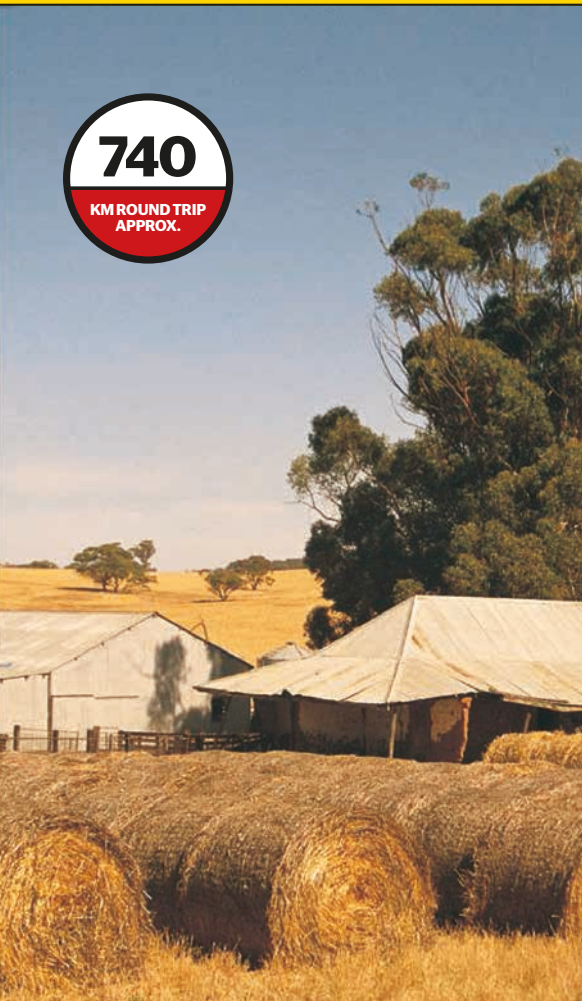


The Open Wheatbelt Trail 3-4 days

740

 KM ROUND TRIP
APPROX.


Make your journey to Wave Rock through open wheatbelt country. Enjoy country hospitality, natural bushland with wildflowers in season, spectacular night skies and an agricultural experience.

Suggested itinerary

Day 1 » Perth to York 100km

Just over an hour drive east of Perth will take you to the lovely country town of York. As Western Australia's first inland settlement, York offers unique insights into a rich and colourful past both before and following European settlement in 1831. York has an abundance of activities and attractions, from award winning woodwork galleries to a car museum and skydiving companies. Art and craft galleries, heritage trails, gliding, tennis, golf, horse riding and historic buildings and churches are just some of the attractions on offer.

York is famous for its festivals including Jazz Festival (September), Garden Festival (October) and The York Antiques and Collectors Fair.

Day 2-3 » York to Hyden 300km

From York travel via Quairading is located approx 170 kilometres east of Perth. The town derived its name from the Aboriginal word 'Kwirading', meaning the home of a small bush kangaroo. Continue on to Bruce Rock which boasts some of the Wheatbelt region's most impressive rock formations, including Bruce's Rock and Kokerbin Rock. Located 240 kilometres east of Perth, it's also home to great attractions such as Shackleton Lakes and the Ardath Hotel. The town itself has an aquatic centre for summer fun, an amphitheatre and a sculpture park to rest for a picnic lunch, making it an excellent base from which to explore the Central Wheatbelt region. Narembeen is located three and a half hours east of Perth and about 70 kilometres south



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of Merredin. Narembene is largely a farming town but the region also has a lot of beautiful, purple flowered jacaranda trees. Native merritt trees also grow in great abundance. The trees' strong, straight wood was historically used by Aboriginal people for making spears. Kondinin and Karlgarin are small settlements nestled in the heart of the Wheatbelt's grain and sheep farming country, half a day's drive from Perth. Known as the gateway to Wave Rock, which is a leisurely 40-minute drive away, Kondinin was traversed in 1848 by Surveyor General JS Roe and settled in 1909. You can retrace his steps along the JS Roe Heritage Trail, which includes a mural depicting his epic journey, a replica well and the picturesque Yeerakine Rock which provides a 360 degree view. Karlgarin is a tiny farming community of less than 50 people. First settled in the 1920s, many of the town's buildings still retain their old-world charm, including the primary school and shop. Admire the unique stone frontage of the Catholic Church and mosaic of native plants and animals. Or take in the scenic vistas from McCanns, Buckley's Breakaway and the Karlgarin Hills. Hyden is the closest town to Western Australia's Wave Rock and is a fourhour drive east of Perth, along the Brookton

Highway. This world-famous rock is a granite cliff, standing 15 metres high, 110 metres long and shaped remarkably like a huge wave. Other interesting rock formations in the region include Hippo's Yawn, Mulka's Cave and The Humps. Indigenous Australians have inhabited the Hyden and Wave Rock region for many hundreds of years, and there are significant historic sites located here. Sandalwood cutters are believed

to have been the first white men in the area, and farming began in 1922. The descendants of these early settlers still live here today, some of which play host to the 100,000-plus tourists who flock to the area every year. Take a look at the Indigenous rock art at Mulka's Cave and The Humps. Stay overnight and spend a full day exploring Hyden's hinterland and the town's unique tourist attractions.

Day 4 » Hyden to Perth 340km

From Hyden head west via Kondinin to Corrigin, a popular stopover when visiting Hyden's Wave Rock and the seasonal wildflowers of the area. Located three and a half hours' drive east of Perth, it's a very attractive, tidy Wheatbelt town. The craft shop sells local hand-made crafts, fresh home baked biscuits, ceramics, corn dollies, sewing, Devonshire teas, pottery, and the well-known local Yabbies (a unique freshwater crustacean, like a mini lobster). The Corrigin Museum provides a link with the past in its display of early Australian farm machinery. The Miniature Railway and Steam Train are available for rides. Visit the Corrigin Dog Cemetery, an unusual pet cemetery dedicated to man's best friend. Tour the surrounding countryside during wildflower season to see vibrant colours stretching to the horizon. Continue westwards via the Brookton Highway through Brookton and back to Perth.

Highlights

- » Historical architecture and buildings, museums.
- » Country pubs.
- » Examples of early pioneering.
- » Wave Rock - one of the famous and unique granite monoliths scattered around the Wheatbelt area.
- » Rural golf courses.
- » Salt water lakes.
- » Granite rocks and monoliths.

RAC Recommends

Inattention affects all drivers, especially in rural WA. Fatalities in the Wheatbelt are 6x higher than that of the WA state average. RAC recommends rest, before driving, stopping regularly, sharing the drive and allowing enough travel time.

Visitor Centres

Central Wheatbelt (08) 9041 1666
Hyden (08) 9880 5022

www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

Accommodation

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