

australia's south west fact sheet
group guided walking holiday



group guided walking...

Group guided walking holidays are a fun, informative way to explore new areas. We'll travel by mini bus from Perth and visit the Pemberton karri forests, hike several coastal sections of the Bibbulmun Track then head north to the Porongorups and Stirling Ranges. We'll do the "must see" places and also get far off-the-beaten-track. On this trip, group sizes vary from 12-16 people. It is easy to get to know other people on the tour, and the small numbers mean that you and your guides can have some flexibility in the daily program. We have lots of fun on these tours, and people often make good friends with other people on the trips. You will need to carry a light day-pack each day, containing basic essential items, such as lunch and water - the rest of your luggage will be transported in our trailer.

guides...

There will be two knowledgeable and experienced guides on this holiday and they are nice people to spend your holiday with. Their role is to lead the group, provide information about the environment you are walking through and generally assist you to enjoy the holiday. Having two guides allows us to offer a choice of easier and harder walks on most days.

9 day trip itinerary guide...

Day 1: Departs downtown Perth at 9.00am. Travel south to Pemberton, well known for its magnificent karri forests. Visit the Gloucester tree - will you be brave enough to climb to the high fire lookout? There's a network of these fire lookout trees all over Western Australia and this one is not for the faint-hearted! No doubt there will be plenty of volunteer photographers perched at ground level. From here our walk continues through bushland to rocky rapids at The Cascades (2hrs, 6km, moderate walking).

Accommodation: Karri Valley Resort near Pemberton



Day 2: Today's walk is a full day on the long distance Bibbulmun Track from Pemberton to Karri Valley. There are tall forests, a lake and waterfall to enjoy along the way. At Beedelup Falls, a suspension bridge crosses Beedelup Brook, an aboriginal name meaning "place of water" (7 hours, 26km of very easy walking, with several pull out options along the way).

Accommodation: Karri Valley Resort



Day 3: Today starts with an early morning lakeside stroll to observe the abundant birdlife (1hr, 2km). Then it's a delightful circuit hike through huge old growth karri forest in the adjacent Warren National Park. The section of track that hugs the banks of the picturesque Warren River is one of our favourites. This walk finishes at the Bicentennial Tree - another fire lookout tree that can be climbed (2.5hrs, 8km, mostly moderate with a couple of challenging sections - easier option available). After lunch at Pemberton we continue south to the Shannon River National Park for a walk through karri, marri and jarrah forests to a granite outcrop overlooking the old Shannon townsite (2hrs, 5km, moderate walking). We finish the day with the short drive to the coast at Walpole.
Accommodation: Walpole



Day 4: First up today is the Valley of the Giants where you'll see rare and wonderful tingle trees. There's a short walk on the Ancient Empire Trail where you can learn about these unique trees that only occur right here. Tingle trees are the most massive of all eucalypts, forming bases with large hollows that are big enough to park a car in (30 mins, 1km, easy). Next we'll walk along the Tree Tops Walk, a raised boardwalk where you can get a birds-eye view of the tingles. Off to the coast now for a fabulous section of the Bibbulmun Track, from Conspicuous Cliffs to Peaceful Bay (5hrs, 16km, moderate walking). Finish with a one-hour drive to the coastal settlement of Denmark where we'll base for two nights.
Accommodation: Denmark





Day 5: It's another stunning section of the Bibbulmun Track from Williams Bay to Denmark. The track hugs the sea cliffs for much of the way, providing stunning panoramas. The water in this area famous for its turquoise green colour and the pristine white sandy beaches, edged by granite boulders, make today's hike a photographer's paradise (21km, 7 hrs, mostly moderate - several pull out options along the way).
Accommodation: Denmark



Day 6: A full day exploring the sights around Albany. There will be several walks to popular places such as The Gap, Natural Bridge, the Blowholes and the Isthmus. This day has quite a few options so the time and distance will vary according to the choices you make (total of about 15-18km, 5-6hrs, mostly moderate). We will also factor in some time to relax and enjoy this magnificent beach environment.

