



Fremantle at sunset (credit Nathan Hurst, Unsplash)

# Maritime History in South West Western Australia

5 – 12 September 2021

2 nights Fremantle – 2 nights Busselton – 3 nights Albany





Visit Cape Leeuwin lighthouse (credit Tourism WA)

**The land and people of Western Australia have been shaped by the ocean for thousands of years. Many of its people still live right by the water and WA's history has been moulded by its marine proximity. This maritime history tour explores the moments, voyages and vessels; the artefacts, people and the stories in South West Australia's rich maritime history. Along the way explore one of Australia's most beautiful pockets at a time when wildflowers will be blooming and whales will be heading up the coast. Hear the rollicking Albany Shantymen and see the traditional art of a scrimshawer, with ample opportunity to enjoy fine food and wine along the way.**

From the vibrant port city of Fremantle, travel to Rottnest Island and visit Garden Island with specialist private access. Visit James Fisher at Bibra Lake to see their bespoke intervention ROV system. Continue to the beautiful south west, visiting Busselton and Margaret River en route to Albany, the historic former capital of WA, set on a magnificent natural harbour on the south coast. Learn about the long history of this town, including the ANZAC departures to Europe in WW1.

At the end of the tour drive back to Perth via the inland road, seeing wildflowers on the way. **There is the option to join a 2-night extension to Geraldton after the tour – please contact us for more details.**



## Tour Leader

**Dr Paul Luckin** AM CStJ MB.BCh.(Rand.), D.A.(S.A.), F.F.A.(S.A.), M.MED.ANAESTHESIA (Natal), FANZCA is an anaesthetist in Brisbane. He started training in rescue as an ambulance paramedic in Tasmania before studying medicine in South Africa, where he spent 8 years in a Mountain Rescue Team. Paul served on the Tasmanian Ambulance Service Medical Advisory Council, was Director of the Advanced Airway Management Training Program and was President of Royal Life Saving Society Tasmania Branch.

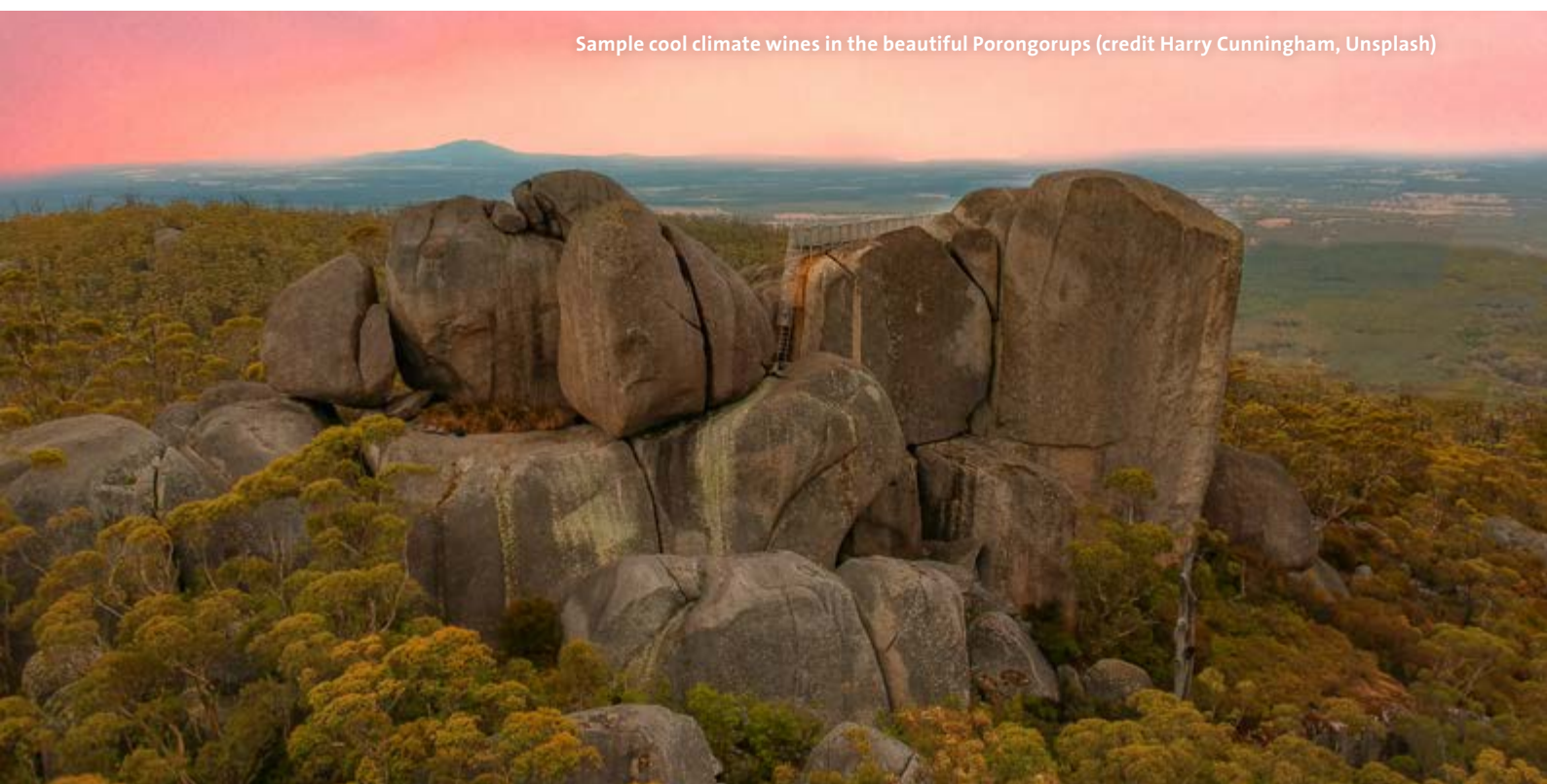
Paul teaches Search and Rescue at the state and national level and is on the directing staff of the National Police Search and Rescue Managers Course. He provides advice on survivability during Search and Rescue operations to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, and Police Search and Rescue teams across the nation, in PNG and the Solomon Islands.

