GUIDE TO MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR ELECTIVE WITH MAMS

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#### **About Geraldton**

Geraldton is a small city (pop ~38,000) located roughly 400kms North of Perth. It is a coastal city renowned for surfing and fishing.

There are various methods of travel to Geraldton:

Flying - Flights with Skywest, a local WA company. Tickets can be purchased online or via a travel agent. The earlier you book the cheaper the tickets. The flights leave from Perth domestic airport which is a different airport location to Perth international airport. The flight takes roughly 1 hour.

Coach – (more frequently referred to as buses in Australia) Tickets are available through two providers. Greyhound Australia (www.greyhound.com ) and Transwa (www.transwa.wa.gov.au) and the journey takes roughly 6 hours.

Car hire – Avis, Hertz, Budget and more all locatable through google. NB the car available within your elective will only be provided for use within Geraldton and upon arrival.

Recreation: There are several pubs/bars many of which offer live music on a regular basis. Geraldton has two nightclubs (Vibe and UP) both of which have special event nights and assorted weekly deals. There are various restaurants and fast food establishments in and around the city. Geraldton is set on the beach and there are many recreational activities that involve the ocean, including surfing, fishing, snorkelling, swimming, windsurfing and kitesurfing. There are several gyms and an aquatic centre as well as various clubs such as cycling, 'soccer' and theatre groups. There are also many tourist spots in and around Geraldton. Further information and website links



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### **Elective locations within MAMS**

The private GP practice (MAMS) is located at the entrance of the Geraldton Airport, 12km out of town.

The Suncity Skin Cancer Clinic is located on Hermitage St in Geraldton.

St John of God Hospital is just across the road from SSCC, and is a private hospital where Dr Adamson and other GPs from our practice work as anaesthetists.

Mingenew is a remote community with no permanent on site doctor. We provide a fly in medical service to patients in this community.

MAMS also provides a fly in medical service to several large mine sites in the Midwest Region of the Western Australian outback.

#### **Timetable:**

Weekly private GP consultations.

Weekly theatre sessions with surgery and anaesthetic teaching with an emphasis on airway management skills. Specialty surgical lists include orthopaedics, ENT, plastics, dentals. Students will have an opportunity to further their skills in intubation, IV cannula insertion, A/S drug management and there are opportunities for surgical assists. Weekly tutorials with Dr Adamson.

Optional Friday morning breakfast meetings: a combined early morning teaching session with guest speakers, for doctors (from the local community not just our practice) and medical students, breakfast provided.

Suturing and a hands on approach as well as teaching sessions are available at the Skin Cancer Clinic.

Our WA Institute of Skin Cancer Medicine and Rural Health also offers a great opportunity to participate in research and assist ongoing projects.

Flights to rural GP clinics and mine sites to treat outback patients once a fortnight, occasionally more often depending on schedule (subject to weather).



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#### **Accommodation:**

MAMS will provide students with accommodation inclusive in the elective. All cutlery, crockery, pots and pans are provided. You are required to keep your shared living areas tidy in respect of other residents and your laundry/toiletries are your own responsibility.

#### **Internet & Phone:**

Currently MAMS supplies a phone with an Australian sim, and an internet dongle. This service is subject to withdrawal if items are not treated with respect. The top up credit for each device is the responsibility of individual students and vouchers are available at The Telstra Shop in Geraldton, multiple newsagents and many other stores

#### Car:

MAMS provides a car for shared use to students, inclusive in the elective. Fuel is your responsibility, and as car use is shared between whichever students attend at the time, you will need to make arrangements amongst yourselves as to how this is managed. In most cases students either know each other or bond well and as such go shopping, out at night etc, together so a lot of these costs can be shared.

### **Time for Travel:**

MAMS can provide a busy and exciting schedule however we are flexible and understand the need to balance work with time to explore in what may be your first visit to Western Australia.

Should you be an adventurous type or keen on sightseeing there are many wonderful places worth visiting in WA (eg Monkey Mia). Due to Geraldton's location on Australia's Coral Coast, there are amazing places accessible by weekend visits both North and South



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#### **Terms and Conditions:**

Clinical work is unpredictable, therefore we are unable to guarantee the above timetable.

We expect all medical students to be professional and to act in an appropriate manner. Any unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with as seen fit.

No refunds will be given under any circumstances.

Please take note; if you decide upon arrival to end your elective early for travel, no refund will be given of upfront fees.

If you wish to bring your arrival date forward after confirmation of dates, this is only available if it doesn't overlap with or disadvantage any students already participating in an elective and you will need to arrange your own accommodation and car during that period as well as pay a fee for the extra elective time. However, please be aware that we would like to avoid this wherever possible.

On arrival you will need to produce evidence of a clear MRSA screen – you must not have had any patient contact from the time you are tested until you present at MAMS. If, due to extenuating circumstances, you are unable to complete the test in the UK, you must arrange for a test to be done upon arrival, at St John of God hospital, at your cost (payment must be provided to MAMS before screen is conducted) and no clinical work can be undertaken until this process is complete. In the unforeseen event that you are found to be positive, a course of antibiotics will be given. It is imperative you have your MRSA screen before leaving the UK if you wish to ensure you do not miss out on any theatre time.

### **Useful links / Sites:**

www.australiascoralcoast.com www.wulaguda.com.au www.geraldtontourist.com.au

www.monkeymia.com.au www.westernaustralia.com www.exmouthwa.com.au

www.ningalooblue.com.au http://www.margaretriver.com/ http://www.mysouthwest.com.au/Directory?category\_id=18710 http://www.discoverwest.com.au/western\_australia/tree\_top\_walk.html www.gero.com.au

