

Wild Flowers of Western Australia

Naturetrek Tour Itinerary

Outline itinerary

Day 1	Depart London (other options available)
Day 2	Arrive Perth
Day 3	Perth
Day 4	Jurien
Day 5/6	Kalbarri
Day 7	Dongara
Day 8	Northam, Wheatbelt
Day 9	Dryandra Forest and Narrogin, Wheatbelt
Day 10/11	Bremer Bay and Fitzgerald River National Park
Day 12/13	Albany and Stirling Range National Park
Day 14	Manjimup and Karri Forests
Day 15	Perth
Day 16	Depart Perth
Day 17	Arrive London

Departs

September

Dates and Prices

See website (tour code AUS05) or brochure

Grading

A/B. Day walks only



Images from top: Freycinet Peninsula, *Grevillea petrophiloides* & *Eucalyptus macropata*



NB. Please note that the itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather and other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

Day 1

In Flight

We depart Heathrow early afternoon on a scheduled flight bound for Perth (usually via Dubai), the capital of the vast state of Western Australia. Departures from some regional airports may be organised on request - availability permitting and additional costs possible.

Day 2

Perth

Arriving at Perth International Airport late afternoon, we will be met and transferred to our city hotel, just a half-hour bus ride away and conveniently located in the city centre. We will join our tour leader for an evening meal (lunches & dinners in Perth are at own expense) either in the hotel or a nearby restaurant.

Day 3

Perth

Western Australia, due to its isolation, harbours a wealth of relatively tourist-free natural attractions. Not least amongst these is its fabulous display of spring flora. Well known as one of the world's "botanical hotspots", this region of Australia rivals South Africa's Cape and Namaqualand regions. Each southern spring, this remote and relatively un-developed corner of Australia bursts into magnificent bloom as carpets of wild flowers and hillsides of colourful shrubs flower after winter rains. In terms of the variety, exotic forms, abundance and bright colours of this flora, this is one of the planet's most exuberant displays and one that covers a simply vast area. This unique heritage, in particular the survival of primitive forms of plants and the evolution of more specialised ones, is due to the exceptional age of the West Australian landmass and the undisturbed nature of its geography.

We begin our travels in Perth, the sparkling capital of Western Australia, beautifully situated beside the broad blue waters of the Swan River and backed by the rolling hills of the Darling Range. Rising up above the wide expanse of the river, King's Park, a 1,000 hectare reserve of native bushland, enjoys commanding views. Gazetted as public open space in 1872, it was one of the first areas of natural bushland to be protected in the world. This outstanding flora reserve is a wonderful tribute to the sensibilities of Western Australia's administrative forbear and a great place in which to begin our botanical exploration of Western Australia.



Acacia pulchella

*Banksia attenuata*

About two-thirds of King's Park is natural bushland and this supports around 470 species of plants and a variety of small mammals, reptiles and insects. The remaining third of the park is a Botanical Garden displaying more than 2,000 species of native plants from Western Australia. The garden is representative of the three main botanical provinces of the state: Eremaean, Northern and South-western (the latter being the area in which our tour will take place). The botanically rich South-western province has hot dry, summers and cool, wet winters. It is made up of extensive Jarrah, Marri and Karri forests, the northern heathlands and the wildflower-rich southern heathlands of the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald River National Parks.

King's Park offers the perfect introduction to some of the 6,000 species of plants in the state's south-west, including such genera as the Banksias, Grevilleas, Acacias, Eucalypts, Grasstrees and one of the most ancient of plant families, the Hakeas. Some of these families tend to be dominated by certain species, including the Eucalypts of the south-west which are made up predominantly of Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), Marri (*E. calophylla*) and Karri (*E. diversicolor*). Another main genus of the region is the magnificent Banksia, a most unusual and stunning group of species which produce amazingly fine spikes or cones of densely packed, spirally arranged flowers. This genus is comprised of 57 species, all confined to Australia, 41 of which are native to Western Australia. The more common Banksias include *Banksia menziesii*, with its silky red two-toned flowers and coarsely toothed leaves, *Banksia grandis* (or Bull Banksia), with large yellow flowers and deeply toothed leaves, and *Banksia attenuata*, with very finely toothed leaves. Other common plants of the South-western province that may be found in King's Park include Parrot Bush (*Dryandra sessilis*), Buttercup (*Hibbertia hypercoides*), Prickly Moses (*Acacia pulchella*), Grasstree (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*), Zamia (*Macrozamia riedlei*), Native Wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*) and Red Runner (*Kennedia prostrata*). Another distinctive plant we will see is the floral emblem of Western Australia, the Kangaroo Paw (*Angiozanthos anthusmanglesii*).