As a Captain in the Royal Australian Navy, Paul has been a member of the Submarine Escape Rescue Abandonment Service medical team. He has served in Bougainville, East Timor, the Solomon Islands, in the Resuscitation and Retrieval Team for the victims of the Bali bombs,



in the first medical team into Banda Aceh following the tsunami, and in Afghanistan. He was Medical Director, Medical Services Branch, St John Ambulance Queensland, and has been invested as a Commander of the Order of St John (CStJ). For his work in SAR, in 2006 Paul received the Australian National Search & Rescue Award, and in 2015 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia, AM, for significant service to the community through emergency medicine, and as an authority on survivability in search and rescue operations.

Sample cool climate wines in the beautiful Porongorups (credit Harry Cunningham, Unsplash)



2 nights Fremantle – 2 nights Busselton – 2 nights Albany

## Day 1: Fremantle / Rottnest Island

(Sun, 5 Sept)

**D**

**Am:** Take the ferry to Rottnest Island and visit the WW2 naval defences at Oliver Hill with a local guide. Continue to visit Bathurst Lighthouse, the boathouse and replica pilot boat.

**Pm:** Explore more of the island at your leisure with the option for a swim. Return by ferry to Fremantle. If time permits, option to visit the Fremantle markets.

**Eve:** Welcome dinner at the Esplanade Hotel.

## Day 2: Fremantle (Mon, 6 Sept)

**B D**

**Am:** Visit to James Fisher at Bibra Lake, North of HMAS Stirling, where Australia's manned submarine rescue vehicle, the LR5, is based. Learn about its operation and history, and the management of submariners rescued from a downed submarine, including the Transfer Under Pressure and hyperbaric chambers. See the ROV, the remotely operated vehicle which swims down to a submarine before the LR5 is launched. The ROV and LR5 are part of Australia's submarine rescue rapid deployment and intervention system through ISMERLO, the International Submarine Escape and Rescue Liaison Organisation. The complete

suite can be deployed by air, land or sea, available for SUBSUNK anywhere in the world. Talk: *"The Kursk"*. Option for day at leisure or visit Kings Park.

**Pm:** Visit the Shipwreck Museum with an expert specialist guide for an overview of West Australia's maritime history and a talk on some of the ships in the collection. Walk along the beach road via the roundhouse, which was built as a prison in 1830 on top of the old whaling tunnel, and onto the Fremantle Maritime Museum. See HMAS Ovens, one of our cold-war era Oberon Class submarines which preceded the current Collins Class. Meet a former submariner who will talk about his experience.\*

**Eve:** Dinner at a local restaurant.

## Day 3: Fremantle/Busselton (Tue, 7 Sept)

**B L**

**Am:** An early start, to Garden Island, the Royal Australian Navy Fleetbase West, home of the Collins Class submarines. Visit SETF, the Submarine Escape Training facility. While this is now not in use because of the risks involved, you will see the small one-person submarine escape chamber and the escape compartment (for multiple escapees). Visit Clearance Diving Team 4 (the Navy's elite special forces). See the

The Welcome Walls and Brig Amity, Albany (credit Tourism WA)







A humpback whale breaching near Albany (credit Dave and Fiona Harvey)

working Naval base, and if possible a Collins Class submarine.

