

THE STARS DESCEND

A vast trail of dance performances to inspire climate action & hope



THINKING OF EXPLORING THE SOUTHERN LANDSCAPES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA?

Why not participate in this self-drive itinerary that teaches you about the environmental and cultural significance of this region as you follow The Stars Descend. This contemporary dance performance, created by West Australian artists, traces and illuminates the significance of the 1000 km Gondwana Link environmental pathway.

The story begins in Wooditjup / Margaret River on Friday 17 March 2023 and ends in Garlgula / Kalgoorlie on Saturday 1 April 2023. Along the way, the stars emerge in Northcliffe on 19 March, Porongurup on 24 March and Fitzgerald Biosphere on 26 March. Each performance is unique and happens only once.

Explore landscapes that were once part of the ancient landmass of Gondwana. As you follow the dance performance through five towns in the region, you can also explore the array of community organisations and Indigenous tour businesses who are actively engaged in environmental restoration and cultural experiences.

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Community participants in rehearsal for Chapter 3 Porongurup. Photo by Nic Duncan

SELF-DRIVE TOUR

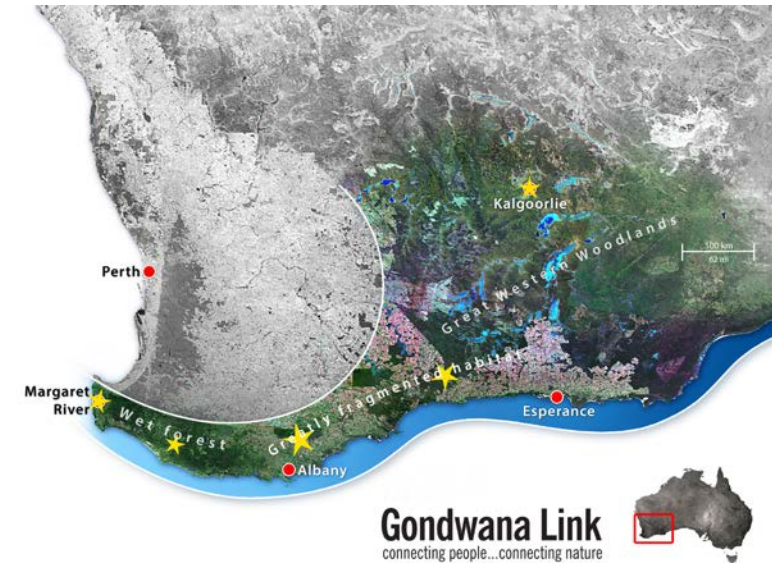
For more information on each performance and segment of the Gondwana Link, go to:

MARGARET RIVER TO NORTHCLIFFE: heartlandjourneys.com.au/journeys/stars-descend-tour-margaret-river-to-northcliffe/

NORTHCLIFFE TO PORONGURUP: heartlandjourneys.com.au/journeys/stars-descend-tour-northcliffe-to-porongurup/

PORONGURUP TO RAVENSTHORPE: heartlandjourneys.com.au/journeys/stars-descend-tour-porongurup-to-ravensthorpe/

RAVENSTHORPE TO KALGOORLIE: heartlandjourneys.com.au/journeys/stars-descend-tour-ravensthorpe-to-kalgoorlie/



The south-western corner of Australia is internationally recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, partly because of its richness of species, but also because its species and communities are being lost to a host of environmental impacts.

Two-thirds of the vegetation in south-western Australia has been cleared. Over much of the agricultural region, many local government areas have less than 5-10% of their original bushland and much of this is fragmented. Unless we reconnect these bushland areas and manage them carefully, they will continue to degrade and lose even more 'common' species, as well as those that are already threatened.

Only across one part of south-western Australia is the basic ecological integrity and connectivity still intact – almost. In a broad swathe of land from the wet forests near Margaret River to the edge of the semi-

arid Nullabor Plain, a distance of over 1000 kms, there is over 900 kms of largely natural habitat still in place, with much managed as national park and nature reserve. This is the Gondwana Link. The smaller habitat gaps in the Link were only cleared 50-60 years ago, so effective restoration is much easier to achieve than elsewhere.

Linked to this restoration effort, award-winning dance producer Annette Carmichael, has brought together teams of choreographers, sound designers and visual artists to create a five chaptered dance that will be performed by members of five local communities. Diverse community members, including farmers, scientists, retirees, conservationists, nurses and artists will perform alongside each other in spectacular outdoor settings. "Over five unique performances, a contemporary story is told through

and its environmental heroes. As you travel, please reflect on the fact that you are on the Traditional lands of a number of First Nations peoples. Many of these communities are regaining their role as land managers and leading a number of the efforts to care for country and repair past damage. Please respect the cultural and natural richness of this country and the work underway.

The [Gondwana Link](#) team and [Annette Carmichael Projects](#) have partnered to showcase the importance of achieving "Reconnected country, from the karri forests of the far south-west to the woodland and mallee bordering the Nullabor, in which ecosystem function and biodiversity are restored and maintained," says Keith Bradby, CEO of Gondwana Link.

