmings, it's fab for those looking for a slice of vintage.

BY THE WATER

With kilometres of untouched beaches, there is a special place in BunGeo for you to tie the knot. Prefer something with facilities? Bunbury's **VAT2** and **Koombana Bay Sailing Club** are favourite venues. Other waterside views in Bunbury include **Back Beach Café**, **Bayview Bar**, the **Parade Hotel**, and the **Dolphin Discovery Centre**. If a tranquil lake is more your setting, in addition to Edith Valley, brides should try **Evedon Lakeside Retreat** in the rolling hills of Burekup with a function centre for 150 guests or **Linga Longa Estate** in Balingup, an exclusive camping wedding venue set in the rolling hills along



Berry Delightful (Image The Love Photography Boutique)

“

WITH KILOMETRES OF UNTOUCHED BEACHES, THERE IS A SPECIAL PLACE IN BUNGEO FOR YOU TO TIE THE KNOT

SO SCENIC *There are so many charming spots to exchange vows with the one you love in this nature-based region.*

the Blackwood River. **Mercure Bunbury Sanctuary Golf Resort's** stunning views of a sparkling lake provides the perfect backdrop for the day.

SURROUNDED BY GARDENS

For the ultimate garden wedding with a relaxed country atmosphere, head to **Jalbrook Estate** located near beautiful Balingup, or **Chalbury Park B&B** on a scenic property in Harvey where flowers and garden beds abound. Chalbury boasts two heritage style rooms, and with five cottages and a lodge onsite at Jalbrook, your guests won't have to walk far to find a bed. Be aware, an alpaca may join at Jalbrook for the wedding photos.

WHERE YOU CAN MAKE IT YOURS

There's so much reward in opting for a venue where you can make a wedding totally your own. For a large gathering of up to 300, try the super talented and ultra-creative team at **The Berry Delightful** near Donnybrook. This refurbished berry farm offers a number of unique spaces with the option for on-site camping.

AMONG THE VINES

If you've always dreamed of saying 'I do' in a vineyard, **St Aidan Wines** is set in a picturesque boutique vineyard nestled in the heart of the Ferguson Valley. St Aidan has a beautiful alfresco open-style reception centre that can seat 150 guests



St Aidan Wines

comfortably. Like St Aidan's, **Hackersley Estate** curates an excellent menu and is surrounded by lush undulating hills, based in the picture book-like Ferguson Valley.

Capel Vale in Capel and **Coughlan Estate** in Donnybrook are also both stunning destinations to explore, with elevated views of sweeping vineyards below.

Further north, the scenic **Harris River Estate** produces both wine and spirits — personalise your own wine bottles and perhaps even enter the wedding by horse.

SOMEWHERE FORMAL

Go down the formal route with a decked-out hotel wedding. The majority of hotels in the Bunbury Geographe will cater for weddings, with **Hotel Lord Forrest**, **The Rose** and **Quality Hotel Lighthouse** stand-out options.



Old Church (Image Henderson Photography)

THOSE EXTRA SPECIAL TOUCHES

It's easy to get bogged down in endless options when bringing your dream day to life, so we've compiled a guide to get you started with the hunt for wedding specialists that will elevate your day with ease.

Beginning with the fundamentals of the setup, check-out **Hire In Style** in Capel who hire out stunning soft furnishings, service bars, arbours, props, dancefloors and more. **BOS Tents and Events** based in Balingup are another BunGeo fave. Led by a passionate husband and wife duo specialising in boutique, contemporary pop-up events, their fabulous styling and gorgeous stretch tents and canopies hail from South Africa and are incredibly cool. **Nomadika** also know how to add an extra layer of fun and funkiness to a wedding event, with their stylish glamping tents. It's



one way to ensure your guests stay and dance into the night.

Now that you have the architectural elements aligned, curate the look and feel with custom flower arrangements from **Scentiment Flowers, Fresh Floral Studio, Green Depot** or **Grande Flora**.

To get to your wedding in style, go vintage with **La Bella Car Hire**, a 1957 Chevy Bel Air for old-world glamour; in a 1968 convertible Mustang from **Pop a Cork Tours**; or opt for one of the unique old-style automobiles from **Le Charabanc Private Charters**. If luxury is more your look, there's the Rolls Royce limo from **Bunbury Executive Car Service**, or a super slick Hummer from **Down South Limos**.

Take the heat off and opt for a caterer to care for all your culinary needs. If you are seeking long, grazing tables **Simply & Beautiful Catering** or **Tapalicious Events Catering** are two masters at decking them out. For a cake to remember, go to **Guardians of Happiness** in Bunbury to craft something truly glorious.

Any bride-to-be knows how hard it can be to arrive at the perfect outfit for their wedding day. **Bunbury Bridal and Ball** will help you find your ideal fit, while **ShoeBeDoo Bunbury** will complete the look.

To capture memories that last a lifetime, we have some iconic photographers based within the region. There's **Taj Kempe, Bianca Turri** or **Tessa Eckersley** to name a few.

Last but not least, local celebrants that will add that special touch include **DJ Emma** and **Kristy Cochrane**. IG



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Saddle Up

HOP ON YOUR HORSE AND EXPERIENCE HARRIS RIVER FROM NEW HEIGHTS.

By JANICE PLATT Images RUSSELL ORD

Is there a more inspiring way to explore the Bunbury Geographe region than on horseback? The landscape and beauty of the region lends itself perfectly to horseback riding, with endless stretch of beaches for you to gallop along before walking into pristine waters to cool off.

Sit high atop your horse as it canters along the beach or let the hypnotic sway of it lull you into a peaceful state while taking a slow walk through the forest.

The experience is all about bonding with and immersing yourself within nature, so take the road less travelled and jump on a horse riding tour alongside knowledgeable guides who will show you the secrets of the area.

Outback Horse Trails

Experience serenity when you head out on a two-hour ride through the beautiful Harris River bushland with Linda Yates from Outback Horse Trails, any time of the year.

“You can spot native wildflowers in the spring,” says Linda, “or take a deep breath of fresh air while trotting through lush greenery in winter.”

Even if you know the region like the back of your hand, everything looks different from above. When you take a ride through the magnificent countryside with Linda, it’s a chance to soak in expansive views and discover native flora and fauna as you walk through the vines at Harris River Estate. This beautiful winery set on 350 acres is known for its carefully crafted wine, beer and gin, so at the end of your ride you’re in the perfect place to

enjoy your drink of choice with a platter to complement, while gazing out over the manicured lawns from the balcony.

If you don’t have any horse riding experience no need to worry, you’re in safe hands. Outback Horse Trails aims to provide a safe environment for all their riders, from beginners to the experienced.

“Our horses are highly trained which enables customers to feel completely at ease on their horse,” says Linda. “Horses are also chosen specifically for different riding abilities.”

Throughout your ride, the more experienced riders have the opportunity to freely walk, trot and canter as newer riders are offered all the guidance they need for a safe trot, too.

Even the little ones get to have a go! Children aged three years and up can join in on any of their rides. Opt for the one hour bush ride to get a taste of riding on one of their quiet, well trained horses, while those under three can get a feel for riding on a pony.

Visit outbackhorsetrails.com

Harris River Equestrian

Harris River Equestrian is situated on the picturesque Harris River Estate Winery and is in collaboration with Outback Horse Trails to provide the fantastic Harris River Estate picnic ride. Imagine walking out on green lawns, through rows of grape vines and breathing in fresh country air while atop a beautiful horse. There’s no better way to appreciate the beauty of nature. **BG**



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TO THE Riding TOP

GRAB YOUR HIKING BOOTS OR JUMP ON YOUR BIKE AND EXPERIENCE THE ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL ACTIVITIES IN COLLIE — A TOP TRAILS TOWN.

By ROD ANNEAR

Collie has a rich and proud history as a coal mining town but, as any local or recent visitor would know, it's transformed into so much more, as a haven for nature-based activity. The richness of the surrounding environment, protected by national parks and reserves, is hard to ignore. With millions invested into the development of hiking and mountain biking trails, you can now experience the great outdoors of Collie in all its glory by getting your legs moving and heart pumping — making the most of the endless fresh air.

Things are changing in Collie. As changes to power generation and coal mining begin to kick in, Collie is reinventing itself as a trail, tourism and adventure town. This is part of a 'just transition' for the people of Collie, for jobs and for the future of the town.

Recognised as a destination with enormous potential for its stunning natural spaces, \$10 million has been invested towards further developing Collie into a 'Trail Town', creating 160km of hiking and mountain bike trails. It's a mecca for mountain

bikers, walkers and adventurers, attracting many to flock from across Australia and even the globe to experience it.

If you've ever experienced a ski season over east or abroad or visited a ski town, you'll know of the buzzing atmosphere they generate. Trails towns capture the same lively energy. People gather from far and

wide to experience the adrenaline rush of hitting the dirt and the vibe is exhilarating.

Know the trails

The expanding trail networks in and around Collie, collectively known as the Wambenger Trails are a real game changer. The Wambenger is a cute, small marsupial





collectively make up then biggest mountain bike trail network in Western Australia — maybe all of Australia.

Add to that the existing and improved walk trails including the Wiilman Bilya trail — a five-day, four-night hike around Wellington Dam with overnight campsites. There are also shorter loop options available by combining the Wiilman Bilya Trail and Bibbulmun Track. Part of the Wiilman Bilya Trail includes a suspension bridge across the Collie River. The bridge and nearby upgraded Collie Scenic Drive provide yet another new attraction.

The new trails provide wonderful opportunities for families to get outdoors and appreciate the nature and culture of Collie. Connecting kids and families to the jarrah and marri forests through trails provides opportunities to tell stories about why forests are important, how they work and what we can all do to protect them.

Creating connections to nature through trails helps get kids off screens and out into the natural world which is good for physical and mental health — and it's great fun!

Fun for all

The trails in and around Collie cater for riders and walkers of all ages and abilities. Some of the new mountain bike trails are built specifically to cater for riders on adaptive bikes to provide accessibility and inclusion for people with physical and neurological disabilities.

An active community

Collie has a long and proud cycling history. Once a working man's sport, cycling was relatively cheap and in the early days of Collie, everyone owned a bike. You could ride your bike to the mine during the week and on weekends push the handlebars down and race on the road and track.

found in the forests near Collie. The Wambenger is cheeky, full of spirt and a bit of a hidden gem – just like Collie!

There are more than 30km of mountain bike trails at Arklow on the northern boundary of Collie, lots of trails close to town and another 65km of mountain bike trails in Wellington National Park that



RELAX, PLAY, CELEBRATE AT EVEDON LAKESIDE RETREAT

Stay in our self-contained cabins and two-storey apartments, nestled in a spectacular jarrah forest on the banks of stunning Evedon Lake.

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Enjoy delicious breakfast, lunch or dinner in our restaurant café. Relax by the lake with morning or afternoon tea, or grab a great coffee. Friday night is woodfired pizza night!

Our amphitheatre, function and conference centres overlook the lake - great for weddings and corporate functions.

Located in the Ferguson Valley and Geographe Wine Region, just 20 minutes from Bunbury and two hours south of Perth.



