**SOUTH WEST GOURMET WINE AND FOOD TOUR**

The secret is out! Renowned for scenic waterways and a stunning coastline Perth is Australia’s sunniest city. From collaboration with McLeod Tours based in Margaret River the tour commences from Perth and takes in the famous wine and food regions of Busselton, Augusta and Margaret River with 3 days of memorable experiences visiting the South West of Western Australia.

Start our journey by leaving McLeod Tours in Margaret River and joining us on a ten day tour to Katanning, Albany and then into the Southern Wheatbelt with overnight stays in Wave Rock.

**South West Gourmet Wine and Food Tour**

**THEME: A magnificent food and wine experience throughout the world renown wine regions of Southern Western Australia. Travel to well sought after destinations to experience first-hand the masterly culinary and winemaking delights and skills of well recognised chefs and vignerons.**

**Visit local regions to explore and discover the selective tastes and skills of regional wineries and listen to their stories by participating in a number of events in the Taste Great Southern as we have a number of exciting wine and food events in our tour calendar!**

**Also discover the South West with its massive karri forests, the Wheatbelt and Great Southern with its history of European settlement and colonisation, the stories about the original custodians of the land the first nation’s peoples, visit Wave Rock with “The Humps” and “Hippos Yawn,” see extraordinary wildflowers, the PUBLIC silo large-scale art trails in Newdegate, Pingrup, Albany and Katanning. Learn about Broomehill and the gold prospectors who trekked along the Holland Track to the Goldfields and view other treasures like the Historical Whaling Station, Anzac Centre and Premier Mill Hotel all complimented with lunch and wine tastings at Walkers Hill Vineyard in Lake Grace-inland and over 200kms from the coast!**

**This tour will leave some long lasting memories of exquisite wines, food and stories from the artisans that create them along with connecting with the wide open spaces and the rugged terrain of country WA at its best and all these features will leave some life-long memories.**

**So let’s have some fun and get going!**

**Day 1 Karri Forests, Rivers and Vineyards**

* The previous evening we all catch up at the **Settlers Tavern** for a social drink and a meal
* We depart **Margaret River** at 8.00am for our crossing of the Blackwood River via **Nannup** into **Bridgetown** for a quick visit. Then we depart and travel in a south easterly direction toward **Manjimup** and then **Pemberton** for morning tea
* Following the break we head through extensive karri forests to **Walpole** for late lunch, which is then followed with a walk amongst the treetops before heading to **Denmark** for wine tastings and afternoon tea.
* We then proceed via **Mt Barker** to spend three nights in **Katanning** at the **Premier Mill Hotel**. The Premier Mill Hotel is a converted roller flour mill, refurbished into modern accommodation, with an accompanying restaurant and cafe.  End the day by partaking in a traditional Australian pastime, a ‘Sundowner’, at the downstairs **Cordial Bar** at the Premier Mill Hotel, before tucking into a delicious meal at the nearby **Royal Exchange Hotel**. This is a tour favourite experience!

**Day 2 Pioneers and Prospectors, Kokoda Track and Mosques**

* Start the day at 8.30am by finding out about the history of Katanning with a special guest historian who will impart the secrets of this famous town. Learn about the unique personalities that developed the railway line and opened up the hinterland for sheep and cropping
* Then we depart to another famous icon in Western Australia, Broomehill. Famous for the remarkable ingenuity of **John Holland** and his team, who in April 1893, carried their meagre supplies on horseback through harsh terrain to cut a shorter route for gold seekers to the new gold discoveries in the outback. In Broomehill we can enjoy morning tea at the historic **Henry Jones Café** and listen to several enthralling stories about Holland and the gold seekers who trekked over 533kms to the newly discovered goldfields in **Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie** in the 1890’s. Guests walk the town looking at remnants of the early prospectors
* Then following morning tea we meet and chat to local community leader Alep at the **“The Daily Grind”** where we also enjoy a lunch with Malay cuisine before heading off to finding out about how modern multi-cultural Australia is reflected in the celebration of Islamic culture and the opening of a local **Mosque** in Katanning along with viewing the **painted wildlife artwork** and other local features around this incredible town
* After lunch we head off to Kojonup for afternoon tea at Kodja Place along with viewing the old barracks, the spring and the historic water trough and learning more about **Brigadier Potts** and the **Kokoda Track of WW11**
* At **Kodja Place** we view the Indigenous and settler handcrafted tools before enjoying billy tea and damper and chatting to the local Indigenous person **“Billy”** along with enjoying local wine and cheese tastings and other platters before departing back to Katanning
* Again end the day by partaking in the traditional Australian pastime, a ‘Sundowner’, at the downstairs **Cordial Bar**, at the Premier Mill Hotel, before tucking into a delicious meal and getting that feeling of being spoilt for choice!

