

Wildflowers, Perth & Indian Pacific

20-day Small Private Group Tour, maximum 21 passengers.

Fully escorted from Maitland

15 November 2019



GTC
GREENHILLS
TRAVEL CENTRE

5-9 Mitchell Drive

(Corner of Garnett Road & Mitchell Drive)

East Maitland NSW 2323

travel@greehillstravelcentre.com.au

4931 0300

ATAS
travel accredited

Day 1 Transfer from Greenhills Travel Centre to Newcastle Airport. Fly Newcastle to Perth and transfer to our hotel.

Day 2 Commence Wildflowers Coach Tour

Along the Indian Ocean Drive to the Pinnacles in Nambung National Park; enjoy morning tea as you wander this interesting landscape. Lunch in Jurien Bay, a major base for the WA fishing industry. In the afternoon we meander through Lesueur National Park; the second most diverse flora region in WA. On to Port Denison and Dongara. Note: Entry to Nambung and Lesueur included. Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 After a visit to Geraldton's HMAS Sydney Memorial we continue on the North West Coastal Hwy to Binu with a bush morning tea amongst the flowers then via the Ajana Rd to Hawkes Head and Ross Graeme lookout in Kalbarri National Park. Lunch in Kalbarri. In the afternoon a visit to Bluff Point then via the coastal road to Northampton and later return to Dongara. Note: Kalbarri National Park entry included.

Full breakfast & Motel Dinner.

Day 4 East to Mingenew and the Coalseam Conservation Park where the Gregory brothers discovered coal exposed within the sedimentary layers of the banks of the Irwin River in 1846, now in good years its renowned for its native pink and white everlastings. Through the wheat, canola and wildflowers to Dalwallinu on the Great Northern Highway. Full breakfast & Motel Dinner

Day 5 We travel north along the Great Northern Highway into the Station and Goldfields country. From here the tour moves on to one of the most interesting features in the Goldfields, Jokers Tunnel, an east/west mining drive through a hill you are able to walk through. On to Yalgoo, a classic Outback Gold Mining Town. In the afternoon it is out of the station country to the Wheatbelt towns of Morawa and Perenjori and return to Dalwallinu. Full breakfast & Motel Dinner.

Day 6 South to Wongan Hills and out through the wildflowers to cross the Great Eastern Highway. We take a walk in a number of Nature Reserves with our botanical guide before we come cross The Boot Mile, an interactive tourist display unlike any other before reaching Hyden. Full breakfast & Motel Dinner

Day 7 We spend the day exploring the interesting features of the region, Wave Rock, Hippos Yawn, The Lace Place, Toy Soldier Display, Wildlife Park, Lazy D Farm and Mulka's Cave. During the day we hope to find Orchids, Verticordia, Cassia, Grevillea, Damperia and others, before returning to Hyden. Note: All entries included. Full breakfast & Motel Dinner

Day 8 Travelling via the Tin Horse Highway to Kulin, Eucalyptus macrocarpa is the flora emblem of the Shire of Kulin, we take a walk along the Macrocarpa Walk Trail. To Lake Grace for lunch then back to the road we are on the lookout for Sundews, Hakea, Leptospermum, Chamelaucium, Synaphea and Acacia on the way to Albany. Full breakfast & Motel Dinner

Day 9 The area of Australia which produces the widest variety of wildflowers, the great gem of the Great Southern is the Stirling Ranges. Enjoy bush walks with our botanical guide explaining and pointing out the vast array of flowers. Later we visit Mt Barker and an island of Karri, the Porongorups for another floral exploration. Return to Albany. Full breakfast & Motel Dinner.

Day 10 On to the majestic Tinglewood Trees and the Valley of the Giants treetop walk then via Denmark and Walpole to the Karri Forests of Manjimup. After lunch we enjoy a delightful drive in the forest to Nannup, an interesting quirky town on the banks of the Blackwood River. Arriving at Abbey Beach resort on Geographe Bay. Full breakfast & Motel Dinner

Day 11 Exploring the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park and its diverse flora and fauna. From the wind/salt swept coastal shrubs to the majestic Karri Trees. We also visit Margaret River and stop off for a wine tasting before returning to Busselton. Note: Wine Tasting included. Full breakfast & Motel Dinner

Day 12 A morning visit to the Busselton Jetty and Underwater Observation 1.8km out to sea. After lunch in town we finish off the tour on the Swan Coastal Plain with its sandy alluvial soils supporting a whole new variety of flora and fauna. Tour ends in Perth. Full Breakfast.

Day 13 Take in the must-see sights of Perth and Fremantle with visits to Kings Park Botanic Garden and Cottesloe Beach, passing Perth's exclusive suburbs. Start at Kings Park, the lush green heart of the city and one of the world's biggest inner city parks. Walk through the tree canopies on the Tree Top Walkway for views of the Perth city skyline and see the 750 year old Boab tree. Keep your eyes peeled for vibrant birdlife and be sure to listen out for the merry laugh of the native Australia Kookaburra. Next enjoy a picturesque drive along Cottesloe beach, or 'The Cott', one of the most popular Australian west coast beaches. Wander the streets of historic Fremantle, a centre of cosmopolitan cafés and restored old buildings. Relax on a cruise along the Swan River via some of Perth's most exclusive suburbs and as you near Perth city you'll cruise past Royal Perth Yacht Club and the University of WA. Breakfast

Day 14 Day Tour to Rottnest. Cruise along the Swan River to Fremantle before heading to Rottnest Island. Located 19 Kilometres off the mainland, the car-free island is an A class nature reserve and home to spectacular white sandy beaches, secluded bays, unique wildlife, shipwrecks, and a fascinating and colourful history. Enjoy a comprehensive coach tour and a full circumnavigation of the island with expert driver commentary. You're sure to encounter a Quokka! Stop at some of Rottnest's most spectacular locations, including the Wadjemup Lighthouse and the majestic lookout point at the rugged West End. Later, there is time at leisure before re-boarding your ferry for your return to Perth. Breakfast.

