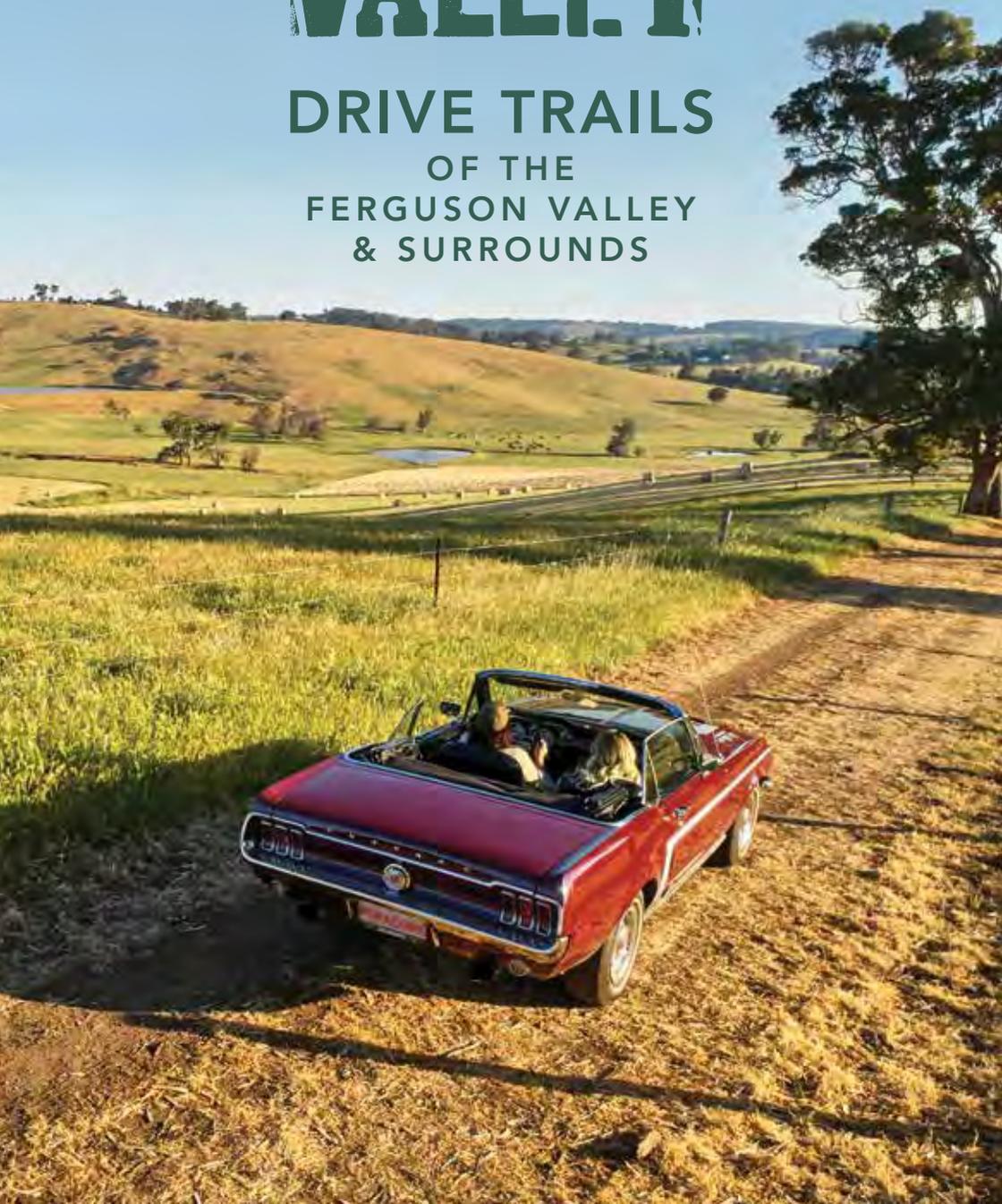


FERGUSON VALLEY

DRIVE TRAILS OF THE FERGUSON VALLEY & SURROUNDS





Willow Bridge Estate



Ferguson Valley

Less than two hours south of Perth, the boutique Ferguson Valley sits in the heart of the Bunbury Geopraphe region, providing the ultimate escape from the City - close enough for a day trip, yet far enough to feel worlds away.

With picturesque rolling hills, fertile vineyards and a tranquil national park at its doorstep, the Ferguson Valley is the perfect place to base yourself and start exploring.

First time visitor? Start with *Gnoming Around the Valley* - a drive trail sampling some of the best stops in the region. The other drive trails will take you further afield on a themed journey to discover unexpected gems.

The beautiful scenery of Ferguson Valley makes it a popular destination for vehicles of all kinds. Vintage cars, motorbikes and road cyclists are often seen on the trails too!

All the drive trails create a tourist loop, starting and finishing at the Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre in Dardanup, where you can get a *Ferguson Valley Touring and Attractions Map* and the latest information. To avoid disappointment, please enquire about business opening days, hours of operation and which businesses are open by appointment only before setting off. To ensure a safe experience with healthy hygiene and social distancing, reservations are recommended for food and wine experiences.

Book your stay at one of the many great getaways in the Valley, ranging from family friendly farm stays and forest cottages, through to romantic B&Bs, glamping and luxury retreats.

There's something for everyone here, whether you're looking for an indulgent escape, to re-connect with nature, in need of a family getaway or are seeking an active adventure.

Have you found the Ferguson Valley yet?

Planning a wedding?

Combine picture-perfect scenery, lavish food and wine and distinctive venues to create a beautiful event, perfectly tailored to you. Use the Ferguson Valley Touring and Attractions Map to scout out wedding and event spots along the way.

Ferguson Valley



Honeymoon Pool

CONTENTS

TRAILS

Gnoming Around the Valley	6-9
Driving Distance: 100 km	
Exploring the Outdoors	10-13
Driving Distance: 60 km	
For the Young at Heart	14-17
Driving Distance: 145 km	
Step Back in Time	18-21
Driving Distance: 150 km	
Creative Wandering	22-25
Driving Distance: 180 km	
Wine Discoveries	26-31
Driving Distance: 140 km	

TOURING **33**

ACCOMMODATION **34**



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Supported by the State
Government's Royalties
for Regions program

This brochure has been produced for Ferguson Valley Marketing by Australia's South West, a not-for-profit regional tourism organisation proudly supported by Western Australia. Australia's South West – including its agents, officers and contractors – have made every endeavour to ensure the details appearing in the publication are correct at the time of printing, but accept no responsibility for any inaccuracy or misdescription whether by inclusion or omission, nor does the publisher accept any responsibility for subsequent change or withdrawal of prices, details or services shown, all of which are subject to alteration without notice. Map information is not comprehensive and is for illustration purposes only.



GNOMING AROUND THE VALLEY



Driving Distance: 100 km

Ferguson Valley feels like a world unlike any other. Set amongst a backdrop of lush green rolling hills, its family-owned boutique wineries, craft breweries and restaurants are a foodie and wine lovers must-visit. Here you'll discover active adventures, a chance to get back to nature and some unexpected gems in this emerging wine region that is the "Home of Gnomesville" and less than two hours' drive south of Perth.

