

# Bunbury

**Bunbury is the third largest city in Western Australia after Mandurah and the capital city Perth. It is located just 180 kilometres (2 hour drive) south of Perth. With a population of approximately 57,000 people it is considerably smaller than Perth, but certainly much bigger than most towns in Western Australia. Bunbury offers all the benefits of a city with a large shopping centre, cafes, mechanics, and cinema complex, however with easy access to beautiful beaches and a tranquil river foreshore it does not have the feel of a large city but that of a pleasant seaside town.**

Almost an island, Bunbury is surrounded by water. The rumbling surf of the Indian Ocean combined with the calm and serene waters of Koombana Bay and the peaceful Leschenault Inlet offer unique lifestyle and recreational opportunities. An embodiment of the relaxed Australian beach culture evident in Western Australia is the long white sandy stretch of coastline of the Indian Ocean, better known as Back Beach, ideal for swimmers of all ages. Bunbury's unique natural surrounds make it a great place for getting close to nature and is a superb place to relax, swim, snorkel or dive along pristine beaches and in the sheltered bays. Bunbury has plenty of accommodation options including hotels, motels, backpacker hostels and camping grounds. For further information please contact us at Travel Forever.

## Sights & Attractions

Home to over 100 bottlenose dolphins, the sheltered waters of Koombana Bay are the perfect aquatic play ground for families. Getting close to bottlenose dolphins in their natural habitat is a highlight that shouldn't be missed. There is a dolphin discovery centre at Koombana bay and boat trips to swim with the dolphins can be arranged between October and May, or sometimes you can swim with them from the beach if you're lucky.

Bunbury's waterways are marvellous for fishing, crabbing and a wide variety of water sports, especially in the still waters of the Leschenault Inlet. At Big Swamp Reserve, home to over 70 species of bird life and the breeding grounds for long necked turtles, you can walk or cycle along the elevated boardwalk which provides excellent views of the stunning surrounds. Alternatively visit Mangrove Cove, opposite Koombana Bay, and walk along the boardwalk to see the most southern white mangroves that grow in WA. A short drive away from Bunbury you will also find Maidens Reserve which features one of the few remaining natural tuart forests in the state, a haven for native plants and animals. Manea Park is another beautiful spot to visit between September and November as picturesque native wildflowers bloom in colourful abundance at that time of the year. Another popular tourist destination is Wyalup-Rocky Point, a unique outcrop of jagged black basalt formed where volcanic lava flowed over 150 million years ago. Most of these places are best visited with a car, so hiring is a popular

option. The backpacker tour companies will stop at Koombana Bay, then continue further south to Bussleton.

## Climate

Bunbury has a climate similar to Perth with warm to hot summers and cool winters. The average temperature during summer (December to February) is 28°C, while in winter (June to August), Bunbury receives most of its rainfall and has an average temperature of 19°C.

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