



South Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- » Wild Duck (p150)
- » York Street Cafe (p150)
- » Bay Merchants (p150)
- » Vancouver Cafe & Store (p150)

Best Places to Stay

- » Cape Howe Cottages (p144)
- » Flinders Park Lodge (p148)
- » Beach House at Bayside (p149)
- » Esperance B&B by the Sea (p159)

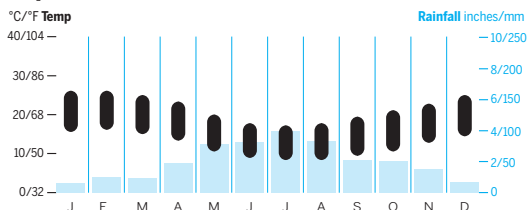
Why Go?

Standing on the cliffs of the wild South Coast as the waves pound below is a truly exhilarating experience. And on calm days, when the sea is various shades of aquamarine and the glorious white-sand beaches lie pristine and welcoming, it's an altogether different type of magnificent. If you're seeking to get away from it all, even busy holiday periods here in the 'Great Southern' are relaxed; it's just that bit too far from Perth for the holiday hordes. Marine visitors come this way, though – the winter months bring a steady stream of migrating whales.

When you need a change from the great outdoors, Albany – the earliest European settlement in the state – has a wealth of colonial history, and towns such as Denmark and Esperance invite you to sit back with a glass of fine local wine and watch the world go by.

When to Go

Esperance



January

The best beach weather – and it's not as hot or crowded as the west coast.

September

Go wild for wildflowers and whales.

December

Perfect weather for the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks.



South Coast Highlights

- 1** Walk among and above the giant tingle trees in the Valley of the Giants **Tree Top Walk** (p142)
- 2** Compete to see who can spot the most whales in Albany's **King George Sound** (p145)
- 3** Ponder our fractious human-cetacean relations at the **Whale World Museum** (p151) near Albany
- 4** Hike among the tall trees and granite outcrops of **Porongurup National Park** (p153)
- 5** Wander through the walking wildflowers along the walking tracks of **Fitzgerald River National Park** (p156)
- 6** Marvel at the surf-battered coast from the Great Ocean Drive near **Esperance** (p158)
- 7** Swim, surf and soak in the sun at the squeaky-clean beaches of **Cape Le Grand National Park** (p160)