Take a drive along the picturesque Ferguson Road where you'll stumble upon the hidden village of **Gnomesville**. What began as a single gnome curiously placed in the middle of a new roundabout, has mushroomed into a quirky collection of thousands of garden gnomes.

You'll be in awe of nature when you stop at the region's largest accessible



tree, the **King Jarrah Tree**, estimated to be between 300 and 500 years old. Next visit the **Wellington Discovery Forest** for a unique insight into the diverse ecosystem of the jarrah forest.

Make your way into the **Wellington National Park** next. At the heart of this recreation playground is Western Australia's second largest dam - **Wellington Dam**. Grab some delicious cakes and coffee at **Kiosk**



at the Dam then take a stroll to the lookout where you'll be rewarded with views of the valley below.

To explore the area on foot, hike a short section of the dual use **Sika Trail** from Wellington Dam to the shady waterside setting of **Potters Gorge** and back (approx. one hour each way).

Wind through the forest to visit the popular picnic spot of **Honeymoon**

Pool. This is a picturesque location for swimming where the cool, crisp waters of the river are shaded by overhanging peppermint trees - the perfect place to cool down during summer or after tackling one of the nearby hiking or mountain bike trails.

Stop for wine at Ferguson Valley's largest and most awarded winery, **Willow Bridge Estate**. The 180-hectare vineyard is sited high on the western



Ferguson Hart Estate

watershed of the Darling Ranges, offering spectacular views over the coastal plain and Indian Ocean.

Then pick up a boutique wine from Ferguson Valley's smallest vineyard, **Ferguson Hart Estate**. Browse their eclectic art and artisan gallery then take home a bottle from this past winner of best wine in the Geographe Wine Region.

Next, stop at other cellar doors, restaurants and breweries of the Ferguson Valley. For a unique experience, book a table at **Green Door Wines** where Spanish and Italian style varieties are served in cute cafes to sample at your table with food. Try their 100 Mile Platter made from local ingredients including sheep's milk cheese from Roelands, mixed olives from Boyup Brook and fruit loaf from Dardanup.

Take in the magnificent views as you wind your way along the scenic Henty Road to **Evedon Lakeside Retreat**. Enjoy their locally inspired menu while overlooking the lake and browse their gallery for resident artwork and crafts.

For something tasty try **Ferguson Falls Wine Cafe**, home to the Best Pizza in WA (Gold Plate Awards). Here you'll discover mouth-watering stone-baked pizza topped with their farmhouse cheese. Make sure you

pick up a selection of cheeses made from the milk of the family dairy.

Visit **Hackersley Estate** for a sumptuous meal at this stylish cellar door and restaurant which takes in the views of the lake and vineyard and features an indulgent menu where there's always something new to try.

If beer is more your style, you'll be spoiled for choice with the selection on offer from two family-owned brewers in the Ferguson Valley. **Wild Bull Brewery** sits proudly above the Valley on Pile Road. The brewery offers premium locally made beer, food, local wines, art and music. The former Yallingup-based **Bush Shack Brewery** is now a popular Ferguson Valley resident. Top off the day's adventure with their classic small batch brews, seasonal ciders and flavoured alcoholic beverages while enjoying fabulous food in a relaxed, family-friendly setting.

Visit the stylish rammed-earth cellar door of the family owned vineyard at **St Aidan Wines**. Relax in the restaurant whilst overlooking the Ferguson River and sipping a glass of 'art in a bottle' or take some home along with gourmet preserves made on-site.

Finish off the day at the **Dardanup Tavern** for a relaxing meal with country charm and hospitality.

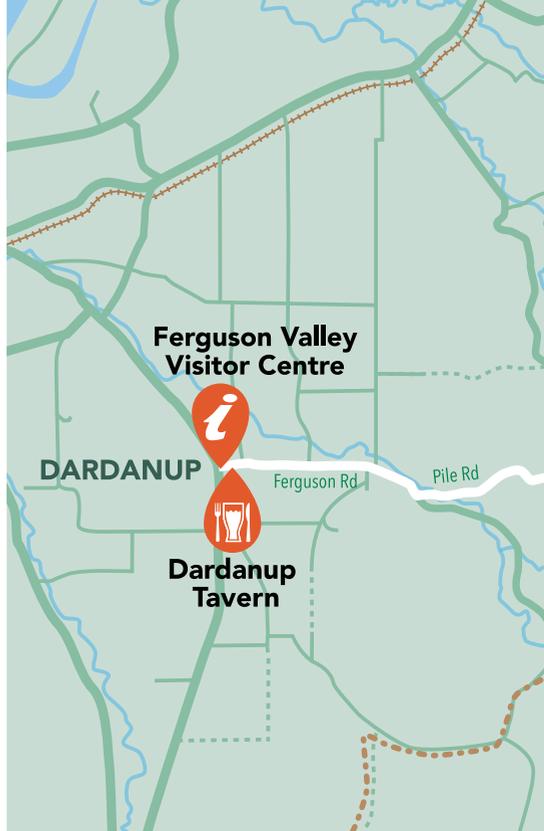
EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS



Driving Distance: 60 km

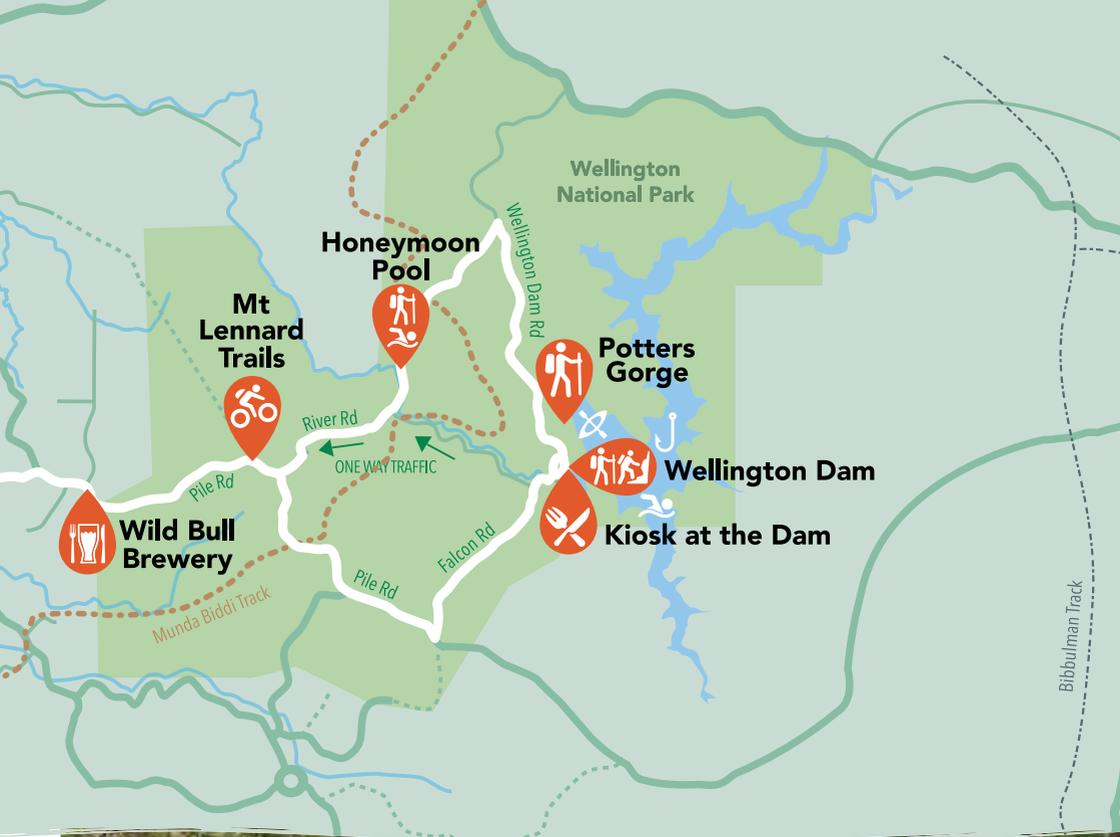
Wellington National Park sits at the doorstep of Ferguson Valley and is a veritable playground of nature-based recreation. Catering to all abilities and ages, most of the trails and attractions are accessible by sealed road. Spend a day uncovering scenic trails that will have you wanting to come back again and again.