EVEDON LAKESIDE RETREAT

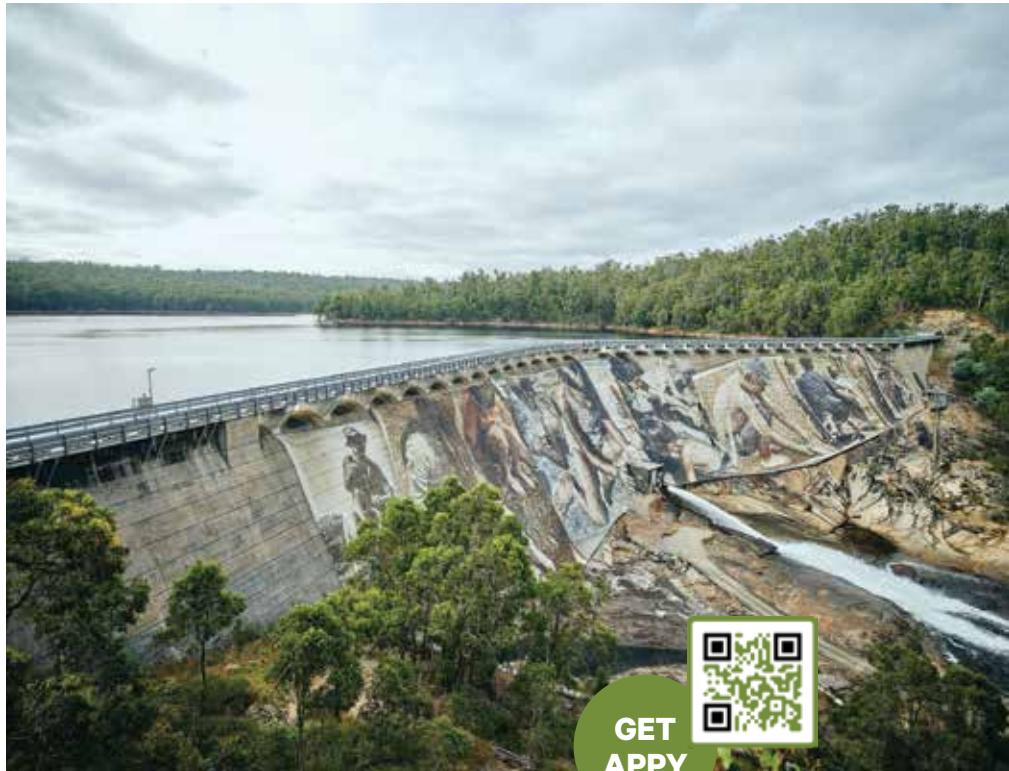
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• Check website for restaurant opening hours. Log fires are seasonal



OUT & ABOUT Explore Wellington Dam (right), the Collie Mural Trail (below), and Lake Kepwari (bottom) all while in Collie River Region.



The town's velodrome still stands, now a little worse for wear but tells a story of time when cycling was king in Collie.

With all the new trails, lots more cycle tourists are coming to Collie to continue that long cycling tradition, while the iconic Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track have been attracting a steady stream of avid hikers and bikers for years.

If you feel like resting your legs momentarily, there are also new drive trails, such as the Collie Scenic Drive that follows the Collie River just out of town and new sealed road links between Collie, Wellington National Park and the Ferguson Valley. The scenery is stunning.

Take to the water

Collie isn't just about traversing terrain. Take to the water with your kayak or skis for refreshing way to work up an appetite. Lake Kepwari is the major water attraction within Collie, a former open cut coal mine southeast of town that was filled with water once mining ended.

The water body was long identified as having great potential as a ski area, with a large expanse of water and still conditions for much of the year. The lake has now been transformed from mine site to ski lake and campgrounds.

The lake is so calm, the water inviting, and the new facilities and camping areas

Information about all the Collie trails, including the Mural Trail, is all available on the Wambenger Trails App and website. Search for Wambenger trails in your app store or scan the QR code.

are right on the lake. You can camp, swim, ski, picnic — it's a stunning place to experience with friends or family.

With ample car and trailer parking, picnic shelters on the lake's edge, a boat ramp and floating jetty, campgrounds and new sealed road, Lake Kepwari opened in 2020 and is already a popular addition to Collie's outdoor adventure attractions.

There's also Honeymoon Pool, Black Diamond Lake, Stockton Lake and Potters Gorge for more top spots to cool off.

Mega Mural

Where activity thrives, art certainly doesn't falter. The Collie Mural Trail is a major artistic attraction and its \$1.5 million centrepiece — a mega mural on the Wellington Dam wall — is awe inspiring. It is said to be the largest dam mural in the world. Artist Guido Van Helten created the Wellington Dam mural, titled *Reflections*. A world-renowned large-scale mural artist, Van Helten's work is characterised by extensive research and technical precision to create photo realistic images. The stunning mega mural has become a must-see attraction.

A series of smaller murals have been painted on prominent walls and structures in and around Collie, telling stories of the nature and culture of the town. **IG**

11 THINGS TO DO IN THE HARVEY REGION

I. VINEYARD 28

Stroll through vineyards on a mini Italian escape. Take their *A Taste of Italy* tour to experience the winemaking process.

2. LAKE BROCKMAN

A sparkling blue lake set among lush green forest, Lake Brockman is the perfect spot for camping, glamping or a day of watersports.

3. THE BIG ORANGE

At Harvey River Estate, climb the 14-metre tower and find yourself inside The Big Orange - a local icon celebrating Harvey's citrus.

4. WILDFLOWER RIDGE WALK

Enjoy breath-taking views of Harvey Dam and the coastal plains - you might even spot a few native blooms!

5. WONDERS OF WA MINI GOLF

A mini golf course like no other. Explore a different WA attraction at each hole, then grab a bite at Old Coast Road Brewery.

6. HARVEY CHEESE

A cheese-lover's paradise is waiting in Wokalup! Pop in for a free tasting of their handmade cheeses and unique gins.

7. BRUGAN BREWERY

Craft beer drinkers can't go past Brugan for delicious meals and brews made from locally produced hops.

8. BINNINGUP BEACH

The coastal hamlet of Binningup has one of the best beaches in WA - perfect for fishing, soaking up the sun or testing the 4WD.

9. COW ON THE CORNER

Don't forget to visit Daisy - Brunswick Junction's life-size town mascot, built as a tribute to the local dairy industry.

10. TREENDALE FARM HOTEL

Hungry yet? Officially Australia's Best Family Dining experience, if you need a larger-than-life feed The Farm is the place to be.

II. RIDLEY PLACE FORESHORE

Grab a cuppa at local favourite Benesse Australind and relax by the estuary while the kids explore Karragarup Play Space.

We are homegrown heroes, heavenly beaches, happy days and hillside chalets. We are Harvey Region. Come find us.

Only 90 minutes from Perth and 90 minutes from Margaret River, you'll find the spectacular Harvey Region; a place of endless beaches, rolling hills, outdoor adventures and amazing local produce!

WA's iconic food brands are here, including Harvey Beef, Brownes Dairy and the zesty Harvey Fresh.

To the east, the Darling Scarp's lush Jarrah forest and abundant natural waterways are an adventure playground, while the west is bordered by 42 kilometres of pristine coastline.

Visiting the Harvey Region? Here are 11 things to kick start your adventure!



www.harveyregion.com.au



@harveyregion





Koolambidi Woola Youth Precinct

TOP 12

FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES ACROSS BUNGEO



Dolphin Discovery Centre



Gravity ETC

BUNBURY

1 Koolambidi Woola Youth Precinct

Bring the children and check out this brilliant space with multi-sports courts, parkour spaces, mini golf, beach climbing nets, a skate park and multiple trampolines. There is something for every kid at the Koolambidi Woola Youth Precinct. Our favourite? The giant hamster wheel that will be sure to get your little ones giggling away in no time.

2 Bunbury Wildlife Park

Is any family getaway complete without an up-close-and-personal encounter with inspiring native wildlife? Feed the parrots in the free flight aviaries, pat the farm animals and closely observe Aussie icons such as Kangaroos, Dingoes and Quokkas. Don't forget to schedule your visit with the Interactive Keeper Talks at 11.30am daily.

3 Dolphin Discovery Centre

Walk through the Interpretive Centre and learn about the mesmerising marine life in the aquariums, or head down to the beach where volunteers offer you the perfect opportunity to meet some dolphins. Hop on the Dolphin Eco Cruise to view dolphins frolicking and feeding in the bay before an impromptu picnic on the manicured lawn while soaking up some sunshine.

4 Splash Park

How many towns can boast of their very own splash park? The ship-wreck themed splash park has over 40 water features, complete with a giant tipping bucket, interactive spray zones and shade sails to keep the area cool during summer. Complete with unisex baby change rooms, barbeque and picnic facilities, the utmost care has been put in to make this park family-friendly.

CAPEL REGION

5 Skate Park

Drop in to the Capel Skate Park with its half and quarter pipe flowing into other skating features in the park. Complete with a nature play area, amphitheatre, outdoor table tennis table, and half basketball court, this is a great spot for the adrenaline-seeker in your family to test out their abilities!

6 Gravity ETC

Looking for a place for your aspiring gymnast? Head over to Gravity ETC, the air-conditioned trampoline park that will see your children bounce, tumble and flip while playing extreme dodgeball, before jumping into a massive foam pit. There's even a toddler space for those under three who aren't quite ready to join the big kids in the arena.

DONNYBROOK

7 Apple Fun Park

Donnybrook's Apple Fun Park is one of the largest free-entry fun parks in Australia. Set yourself up at one of the shaded tables and watch your kids jump to try everything from rock climbing to 10m slides, and more.



Apple Fun Park

BALINGUP

8 Medieval Carnivale

26–27 August

Mark this one down as you won't want to miss this magical two-day event where you can step back in time and become the character of your desires with fancy dress — are you a lord or lady? Knight or rogue? Perhaps a wizard or even a dragon? The Balingup Medieval Carnivale will have the whole family in thrall with medieval fights, parades of reenactors, performers and market stalls from the days of yore. Be sure you stay for the Burning of the Dragon on the Saturday night!



Medieval Carnivale

COLLIE RIVER VALLEY

9 Camping in Nature

A haven for outdoor enthusiasts, the Collie River Valley is known for its trails, lakes and camping spots. Set off on a mountain biking adventure, there's a trail for every riding level from the famous Munda Biddi Trail to the kid-friendly Dead Cats Trail.

Feel like extending the getaway? Set up camp in the tranquil and shady Potters Gorge or Honeymoon Pool just off the beaten track. It's perfect for a few days of picnicking by the water, exploring the bush trails and relaxing into nature. Not the camping type? Sleep in luxurious comfort under the stars in the glamping tents by Potters Gorge or Honeymoon Pool — book through the Kiosk at the Dam.

HARVEY REGION

10 Old Coast Road Brewery

Discover 18 of Western Australia's natural icons at Old Coast Road Brewery. Play a round of mini golf that will see you take a tour of Wave Rock, Rottnest Island, Margaret River, and even Esperance! Sit back and watch the kids compete from the shaded beer garden, this scenic 60-acre property is a wonderful place for families to while the day away.



Old Coast Brewery

FERGUSON VALLEY

11 Gnomesville

Gnomesville is one of those mysterious places full of magic that delights you with its strange whimsy. With over 5,000 different gnomes making this spot home, watch as kids and grown-ups alike dash around discovering a different quirky scene wherever they look. Bring along your very own and have the kids place them in a special spot to come back to each year.



Farmstays

12 Farmstays

If you're looking for a quiet family getaway, there's no better spot than the family-friendly Ferguson Farmstay. Take in the spectacular views from your chalet and meet the resident animals. Children can also feed the chickens and are encouraged to collect an egg for breakfast! The farmstay also features a large playground, tennis court, basketball court, two large trampolines and plenty of lawn area to run around on. **IG**

Destination

BREATHE THE FRESHEST SEASIDE AIR AS YOU SOAK UP THE STUNNING VIEWS, IMMERSIVE ARTS AND CULTURE SCENE, AND VIBRANT DINING IN BUNBURY.



BUNBURY, KNOWN FOR its laid-back attitude and stunning waterways, boasts an array of captivating attractions and activities to see and do.

This foodie's paradise provides an assortment of culinary offerings — be sure to check out the Victoria Street café strip or Marlston Hill Waterfront and East Bunbury — all fab food precincts to treat the tastebuds.

