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# The Top 10 Things To Do In Western Australia

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Travel



Aerial view of Rottnest Island GARRY NORRIS

While Australia's awe-inspiring east coast—home to Sydney, Melbourne and the Great Barrier Reef—gets the lion's share of attention, intrepid adventurers would be wise to go west and explore the country's under-appreciated Western region. Western Australia comprises a third of the country and hosts some of the nation's most phenomenal beaches, national parks, animal experiences, as well as the dynamic and engaging urban center, Perth, Australia's sunniest capital. Though you could spend a lifetime in the vast region and never discover all of its wonders, here's a taste of some of the best things to do in Western Australia.

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Elizabeth Quay WA TOURISM

## Perth

Nearly three-quarters of Western Australia's 2.6 million people can be found in the always-evolving metropolis of Perth. Blessed with a seemingly endless supply of sunshine, incredible natural beauty, a bustling waterfront area and beaches galore, Western Australia's capital city is not to be missed. Adding to the city's growing acclaim is the exponential increase in outstanding restaurants and hip hotels, a welcome consequence of Perth's economic upswing and revitalization efforts.





Caversham Wildlife Park SANDRA MACGREGOR

Today In: [Lifestyle](#)



## Swan Valley

Less than a 30-minute drive from Perth lies verdant Swan Valley. A historic wine-growing region, it offers a wonderful chance to sample Western Australia's bounty without straying too far from the capital city. Discover artisanal chocolate, coffee and cheese shops, as well as refreshing cideries and aboriginal galleries (where you can even attend a [Bush Tucker](#) experience) all peppered throughout a pastoral hilly landscape. Set aside a day or two just to tour some of the area's excellent wineries like [Mandoon Estate](#) and [Sandalford Wines](#). At nearby [Caversham Wildlife Park](#), take advantage of a once-in-a-lifetime chance to feed kangaroos and meet wombats and koalas.



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Around Fremantle GARRY NORRIS

## Fremantle

While Perth is Western Australia's urban hub, Fremantle may well be its heart. An eclectic, artistically inclined historic port town, it has a wonderful array of attraction. The residents exhibit a fiercely loyal adherence to local goods and services and that makes Freo (as the locals call it) one of Australia's top places to find quintessentially regional products, art and restaurants. [Fremantle Markets](#) is a treasure trove of treats and products from local producers and [Fremantle Prison](#) (Western Australia's only UNESCO World Heritage Site) is a fascinating—if fearsome—dive into Australia's history.



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Quokka on Rottnest Island SANDRA MACGREGOR

## Rottnest Island

Sure, this car-free island boasts a laid-back vibe and beautiful beaches, but the real draw here is the impossibly cute quokkas. The small marsupial that resembles a rat (in fact, the island was named after the adorable critters by Dutch explorers who thought the creatures were rodents) can only be found in a handful of places in Western Australia. While you're sure to spend hours ogling the quokkas, there's lots of other enjoyable activities like swimming and an [island tour](#).

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Western Australia Gourmet Escape Beach BBQ GARRY NORRIS

## Western Australia Gourmet Escape

There's simply no better way to experience the region's world-class cuisine and wine than via the Western Australia Gourmet Escape festival. As your taste buds relish some of Australia's tastiest fare, your eyes will likewise feast on some of its loveliest, most bountiful locations as you eat your way through Perth and the wine regions of Swan Valley and Margaret River. Held annually in November, the event sees local winemakers and over 50 Australian and international culinary masters come together for a series of workshops, tastings, markets and dinners that make it one of the country's greatest gourmet extravaganzas.





Cullen Wines RUSSELL ORD ELEMENTS MARGARET RIVER

## Margaret River

A popular weekend escape for Perth locals thanks to its picturesque beaches, stellar hikes and world-class restaurants, Margaret River is also one of Australia's premier wine regions. Among the standouts are bio-dynamic winery [Cullen Wines](#), [Leeuwin Estate](#) (especially famed for its chardonnays) and exceptional [Vasse Felix](#), Margaret River's founding winery. See another side of Australia as you venture underground for an [immersive tour](#) of Ngilgi Cave and take a bite out of the local food scene at the welcoming [Farmers' Market](#).