**Day 3 Cultural Art and Bart the Sheep**

* We leave Katanning and travel on through farmland, observing the scenery and relaxing, until we see **“Bart”** the giant ram in **Wagin** for viewing and a walk around the landscaped gardens. Wagin is the location for the **“Woolorama”** a large regional farming/agriculture event with up to 20,000 visitors over the 2 days. This land, in the Wheatbelt region, has seen millions of sheep grazing and crops stretching skyward from the early settlement days of the 1800’s. Wool raised on this land fetched record prices in Britain during the Industrial Revolution feeding the growth of the weaving industry
* We take morning tea at **Cresswell’s Antiques** then we head to **Dumbleyung**, named by Indigenous Noongars and visit the **Wuddi Tours Indigenous** shop where creative examples of this remarkable 45,000 year old culture are available to purchase or view. We spend time with Ann and Grant taking a tour viewing indigenous cultural sites and bush gardens
* **Lake Dumbleyung** was the location that the “speed ace” **Donald Campbell** tried to achieveworld speed lake exploits. We then depart and travel back to Katanning for lunch at **“The Daily Grind”**
* The afternoon is free to walk around town and we meet later at the downstairs Cordial Bar for a ‘Sundowner’, at the downstairs Cordial Bar before tucking into a delicious meal at the nearby **Royal Exchange Hotel**. **(Partake in a Taste Great Southern Event – Katanning yet to name an event)**

**Day 4 Mountain Country and Artwork**

* Next morning we are up and about early departing Katanning after 3 glorious days where we head back through Broomehill to travel down the **“Horsepower Highway”** to **Gnowangerup** and then along the **Mt Trio** Road
* As we travel through the **Stirling Range** we take a trip to the carpark lookout at **Bluff Knoll**, the highest peak being 1099 metres above sea level. It is known as the ‘place of many eyes’ or **Pualaar Miial**, by Indigenous Noongar people. We enjoy the panoramic views of the surrounding plains and see if we can spot black cockatoos, birds of prey, purple-crowned lorikeets, scrub wrens and other birds in their natural habitat
* Time permitting our next stop is the **Porongurup Range** for an early lunch at a local winery. This country is famous for the stunning beauty of tall karri and open jarrah forests, unique eco systems and massive granite rocks. One of the five wine growing regions in the Great Southern, it is important for sheep, cropping and producing intensely flavoured wines
* We then depart and travel straight to our destination for two nights in **Albany** at the **Dog Rock Motel** with dining at **Lime 303** a classy restaurant which is part of the motel complex
* In the afternoon we attend a **Taste Great Southern Event** followed by dinner at the Motel

**Day 5 Mountain Country and Vineyards**

* In the morning we start the day afresh at 8.30am and travel in the footsteps of people living at the first colonial settlement in Western Australia in late 1826. The settlement was originally a military outpost and part of the **Colony of NSW** and called **Frederick Town** (this changed in 1831 when it was formally proclaimed part of the **Swan River Colony**) and renamed Albany in 1832
* We visit the **Sandalwood Shop** for morning tea and a tour before heading to Mt Barker to attend a **Taste Great Southern event** at **Galafrey Wines** just outside Mt Barker for an incredible afternoon of dining and wining
* Once we return to Albany then we enjoy an evening meal at the Motel

**Day 6 Whales and Anzacs**

* In the morning we travel out to the **“Natural Bridge,”** the **“Gap”** and Albany’s **Historic Whaling Station**, where you can step aboard the former **Cheynes IV Whalechaser** ship. We can enjoy the region’s wildflower garden and the wildlife park. Lunch is planned in **Whaler’s Cafe** that flanks the picturesque views across the islands to the mainland
* The afternoon activities include a visit to the **National Anzac Centre** and the **Convoy Lookout** which offers a truly unique opportunity to absorb the reality of Australia’s and New Zealand’s first contingent of 30,000 troops to **WWI** who were anchored in a large convoy in King George Sound (October 1914)
* Finally take a journey around the coast line to Middleton Beach, to view spectacular beaches and coastline, which offers locals and tourists alike, aquatic beauty and tranquillity before the final night of the tour
* Later that afternoon we get ready for another **Taste Great Southern Event** at the **Hilton Garden Inn** on the waterfront in Albany