**Pm:** Lunch in the combined Officers and Senior Sailors mess. Drive to Busselton and check into the Sebel Hotel.

#### **Day 4: Busselton (Wed, 8 Sept)** B L

**Am:** Walk along the Busselton Jetty, the longest timber-piled jetty in the southern hemisphere, extending 1.8 km. Take a cruise out from Geographe Bay looking for humpback and southern right whales. Return to Busselton.

**Pm:** Visit Margaret River for a lunch at a winery followed by wine tasting at other local wineries.

#### **Day 5: Busselton / Albany (Thur, 9 Sept)** B D

**Am:** Drive to the Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse, the tallest on the Australian mainland. Take a private tour of the lighthouse.

**Pm:** Continue through the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, famed for their wildflowers, with some stops en route. Stop at Forest Hill winery just outside Denmark for a break. Arrive in Albany and check into the waterfront Hilton Hotel.

**Eve:** Dinner at the Earl of Spencer and hear the Albany Shantymen.

#### **Day 6: Albany (Fri, 10 Sept)** B L

**Am:** Visit the Museum of the Great Southern on a tour with a specialist guide, with time at leisure. Explore the Welcome Walls Jetty, hear stories of immigration to and from Albany, including the ANZAC departures to

Europe in WW1. Visit the *Brig Amity*.

**Pm:** Drive out to Monty's Leap Winery for lunch. Continue along the Porongorup wine trails to taste the celebrated cool climate rieslings.

**Eve:** Option to visit Due South, a restaurant on the water next to the Hilton.

#### **Day 7: Albany (Sat, 11 Sept)** B D

**Am:** See the site of the old quarantine station and visit the historic Whaling Museum on a guided tour, with time to explore afterwards. Visit the restored whale chaser Cheynes IV with a volunteer guide. Meet Gary Tonkin, a scrimshawer, to learn more about his ancient maritime art and to see examples of his work.

**Pm:** At leisure. Options to visit the Royal Fortress and the National Anzac Centre.

**Eve:** Farewell dinner at Liberte Restaurant.

#### **Day 8: Albany / Perth (Sun, 12 Sept)** B

**Am:** Visit the Albany Boat Shed and see the work of the Maritime Federation in restoring boats, or visit the Albany Boat Shed Markets.

**Pm:** Drive back to Perth via Pinjarra, seeing wildflowers of the interior en route. **There is the option to join a 2-night extension to Geraldton after the tour to see the monument to the HMAS Sydney, Batavia Park and the Maritime Museum.**

\* at time of writing an external tour

\*\* Please note Garden Island is an active naval base. Security arrangements apply.



The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

## Hotels

### **Esplanade Hotel (Fremantle)**

With a rich history dating back to 1850, the elegant Esplanade Hotel is an iconic landmark in Western Australia. With a superb location near the water in Fremantle, it provides resort-style leisure facilities including two outdoor, heated swimming pools surrounded by tropical gardens and a fitness centre, as well as two restaurants and two bars. Located in the heart of cosmopolitan Fremantle within walking distance to markets, museums, art galleries, Fishing Boat Harbour, beaches, shopping and nightlife.