Accommodation: Albany



Day 7: We leave the coast behind now and head inland to the Porongorup National Park. There's a moderately challenging circuit walk through karri forests and up and over three granite peaks. There's an optional challenging scramble to a high vantage point with stunning vistas south back to Albany and north to the Stirling Ranges (8km, 4hrs, moderate to challenging if you do the complete circuit). We'll also offer a walk to Castle Rock (3km, 2hrs, moderately challenging) or the alternative of a winery visit.
Accommodation: Kendenup near the Stirling Ranges



Day 8: Today will be spent in the magnificent Stirling Ranges. You can expect stunning wildflower displays. We'll start with a climb up Bluff Knoll - at 1095m it's the highest peak in the Stirlings. Fortunately it has a good, well-graded walking track, so it's not the hardest walk in the area! From the summit there are sweeping 360 degree views (6km, 4hrs, sustained moderate walking). In the afternoon there's a choice of a challenging peak or an easy wildflower ramble.
Accommodation: Kendenup





Day 9: A travelling day today as we head back to Perth through the rural towns of Kojanup and Williams. We estimate arriving in Perth at around 3.00pm.

how hard is the walking?...

You should be in reasonable shape, but there's certainly no need to be a triathlete! On some days we'll do a full day walk and on other days there may be several shorter walks. Our full day walks generally involve 5-6 hours on the track at a moderate pace, though this might be broken into two or three separate sections. We have designed this itinerary so that nearly every day, one guide can offer a faster, longer or harder walk, while the other will guide people on the standard itinerary. So, most people should find options that suit their fitness level.

Specifics: The sections of Bibbulmun Track vary from easy to moderate. Walking in the Porongorups is moderate and the Stirling Ranges offer some challenging walking. In general, this trip caters well for those who like challenging hikes as well as those who prefer easier, shorter walks.

For many people, the walking distances on this holiday are more than you are likely to do at home and you may be quite weary by the end of each day. The best preparation is a program of regular walking. We suggest at least one hour of walking each day, preferably in an area with lots of ups and downs. Plus a full day of walking each week. Do this for at least three weeks before the start of your holiday. Alternatively take up an active sport like aerobics, tennis or swimming. A bit of sweat now will make your walking holiday much more enjoyable.



weather information...

For an overview of weather conditions in this area, click on the link below:

[Bureau of Meteorology](#)

what's included...

8 nights accommodation, most meals (8 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners), 2 guides, all transport from Perth CBD, entry to Treetops Walk, national park fees, information booklets, insulated lunch bag, map case, notes, maps.

More details:

- Accommodation. We want you to enjoy every aspect of our walking holidays. So, in addition to finding great walks, we have also made an effort to find interesting and comfortable accommodation for you. We'll stay in lakeside accommodation at Karri Valley Resort for two nights. Then there are comfortable motel style properties in Walpole, Denmark and Albany. The final two nights will be at a very atmospheric lodge near the Stirling Ranges - this place is a real treat.
- Quality dining is another important aspect of all Auswalk walking holidays. Meals will vary a lot, but they will be plentiful, nutritious and wholesome. Each day starts with a hearty breakfast - sometimes cooked, sometimes continental. On some days you will need to carry lunch on the walk, packed in an Auswalk insulated carrier bag, which we supply, to keep it fresh and cool. Dinners are provided on 7 nights and will consist of limited choice 2 course meals or buffets. When meals are not included there will be plenty of places nearby for you to dine at.
- All National Park fees. Australian National Parks charge a daily fee, which is incorporated into the cost of your walk.

We will mail you a final document package about one month prior to your holiday and after you have paid for your trip in full. It includes:

- Maps. Your guide can highlight the walking route for you.
- Waterproof map case. You can put your map and daily walking notes in this map case, so everything stays dry no matter what the weather.
- Additional information booklets. These provide useful information about the area.

If you are coming from overseas, we can mail the package to any address in Australia for no additional charge. However, if you want the documents sent overseas, we charge an extra \$20 to New Zealand and \$35 to other countries. The package weighs between 0.5kg and 1kg so we recommend mailing it to your first Australian accommodation, so you can collect it when you first arrive in the country. It is important that you receive your documents at least a few days before you start your walking holiday.

what's not included...

Alcohol, meals not listed in itinerary, drinks with meals (except tea/coffee and juice with breakfast).



accommodations...

