

HOLIDAY WITH KIDS ITINERARY

in the bunbury geographe region



**BUN
GEO**

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FABULOUS FUN FOR THE FAMILY

Find activities that the whole family genuinely loves in #BunGeo!



Koombana Bay Foreshore

PERTH TO BUNBURY

Depart Perth and drive south to Bunbury on Forrest Highway. Travel time: allow 2 hours or less.

ACCOMMODATION

Check into **Discovery Parks Bunbury Foreshore**. Their spacious deluxe waterfront 3-bedroom villas are located on the water's edge of the Leschenault Inlet, and the new Koombana Bay Foreshore and CBD are only a stone's throw away. Older kids can play a game of tennis, while the younger kids should head to the massive playground next door. It also offers the essential free Wifi for your teenagers! Most accommodation in Bunbury is family-friendly. There are a plethora of options including apartments at **Bunbury Hotel Koombana Bay** on the historic Bunbury Waterfront with an indoor heated pool and tennis courts. Next door to Discover Parks Koombana Bay is **Quest Apartments**. Kids will love the outdoor swimming pool and free Wifi. Parents can take advantage of Quest's pantry service and have groceries delivered to your apartment. For a large hotel, try inter-connecting rooms at **Best Western Plus Hotel Lord Forest** or a family room at the **Quality Hotel Lighthouse**. For views of the Indian Ocean and Bunbury's Back Beach, head to **Bunbury Seaview Apartments**. Soak up the character at the historic **Blue Bird Cottage** (c1900). It has the cutest kids room with antique wrought iron beds and a bathtub. For a budget, ultra kid-friendly option stay at **Discovery Parks Bunbury Village** on the outskirts of Bunbury. The bouncing pillow, kids playground, mini golf, and swimming pool will keep the mini-thespians entertained.





DAY ONE - BUNBURY

TIME WITH NATURE

Rise and shine; it's time to get up and close to nature in **Bunbury - the City of 3 Waters**. Start with breakfast (from 7am) at Australia's premier wild dolphin experience; the new \$12Million **Dolphin Discovery Centre**. The Interpretive Centre is a must-do for kids with themed fish and coral aquariums and an amazing 360-degree Digital Dolphinarium, as well as an interpretation of the Koombana Bay environment and its history. It is an immersive experience, with activity centres, interactive displays, feeding programs and tours that appeal to all age groups.

After breakfast head to the beach Interaction Zone where our wild dolphins visit (early morning is best). Or get up and close with the dolphins of Koombana Bay on an 8am **Dolphin Discovery Centre swim tour**. Accompanied by an experienced guide and trained volunteers you will venture into the open waters of Koombana Bay. Depending on dolphin sightings you will be guided into the water where the dolphins may elect to initiate interaction with you and your fellow swimmers. As they are wild dolphins interaction cannot be guaranteed. You'll be supplied a wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins. Bring a waterproof camera!

If your mini me's are under 6 years or not confident in the water, join the 10.30am **Dolphin Discovery Centre's Dolphin Eco Cruise** tour in Koombana Bay. Dolphins can be seen frolicking, playing, sleeping and feeding. The informative commentary from the skipper of the boat will also keep you updated throughout the cruise. A group of around 100 to 150 dolphins are regularly seen in the bay and surrounding waters.

Alternatively, join Kim from **Octopus Garden Scenic Cruises** for a Koombana Bay Dolphin Cruise, Scenic Cruise or Sunset Cruise. If you have older children, they offer diving charters to the **Lena Dive Wreck** too!

In summer, older kids and parents can welcome the day with an 8.30am **SUP Bunbury** PaddleBoard and Yoga class in Koombana Bay. Bring sunscreen, hat and comfy clothes. Be reminded you may end up landing a pose in the water.

TWILIGHT SAIL ON KOOMBANA BAY

Throughout summer, join a crew at **Koombana Bay Sailing Club** on Wednesday night for Twilight sailing from 5.30pm (minimum age). Hitch a ride on one of the many boats who are sailing for only \$10! Afterwards, stay for a meal with great company and sensational views. For those up for an adventure, experience the thrill of racing on Saturdays in Cruisers A, Cruisers B, Division IV, Catamarans, and Junior Dinghy events*.

Meet Wardandi Boodja, a five and a half metre corten steel bust that pays deep respect to the Noongar people located on the Koombana Bay foreshore.