In a world that can seem paralysed by the immensity of the ecological and climate challenges facing us, Gondwana Link is a leading example of what groups and communities can achieve when they tackle global problems locally.

This self-drive itinerary is an opportunity to enrich your knowledge of the landscape

Remember, if you need to book accommodation, do it early. Tourism is booming in the southern part of WA during March and April, so it is wise to [book early](#). Local Visitor Centres are a great way to get more information and will be referenced for accommodation bookings along the performance route.

This self-drive itinerary is an opportunity to enrich your knowledge of the landscape



Chapter 1

Perth to Margaret River

Departing Perth in Whadjuk country, take a leisurely drive to Wooditjup Margaret River by heading south to the [Bunbury Geographe Region](#). Enjoy the magical waters of Koombana Bay and the [Dolphin Discovery Centre](#) through to the scenic inland hills of the Ferguson Valley. This region can also be experienced by taking a cultural journey with [Ngalang Wongi Aboriginal Cultural Tours](#).

From a geological perspective, the drive south from Perth is along the bed of an ancient rift valley, which once had parts of what is now India on its western side. The valley itself has filled with sand and sediment to become the Swan Coastal Plain and is now home to many wonderful wetlands and estuaries. It's watched over by the eastern edge of the ancient rift valley, a place we know as the Darling Scarp. The wetlands along the coastal plain were once worthy of the title 'a Kakadu of the south' but have been greatly impacted by urban development and drainage.

As you get closer to the [Margaret River region](#), take a detour through [Busselton and the sweeping beaches of Geographe Bay](#). The [Busselton Jetty](#) is the longest wooden-piled jetty in the Southern Hemisphere and offers a chance to stay dry while descending underwater to the sea stars of the Leeuwin coastline. Here you are in Wadandi country.

Near Busselton is the southern-most extent of the band of tuart forest that once

stretched down the Swan Coastal Plain. As we move south towards Margaret River, we enter an area known for its tall karri forests, limestone ridges, excellent surf beaches, and ancient limestone caves. This diverse landscape brings an extra layer of species richness, along with some additional challenges.

As one of the fastest-growing regions in Australia, the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River is under enormous pressure from increases in population, industry, and visitors. [Nature Conservation Margaret River](#) plays a critical role in activating and supporting local communities to restore native habitat and demonstrate how wildlife and people can co-exist. The endangered ngwayir / western ringtail possum remains relatively common in this area, and the environment around Margaret River is well known for its populations of a fearsome night hunter – the yornitj / masked owl – which even has its own community group [owlfriendly.org.au](#).

Chapter One of [The Stars Descend](#) performance commences in Wadandi country. Here the stars feel the ocean rising towards them. They turn their gaze downwards in alarm, and begin to descend. 1000 km away, the birds of the Great Western Woodlands, near Kalgoorlie, see the stars fall and callout to them.

Created by award winning choreographer Adelina Larsson Mendoza and First Nations dance artist Janine Oxenham, the evening performance will unfold on a private property, close to the ocean. Local sound



Photo of Mammoth Cave by Holly Winkle / MRBTA



Photo of masked owl by Steve Castan

Trip Details: 270 km - 3 hrs 15 mins
Performance: Margaret River, Friday 17 March 2023

designer Simon Walsh captures the urgency of the stars' descent into the Indian Ocean and their transformation into the sea stars of the Leeuwin Current. The dance performance takes place on Friday 17 March 2023. Gates open at 5.30 pm and the performance commences at 6.45 pm with a Welcome to Country from [Undalup Association](#). Further details are provided with your [ticket purchase](#).

In the meantime, head to the main street of Margaret River and the [Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association](#). The Association connects the Busselton and Margaret River region into one seamless experience. Take a drive down Caves Road and explore the many [wineries](#) or make a booking at the visitor centre for a [cave experience](#). [Mammoth Cave](#) is home to the ancient fossil remains of long-extinct Australian megafauna and is the most easily accessible of all the show caves in the region.

Visit the many small businesses showcasing the region's produce or book a bush food journey and Ngilgi Cave tour with [Koomal Dreaming](#) in Yallingup, as they share the culture and country of the Wadandi people. For other arts experiences check out [Arts Margaret River](#) and performing arts venue, [Margaret River HEART](#).

[Eagles Heritage](#) is one of Australia's largest wildlife centres dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of injured, orphaned or displaced birds of prey, including eagles, hawks, falcons and owls. This environmental success story is worth a drop in as you head towards the next Chapter in Northcliffe.



Chapter 2

Margaret River to Northcliffe

Your next destination for Chapter Two of The Stars Descend is in Northcliffe, located in Pibulmun country. The stars have travelled from Margaret River via tendrils of cool fire. In this performance, created by Australian dance legend Chrissie Parrott AO, the stars appear inside the exquisite orchids that emerge after fire. A sensual feast, this chapter is underscored by the evocative sounds of musician Dave Mann and the fire inspired design of celebrated Northcliffe artist Peter Hill.