Amongst this flora we will see similarly unique and exotic bird species: Singing, Brown and New Holland Honeyeaters, Little and Red Wattlebirds, Port Lincoln Parrot, Western Rosella, Australian Magpie, Grey Butcherbird, Rainbow Bee-eater, White-tailed Black Cockatoo, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and Kookaburra may all be found.

Day 4

Jurien

We will leave Perth early this morning, beginning our long drive north towards the famous Northern Kwongan (sandplain heath) that supports sweeping carpets of colourful wild flowers. On leaving WA's capital and its leafy suburbs, you will notice a marked change as we quickly enter wide open heathlands broken only by vast wheat fields. These heathlands provide some of the most spectacular displays of flowering plants in Australia and we will take the opportunity to stop and enjoy the spectacle during our journey. We will see species of *Banksia*, *Grevillea*, *Calothamnus*, *Dryandra*, *Verticordia* and Kangaroo Paw. We will also note the change in birdlife on these heaths, with thornbills and pardalotes occurring alongside the honeyeaters. A stop at the private wild flower reserve of Hi-Vallee Farm will give us the chance to enjoy

a guided tour of the reserve's bushland and instruction in the identification of the huge variety of plants found here, including some rare and unusual species.

Highlights of our tour may include *Verticordia grandis* (Scarlet Feather Flower), amongst other Verticordias, *Leschenaultia hirsute*, *Conospermum incurvum* (Plume Smokebush) and other smokebushes (that at times colour the landscape silver grey), *Eucalyptus pendens* (Weeping Mallee) and other unusual and rare eucalypts, masses of pink-flowering *Hakea neurophylla*, a local endemic, many species of *Stylidium* and insectivorous *Drosera* species, *Macropidia fuliginosa* (Black Kangaroo Paw), massive and ancient cycads (*Macrozamia* spp.) and species of such "primitive plants" as *Xanthorrhoea*, *Beaufortia*, *Darwinia* and *Isopogon*.

This evening we will visit the Nambung National Park, designated to protect "the Pinnacles", a peculiar collection of hundreds of limestone outcrops, ranging in heights up to five metres, which rise forest-like from coloured sands. We will time our visit for the sunset to enjoy this unique environment.

We move on to Jurien for the night, where we plan to stay in our simple but comfortable hotel.

Day 5

Jurien to Kalbarri

We will make an early start today in order to drive to the coastal town of Kalbarri, a popular winter holiday destination located in an isolated position on the endless Western Australian coastline. The 'White' history of Kalbarri dates back to 1629 when the Dutch flagship, "Batavia", was wrecked and following a chilling saga of mutiny, mayhem, murder and finally rescue of the survivors, the only two mutinous sailors not to be hanged were cast ashore at Wittecarra Creek, Kalbarri, to become the first European settlers in Australia (if not by choice by circumstance)! Later, Willem de Vlaming landed here in 1696 to replenish water supplies during his exploration of the West Australian coastline. Then in 1712, the Dutch East India ship, "Zuytdorp", was wrecked near Kalbarri, the fate of the survivors remaining a mystery to this day. Besides tourism, the chief source of income for the locals here is fishing, particularly the lucrative crayfishing industry that lasts from November to June. During our drive we will stop en route to explore sites where new, more northern, species of wild flowers begin to occur, due to the warmer and more arid conditions. Arriving at Kalbarri, we will visit the Kalbarri Wildflower Centre for a self-guided botanical walk, then use our mounting experience to attempt to identify some of the 500 species of plants occurring within the 450,000 hectares of rolling sandplains, deep gorges and stunning sea cliffs of the nearby Kalbarri National Park. The dramatic landscapes and spectacular scenery of the park are the result of 400 million years of geological formation. Most spectacular of all is the red and cream banded sandstone gorge which carries the mighty Murchison River on the final stages of its 1,000-kilometre journey into the Indian Ocean. Here, the tall flowering stems of *Grevillea leucopteris* and *G. annuliflora* stand amongst the grey flowers of the Smokebush (*Conospermum* spp.) and make an unforgettable picture.