DAY ONE - BUNBURY

Next door to the Dolphin Discovery Centre is the new **Koombana Foreshore Playground**. Kids will love the water play activities, climbing towers and a zipline. Grab a coffee at the **Hello Summer Beach Kiosk** while you wait (kids will also enjoy their famous Shaved Ice concoctions).

Continue along the Koombana Foreshore and over the **Koombana FootBridge** which is designed to resemble a ship's hulls. Look down, and your feet will follow the names of the numerous shipwrecks that came to grief in Koombana Bay.

TIME FOR LUNCH

Welcome to the **Marlston Waterfront Precinct**. There are a plethora of food options for you - **Aristos** is the place to go for seafood, the **Bayview Bar** is home to WA's best steak sandwich, **Mash Brewery** is perfect if mum and dad are craving a brew, and Dome is a coffee institution and more. A little further around is **Vat 2**, with awesome views, great kids menu and a playground next door. After lunch, take a walk along the boardwalk and continue to learn about Bunbury's fascinating maritime history. Then pay a visit to **Taffy's (Morris Lane)**. If you time it right, you may see the taffy making demonstration with free yummy tastings.

TAKE IN THE VIEW

Only a 5-10 minute walk from the waterfront is the **Marlston Hill Lookout**. A climb to the top will reward you with fabulous 360 views over Bunbury and beyond. Take the stairs down to Victoria Street and seek out a turmeric latte, cold-pressed juice or Mano a Mano coffee (and plenty of options for the 'little people' from the boutique cafe, **Townhouse Bunbury** in Victoria Street. If the sun is shining, head to their banging backyard featuring murals by local artists.

REFRESH

Head back to your accommodation property and make the most of its fabulous facilities.

DINNER

Start with an early dinner. If you have a hoard of hungry boys, **Cafe Bean's** \$12 Pizza or Pasta nights (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) are sure to fill empty stomachs. For the best burgers around, **Right on Burgers** next to Grand Cinemas is the place to go to. Think local beef ground daily with 24-hour ferment buns (note - vege options too) and finish with a fab soft gelato. For something special try **Market Eating House** – it's the sort of place you plan your weekend around. The food is sublime, the service sensational, and the atmosphere relaxed and cosy. Put your faith in the kitchen and order the Feed Me or Feed Me More menu. They don't offer a kids menu, but our four-year-old happily devours anything from MEH.

BE ENTERTAINED

Bunbury is home to **BREC**, Australia's premier entertainment centre with awesome shows most nights. **Grand Cinemas** is adjacent, with six screens on offer. Afterwards savour coffee and cafe (or more) at **Mojos Bunbury**. Otherwise, across the road kids can test their gaming skills at **TimeZone**.



Townhouse

We wanderer; we discover,
we challenge ourselves, we go
against the norm, we unearth
the unexpected....
in the Bunbury Geographe



Benesse Bunbury



The Juicer & Co

DAY TWO - BUNBURY

Start the day by checking out the CBD sights. Grab breakfast at **Cafe 140** and while you're there, take a swing! Their cured pork kedgeree omelette is a must try. Then slip through the side door for the best organic donuts in the region from the **Bread and Butter Wood Fire Bakery**. Or continue a little further down Victoria Street for a casual breakfast at **Benesse Bunbury** and dig into some **Boyanup Free Range Eggs**. Sit indoors or enjoy outdoor laneway dining – they supply blankets to keep you warm. Mum, next door is **Kidd & Co**, a gorgeous shop bursting with fabulous fashion, toys and decor for babies to 8-year-olds. If you're on a health kick, visit **Plant Organic Cafe & Market** for a green smoothie with homemade almond milk or nearby **Natural Temptation Cafe**.

CULTURE UP

Grab a copy of the Bunbury's **ReDiscover Street Art Map** from the **Bunbury Visitor Centre** and see the city from a different perspective. Bunbury is home to the largest collection of street and public art in regional Australia. Kids will love finding the whimsical characters painted by leading WA artists on 20 electrical boxes scattered through the CBD. On your journey, stop at the **BRAG** - housed in a very distinctive pink convent. It's the perfect backdrop for an Insta pic. BRAG is home to the largest collection of public art in regional Western Australia and also runs school holidays programs for kids. Expand those little minds at **Bunbury Museum & Heritage Centre**, complete with interactive displays and touring exhibitions.