First stop this morning is **Mount Lennard** - 40km of mountain bike trails reputed to be among the best sanctioned mountain bike networks in WA with more trails in development. The trails have varying grades for riders of all levels, and are kept in tip-top shape by a dedicated group of locals for whom 'Pile Road' is their home-ground. If you've never tried mountain biking or didn't bring gear, hire mountain bikes are available from **Kiosk at the Dam** or **MaD Cycles** in Bunbury. Depending on



your fitness, experience and time available, select from seven different trails including the popular bermed turns and log rides of the Grizzly Trail, a Trails WA 'Top Trail', or the rolling ups and downs of Lennard Half Circuit with its views over the valley.

Strategically situated opposite the bottom trail carpark, you will want to visit **Wild Bull Brewery** afterwards for lunch with a view. They offer up live music, craft beers and a delicious menu of locally sourced food including woodfired pizzas, Dardanup beef and delicious burgers.





Wellington National Park

If you want to keep moving, head out to **The Quarry**, a spectacular backdrop for picnics and barbecues. The area was formed when construction material was needed for the nearby **Wellington Dam** wall. Sheer walls of solid granite are up to 20 metres high and used for abseiling and rock climbing (though you must have appropriate licenses and permits – contact the Parks and Wildlife Service Wellington District Office in Collie on (08) 9735 1988 for more information).

Wellington National Park has several popular walk trails for hikers and nature-lovers. The relatively easy **Jabitj (Running Water) Walk Trail** runs along the Collie River between Honeymoon Pool and Kiosk at the Dam (6km one way, 12km return). **Kurliiny Tjenangitj (Come and See) Walk Trail** starts near Honeymoon Pool, loops up through the forest and has a steep climb to a lookout, taking in the views before looping back (9.5km). The dual use **Sika Trail** starts at Kiosk at the Dam and heads north past Potters Gorge. If you're short on time, head back at this point or continue on to finish the loop trail (10km). Experienced hikers now have a brand-new world-class walking trail in the Wellington National Park to explore: the **Wilman Bilya Trail**. This full-day hike stretches 20km from Wellington Dam north to end up at the Coalfields Highway, winding through magnificent blackbutt, open jarrah forest and past granite outcrops.

The shady forest setting of **Potters Gorge** is located on the shores of **Wellington Dam**. Spend some time fishing, canoeing or water skiing – or test out the nearby **Currawong Pump Track**.

Spend the rest of the afternoon swimming at the picturesque **Honeymoon Pool**. This wide pool in the Collie River is surrounded by peppermint trees. Soak up some sun on the wooden deck or jump off the platform into the crisp, cool water below. Honeymoon Pool is also the perfect spot to slide the kayak in for a paddle. More experienced kayakers can tackle the **Honeymoon Pool Kayak Trail** - a 6km return trail starting at the campgrounds with several rapids along the way (visit TrailsWA.com.au for details and important safety information).

Activities in the Wellington National Park can also be incorporated into longer treks or spurs of the **Munda Bididi Trail** (cycling) and **Bibbulman Track** (hiking). Both pass through this region on their epic journey from Perth to Albany.

Finish off the day with dinner at the **Dardanup Tavern**. Built in 1905, 'the Dardy' is still going strong and is sought out for their relaxed country pub atmosphere - and huge selection of parmigiana toppings!

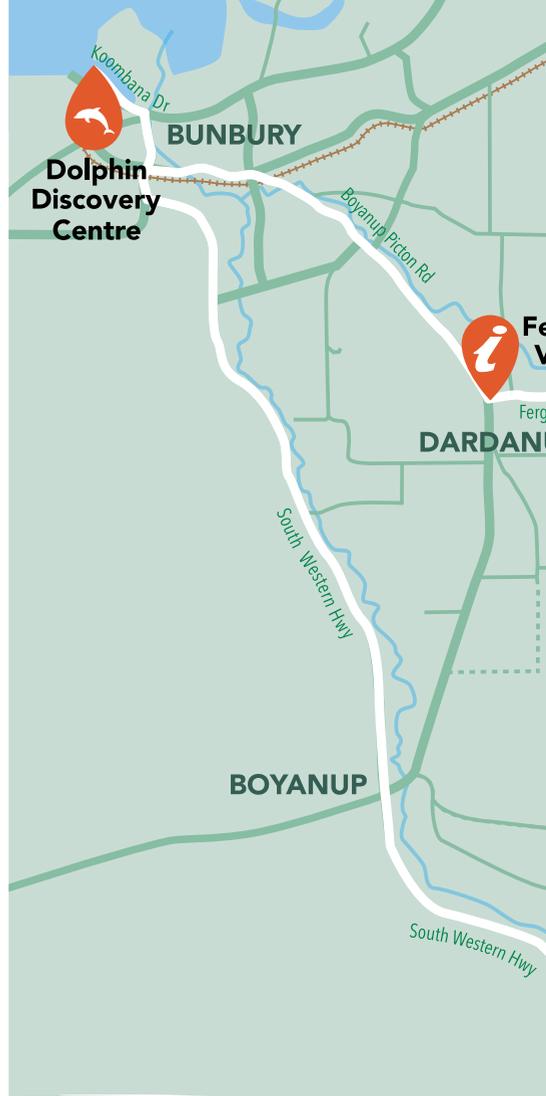
FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART



Driving Distance: 145 km

Perhaps there's not too many of you, or maybe your clan could easily get around in a bus - families come in all shapes and sizes. But what we want from a holiday is the same - to experience something new, to be delighted, and to create special memories that last a lifetime. Spend some time exploring together. It's all about connecting with the people we love...

This morning, make your way to Bunbury to meet the friendly dolphins of Koombana Bay. These wild creatures don't exactly keep to a schedule, but can often be seen in the Interaction Zone in front of the **Dolphin Discovery Centre** between 8 and 10am. This is Australia's premier wild dolphin experience, where you can visit the Interaction Zone for free. If you're lucky the dolphins will swim around the line-up of visitors' legs while you chat to the volunteers, who can tell you



each dolphin by name from unique fin markings. Afterwards, enjoy breakfast at the café's outdoor terrace before touring the Interpretive Centre inside to view the impressive aquariums, touch pool, and turtle rehabilitation tanks.