Your challenge will be choosing the towns you visit along the way to Northcliffe. You can travel along the Mowen Road through to [Nannup](#). Explore the mighty Blackwood River along one of the many [trails](#) being developed through the region. Barrabup Pool offers a fabulous dip into history and the cooling waters of the Blackwood, then head into town and enjoy the many creative businesses and community facilities, including the [Nannup Clock Tower](#).

From Nannup, head towards Manjimup along the beautiful and winding Graphite Road. Stop in at Glenoran Pool and One Tree Bridge for a dip or walk.

You're now in the Southern Forests region, a [food hub](#) for our State and a region having to address the issues of competing land use challenges and industry transformation. Manjimup is a great place to buy local produce or better still learn more on a tour with the [Southern Forest Food Council](#).

Call into the [Manjimup Visitor Centre](#) to find places where you can explore the history and biodiversity of this area as well as accommodation if you need it. If you are self-contained, check out [Park Stay WA](#) and find a camping spot in a national or conservation park. Remember to fuel up before leaving Pemberton for Northcliffe.

From Manjimup you can drive to the Pemberton turnoff taking you to Northcliffe or you can meander down Channybearup Road, a delightful drive to Pemberton, with [wineries and food producers](#) along the way.

If you are staying in the area, consider taking a hike around the Beedelup Falls or the Warren River Loop Walk. A 12 km cruise with Donnelly River Cruises in D'Entrecasteaux National Park is sure to be a highlight. The impact of a major wildfire in 2015 can still be seen throughout this isolated area.

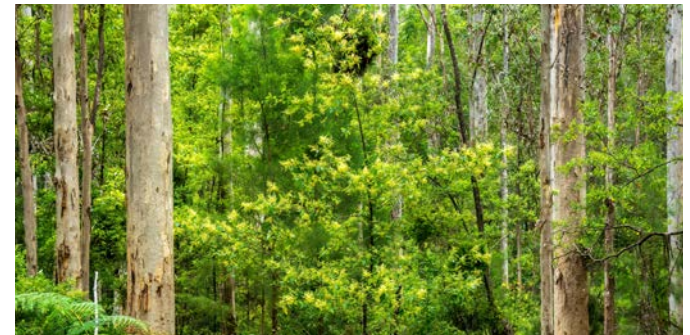
Pemberton, en-route to Northcliffe, has a marvellous series of walking trails as well as magnificent swimming pools including the [Pemberton swimming pool](#) and [Big Brook Dam](#). For a more intimate experience, contact [Pemberton Discovery Tours](#) or [Pemberton Hiking and Canoeing](#). Local tour guides are a great way to explore this fragile countryside in a responsible manner, help local business and have an educational and inspirational experience in this amazing landscape. Your first stop really needs to be the [Pemberton Visitor Centre](#).

You have a day of exploring before the Chapter 2 dance performance in Northcliffe on Sunday 19 March 2023. Share your adventures as you travel with us on this incredible journey and follow the Stars on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Whilst in Northcliffe make sure you visit the wonderful [Understory Art & Nature Trail](#) featuring sculptures, stories and music along a 1.2 km walk trail through pristine native forest. If you have time, take a drive to [Mount Chudalup](#) and the [D'Entrecasteaux coastline](#) at [Windy Harbour](#).



Trip Details: 160 km - 1 hr 51 mins
Performance: Northcliffe, Sunday 19 March 2023



For The Stars Descend performance on Sunday 19 March, audiences must catch special buses to access the dance event, which is being held on a private property. Buses depart Brockman Street, Pemberton at 2.15 pm and Northcliffe Visitor Centre at 3 pm. The performance commences at 4 pm with a Welcome to Country from Aunty Suzanne Kelly and is followed by a community celebration hosted by [Southern Forest Arts](#). Book your tickets [here](#).

From Northcliffe you have five days to explore the Southern Forest and Amazing South Coast region before our next dance Chapter in Porongurup, near Mt Barker, on Friday 24 March 2023.

There are two main routes to Porongurup in Menang country and each holds their own ecological and cultural stories. Enjoy the drive and remember to fuel up regardless of the route you take.

If you are heading along the Muir Highway, which is a heavy haulage road, be sure to check out the Lake Muir Bird Hide, which sits on the edge of a massive wetland nestled into the forest. After Rocky Gully, a short detour takes you to the Green Skills' [Tootanelup](#) conservation property to see its natural values and the restoration plantings underway (there are no staff or facilities here).

If driving South Western Highway towards Walpole, you can take Beardmore Road (gravel) to Fernhook Falls on the pristine Deep River and then travel through to the Mt Frankland Lookout, which has sweeping wilderness views. Sadly, to the north is a large, recent fire scar from a prescribed burn.

Swarbrick Art Loop north of Walpole is well worth a visit too. This attraction marks a significant forest campaign site where most of the karri forest was lost to logging in c.2000. However, that community campaign eventually saw the protection of the vast Walpole Wilderness Area.

Whilst in [Walpole](#) be sure to visit the beautiful Knoll Scenic Drive and walk trails.