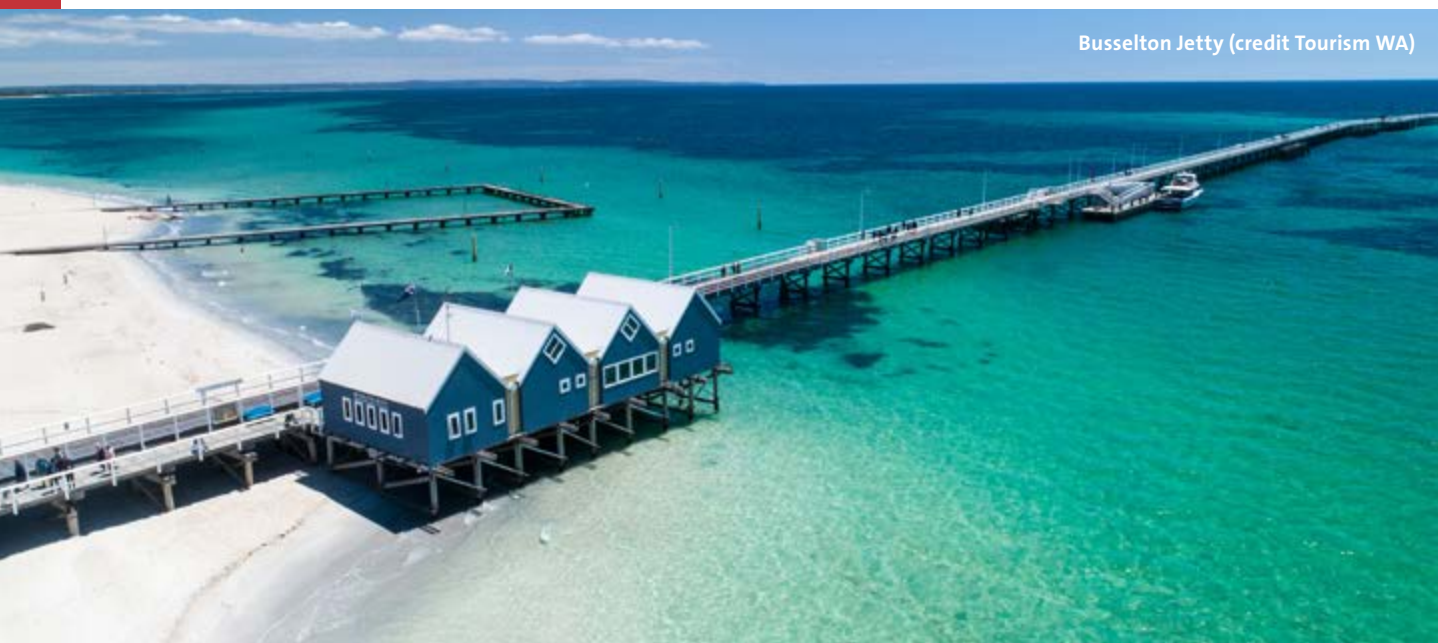
### **Sebel Hotel (Busselton)**

This well-equipped, contemporary hotel has an excellent location close to the beach, shops

and restaurants. The rooms are spacious and light-filled and facilities include an indoor and outdoor pool, a hot tub, gym, tennis and squash courts. This relaxed and friendly venue provides a pleasant stay while in Busselton.

### **The Hilton (Albany)**

This brand new hotel is opening soon, overlooking the waterfront situated between Albany Entertainment Centre and Albany Light Opera and Theatre Company. The venue is surrounded by beautiful views from Apex Lookout, Middleton Beach, and the National Anzac Centre, all within five kilometres. Albany historic sites, farmer's market, and train station are all less than a kilometre away.



Busselton Jetty (credit Tourism WA)





Albany's historic whaling station (credit Tourism WA) (top);  
Wildflowers (credit Tourism WA);  
A karri forest, Warren River National Park (above)

## The cost of the tour is \$3,680 per person sharing

### The cost includes:

- The services of tour leader, Captain Paul Luckin.
- 7 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in medium grade hotels.\*

### Single supplement: \$620

- Breakfast and lunch or dinner daily (except the last day).
- All transport services.
- Wine tastings on days 4 and 6.
- All specialist talks and visits, access and admission fees.

### The cost excludes:

- Meals not mentioned and drinks with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Flights to and from Perth and arrival and departure transfers.

\* Additional nights at the Esplanade Hotel from \$176 per room per night, subject to availability.

Instructors safeguarding a submariner emerging from the Submarine Escape Chamber, at the bottom of the 18 metre deep tank in the Submarine Escape Training Facility at Garden Island Naval Base. (Credit Department of Defence.)





# About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.



Rottneet Island (credit Fabian Kuhne, Unsplash) (top); The ANZAC class frigate, HMAS Perth, sailing from Garden Island (credit Royal Australian Navy); The work of traditional scrimshawer, Gary Tonkin; The Salmon Holes, Albany (credit Tourism WA) (above)

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**Jon Baines Tours (London)**  
Hyde Park House, 5 Manfred Road,  
London, SW15 2RS  
Tel: +44 (0) 207 223 9485 / 5618  
Email: [info@jonbainestours.co.uk](mailto:info@jonbainestours.co.uk)  
[www.jonbainestours.co.uk](http://www.jonbainestours.co.uk)

**Jon Baines Tours (Melbourne)**  
PO Box 68, South Brunswick,  
Victoria 3055  
Tel: +61 (0) 3 9343 6367  
Fax: +61 (0) 3 9012 4228  
Email: [info@jonbainestours.com.au](mailto:info@jonbainestours.com.au)  
[www.jonbainestours.com](http://www.jonbainestours.com)

**USA and Canada:**  
(Toll Free) 1-8777-398-764



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