



Bibbulmun & Beyond

5th – 13th May 2025

Tour overview

This itinerary has been carefully compiled to enable you to experience a cross section of the Bibbulmun Track from the giant boulders and jarrah forests in the northern section, through the magnificent karri and tingle forest to the spectacular ocean views and coastal heathlands and national parks of the Great Southern.

We have selected a range of full and half-day walks and each day you will be transported to and from the Track. You will also experience some unique eco-tourism attractions in the region. Each evening we will return to comfortable accommodation in the rural towns and villages along the Track to relax and enjoy dinner.

On the walks, you will need to carry only a daypack containing your lunch, camera, water bottle, etc. From the rocky escarpments that provide exhilarating views, to the tranquility of the tall forests, our itinerary caters for walkers with recent bushwalking experience.

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DETAILED ITINERARY

Mon 5th May
Mt Cooke & Sullivan Rock
(12km - moderate to
challenging walk)

Leaving Perth before 7am, we travel 80km south along the Albany Highway to the Monadnocks National Park. The walk features one of the more spectacular sections of the Track with the ascent and traverse of Mt Cooke. Please have breakfast before we depart.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch at a Bibbulmun Track campsite at the base of Mt Cooke and then head to Collie via the township of Williams (for a short break). We check into our accommodation in the late afternoon and get to know each other better over a meal at a local restaurant.

Located 211km south of Perth, Collie is nestled in beautiful jarrah and marri forests. Coal was discovered on the banks of the Collie River in 1883. Mining began in 1889 and the promise from the Government to purchase 75,000 tonnes of coal annually for use by the WA railways, assured the future of the young town. The coal-fired Muja Power Station east of Collie is now one of the main suppliers of electricity to WA. Collie has a population of around 7000.

Tue 6th May
Lowden-Grimwade Road
to Tower Road
(11.3km moderate walk)

With an early start, today's beautiful walk partly along a sweeping rail formation, offers an insight into recent history in the forests and an opportunity to enjoy easy gradients, attractive views and some magnificent mature yarri (blackbutt) trees.

A 2¼ hour drive, via a stop in Balingup for lunch, will transport us to our accommodation at Donnelly River Village. We then have time to relax and enjoy a hot shower before dining together at the village.

Donnelly River Village is an old timber milling town, now operating as a tourist village. It has quite basic but comfortable accommodation in two- to three-bedroom old mill workers' cottages, a small general store and public phone but few other facilities. You will have some time over the next two days to enjoy the peaceful surrounds of the village, nestled deep in the karri forest.

Wed 7th May
Donnelly River Village
to Karri Gully
(18.5km easy to moderate walk)

There is no driving to the start of the walk today as the walk starts from the village. Breakfast this morning will be in one of the timber mill cottages.

The walk starts at the Village and follows close by the river for several kilometres. We walk through some beautiful and

varied forests. The transition from jarrah and yarri to karri reflects the various soil types and underlying geology of the area. This section of the Track also gives glimpses of a history now rapidly fading through logging rail formations and bridges, another mill site and the remains of an old arboretum. Lunch will be at a picnic area on the Track.

We should be back at Donnelly River Village by mid-afternoon, where we will spend our second night.

Thu 8th May
One Tree Bridge
to Chappel's Bridge
(11km easy walk)

We pack up after breakfast and a short drive takes us to the start of our walk. Here the Track crosses the river before continuing south along the east bank of the Donnelly River, mostly on a narrow winding walk trail. Remnants of several old wooden trestle bridges can be seen along the way.

After a picnic lunch at the old Chappel's Bridge camping area, we drive to our accommodation. The rest of the afternoon can be spent either exploring the environs or relaxing at the accommodation before freshening up for dinner.



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Fri 9th May
Donnelly River Cruise
and Mt Pingerup walk trail
(5km moderate walk)

This morning, we cruise along a 12km section of the Donnelly River, in the pristine D'Entrecasteaux National Park. We traverse a diverse eco system that is only accessible by boat, from the lush jarrah and karri forests, through the paper-bark and wetlands, to the limestone cliffs and majestic Southern Ocean.