In Bunbury, creativity abounds. Here you'll find the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (BRAG), the premier gallery in the south west housing the biggest public art collection in regional Australia. Check out the city's bustling events calendar too for a dose of culture.

If it's a family getaway you're after, you're in luck. Wander along the waterfront to enjoy the Koombana Bay foreshore and explore the new youth precinct named Koolambidi Woola — meaning 'celebrating young people' in Noongar language. Mangrove Cove playground, beside Leschenault Inlet, is another recently completed attraction to take the kids to (read more on page 10).



*Mural trail with Ngalang Wongi
Aboriginal Cultural Tours*

BUNBURY



Bunbury Lighthouse Lookout



BUNBURY IS SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL WATERWAYS AND NATURAL ASSETS



Koombana Beach



Mojo's



Explore Bunbury...

EAT & DRINK

Stock up on fresh produce

The Bunbury Farmers Markets is a legendary local produce haven and if you haven't already heard about it, it's an essential to add to the list. Rated the number one thing to do in Bunbury on TripAdvisor, it's brimming with fruit and veg, gourmet salads and picnic supplies, delicious French and local cheeses, freshly pressed juices and more. Alternatively, celebrate all things fresh and artisanal at **The Bunbury Markets** (held on the first and third Saturday of the month) and **Produce in the Park** in Queens Gardens (held on the second and fourth Saturday).

Be sure to brunch

There are countless spots to indulge in a decadent brunch in Bunbury, and **Victoria Street Café** is definitely one of them. Open Monday to Friday, 7am to 3pm, select from

slow roasted roma tomato bruschetta, breaky wraps, quiches and more.

Indulge in a turmeric latte, cold-pressed juice or Mano-a-Mano coffee from the boutique, ethical coffee house **Townhouse Bunbury**, with its ever-changing menu based around quality, local produce. If you prefer to dine outside be sure to grab brunch at long-time local favourite **Bennessé Bunbury** — check out the mural in the alleyway while you are there.

For waterside views, book yourself a spot at **Back Beach Café**, **Vat 2**, **Hungry Hollow** or **Corners by the Bay**. Enjoy all the classics at **Dome Café** overlooking stunning vistas of Koombana Bay, with clear views from indoors as well as alfresco seating.

Taste an array of international flavours

You can find a wealth of cuisines in this multicultural food bowl, from contemporary Australian dishes using local produce to authentic international fare. Found on Victoria Street, a custom-made charcoal

grill and wood-fired oven take centre stage in the kitchen of the must-try **Market Eating House**. According to its chefs, the menu reflects seasonal produce and puts growers at the forefront of each dish. Trust the chefs and choose the Feed Me Menu.

Down the road, **Funkee Monkee Eatery & Bar** is another to add to the list if you're looking for flavoursome modern Indian infused dishes. Or try **Jo's Curry House** for authentic Indian.

At **Nicolas Ristorante** you'll find authentic Italian, as classic as they come. While more deliciously fresh pastas, breads and desserts of Southern Europe can be found at **The Tramp Trattoria**.

For a casual burger, **Paddy's Patties** are different and delicious! This gourmet burger bar overlooking Leschenault Inlet uses fresh, local produce and takes Japanese influence from the heritage of chef and owner Norio Idei.

And for a sweet treat, you can't go past **Taffys** American-style salt water taffy.

Destination



Hop about the small bars

With a suite of impressive small and boutique bars throughout Bunbury, we recommend frequenting a few to make the most of what's on offer. Start your night with a glass of local wine at **Mojo's** streetside sea container. This vibrant and award-winning bistro has one of the biggest wine lists in the region, including local Geographe wines, and museum wines from their cellar.

Then there's the award-winning **Yours or Mine**, which serves up incredible South American food, an eclectic wine list, craft beer and some of the best cocktails around. The eatery regularly hosts live music, often made better with drink specials for the evening.

Soak up views of the city and nearby inlet at rooftop bar **Brooklyn 32**, while sipping a well-made cocktail, craft beer or wine. Wander downstairs and you'll find an elegant lounge bar, drawing on the culture and vibes of Brooklyn, New York. It serves up some seriously tasty bar bites too.

End your night at the iconic **Lost Bills** bar — a tiny space with big atmosphere. With an impressive craft beer list, eclectic spirits, and some damn fine wine, it's no wonder it was a finalist in WA's Best Small Bar Awards. Make sure you check out the local art that adorns the walls too.

Take a break at a brewery

You can also find fantastic beverages in the form of fresh brews at the Bunbury's **Mash Brewery**, located on the waterfront, and



Froth Craft Brewery. Both venues are open for lunch and dinner daily. Froth, a dog friendly venue, hosts regular live music and other vibrant events too. Check frothcraft.com/bunbury/events

Make your own gin

Become a distiller for the night and make your own boutique gin at **Cuprum Distillery**. These new gin-making masterclasses are highly educational and interactive. Learn all about the distillation process from the experts before mixing and matching botanicals to craft your own signature spirit. Enjoy Cuprum spirits as well as grazing board nibbles while you 'work'. Leave with your very own 500ml bottle of gin. Book at cuprumdistillery.com.au



GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

Meet aquatic and furry friends

The **Dolphin Discovery Centre** is your chance to enter the world of some of the ocean's most peaceful and playful creatures. Learn all about underwater life with the impressive aquarium, touch pools and interactive digital dolphinarium. Or get up close and personal with the dolphins on a Dolphin Eco Cruise within the bay. If you don't mind getting your feet wet, dolphins visit the Koombana Bay most mornings during the summer so it's the most accessible opportunity to observe them in the wild.

Did you know that the **Bunbury Wildlife Park** is home to over 260 furry,

scaly and feathery animals? Observe iconic Australian animals including dingoes, kangaroos, wallabies, and even a hairy nosed wombat.

The wide range of approachable animals means the visitor experience is getting more interactive every year thanks to new additions like our friendly ferrets.

Keeper Talks are a real highlight and you can end the day by visiting the Big Swamp Parkland next door — home to a variety of impressive flora and fauna.

Observe the city of three waters

Known as the 'City of Three Waters', the Indian Ocean, Koombana Bay and the lovely Leschenault Inlet surround Bunbury

on its three sides. Connected to Victoria Street by a timber stairway, head up the steep path to the **Marlston Hill Lookout** for a 360-degree view. It sits on the site of Bunbury's first lighthouse. For a more rigorous climb, **Boulters Heights** between Wittenoom Street and Haig Crescent also offers fabulous city views. Or head over to **Mangrove Cove** and climb the illuminated lookout (affectionately known as the egg) for a spectacular view of the city, Koombana Bay and the Leschenault Inlet.

EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

Discover art all around you

Bunbury is buzzing with arts and culture, so the best place to start to plan your art appreciation journey is at a **Bunbury Visitor Centre** — now located at the Dolphin Discovery Centre and the Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre. Pick up a map before taking a stroll through town to discover the impressive range of urban art murals, organised by independent arts group Six Two Three Zero.

If you fancy something unexpected don't forget to check out Six Two Three Zero's 'Outside the Box' initiative, which has transformed 20 electrical boxes throughout Bunbury into works of art in collaboration with local school students. Discover more at sixtwothreezero.com

And of course, your arts experience wouldn't be complete without a trip to **BRAG**. This is the premier public art gallery in the South West. Look out for what's on show at brag.org.au

A trip to Bunbury would not be complete without visiting **Wardandi Boodja** at Koombana Bay, Bunbury's most iconic piece of public art. The 5.5m steel bust reflects the spirit of a proud Noongar man.

Watch a compelling performance

At **Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre (BREC)** there is so much to experience — live entertainment, film festivals, trade shows, glamorous gala events and more. Visit bunburyentertainment.com to discover what's coming up.

Creative talent abounds at the **Stirling Street Arts Centre**. Located among the trees, next to Queen's Gardens, it's home to cultural events, hosts workshops and is all about supporting creative groups. An art market is hosted on the last Sunday of each month from February to October, with a special Christmas market popping up in December. Discover more at stirlingstreetarts.com.au

Experience heritage in all its glory

Pick up a map from the Bunbury Visitor Centre and embark on the **Heritage Walk Trail** to appreciate the years gone by. Make sure to stop at the **Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre**, housed in the heritage-listed Paisley Centre on Arthur Street in the city centre, and peruse displays showcasing the colourful characters of this vibrant city.

PLAN TO STAY

Fit more in

Bunbury has so much to see and do that it's impossible to pack it all into a day trip. Book to stay in one of the family-friendly caravan parks, including the recently refurbished **Discovery Parks** along the Leschenault Inlet and across from the Koombana Foreshore. Take the kids to the brand new on-site splash park and adjacent playground.

Plan a luxury waterside getaway at **Bunbury Hotel Koombana Bay** or **Bunbury Seaview Apartments**. Soak in the sights of Geographe Bay from your private balcony at Bunbury Seaview Apartments and lounge by the poolside, at your leisure. If you enjoy a day on the green, the **Mercure Sanctuary Golf Resort** is for you. Whatever your ideal trip entails, there's something to suit all budgets. **IG**



Bunbury Biennale

2 April – 5 June 2023

Bunbury 3 Waters Running Festival

16 April 2023

The Cat Empire

21 April 2023

The Bunbury Show

22 April 2023

Groovin the Moo

6 May 2023

Noongar Country

17 June – 24 September

CinefestOZ Festival

29 August – 3 September 2023

Christmas in the City

10 December 2023

Skyfest

26 January 2024

Bunbury Fringe Festival

17–19 January 2024

Bunbury Beer Festival

February 2024

South West Multicultural Festival

25 February 2024

Dates are subject to change



BUNBURY VISITOR CENTRE

Freecall 1800BUNBURY

Dolphin Discovery Centre

Koombana Bay

Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre

1 Arthur Street, Bunbury, 6230

T +61 8 9792 7205

W visitbunburygeographe.com.au/destinations/bunbury

Bunbury Regional Art Gallery



ADMIRE ORCHARDS ABUNDANT IN FRESH FRUIT AND SERENE, TREE-FILLED FIELDS AS YOU SETTLE INTO THE CHARMING DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP REGION, BRIMMING WITH CHARACTER.

DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP REGION



TAKING ITS NAME from a southern suburb in Dublin, thanks to the Irish settlers who arrived in 1842, Donnybrook has a rich history steeped in timber, gold, railways, Donnybrook stone, and thriving produce. Due to its fertile soils and perfect growing conditions, it's renowned as the apple capital of Western Australia. Today, you can eat your way through the region with quaint roadside stalls selling seasonal local produce. Make sure you stop along the way at the impressive wineries dispersed throughout the region.

South-east you'll find the lovely little town that is Balingup. With its streets lined with friendly scarecrows and stunning scenery no matter what time of the year, this special place is an inspiration to many artisans and romantics alike.



Oakway Estate

Explore Donnybrook-Balingup Region

EAT & DRINK

Find a coffee shop with soul

Located inside the **Goods Shed** at Station Square along Collins St, **Park Donnybrook** has breathed new life into the old bones of this heritage building. Built in 1893, this 'Standard 1st Class Country Shed' is one of only two surviving examples of its type. Grab a bite to eat and peruse interpretive panels showcasing Donnybrook history while there. Open from 8am to 3pm, Wednesday to Sunday, you can expect to find Southern Roasting Co coffee, fresh salads, baked goods and savoury tarts and toasties. Check Facebook for info on the occasional Friday night pop-up event, adding an extra boost of vibrancy.

Café Tiffanys and **The Orchard Café** are other local Donnybrook breakfast and lunch favourites, with fresh meals and ample charm. **The Donnybrook Bakery** is a classic, baking its delicious bread and cakes daily and open 24 hours a day so you know it's always fresh, no matter what the hour.