Grevillea leucopteris

We will be based in Kalbarri for two nights.



Hakea bucculenta

Day 6

Kalbarri

We will rise early today in order to spend as much time as possible in the Kalbarri National Park. The Murchison River has carved through the park's red sandstone creating a magnificent variety of deep gorges, which we will spend the morning exploring. The surrounding bushland holds a great variety of birds, amongst which Emus are frequently sighted on the sandplains. We will have a picnic lunch beside the river, returning to Kalbarri this evening.

Botanical highlights of our two-day stay in the area will include *Grevillea eriostachya* (Flame Grevillea), roadside displays of *Grevillea leucopteris* (White Plume Grevillea), *Grevillea petrophiloides* (Pink Pokers), *Hakea orthorrhyncha* (Bird-beak Hakea), *Hakea bucculenta*, *Banksia hookeriana* (Hooker's Banksia – we will see a variety of subspecies), *Calothamnus homalophyllus* (Murchison Clawflower), *Eremaea violacea* (masses of violet flowers), *Melaleuca megacephala*, *Guichenotia macrantha* (Murchison Bell, Fam. Sterculiaceae) and *Xanthorrhoea drummondii* (Western Australia's northernmost grass-tree).

Day 7

Dongara

We now turn south, heading inland through the Moresby Ranges and Mullewa (home of the extraordinary 'wreath flower', *Leschenaultia macrantha*) and into the 'Wheatbelt' for three days. Leaving Mullewa we will travel via Coalstream Gully to Dongara. Although much of this vast region has been cleared for cereal production, enough natural habitat remains for this area to be famed for its stunning spreads of colourful everlastings (*Helichrysum* spp.) and variety of Eucalypts. Other flowering plants will include Feather Flowers (*Verticordias*), Bottlebrush (*Beaufortias*), Rice Flowers (*Pimeleas*), Wedge Peas (*Gompholobiums*) and orchids.

Birds of interest will include a wide variety of colourful parrots (Little Corellas, Pink Cockatoos, Mulga Parrots, Bourke's Parrots and Galahs, amongst others), plus such other species as Pied Honeyeater, Crimson and Orange Chats and White-browed Babbler. The open plains will provide an excellent opportunity to look for the many birds of prey that live here, including Wedge-tailed Eagle, Little Eagle, Little Falcon, Brown Falcon and Nankeen Kestrel.

Botanical highlights will include *Hakea auriculata* (with its prickly masses of pinkish-white flowers), *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* (a pink everlasting), *Acacia acuminata* (Jam Wattle), *Melaleuca steedmanii* (with its bright red bottlebrush flowers) and *Balaustion microphyllum* ('Native Pomegranite', Fam. Myrtaceae).

Day 8

Northam

We continue inland through the 'Wheatbelt' today, discovering an ever changing selection of plants and we travel through the colourful display. We have a long distance to cover today which will enable us to appreciate the vast landscape of the largest state of Australia.

Botanical highlights will include *Chamaelaucium uncinatum* (Geraldton Wax, in its natural state, with pink flowers), *Eucalyptus gittinsii* (the Northern Sandplain Mallee, with its unusual square-sided fruit), *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* (the Mottlecah, a famous ornamental eucalypt with silvery-blue leaves) and *Alyogyne huegelii* (Native Hibiscus).

Day 9

Dryandra Forest & Narrogin

We next move on to the largest area of natural bushland remaining in the 'Wheatbelt', the Dryandra State Forest, a series of blocks of natural woodland comprised of the tree species Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) and Powderbark (*Eucalyptus accedens*) plus stands of Brown Mallet (*Eucalyptus astingens*). Wandoo and much of its associated flora is endemic to the area, which is a strong contributing factor in the movement to ensure the conservation of this unique habitat.