TIME FOR LUNCH WITH THE BEST VIEWS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

Savour lunch with uninterrupted views of the Indian Ocean at the **BackBeach Cafe & Restaurant**. It offers the most extensive kids menu in Bunbury and a play area too! In summer, spend the afternoon swimming and bodyboarding. Otherwise, wear off lunch with a walk along **Back Beach**, past the **Jetty Bath ruins** to **Wyalup Rocky Point**. The basalt rock formations at Wyalup have deposited thousands of years ago by flowing lava and now create an eye-catching feature. You may wish to return here at night - it's the perfect place to watch the sunset. Not far away is the famous checkered **Bunbury Lighthouse**.

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

Head to **Bunbury Wildlife Park**. A selfie with one of their friendly kangaroos is a must! You can also meet dingoes, feed the cockatoos, and check out all forms of reptiles. Next door is a massive playground - one of the most popular in Bunbury. Across the road is the **Big Swamp Wetlands**, a unique reserve that is home to over 70 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and fish. Take the Paperbark Boardwalk for a moody Instagram snap!

DINNER

Tonight head to a Bunbury local institution, **The Rose Hotel**. Serving customers since 1865, the State Heritage listed hotel remains one of WA's unique venues. Let the kids enjoy the play area while you enjoy a wine. Love steak? Head to the **Lone Star Rib House**; their Teeny Totters menu will keep the little ones happy. Afterwards, pay a visit to **The Bean & Cone**. Dig into homemade gelato, sorbets, and frozen yoghurts or be extra indulgent and enjoy their milkshakes, sundaes or waffle plates.



Townhouse



Rediscover Street Art



Back Beach Cafe



Bunbury Wildlife Park

Need more? Kids can also
rollerskate or tenpin bowl in
Bunbury

DAY THREE - CAPEL AND PEPPIE BEACH



Get off the Highway and into **Capel**. Walk the streets and discover walls of street art, before dropping into **Capelberry Cafe**.

For breakfast slurp up baked Spanish beans with tomato, chorizo, and Turkish bread. Or the breakfast bruschetta will surely fill up the hungriest of travellers. They have a massive selection of herbal teas, Rubra coffee and you may be in the country, but fear not, you can still get your almond milk here too. Mum, you can pick up a little gift too, with Robert Gordon homewares, abstract art by local Jess Seroka, and chutneys by Peppi Beach producer, the **Fat Hippo**, and much more.

A little further down the street, the best value in the region has to be the **Capel Bakery**. It's super cute. Stock up on homemade pies, sourdough bread, and old favourites like wagon wheels and butterfly cakes. The service is cheerful, the surrounds cosy, and the price is budget friendly. In season, you can also pick up some tremendous farmgate produce.

dig into berry pancakes at the Capelberry Cafe

Have time for a diversion - head to **Ironstone Gully Falls**. In winter the stream gently rambles over a series of rapids. The Falls drop over a ledge of nine metres. From August to October, the surrounding countryside abounds with a stunning display of WA wildflowers.

DISCOVER RARE TUART FORREST

Time to stretch your legs through the **Tuart Forest National Park**. The Park protects the largest remaining pure forest of Tuart in the world. It also has the tallest and largest specimens of Tuart trees on the Swan Coastal Plain. Some trees are more than 33 metres high and 10 metres in circumference.

*ED Note: seeking fresh regional produce on your way to Capel from Bunbury, drop into **The Forbidden Fruit** at Stratham.*

DAY THREE - CAPEL AND PEPPIE BEACH

LUNCH

For something special, enjoy lunch at **Capel Vale Winery's** Match Restaurant. It's all about 'matching' food perfectly with wine, and there is a kids match menu too! James Halliday agrees with the Australian Wine Companion nominating Capel Vale as **2019 Top 101 Wineries in Australia and a Top 5 Red Star Winery**.

Next, it's onto **Peppermint Grove Beach** (or as locals call it - Peppie Beach) to check out the beach views and if you are late enough, a stunning sunset. If your keen for action and travelling with a group of friends, return toward Bunbury, stopping at **Paintball Pursuit** near Stratham to let the battles beginning. Want more? A little further up the road in **Dalyellup** is extreme trampoline centre **Gravity ETC**. Bounce, tumble, balance, flip and fly your way around 1800 sqm of high energy vertical insanity. Lil Gravity 1 hour sessions for pre-school kids aged 3 to 5 are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Teenagers (12+) love Gravity Rock sessions. On Saturdays from 7pm to 9.30pm, teens can meet friends and have an adrenaline-fuelled time with live DJs and competitions in a safe and secure environment. Parents, head out on a date while they keep the teens busy!