Next, take the family to Australia's largest free entry fun park, the



Donnybrook Apple Fun Park. Kids of all ages will find something to love at this fully-fenced fruit themed playground. Sections for toddlers and pre-schoolers feature low ride-on animals, kiddie swings and slide areas. Huge four-level towers complete with slides, rope bridges and flying foxes as well as low rock-



climbing walls and a spacenet will keep older kids entertained.

As you travel along the picturesque Ferguson Road, see if you can spot the hidden road-verge village of **Gnomesville**. You can even bring along your own gnome from home to live amongst its fellow mates. If you're curious about how these gnomes came to congregate here, pick up a copy of the children's book "Gnomesville The Real Story" by local author Lesley Geers from the Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre.

Head into the forest for an educational nature-experience for young and old at the **Wellington Discovery Forest**. Here you'll take a short self-guided walk trail that offers an insight into forest ecology and the unique plants and animals that live here. **Wellington National Park** consists of 17,000 hectares of Western Australia's unique jarrah, marri and yarri (blackbutt) forests. It also hosts over 70 bird species and 300 species of colourful wildflowers during the spring months of September, October and November. You may even be lucky enough to spot a uniquely Australian animal like the chuditch, quenda, quokka, brushtail possum, woylie or western ringtail possum - though you might need to stay up past bedtime to see those nocturnal natives!

Stop to refuel at the family-friendly **Bush Shack Brewery** to enjoy a bite with locally made craft beer while overlooking

Dolphin Discovery Centre

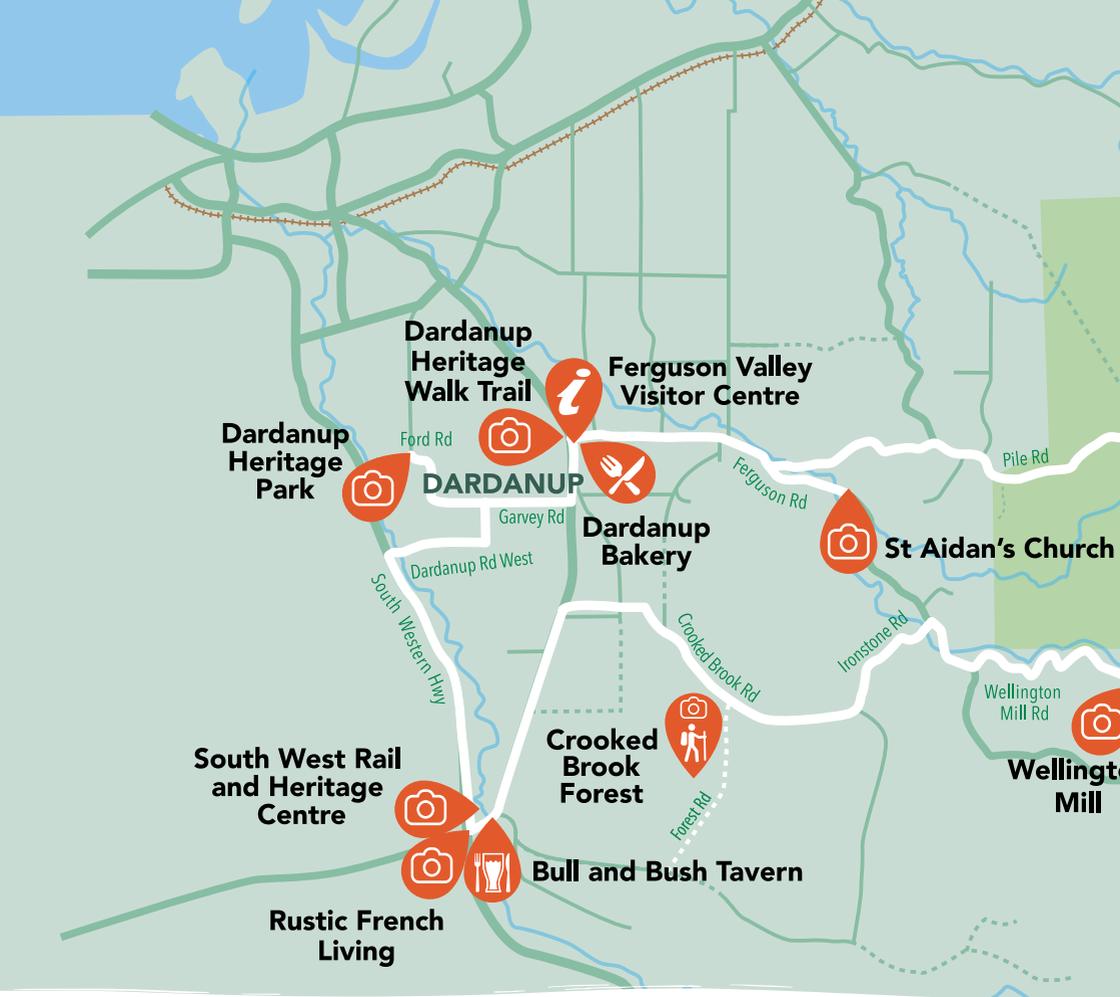


the playgrounds and grassed areas. With popular brews from their original Yallingup operation still on the menu, they offer up unique small batch brews and flavoured alcoholic beverages, as well as a changing selection of seasonal ciders. Can't decide? Order a picket – a tasting paddle of brews - to figure out your favourite.



If you still have plenty of energy to burn, take a detour out to the shady forest setting at **Potters Gorge**. It's the perfect waterside spot for good old-fashioned family fun with beach entry into the dam, easy walk paths to explore the area and a mountain bike pump track nearby for older kids. For a shortened hike, take the

section of the dual use **Sika Trail** from Potters Gorge to the **Wellington Dam**. Stop in at the **Kiosk at the Dam** for a snack or icecream and venture to the dam lookout before returning (approx. one hour each way). Alternatively, spend the afternoon splashing around the water - fishing, canoeing or swimming in the dam.