[Coalmine Beach](#) Heritage Trail is a fabulous walk through species-rich dampland vegetation to the [Nornalup Inlet](#). Local legend Gary Muir provides a popular, unique WOW Wilderness Cruise on the Walpole Nornalup Inlets - [book early](#). [Petrichor Gallery](#) in Walpole brings together a range of sensitive portrayals of this special local environment, while next to the gallery explore the displays of the [Walpole-Nornalup National Park Association](#).

The towns of Walpole and Denmark are both nestled on broad estuaries, which are home to a rich marine life with many important waterbird areas. You have a range of accommodation options but book early at one of the local visitor centres: [Walpole Visitor Centre](#), [Denmark Visitor Centre](#), [Albany Visitor Centre](#), [Mount Barker Visitor Centre](#) and [Porongurup](#).

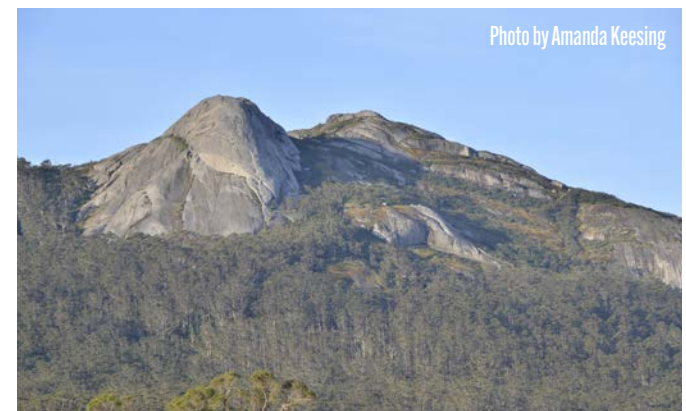
About 20 km east of Walpole is the famous [Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk](#). Accessible from the South Coast Highway, heading towards Denmark, is another famous spot — [Greens Pool](#) and Elephant Rocks in the William Bay National Park. This iconic location has been upgraded to cope with the intense impact of tourism each year.

[Denmark](#) is home to many exceptional artists and you can get a taste of their work at [The Butter Factory](#) and [The Riverfront Gallery](#). The town also has an active [Environment Centre](#) and shop and is the home base for a state wide effort led by the [Green Skills](#) environment group.

A wide range of environmental work is underway through the efforts of the [Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee](#), also based in Denmark, including the purchase of an important wetland for waterbirds.

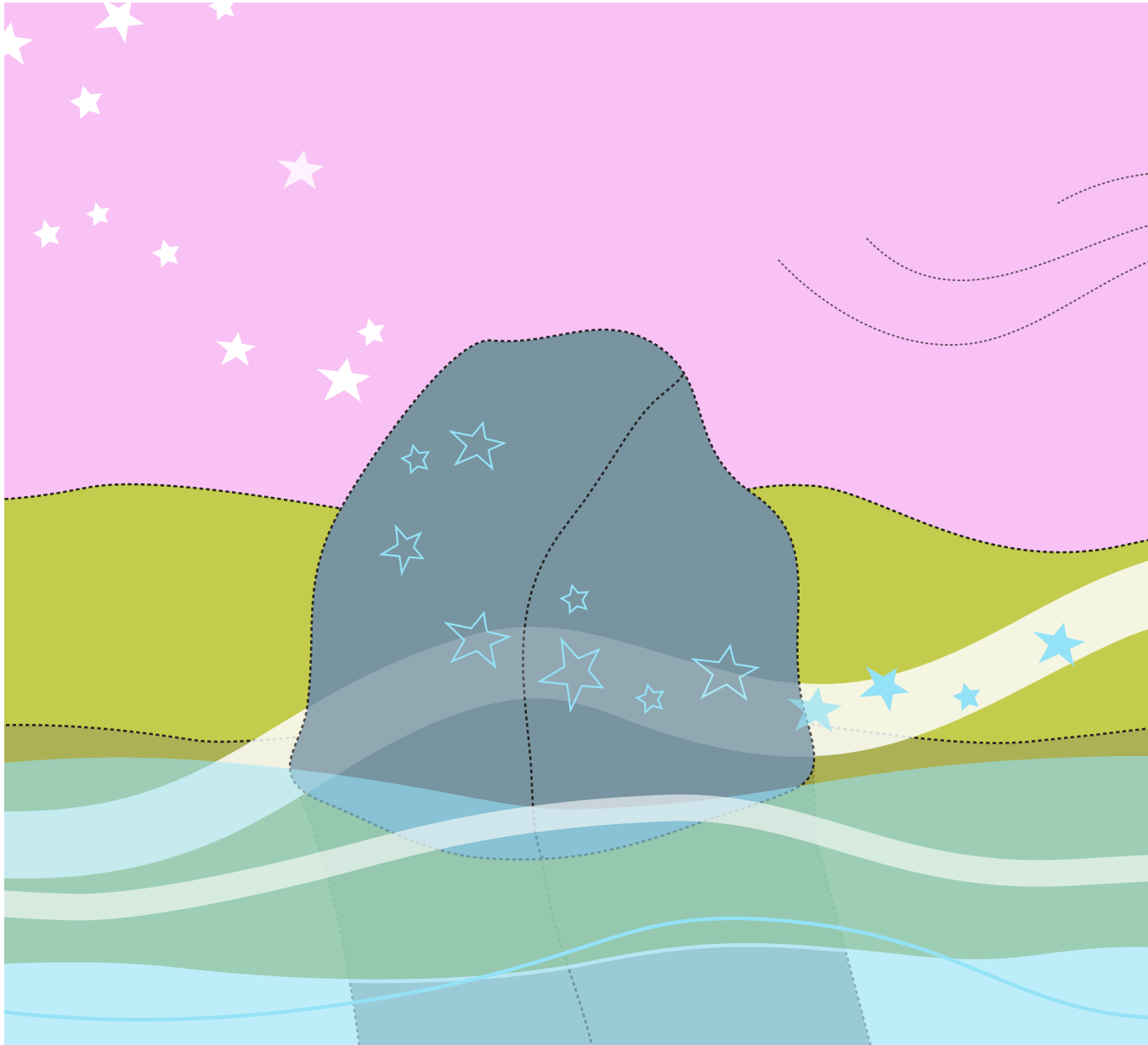
In [Albany](#), be sure to drop into [Kurrah Mia](#) in Middleton Loop where you can explore Aboriginal art and crafts and unique cultural tours of the Kinjarling / Albany landscape, then head down to [Discovery Bay](#) and Albany's Historic Whaling Station. Located 22 km south of Albany within the [Torndirrup Peninsula](#), it provides an understanding of the site's environmental, cultural and social significance.