Call in to country pubs

The Donnybrook Hotel has always been a favourite spot for a good old-fashioned, country pub meal and following its recent renovations the food and accommodation

has only gotten better. The menu is jam packed with juicy burgers, pasta, 'schnittys', steaks 'ocean treasures' and more, plus a range for 'the little tackers'.

The Kirup Tavern is another classic with all the country pub favourites. Built in 1905, it still has many original features including the heritage façade.

Experience local wine

Donnybrook is perhaps one of the state's best kept secrets when it comes to its fine and alternative wines. Boasting some of the most noteworthy up-and-coming wineries in the Geopraphe Wine Region, you can expect to find James Halliday four and above rated wineries like **Barreacas**, **Coughlan Estate**,

Mandalay Road (by appointment only), **Oakway Estate**, **Smallwater Estate** and **Thompson Brook Wines** (which offers overnight parking for self-contained RVs).

Experience some incredible and interesting varietals like Barbera, Zinfandel, Durif, Malbec, Vermentino, Nero d'Avola and more at these unpretentious and intimate wineries. You'll often find the same people who grow the grapes and make the wine serving you at the cellar door with a smile. Stay for lunch at Oakway Estate for freshly made woodfired pizzas, or Coughlan Estate for flaky and fresh homemade pies or wholesome soups (check online for opening hours). Book in advance for a platter at Smallwater Estate. As one of the



LOCAL TIPPLES Indulge in some of Donnybrook's fine food and wine at Barreacas Wines (top), Coughlan Estate (left) and Donnybrook Hotel (above).

Destination

region's most heavily awarded wineries it's well worth a visit, especially for its Shiraz.

Make your way to Balingup's **Packing Shed** and visit **Balingup Fruit Winery** for an iconic tasting experience of its delicious ports and liqueurs crafted from locally grown fruit.

Brunch in Balingup

Balingup is teeming with charming little spots to stop for breakfast, brunch, or lunch.

Grab a big country sandwich served with a smile on the terrace at the cosy **Mr Foster's Café** or head across the road to **The Mushroom at No. 61** where the bakehouse pies served with chips and gravy are to die for. **Blackwood Emporium 1864**, in the lovingly restored old Blackwood Stables in Mullalyup, is steeped in history. The building is as stunning as the fare. It's the place to visit for amazing chocolates, sweet treats, specialty teas, fabulous high teas and lunches.

GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

Adventure the urban parks

Donnybrook's **Apple Fun Park** has always been a must-experience family attraction but it's now even bigger, better, and brighter following a major revitalisation. The Apple Crate Tower is the highest of its kind in the South West, being a whopping 8m high. It features treetop suspension rope tunnels, a speed spiral tube, and a curly apple peel tube slide, providing plenty of thrills for the kids to enjoy. With 26 new shade sails, 16 swings, trampolines, a giant spinning apple orb, giant hamster wheel and much more, you'll most likely need



Apple Fun Park, Donnybrook



Linga Longa

more than just a day to fully experience this exquisite world-class playground and community attraction. Go for gold on the brand-new flying foxes and low climbing rock walls or wander across the road to take to the pump track.

Egan Park around the corner also includes a pump track, skills loop, learn to ride track and play nodes for the kids (and adults) to go wild with testing out their bike and skating skills.

Picnic at Golden Valley Tree Park

Visit the stunning **Golden Valley Tree Park** in Balingup for a walk or a picnic surrounded by sixty hectares of landscaped park, picturesque hills, and impressive trees.

Dr Chrissy Sharp and her partner Andrew Thamo were the driving force behind the development of this breathtaking park. Prior to passing away mid-2021, Dr Sharp said the founding vision for the park was to provide a space for people to discover and learn about new species of trees they never knew existed.

The heritage listed site has a collection of trees that were planted over one hundred years ago and is now the largest arboretum in WA. Beautiful any time of the year but visit in autumn for the most magical display of golden colours.

Pick fruit fresh from the orchard

Donnybrook is a mecca for apple lovers, home to a range of varieties, which you can pick straight from the trees of the orchard. Visit **The Fruit Barn** in town to pick up a map during apple season. Look out for



Golden Valley Tree Park, Balingup

fruit picking days on their Facebook page. During summer, you can also stop by one of the many farmgate stalls found along South Western Highway to stock up on sumptuous locally grown stone fruits.

Hike a world-class trail

The Bibbulmun Track is an internationally renowned long-distance hiking trail stretching 1,000km from the Perth Hills to the south coast. Balingup is popular town to stop along the way for a scenic rest, or a good place to finish a shorter stint from Collie or Donnelly River Village.

Tackle extreme bike tracks

The **Linga Longa Bike Park** in Balingup is a premier mountain bike paradise with an expanding network of Gravity trails that offer approximately 200m of pure vertical descent. Look online at lingalongabikepark.com to find out about its public Gravity days or book in for a private Gravity day during the week to suit your schedule. Camping and shuttle services are available at Linga Longa Mountain bike enthusiasts are sure to have the world-class **Munda Biddi Trail** on their agenda too. You can tackle a section of the trail that passes through Donnybrook and heads south west towards Kirup and Ironstone Gully Falls before turning south.

EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

The Packing Shed

The Packing Shed, located in the centre of Balingup and open seven days, 9am to 4pm, showcase enthralling exhibitions.

The **Heritage Exhibition** tells the story of Balingup and surrounds between 1855 and 1955. Displays include the history of four significant homesteads, a war exhibition (including a WWI uniform) and photographs and stories of individuals who made Balingup into a wonderful community.

Aboriginal elder Sandra Hill's **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Exhibition** showcases the ongoing presence of the Bibbulmun (Noongar) people of the South West of WA, during pre and post-colonial periods. Essays, historical photographs, art imagery, informative panels, and traditional artefacts offer insights into the Culture and collective experiences of the Bibbulmun people.

Uncover treasures by local artisans

Balingup is such a quirky and creative town. You can find a world of wonderful crafted items and antiques at WA's largest independant craft outlet, **The Old Cheese**



DONNYBROOK VISITOR CENTRE

A Old Railway Station,
South Western Hwy,
Donnybrook, WA 6239
T +61 8 9731 1720
E donnybrookwa@westnet.com.au

BALINGUP VISITOR CENTRE

A South Western Hwy,
Balingup, WA 6253
T +61 8 9764 1818
E balinguptourism@westnet.com.au

Factory and ample handcrafted gems at **Village Pedlars** along the main street.

Visit **Cat and Canvas** for speciality yarns sourced from around the world.

While in Donnybrook visit **Donnybrook Artisans** in Central Arcade for some locally created treasures. It is open seven days a week and staffed by the artists themselves.

Just out of town, you'll find several pottery studios well worth exploring, including **the Salted Earth Studio**, open 10.30 to 4.30 every Thursday; and **Cake Lady Ceramics** and **Clay Dragons**, available by appointment.

For a great read, there's **DonnyBooks**, stocking a superb collection of new and second-hand books.

Tinderbox in Balingup is the spot to treat your skin, full of lovely hand-made lotions and potions that smell divine.

PLAN TO STAY

Pick your retreat

From heritage hotels and self-contained cabins, to interactive country life farm stays; there's an option for every type of accommodation experience desired across the Donnybrook-Balingup region.

Balingup Heights Hilltop Forest Cottages is a stand-out option, blessed with spectacular views of the rolling hills below, misty in the crisp early mornings. Nestled among native jarrah and marri trees you'll find six cosy bush cottages to settle in for the duration of your retreat.

The intimate, adults-only **Little Hop House** is also the ideal sanctuary to relax and recharge, with friendly farm animals roaming outside your window (read more on page 34). **IG**

Donnybrook -Balingup EVENTS

Donnybrook Station Markets

3rd Saturday of each month

Blackwood Valley Arts Trail

1-16 April 2023

Balingup Small Farm Field Day

5 April 2023

Donnybrook Festival

8 April 2023

Festival of Country Gardens - Autumn Festival

6-7 May 2023

Balingup Medieval Carnivale

26-27 August 2023

Annual Long Table Lunch in Orchard 160s Packing Shed

October 2023

True Grit

October 2023

Festival of Country Gardens - Spring Festival

October - November 2023

Tour of Margaret River - Road Cycling event (Balingup)

3-5 November 2023

Summer Solstice Markets (Kirup Hall)

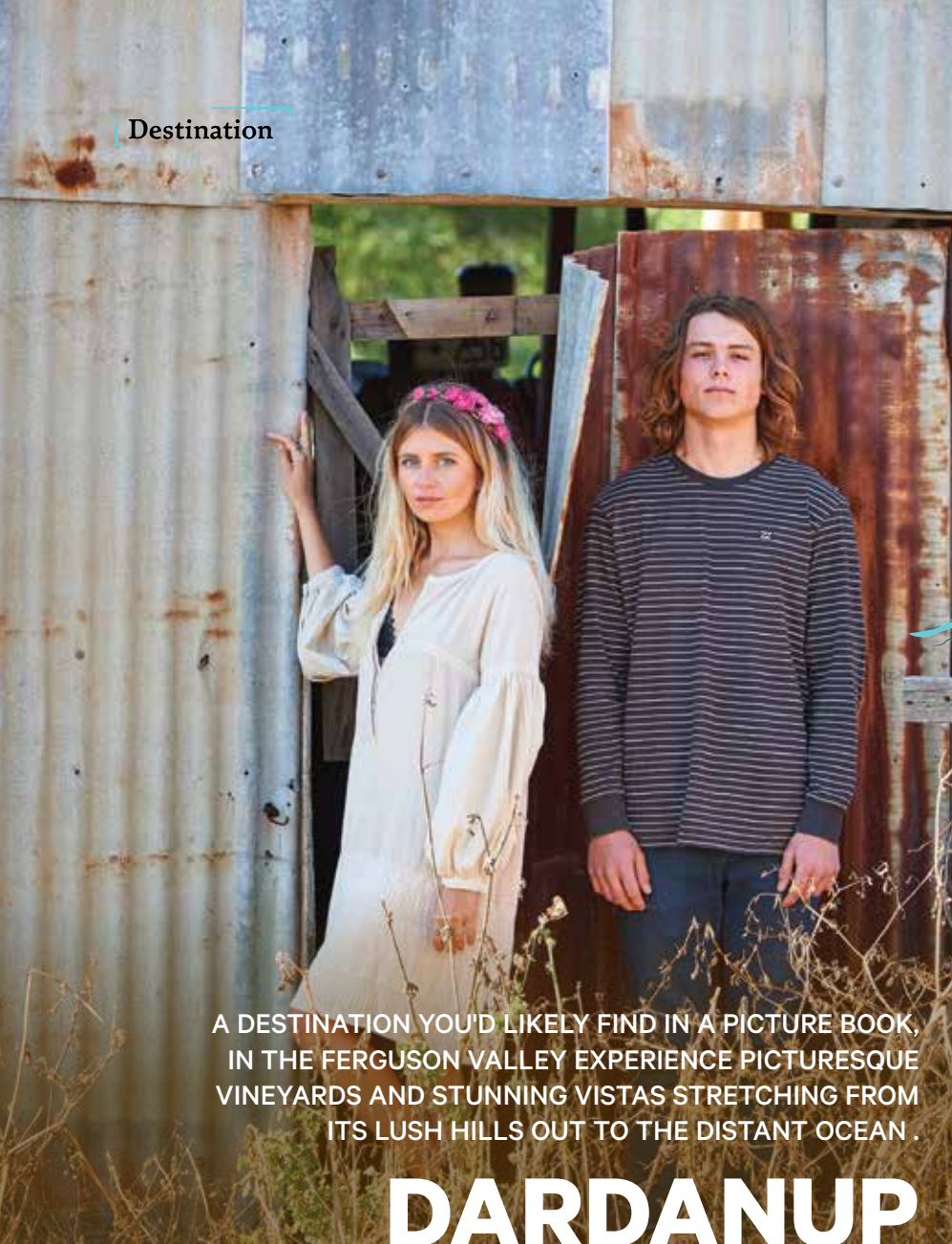
December 2023

Christmas Twilight Markets (Donnybrook)

