

ROSS GARDEN TOURS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA WILDFLOWERS

9 - 23 SEPTEMBER, 2020

ITINERARY

Let Australian plant lover Colin Barlow introduce you to the diverse natural wonders of southern Western Australia. Meet milkmaids, honeypots, green kangaroo paws and mountain bells in the wild, and catch the extravaganza of the Kings Park Wildflower Festival.

Day 1 Wed 9 Sep

Home to Perth

Meet our Ross Tour Leader Colin Barlow at Perth Airport. Check in to the Duxton Hotel, our luxurious home near the Swan River for 2 nights. Get to know your fellow travellers at our Welcome Dinner tonight.

Accommodation: Duxton Hotel, Perth

Day 2 Thu 10 Sep Fremantle

This morning we head to one of Perth's wildflower hotspots, Wireless Hill Park. Enjoy a leisurely stroll through this bushland park, taking in the spectacular sight of blooming wildflowers. Panoramic views of the city and Swan River are breathtaking! After free time to explore and have lunch in Fremantle, we visit the wildflowers of South Beach. Then it's north to Bold Park, Perth's largest urban bushland park so see their stunning spring wildflower display! Finish the day at Perth's iconic Cottesloe Beach with dinner and sunset views overlooking the beach's crystal clear waters and white sands.

Accommodation: Duxton Hotel, Perth

Day 3 Fri 11 Sep Perth to Albany

Today we head south to the historic port town of Albany. Our scenic route takes us through majestic forests of Marri Red Gums and ancient towering Jarrah trees. En route, stop for lunch at Kojonup, go hunting with Colin for delicate spider and cowslip orchids, and enjoy some of the best scenery Western Australia has to offer! Check into our Albany hotel, home for the next 4 nights. Albany sits on the south coast of WA, considered one of the most beautiful coastlines

in the world. The South West also has one of the world's best wildflower displays! Tonight is free to relax and explore this stunning location.

Accommodation: Best Western, Albany

Day 4 Sat 12 Sep Valley of the Giants

A bucket list day! Ascend to the treetops of some of the tallest trees on earth. The Valley of the Giants Treetop Walk gives you a bird's eye view of ancient red tingles (*Eucalyptus jacksonii*) - trees which occur nowhere else in the world and whose origins trace back to Gondwana! Climbing 40 metres into the forest canopy and meandering through the treetops for 600 metres, the walking trail is the first of its kind, designed to maximise views and minimise human impact.

Accommodation: Best Western, Albany

Day 5 Sun 13 Sep Albany

Explore the unique beauty of WA's ancient southern coastline and incredible floral diversity. First, we head to the Gap and Natural Bridge to witness the power of nature in creating these extraordinary landforms. Hold onto your hat here, their beauty will blow you away! The nearby Regional Wildflower Centre is a botanic hotspot with over 10,000 indigenous plants, many rare and endangered, to see here: the floral effect is simply stunning! Immerse yourself in the beauty of wildflowers then step back in time at the historic Whaling Station to gain insight into the transformation of Albany from whaling to whale watching.

Accommodation: Best Western, Albany

Day 6 Mon 14 Sep Stirling Ranges

Explore the beautiful and diverse Stirling Ranges and Porongurup NP regions today, some of the world's biodiversity hotspots. There are more than 1500 species of plants in the Stirling Ranges alone. Watch out for some of the 148 bird species, including electric blue fairywrens, brilliant parrots and soaring majestic wedge-tailed eagles.

Accommodation: Best Western, Albany

Day 7 Tue 15 Sep Albany to Hopetoun

Travel east today and see a floral highlight at the Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show. For the last 38 years, this show has become one of the biggest & best in WA! The festival showcases local wildflowers. Over 500 botanically identified specimens are on display. Check into our Hopetoun Motel for 3 nights.

