

NATIONAL REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2024

TOURS

WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER

All tours depart from the Summit venue on Wednesday 30th October at 12.30pm. Tours will finish at 5pm, followed by a Networking Dinner. Buses will return to the Busselton CBD by 8.30pm.

Tours are subject to change and each have capacity limits.

BUSSELTON JETTY AND CBD

Extending 1.8 kilometres over the protected waters of Geographe Bay, the heritage listed Busselton Jetty is the longest timber-piled jetty in the Southern Hemisphere. After more than a century of use and servicing over 5000 vessels, the Busselton Jetty officially closed as a Port in 1973.

Following the decline of government funding and the crippling effects of Cyclone Alby in 1978, a community group was formed to raise funds for much needed restoration and maintenance. Between 1987 and 2003, the community organisation now known as the Busselton Jetty Environment and Conservation Association (BJECA) raised sufficient funds to replace 50% of the Jetty structure, establish the train service and construct the iconic Underwater Observatory and Interpretive Centre.

In 2011 a \$27 million refurbishment of the jetty structure was completed. \$24 million was contributed by the Western Australian State Government with the balance contributed by the Shire of Busselton and BJECA.

Further details of the tour to be released shortly.



NGILGI CAVES

A self-guided experience begins with a walk along a scenic pathway through native bushland. A series of interactive installations along the above-ground Ancient Lands Experience, bring you to the entrance of the stunningly decorated Ngilgi Cave.

Above-ground you will learn about the cultural connections to the land, flora and fauna, the formation of the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge and the pristine caves beneath it.

Arriving at the entrance to Ngilgi Cave, majestic stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, and beautifully coloured shawls will await. This tour also includes a presentation from the Capes Foundation and Koomal Dreaming.

MARGARET RIVER ARTS AND CULTURE

With a rich connection to its thriving arts and cultural community, Margaret River has become the heart of the South West region's creative industries scene. Renowned for its vibrant and diverse activities, Margaret River is a growing destination for many creatives, entertainers and businesses both locally and worldwide.

To accommodate the increasing needs of residents and visitors within the region, the Shire of Augusta Margaret River redeveloped the 35-year-old former Cultural Centre into the Margaret River HEART – a new state of the art Hub of Entertainment, Arts and Regional Tourism, which opened in late 2019.

On this tour you will learn about Margaret River HEART and how collaboration and partnerships between local government and not for profit organisations deliver a modern and active precinct. We will also meet with leaders in the space of arts and culture to learn how they are contributing to a vibrant arts sector in the South West.



DOLPHIN DISCOVERY CENTRE AND BUNBURY FORESHORE

Dolphin Discovery Centre is a non-profit organisation that undertakes essential conservation, eco-tourism, education and research projects.

Collaborations between Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre, Universities, Government Departments and other like-minded organisations, both locally and internationally helps ensure that the well-being of the wild dolphin population and marine environment remain a central focus of their activities. In particular, research partnerships have provided a scientific baseline understanding of local dolphin populations and future research will include extending 31 years of dolphin specific research, monitoring our marine environment and exploring our wetlands.

Following the Dolphin Discovery Centre tour we will visit the State Government's Transforming Bunbury Waterfront project. Locals and visitors alike are enjoying the enhanced Koombana Foreshore, redeveloped Dolphin Discovery Centre and upgraded Jetty Road Causeway.

Stimulating the economy through boosting the tourism and marine industry sectors are important outcomes of this project. Throughout the timeline of the project, there has also been an emphasis on maximising job opportunities and tenders for locals.

Further details to follow.

SHIRE OF NANNUP

Nannup has transformed itself as a trail town and includes the Nannup Tank 7 Mountain Bike Park. It will host the UCI Gravel World Championships in 2026 and is gearing up for an increase in tourists and visitors. On this tour we will experience and learn how Nannup has focused on trails as an economic driver.

Further details to follow.

CAPE MARRON FARM AND ROCKY RIDGE BREWING CO / SOUTH WEST BREWERS

Capel Marron Farm is part of AquaFarms, a collective of Australian farmers looking to provide the best quality produce at our farm gate prices. AquaFarms believes in the power of a 'Pond To Plate' supply chain to ensure the freshest quality produce.



Cape Marron Farm completed a marron hatchery expansion in 2019 and is now expanding its operations into tourism, with construction underway on a 300-seat restaurant, discovery centre and marron viewing tanks, set to open later this year. It is the first time visitors to the South West will have access to the marron farm - believed to be the world's largest.

Following Cape Marron Farm the tour will head to Rocky Ridge Brewing Co, a 100% carbon neutral operation. They have also been certified as a sustainable operation, the only brewery in Australia. We will also learn about the South West Brewers Alliance, a collective group of Independent Brewers.