



Margaret River Wine Region

Vineyard, Margaret River Wine Region

World-renowned for its premium wine, mouth watering produce, white sandy beaches, amazing surfing breaks and spectacular forest scenery, this region attracts visitors from around the world time and time again. There truly is something here for everyone. With a huge selection of accommodation on offer from forest chalets, caravan parks, to luxurious resorts, this region has it covered. Whether you're a beach person, wine, beer and foodie connoisseur, a lover of art, or someone wanting to get active in the great outdoors, this is the region with so much on offer.

For aquatic adventurers, the Margaret River Wine Region is a playground with surfing, fishing, diving, snorkelling and sailing. For nature lovers, marine life is a constant fascination, and the sight of the magnificent humpback and southern right whales remains a special thrill. For some adventure you can hire a scooter or off road buggy, try rock climbing, abseiling, mountain bike riding, canoeing, horseriding, surfing lessons, and fishing charters.

Drive through the many picturesque inland towns and stop to taste wines at the cellar door.

The region begins in the coastal town of Busselton, on the beautiful shores of Geographe Bay, with its pristine sands and aquamarine waters. The bay continues to the north facing bay of Dunsborough and around the cape to Yallingup, both favourite family holiday and surfing spots each with their own special character.

The journey south along the western coastline brings you to the international

surfing paradise of Margaret River with its legendary surf breaks. The town is 10kms up river, and is home to fine restaurants, cafés and a diverse community of artists and creative people. The beautiful limestone caves nearby attract many visitors. Augusta is at the furthest point of the region and home to the spectacular Cape Leeuwin, the only place where you can see the meeting point of the Southern and Indian Oceans.

BUSSELTON

The picture postcard resort town of Busselton lies sheltered on the sweeping shores of pristine Geographe Bay. Its crystal blue waters and 30kms of dazzling, white sandy beaches stretching away towards Cape Naturaliste has been the subject of countless photographs and appears in travel books and personal albums around the world. Busselton's tranquil waters are an aquatic playground for those who love to swim, water-ski, snorkel, dive, fish and sail. It's the perfect place to bring the family, indulge in a romantic getaway, or

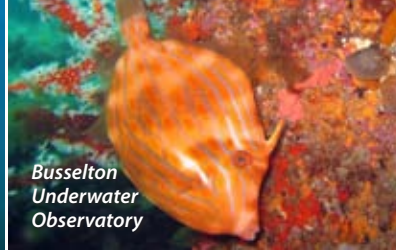
just to sit back, relax and watch the world go by. The town offers a variety of eateries, from relaxed coffee shops to sophisticated and trendy bars, cafés and fine dining restaurants. There is plenty of adventure, entertainment, nature and historic attractions to keep the whole family happy. A cycle path meanders along the stunning Geographe Bay foreshore. Stop at Yoganup Park to enjoy the imaginative play equipment for children of all ages. As the northern gateway to the Margaret River Wine Region, it attracts visitors year round.

Busselton Jetty

Busselton is best known for its 147 year old jetty measuring 1841 metres. Visitors can stroll the jetty or take the jetty train to reach the unique underwater observatory. Described as one of Australia's most unique eco-tourism sites and greatest artificial reef, the underwater observatory is gaining worldwide recognition. Previously, the privilege of viewing the aquatic wonders beneath the jetty was limited to divers



Diving, Busselton Jetty



Busselton Underwater Observatory



Meelup Beach, Dunsborough



Autumn vines



Swim start, Ironman, Busselton



Geographe Bay, Quindalup



Busselton Jetty

and snorkellers. Now people of all ages and abilities can marvel at an awe inspiring 'forest' of vividly coloured tropical and subtropical corals, sponges, fish and invertebrates.

Over 300 individual marine species live in the shelter of the jetty and it is a remarkable experience to view them from 8 metres below the surface without getting wet. An interpretive centre on the jetty gives visitors a glimpse into the Busselton Jetty's rich past and its exciting future.

Historic Sites

Take the 22km scenic round trip to Wonnerup House near the Vasse Estuary Wetlands. Built by the Layman family it is an important surviving example of early farm pioneering in Western Australia. There is a magnificent homestead (1859) and earlier house (1837) which was later converted into a dairy, plus a kitchen, stables and blacksmiths workshop, teacher's quarters and school. These National Trust buildings set in beautiful gardens have all been restored with many original items and furniture on display. The heritage listed Old Courthouse Arts Complex, built in 1854, is the oldest building in Busselton. Comprising a courtroom, jail cells, stable, post office and bond store, it offers a unique cultural experience. The original jail cells remain, with other parts of the complex displaying a range

of local arts and crafts. Take the time to visit the Heritage Park and Trail which commences opposite the Busselton Visitor Centre. It includes a range of contemporary sculptures and the acclaimed 'Aboriginal Interpretive Garden' as well as a number of historic landmarks such as the Ballarat Steam Engine, Saint Mary's Church and Pioneer Cemetery.

