

Bibbulmun Track - Donnelly Rive to Balingup



Welcome to your next adventure.
Here are a few details to help you get prepared...

Getting to and from your Trip

With an early departure, we recommend staying the night in Perth for those coming from interstate or overseas. (The city of Perth is roughly 1/2hr away from the airport).

Perth now has an airport train line which is really exciting. The train departs the T1 & T2 terminals every 15 minutes. There is a bus to take you to the train station from T3 & T4 terminals. The train from the airport will take you straight to the Perth station. There is no need to change lines.

<https://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/JourneyPlanner/Airport-Line>

We use a well serviced and maintained air-conditioned minibus to drive from Perth to Bridgetown and back, and to and from the Bibbulmun Track each day. As the transport from Perth is provided at no additional charge, discounts cannot be offered if walkers choose to find their own way to Bridgetown.

Pre/Post Trip Accommodation Recommendations

Pre & Post Tour

With an early departure, we recommend staying the night in Perth for those coming from interstate or overseas. (The city of Perth is roughly 1/2hr away from the airport) There is no train line to Perth airport so your options are either a Taxi or an airport shuttle. All the below hotels are within easy walking distance from the pick up location.

- IBIS Perth - 334 Murray Street, Perth
- Rendezvous Hotel Perth Central - 24 Mount Street, Perth
- Adina Apartment Hotel - 138 Barrack Street, Perth

On Tour

We stay in one place on this tour in ensuited motel rooms. There are only 3 twin rooms available.

Washing Facilities

There is a guest laundry at the accommodation with you will be able to use at no charge.

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Phone Coverage and Charging

There is patchy phone coverage while you are on the track. Like most remote rural places, Telstra offers the best chance at reception. When you are back at your accommodation there is phone coverage as well as free WiFi.

Climate

Even though we are walking in mid spring the nights and early morning temperatures can be very low and the days don't warm up much which is perfect walking weather! There is the chance of rain so please bring wet weather gear.

The average temperature at this time of year is minimums of 8 degrees Celsius and maximums of 21 degrees Celsius.

Food

Breakfast will be at the lodge where we can enjoy the alfresco area if the weather is fine, or sit inside in the cozy dining room.

You will pack your lunch in the morning from a selection of salads, meats, cheese, spreads and bread, which your guides lay out for you and prepare fresh each day.

Your guide will carry tea, coffee and morning tea. Fruit is also available for you to take with you. Feel free to bring additional snacks if you feel you need them. Lollies, muesli bars, nuts, seeds and dried fruit are popular options. There will be time for you to purchase alcohol and other supplies while on tour. Dinner is included on night 1.

Please let us know of any dietary requirements before you book.

Drinks

The accommodation is only a 10-minute walk from the Bridgetown shopping strip and we will drive through the town often so you can purchase any alcohol.

Medical Restrictions

As we operate in remote areas, guests will need to bring all of their own personal medications on tour. Whilst our guides are qualified in remote area or wilderness first aid and carry satellite phones, we do not carry epi-pens, Ventolin or other emergency medications. If a person requires urgent medical attention whilst on tour, it may take several hours or more for emergency services to attend the scene and take you to a medical facility.

Under certain circumstances your tour consultant may request a medical certificate of fitness before you are cleared to participate on the tour.

If pre-existing medical issues that will affect your ability to complete the tour or have an impact on other guests experiences, are not disclosed prior to the departure, we reserve the right to remove you from the tour.

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You can bring a CPAP machine whilst on tour but you will need to purchase a single supplement.

Dietary Requirements

From vegetarians to pescatarians to meat loving carnivores with an aversion to cucumbers we cater for all dietary requirements and will make sure you are well fed and looked after on tour.

Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements in advance.

Access to Shops

The bridgetown shopping strip is only 10 minutes walk from your accommodation.

What to Pack

- Day-pack - with a thick waist strap to help take some weight off your shoulders. In wet weather, a waterproof cover or a bin bag to wrap your belongings in can be handy
- Shorts/long pants and shirts for walking - as many sets as you wish! Quick-dry material is best, especially for trousers. Don't wear jeans walking.
- Socks - whichever thickness you're comfortable walking in and as many pairs as you like
- Boots/shoes for walking (make sure you wear them in well - see note on footwear below)
- Windcheater or lightweight jumper for walking
- Waterproof jacket*
- Sun protection - hat (secure fitting and/or with chin strap), sun cream, sun glasses
- Casual clothes for evenings - beanie, gloves and a scarf as it does get cold in the evenings
- Torch/headlamp (can be handy when twin sharing for getting up at night)
- Any preferred first aid supplies - such as your favourite blister treatment! (Your guide will carry a full first-aid kit)
- Water bottle/s or camelback - 2 to 3 litre capacity
- A lunch container (with freezer brick if desired)

*You have to expect some bad weather at any time of the year down here so bring wet weather gear even if the forecast is fine. **Optional items**

- Waterproof pants. Some people love them and some hate them - personally, we don't wear them but there have been times when we have wished for a pair!
- Fly net (especially for walks in warmer weather)
- Camera and charger/batteries
- Gaiters for snake bite protection are recommended unless you are wearing long pants and long socks. They're also good for keeping sand out of your shoes.
- Sock protectors (to keep sand out of your boots)
- Small towel to carry during the day
- Snacks and alcohol - there will be time to purchase more during the week if you need to. Some people like to have some muesli bars, nuts, lollies etc
- Walking poles

Getting ready for your walk...