Trip Details: 217 km - 2 hrs 35 mins
Performance: Porongurup, Friday 24 March 2023



Chapter 3

Northcliffe to Porongurup



Artwork by Michelle Frantom

Chapter 3

Northcliffe to Porongurup

Heading up to the Porongurup and Stirling Range area, a visit to [Pwakkenbak / Mount Barker Lookout](#) provides sweeping views and an uplifting introduction to the [Mt Barker](#) and [Porongurup](#) region. [The Friends of the Porongurup Range](#) and the [Porongurup Progress Association](#) provide useful information on the biodiversity and visitor attractions of this incredibly high conservation value and culturally important area.

From Mt Barker, the Woogenellup Road takes you out into some very scenic farmland and a busy landcare community, with Koi-Kyeunu-ruff / Stirling Range as your ever-present backdrop. [Heartland Journeys](#) has many links to key places and stories from this area. The [Castle Rock Granite Skywalk](#) and ground level Walitj Meil walk trail area are in the Porongurup National Park and receive thousands of visitors each year. Grab a bite to eat at [Pomegranate Hill](#) before tackling the 4.7 km (2 hour) steep return walk to the Granite Skywalk.

The Chapter 3 dance performance takes place on Friday 24 March 2023 in Porongurup at the Twin Creeks Conservation Reserve. Buses depart from the [Porongurup Inn and Tea Rooms](#) at 4 pm and Plantagenet District Hall at 4.30 pm.

As the sun sets on the Porongurup Range, the stars shimmer out of the ancient granite and enter the mauve sky. Suspended in a breath of birdsong, they then fall into the waterways and begin their journey towards the Fitzgerald Biosphere to the east.

Created by the powerful First Nations choreographer Sonya Stephen with sound design by Andy O'Neil, the performance ends with a community celebration at [Twin Creeks Conservation Reserve](#) hosted by Friends of the Porongurup Range.

Our next dance Chapter commences on Sunday 26 March 2023 near Ravensthorpe in the [Fitzgerald Biosphere](#) region.



On Sunday 26 March 2023, the buses depart Hopetoun Community Centre at 1.30 pm and the Ravensthorpe Entertainment Centre at 3 pm to take people to The Stars Descend performance site, a beautiful farm being restored for wildlife in Wudjari Country.

Chapter 4 unfolds in the whispering theatre of a sheoak grove, with a backdrop of majestic salmon gums. The stars enter the Fitzgerald Biosphere and sense the preciousness of this place and its complex past. Here they dissolve into the water and enter the plants, the animals, the humans and the birds. Exploring the tension between time and seasons, this chapter features the music of Azariah Felton, a rising talent in the world of sound design. Choreographed by First Nations choreographers Simon Stewart and Rachael Colmer, this performance contains the tipping point of our story.

Your ticket includes a community celebration with hosting arts organisation [Rave About Arts](#). The dance performance starts at 4 pm and is followed by the community celebration, which ends at 7.30 pm. Tickets can be booked [here](#).

The journey from Porongurup through to [Ravensthorpe](#) and the Fitzgerald River region traverses some of the most botanically rich areas within the larger, internationally recognised south-west biodiversity hotspot. It's an ever-changing

kaleidoscope of mallee, kwongkan (heathland), woodland and wetlands. The trip can be done on sealed highways or on good gravel 2WD roads. The impact of clearing and the importance of the remaining vegetation and its incredible diversity is clear to see as we enter the [Fitzgerald Coast](#).