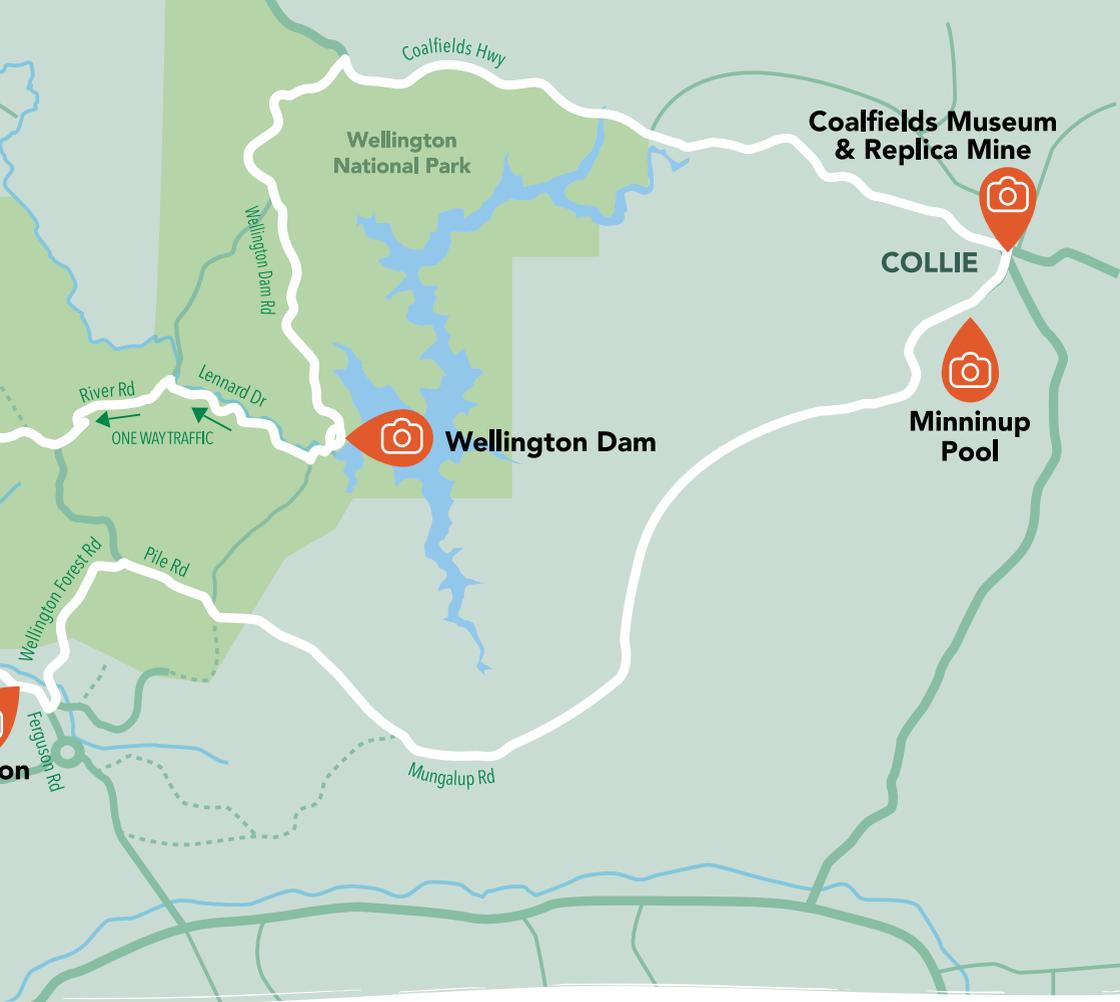


STEP BACK IN TIME



Driving Distance: 150 km

In the nearby hamlet of Dardanup, you'll find a treasure trove of tales from the past. The name itself is believed to be derived from the Aboriginal name for the area - Dudingup. With the arrival of Irish Catholic immigrants, the origins of this wine and produce region were established with subsistence farmers growing vegetables, grapes and livestock. From ancient journeys that shaped the landscape, to



early agricultural, rail and mining heritage of nearby towns, let's take a journey back in time...

Set off this morning along the 2km **Dardanup Heritage Walk Trail**. Hunt out historic sites and stories of this early settlement - including Thomas Little Hall, built in 1858 and the first Catholic church in the state to be built outside Perth. Along the way, stop at the popular wood-fired **Dardanup Bakery** for

breakfast on-the-go. Famous for its delicious hand-made pastries, gourmet pies and specialty artisan sourdough bread, plan to get there early or you may miss out!

A few minutes from town is the **Dardanup Heritage Park** where you could wander for hours on Wednesdays and Sundays through an impressive collection of restored agricultural machinery and memorabilia from



Rustic French Living

our pioneering past. With the largest collection of heritage items in the Southern Hemisphere, the park owners and staff are assisted by passionate local volunteers who spend their time rebuilding, restoring and demonstrating century-old machines at work.

Cut across to the South Western Highway and travel south to the quaint town of Boyanup. Once a major junction on the West Australian Government railway system, it now displays a collection of rolling stock and vintage steam locomotives at

the monthly open day of **South West Rail and Heritage Centre**. While in the Boyanup railway precinct you'll also catch a glimpse of two of the original cottages built for railway fitters and the English Oak planted by the Stationmaster in 1904.

Search amongst the antiques and collectibles of nearby **Rustic French Living**, before stopping for lunch at the **Bull and Bush Tavern** where a modern menu meets old-world charm along the banks of the Preston River.

Alternatively, make your way to **Crooked Brook Forest** for a nature walk and picnic lunch or BBQ alongside a tranquil billabong. Four walking trails start here, including Forest Path – a 600m wheel-chair accessible path listed as one of Trails WA's Top Trails. Along the way, information plaques depict the history of the forest from prehistoric times to the Centenary of Federation. Search for native orchids and other spectacular wildflowers during the months of September and October.

Next take a drive along Wellington Mill Road to the historic **Wellington Mill** townsite. Destroyed by fire, it was one of the state's largest private timber mills when established in the late 1800s. Today, several original cottages along with a community park historic walk trail and huge relic timber log commemorate this once bustling township.

As you head towards Collie, stop at the tranquil swimming spot of **Minninup Pool** to discover the ancient tracks of the Ngarngungudditj Walgu. According to local indigenous belief this hairy-faced snake carved out the Collie River and Leschenault Estuary. Minninup Pool holds special significance, as this wide section of the river is the resting site of the serpent.

Collie's **Coalfields Museum** is housed in the historic Roads Board buildings and contains thousands of artefacts that will take you back to the early days of this coal mining settlement. You can also visit the nearby **Replica Mine** to experience the working conditions of those first underground coal miners.

For more information about the people who came to settle in this area, take a stroll near the **Wellington Dam**. The original dam was built in 1932 as part of a drive to fund public works and provide jobs for thousands desperate for work during the Great Depression. Informative signs share the lives of the workers and their families who came to the area during construction.

Next stop on your heritage journey is **St Aidan's Church**. This picturesque red brick church is the original church site for the Ferguson community, but it's also the namesake for **St Aidan Wines** next door, where you can take in the views of the Ferguson River with afternoon tea or a wine tasting.