European settlement in this area brought land clearance for agriculture, the felling of the forests on account of the exceptionally strong and tough hardwood timber, and the introduction of exotic plants, diseases and predators (such as foxes and feral cats), all of which severely reduced the natural flora and fauna in this area. The Dryandra State Forest is what remains today of this fine habitat. It is a prime example of the Australian 'bush' in its untouched state, and has provided a sanctuary to many endangered animals from the onslaught of white settlement. Although it is highly unlikely we will see many animals, the forest is home to at least 22 species of native mammal; these include nine species of bats, as well as Echidnas, Brush-tailed Bettongs (the kangaroo-like Woylies) and Tammar Wallabies. This is also the home of a quite unique marsupial, the striped Numbat (*Myremecobius fasciatus*), Western Australia's fauna emblem. This region also has great significance for the Nyungar tribe (the Aboriginal people who once inhabited this area). In the centuries before European settlement the Nyungar people quarried ochre for body decoration and rock art. There is trail within the reserve called "the ochre trail" which passes right through one of the quarries once used by the indigenous people.

Dryandra's woodland is a very open and a most enjoyable place to walk. With a low and open understorey, the walker is able to stroll amongst the beautiful silvery-white or orange barked Wandoo's and Powderbarks. Within these 27,000 hectares of State Forest around 800 species of plants may be found, amongst them several species of eucalypts, including Wandoo, Powderbark, Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*), Brown Mallet and Shrubby Mottlecah (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) which has the largest flowers and broadest leaves of all the



Dryandra nobilis

eucalypts. The understorey of the Wandoo woodland is particularly low and open, and holds many members of the *Proteaceae* family including *Hakea*, *Grevillea*, *Petrophile*, *Isopogon* and *Dryandra*, a genus which is entirely confined to Western Australia.

Botanical highlights will include three species of *Dryandra* – *Dryandra nobilis* (Golden Dryandra), *Dryandra nivea* (Couch Honeypot) and *Dryandra sessilis* (Parrotbush) – plus Pincushion Coneflower (*Isopogon dubius*), Prickly Moses (*Acacia pulchella*), Woollybush (*Adenanthos cygnorum*), Honeybush (*Hakea lissocarpha*), Pop Flower (*Glishrocaryon aureum*) which flowers in yellow masses by the roadside, both Red and Blue Leschenaultia (*Leschenaultia linaroides* and *L. bilboba*), and some impressive stands of Drummond's Grasstree (*Xanthorrhoea drummondii*). Also present are the intriguing trigger plants (*Stylidium* and *Drosera* spp.), the delightful Fringed Lily (*Thysanotus patersonii*) and orchids which include the Soft Yellow Cowslip (*Caladenia flava*), Silky Blue Orchid (*Caladenia serica*), Donkey Orchid (*Diuris longifolia*) and the greenhood orchids (*Pterostylis* spp.).

After dinner we have the option of returning to the forest with a leader to visit the Conservation and Land Management (CALM) rare animal research site for a lecture followed by spotlighting with a CALM staff member (own expense).

Day 10

Bremer Bay & Fitzgerald River National Park



Hakea victoria

Leaving Narrogin we continue south, passing through a sand heath habitat with its distinctive flora, before heading for the remote communities of coastal plants. This area supports a relatively low human population which makes it an attractive place to stay and enjoy the serenity and beautiful isolated beaches. It is also close to the Fitzgerald River National Park, an unspoilt land of immense botanical interest.

The southern coast was well known to whalers and sealers as far back as the 1820s. However, permanent European settlement did not take place until the 1850s and as in many parts of the state, development was only accelerated later, on the discovery of minerals. First, gold was discovered in the region at the start of the twentieth century, and then it was copper. Indeed, the area was soon to become the major source of this mineral in WA.

Botanical highlights amongst these coastal plant communities will include *Acacia celastrifolia* (Glowing Wattle), *Dampiera eriocephala* and other *Dampieras* (all with bright purple flowers, which can be spectacular at times), *Melaleuca fulgens* (Scarlet Honey Myrtle), that may be found in the rockier areas and *Melaleuca conothamnoides*, with its lovely large pink flowers.