1 December 2023

Dates are subject to change

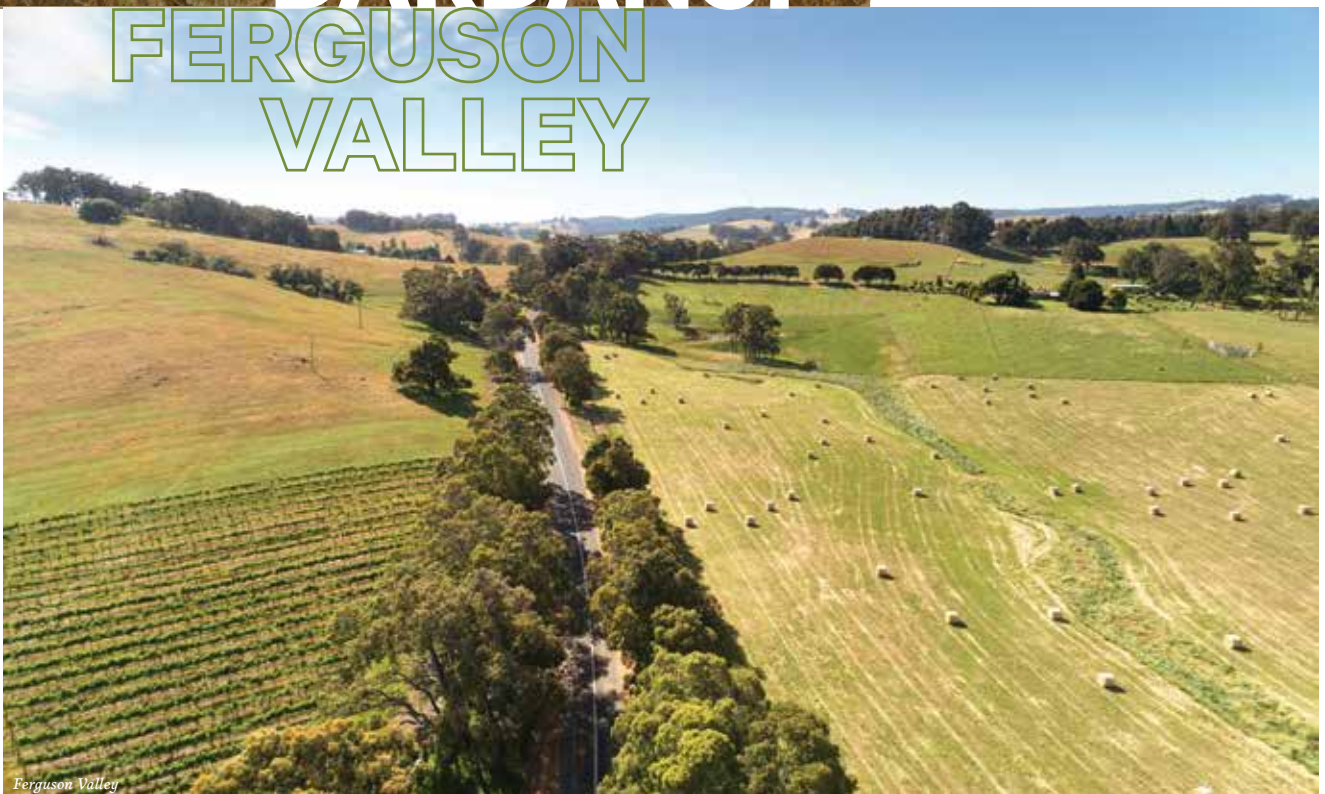
Destination



A DESTINATION YOU'D LIKELY FIND IN A PICTURE BOOK, IN THE FERGUSON VALLEY EXPERIENCE PICTURESQUE VINEYARDS AND STUNNING VISTAS STRETCHING FROM ITS LUSH HILLS OUT TO THE DISTANT OCEAN .

DARDANUP

FERGUSON VALLEY



Fergusson Valley



WITH FANTASTIC RESTAURANTS

iconic wineries, and enchanting places to stay, the Fergusson Valley is an idyllic location to settle in for a while, to relax and reconnect. Once a cluster of agricultural villages, the Fergusson Valley is now better known as a fabulous foodie destination and for its bounty of boutique wineries producing some of the Australia's best alternative wine varietals, as well as a handful of craft breweries. This authentic, hidden gem is a tranquil place to connect with nature and watch the world go by, feeling far away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Explore the Ferguson Valley...

EAT & DRINK

Indulge in flaky pies and fresh bread

Housed in a red tin shed adjoining a modest 1960's brown brick home, the **Dardanup Bakery** is entirely unassuming. But don't let this tiny pie, cake, and pastry shop fool you; it's legendary among Bunbury Geographe residents. If people aren't driving out to the countryside for their rustic fruit danishes and sticky cinnamon scrolls, they're definitely heading out for the surprise daily pie — think chicken in a rich, Thai green curry sauce, sticky soy pork, or slow-braised lamb shank encased in an impossibly flaky pastry.

Immerse yourself in the world of wine

The Ferguson Valley has established itself as a producer of some of the Geographe Wine Region's finest wines and is particularly renowned for its cultivation of some fantastic alternative varieties and small-batch wines. **Talisman, St Aidan Wines, Green Door Wines, Willow Bridge Estate, Ferguson Falls Winery,** and **Hackersley Estate** are some of the highlights that we strongly recommend stopping at when visiting the Ferguson Valley.

Talisman is a small, family-run winery known for boutique wines of exceptionally high quality. With its vineyard situated high in the hills of the Valley on one of the most elevated slopes, its superb fruit has rewarded it with consistent gold-medal performance and several trophies at the Geographe Wine Show.

Green Door Wines boasts incredible views from its cellar door so make time for a sit-down tasting experience at this gem of a spot. The grand green door imported from Morocco is a focal point and sets the tone for the interior. Select from their Spanish tapas style menu and try their sensory wine experience, guessing your wine varieties from elegant black tinted glasses.

Willow Bridge Estate and Hackersley Estate have been highly commended with James Halliday acknowledging them both as 5 star wineries. Dine in at Hackersley and indulge in its set-menu long lunch, which updates every eight weeks to reflect



Green Door Wines

seasonal produce. Enjoy stunning views overlooking the lake with cows grazing in the background. Booking is essential.

St Aidan Wines serves up an impressive menu too. Book in for Moreish Monday for a series of three to five surprise plates that will blow your mind. Alternatively, select from their decadent à la carte menu.

Find where the local brews flow

Quality craft beer also flows in the Ferguson Valley, with the **Bush Shack Brewery** and the **Wild Bull Brewery** both epic local breweries for the whole family to spend the afternoon at. We recommend Wild Bull's Black Angus porter to warm you up in winter or the refreshing Apple Cider on a hot summer day while the kids keep entertained with the giant Connect Four, playground and lawn. Bush Shack is renowned for its family-friendly atmosphere and small batch brews. Tuck into its large and tasty menu with some crunchy Korean chicken wings or mushroom and Cabernet arancini balls to start, followed by a Black Angus and cheddar burger and jackfruit and bean tacos for mains.

Treat yourself to lakeside dining

Dine with stunning views overlooking the banks of Evedon Lake and the surrounding Ferguson Valley when enjoying a meal at **Evedon Lakeside Retreat**. You can nestle in by the fire or take a seat out on the lakeside veranda, making this a fantastic

spot seven days a week for coffee, house-made cakes, scones, tea and grazing platters, whether there be rain, hail, or shine. A breakfast menu is available Friday to Sunday with wood-fired pizzas on Friday night and a dinner menu on Saturdays.

Experience the best of the region

Take a short drive to Eaton to dine at **Small's Bar** — showcasing some of the best produce from the South West region. Select from a varied menu of classic and contemporary share plates, with the best of the South West's beers, wine and spirits.

Relax with a tour

Let someone else do the driving so you can experience the best of the region's brilliant food, wine, beer and spirits as you please. **Hinterland Escapes** and **Good Vibes** both offer immersive foodie journeys through the Ferguson Valley, with **Forest Explorers, Adventure Connections,** and **TraaVerse** also offering transfer, cycling and/or nature-based tour experiences.

GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

Wander Crooked Brook trails

Known as a 'forest for all people', The Forest Path at **Crooked Brook** is a hidden jewel for those with limited mobility, providing easy access to an area of natural bushland in the Ferguson Valley. The path features interpretive signage about the flora and

Destination

fauna and plenty of bench seats for sitting back and soaking up the serenity. Crooked Brook Forest is stunning patch of old-growth jarrah forest that features four walking trails including a sealed 600m loop as well as a 1.5km, 3km and 10km trail.

Explore the walk trails, enjoy a picnic by the billabong, wonder at the wildflowers and try to spot some of the abundant but shy local wildlife when exploring the forest. If you're lucky, you may see the western brush wallaby, Gould's monitor, grey fantail, and the rare red-tailed black cockatoo.

Connect with your inner tree hugger

The majestic **King Jarrah** is found along King Tree Road in the Ferguson Valley. Visit to view and learn about one of the park's largest jarrah trees. With a timber boardwalk and raised viewing platform, this site offers you a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with King Jarrah himself. Estimated to be between 300 and 500 years old, the King Jarrah Tree stands approximately 36 metres tall.

Go for a wander while you're there as the surrounding area is truly beautiful. The mature stands of Yarri, Jarrah, and Marri support an abundance of small birds and mammals. In the early morning, you need only sit for a short while to see many of the local species of bird such as the splendid fairy-wren, scarlet robin, grey fantail, inland thornbill, and golden whistler.



Forest Path at Crooked Brook



Gnomesville

TAKE YOUR PICK From bike rides in the fresh country air to charming and sophisticated wineries, to the quirky Gnomesville, there's an activity to suit any mood in Ferguson Valley.

EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

Wonder at the magic of gnomesville

The organically created **Gnomesville** is a quirky little wonderland brimming with around 10,000 gnomes placed there by members of the community and visitors alike. There are many versions of how Gnomesville started (almost as many as there are gnomes). Ask a local for their version — or if you want to know from the gnomes perspective you can purchase the story book 'Gnomesville – the real story' from the Visitor Centre in Dardanup. Also look out for a convenient pop-up Visitor Centre stationed at Gnomesville to come.

Admire art through the Valley

Explore what is planned to become a 15-stop public art trail, winding throughout Ferguson Valley. The first completed artwork, by South West artist Andrew Frazer, is an installation located at the Pile Road pull-in bay and follows the trail theme of "Grow". Keep an eye out for new artworks.

Embrace history and heritage

The **Dardanup Heritage Park** is a world-class collection of agricultural and industrial machinery from Dardanup's pioneering past — the legacy of local businessman, the late Gary Brookes. Discover the steam/diesel sawmill, mill settlement, engines, tractors, dozers, military memorabilia and much more at this heritage hub. Open Wednesday and Sunday 9:30am to 4pm.



Green Door Wines



Dardanup-Ferguson Valley EVENTS

Dardanup Art Spectacular & Trail

29-30 April 2023

Lost & Found

7-10 September 2023

Dardanup Bull & Barrel Festival (20th anniversary)

7 October 2023

Dates are subject to change

Continue your heritage journey by wandering through the recently completed **Dardanup Heritage Trail**, covering 12 historic locations across the townsite that tell rich stories of its formative years. Highlights include The Old State School, Dardanup Post Office and Thomas Little Memorial Hall. Stop for lunch along the way at the historic **Dardanup Tavern** (aka The Dardy). Built in 1905, it has bags of character. Find a map online at dardanupheritagecollective.org.au

PLAN TO STAY

Find your perfect retreat

In Ferguson Valley you'll find some of the most idyllic places to stay, making it a perfect base to explore BunGeo.

