

DO THIS
WALK
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WALK ON THE WEST SIDE

Carmen Jenner TAKES A TWO-NIGHT ADVENTURE ON THE CAPE TO CAPE TRAIL IN MARGARET RIVER, WESTERN AUSTRALIA WITH A LUXURY WALKING TOUR COMPANY.



CRANING OUR NECKS TO TAKE IN THE magnitude of the star-studded, midnight-blue sky, our little pocket of Margaret River seems to be embraced by the galaxy. Walk into Luxury owner Nikki King declares, “I’ve never seen so many stars so close before.” Talk about receiving star treatment!

I’m joining Nikki for a preview of the new two-night package in Margaret River, which includes

luxury accommodation at the five-star Cape Lodge, gourmet meals and wine, as well as a personalised guided one-day trek.

Luxury aside, traversing any part of the 135km trail between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin does require a medium level of fitness. Nikki’s tours don’t span the entire trail, but they have opened up the track to a whole new audience and the experience certainly lives up to its tagline of “a new way to walk.”





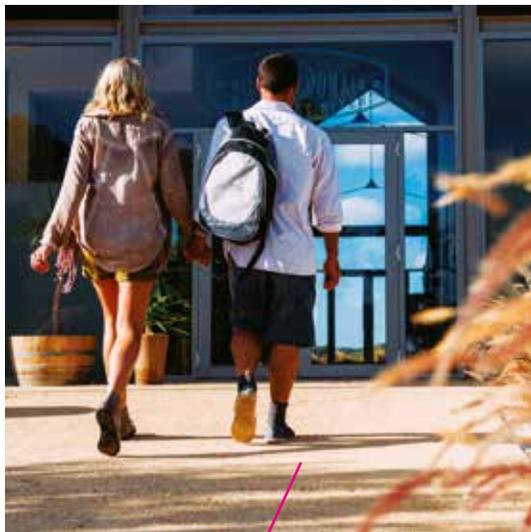
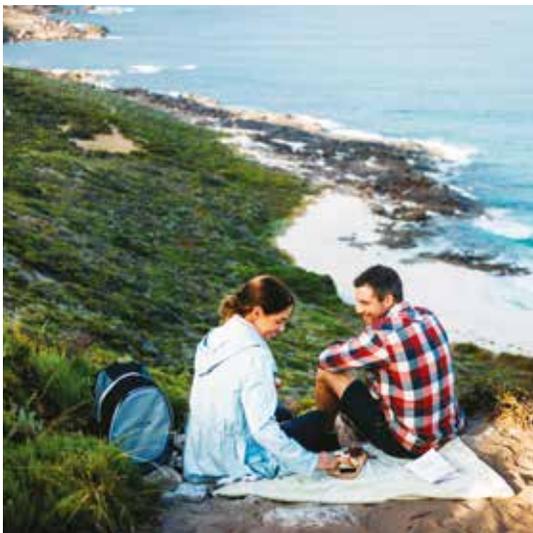


PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPE LODGE

“While ambling along the sand dunes and rocky granite coastline, we watch for whales and frolicking dolphins.”

**Opposite page:
Towering gums in
Boranup Forest.**

The tour begins with a five-course degustation at Cape Lodge. The following morning, our chauffeur arrives at a civilised 9am. We're dropped off at Wyadup car park, which has sweeping views of the coastline. While ambling along the sand dunes and rocky granite coastline, we watch for whales and frolicking dolphins. We're transferred to the lookout above Contos Beach and walk up to Cape Freycinet. It's just us and the elements. The sun warms our journey as the ocean crashes in the distance. Lizards rustle amongst the natural perfume of rosemary as the taste of sea salt lingers on our lips.

It's an easy stroll into Boranup Forest where we're dwarfed by towering karris and peppermint trees as kookaburras and cockatoos laugh at us from above in our quest for a kangaroo, echidna or possum encounter. Eventually striding into

our pick-up point, we're whisked off to Leeuwin Estate winery for a leisurely late lunch – panko crumbed oysters with a 2011 Leeuwin Estate Brut, followed by ocean trout, 45-day dry-aged Black Angus and the Leeuwin Estate Art Series wines.

Back at Cape Lodge after my walk in my lake-view suite, a platter arrives heaving with goodies including chicken soup with truffles, Rangers Valley beef, cheese, salmon and cured meats. Even though today's 6km trek barely walked off lunch, let alone last night's extravagances, I can't resist.

Rates start from A\$1,500 per person for an all-inclusive, two-night package. Helicopter and private jet transfers also available on request. walkintoluxury.com.au



See more on this story at luxurytravelmag.com.au/65

This page (clockwise from top left): Contos Beach from the Cape to Cape Track; Cape Lodge platter; Wills Domain winery restaurant, Yallingup; Cape Lodge; Wills Domain; Leeuwin Estate oysters.