RETURN TO BUNBURY

Tonight it's time to change up the taste buds with Indian-fusion at **Funkee Monkee Eatery & Bar** in Victoria Street. Don't fear if your child isn't keen on anything spicy - their Little Monkees menu offers burgers, fish N chips and more.

DAY FOUR - BUNBURY, EATON, AUSTRALIND

WORK UP AN APPETITE

Walk or ride around the Leschenault Inlet. Stop at the **Mangrove Boardwalk** to discover Western Australia's southernmost mangroves. Pure serenity to start your morning. Continue around the Inlet, down Richmond Street and Austral Parade until you stumble across the **Happy Wife**. Be sure to grab a table outside to take in the Inlet views. BunGeo food favourites include baked mushrooms with dukkah hommus, poached eggs, raw spinach and beetroot jam, or handmade savoury crumpets served with herb butter, avocado and molasses. Everything is home-baked on the premises, right down to the croissants. Walk across the road to **Corners on King**. It may be a little early, but you must order a crazy shake. With more than six varieties to choose from you'll be sure to find your secret indulgence. The Nutella and pretzels shake is a customer favourite. Health conscious folks should not fear, Corners also has cold pressed juices, smoothies and a range of kombucha drinks. With fabulous coffee and the best baby chinos in the region, Corners is a popular stop for mums in activewear after they've walked around the Inlet. Hop back on your bike and continue riding around the Inlet (wearing off your crazy shake) to your hotel to check out.

(ED Note: if visiting later in the day try the awesome views of the historic **Parade Hotel** or a gourmet burger from **Paddy's Patties**.)



Capel Vale Winery



Gravity

Wear the kids out with a plethora of activities and then reward yourself with a delectable foodie indulgence.





DAY FOUR - BUNBURY, EATON, AUSTRALIND

Next, we're venturing to Eaton. If you want to stretch the legs more, take a walk along the beautiful **Collie River Walk** - a 10km walk and cycle track that follows the Collie River. If it's food time, head to **Small's Bar**. Think shared food, craft beer, amazing wine, and cocktails. As an advocate of paddock to plate, BunGeo loves how the menu lists the food miles of each delectable item. (Ed Note- happy hour is on every day from 5pm - 6pm and on Sunday take in live music from 4pm - 7pm). Other local favourites include the **Nile Grill & Kebabs** (kids eat free Monday and Tuesdays), **Hog's Breath Cafe** or the **Eaton Tavern**. Afterwards, chocolate lovers can rejoice at the popular chocolateria **San Churro** or take the healthier road with a delicious **Y Bar** frozen yoghurt.

Continue onto Australind via the **Leschenault Estuary**. The Estuary is an estuarine lagoon nearly 14kms in length and 25km². If you like catching your food, over summer beautiful Blue Swimmer Crabs are easily scooped up into a net. Not far away, in The Village Australind, is **Benesse Australind**. The sister store of the highly successful **Benesse Bunbury**, it has gorgeous interiors and a blackboard for kids to draw on to their hearts are content. Continue your oh so bad, but oh so right foodie journey with their Boston Waffles. From Green Bowls and Cider Pork Salads to Brekky Burgers, they have the food spectrum covered.

ACCOMMODATION

It's time for some quintessential country life - head up the into the hills. **Ferguson Farmstay** in the Ferguson Valley comprises ten rammed earth chalets and a function centre on 45 hectares with sensational, uninterrupted views to Bunbury and the ocean. Guests may participate in a variety of activities including milking the cow, feeding baby calves, a pony ride for children and a tractor ride.



Climb the mountain to Collie River Valley.

Take a drive up the mountain and through the forest to the Collie River Valley. On the way stop at **Black Diamond Lake**. Rated as one of WA's Top 10 Instagram spots, a trip to the lake is a must with its vibrant, crystal clear turquoise blue waters creating a photo frenzy. Black Diamond was formerly an open cut mine site that ceased operation in the 1950s – so, check the water quality before diving in! The lake is extremely popular with visitors bringing inflatable floats, because who wouldn't want to lay back and enjoy the beauty?