Wellington Forest Cottages, Peppermint Lane Lodge and Henty Lodge are all fairy-tale locations nestled within the forest and scenic bushland, offering the ideal place to relax, reconnect, and rejuvenate.

Another idyllic forest-based sanctuary, **Skating Goose Farm** is a newer addition to the mix, offering private and modern 'escape pods' for the ultimate luxury couples' retreat.

Boasting iconic views of the rolling Ferguson Valley hills, **Evedon Lakeside Retreat** surrounds a scenic lake, a stunning focal point for the property. One of the quaint lakeside cabins or two-storey



Evedon Lakeside Retreat

apartments is the perfect spot to watch the sun go down.

For a dose of farm life and an up-close experience with some friendly animals, **Ferguson Farmstay** is an obvious choice. Offering incredible views of the Valley, it's an ideal base for a family getaway. Having recently opened, early 2023, **Hope Springs Farm** offers a picturesque, country lodge-style experience. Enjoy a glass of wine or cup of tea surrounded by

FERGUSON VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE (DARDANUP)

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manicured gardens when the weather is fine, or by a roaring fire in winter. Play a game of squash on its world-class court before taking a dip in the pool or a soak in the spa. **IG**



WANDER LONG STRETCHES OF PRISTINE COAST, EXPLORE CHARMING COUNTRY TOWNS AND ADMIRE THE TOWERING TREES OF THE WORLD'S LAST REMAINING TUART FOREST, WHEN IN THE CAPEL REGION.

CAPEL REGION



RENOWNED FOR ITS ancient jarrah and tuart forests and 29km stretch of glittering beaches dotted with dramatic dunes, the Capel Region is a nature lover's paradise.

Roughly halfway between the centres of Bunbury and Busselton and nestled on the Capel River, you'll find Capel, an authentically rural but fast-growing township. Here the walls of the main street are lined with murals that reflect the town's culture and stories.

Peppermint Grove Beach, or Peppy Beach as the locals call it, is a particularly alluring and must-see location, being home to white sandy beaches and the fabulous Peppermint Grove Holiday Park; it's your ultimate hammock and chill destination.

Nearby, Boyanup is a quintessential dairy and cattle town boasting fantastic local produce.

A little further north, Dalyellup is a new, coastal suburb adjoining Bunbury with awesome beaches, 50ha of parks and gardens, 25km of cycleways and walking trails and its own piece of preserved tuart forest. Get ready to explore the mix of magical areas and activities that make Capel so inspiring.



Dalyellup Beach

NATURE KNOWS NO BOUNDS
Capel is the ultimate nature-based escape. Explore the beautiful Ironstone Gully Falls (right) and Ludlow Tuart Forest (below).

Explore Capel...

EAT & DRINK

Freshly baked brunch and lunch delights

The best value in the region must be the **Capel Bakery**. An authentic, small country bakery with plenty of charm. Stock up on homemade pies, sourdough bread, and old favourites like wagon wheels and butterfly cakes. The service is cheerful, the surrounds cosy, and the price is budget friendly. In season, you can also pick up some great farmgate produce.

Capelberry Café is another on our list of breakfast highlights, also serving a smashing lunch menu with salads, curries, burgers and more. Offering fresh meals and sweet treats, baked in store with love!

Indulge in fine food and wine

Capel Vale has been crafting elegant wines of provenance since 1974 and is an absolute must-visit for any wine aficionado. With a prolific history of being awarded Top 5 Star Winery in James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion among other accolades, it really is up there with the best.

Kellivale Estate is another cellar door well worth your time. This incredibly charming, boutique winery specialises in Spanish, French and Italian varietals.

Dine with country charm

It's hard to look past a good old fashioned country pub with old-world charm in Capel. Try **The Bull and Bush Tavern** in Boyanup or the historic **Capel Tavern** for a satisfying lunch or dinner. The Capel Tavern has the added bonus of a beer garden overlooking the Capel River, making it the perfect spot for a lazy Sunday sesh.

Go local at the markets

The Boyanup Farmers Market takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month and is well worth a look in. It showcases the wonderful diversity of fresh locally grown



produce, including a rainbow of fruit and veg, premium pasture-fed goat and lamb, fresh seafood, goat's milk and cheese, sheep cheese, local honey, olives, nuts and more. Freshly roasted coffee, plenty of preserves and local wine in abundance, as well as artisan crafts and skincare.

GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

Walk among the trees in Tuart Forest

A trip to Capel wouldn't be complete without marvelling at the world's last remaining ancient forest of tuart trees, some 33m high and 10m in girth. Take a leisurely drive through **Ludlow Tuart Forest** in Tuart Forest National Park, or embark on a walk, meandering for 1.2km through Usher (South Bunbury) to Dalyellup and gaze up at the towering trees above. Take a picnic and stop to soak in the serenity while fuelling up. This accessible and leisurely trail is suitable for cyclists, skaters or walkers, including parents with prams. Home to the rare Western Australian

ringtail possum, pull on your adventure boots, take a torch and visit the forest for a night-time stroll to spot one of these furry friends in their natural environment.

Relax at Peppermint Grove Beach

Get to **Peppermint Grove Beach** early and spend time at one of the Bunbury Geopraphe region's best beaches. Stretch out on the white sand with a book and settle in for the day, taking an intermittent dip in the tantalizing waters to cool off as the urge arises.

Get active and bring your canoe and meander up to the Capel River mouth. For fishing enthusiasts, bring your gear and settle in at one of the designated fishing areas to catch a feed.

Pack a picnic for the falls

If you are heading south-east from Capel towards Donnybrook along Goodwood Road, come prepared with a picnic and stop for a while to admire the picturesque **Ironstone Gully Falls**. In winter the stream, having followed a course through one of the region's many fine jarrah forests, crosses under the road and gently rambles over a series of rapids. The falls drop over a ledge of nine metres. From August to October, the surrounding countryside abounds with a stunning display of wildflowers. Enjoy the facilities provided at the site including barbecues, picnic benches and toilets.



Capel Vale Winery



Peppermint Grove Beach

Walk by the water

Stroll along the banks of the river when walking the 1.3km **Preston River Ramble** in Boyanup. Starting in Lions Park and ending at the information bay on South Western Highway, the Preston River Ramble showcases significant aspects of the natural and cultural history of the area via engaging interpretive panels. Keep your eye on the look out for native birds and watch the route come to life with wildflowers in spring.

The **Joshua Lake Walk**, also in Boyanup, is a lovely hard-surfaced loop trail of approximately 1.1km. It circumnavigates the lake, and takes walkers through a mix of revegetated woodland and pleasant open grassy spaces. Along the way five interpretive panels explain both the natural and cultural history of this lovely place. Pack a picnic and relax for the day.

Be brave and bold with an adventure activity

Attempt to defy gravity at **Gravity ETC** in Dalyellup! For the young at heart, bounce, tumble, balance, flip and fly your way around 1,800sqm of indoor high-energy trampoline excitement.

Don't like being up in the air? What about learning the art of archery on their 15-target archery range where a trained instructor will teach you this ancient sport used in hunting and battlefield.

Another one to get the adrenaline pumping and perhaps for the older kids as well as adults is **Paintball Pursuit** in Gelorup, where groups and individuals can fight it out while having a ton of fun.

EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

Connect to heritage

Many Boyanup locals are history buffs with a passion for trains, and the driving force behind the **South West Rail & Heritage Centre**. Boyanup Foundation Blacksmiths, Capel Men's Shed, Preston River Old Machinery Group, Rail Heritage WA and South West Model Railway Group are the resident groups that comprise the centre. The centre opens its doors with a special theme every fourth Sunday of the month, offering a glimpse into the past with all resident groups working and demonstrating the techniques and skills that define their activities. Come and observe the heritage trains and blacksmiths at work! Grab yourself

A PEAK AT THE PAST Capel is rich with quaint, artisan attractions like Rustic French Living (right).

a map to the Boyanup Heritage Trail while there and appreciate the major sites and stories of European settlement history of the town, as you explore the streets.

Discover artisanal treasures

The Capel region is speckled with an array of lovely little arts, crafts, antiques and collectibles shops to explore. **Rustic French Living** in Boyanup specialises in beautiful French-inspired furniture, homeware, antiques and ladies clothing. You can also find upcycled French provisional-style furniture, traditional quilts, linen and cushions for all your homely needs.

PLAN TO STAY

Wake up with ocean views

Pitch a tent at the **Peppermint Grove Beach Holiday Park** or find a hammock-loving holiday home and make this your base for a bountiful experience across the Capel region. Visit the Holiday Park shop



for handmade gifts or pop into the bottle shop for a nice drop of local white to toast the sunset. And don't forget to pre-order a woodfired oven pizza for a Friday night feast.

The Peppermint Tree Lodge offers four-star luxury properties with superb beachside views for truly relaxing experience. Its ethos is all about making its guests feel 'spoilt'. **IG**

CAPEL REGION VISITOR INFO

A c/o Bunbury Visitor Centre

T +61 9792 7205

E welcome@bunbury.wa.gov.au

OR Capel Library

W library.capel.wa.gov.au

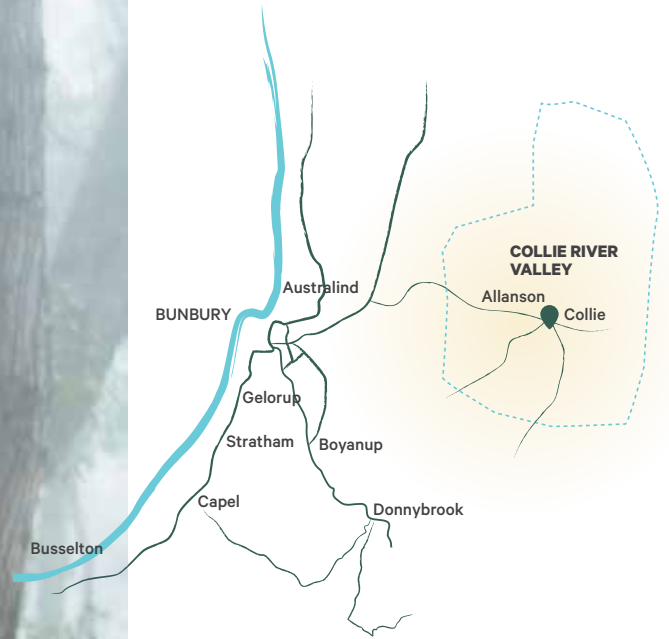


South West Rail and Heritage Centre



SLEEP UNDER THE STARS, TAKE TO THE HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING TRACKS OR COOL OFF IN SCENIC, NATURAL SWIMMING SPOTS WHILE IN COLLIE RIVER VALLEY.

COLLIE RIVER VALLEY



ARE YOU SEEKING adventure in the great outdoors? Whether it's camping, kayaking, hiking, or mountain biking, Collie River Valley at the top of the Darling Scarp is where you'll find it. Tracks and trails are in abundance in this scenic region with the amazing Collie River, the iconic Munda Biddi Trail and world-renowned Bibbulmun Track running through.

Set in the picturesque Collie River Valley, the town of Collie is located approximately 200km south of Perth via the South West Highway or Forrest Highway and only 60km from Bunbury.

Historically, Collie was considered a coal mining town with its heritage steeped in the industry, as well as forestry and railways. Nowadays, Collie is diverse in its experiences, emerging as the state's top trails town and featuring rich arts and culture, with a fabulous little gallery punching well above its weight and an impressive mural trail running through the town.