Drive north-east towards the 'Fitzgerald to Stirling' section of the Gondwana Link pathway, which is in Menang and Goreng country. Throughout this area, Gondwana Link, local landcare groups, national environmental organisations, conservation property owners and Noongar Ranger teams are making a massive difference through ecological restoration plantings on private properties such as [Yarrabee Wesfarmers Reserve](#), [Wajon's Chingarrup Sanctuary](#), [Yarroweyah Falls](#) restoration site and [Nowanup](#).

These are all private properties so can only be visited by arrangement. Gondwana Link will host a tag-along-tour to some of these and other sites after the Porongurup dance Chapter. [Enquire here](#).

For those not on Gondwana Link's tag-along-tour, some regional attractions are included on the [Great Southern Treasures](#) website, or you can head towards the [Fitzgerald Coast](#), where you enter Wudjari country.

This region has over 2,500 varieties of plant species, many of them spectacular wildflowers that are now being grown around the world. It's a more tangled geology than in many parts of southern WA.

The Ravensthorpe Range was formed by a giant magma 'bubble' from deep within the earth; the East Mt Barren and Eyre Range are old quartzite and schist ocean sediments tilted on edge, while in the middle of the Fitzgerald River National Park, large areas of soft sedimentary rocks were formed in the sponge beds of a more recent sea that once surrounded East Mt Barren and the other coastal ranges.

Trip Details: 156 km - 1 hr 51 mins
Performance: Fitz Biosphere, Sunday 26 March 2023



Photo by Basil Schur



Photo by Nicole Hodgson



Photo by Keith Bradby

Chapter 4

Porongurup to Fitzgerald Biosphere



Artwork by Michelle Frantom

Chapter 4

Porongurup to Fitzgerald Biosphere

East of Jerramungup, the South Coast Highway crosses a series of steep river valleys. These formed after the edge of the Australian continent slumped when an adjoining section of an earlier Antarctic continent moved southwards. These rivers enter the ocean through estuaries in the Fitzgerald River National Park.

Closer to Ravensthorpe, just after the Phillips River, pause at the [Kukenarup Memorial](#) to learn more about the 1880 massacre and its devastating impact on local people. The artists of The Stars Descend acknowledge the pain suffered by families who were impacted by this massacre and encourage you to visit the memorial to show your respects before attending the dance performance.

The [Ravensthorpe Range](#), which surrounds the town, contains a wonderful variety of plant species, many of which grow, naturally, nowhere else in the world. There is flowering all year round but most abundantly in spring.

On your way to Hopetoun, take a short detour off the highway and explore the [Ethel Daw Lookout](#), via Ethel Daw Drive, which takes you into a eucalypt wonderland and provides an incredible view over bushland that stretches inland to the Great Western Woodlands and south to the Fitzgerald coast.

Hopetoun, on the shores of the beautiful Mary Ann Haven, is overlooked by East Mt Barren in the [Fitzgerald River National Park](#). Being very careful [not to spread dieback](#), visit the quartzite wonders of Hamersley Drive, including Barrens Beach, Barrens Lookout and Sepulcralis Hill.

The [Wirlomin Noongar Language and Stories Project](#) is a not-for-profit cultural organisation with the aim of reclaiming, supporting, promoting and maintaining Wirlomin Noongar cultural heritage.

The [Ravensthorpe Visitor Centre](#) and [Hopetoun Visitor Centre](#) can provide you with a range of information about accommodation and tours. Note that many local accommodation operators are fully booked with business visitors and mine contractors. Book early.



You have five days to explore a region that can take decades to fully appreciate.

Tuesday 28 March, we are back on the road from Ravensthorpe to Kalgoorlie via Esperance, or off the bitumen through the [Granite and Woodlands Discovery Trail](#), to experience the final dance Chapter on Saturday 1 April 2023.

Much of the country you will drive through is under the Custodianship of the Ngadju and Tjaltjraak Wadjuri First Nations peoples.

The Traditional Owners of a large part of the Great Western Woodlands, the Ngadju People, retain their knowledge of and connection to country. In March 2021, [Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation](#) celebrated the formal declaration of their 4.4-million-hectare Indigenous Protected Area. A strong Ngadju Ranger team now provides conservation management across the area.

The Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation operates over the Esperance area, from the islands of the Recherche Archipelago to the southern edge of the Great Western Woodlands. They run a number of land management and ranger programs to improve the health of their country and people. These range from archaeological and ecological surveys on the islands to restoration plantings on farmland.

As you travel to Kalgoorlie, please show your respect by caring for Country.

If you plan to travel on 4WD tracks, always check with the local Shires or [Main Roads WA](#) to confirm the status of the roads you are travelling on. Much of the Granite and Woodlands Discovery Trail is gravel, but it is suitable for two-wheel drives and caravans.