The first 2 nights are at Karri Valley Resort. This lake-front property offers water views from all rooms.



The next four nights are spent in comfortable motels in Walpole, Denmark and Albany.



The final two nights are at a delightful rural property in the Stirling Ranges. Expect a touch of luxury in a unique environment.



what to bring with you...

- Map, and map case
- Casual clothing for dinner. Jackets and skirts are not required in most restaurants.
- Suitable footwear. Walking boots/shoes are best. They should have ankle support and a strong patterned sole. Wear thick socks, or two pair of thin ones. It is important that socks fit firmly and are NOT loose. Many of the tracks are quite rocky. Sandals are totally unsuitable for this walk.
- Day pack. The best day packs have padded shoulders and a waist/hip strap. Make sure it is large enough to carry waterproof clothing, a warm jumper, water, picnic lunch, camera etc. Most packs leak in rain so bring a plastic bag to line the pack with.
- Walk clothing for warm weather - light weight materials, shorts, short sleeved shirts.
- Walk clothing for cold weather - choose synthetics, thermals, polar fleece or wool. Don't walk in cotton trousers (eg. jeans). Cotton becomes cold and miserable if it gets wet.
- Quality waterproof coat. The best jackets are made of goretex or similar fabrics. It is important that the material is completely waterproof. Avoid padded jackets because they are too hot and usually not waterproof. Ideally your jacket should be long enough to cover your thighs and your short trousers. A large hood is essential and long sleeves are desirable. If you are unsure about the suitability of your jacket, please ask us for information.
- Waterproof overtrousers. These are optional. They are ideal for cold, wet and windy weather.
- Sun hat - choose a wide-brimmed one
- Warm hat - wool or polar fleece.
- Sunglasses
- Water bottles. On this walk, there are usually no places to refill water bottles during the day, so it is necessary to carry adequate drinking water for the entire day. Typically this is a minimum of two litres per person. On a hot day you may need even more than this.
- Sun screen (at least 15+). Apply it liberally in sunny conditions. One application will not last all day.
- Insect repellent
- Small first aid kit containing personal medications and blister kit
- Camera / binoculars (optional)
- Walking stick (optional). These are becoming more widely used as people find that the use of a walking stick helps reduce stress on knees and ankles, particularly when walking downhill. Modern collapsible models are lightweight and fit neatly into most suitcases for travelling.
- Thermos for carrying hot drinks (optional)

It will be best if you bring everything you need with you. We will pass through several country towns along the way but there will be no outdoors equipment stores.

luggage...

You can bring as many items of luggage as you wish. However, note that some of the rooms are upstairs so if you must travel with large amounts of luggage, please consider spreading it over two or more smaller bags.

insurance...

We charge a cancellation fee if you cancel your Auswalk holiday after we have confirmed it. Details are clearly listed in our AUSWALK BOOKING CONDITIONS in our brochure and web page. We strongly recommend you purchase a travel insurance policy, so you are insured if you have to cancel this tour. This can be arranged through Auswalk if you are an Australian resident or through any travel agent.



pre & post tour accommodation...

We can recommend Miss Maud's Swedish Hotel, a boutique property centrally located in Perth's CBD. The property has 52 imaginatively designed rooms and is located at 97 Murray Street Perth. They have a restaurant on site and are also close to other eating places. Ph: 08 9325 3900 or email hotel@missmaud.com.au We will also pick up and drop off at this hotel (this is the only location we can pick up from).

departure dates & prices...

These can be found on our website by clicking on these links:

[Departure dates](#)

[Prices](#)

photography...

From time to time Auswalk guides take photographs during trips for possible use in future brochures, newsletters or on our website, to promote Auswalk holidays. While we end up taking hundreds of pictures, we only ever use a few of the very best ones. If you don't want your image to be used in a photo for this purpose, please let the guide know before the trips starts. If you don't say anything, we will assume you have no objections.

other info...

There is no need to dress formally for meals. Neat casual clothing is satisfactory in all your accommodations.

Packaged drinks (eg. soft drinks and alcohol) are not included with meals, but can be purchased along the way.

For our international walkers, major credit cards are accepted everywhere in Australia, although Diners and American Express are less widely accepted. We will pass through a couple of towns with banks during the trip.



auswalk's guided group trips...