REGION



Black Diamond Lake

Explore Collie River Valley...

EAT & DRINK

Rise and shine

The Wagon is an absolute must-stop coffee spot for locals and cyclists looking for a caffeine fix. This lovely café is housed in a heritage train wagon and serves up fluffy buttermilk pancakes among other tasty brunch dishes. A licenced venue, **The Kiosk at the Dam** is another local favourite and a great base to begin or finish a day of exploring Wellington National Park. Enjoy a simple but satisfying menu of locally sourced pies, freshly made sandwiches and more.

For a light refreshment or energy boost pre or post-cycle, head to ice tea and smoothie bar **Whisk Nutrition** located in the centre of Collie. Their smoothies and teas are full of protein, low in sugar and will give you an incredible energy boost.



Tuck into top-notch pub fare

If you fancy some good honest pub fare, then you're spoilt for choice — the Feddy (**Federal Hotel**) and **The Victoria Hotel** are among our favourites and both classic, heritage-style hotels. The Feddy serves up all the wholesome country classics like crunchy beer battered fish and chips, green lipped chilli mussels, beef or chicken parmy, and perfectly cooked porterhouse.

Recently refurbished, **The Colliefields** is now open for dinner, as well as breakfast and lunch. Expect tasty appetizers, pastas, 'off the grill' dishes and wholesome pub classics to pair with a frosty pint.

Sip and savour local tipples

If you're feeling thirsty, head over to **Harris River Estate** and enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the balcony overlooking their expansive vineyard and jarrah forest, while sipping on their estate-made wine with a tapas style platter. Try a refreshing house-made gin and tonic. Their collection of boutique gins, such as the Lemon Myrtle and Wildflower gins, are made using locally sourced, native botanicals. The Espresso Gin is sure to put a spring in your step.

GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

Take your bike out on hero dirt

Collie is fast becoming WA's major mountain biking destination, with its impressive network of trails that continues to expand and develop. With more than 20 trails for beginners and pros across Collie's **Wambenger Trails** network, there's plenty of opportunities to get your cogs turning including the freshly added Kylie Track — 'kylie' meaning boomerang in Noongar language, indicative of the crescent shape of the trail. This 10km fun-flowing trail features a 300m technical alternate line for more experienced riders to test their abilities. Download the Wambenger Trails App to stay in the loop with all things Collie-trails.

The **Arklow Trails** have gotten bigger and better, with over 35km of trails to ride including a 9.2km green (easy) trail built to accommodate hand cycles.





The **Wagyl Biddi** trail, named after the mythical rainbow serpent, is a fun and easy flow trail on the edge of the town centre.

For the ultimate challenge, attempt the world-class **Munda Biddi Trail**, which diverts through Collie. Don't have gear? Hire a bike from the **Kiosk at the Dam** (open Wednesday to Monday) in the Wellington National Park or pick up a bike at Collie's **Crank'n Cycles** where the team knows all there is to know about MTB. If you're unsure of where to go or how to begin, book a guided tour with **Adventure Connections** for all the insights.

Enjoy a hike in the great outdoors

If you'd rather explore the stunning old-growth jarrah forests with your feet planted on the ground, embark on the famous **Bibbulmun Track**, which traverses the region. Commit to an overnight hike from

Collie to Dwellingup or a leisurely day walk among the wildflowers. There are so many to choose from, with the wonderful Wellington National Park right on Collie's doorstep.

A new section of the 87km Wiilman Bilya Trail opened late 2022, with the entire circuit taking hikers through Wellington National Park and passing through Potters Gorge, enabling a multi-day hike around Wellington Dam.

For further insights on where to look for wildflowers, conservation, and the native flora and fauna, book a tour with local experts, **Forest Explorers**.

Take a dip in a favourite swimming spot

Take a break from the beach and immerse yourself in one of Collie River Valley's many spectacular inland water spots. Start at the picturesque and culturally significant **Minningup Pool**, where the Collie River is at its widest, perfect for swimming, canoeing or picnicking. Follow the Collie River in Wellington National Park to uncover an array of natural swimming pools and, if the water level is high, it's a perfect place to kayak. Make sure to experience the intense blue waters of the stunning **Stockton Lake**, and get on the water with ease when hiring a kayak or paddle board from **TraaVerse**.

The beautiful, serene **Honeymoon Pool** in Wellington National Park is a photo hot spot for good reason. It's a wide natural pool surrounded by graceful

peppermints and jarrah and marri forest along the Collie River.

Not far away is another Instagrammable favourite — **Black Diamond Lake** — with vibrant, blue waters just begging to be photographed.

Rev your engines

If fast cars are more your style, get your adrenaline fix by zooming around a top-class Motorplex track. **Collie Motorplex** features a 2.7km race circuit, 1/8th mile club level drag strip and purpose built burnout pads. Check out its weekend events — with regular Champion's Ride Days and V8 Supercar hot laps and events all year round, it's sure to get the heart pumping!

EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

Celebrate heritage

Celebrating its 125th year, there should be plenty to look forward to this year when it comes to commemorating Collie's history. Check in with the Visitor Centre for a rundown on events and activities, including plenty of family friendly things to do. A new heritage trail is one highlight that's underway, with the focus expected to be on the old heritage buildings and early Indigenous areas of Collie.

Take a trip back in time and gain an insight into the lives of Collie's rugged underground miners at the **Replica Coal Mine** at the Collie Visitor Centre, which has



Collie River Valley EVENTS

Collie River MTB Marathon

29 July 2023

Collie-Donnybrook & Return Cycling Classic

19 August 2023

Collie River Ultra Marathon

9–10 September 2023

Motorplex - Historic Motorcycle State championship

23–25 September 2023

Collie Cup

21 October 2023

Harness Racing

TBC

Dates are subject to change

COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE

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recently been refurbished. The replica mine was constructed in 1983 to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of coal discovery. Immerse yourself in a tour with a past miner (by appointment) and check out the restored locomotives while you are there. Pop across the road and pay a visit to the **Collie Coalfields Museum** too. With several sheds housing an eclectic mix of historical relics from iconic automotive artefacts to vintage typewriters, it's a real local history treasure trove.

Explore the arts all around

Collie has carved a name for itself as a thriving cultural town thanks to its impressive mural painted across **Wellington Dam Wall**, as well as its stimulating gallery and prolific street art trail. The mural by international artist Guido van Helten is of a monumental scale.

Collie Art Gallery opened in 2015 and was the first purpose-built A-class gallery constructed in Western Australia since the Art Gallery of WA was opened in 1979. It showcases a diverse and impressive exhibition program — think Arthur Boyd, Howard Taylor and Guy Grey-Smith. Oh, and by the way, it has one of the biggest art prizes in regional Australia — the \$50,000 Collie Art Prize (CAP). Visit collieartgallery.org.au/collie-art-prize

Get to the Goods Shed

Designed by the iconic C.Y. O'Connor,

Collie's heritage listed **Goods Shed** was once the hub for produce brought into town by the network of railway lines that ran through it. Today, it has been repurposed for fortnightly Sunday markets where you can find an array of local goods

like candles, homemade wooden toys and clocks, cakes, fruit and vegetables, plants, crafts and more. Next door you can also discover the **Rolling Stock Shed** where restoration of old rail carriages takes place.

PLAN YOUR STAY

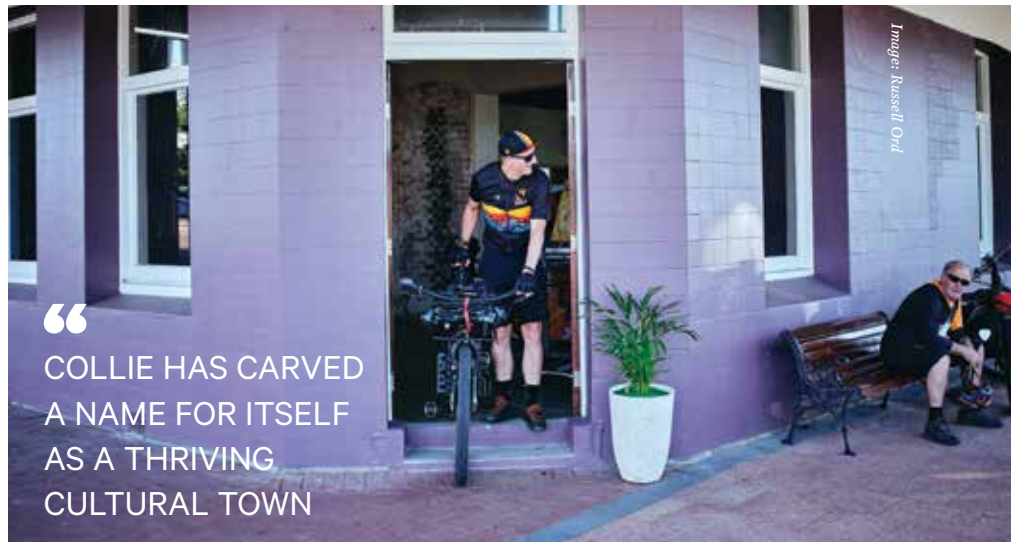
Sleep under the stars

Whether you're seeking an experience in nature, some cosy creature comforts, or a delightful retreat, there are accommodation options for all in Collie. **Honeymoon Pool** and **Potter's Gorge** are must-visit hotspots for avid campers looking to kick back among the gumtrees or get out on the hiking or mountain biking tracks. **Lake Kepwari** is also a complete paradise if a weekend of water-based fun is for you (read more on page 44).

For a great hiking base with all the creature comforts, there's the centrally located **Black Diamond Lodge**.

While **Red Tail Retreat** offers another slice of relaxed luxury, as self-contained accommodation in the north of Collie.

Wake up to picturesque scenery at **Harris River Estate** by booking into one of its self-contained two-bedroom chalets. The perfect base to explore the exquisite estate. **IG**



“
COLLIE HAS CARVED
A NAME FOR ITSELF
AS A THRIVING
CULTURAL TOWN

Image: Russell Ord



HERITAGE ABOUNDS

Collie is rich with heritage hotels like **The Colliefields** (above) and **Crown Hotel Collie** (left).



BURSTING WITH FRESH PRODUCE THANKS TO FERTILE PLAINS, TASTE DIVINE FOOD AND DIVE INTO REFRESHING WATERWAYS IN THE HARVEY REGION.