It's a short drive to Collie. For your coffee and sweet binge, seek **The Colliefields Cafe**. If the weather is fine, take a coffee break at **Wagon 537** - a pop-up cafe, located in a heritage train wagon. People rave about the coffee or try a cold-pressed juice, green smoothie, turmeric and beetroot lattes, and gluten-free cupcakes. Hire bikes from **Crank n Cycle** and wear the kids out on the **Wagyl Biddi** trail. The nine-kilometre MTB network suits riders of all levels with a series of connected trails built to beginner and intermediate level, including 4.5 kms of trails suitable for hand-cycles. Afterwards, cool-off at the Collie Central Park splash pad.

Honeymoon Pool, @mr_474

DISCOVER THE SERENE HONEYMOON POOL

Then, head out of town along Mungalup Road toward the **Ferguson Valley**. Take a diversion loop through the **Wellington National Park** to **Honeymoon Pool**, a wide pool in the river surrounded by graceful peppermints, and Jarrah and Marri forest. Big kids and those kids at heart will love jumping off the wooden platform and the swinging rope! Continue to **Wellington Dam** - kids will be awed by the massive waterway, and if you time it right, the power of water as it is released from the dam. You can hire a bike (numerous bike trails including the **Munda Biddi** track are nearby), have a delicious bite to eat or book your glamping accommodation at the **Kiosk by the Dam**.

DAY FIVE - FERGUSON VALLEY

JOIN THE KANGAROOS FOR MORNING TEA

After spending the morning on Ferguson Farm, head to **Wellington Forest Cottages, Food & Wine** in Wellington Mill. Sip your coffee on the deck overlooking the forest while the extremely friendly kangaroos entertain the kids. Across the road is the **Wellington Discovery Forest** self-guided walk trails through the forest and information to give an insight into jarrah forest ecology.

It's a quick 5-minute drive to the **King Jarrah Tree** - the largest Jarrah tree easily accessible to the public in the South West.

It's only another 5-minute drive to the famous **Gnomesville**! No trip to BunGeo is complete without a visit to this very quirky place. Gnomesville is community driven-gnome village with over seven thousand inhabitants. Bring along a Gnome and add it to the collection. Before you go, pick up a copy of the recently released, super-cute children's illustrated book, *Gnomesville – the real story* by Lesley Geers.

LUNCH OPTION ONE

The Bush Shack Brewery is a perennial family favourite with its kids' playground and wide expanses of grass for the kids to run 'safely' wild. Their awesome kitchen team cook up hearty meals which are available from 11am. (Ed Note 2: **Wild Bull Brewery** on nearby Pile Road is another family-friendly brewery)

On the way home, be sure to stop at **Saint Aidan Winery**. Their Zena Liqueur Muscat is the Geographe's Best Fortified. Savour it with an afternoon 'sweet bite' from their European-trained chef. (Ed Note: Saint Aidan's also offers a superb lunch with Kids Box options and rolling grass areas for the kids too!)

LUNCH OPTION TWO

If you love pizza, head to **Ferguson Falls Wine Cafe**, home to the **Best Pizza in WA (Gold Plate Awards)** - they were also a finalist in the best Tourism Restaurant category! In a small, intimate venue run by the Giumelli family (of course, they are Italian-Australian with some American thrown in too), you will unearth mouth-watering stonebaked pizza topped with farmhouse cheese. Kids can finish it off with a milkshake or Two Fat Cows Icecream. Next, travel to **Green Door Wines** along Henty Road for some of the best views in the region and a quick wine taste for mum and dad. Green Door produce Spanish and Italian wine varieties served in cute carafes. Don't miss tasting the Tempranillo – it's the best in the Geographe and The James Halliday Wine Companion 2018 rated it 95/100.

Return to Ferguson Farmstay to relax in their stunning surrounds. If you're after accommodation by a lake surrounded by forest, check into nearby **Evedon Lakeside Retreat** - the kids will love fishing and kayaking!



Gnomesville



Wellington Forest Cottages, Food & Wine



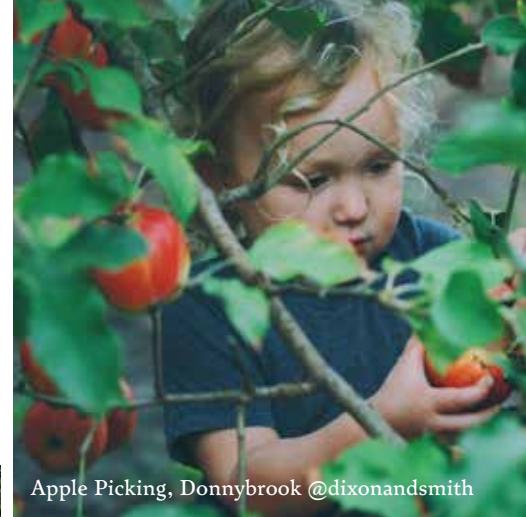
King Jarrah Tree

A trip to the very quirky Gnomesville in the Ferguson Valley is a must and will delight the little ones for hours!