- Australia's South West - circuit trip from Perth, 9 days, featuring highlights of the Bibbulmun Track plus the Porongorups and Stirling Ranges
- Blue Mountains Hiker - starts in Sydney, 4 days, based at Blackheath
- Cape to Cape Track - starts in Perth, 9 days, coastal hike in the Margaret River region
- Carnarvon Gorge - starts in Brisbane, 8 days, also includes the Bunya Mountains & Cania Gorge
- Flinders Island - starts on the island, 7 days, stunning hiking in the mountain ranges and coastline
- Flinders Ranges - starts in Adelaide, 8 days, hike Alligator Gorge, Dutchmans Stern, Wilpena Pound
- Gold Coast Hinterland Walk - starts at the Gold Coast, 6 days, hike in the Lamington National Park from O'Reillys to Binna Burra then up to Springbrook Plateau
- Grampians Hiker - starts in Melbourne, 7 days, highlights of the region, based in Halls Gap
- Great Alpine Walk - starts in Melbourne, 7 days, traverse the Vic Alps from one village to the next
- Great Ocean Walk - starts in Melbourne, 7 days, hike from Apollo Bay to the 12 Apostles
- Great South West Walk - starts in Melbourne, 7 days, walk the highlights of this track including the Lower Glenelg River and the Three Capes section.
- Kangaroo Island - starts in Adelaide, 7 days, staying in wilderness lodge and lighthouse cottages
- Lord Howe Island - accessible by plane from Sydney or Brisbane, 7 days, hike this World Heritage Area, cruise around the island by boat and much more
- Red Centre - starts in Alice Springs, 7 days, includes Uluru, Kata Tjuta (the Olgas), Kings Canyon and sections of the Larapinta Trail in the West Macdonnell Ranges
- Roof of Australia - starts in Canberra, 7 days, hike inn-to-inn, traversing the Snowy Mountains, stay in alpine ski lodges and climb the highest mountain in Australia
- Tasmanian Coastal Hiker - starts in Launceston & finishes in Hobart, 7 days, includes Bay of Fires, Freycinet & the Tasman Peninsula
- Tasmanian Wilderness Hiker - starts in Hobart & finishes in Launceston, 9 days, includes Mt Field, Lake Pedder, Lake St Clair and Cradle Mountain
- Tropical Hiker - starts in Cairns, 8 days, includes the Daintree, Mossman Gorge, Atherton Tablelands, Mission Beach and Dunk Island
- Waterfall Way - starts in Coolangatta, 7 days, includes stunning waterfalls and escarpments of New England National Park, Dorrigo, Wollomombi Falls, Dangars Gorge, Cathedral Rock and more

PLUS Sydney's Bushtracks, Bays & Beaches - based in Sydney, guided, 5 or 7 days, starts any day except summer, for a minimum of 2 people booking together, walk in National Parks close to Sydney

we also offer inn-to-inn walking holidays...

On an INN-to-INN walking holiday, you walk from one place to the next while your luggage is moved ahead for you. They are all available self guided and some can be done guided any day of the year.

- Blue Mountains Traverse & Blue Mountains Weekender - near Sydney, there's much more here than the famous 3 Sisters!
- Cape to Cape Track - near Perth, hike from Cape Leeuwin to Cape Naturaliste in Western Australia's Margaret River wine region
- Gold Coast Hinterland Walk - near Brisbane, traverse the Lamington Plateau then hike Springbrook
- Grampians Hike - near Melbourne, Auswalk's home base and our favourite place, rugged rocky ranges, a fabulous place to hike amongst native animals
- Great Alpine Walk - near Melbourne, traverse the Victorian Alps from one alpine village to the next, hike the Razorback Ridge and walk from Falls Creek to Mt Hotham
- Great Ocean Walk - near Melbourne, long distance track from Apollo Bay to the 12 Apostles, magnificent coastal scenery, secluded beaches, tall forests and lots of koalas
- Great South West Walk - near the Vic/SA border, hike the entire 250km track or do just the highlights
- Roof of Australia - in the Snowy Mountains near Canberra, hike from one alpine village to the next, see ancient glacial lakes, climb Australia's highest mountain

how to contact us...

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