Day 11

Bremer Bay & Fitzgerald River National Park

The Fitzgerald River National Park covers over 240,000 hectares and encloses a wide variety of habitats including mallee heath, wetlands, scrublands and rugged 'mountains' (in Australian terms!). It is justly famous for its bewildering diversity of plants, so many of which are of outstanding beauty or restricted distribution. Amongst the most impressive species are the stunning Royal Hakea, with its immensely rich red, yellow and green scalloped leaves, the



Eucalyptus preissiana

Oak-leaved Dryandra (*Dryandra quercifolia*) and the beautiful Bell-fruited Mallee (*Eucalyptus preissiana*), with its large yellow flowers. The attractions of the park do not end with the flora! Situated in a secluded region of coastal wilderness, the southern boundary of the park is marked by spectacular, steep and rugged spongelite cliffs, periodically punctuated by beautiful sandy coves.

The park was made a biosphere reserve in 1978 on account of its 1,300 plant species, of which at least 80 are endemic and many more have their main distribution within the park. This status has offered some protection over the years against threats from the mining industry.

Unfortunately for us, much of the park is not accessible by road, so we will stay on its edge and walk along some of its trails. The birdlife here is rich, ranging in size from Emus to the diminutive emu-wrens and thornbills; other species include blue fairy-wrens, honeyeaters, parrots, Rainbow Bee-eaters and Golden Whistlers, not to mention such birds of prey as Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-breasted Sea-eagle, Osprey and the ubiquitous Brown Falcon. Off-shore, seabirds may include albatrosses, shearwaters and petrels, whilst on the inlets ducks and waders are often abundant. Little is known of the mammals of this vast and mostly inaccessible reserve, but Western Grey Kangaroo is one species of native mammal that may be commonly seen.

Botanical highlights will include Royal Hakea, Hakea Victoria, *Kunzea affinis* (a shrub covered in pink flowers), *Banksia coccinea* (Scarlet Banksia), *Banksia lemanniana*, with its nodding yellow flowers, *Dryandra quercifolia*, *Pimelea physodes* (Quaalup Bell), and the endemic *Calothamnus pinifolius* (Dense Clawflower).

Day 12

Albany

Leaving the Melaleucas of Bremer Bay behind, we now head to Albany. Our journey will take us through some very good orchid areas, where we will be able to spend time looking for some of the rarer species, before we reach Albany via Two Peoples Bay (home of three very rare bird species).



Gompholobium scabrum

Two Peoples Bay Reserve covers 26,000 hectares of forest, heathland, beaches and lakes, and was made a reserve to protect the Noisy Scrub-bird, a species only known from this area. We will have a look for it, although its very shy nature and the dense habitat in which it lives make it one of the hardest species to see. The wild flowers of the reserve will present no such problems! They will be in full bloom at the time of our visit, and woodlands of Peppermint Trees (*Agonis* spp.) are particularly attractive. Other botanical highlights here will include *Actinodium* spp. ('Swamp Daisy' Fam. Myrtaceae), *Beaufortia schaueri* (Pink Bottlebrush), *Callistemon glaucus* (Albany Bottlebrush), *Banksia baueri*

(Woolly Banksia), *Gompholobium scabrum* (Painted Lady-pea), *Hakea laurina* (the popular ornamental 'Pincushion Hakea'), *Anigozanthos preissii* (Albany Catspaw), not to mention a wide variety of orchid species.

Day 13

Albany & Stirling Range National Park

Driving to the Stirling Range National Park you will again notice a change in the vegetation, with tall species of eucalyptus, Jarrah and Marri, occurring. Five peaks over 1,000 metres rise abruptly from the coastal lowlands to make the Stirling Range an obvious feature in the landscape. The area receives more rainfall than its surrounding districts, and consequently plants have evolved here that are not found elsewhere. There are over 500 species of plant here, and searching for some of the endemic plants will give us a busy day in this attractive park.

Botanical highlights today will include Bellflower Darwinias (possibly *Darwinia hypericifolia*, *Darwinia leiostyla*, *Darwinia squarrosa* and *Darwinia vestita*), *Hakea cucullata* (Hood Leaved Hakea), *Kingia australis* (a special Stirling Range form of this unique grasstree), *Eucalytus pressiana* (Bell-fruited Mallee), *Isopogon latifolius* and *Isopogon formosus* (both with bright pink flowers), *Andersonia* spp. (paper-heaths), and a variety of orchid species.