After a picnic lunch we drive about 1½ hours towards Walpole to the start of our walk to the summit of Mt Pingerup. The walk offers views of Broke Inlet and a very good panorama of this fascinating part of the D'Entrecasteaux National Park, including the swamps of the Pingerup Plains and the Woolbale Hills.

After a short drive, we will check into our accommodation and later enjoy dinner in the tiny settlement of Nornalup.

The attractive town of Walpole, which has a population of about 450, is positioned on the banks of the Walpole Inlet and is surrounded by Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

Sat 10th May Peaceful Bay
to Conspicuous Beach
(15.2km easy to moderate walk)

A short drive takes us to Peaceful Bay where we start our westbound walk on a spectacular section of the Track which encompasses some of the best rugged coastal scenery anywhere in WA. The first part of the walk is on the beach crossing intervening rocky headlands. The traverse of Castle Rock provides rewarding breathtaking views. The remainder of the walk is just north of but parallel to the coast. Soon after Rame Head campsite, we descend from the top of the limestone cliffs offering more remarkable views to Conspicuous Beach where we have lunch.

Peaceful Bay is a very small, quiet settlement of about 60 people for much of the year, but the population balloons to over 2000 at the peak of the summer holiday season. The bay is ideal for swimming, fishing, boating and diving, and the long areas of beach are great for walkers. Wildflowers and birds are abundant in the surrounds of Peaceful Bay, which is the original habitat of the red flowering gum.

After a picnic lunch at the end of our walk, we will be transported back to our accommodation and will enjoy a free afternoon. Take a short walk, enjoy the scenery or even go for a paddle on the river. Dinner will be at our accommodation.

Sun 11th May
Torbay/Cosy Corner
(8km easy walk)

A short drive via the town of Denmark takes us to the small settlement of Torbay and the West Cape Howe National Park. Within the park are a number of walk trails, including the Bibbulmun Track. Almost completely covered in heathland and forest, it contains the most southern point in Western Australia, Torbay Head.

We begin our walk from near Shelley Beach and walk north toward Torbay Campsite with outstanding views across the bay. Not far after the campsite, we reach Cosy Corner where we will have lunch. From there walkers have the opportunity for a swim at a beautiful white sandy beach. On the other side of the bay, the Albany wind farm is visible and for those walking the Bibbulmun Track end-to-end, it signals that the end of their walk is almost in sight.



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A short drive will take us into Albany where we check out the sights. We will stay here for the next two nights. Located 409km south east of Perth, Albany is Western Australia's oldest settlement. During the 1840's and 1850's whaling was the main industry. We dine at a local restaurant.

Mon 12th May

Ascent of Bluff Knoll (1095m) (6km very challenging walk)

Bluff Knoll is the highest point in the south-west of WA and is situated in the Stirling Range National Park. The Range offers some of the best bushwalking in WA. All peaks provide excellent views and walkers discover flowering plants at any time of year. Bluff Knoll, 1,095m above sea level, is one of the very few places that snow has been reported in WA. The view from the summit encompasses the Stirling and Porongurup mountain ranges, as well as the coast near Albany. After breakfast in Albany we drive for a little over an hour to reach the ranges for our ascent. Walk to the top or as much as you like before you turn back.

The walk will be followed by a picnic lunch. We will then return for an afternoon exploring Albany at your leisure and stay at the same accommodation.

Tues 13th May Explore Albany Return to Perth

After breakfast at our accommodation you can explore Albany at your leisure. We depart Albany mid-morning for our return to Perth, stopping in one of the towns for lunch. We expect to arrive in Perth about 4.30pm.

The itinerary should be used as a guide only as it can vary due to weather, client preferences, trail conditions and unforeseen circumstances. Our Western Australian guides have a profound knowledge of the Bibbulmun Track and will seek out the best alternatives where necessary.



Bibbulmun Track Foundation

Phone: + 61 (08) 9481 0551

Email: events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au

Web: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au



TOUR PRICE JOINING FROM PERTH CBD

Tour cost p/p: \$3460 (twin share basis).

Single room supplement: add \$325 per person to the tour cost (see notes below).