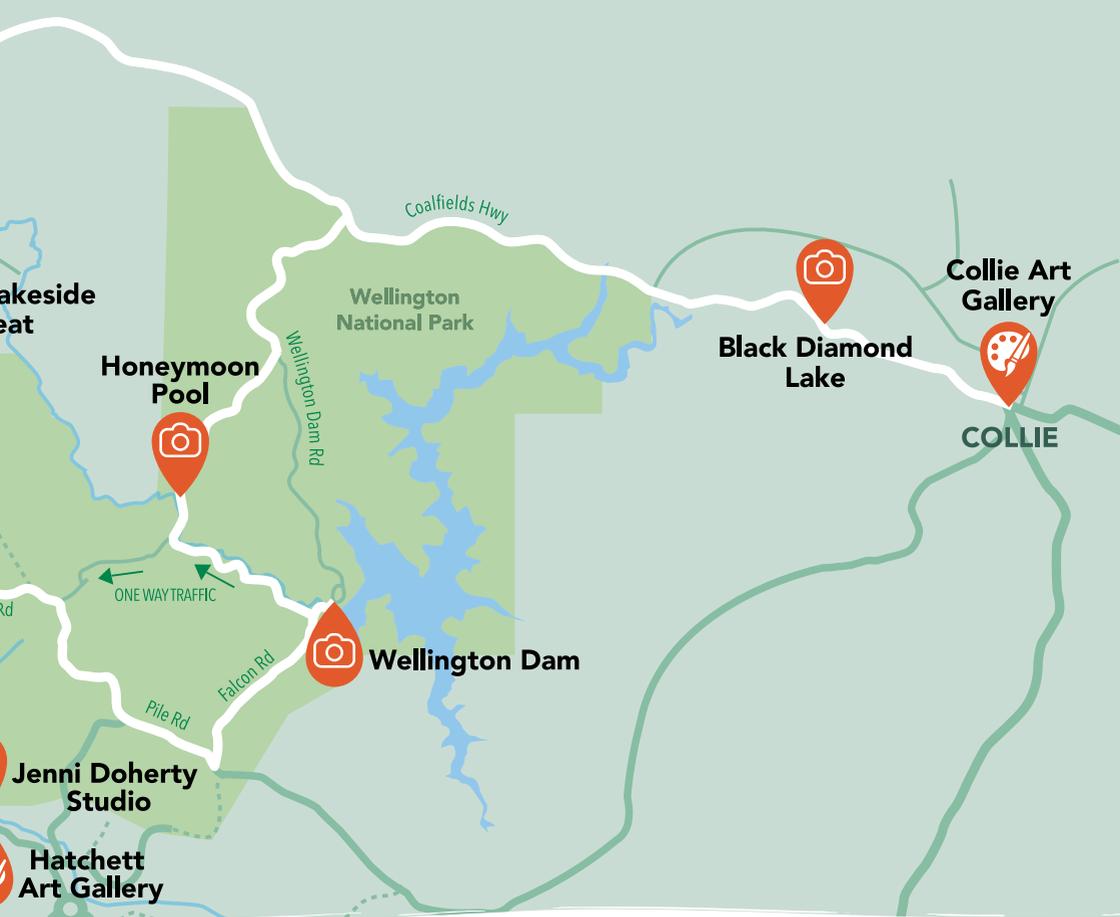


CREATIVE WANDERING



Driving Distance: 180 km

Fergusson Valley is a hidden valley of art lovers. You might not see them all, but you'll notice the mark they leave as you journey through. It's in the food, the wine, the events, the gardens, the art and the architecture. There's something about living enveloped in natural beauty that would stir the muse in anyone. And why so many artists are drawn to a place that inspires a creative life.



Stop first at the Ferguson Valley Visitor Centre to enquire about local artists of the Valley who open their studios by appointment.

Next, start your pilgrimage browsing the gallery of fine art, cards, leather goods and creative flair on display at **Ferguson Hart Estate**, while enjoying a barista coffee and delicious homemade cakes.

Visit **Wellington Dam** and see if you're brimming with ideas for outdoor art

on a massive scale. The dam wall is set to become one of the world's largest canvases, with a surface of more than 12 000 square meters.

Follow the river along Lennard Drive, one of **Wellington National Park's** most scenic roads. Find a tranquil spot to sit or swim, or search nature for inspiration for your own creative endeavours - capture on camera the magnificent wildflower colours in spring (September-November) or take in the peaceful forest surrounds as you paint,



Ferguson Hart Estate

draw or write. Seek out textile colours and textures in the flora and birdlife and follow the twists and turns of nature that speak to graphic and sculptural designs before stopping at the picturesque **Honeymoon Pool**.

Venture next to **Collie Art Gallery**. A space for artists and art, it was the first purpose-built A-class public art gallery since Perth's Art Gallery of WA in the late 70s. Showcasing a unique and diverse collection, they also host a range of workshops and events for artists and offer Australia's richest regional individual art prize of \$50 000.

Make a stop at the insta-famous **Black Diamond Lake** where you'll be mesmerised by the vibrant crystal blue colour of this water-filled disused mine, surrounded by encroaching forest greenery.

Journey down the hill towards **Evedon Lakeside Retreat** to enjoy a leisurely meal inspired by the freshest local produce. Take a stroll around the lake and browse the gallery space showcasing works of local artists.

Take a trip to **Featured Wood Gallery & Museum** displaying a variety of timber craft and furniture pieces as well as a range of art work in different mediums by local artists.

Travelling on to Bunbury, you won't miss the iconic pink convent-turned-

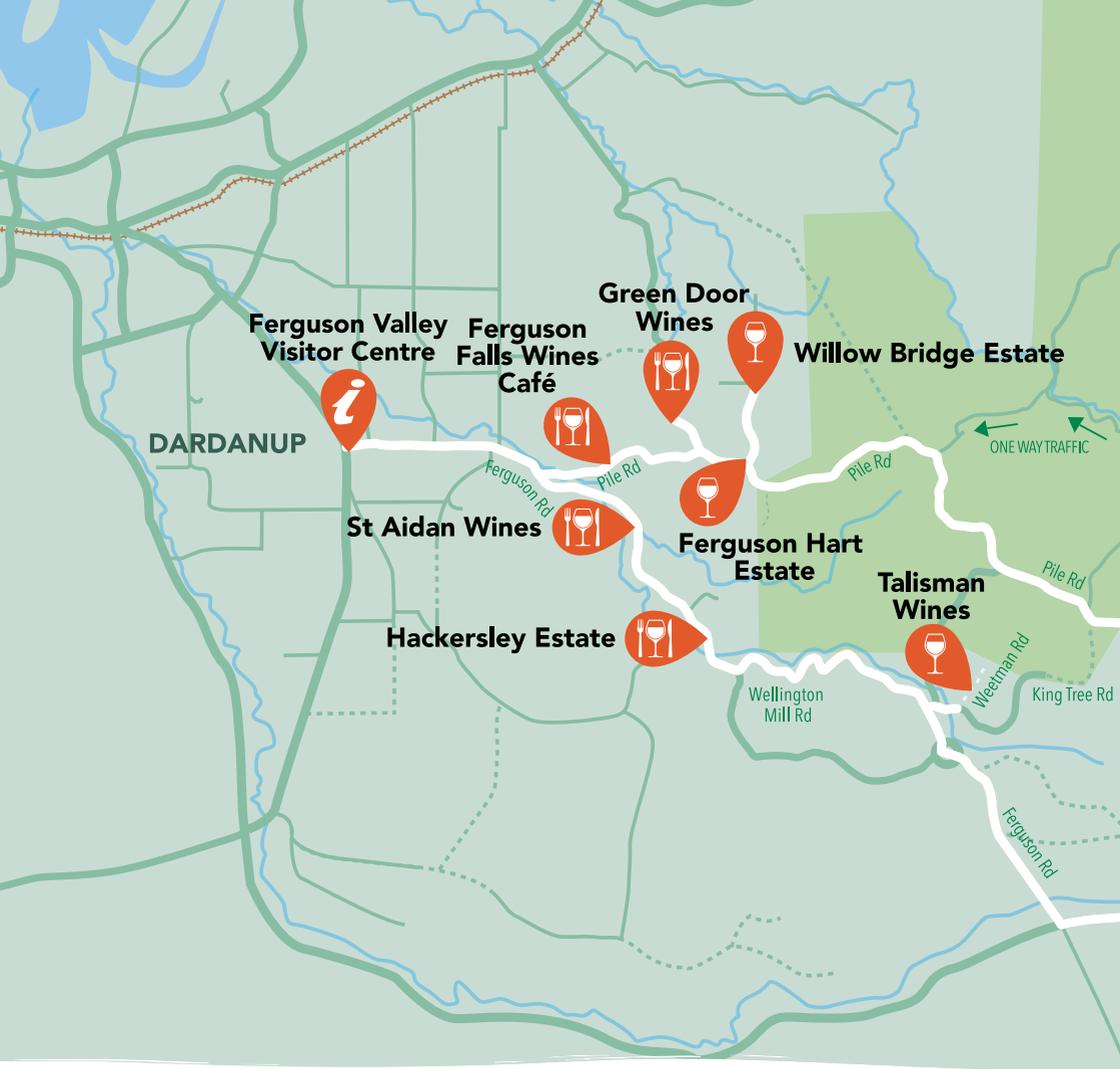
gallery that is the **Bunbury Regional Art Gallery** (BRAG). BRAG presents a dynamic and ever-changing roster of exhibitions by local artists, as well as cutting-edge touring exhibitions from around the country. With six different gallery spaces and a new exhibition every six weeks, there's always something new to see.