Photo: Andy McGregor



Photo: Keith Bradby



Photo: Keith Bradby

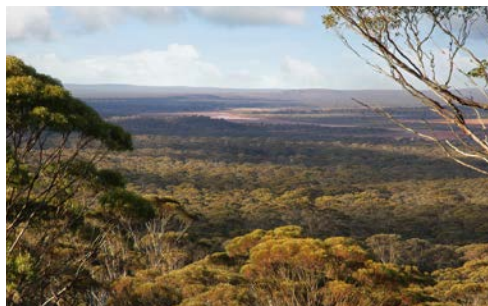


Photo: Amanda Keesing

Trip Details: 530 km - 5 hrs 40 mins

Performance: Kalgoorlie, Saturday 1 April 2023

OFF HIGHWAY OPTION (GRAVEL)

From Ravensthorpe travel to Lake King and Varley. On your way, explore the [Lake Varley Rabbit Cemetery](#) and travel east to cross the No 1 Rabbit Proof Fence and enter the Great Western Woodlands. From the fence, travel about 10 km, then turn north. This road takes you past an important nickel mining area — a reminder you are on the road to Kalgoorlie, and then you'll arrive at what's known as the 'Cronin Crossroads'.

A short detour north of the 'Crossroads' takes you to Lake Cronin, an often-large freshwater lake, with good interpretive material on natural values and attempts to farm the area during the 1930s Depression. Travelling east of the 'Crossroads' you are now on the Granite to Woodlands Trail. Popular stops include [The Breakaways](#) and McDermid Rock, which is a good camping spot next to a large granite tor with sweeping views across the Great Western Woodlands.

Just east of McDermid Rock you can turn north onto Victoria Rocks Road and travel onto Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. Along this road, attractions include a vast expanse of unburnt old growth woodlands and the massive Victoria Rock.

The alternative route is to continue east until Norseman, then north on the Coolgardie Esperance Highway to [Coolgardie](#) and Kalgoorlie.

If continuing direct to Norseman, there are some lovely rest spots on the northern tip of Lake Johnson. Amongst fringing blue bush vegetation are some of the oldest (500 years plus) gimlets & salmon gums. Other good stops are Disappointment Rock & the Lake Cowan Lookout, which has extensive views over the large salt lake you drive across on the way to [Norseman](#). And there's the fantastic [Woodlands Cultural, Community and Visitor Centre](#), with its verandah posts shaped like wunyarr, the Ngadju water trees.

Chapter 5

Fitzgerald Biosphere to Kalgoorlie

THE HIGHWAY OPTION (BITUMEN)

Leaving Ravensthorpe head towards [Esperance](#), which is a two-hour drive. Whilst in Esperance, enjoy the stunning coastline and the [Ramsar Wetlands](#) north of town. The [Esperance Arts and Culture Trail](#) is a real treat, or you can book a cultural tour with [Dabungool Cultural Experiences](#) or visit the [Mudjar Aboriginal Gallery](#).

Leaving the turquoise waters of the Recherche Archipelago is challenging, however we have a vast landscape to explore and four and a half hours driving before we arrive at our next dance performance stop. On the way, enjoy a cuppa and food at the [Gibson Soak Hotel](#) before heading north. The Grass Patch War Settlement interpretive site is worth a stop, or for those who are prepared to detour on a gravel road, Peak Charles National Park, with extensive vistas, is around 50 km west of the highway.

On to Norseman and the Shire of Dundas attractions which include Bromus Dam, a historic watering point 32 km south of the town. Around this site, large areas are now quarantined where the Ngadju Rangers have eradicated a major infestation of the noxious weed Noogoora Burr. Whilst in Norseman, take a [Ngadju Culture Tour](#) of sacred and historic Aboriginal sites with a local Aboriginal tour guide or explore the [Woodlands Cultural, Community and Visitor Centre](#).

The Great Western Woodlands is internationally significant and spans almost 16 million hectares. It is recognised as the largest and most intact temperate (or medium rainfall) woodland remaining on the planet. [The Green Trail](#) is a detour off the highway at Widgiemooltha, onto a gravel road. It provides some interpretation of the natural history and human stories of the landscape. Please respect these places.

Arriving in Kalgoorlie there are opportunities to explore the cultural and mining history of this area. [Goldfields Honey](#)

[Ant Tours](#) provides an authentic bushfood foraging tour, exploring the traditional bushfoods and medicine plants that have sustained the Tjupan people for millennia in this semi-arid environment. It's worth taking time to explore outlying areas such as [Lake Ballard](#) or the old Ora Banda pub. For more information on what to see and do, [click here](#).