A non-refundable \$550 deposit is required to secure your booking with the balance due 45 days before departure. All prices include GST.

TOUR COSTS INCLUDE

- Motel, chalet, mill-cottage accommodation predominantly on a twin share basis (triple or quad share facilities Donnelly River Village and Nornalup – please read “What to expect” below). As outlined, accommodation varies in standard according to what is available for groups in each town.
- Meals from lunch on day 1 to breakfast on day 9.
- Snacks for each day’s walk.
- High quality Bibbulmun Track day pack and water bottle per person.
- All transport by private bus.
- Entrance fees and permits to national parks and attractions including Donnelly River Cruise.
- A Bibbulmun Track guide and driver/guide.

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS

- Items of a personal nature.
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Lunch on day 9 (participants will have the opportunity to choose what they purchase at a cafe).
- Optional excursions.
- Personal travel insurance.
- Pre and post tour accommodation.
- No full single room supplement available in Donnelly River Village and Nornalup due to the style of available accommodation for groups. In these locations, whilst the single supplement provides for a private bedroom, facilities such as bathroom and common areas will be triple share.



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WHAT TO EXPECT

This tour is operated solely by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. The vehicle we use for transport is an air-conditioned bus. We take a maximum of 15 passengers plus a driver/guide and guide. All luggage is carried on the bus. We prefer that you have two smaller 'soft shell' bags rather than one large cumbersome bag.

We stay in a range of accommodation including motels, cottages and chalets. While we use the most appropriate accommodation available, participants should note that some of the towns through which the Track passes have very limited options for accommodating groups. The bedrooms are twin-share, however at Donnelly River Village and Nornalup, facilities (such as bathroom and common areas) may be triple or quad-share.

Donnelly River Village is an old timber mill town and the accommodation is the original timber mill workers' cottages. While the self-contained cottages have been renovated in recent years, they are still quite basic reflecting the character of the village and the only heating is a wood fire in the lounge. The bedrooms are not heated but you are supplied with plenty of doonas/blankets and we suggest that if you feel the cold you bring a hot water bottle. We stay at Donnelly River Village because of its tall-timber forest setting, fantastic wildlife and proximity to some excellent sections of the Bibbulmun Track. If we didn't stay there we would not be able to walk two fabulous sections without adding a few hours to the driving time.

The itinerary indicates the walking distances for each day. Some days are easier than others. We walk from valleys to ridge lines, and therefore there is a significant degree of undulation/hills in all walks. Participants should have recent previous experience walking in the bush for up to 15km in one day and also a good level of fitness.

Our guides are experienced outdoor leaders who are responsible for your comfort and safety. As much as possible we will try to take a leisurely pace, allowing time to look at the diverse scenery and ecology whilst keeping to our itinerary. Participants must remember that we walk as a group, going only as fast as the slowest walker. Please approach the guides about any concerns you have. They will do everything possible to ensure that you get the most out of the trip.

CLIMATE

The southern sections of the Bibbulmun Track on which we will be walking are greatly influenced by the cold Southern Ocean. In May temperatures can range between 10°C at night and 18°C during the day on the south coast. Northern parts of the Track where the Track is further inland, can have temperatures from 3°C to 20°C.

FOOD AND WATER

Lunches, snacks and drinking water will be supplied for each day's walk. You will be expected to carry your own water (about 1 to 1.5 litres on most days) and some lunch items that will be shared out amongst the group to carry to lunch on only the first day. Breakfast and dinner will be eaten at our accommodation or a restaurant in town. If you have any medical or cultural dietary requirements (inc. vegetarian, vegan, allergies, etc.) please advise us when you return your personal details form - we are happy to cater for you. Lunch on the last day is not included in the tour price. You will have the chance to choose your own purchase at a café.

ACCOMMODATION IN PERTH

You will need to book your own pre and post tour accommodation. For options in the Perth CBD visit www.westernaustralia.com and search for accommodation under the travel section. Please consult with the Foundation before booking accommodation as we only pick up and drop off at selected locations.



