



Southern Western Australia

POP 55,000

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Best Places to Eat

- Kirby's at Rickety Gate (p152)
- Maleeya's Thai Cafe (p158)
- Pepper & Salt (p152)
- Boston Brewery (p152)
- Fish Face (p163)

Best Places to Sleep

- Cape Howe Cottages (p151)
- Beach House at Bayside (p155)
- Esperance B&B by the Sea (p163)
- Lily (p159)
- 1849 Backpackers (p155)

Why Go?

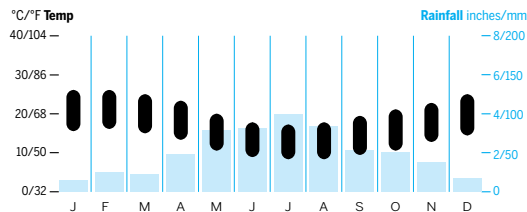
Standing above the waves and cliffs of the rugged south coast is an exhilarating experience. And on calm days, when the sea is aquamarine and white-sand beaches lie pristine and welcoming, it's a different type of magnificent. Even busy summer holiday periods in the Great Southern are relaxed. It's just that bit too far from Perth for the holiday hordes. Winter months bring pods of migrating whales, while the spectacular tingle trees of Walpole's Valley of the Giants are more super-sized evidence of nature's wonder.

For a change from the great outdoors, Albany – the state's earliest European settlement – has colonial and Anzac history, and Denmark has excellent wine, craft beer and good food. Inland, the peaks and plains of Stirling National Park are enlivened by wildflowers from September to November, while orca visit remote Bremer Bay from February to April.

Further west, Esperance is the gateway to stunning coastal scenery.

When to Go

Esperance



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

Sep Go wild for wildflowers and whales.

Dec Perfect weather for the Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks.

Southern Western Australia Highlights

- 1 Walking among and above the giant tingle trees in the **Valley of the Giants** (p149) Tree Top Walk.
- 2 Competing to see who can spot the most whales in Albany's **King George Sound** (p155).
- 3 Understanding the sacrifices made by brave soldiers 100 years ago at the **National Anzac Centre**
- 4 Hiking among the tall trees and spectacular granite outcrops of **Porongurup National Park** (p158).
- 5 Wandering through wild flowers in **Fitzgerald River National Park** (p159).
- 6 Feeling exhilarated on an exciting boat trip to see orcas in **Bremer Bay** (p160).
- 7 Swimming, surfing and soaking up the sun on the squeaky-clean beaches of **Cape Le Grand National Park** (p164).

