

Esperance

Esperance is located on the south coast of Western Australia, about half-way between Albany and the South Australian border, with a population of almost 10,000 people. It is approximately a 7.5 hour drive from Perth, or a 4 hour drive south from the Goldfields mining town of Kalgoorlie. Esperance has 3 backpacker hostels and a variety of hotels, motels, campsites, and bed and breakfast style accommodation.

Attractions

The small town of Esperance is surrounded by incredible stretches of fine white sand beaches and crystal clear turquoise water. All along this southern coastline beautiful beaches and secluded inlets provide fantastic surfing, scuba diving, snorkeling and swimming opportunities. A number of salt lakes are also close to town including spectacular Pink Lake, which exhibits a unique rosy hue from the red algae living within its waters.

There are 5 major national parks near the town. A major tourist attraction, just 5.6 kilometres from the town center, is the Cape Le Grand National Park which offers a picturesque coastline of largely granite terrain and lovely sheltered beaches (some of the best in Australia we think!). The park is a very popular spot for recreational fishing as well as for 4 wheel drive enthusiasts and hikers. Humpback whales, penguins, seals and sea lions are regularly spotted here as well as an abundance of birdlife. For the best views climb Frenchman's Peak, an easy hike that most tour companies will take you on.

The wind farm that supplies Esperance with the majority of its power is also worth visiting as the turbines themselves provide spectacular views. These incredibly quiet, enormous wind turbines cast a striking silhouette against the backdrop of a rugged and richly coloured coastline.

Climate

Esperance has a Mediterranean style of climate with warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. However it is subject to wide variations in weather, from hot summer days when northerly winds arrive from the interior, to cold, wet winter days with southerly winds from the Great Southern Ocean.