Tuart Forest National Park

The Tuart Forest National Park, situated seven kilometres east of Busselton, is the southern part of the only natural tuart forest remaining in the world. The trees are estimated to be 300-400 years old. Enjoy the peaceful forest setting with many picnic areas and walk trails.

Vasse - Wonnerup Wetlands

The Vasse Wonnerup Wetlands have been listed by the Ramsar Convention as 'Wetlands of International Importance'. So far more than 75 species of birds have been recorded, several of them rare. The wetlands offer sanctuary to a range of nesting, resting and migrating birds. A walk trail off Layman Road leads to a bird hide.



Vasse - Wonnerup Wetlands



Beach fun, Bunker Bay

Busselton Visitor Centre

38 Peel Terrace, BUSSELTON 6280
Tel: (08) 9752 5800 Fax: (08) 9754 1470
Email: getaway@geographebay.com
www.geographebay.com



Meelup Regional Park



Whale lookout, Castle Rock



Yallingup Beach

DUNSBOROUGH

A popular tourist destination due to its quiet coves, north facing sandy beaches, surrounding national parks, nature reserves and scenic walk trails, Dunsborough has something to please everyone. Cafés, bakeries and fashion stores line the main streets of the town, and there are many restaurants serving delicious regional delicacies and premium Margaret River wine. For art lovers, there are stunning galleries showing off fine handcrafted pottery, woodworks, sculptures and photography. For the adventurous there is Ngilgi Cave to be explored and Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse to climb. Dunsborough is also a great place for water sports, and is located near some of the best wineries in the region.

HMAS Swan Dive Wreck

A favourite experience for those who enjoy diving is a visit to the HMAS Swan Dive Wreck, which is considered a world-class site. The HMAS Swan was a River Class Frigate Destroyer Escort built in 1967. After serving the Australian Navy for 26 years, she was decommissioned in 1996 and laid to rest in 30 metres of water off Meelup Beach. Intensive work by the Geographe Bay Artificial Reef Society and volunteers prepared the

wreck so that visitors can appreciate how a wreck can become an artificial reef, home and breeding ground for coral, fish and other marine life. Due to the protected nature of Geographe Bay, the site can be visited by divers almost 10 months of the year.

Cape Naturaliste

Take a drive to the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse and Maritime Museum just 13kms out of town. Visitors can take a tour of the lighthouse and take advantage of the stunning views of the coast. There are several walking trails including the start of the Cape to Cape Walk which follows the coast to Cape Leeuwin near Augusta. These walk trails provide excellent viewing of the wildflowers in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, home to several rare species including the Naturaliste Nancy, Dunsborough Spider Orchid, Cape Spider Orchid and Meelup Mallee. Cape Naturaliste is the perfect vantage point for spotting whales on their annual migration. Between September and December, southern right, humpback and blue whales are all commonly seen off the coast. Experience the magic of watching them bask and play in Geographe Bay from Cape Naturaliste's purpose built whale watching platform or from a cruise. Sugarloaf Rock is another part of the striking coastal

scenery. Located in the Leeuwin- Naturaliste National Park it is an impressive formation that dominates the coastline, near Cape Naturaliste.

Secluded Bays

You'll catch your breath at the beautiful turquoise waters of Meelup Bay, Eagle Bay and Bunker Bay. They're all worth a visit, especially if you enjoy surfing, swimming, sailing, snorkelling, diving or simply enjoying this exquisite Dunsborough coastline. Meelup Bay is part of the Meelup Regional Park which offers numerous walk trails for the energetic visitor who enjoys wildflowers or bird watching.

Dunsborough Visitor Centre

Dunsborough Park Shopping Centre,
DUNSBOROUGH 6281
Tel: (08) 9752 5800 Fax: (08) 9756 8065
Email: getaway@geographebay.com
www.geographebay.com

YALLINGUP

Yallingup township is positioned on a hill overlooking the stunning Yallingup Beach. The coastline here is dramatic. Jagged rocks and high cliff faces are met by a haze of sea spray from the swell below. Yallingup Beach, Smiths Beach and Injidup Beach all offer some of the finest surf breaks in the world.



