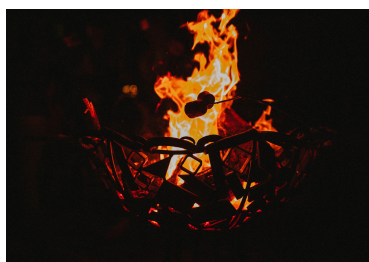




PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE



how to make the most of your stay



Welcome to our little slice of bush in the heart of the top tourism destination in the world (ok, so we're a little biased but it's pretty amazing). Until mid 2019, we were living the expat corporate life in Singapore (and before that Dubai), with careers in tourism and photography, and a high paced life for us and our three young kids.

Travel is in our DNA and when we travelled to the region a few times, we absolutely fell in love with the abundance of fresh air and space in this place known locally as "Margs". With a hospitality background of hotels, tour guiding, distribution and marketing between us, we decided to pursue the ultimate "tree change" and buy a small hotel that needed lots of 'love' (and investment!) but in a perfect location just 3 minutes from town but with no neighbours!

From the moment you drive up our driveway, you can expect to slow down. With the smell of the eucalyptus trees, the sight of our animals grazing freely and the chirping of birds in the bush, there's a little magic in the air.

Over the last 6 years we've built an awesome team who help craft and curate your experiences including our "Trusty Assistant" Lisa (otherwise known as The Pickle), Renovation Roy, Ben in the gardens, Lizetta helping keep us clean along with travellers from around the world. You'll likely see our kids Bella, Jonah or Maxi floating around and helping out, feel free to say "G'day".

In our view, true hospitality comes from the heart so our focus remains on creating spaces and experiences that facilitate new memories and moments. As we're a small family business offering self contained accommodation so we don't have a formal office nor the set up/resources to offer the round the clock style service of a full service hotel. Whilst you can expect the best Aussie bush hospitality from us, please be patient if we're not always around or available online and where possible we ask you endeavour to find the answers in the information made available to you.

Thanks for choosing to come and stay in our 'humble home.'

Andrew, Jules, Bella, Jonah & Maxi and trusty assistant Lisa



Planning your visit

With so much to do, having a 'rough plan' can be useful to make the most of your time here.

Guest Experiences and Amenities (more detail below)

- *Daily animal feeding experience from 8am to 8.45am followed by Jonah's Joyride (truck ride).*
- *Communal firepit for relaxing or roasting marshmallows (May-Nov) Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat.*
- *Maxi's Movies outdoor cinema screening twice weekly from (late Dec-early April). Tue, Sat.*
- *Indoor heated pool & games room (pool table, air hockey, arcade game and table tennis).*
- *Kids playground and cubby house, play court with balls and Basketball Hoop*
- *Bushwalking and cycle trails (bring your own bike, or hire locally!)*

A typical day when staying with us.

- *Start the day with animal feeding and the truck ride then after feeding, many smaller guests like to play in the playground or one of the play spaces.*
- *Morning til late afternoon most guests head out for sightseeing and a leisurely lunch.*
- *Late afternoon, return to the farm to explore, visit animals, take a swim or play a game.*
- *Evenings: in cooler months enjoy the communal firepit 4 nights a week, or a family movie 2 nights a week in the warmer months. Head out for a local dinner or cook at home, the choice is yours.*

Time around the region - Our top 5 tips & useful resources

- *For sightseeing and touring, break the region into 3 pieces. If you have time, consider a trip to the northern part of the Cape, a road trip to Augusta in the south and a day around Margaret River.*
- *Consider booking a lunch or dinner each day and build your sightseeing around this event**
- *In busier periods, consider booking attractions such as cave tours in advance.*
- *Celebrate the nature around you, even if it rains there's plenty of amazing things to do.*
- *Be curious. Feel free to ask us for a map and tips when you arrive.*

**Being a small country area, staffing can be a challenge make sure you book to avoid disappointment.*

Ask the experts (click on the link for more info)

The Margaret River Visitors Centre

- *The team at the local visitors centre are very well equipped to help has a 'live chat' feature.*

Recommended Itineraries and local secrets from our team

- *Read our recommended itineraries based on our own experiences of touring the Cape*

Social channels at MRHC - follow our pages for up to date tips and updates from our mini farm.

- *Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MargaretRiverHolidayCottages/>*
- *Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/mrholidaycottages/>*



Preparing and Packing for your visit

Although we offer self-contained accommodation as opposed to a full service hotel, you'll find what we offer our guests is generous. Find useful notes and tips below to help you prepare and pack.