Get inspired to pursue your own creative endeavours as you browse through the eclectic mix of art, clothing, designs, prints and creations on display at **Maker + Co**. This collective is an opportunity for local artists, artisans and ethical traders to work together and display their wares, as well as a community hub for creatives, innovators and entrepreneurs.

While you're in the CBD, hit the pavement to spot the vibrant murals that adorn the city's walls and electric boxes – it's the biggest collection of regional **street art** in Australia.

Next, if you have an appointment head south to visit local artist studios and galleries including **5th Element Glass Art Studio & Gallery**, **Elliot Smith Sculptures & Glass Studio**, **Hatchett Art Gallery** (also open most Sundays), and **Jenni Doherty Studio**.

Time your trip to coincide with the **Dardanup Art Spectacular & Art Trail** event to see artists-in-residence at your favourite venues, exhibitions, sculpture trails, workshops and more.



WINE DISCOVERIES



Driving Distance: 140 km

With a strong tradition of discovery, the Geographe Wine region takes its name from Geographe Bay, first mapped by French explorers. Geographe is the most diverse wine region in Western Australia, growing 36 wine varieties, including many alternative varieties. Make your own voyage of discovery on this fascinating wine trail.



Fortify yourself at St Aidan Wines

Owners Phil and Mary Smith named their winery after the iconic little multid denominational church that adjoins the vineyards.

Phil planted Muscat grapes, identified as suitable for the area because of the warmer climate, which find their way into a highly awarded

‘Solera’ Muscat, a Moscato and a dry Muscat. St Aidan were also one of the first to plant Tempranillo. “The varietal has great potential in the area given the similarity of our climate to Rioja in Spain,” Phil says.

St Aidan hosts a Tempranillo tasting each year with 18 Tempranillos on tasting. The restaurant menu changes



St Aidan Wines

regularly focusing on local cheeses, meats and vegetables including some from their own garden. Events include outdoor movie nights, 'Dinner in the Vines' and they are a popular venue for weddings.

Apart from regular trophy success for their Fortified Muscat, they have also won gold and 'best in class' for their Sparkling Chardonnay.

Long Lunch at Hackersley Estate

If wine tasting makes you hungry settle down for a long lunch at Hackersley Restaurant where you can enjoy views over the rolling hills of Ferguson Valley. The restaurant offers an ever-moving feast with their set-menu long lunch changing up every eight weeks.

Reservations are recommended but you can pop in anytime for coffee, cake,

dessert, cheese platter or to pick up some great Hackersley Estate wines.

Hackersley Restaurant has been a Gold Plate Award Winner. The winery has previously received a 5 star Halliday rating. They focus on Western Australia's classic varieties such as Cabernet, Shiraz, Merlot, Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Verdelho.

Trophy Winners at Talisman Wines

Talisman has only been producing wine for 11 years, but has already picked up accolades such as a 5 star rating in the Halliday Wine companion and 5 trophies at the recent "WA Boutique & Single Vineyard Awards."

Anita Robinson, from Talisman says "We are not bound by expectations and iconic wines like some of the more established wine regions around Australia. We have had the flexibility to explore different grape varieties."

Talisman make Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot, Shiraz, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc and two alternative grapes – Malbec and Zinfandel. These varieties were planted in the initial planting of the vineyard in 1999.

"One of the things I love about the Geographe is, for the most part, if you go to a cellar door, you will meet the people behind the wines. The people who own the vineyard, who pick the grapes, who make the wine. We are a region of boutique wineries."

Talisman Wines will run tastings at the winery from September 2020.

Find your 'Zin' at Mandalay Road Estate

Husband and wife Tony and Bernice O'Connell had a quiet country life in mind when they bought a little property in Geographe. On being advised that there was as much work in growing half an acre as 10 they scaled up their ambitions.

"Chardonnay and Cabernet do well here" Tony says. But Tony sees the future for Geographe in alternative varieties. "Durif is one of our best sellers. We are one of just four growers in Western Australia. It's well suited to an inland region because it's a late ripening style." Mandalay also do Zinfandel in a table wine, a desert wine and a port.

Their wines are highly awarded from leading wine shows.

Taste Gin at Harris River Estate

Harris River Estate are not only winemakers, cider makers and micro brewers they have recently released Boodja Gin and beer, with Beelagu Moort, a 100 per cent Aboriginal owned and operated company in Collie's Noongar Wilman Country. The new gin and beer range is available to taste at the winery which sits just on the edge of the Geographe Wine Region.

Estate co-owner Julie Hillier said the husband and wife duo are extremely

excited because of the collaborative nature of the making of Boodja Gin.

“We’ve been connected with the local indigenous community for a long time and we have a trusted relationship with the local elders. Tapping into their wealth of knowledge of country there’s a depth and story to the gin.”

There’s also a tasty tapas grazing menu at the cellar door. The winery is available for weddings, private functions, corporate training and events.

Wines with Bling at Willow Bridge Estate

Willow Bridge is one of the region’s largest wineries and holds a 5 Star Halliday rating. Willow Bridge is owned by the Dewar family and has been a great success story.

The Dragonfly range which includes Shiraz, Cabernet Merlot and a Sauvignon Blanc Semillon blend has the happy knack of winning trophies and medals year after year as well as being very well priced at just \$22 per bottle. The ‘Solana Geographe Tempranillo’ is a favourite at \$30.

Winemaker Kim Horton came to Willow Bridge after working in Margaret River. He has been impressed with Geographe. “There is a great variation in the sub regions of Geographe. We are discovering the nuances of each. People have noted the similarity of the region to the Iberian Peninsula.”

Willow Bridge was voted ‘Best Large Cellar Door 2019’ by Gourmet Traveller Wine.

Fine Art at Ferguson Hart Estate

Owners Jan and Merv Hart were passionate about wine and wanted to escape the hustle of Perth and retire to the country. So they planted the vines nearly 25 years ago.

Jan and Merv boast that you’ll find fine wine, fine art (mostly painted by Jan) and fine coffee at the cellar door. Visitors can expect a warm friendly greeting from the owners, not from paid staff.