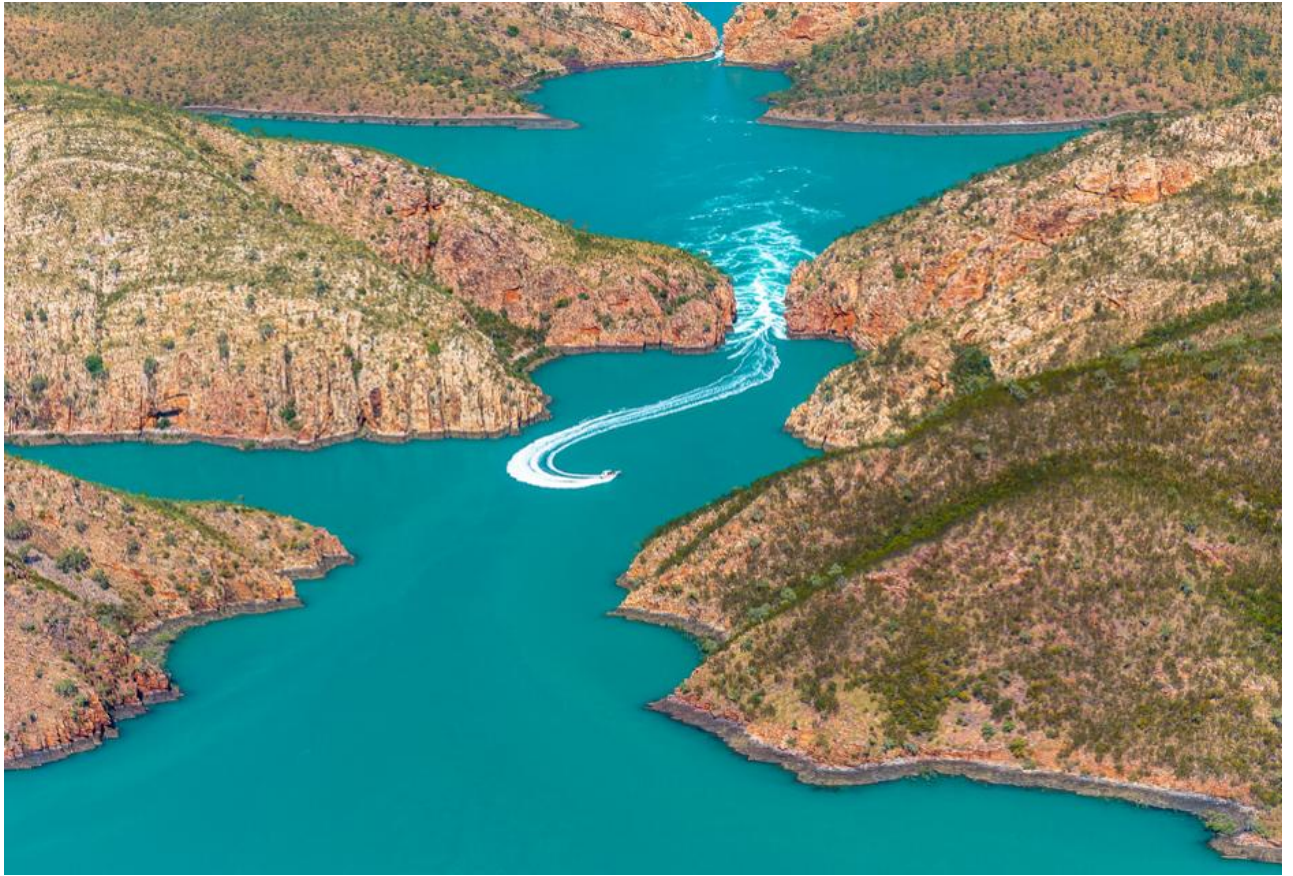


Whale Sharks in Ningaloo Reef, Western Australia. GETTY IMAGES

## Ningaloo Reef

While most travelers are familiar with Australia's Great Barrier Reef, Aussie's in the know will tell you that for out-of-this-world adventure and beauty you need to travel north-west to the Coral Coast and visit Ningaloo Reef. The heritage-listed site is one of the continent's most accessible reefs, with prime snorkeling spots easily reachable from the shore. Depending on what time of year you visit, Ningaloo Reef also offer incredible opportunities to swim with whale sharks or humpback whales.





The Horizontal Falls, the Kimberley JEWELS LYNCH PHOTOGRAPHY

## The Kimberley

For an authentic Australian remote wilderness experience you're not soon to forget, there's no better place than The Kimberley. This isolated coastal area arguably offers some of Western Australia's most awe-striking and rugged landscapes with golden gorges, spectacular waterways and ancient rock formations. There's also rich aboriginal cultural attractions, wildlife, unparalleled national parks and adventure sport opportunities. The charming town of Broome is guaranteed to captivate and you can even take camel tours along its gorgeous Cable Beach.



Cape to Cape Track, Margaret River Region WA TOURISM

## Cape To Cape Track

You don't have to be a hiking enthusiast to appreciate the stunning natural beauty of Western Australia's Cape to Cape Track. The 76-mile long trail in the region's southern tip in Margaret's River is among the most panoramic in the country. Traverse fields of wildflowers, rocky outcrops, delightful forest pathways and white, sandy beaches as you participate in a true Australian bush walk. To enrich the adventure, consider taking a [private tour](#) with a knowledgeable guide.





The Pinnacles at Nambung National Park DAN AVILA PHOTOGRAPHY

## Nambung National Park

In a land of jaw-dropping scenery, Nambung National Park manages to lay claim to one of the most striking features in the country. The Pinnacles is a barren, moon-like landscape with incredible spires of limestone that rise from the ground like spectral fingers. You'll also find scenic beaches at [Kangaroo Point](#) and [Hangover Bay](#), as well as an intriguing variety of animals and wildflowers.

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I'm a Canadian writer and editor who specializes in travel, food and wine. My father was in the Canadian Air Force so my family was constantly moving from base to base,... **Read More**