Frequently Asked Questions (Read this Guide in full for details)

- Self check-in anytime from 2pm, check out time is by 10am.*
- Animal feeding is daily at 8am followed by our famous truck ride experience.*
- No breakfast or dining is included or available on the farm (don't worry, town is just 3km away).*
- Wifi and phone reception are both available in your cottage.*
- USB C and USB A sockets available in most cottages (best to bring your own travel adaptor).*
- Kitchens are well equipped; including a fridge/freezer, stove, oven, kettle, toaster and rice cooker.*
- Capsule coffee machines, plungers and a handful of capsules provided (not replenished mid stay).*
- A starter jar of marshmallows provided during firepit season (if you wish to load up, buy more).*
- Oil, salt, pepper and kitchen towel provided (not replenished mid stay).*
- Ample Hot water, heating and cooling available in each cottage.*
- Linen, one (1) set of bath towels are provided (bring your own beach & pool towels).*
- Daily Housekeeping and towel changes are not currently provided.*
- Washing machine (no dryer), detergent, outdoor clothes line, clothes airer in each cottage.*
- A selection of toiletries and a hairdryer are available in every cottage.*
- High chairs, cots, baby baths can be booked in advance at no extra cost. Steps stools are provided*
- Gas BBQs are available (see below for details).*
- Free parking is available at your cottage.*
- Read the Pet Guideline on our website and check with us before bringing your pet.*
- Visitors: For comfort and safety of other guests, we ask you not to invite visitors. If you feel strongly about bringing someone for a cup or tea, please check with us in advance.*
- We don't charge a cleaning fee but do anticipate guests to leave their cottage in a clean state.*
- Extra Guests may only be added in advance if the cottage capacity allows for this (chargeable).*

The Weather: [click here for an up to date forecast](#)

Margaret River enjoys a warm temperate climate which is characterised by cool, green winters and warmer, dry summers. Note, depending on the wind, it can feel 5-10 deg. cooler than Perth.

Our top 3 packing tips are:

- 1. Older clothes, boots or shoes for animal feeding (a small selection of gumboots are available).*
- 2. Beach/Pool towels if you intend to swim in our heated pool or head to the beach.*
- 3. Clothes to keep you warm and dry (even in Spring/Summer pack a jumper/jacket).*

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2



Our property is located 3 minutes drive from Margaret River which is about 3 hours south of Perth (depending on stops). You'll find us on Google Maps and you'll have good 4G reception around our place so you can remain connected to check directions.

Arriving at our cottages and self-checking in (anytime from 2pm)

As we're often off doing farm or parental jobs, and to give you maximum flexibility, we offer self check-in for all of our guests. Please follow these tips to check in smoothly. Due to our high occupancy, it's unlikely we can offer an early arrival (check with us before arriving earlier than 2pm).

Useful Tips

- If you're not used to driving in the Australian Bush it's quite dark at night. If possible, we recommend you arrive before sunset (check Google for up to date sunset times).
- Although our property is only 3km from town, we recommend you arrive with your own transport (ie. car) as to go sightseeing or shopping would not be suitable on foot.
- There's a limited taxi service and no rideshare such as Uber. There's also no public bus service.

Popular places to stop (coming from the Perth)

- The Crooked Carrot Cafe - good food and play spaces, very popular with families (half way).
- The Shelter in Busselton, a lively dining experience with a playground at the Busselton Jetty.
- Vasse Village by Bunbury Farmers Market is a great place to pick up produce.

Your Cottage Number

- Every guest is sent their cottage no. by whatsapp, sms or email a few days prior to arrival.
- Guests are asked to acknowledge the receipt of their cottage no. so we know you're all set.
- If you've arrived and misplaced your number, please check all your messages/junk then if still unsure, call our local number +61 8 9757 2185 (landline) or ring the doorbell at The Roo House.

Arrival Notes

- Our Address is 185 Boodjidup Road, Margaret River, 6285.
- If you have the chance, let us know when you're about 40 mins away so we're ready for you.
- At our main entrance, you'll see our signage on an old tank (see above left)
- Our farm and cottages are accessible via a driveway from Boodjidup Road (there's no gate).
- Drive slowly up our driveway (10km p/h) as many of our animals roam openly.
- Follow the sign pointing to the left (see above) and onto the cottages. Each cottage has a no.