Merv says of their range “A lovely fresh, crisp SBS for a drink on the balcony, a very serious Gold medal Chardonnay for that special meal and a sensational cane cut Semillon to share with cheese, biscuits and fresh fruit.”

“There’s the double gold medal Grenache Shiraz Touriga to go with chilli and spice, a voluptuous mouth filling Reserve Shiraz for that special steak and finally a magnificent fortified Shiraz enhancing sweets and chocolate.”

Plenty of good reasons to visit Ferguson Hart Estate.

Blind Tasting at Green Door Wines

Do you think you could tell a red wine from a white wine if you couldn’t see the colour? Put yourself to the test and taste 4 different wines out of

solid black glasses at Green Door. Do the blind tasting and win a glass of wine on Green Door if you can guess all wines correctly. No pressure!

Green Door have had great success with the 'El Toro Tempranillo' winning a gold medal at the Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show. They have also been fermenting Spanish style wines in Amphora Clay Pots producing an Amphora Grenache and an Amphora Tempranillo. See for yourself at the cellar door.

Delicious grazing platters are available with tastings at the cellar door which was voted 'Best Small Cellar Door Geographe' by Gourmet Traveller Wine 2019.

Wine and Pizza Time at Ferguson Falls Wines

La dolce vita influenced Peter & Margaret Giumelli to open Ferguson Falls Wines, the first vineyard planted in the Ferguson Valley. They now have Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot, Verdelho and Tempranillo. "Some see the vineyard as my therapeutic hobby!" Peter jokes.

The cellar door is combined with an award winning café (Gold Plate Award) which has an American influence. They specialise in gourmet pizzas, crafted cheeses from their dairy herd such as fetta, Romano Pepper, Havarti, a 4 year old Parmesan and their award winning wines.



Peter's favourite is the Reuben pizza, made from pulled corned beef combined with sauerkraut with a Russian dressing. They also do a Reuben sandwich, New York style. However, the Artichoke Gourmet, Buffalo Garlic Prawn and Four Flavours of Pork pizzas are most popular with regulars.

All their wines are highly recommended!

Alternative Wines

Also check the Geographe Alternative Wine Trail booklet for more wine discoveries:

Visitbunburygeographe.com.au

DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Please designate a driver if planning to taste wines.

See *Touring* on page 32-33 for Tour and Transport options.





TOURING

To enjoy a winery or brewery experience, or to find the local's secret spots, a tour operator can create a bespoke experience matched to your interests.

South West Tourist Services is an experienced travel adviser and tour operator that provides personalised tours. With the capacity for tours from two to 12 passengers, they offer a wide range of tours and charter transport.

Hinterland Escapes can provide the wine, food, art or nature experience that you're looking for and will use their knowledge of the Valley to plan the ideal escape in the spacious comfort of their Renault bus that seats up to 11 passengers.

Mandurah Wine Tours and Charters bring tour passengers from Mandurah and other areas on a day tour of the Valley to see the breathtaking scenery, rolling hills, lush green dairy country and stunning views along with a selection of family owned wineries, breweries, cheese tasting plus visits to the ever-popular Gnomesville.

For larger group tours and special events requiring transport for up to 53 passengers, **Bunbury Bus Service** can provide a bus and driver to host your group.

ACCOMMODATION

Stay at one of the Valley's great getaways ranging from romantic B&B's for adults, to family friendly farm stays, lodges, bush retreat cottages and waterside campgrounds.

Originally built to house forestry staff, **Wellington Forest Cottages** is naturally nestled into the majestic Wellington Forest. If you look closely, these cosy rustic cottages are surrounded by signs of the old settlement and they offer easy access to nature-based recreation.

The adults only retreat of **Peppermint Lane Lodge** is a tranquil paradise with self-contained studios overlooking the Ferguson River and gardens for the ultimate escape. A great space for meditation and relaxation, it also offers guests beautiful dining by appointment and an ephemeral outdoor sculpture trail.

The gorgeous rammed-earth accommodation of **Ferguson Farmstay** offers the perfect getaway for families, with views over Bunbury and the Indian Ocean. With a menagerie of farm animals you can participate in farm life every day - feeding the animals, collecting eggs and pony or tractor rides.

Stay in a private lakeside cabin at **Evedon Lakeside Retreat**, surrounded by 320 hectares of natural Australian bushland. It's the ideal retreat for fishing, canoeing, mountain biking and bushwalking activities. They also

feature an onsite licensed restaurant, and an art gallery showcasing the work of local artists and artisans.

To experience the region's rich Indigenous history, **Roelands Village** offers accommodation and facilities for larger groups including schools and conferences. This nationally significant heritage site is a former Mission that has been transformed into a positive place of healing and development which the former 'Mission kids' now operate as a space to create their culture and share it with others through accommodation, events and tours.

Enjoy a relaxed pace of life at **Henty Lodge** where you can meander through the gardens, woods and lakeside of this secluded accommodation that's ideally situated to explore the Ferguson Valley and beyond.

Nestled in the Preston Valley with the Glen Mervyn Dam next door, relax and unwind at the **Glen Mervyn Lodge**. This spacious self-catering homestead is big enough for 12 people, and the ideal setting for catching up with family and friends to enjoy the great outdoors, and also has a cottage for couples or single guests available.

To be close to nature - and the trails. **Honeymoon Pool Campground** and the newly upgraded **Potters Gorge Campground** are both located within



Peppermint Lane Lodge

Wellington National Park with easy access to mountain biking and hiking trails. Camp sites need to be booked in advance at parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au

For a Wellington Forest camping experience when you just can't fit any more gear into the car, try **Kiosk at the Dam's Glamping** option. No need to set up a camp by yourself, they'll do it all before you arrive so you can enjoy fluffy pillows, a soft mattress and luxurious linen after a day on the trails.

Just south of Wellington National Park is **Kambarang**, the home of **Cycletrek** - a specialist mountain bike repair shop in the bush with an eco-accommodation unit and a private network of MTB trails for guests. Have your bike repaired onsite or take a test lap around the trails and get the insider info direct from local mountain biking enthusiasts.

The farmhouse bed and breakfast of **Crooked Brook B&B** is situated close to the Crooked Brook Forest, with its walk trails, picnic areas and beautiful wildflowers in season.

Relax in the peaceful setting of **King Tree Lodge** where you can enjoy the ambience of a country retreat in a national jarrah forest.

Immerse yourself in the Geographe Wine Region at **Windfall Wine Cottage**, a self-contained chalet for couples, on the grounds of the Windfall Wine Estate vineyard.

Other nearby accommodations include: **Clem & Tines, Discovery Parks Bunbury Foreshore, Harris River Estate, Hidden Grove Retreat, Mercure Sanctuary Golf Resort** and **Riverside Cabin Park**.

**FERGUSON VALLEY
VISITOR CENTRE**

 (08) 9728 1551

 info@fergusonvalley.net.au

 www.fergusonvalley.net.au

 @FergusonValley

 DiscoverFergusonValley

BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE

www.visitbunburygeographe.com.au

AUSTRALIA'S SOUTH WEST

www.australiassouthwest.com



WWW.FERGUSONVALLEY.NET.AU

FERGUSON VALLEY

DRIVE TRAILS OF THE FERGUSON VALLEY & SURROUNDS