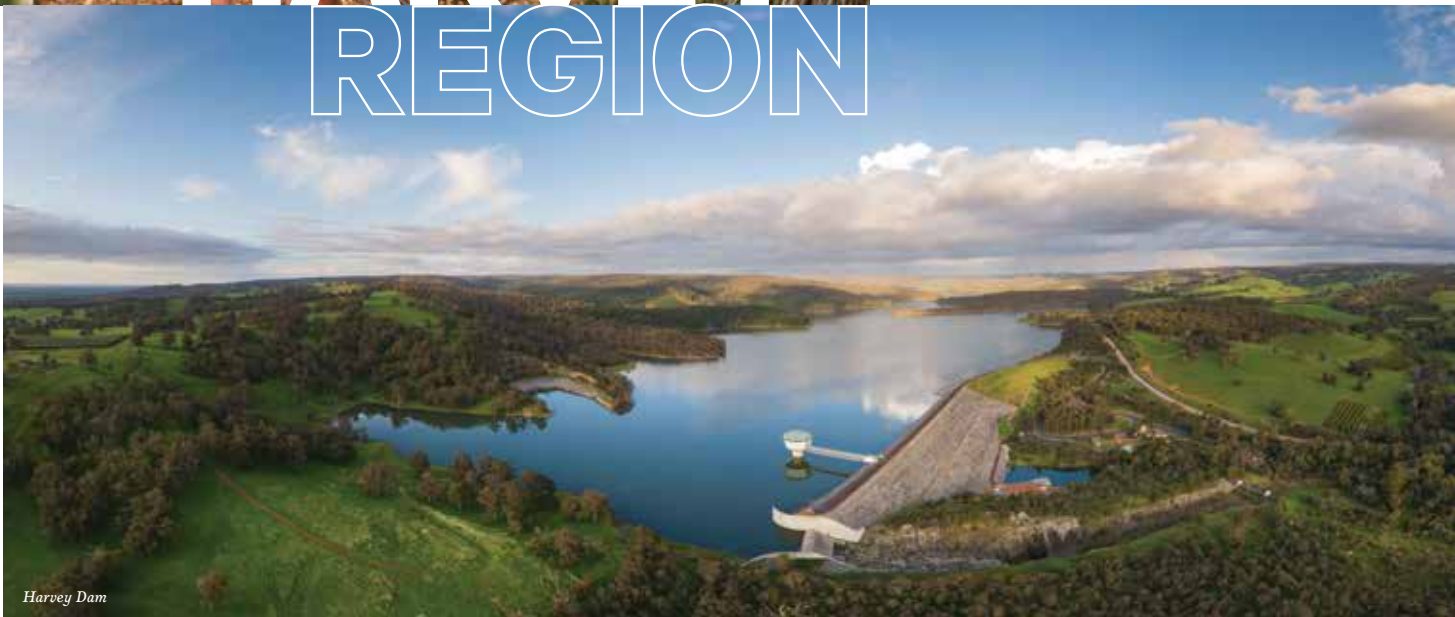
HARVEY REGION



ONLY 90 MINUTES from Perth and 90 minutes from Margaret River, you'll find the Harvey Region. Nestled in the naturally stunning South West, it comprises the towns of Harvey, Australind, Myalup, Binningup, Benger, Brunswick Junction, Cookernup, Yarloop, Wokalup and Roelands.

A place of endless beaches, rolling hills, and outdoor adventures, its fertile plains are adorned with white-fenced studs and impressive heritage properties. This region is perhaps best known for its fabulous local produce. Think Harvey Beef, Harvey Fresh and Peters' Creameries — plenty of the big guys grew in this region for a reason.

To the east, the Darling Scarps' ruggedly beautiful jarrah forest, rolling hills and natural waterways are an adventure playground with spectacular views. To the west, water-lovers can experience the Harvey Region's vast coastline at the seaside hamlets of Binningup, Myalup, and Australind.



Harvey Dam

Explore Harvey...

EAT & DRINK

Sample the Local Produce

Enjoy a slice of country life at **Harvey Farm Barn**. Take a self-guided tour to meet all the friendly farm animals, enjoy a picnic on the grass, or look out for one of their guided education tours.

Take a trip to the iconic **Harvey Cheese** in Wokalup to try some of their award-winning cheeses at one of their free daily tastings. While there, visit **St Duke's Distillery** for a tasting of their award-winning gins and vodkas, crafted from whey, a byproduct of cheesemaking.

For more wine and cheese pairings, stop by **GeoVino** in Harvey to browse the wide range of local wine labels and other gourmet goodies, before relaxing with a delicious tasting flight.

And, of course, you can't pass up the local citrus scene, bursting with flavour. As you drive through the region, keep an eye out for roadside stalls selling oranges, mandarins and other seasonal produce. And, for a truly unique experience, climb the 14-metre Big Orange look-out tower at **Harvey River Estate Winery** to take in views of the Region from above.

The Brunswick Show in October is all about showcasing the best of Harvey produce. "Farm to Fridge" is a new hands-on experience for visitors to the 2023 event. From potato digs to cheese making, visitors will enjoy gastronomic feast of information on how food ends up in the fridge at home.

Eat Up

Start your day with coffee at the iconic **Benesse** in Australind or with good old-fashioned hospitality at Harvey's newest café, **Cafe on Udoc**. Lovers of baked goods shouldn't miss **Harper Street Bakery**, Myalup's **Miami Bakehouse** and **The Crooked Carrot**, or Brunswick's **Country Bakery**.

For a more substantial lunch-time meal, head to **Old Coast Road Brewery** — where a round of mini golf or peek at their distillery wouldn't go astray. There's also **Brugan Brewery** — Wokalup's industrial-style microbrewery with a paddock-to-plate dining approach (read more on page 24).

If you're itching to get back to the waves, grab a takeaway from **Harvey Fish and Chips**, **Australind Fish and Chips** or **Treendale Fish and Chips** and head to the coast for the perfect sunset meal.



Brugan Brewery



St Duke's Distillery



Benesse



Camping at Logue Brook



Mark Cumbers – Vineyard 28



Wildflower ridge Walk

“

WITH SO MUCH TO DO IN THE REGION, IT'S NO WONDER YOU MIGHT WANT TO EXTEND YOUR STAY.

Enjoy beverage escapades

Explore Harvey Region's award-winning, boutique wineries including **Skipworth Wine Company**, **Harvey River Estate**, and **Vineyard 28** (by appointment only).

Wine enthusiasts will enjoy learning about the whole wine-making process, from vine to bottle, at **Vineyard 28's** A Taste of Italy Tour (bookings essential); while beer-lovers will appreciate **Brugan Brewery** crafting fresh brews with locally produced hops. Visiting with a bigger group?

Treendale Farm Hotel can cater to up to 1,000 people and was named Australia's Best Family Dining experience at the 2021, 2022 and 2023 National Australian Hotels Association (AHA) Awards for Excellence. **The Brunswick Tavern** is a local favourite, as is **Old Coast Road Brewery** where you can work lunch off with a few rounds on the 18-hole Wonders of WA Mini Golf course.

GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

Saddle Up

Either walk or take to your horse and ride the trail through the **Myalup Pines Forest** as you retrace the exact path taken by the 10th Light Horse Brigade, who patrolled the

DIVE IN Harvey Region is brimming with beautiful beaches, like Binningup Beach (below) and waterways to cool off in.



area during WWII. Stretching over 56km from Binningup to Mandurah, the trail is a great way to experience the Harvey Region for avid horse riders and history-buffs alike.

You've heard of dog-friendly, but there are few places in the South West more horse-friendly than the Harvey Region. In fact, you can ride right up to **Old Coast Road Brewery** in Myalup, which provides a trough and tie-up area for your horse to enjoy, while you refuel with a lunchtime feast.

You can even trot through the vines at **Harris River Estate** and finish with a beverage and platter when booking through **Outback Horse Trails** (read more on page 42).

Take a Hike

Don't miss the stunning **Wildflower Ridge Walk** off Honeymoon Road for views over

Harvey Dam and the coastal plain. The trail comes alive during the spring wildflower season, when blooms of native flowers brighten the walk with a riotous display of colours.

In Harvey, the **Weir Road Trail to Harvey Dam** is a must-do. Nature seekers should also venture to the **Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park** which boasts a range of trails, including the accessible **John Boyle O'Reilly Wetland Trail** (1km boardwalk), the **Belvidere Interpretive Walk** (1.5km), and the challenging 9km **Harris Track**, which extends from Belvidere to The Cut.

For a relaxing morning stroll, take a walk along the **Leschenault Waterfront Historic Trail** (following the Leschenault Estuary Foreshore between Eaton and



Harvey
Region
EVENTS

DESTINATION HARVEY REGION
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Saturday Night Fever
Food Truck Nights
 Fortnightly on Saturdays,
 11 March to 24 June

Harvey Harvest Festival
 March 24

Harvey Show
 28 -29 April 2023

**Western Australian Endurance
 Horse Ride**
 6 May 2023

**Australian Four Day Enduro
 Championships**
 17-20 May 2023

Brunswick Show
 28 October 2023

Country Sounds Brunswick
 November 2023

Dates are subject to change

Australind) and stop in at Benesse Australind for a coffee along the way. At Brunswick Junction, the **Brunswick River Trail** is a charming walk along the river. Afterwards, take a refreshing dip in the unique Brunswick River Pool (open in summer).

Hit the Road

Take **Mornington Road** from Harvey to Collie for a scenic drive with stunning forest and picturesque countryside views.

Closer to the coast, take the 13km drive (no thru road) along Lake Preston near Myalup or cruise through the beautiful paperbarks on Cathedral Avenue for a bit of kangaroo spotting.

If you are up for some gravel road driving, go in search of one of Australia's largest jarrah trees, hidden deep in the

Mornington State Forest. Located on Big Tree Road, the **Jarrah Hadfield** is more than 10m in circumference and over 260 years old!

Play at wonderful waterways

The Harvey Region is a magnet for those who love all things outdoors, especially water-based activities. With beaches, rivers and lakes, you'll always be able to find somewhere new for your next swim, fishing trip, surf, or boating day.

On the coast, Myalup and Binningup are the ultimate destinations for a chilled-out holiday. Expect endless kilometres of pristine beach, perfect for fishing, dolphin spotting, snorkelling, 4WD access, and the odd surf (try Weedies Break).

The **Leschenault Estuary** is a 14km long serene waterway in Australind, and the best place to scoop up a delectable feed of crustaceans in the summer. While you're there, take a walk along the foreshore, glide through the estuary's quiet waters in a kayak, or jump on your kitesurf to catch the coastal breeze.

Inland, enjoy the turquoise waters of **Logue Brook Dam** near Cookernup. Surrounded by jarrah forest, the lake is a haven for water skiing, canoeing, fishing, swimming, and sailing. Or head to **Harvey Dam** (famous for Rainbow and Brown Trout, as well as Redfin Perch) to climb the dam wall before rewarding yourself with a picnic by the picturesque **Gibbs Pool**.

Get pedaling

Road cyclists can wind their way through the quiet country roads of the Region. **Yarloop to Wokalup**, via Harvey and

Cookernup, is a favourite. MTB riders will love the Harvey Region section of the famous **Munda Biddi Trail** — officially the world's longest continuous off-road cycling track. To access the upper Harvey section of the Munda Biddi Trail simply jump on at the corner of Logue Brook Dam Road and Scarp Road.

EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

Glimpse Aussie folklore

The **Stirling Cottage Precinct** is home to a replica of Stirling Cottage (1880), owned by the first Governor of WA and the childhood home of Australian Snugglepot and Cuddlepie children's author and artist, **May Gibbs**.

Visit the precinct to enjoy tea and homemade cake at **Stirling Cottage Kitchen** and then walk through the gardens to learn about May's adventures in Harvey.

Explore Hervey heritage

The Harvey Region is steeped in history. Stretch your legs along with the 900-metre return **Noongar Kaartdijin Bidee** (Noongar Knowledge Path), which runs along the banks of the beautiful Harvey River and features ten different pieces of art that have been created by the local Noongar community.

Step back in time on the **Harvey, Yarloop and Australind Heritage Trails**. Follow the maps to uncover historic sites including **St Nicholas**, the smallest church in Australia and dating back to the 1940s; **Henton Cottage**, from the 1840s and now home to the Australind Artisan Collective; and the unique **Harvey Internment Memorial Shrine**, which recognises the thousands of Italian and German men interned during WWII.


Culture lovers should also pay a visit to **Featured Wood Gallery** in Treendale, which showcases stunning quality timber artworks and furniture, with a gallery and museum.

PLAN TO STAY

Connect to country life

With so much to do in the Region, it's no wonder you might want to extend your stay. Some of the best farmstays (with mind-blowing views) in WA are within the Harvey Region, including **Blue Hills Farmstay**, **Vista Ridge Top Paddock**, and **Harvey Hills Farmstay Chalets**.


For a beautiful B&B, try **Chalbury Park** in Harvey. Family fun awaits at **Binningup Beach Caravan Park** or the **Australind Tourist Park**, while the perfect adults-only retreat can be found at **Lake Brockman Tourist Park's** glamping tents. **166**



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