

WESTERN EXPOSURE

Exploring WA's famed Cape to Cape track — decent wine
and luxury accommodation included



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I'm a person whose idea of a rigorous afternoon in Western Australia's South West involves little more than a gentle stroll from the sand to a linen-clad table at a premier vineyard.

If a destination requires specialised footwear, I'm generally elsewhere.

So, when I found myself standing on the rugged spine of the Cape to Cape track, staring down a four-day itinerary, my initial reaction was a tightening of the chest.

I've been to Margaret River countless times — I know its cellars, its top-tier restaurants, and its ocean sanctuaries. I thought the region had yielded all its secrets. Wrong. Turns out that to truly understand the cadence of this ancient coastline, you've to get off the bitumen, lace up the sneakers, and let the team at Walk Into Luxury completely recalibrate your system.

The genius of the Walk Into Luxury model is that it understands the modern traveller's deep desire for raw nature, provided it's instantly followed by uncompromising comfort.

Our journey began with a gentle afternoon teaser — a moderate stretch from Smiths Beach to Injidup Beach. Within an hour, my brain's standard urban clutter was replaced by the rhythm of beach walking and a spontaneous swim in a secluded, turquoise bay that felt entirely ours.

By late afternoon, we'd reached our basecamp: Injidup Spa Retreat. I skipped unpacking, heading instead for the private plunge pool to watch the sun dissolve into the Indian Ocean.

Day two brought a 14km stretch from Cape Naturaliste to Yallingup.





Sugarloaf Rock;
Cape to Cape track;
coastline views.
Pictures: Luke Tscharke



This is a landscape defined by contrast — stark limestone cliffs dropping into furious surf breaks with the iconic granite monolith of Sugarloaf Rock anchoring the horizon.

For a non-hiker, the average of 6km to 14km a day is perfectly calibrated — it pushes the heart rate just enough to make the afternoon indulgence feel entirely earned.

And what an indulgence it was; we were treated to a private chef dinner in the lounge at Injidup. The team from House of Cards Wines hosted the evening, matching a brilliant three-course showcase of local produce (think crispy skin quail with roast potatoes) with estate drops that easily rival anything coming out of Bordeaux right now. It was a sophisticated, intimate affair that had the entire group excited for the days still to come.

On day three we tracked from Redgate Beach into the Boranup Karri Forest, where the towering, pale-barked giants completely dwarf you.

Eating lunch in the forest, surrounded by the deep, damp woodland silence, provided a perspective of Margaret River I'd simply never seen from the window of a car.

Later, the luxury pendulum swung back with a private tasting at Windows Estate, where we



drank directly with the owner, followed by a delicious four-course dinner at Wayfinder in town.

By the final morning, as we stood atop the Wilyabrup sea cliffs watching dolphins jump through the Indian Ocean waves, even a cynic like myself had to capitulate.

There's a genuine, undeniable sense of achievement that hits you when you look back at the 41km of coastline conquered. And in true luxury fashion, a reward followed: a four-course celebratory lunch with premium wine pairings at Vasse Felix, the region's founding wine estate.

Sitting there, looking out over the manicured vines with a glass of powerhouse cabernet in hand, I realised that Walk Into Luxury has pulled off something remarkable. They haven't just built a great itinerary — they've created a loophole, allowing the luxury purist to experience the wild, untamed soul of the South West without sacrificing a single drop of indulgence.

I might still not be a hiker. But I'm officially a convert.

Cape to Cape Walk is operated by Walk Into Luxury under Great Walks of Australia. From \$3795 per person, twin share, with walks running March to June / September to November.

**walkintoluxury.com;
greatwalksofaustralia.com.au**



Ocean villa at Injidup Spa Retreat; Vasse Felix lunch and vineyards.

