

Albany is located in the Great Southern region of Western Australia on what is promoted as the “Rainbow Coast”, situated around a bustling port on the southern coastline. It is 408 kilometres (4 ½ hour drive) south-southeast of the state capital Perth. Albany is one of the larger regional cities in the state of Western Australia with a population of around 35,000 people.

The city centre is nestled between the hills of Mount Melville and Mount Clarence with views down into Princess Royal Harbour. Albany has 3 good backpacker hostels and a variety of motels, hotels, bed and breakfasts and campsites to choose from. Please contact us if you require further information.

History

Established in 1826, two years before Perth, Albany was the first city in Western Australia to be settled by Europeans. With a spectacular location within close range of dense forests and stunning beaches, the city of Albany boasts some beautiful old buildings dating from earlier colonial times. Albany is renowned for its historical relevance in Western Australian white history, so boasts a number of historical tourist sites celebrating its rich heritage which include the Museum, Albany Convict Gaol, The Princess Royal Fortress (commonly known as “The Forts”), Patrick Taylor Cottage (“the oldest dwelling in Western Australia, c1832”).

Prior to European settlement Albany was the home of the Menang Noongar people, who made use of the coastal waters of the area over the summer months. They called the area Kinjarling which means “the place of rain”.

Sights & Attractions

Breathtaking natural sights are plentiful in the Albany region, especially along the rugged southern coastline which includes spectacular rocky formations of the Natural Bridge and the Gap. Views from Torndirrup National Park are also definitely worth a look! Beaches of pristine white sand, turquoise water and green coastal vegetation surround Albany and depending on the beach, are perfect for either the peaceful serenity of relaxing in isolation, swimming, surfing or diving. Popular beaches include Middleton Beach (closest to the town centre), Two Peoples Bay, Frenchman’s Bay, Nanarup, and Muttonbird Island. In 2001 the HMAS Perth was sunk in King George Sound as a dive wreck for avid and adventurous divers.

Albany was once a major centre for the whaling industry and was home to Australia’s last whaling station, which ceased business as recently as 1978. The whaling station has since been turned into the country’s largest whaling museum and features in-depth educational information about these remarkable mammals that are now protected from harm. Two guided tours a day show visitors objects that are not on permanent display in the museum. Whale watching is now one of Albany’s biggest tourist attractions, with ever increasing numbers of Southern Right and Humpback whales visiting the region every year on their annual migration

route down the southern coast. Whale-watching trips run regularly between May and October.

For those seeking land based beauty Albany is also close to two magnificent mountain ranges, the Porongurups and Stirling Ranges. Keen bushwalkers can discover the fascinating Bibbulmun Track walking trail which starts 963 kilometres away in Kalamunda, Perth, winding its way through diverse native flora and fauna before terminating in Albany.

Climate

Albany has a Mediterranean-type climate with generally warm summers and cool, wet winters. July is the wettest month and February the driest. If you travelling here, bring some warm clothes, as year round the nights can get quite cool, particularly during winter.

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