Our Signature Experiences

Our Animals (Animal feeding @The Roo House. 8am daily + truck ride)

- *With a random mix of miniature donkeys, alpacas, sheep, chickens, ducks, cows a highlight of your stay will likely be engaging with our animals, many of which are rescued and/or orphaned.*
- *Whilst we only feed our animals once per day in the morning, you're welcome to see the animals during the day (from 8am until sunset).*
- *The animals are generally curious, friendly and make a great photo (just don't stand behind them)*
- *We occasionally assist with the soft release of rescued orphan kangaroos. As they're native animals and certainly not our pets, the best practice is not to engage or try and cuddle them, rather wait for the opportunity when we're around.*
- *Please don't invite visitors to see our animals/join feeding, it's for the enjoyment of paying guests.*
- *For everyone's safety and comfort children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult or older sibling (for both feeding or just exploring our grounds outside the cottage gardens)*

Photography & Family Photos with Jules (late afternoons/twilight)

Having been recognised as one of the world's top "female photographers to watch", Jules was, until our recent tree change, considered one of Singapore's top 'Story Telling' family photographers.

- *Guests have the unique opportunity to enjoy a photo shoot around our property, the bush next door, or a full photoshoot experience in the surrounding region such as the beach or Boranup Forest.*
- *Jules' style is very natural and non-posed, with her main goal during her sessions is for her families or couples to be themselves and have fun.*
- *Jules typically books out 2-3 months in advance so if you're interested visit www.juliawhalephotography.com to check our Jules' unique style then send an enquiry form.*
- *Pricing depends on the type of photoshoot, the location and number of people.*
- *All the sessions include the hi-res, printable jpeg images/files and an online gallery.*
- *Follow her on Instagram @juleswhale / FB juliawhalephotography to make sure Jules' unique style is the style you're looking for.*
- *To remain true to her style, Jules doesn't tend to offer photoshoots to larger groups of 8 or more*
- *As weather can be unpredictable, preference is generally given to guests who stay 3+ nights.*
- *Jules' landscape photography hangs on the cottage and Roo House walls and is for sale.*



Our Amenities

Bushwalking, Trail Running and Cycle Tracks (Bring Your Own Bike!)

- Given our bush location, we have bushwalking, trail running and bike trails from our back gate.
- The Bush Walk, The Winter Walk and The Discovery Walk are all marked trails which can connect up to the Wadandi Track, otherwise known as Rails to Trails. This trail follows the old railway line.
- It's possible to walk/ride into town on this track, just 3 kms away.
- For cyclists, ride the mountain bike trails to the Pines or to wineries on bush trails. Families are welcome to ride the driveway and lanes between paddocks and the drive is scooter friendly.
- For insurance reasons, we don't make bikes available for guests (rent through the Hairy Marron).
- If you feel like going for a run, let us know, Tilly the Dog and I may join you.

Kids playground

- The kids playground is located in the Brick Cottage Garden. The focus is on imaginative play, though there is a slide to bring out the inner adrenaline junkie for juniors.
- The playground is suitable for infants and children, or even early teens (and grandparents).

The Firepit "aka The Bush Telly" (@Brick Cottage Garden. 5.30pm*, 4 nights per week May-Nov)

- Designed locally, the firepit is the 'spiritual' heart of our property from May til Nov.
- It's the perfect place to unwind after touring, and wind up with marshmallows.
- In season, we host the firepit Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat at 5.30ish and 'scrap' wood is available to continue into the evening (if you go later, the fire usually burns until around 9pm).
- The tools are available if you wish to light on other nights, though please wait until after 5.30pm.
- A starter jar of marshmallows are in your cottage & toasting forks hang on the tree near the fire.
- The firepit is communal, so be prepared to be social if you feel like connecting.
- The firepit is not appropriate for camp style cooking, it's for social and
- For the safety and comfort of other guests, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult
- Feel free to enjoy a beverage at the firepit, though as your music tastes may not be the same as the other guests so the area tends to remain a music free space.
- There is a strict fire ban between mid Nov and May during which time the firepit will be unavailable.



Our Amenities

Heated Pool & Games Room (10am until sunset daily. Year round)

- In cooler months, we heat the pool to 31 degrees and in warmer months 28 degrees.
- The games section includes a pool table, air hockey table, arcade game and a table tennis table.
- The pool and games room is unsupervised so legally, children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult that can swim (including the games area).
- Pool and Beach towels are not provided, so a good item to pack (and robe for winter).
- The Games Room is open from 10a.m to sunset, though depending on the occupancy, we can sometimes be flexible to operate outside of these hours.

Maxi's Movies (@Maxi's Movie Outdoor Theatre. Sunset, Tue & Sat mid Dec-early April)

- When the weather is warmer we screen family favourite movies under the stars.
- Screening times vary depending on the setting of the sun and are weather dependent.
- As it's a backyard style set up, screenings are free and included for our in-house guests only.
- Comfy seating and blankets are provided, just bring your own refreshments.
- Maxi's Movies is not a 'hosted' experience. For their safety, and comfort of all guests, children under 10 must be accompanied.