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HOW TO MAKE A BOOKING

Please use the online link at www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/guided-tours/bibbulmun-beyond-9-day-highlights-tour/ to register online. Once the registration has been received, we will email you a link (as soon as possible during our business hours) to pay the non-refundable deposit. If you require any assistance please contact us on (08) 9481 0551 or events@bibbulmuntrack.org.au. Please note that all bookings are subject to availability at the time the booking and deposit is received by us. An online registration without a deposit does not confirm your place. We will contact you to confirm your booking once the deposit is received. If the tour is full you will be contacted and placed on a waiting list.

PRE DEPARTURE INFORMATION

After receipt of your booking form and deposit, we will forward more detailed pre-departure information. This includes recommended clothing lists, documentation and other details to help you prepare for the trip ahead.

INSURANCE

Current comprehensive travel insurance is highly recommended. The tour may be cancelled if minimum numbers are not reached. Whilst you will receive your moneys for the tour, other costs incurred such as airfares and accommodation will not be reimbursed by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. The cost of travel insurance does not form part of the advised price and must be paid additionally. Visit www.travelinsurance.com.au for a range of insurers and packages. Please note this website does not represent an endorsement of insurance provided. Also the bond is strictly non-refundable and non-transferable. Please see the section on refunds below.

FINAL PAYMENT

Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure. Final payment made by credit card will attract a credit card fee. For further information please refer to the booking form. If final payment is not made by the due date then your deposit may be forfeited and we reserve the right to sell on your place without notice.

TWIN SHARE BASIS AND SINGLE TRAVELLERS

The tour price is based on two people sharing a bedroom. If you are travelling on your own, then we will twin share you with someone of the same gender unless you specify on your booking form that you would like to occupy a single room (please note that only one single room supplement is available on each tour). In case of the latter, we are obliged to charge a single room supplement. This will entitle you to your own bedroom each night although you will have to share a bathroom and common areas at Donnelly River Village and Nornalup.

Once the single room supplement is taken, we can only confirm further individual bookings once another person of the same gender also makes a booking as they will need to share the same room. We hope you understand that we are limited by the available group accommodation that the smaller towns and villages offer.

REFUNDS

Please note that deposits are strictly non-refundable and non-transferable (unless the tour does not proceed). If you wish to cancel after the date full payment is due you will forfeit the following amounts regardless of circumstance:

- Cancellation of 35 days to 45 days before tour departure, 50% of total price.
- Cancellation of 25 days to 34 days before tour departure, 75% of total price.
- Cancellation within 24 days before tour departure, no refund.

If you have any concerns about cancelling, please take out travel insurance covering this contingency. Note that we treat a request for a transfer or credit as a cancellation.

This policy will be adhered to, despite the most compelling and compassionate circumstances.



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HEALTH AND FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Participants must be in good health and in good physical condition. Participants will be required to walk distances and terrain as per the itinerary. If there is any doubt, participants should contact their physician and the Foundation for advice. Each participant will be required to complete a medical and indemnity form when making a booking. It is vital that participants with medical conditions make them known on this form. Some walks are in remote areas and there can be considerable delays in reaching medical support. Evacuations can be prolonged and expensive. Medical and evacuation expenses will be the responsibility of the participant. International participants must have comprehensive travel/medical insurance but we recommend all participants consider taking out travel insurance.

DELAY, CANCELLATION OR ALTERATION OF TOUR

Prior to a tour departure, the Bibbulmun Track Foundation reserves the right to cancel, delay or alter any tour due to circumstances beyond the control of the Foundation including but not limited to dangerous weather conditions, dangerous Track conditions, or the inability of a contractor or service provider to fulfill any obligations. Under the circumstance of a cancellation of the tour by the Foundation, a full refund will be made. If a tour has already commenced, and a tour is terminated a proportion of paid funds, deemed to be appropriate by the Foundation, will be refunded to the client. No refunds will be made (in whole or in part) if an event is altered or delayed or any payment made by the Foundation for other costs incurred by the client.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation reserves the right to take photographs of the participants and use those images for promotional purposes. In booking a tour, you give the Foundation the right to use images for such purposes.

Please contact us should you have any questions, we look forward to speaking with you.

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