Want more quirky collections? Continue along **Ferguson Road** (it's one of the most scenic drives in WA) to the small locality of **Lowden** where you will find **Frog Hollow** and a **collection of frog characters**.



Ferguson Falls Wine Cafe



DAY SIX - DONNYBROOK, BALINGUP

After a leisurely breakfast at your accommodation, hop in the car and head to **Donnybrook** via **Boyanup**.

If you have little ones, they will love stopping at the **Gingerbread House** in Boyanup where they can decorate gingerbread. Be warned - this shop is lolly heaven! (Mum - if you love seeking curiosities and collectables, across the road is the **Quirky Den** and French brocade store, **Rustic French Living**.)

Next head to WA's apple capital, Donnybrook where a stop at the **Apple Fun Park** is a must. Australia's biggest free-entry playground has play equipment for all ages – toddlers to teenagers with four-level towers with slides, rope bridges and flying foxes, low rock climbing walls, swings and a spacenet, and two 9.5 m towers. Parents, if are a coffee addict in need of a great brew, across the road in Donnybrook's mainstreet is the quaint and quirky **JT's Coffee Barn**. Formerly a barber shop, the walls are dripping with memorabilia and the coffee is the best in town. We also suggest paying a visit to **Donnybooks** - a great shop to pick up a book or family game for your night in the country.

LUNCH

Spring Valley Organic Orchard near **Newlands**. Spring Valley has 1200 fruit trees (mainly apples and plums) along with a market garden and a flock of chickens who happily roam around the farm. For six months of the year, they are open for Pick Your Own. (Ed Note: Donnybrook's famous **Fruit Barn** also runs regular PYO weekends on their orchard in season)

Next, it's onto **Lady Marmalade, Kirup** for lunch. With a five-star rating on Tripadvisor and Facebook, and a huge Instagram following, this delectable coffee and cake shop is affectionately renowned as the "sweetest stop in the South West". You will find a generous oak table adorned with macarons, cakes, scones and their biggest seller – lemon meringue cake. Their burgers are fantastic too with homemade everything, including the mayonnaise and chutney. Plus they offer other fabulous lunch options. Before you leave, head a few doors up to **Newy's Vege Patch**, an organic fruit and vege shop with a cult following. Prefer a lunch in vineyard? Nearby award-winning **Smallwater Estate** offers a Little Tackers Tucker menu.

It's onto the vibrant town of **Balingup** which takes its name from Balingup Pool. Walk the streets - it would have to be one of the prettiest towns in Western Australia. In autumn, Balingup is home to an avenue of fabulously decorated scarecrows that the kids will love!

DAY SIX - BALINGUP

ACCOMMODATION

Check into **Balingup Heights Hilltop Forest Cottages**. Winner of the **2017 WA Tourism Awards for Self-contained Accommodation**, the rustic country charm of their 46-acre property offers the escape you are seeking. Six cottages are set apart in 25 acres of Jarrah and Marri hilltop forest, all with spectacular views of the rolling green hills. Animal feedings for kids, cosy wood fires, gourmet hampers and massages for adults, and much more. Stay in tonight with a gourmet platter. Or if it's Friday night, head to the **Balingup Night Markets** where local stalls are accompanied by live music and the cafes and fruit winery stay open, creating a real village atmosphere. Enjoy an early dinner at **The Mushroom at No 61**. The BunGeo pie sensation continues, with The Mushroom the winner of a plethora of national Great Aussie Pie medals. BunGeo favourite - pork and mushroom in creamy cider sauce. Alternatively, enjoy dinner at the **Balingup Rib & Steakhouse**.