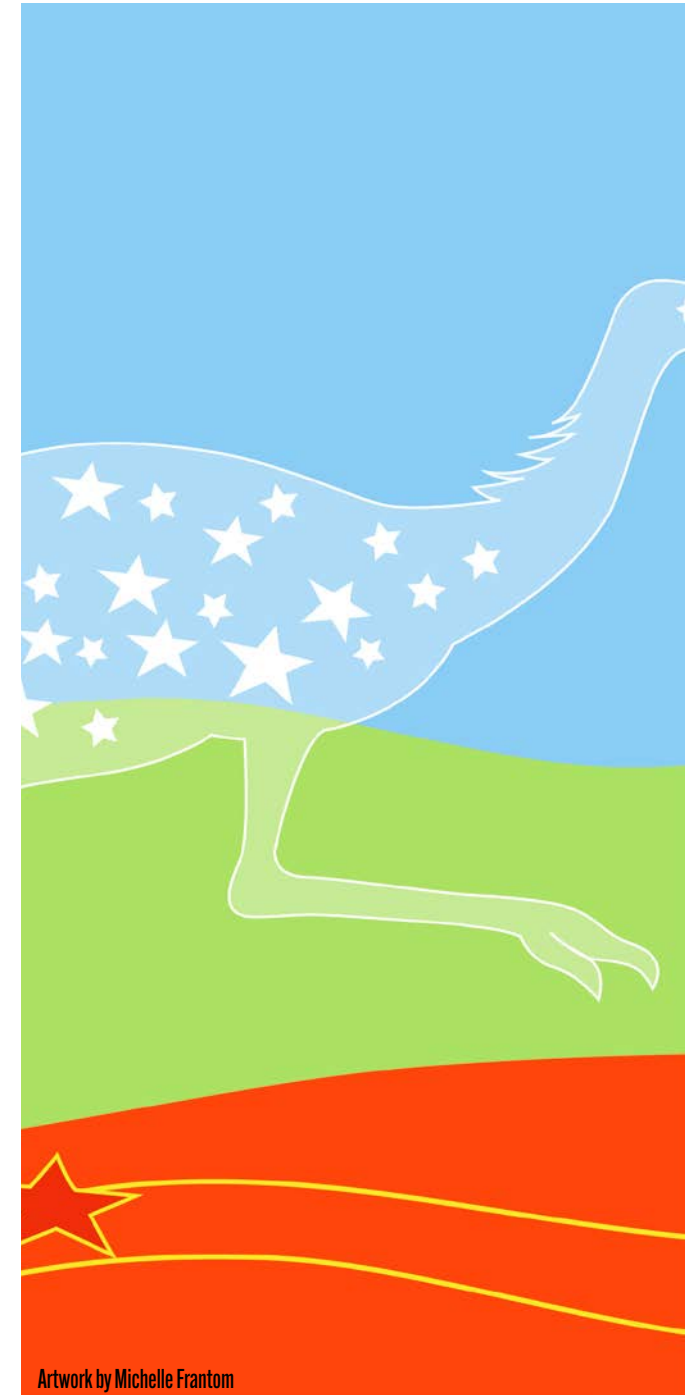
Kalgoorlie is booming with business travel so book your accommodation early through the [Kalgoorlie Visitor Centre](#).

The Final Chapter of The Stars Descend takes place on Saturday 1 April 2023 at [Karlkurla Bushland Park](#). Pronounced gull-gurl-la, the Park is named after the local Aboriginal word for the Silky Pear and comprises 200 hectares of natural regrowth bushland, along with over 2,000 trees and shrubs planted by community volunteers back in 2000. [The Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban Landcare Group](#) are the local stewards of this wonderful park.

In this Chapter, the stars arrive inside an emu who has travelled from the Fitzgerald Biosphere. She arrives at Karlkurla Park to a cacophony of birdsong captured by sound designer Jean-Michel Maujean. Local choreographer Pare Randall, working in consultation with Elder Gary Cooper, has created a series of profoundly beautiful moments as the emu lays an egg that holds a universe of knowledge for the future. This epic, five chaptered performance culminates in the egg bursting open to reveal the Silky Pear growing from within. Its star-like seeds are caught by the breeze and spread through the night air to regenerate the country and inspire a future of land care and restoration.

After the performance, celebrate with us in a wonder-filled party hosted by [Artgold](#).

Shuttle buses will leave for the dance performance site from the [Goldfields Art Centre](#) at 5.30 pm. The performance happens at 6.30 pm with the community celebration continuing until 10.00 pm. Book your tickets and bus transfer [here](#). No parking is available onsite.





The Return

Kalgoorlie to Perth

The return trip to Perth follows the [Golden Pipeline Heritage Trail](#). A trail that explores the Goldfields water supply scheme designed by engineer CY O'Connor.

Trip Details: 592 km - 6 hrs 33 mins



Community participants in rehears for Chapter 5 Kalgoorlie. Photo by Melissa Drummond

For more information on all the options for accredited tour providers, you can go to [WA Indigenous Tour Operators](#) and [Eco Tourism Australia](#) operators or visit one of the local visitor centres along the way.

THANK YOU for being part of The Stars Descend, which has stretched over 1000 km and been carried along by a wonderful partnership between the arts, nature conservation and local communities.

When you get home, please think about what you can do to help protect the amazing landscapes and biodiversity of the [Gondwana Link](#), support the aspirations of First Nations peoples and encourage more exciting arts projects that help bring all these elements together.

Want to re-live your experiences? Sign up to [Annette Carmichael Projects](#) enews to enjoy films, photographs, future exhibitions and events inspired by The Stars Descend.



THE STARS DESCEND
Five performance locations
across Gondwana Link



Gondwana Link
connecting people... connecting nature



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