Injidup Beach



Canal Rocks, Yallingup



Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse



HMAS Swan Dive Wreck, Dunsborough



Ngilgi Cave



Dunsborough



Quindalup Boat Ramp

One of the most beautiful areas along the coast is Canal Rocks, a series of protruding rocks. The area is popular with fishermen and photographers. It's breathtaking on a still day and awesome when it's rough. You'll find wineries, breweries, restaurants, galleries, arts and craft in and around Yallingup. Visitors also come to see the spectacular underground caverns and the beauty of the

Leeuwin- Naturaliste National Park. Yallingup is an Aboriginal word meaning "Place of Love." It offers a range of adult retreats and is the perfect destination for that romantic getaway, and caters just as well for families. Beneath the limestone ridge which forms Cape Naturaliste is Ngilgi Cave, with its striking display of stalagmite, stalactite, helictite and shawl formations. The cave is located just two

kilometres out of Yallingup and offers a range of tours from easy to adventurous. On an adventure tour you can crawl and climb over rocks and are rewarded with stunning views of thousand year old formations. You'll find the breathtaking Quinninup Falls 10kms south of Yallingup, from here you can walk south on the Cape to Cape Walk.

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

DUNSBOROUGH
80BP 4/27 BURN BAY RD
08 97591555

MARGARET RIVER
99 BUSELL HWY
08 97588955

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WWW.CHRISTIANFLETCHER.COM.AU



Boranup Forest



Geographe Bay

COWARAMUP

At the centre of the Margaret River Wine Region lies a charming town called Cowaramup, named by the Aborigines after the purple crowned lorikeet, Cowara, that once inhabited the area. Originally a timber town in the 1930's it offers easy access to the surrounding wineries, beaches, surf and bush. Beef, sheep, dairy and viticulture industries all thrive in the area. Visitors are welcome to gain an insight into the workings of each industry. Tasting of the local wines, cheeses and fudge is a highly recommended activity, and you can also taste organically grown olive oil.

There are a number of well known boutique wineries and breweries surrounding Cowaramup just waiting to be explored. Visitors will find arts and crafts on sale in town, prolific birdlife in the surrounding area, as well as dazzling wildflower displays in season.

Cowaramup offers a range of accommodation from farmstays, where visitors can experience the day-to-day activities on the farm, to luxurious retreats.

MARGARET RIVER

Situated in Australia's South West's premier wine region, the Margaret River township is 10kms from the Indian Ocean, positioned on the banks of the stunning Margaret River. Some of the most picturesque scenery in Western Australia is found here, incorporating towering forests, a diverse coastline and lush green pastures that become a blaze of colour with wildflowers in spring. Margaret River is centrally located amongst world-class wineries, spectacular caves and awesome surf breaks. A vast range of accommodation exists to suit all budgets, from fun caravan parks to five star luxury retreats. Art is integral to the Margaret River character, and can be viewed at the numerous galleries and shops. Many have artists in residence. There are also many trendy cafés and gourmet restaurants. Margaret River has a relaxed, laid back atmosphere.

The Margaret River Town

About 5,000 people live in Margaret River town, with 12,000 in the Augusta Margaret River Shire. The town has a contemporary visitor centre, supermarkets, restaurants, cafés and a host of specialty shops.

Rotary Park in the town is home to superb barbecue facilities and a steam engine (named "Kate") built in England in 1889.

It is also the entrance to a number of Heritage Walking Trails.

On Wallcliffe Road you'll find the modern St Thomas Moore Catholic Church, which has been built of rammed earth and is a fine example of contemporary church architecture with interesting stained glass windows.

Margaret River's Coastline

The ocean here is legendary, so take a drive to the seaside settlement of Prevelly. Established near the meeting of the Margaret River and the ocean, it offers breathtaking views of enormous waves. Adjacent to Prevelly is Gnarabup, a popular swimming beach.

The massive surf along the coastline has turned the coastal area of Margaret River into a surfing mecca. The famed Surfers Point at Prevelly is the perfect vantage point for watching the local surfers take on the ocean.

Every year the town is a buzz with excitement and visitors as Surfers Point hosts a world class surfing competition with up to 200 of the worlds best, taking on the massive swell.

There are more than 40 places to surf, with conditions ranging from powerful reef breaks to fun beach breaks. Margaret River is one of the most consistent surfing destinations in the world.



Gracetown



Beach picnic, Margaret River



Sugarloaf Rock, Cape Naturaliste



Winery, Margaret River



Boranup Forest



Surfing at Conto's Beach



Winery tour



Winery, Margaret River Wine Region

Food and Wine

No-one should leave Margaret River without tasting the delectable local fresh produce. Choose from berries, fudge, preserves, olive oils and a large assortment of gourmet lines. One of the greatest attractions of Margaret River is its vineyards and wineries. Being classically Mediterranean with cool frost free winters, good soils which retain moisture, low summer rainfall and a long, slow ripening period, the climate is perfect for grape growing. The first grape vines were planted as recently as 1967 and within a short time have produced internationally acclaimed chardonnay, semillon, sauvignon blanc, riesling, cabernet sauvignon, merlot and shiraz. There's no better place to start a journey of discovery through the wine region than at the Wine Tourism Showroom in the Margaret River Visitor Centre. It features bottle and glass displays, occasional wine tastings, sensory display and wine making paraphernalia. The centre is fun as well as educational and worth a stop before you set off to discover the local wineries and vineyards. And don't despair if wine is not your thing! There are six boutique breweries scattered among the wine country and tours are available that incorporate both.