This walk is of a "moderate to challenging" level and walkers should be fit before they begin. There are some long days and steep hills. However, the walk has been designed to make it achievable to those of reasonable fitness, by the fact that you are only carrying a daypack and you start with short distances. You will be surprised how much fitter you are by the end!

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A positive mental attitude is most important. If you focus on the scenery, the company and the moment, not on the kilometres, then you find yourself reaching your destination with little problem. If you have done some training prior to the walk you will enjoy it all the more.

The best way to prepare physically for the trip is to walk, walk and walk some more - preferably on a variety of terrain. Try to walk frequently. Even walking around your suburb will get you walk-fit. By the start of our tour you should be able to comfortably walk 15km, and try and do a few 20km walks on rough tracks.

We know that this type of preparation is difficult to fit into a busy schedule. If you don't have the time to do long walks, we recommend doing regular stair walking sessions. Walking small distances frequently helps a lot as well. For instance, walking 3 - 5km four times a week, and 8km once a week, is a great help. If you're doing short training sessions, make sure you get yourself puffed and sweaty. Otherwise you won't benefit from your efforts. And start walking in the shoes you will wear on the walk now!

Looking after your feet

Footwear is very personal and we prefer people wear what feels comfortable. Walking shoes shouldn't be too tight, but your foot shouldn't slip around in them either. If you're buying new shoes, go shopping after a long walk so your feet are a bit swollen. The best places to buy walking boots/ shoes will have some sort of ramp that you can stomp up and down on and make sure there is no pressure on your toes and heels.

Boots can provide ankle support and help keep the sand out. Some hiking boots can be quite heavy. These are great for cold weather alpine hiking but they do tend to tire your legs quicker and heat your feet. There are plenty of lightweight boots available which are great for most Australian conditions.

You might prefer to wear sneakers on your walk. They do let in a lot of dirt though and tend to wear out quite quickly on the rough surfaces of a bush track. Sturdy sandals have proven to be a good substitute for shoes when feet have blistered, and for beach sections. You are welcome to bring two pairs and alternate.

The main thing is to make sure you know your footwear well - try them out in a variety of terrains and do a few long walks (15 - 20km) in them before the tour. We cannot emphasise enough that you have well worn in shoes or boots, good socks, and first aid for the prevention and treatment of blisters.

Preventing blisters: To prevent blister formation, we highly recommend using 'fixomull' or a similar tape on heels and toes where rubbing is likely to occur - ask for it at your pharmacy. Some walkers also wear two pairs of socks to prevent blisters forming - a thin inner pair and a thicker outer pair. Others swear by Hikerswool applied between toes and over pressure points. The principle of blister prevention is to transfer any friction, caused by the movement of your foot inside your shoe, onto the fixomull tape or the extra sock, rather than onto your skin. If you know that your feet have a tendency to blister in certain spots, tape them before you walk. We are happy to help you with this. If you feel any rubbing or a 'hot spot' whilst walking, the best thing to do is stop and do something about it. In all instances, prevention is better than cure. Blisters are very difficult to dress so that you are able to walk comfortably.

Treating blisters: Blister treatments vary and you may have your favourites. The second skin variety seems good, though you will also need good tape to keep it in place. Second skin treatments often have a sterile gel pack that pads and protects the blister from further friction. They can also be used as a (more expensive) preventative measure. Blister Block or Compeed are examples of this type of dressing.

A thick moleskin type plaster is also good to carry for blister treatment. Holes can be cut into moleskin to fit around a blister and a plaster put on top of that. This way there is little pressure put on the blister itself.

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Walking poles are very popular these days - especially the lightweight aluminium shock absorbing type. They help to take some pressure off your knees going downhill and can help you get uphill too! However, if you have good knees and strong legs you may not need them. A lot has been published about the pros and cons of walking poles - we're sure you can get the full story from the net. If you do choose them it's worthwhile practicing how to use them correctly so you get their full advantage. Try to use your arms as much as possible - by placing the poles opposite arm to leg and applying pressure as you step forward. Find someone knowledgeable in the shop where you purchase them to give you some tips. We can always help you when on tour.

Emergency Contact on Tour

In the case of an emergency and family and friends are trying to get in contact with you and unable to reach you on your personal phone, please ask them to call the office on 1300 544 882. After hours or on the weekend there is an option on the voicemail which will direct them through to the duty managers personal mobile. On tour in an emergency situation our guides will be carrying satellite phones.

Final Payment Due Date

Final payment is required six weeks prior to departure or at time of booking if booking within six weeks.

Cancellation Policy

All our tours are guaranteed departures. We hope that you do not need to cancel your booking. However, if you do, our cancellation fee, based on the notice given prior to the departure date, is:

- 84 days or more prior to departure, we will refund your deposit minus \$50 administration fee
- between 30 and 84 days prior to departure, loss of deposit
- between 24 and 29 days prior to departure, we charge a cancellation fee of 25% of the total booking cost
- between 15 and 23 days prior to departure, we charge a cancellation fee of 50% of the total booking cost
- 14 days or fewer prior to departure, we charge a cancellation fee of 100% of the booking cost.

Please see our cancellation policy https://www.inspirationoutdoors.com.au/booking_conditions/

If you have any concerns about cancelling, please take out travel insurance covering this contingency. This policy will be adhered to despite the most compelling and compassionate circumstances.

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