Accommodation: Wave Crest Village, Hopetoun

Day 8 Wed 16 Sep Fitzgerald River National Park

More wildflowers today in Fitzgerald River National Park including Qualup Bells, Possum banksias, regelias, the bell-fruited mallee, Scarlet Banksia and the 'jug' flowers of Albany Woolly Bush. Recognised as one of the most botanically significant parks in Australia, Fitzgerald River National Park is home to nearly 20% of Western Australia's flora species, many of them endemic. We'll find a perfect shady picnic spot!

Accommodation: Wave Crest Village, Hopetoun

Day 9 Thu 17 Sep
Ravensthorpe

We're off to explore the triangle between Hopetoun, Jerdacuttup and Ravensthorpe, recognised as one of the most botanically significant areas in Australia. See banksia artwork painted wheat silos and the Ravensthorpe Ranges.

Accommodation: Wave Crest Village, Hopetoun

Day 10 Fri 18 Sep
Hopetoun to Esperance

Take the cross-country road through wetlands and mallee country to Esperance. See water birds and iconic wildflowers including red kangaroo paw and pretty lemon flowers of the grey cottoneheads, *Conostylis*. Check into our motel overlooking Esperance Bay for 2 nights with dinner included this evening.

Accommodation: Best Western, Esperance

Day 11 Sat 19 Sep
Cape Arid

We're travelling east today to Cape Arid National Park. Bring binoculars and telephoto lens as bird watching

is on the agenda: Cape Barren geese, Western Ground Parrots and Carnaby's Black Cockatoos. Whale watching too. Picnic amongst a wealth of flora here; banksias, ground orchids, flowering melaleucas and the nude grevillea!

Accommodation: Best Western, Esperance

Day 12 Sun 20 Sep
Esperance to Hyden

As we head north today, we travel through Salmon Gum country where graceful pink barked eucalypts and carpets of wildflowers colour the dry landscape. At Hyden, visit the world-famous Wave Rock - a 2,700 million-year-old granite rock that's 15m high, 110metres long and looks remarkably like a giant wave about to break! Picnic lunch en route and dinner at the Wave Rock Motel.

Accommodation: Wave Rock Motel, Hyden

Day 13 Mon 21 Sep
Hyden to Perth

Travel back to Perth through the famous Western Australian Wheatbelt Country. Stop at Corrigin, charmingly known as the 'Town of

Windmills' due to the abundant supply of groundwater. Almost every home had a windmill until 1960 when the town was supplied with scheme water. Carpets of everlasting daisies and fabulous proteaceae plants including banksias, grevilleas, hakeas and dryandras are a feature of this area. Check into the Duxton Hotel in Perth for the next 2 nights.

Accommodation: Duxton Hotel, Perth

Day 14 Tue 22 Sep
Kings Park

It's festival time in Perth's famous Kings Park, a most fitting way to end our botanic journey. The 400-hectare Botanic Garden boasts more than 1,700 native species. At the 56th Kings Park Festival, there will be show-stopping floral displays. Farewell Dinner at the Duxton tonight.

Accommodation: Duxton Hotel, Perth

Day 15 Wed 23 Sep 28 Feb
Perth to Home

Say goodbye to Perth and friends today as we head to the airport for flights home.

DETAILS

- Tour escorted by Colin Barlow
- Return group airfare Sydney-Perth-Sydney
- Luxury air-conditioned motorcoach throughout tour
- Stay at Duxton Hotel, Perth; Best Western Albany and Esperance; Wave Rock Hotel, Hyden.
- Breakfast daily
- 11 Lunches
- 6 Dinners
- Entrance fees to all gardens and sightseeing Wireless Hill Park, Bold Park, Albany Regional Wildflower Garden, Kings Park Perth

PRICE

- Twin Share land only
\$6,895 per person
- Twin Share including air
\$7,495 per person
- Single Supplement
\$1,195

All prices in Australian dollars. Prices based on minimum 15 passengers. Air price is based on departure from Sydney.

DISCOUNTS

- Early bird discount \$200 - 12/5/20
- Previous Traveller Discount \$100
- Garden Clinic Member discount \$25

TO BOOK PLEASE CONTACT ROSLYN OR MELISSA



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OR BOOK ONLINE www.rosstours.com/wa-wildflowers