Day 14

Manjimup & The Karri Forests

We start today with a visit to Torndirrup National Park, which is well known for its spectacular coastal features and is only 10 kilometres from Albany. The coastal heathlands here provide an excellent floral display; woodlands of Peppermint Trees (*Agonis flexuosa*) occur throughout the park whilst, in the south, stunted Karri grows together with Swamp Yate (*Eucalyptus occidentalis*).

We then drive on to the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, a small area with an unusually high rainfall. This park offers spectacular landscapes encompassing estuaries, forested hills dissected by rivers, and extensive areas where there is little or no evidence of human activity. The park holds two species of eucalyptus which only occur in the Walpole area – fine stands of the Red Tingle (*Eucalyptus jacksonii*) and Yellow Tingle

(*Eucalyptus guilfoylei*). To fully appreciate the beauty of this area visitors have the opportunity to walk in the tree-tops using a new canopy-top walkway. Exploring this unique forest at such a high level is a special experience and one not to be missed!

Next, we will continue our drive along the coast road, entering the magnificent giant Karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) forest of Western Australia's well-watered south-west. Endemic to Western Australia, the towering, pale-barked Karri Trees, one of the tallest species in the world, reach up from an emerald forest understorey. The attractive undergrowth has a soft and gentle pattern of plants due to the very moist and shaded conditions. Delicate ferns, mosses and bracken cover the tree trunks in this moist environment, and tiny droseras (insect-eating plants) and trigger plants can easily be missed unless you look carefully amongst the dense undergrowth. Also abundant amongst the understorey shrubs are Karri Wattle (*Acacia pentadenia*), Giant Kingia (*Kingia australis*) and such Karri forest wild flowers as Coral Vine (*Hovea elliptica*). The flowering eucalypts and acacias attract many birds which may include Western Rosellas, Brush and Common Bronzings, Brown, White-naped and Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, White-breasted Robins, Golden and Olive Whistlers, Red-winged and Splendid Wrens, Grey Fantails, Little and Red Wattlebirds, and Restless Flycatchers. Less common species include Red-eared Firetail Finch, Purple-crowned Lorikeet and the migrant Shining Bronze and Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoos.

This area was first settled in the early 1800s when the original white settlers moved in to try to work the land. The settlers, many with no experience of farming, worked with the indigenous people to cultivate the land, and endured many hardships. Finally, after the Second World War, the development of dairy, sheep, beef and vegetable farming gave the economy a firm basis. During those early years and right up until the present day, the Karri forest has continually been subject to some form of cutting. In the 1920s 12% of the Karri forest was cleared for farming and timber production. This trend continued, and the forest was both clear-felled and selectively logged for wood products, including woodchips. This has resulted in great concern being expressed by conservation groups over the continued cutting of the Karri forest, particularly the old growth forests which contain trees hundreds of years old.

After a tour full of so many botanical and ornithological riches, these towering giants are bound to ensure that we finish on a 'high', for a recently completed tree-top walkway offers an optional experience for those of strong disposition!

The botanical highlights of the Karri forest will include Red and Yellow Tingle, *Acacia pentadenia* and *Acacia urophylla* (the tall wattles of the Karri forest), *Allocasuarina fraseriana* (Sheoak) and *Allocasuarina decussata* (Karri Oak), *Trymalium spathulatum* (Karri Hazel), *Chorizema ilicifolium* (Flame Pea), *Boronia gracilipes* (Karri Boronia), *Anthocercis viscosa*, *Stylidium scandens*, *Kingia australis* (Giant Kingia), *Banksia grandis* (Bull Banksia – with huge flowers and cones), *Leschenaultia biloba*, *Dasyopogon hookjeri* (Pineapple Bush), *Podocarpus drouynianus* (WA's only podocarp) and Green and Red Kangaroo Paws which are at their best in this area.