Basketball hoop. Play Court and Bocci

- Perfect for older children, there is a basketball hoop and balls (near the back gate)
- On the sandy Playcourt, there are bats and balls and a soccer goal. (Brick Cottage Garden)
- Bocci Balls are available in the Roo House storage room.
- We ask guests to stick to these areas (or the wider paddocks for playing ball games).



****Merchandise****

- A selection of Merchandise is available to buy during your stay.
- Currently range includes T-Shirts, Hoodies and Plush Toy Kangaroos!
- Prints by Julia Whale Photography
- See the selection at the Roo House
- Limited range of adult and kid sizes





Useful Notes

Phone Reception, Wifi/Internet

- There is good phone reception with all carriers at the property (Telstra best network) or for convenience Optus/Nodaphone are available at Perth Airport.
- The wifi in the cottages is high speed, though bear in mind, we're in the Australian bush and if every guest is trying to download, the speed will drop.

In Cottage Entertainment

- The Smart TVs have access to free to air TV channels or stream using your own Netflix account.
- DVD players are in all cottages and DVDs are available from the cabinet outside the pool house.
- A range of boardgames, card games etc. are available from the games cabinet at the Pool House.
- Cottages have a small selection of games, toys and books for our younger guests.

The Guest Spot (our guest shed)

- In case you need to borrow items such as adaptors, a vacuum cleaner or mop or a picnic blanket, we have a wide selection of items available to borrow (self service) from The Guest Spot.

BBQs (aka the BBQ pit)

- There is a communal gas BBQ located at the pool house & between 6&7 (no booking required).
- Gas BBQs are available for each of the Brick and Gumnut Cottages (no booking required).
- There are portable gas BBQs available for the Timber Cottages. These BBQs are complimentary and can be booked in advance up to 12 noon on the day or self collect from the Guest Spot
- Please clean the BBQ thoroughly after use so we don't attract bad animal visitors. Let us know if we need to collect the portable BBQ from your Timber Cottage.

Staying warm in cooler months

- Our Timber Cottages are heated with a wood fire, a reverse cycle air-conditioner (heater), one (1) oil heater in each cottage (firewood, lighters etc are all provided)
- Our Brick Cottages are heated with two reverse cycle air-conditioners (heaters).
- Gumnut 4 Bedroom Cottage has a wood fire, a reverse cycle air-conditioner (heater), a selection of plug in oil heaters (firewood, lighters etc are provided).
- All cottages have electric heated blankets on the King/Queen Beds and ample blankets.
- We cannot add extra heaters into the cottages though you'll be comfy and warm during your stay.

Staying cool in summer months

- As a cooler climate region with a summer breeze, guests remain cool in summer.
- All cottages have air conditioning in the living area which supports the cottage.



Dining, Supermarkets & Produce

The food culture is well and truly alive in Margaret River so whether you would like to dine out, or cook at home, there's plenty of options.

Dining Out

- For our latest dining tips, visit our [website](#), or if you need more info, whatsapp/email us or ask us when you're here. The more info and notice you give us, the easier for us to recommend.
- Like most wine regions, many restaurants focus on long lunches, not dinners, and as a small country town, many restaurants close kitchens by 8.30pm
- The best dining experiences are booked in advance, we recommend you do the same.
- We live in a small country town so there's very limited deliver options and no Uber Eats or Grab.
- Cafes open early (often from 7am) but close early (it's hard to find coffee after 2pm)
- For those travelling from overseas, based on our experience from living in London, Dubai and Singapore, entry level eating out in Australia may feel expensive though mid to high end dining generally represents great value.

Supermarkets

We have 3 local supermarkets within 5 mins. (the same chain stores are available in Perth)

- Woolworths (or "Woolies") is the largest of the supermarkets, open 8am-8pm, 7 days
- Coles is another major supermarket and well located in town ctr. open 8am-8pm, 7 days
- IGA is a more locally oriented supermarket in town ctr, open 7am-7pm, 7 days
- Kitchens are well equipped including a fridge/freezer. stove, oven, kettle, toaster and rice cooker.
- Oil, salt, pepper and kitchen towel provided (we don't replenish mid stay).

Markets

- There are plenty of farmers' markets around the area and are a wonderful way to source local produce in a lovely atmosphere. The Farmers Market in Margaret River is every Saturday from 7.30am to 11.30am and is considered one of Australia's best.
- Stop at Vasse Village by Bunbury Farmers Market in Busselton if driving from Perth.

Niche & Specialist Options

There is a great fish monger, awesome local butcher, and locally sourced fruit and vegetables

- The Margaret River Butcher
- Fishmonger: 34 Degrees Blue
- Fruit & Vegetables: The Garden Basket
- Gourmet Delicatessens: Blue Ginger and The Charcuterie