*(Ed Note: other great family friendly accommodation options include **Balingup Timber Top Cottages** or **Lewana Cottages**)*

DAY SEVEN - BALINGUP AND HARVEY TO PERTH

Rise and shine and stretch your legs with a walk through the **Golden Valley Tree Park**. It's a magnificent arboretum with trees from around the world grown in a landscaped setting strewn with a series of walk trails. The seasonal colours are spectacular! If your family is big on walking, the **Bibbulmun Track** passes through the Balingup region too! For a morning taste-sensation treat for the kids, it's a short drive to the **Balingup Lavender Farm** to try the lavender ice cream (subject to availability). Savour it while walking the gardens and then check out their quaint shop and gallery.

On your way home we suggest you stock up on the best produce in WA. As you drive through the **Donnybrook-Preston Valley-Balingup** region, you'll find an array of farmers selling produce roadside or from their farm packhouse. Produce varies on the season, but there is always something coming fresh from the soil.

If you have a pie fetish, for true-blue Oz fare with a European/Vietnamese twist drop into the small but bustling **Dardanup Bakery** in **Dardanup**. With a CV that includes Head Chef on Carnival Cruises, owner John with wife Laine, bakes authentic wood-fired sourdough bread and handmade pastries, ah-mazing pies (jam-packed with Dardanup beef), sausage rolls and pasties.

As you head home, one of your last stops should be the **Bunbury Farmers Market**. This place is legendary; so much so, many Perth's 'golden-triangle' residents travel the two-hour drive to shop. The produce here – much of it sourced from surrounding farms – is mostly organic and explodes with flavour. Grab gourmet pies, homemade soups, the most amazing local and French cheeses, and so much more.

(Ed Note: if you are visiting on the weekend, seek out the makers, bakers, sewers and growers at a local market. More than 13-weekend markets operate regularly across the region. Located in paddocks, sprawling gardens and even an old CY O'Connor goods shed, they brim with character and are the perfect way to spend a weekend morning.)



DAY SEVEN - BALINGUP, HARVEY, PERTH

Or a little further up along Forrest Highway is the **Crooked Carrot** - smaller but oozing local quality produce. The food is excellent - think trio tasting plate, venison pies and other delectable delights, plus there's a great kid's outdoor playground too. For the last lunch stop and tipple (please drive safely), BunGeo loves the **Old Coast Rd Brewery and Geographe Distillery**. Since establishment in 2008, they have been quietly perfecting the craft of producing premium quality spirits and liqueurs. Kids will be kept busy with an awesome playground, sports equipment and a massive lawn.

TAKE THE SCENIC WAY HOME

If you prefer a more scenic drive home, we suggest you take the **South West Highway** which follows the Darling Scarp and is dotted with historical farmland and equestrian properties. Next, pitstop at **Ha Ve Harvey Cheese** for great larder provisions. There are award-winning cheeses (feta, halloumi, camembert) along with a range of locally produced condiments such as dukkah. Indulge in one of the Cheese Cellar tastings to help you decide. Treat the kids to milkshakes to sip and slurp too. As you drive through **Harvey**, keep an eye out for roadside stalls selling oranges, mandarins and other local produce (in season).

VISIT MAY GIBBS' CHILDHOOD HOME

Wander through the buildings, and beautiful gardens and mini orchard of the **Harvey Tourist Precinct**. View the replica **Stirling Cottage**, owned by Governor Stirling and the childhood home of **May Gibbs**, the creator of Australia's most iconic characters **Snuggle Pot** and **Cuddle Pie**. May Gibbs drew much of her inspiration for her stories and illustrations from her experiences in Harvey. Enjoy a light lunch or afternoon tea on the balcony overlooking the peaceful Harvey River.

Stretch your legs with a climb up the **Big Orange**, nestled in the grounds of **Harvey River Estate** winery.

Need somewhere to stay? One of the best farmstays in WA is near Harvey. **Bluehills Farmstay** overlooks the magnificent Harvey Dam and offers three single storied rammed earth chalets that sleep six with artisans work expressed in solid wood tables and uniquely designed mosaic inserts. There is a communal BBQ and Australian style gazebo. Farm activities include animal feeding, pony rides, collecting the eggs, catch and release yabbies, and campfires. Plus, kids are entertained with an underground trampoline,

This is only a selection of Bunbury Geographe's fabulous holidaying with kids options. Head to visitbunburygeographe.com.au to uncover more.

BUN GEO



Harvey Cheese



The Big Orange



The Crooked Carrot

Harvey is Orange Country. Climb the Big Orange or pick up produce roadside in season. Surrounded by rich, irrigated plains on the banks of the Harvey River, Harvey is one of Australia's prime producing regions with a rich Italian heritage.



Bluehills Farmstay