**Day 7 Out and About and Rest time**

* Next day with a departure at 9.00am we travel past the artwork on the wheat silo at the Port before driving to **Middleton Beach** and then stop to view the ocean at Emu Point where guests learn about **Oyster Harbour**. There is much to discover, the recovery programs for the sea grasses, the commercial farming and re-establishment of local oysters using an artificial reef system. Enjoy the estuarine birdlife as you learn about the history of the Kalgan River, the early **French and British navigators**, and finally as the meeting place for the Kalgan and King Rivers
* We then travel via Lower King and Nanarup Road to view the **Indigenous fish traps at Oyster Harbour**. The local Indigenous Menang peoples of the Noongar nation trapped different fish species as a major food source. You will see cultural sites over 6,000 years old
* Morning tea is then taken at **Emu point Cafe** before heading back into town for lunch at a nice cafe in **Stirling Terrace** before guests have the afternoon to explore the local shops and town
* The afternoon is free time before heading back to the Whaling Station for a **Taste Great Southern event** later that afternoon

**Day 8 Mountain Country, Birds, Outback Vineyards, Tin Horse Trails and Silo Art**

* Next day with a departure at 8.00am we travel past Middleton Beach and Oyster Harbour before travelling past the **Porongurup Range** throughthe **Stirling Range** and head across several rivers including the Kalgan
* We arrive for morning tea at the **Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre** Ongerup where guests can experience the Malleefowl sanctuary. The sanctuary is part of the **National Malleefowl Recovery Program** to protect Malleefowl and their habitat. This country is known for the massive deforestation or clearing of vast ecologically rich and diverse Eucalyptus Mallee
* We make a quick visit to the **Ongerup Railway Museum** and **wildflower display** (time permitting)
* Then we continue our journey to **Pingrup** to view the painted artwork on the wheat silos (again part of the **FORM Public Silo Art Trail**)to photograph the painted grain silos and this is then followed by an off-road trip across country to **Newdegate** (time permitting) to again view the painted wildlife artwork on the wheat silos
* Next stop is the Lake Grace Visitor Centre and Inland Mission before lunch and wine tastings at **‘Walkers Hill Vineyard’**, Australia’s most inland winery, where shiraz and chardonnay grapes have flourished
* After a relaxing and entertaining time at the vineyard we then take a journey along the **“Tin Horse Highway”** on our way to **Kulin** for afternoon tea at **“Acres of Taste”**. We continue our travels through wheat and sheep country travelling via **Kondinin** on our way to **Hyden** and the **Wave Rock Resort** for a two night stay

**Day 9 Waves and Humps**

* Breakfast is at 7.30am and then we proceed on a refreshing early morning walk to **Wave Rock** and **‘Hippo Yawn’** and we head to the Bush Cafe for morning tea
* We depart again for the **Humps and Mulka’s Cave**, and learn the name’s link to an Aboriginal legend of forbidden love between skin groups and visit a **‘gnamma hole’**, which is a man-made cavity that stored rain water for Indigenous peoples
* After lunch at the **Wildlife Centre and Museum** in Wave Rock we enjoy taking in the Wave before afternoon refreshments. Later we take in and enjoy a sundowner by the lake and then return to the Hyden Hotel for an evening meal

**Day 10 Dog Cemeteries Pioneer Museums**

* We pack up ‘leaving only footprints’ and travel via **Kondinin** to **Corrigin** for morning tea and guests may like to wander through the local **Pioneer Museum** before we head along the trail to **Corrigin Rock**
* Then we proceed totravel along the **“Wildflower Drive”** just opposite the **Dog Cemetery** outside Corrigin
* Next stop is **Brookton** before travelling along the Brookton Highway before arriving in Perth through the General **Darling Ranges**, named by Captain James Stirling’s Government Botanist, Charles Fraser, and known locally as ‘Darling Range or the scarp’, we travel along Brookton Highway via Brookton in the city of Perth where guests depart in **Scarborough** on the west coast and the tour ends!