Day 15

Perth

We will have time for a walk this morning before we begin our return journey to Perth. On this final drive we will follow the coast northwards, passing through historic Bridgetown and around the towns of Busselton, Bunbury and Mandurah. In this region of the state, the forests through which we pass consist largely of Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomocephala*), a tree unique to the area. Occurring only in coastal limestone, the Tuart forms a tall open savannah forest with a soft Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) understorey. The open nature of the forest makes it very easy and pleasant to explore and a fitting end to our tour of this botanical kingdom.

Botanical highlights today will include *Banksia grandis* (Bull Banksia), *Banksia attenuata* (Slender Banksia), and Fringed Lily (*Thysanotus* spp.). We will arrive at our Perth hotel during the late afternoon and spend our final night in the state capital.

Day 16

In Flight

As our return flight does not leave until this evening, the day will be free for last-minute shopping or birdwatching, a walk in King's Park or a visit to the attractive port town of Fremantle. There are excellent museums in Perth and Fremantle (including a particularly good Maritime Museum). Or you might like to visit the highly informative and attractive Zoological Park, a brief ferry trip across the river. This will provide the opportunity to see many of the elusive nocturnal animals of Western Australia! We will leave the hotel early evening for our flight departure.

Day 17

London

We will arrive at London Heathrow usually around midday.

Tour grading

We will be making day walks only on this holiday. All of them will be optional, and will be as strenuous as you wish to make them! Grade A/B; suitable for those of all ages who enjoy some gentle walking and the outdoor life. While it is important to be healthy, no great measure of fitness is required to enjoy this holiday!

Weather

Warm, dry and sunny weather is expected north of Perth, with daytime temperatures generally above 20°C. South of Perth, in common with many other parts of the world at present, we dare not predict the weather! It should be mild and spring-like at this time, but for the last two years September and October have been cooler than usual. Therefore daytime temperatures will vary between around 15° and 20°C. However, when winds come off the sea from the Southern Ocean, it can be quite chilly and heavy rainfall may be expected from time to time.

Clothing

Please read our separate clothing list included in the pre-departure information sent to you after booking and be prepared for a wide variety of weather.

A couple of sets of smart casual clothes will be useful for hotel wear. Shorts and T-shirts may be useful north of Perth, whilst warm sweaters, a track suit and waterproof clothing will be essential for the south. You will need to bring a pair of lightweight walking boots.

Focus

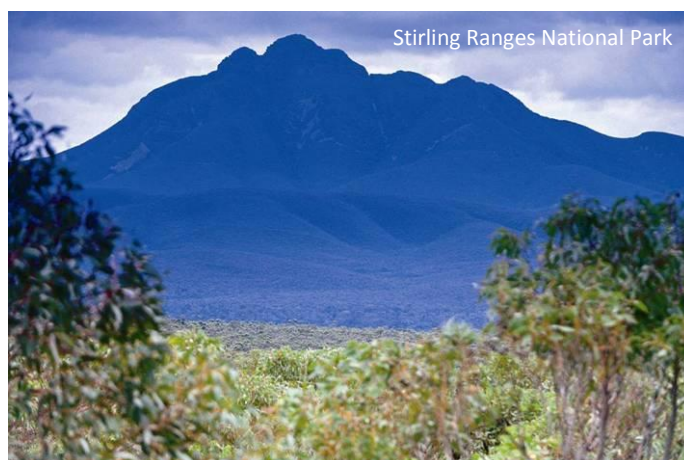
Western Australian flora.

Food & accommodation included in the price

You will be staying in a variety of comfortable motels and hotels on this holiday, all rooms with private facilities. All food and accommodation is included in the price, except for lunches and dinners in Perth. Allow at least £100, or rather more if you would like to sample some of Perth's extremely fine restaurants and wines! The visit to the Conservation and Land Management (CALM) rare animal research site costs approximately \$20.00.

How to book your place

In order to book your place on this holiday, please give us a call on 01962 733051 with a credit or debit card, book online at www.naturetrek.co.uk, or alternatively complete and post the booking form at the back of our main Naturetrek brochure, together with a deposit of 20% of the holiday cost plus any room supplements if required. If you do not have a copy of the brochure, please call us on 01962 733051 or request one via our website. Please stipulate any special requirements, for example extension requests or connecting/regional flights, at the time of booking.



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