Caves

CaveWorks is not to be missed. It's a fascinating interpretive centre set amidst the famous caves and natural environment of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge located at Lake Cave. Just 20 minutes south from the town along Caves Road, it also serves as a regional centre for preserving the fragile living geology and ecology of the area. Mammoth Cave is also nearby and is the only cave in the region to offer universal access.

Boranup Karri Forest

Boranup Karri Forest lies between Caves Road and the coast, and creates a powerful contrast with the rest of the coastline. Karri is the third tallest tree in the world and the tall pale barked trees, reaching 60 metres or more, dominate the hilly slopes and valleys. The Boranup Forest seen today is a regrowth forest and is just over 100 years old.

Margaret River Visitor Centre

100 Bussell Highway, MARGARET RIVER 6285
 Tel: (08) 9780 5911 Fax: (08) 9757 3287
 Email: welcome@margaretriver.com
www.margaretriver.com



Geopraphe Bay



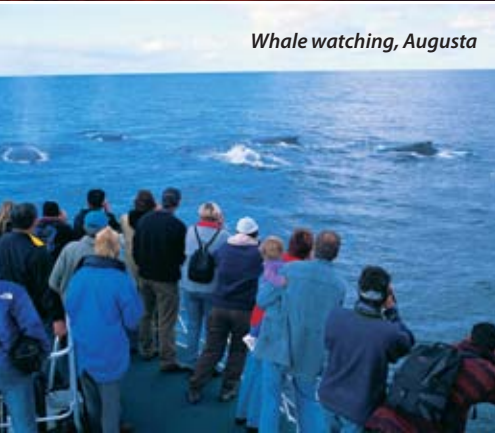
Jewel Cave, Augusta



Whale Memorial Park, Augusta



Coastline, Augusta



Whale watching, Augusta



View from Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse



Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse



Lake Cave, Margaret River

AUGUSTA

Augusta is a picturesque town located at the mouth of the beautiful Blackwood River and is home to some of the most pristine waterways in the world.

Lighthouse

Nine kilometres from the township stands the historic 116 year old Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse. It is the tallest on mainland Australia and sits on the tip of a spectacular peninsula where the Indian and Southern Oceans meet. It is surrounded by green rolling hills, rocky coastal outcrops and wildflowers. The brilliant white lighthouse makes for stunning photographs. Visitors can take a rare opportunity of taking a tour of a working lighthouse that guards one of the world's most dangerous shipping lanes. Close by, the old Water Wheel was constructed in 1895 during the building of the lighthouse when a spring was tapped to provide fresh water for the workers. Having turned to stone over the years it is now one of Augusta's favourite attractions. Parts of the Augusta coast are great for swimming, fishing, canoeing, surfing and diving. Along the coastline are many scenic lookouts from which to marvel at the ocean's beauty and power.

Whales

Wildlife enthusiasts will love the opportunities to watch the humpback and southern right whales as they migrate from June through to September. Dolphins and New Zealand fur seals inhabit the surrounding water all year round and can often be seen from the shore. Abundant bird life is seen in and around Augusta.

Caves

Take time out to visit the enthralling limestone caves near Augusta. Jewel Cave is WA's largest tourist cave and boasts intricate formations and beautiful 'decorations' in its enormous chambers. It is home to a frozen waterfall and one of the world's longest straw stalactites to be found in any tourist cave. The Jewel Cave Preservation Centre features retail and café facilities as well as a spectacular interpretive area.

History

The Augusta Historical Museum has been rated by visitors as one of the best small museums. Go back in time with displays that include details of families involved in what was the third European settlement in Western Australia.

Augusta Visitor Centre

75 Blackwood Ave, AUGUSTA 6290
Tel: (08) 9758 0166 Fax: (08) 9758 0174
Email: welcome@margaretriver.com
www.margaretriver.com

THE MARGARET RIVER REGION... EXPERIENCE EXTRAORDINARY!



EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS

From Augusta to Dunsborough there is an experience for everyone
Gourmet wine and food journeys
Forest and coastal discovery trails



**Plan
your
stay**

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(08) 9780 5911
welcome@margaretriver.com

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(08) 9758 0166
augusta@margaretriver.com

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www.margaretriver.com