Day 15 Perth Free day. Tonight enjoy a Swan River Cruise and Dinner. Breakfast & Dinner.

Day 16 Perth Free day. Breakfast

Days 17 Indian Pacific. Perth to Kalgoorlie. After breakfast transfer to the train station to commence our train journey home. Take in your last whiff of Indian Ocean air as you step from the platform at East Perth Station onto the Indian Pacific.

The comfort of your cabin awaits as does your first onboard dining experience in the elegantly-appointed restaurant car. Reflect on the menu as you watch the suburbs of the Western Australian capital roll past your window and the verdant greens of the Avon Valley.

Stepping off the platform at Perth Railway Station your Great Southern Rail attendant will guide you to the comfortable private cabin you'll be calling home for the next four days.

Slide your luggage into its compartment, take a seat on your lounge and clear your mind in readiness for a myriad of new experiences.

The afternoon is yours to relax, socialise and get acquainted with the novelty of rail travel. Lunch in the Queen Adelaide Restaurant awaits with culinary wonders prepared onboard by our talented chefs. All food is included in your fare including the delicious rack of lamb and desert lime lamington, paired with a Margaret River sauvignon blanc or another fine wine from our wide range. Swap stories with other guests, watch the ever-changing view transform before your eyes and get ready for your first off train excursion in the wild west town of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Australia's largest regional town with a long and fascinating history, there's plenty to see, learn and do. First stop that evening is the wild west town of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, home to the staggering 3.6km wide Super Pit - an open-cut gold mine that has yielded riches 24 hours a day since 1989.

Lunch & Dinner.

Day 18 Indian Pacific. Cook & the Nullabor. Upon waking, set your sights on the vast horizon beyond the window - you have arrived on the edges of the sweeping Nullarbor Plain. Big blue skies await you, the ancient stillness of the desert landscape broken only by a mob of friendly kangaroos or the occasional circling bird of prey. By the time you have refreshed and enjoyed a leisurely breakfast, you'll be stepping off the train for a short stop in Cook. Once a bustling railway community, now effectively a ghost town, Cook gives new meaning to the expression "middle of nowhere". Get a sense of the Nullarbor's intense remoteness as you wander through Cook's abandoned buildings and learn more about the town's intriguing history. Breakfast Lunch & Dinner

Day 19 Indian Pacific. Adelaide and Broken Hill. By morning's light, your desert views have made way for the rolling South Australian countryside. Arriving in Adelaide, prepare yourself for an entertaining stop in a beautifully-designed city renowned for international arts festivals, pop-up bars, and laneway restaurants.

Feast upon the sights, scents and tastes of the extraordinary Adelaide Central Market - a mecca for locally-grown produce, multicultural treats and unexpected gourmet delights.

Listen to the cheerful calls of the market stall holders and let your gaze wander from the delicious cured meats hanging in the delicatessens to the bright pyramids of carefully-arranged fruits and the sweet-scented goods on display in the bakeries and confectioners.

Alternatively, board a coach for a highlights tour of Adelaide, taking in views of the world-renowned Adelaide Oval from Montefiore Hill and stopping in at the popular Haighs chocolate factory. Venture into the Adelaide Hills for an unrivalled panorama from Mt Lofty Lookout before heading back to the train.

Over lunch, watch as pastures dissolve into tough mallee scrub on approach to Broken Hill. Known as the Silver City, Broken Hill is one of Australia's legendary Outback bases defined by its wide streets, country pubs and ties with the Royal Flying Doctors Service and School of the Air. Here, you can visit the late Pro Hart's art studio or head for the Miners' Memorial where the stark reality of working in Broken Hill's mines over the ages is writ large. The striking architectural edifice and spectacular view over the city add emotional weight to the list of more than 800 miners who lost their lives on the job. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 20 4 December 2019 Indian Pacific. Sydney. Wake up and enjoy breakfast as you wind your way into the heart of the magnificent Blue Mountains. Arriving at Mount Victoria station, you have the option to disembark and explore the world-heritage listed national park.

Your first stop is Scenic World, offering a range of experiences for nature lovers, bushwalkers and thrill-seekers. Strap yourself in for an adrenalin-fuelling ride on the steepest-incline railway in the world before catching your breath and journeying back to the top of the mountain in a cable car. Take in the panoramic views of the Three Sisters from within the Skyway and further immerse yourself in the scenic Jamison Valley. After all this excitement and mountain air, you'll no doubt have worked up an appetite. Drive on to The Lookout Restaurant where you'll enjoy lunch with award-winning beers and wines, not to mention more picturesque views. From Katoomba, board a privately chartered train and be whisked away to Sydney Central Station where your journey comes to an end. Transfer back to Maitland. Breakfast

Cost \$7500 per person.

Inclusions:

- **Private transfer from Greenhills Travel Centre to Newcastle Airport.**
- **Flight to Perth.**
- **Accommodation, transportation, meals and entrance fees as per itinerary.**
- **Indian Pacific Gold Service Twin/Single Cabins.**

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April 2019 Japan

February 2020 Egypt April 2020 South America