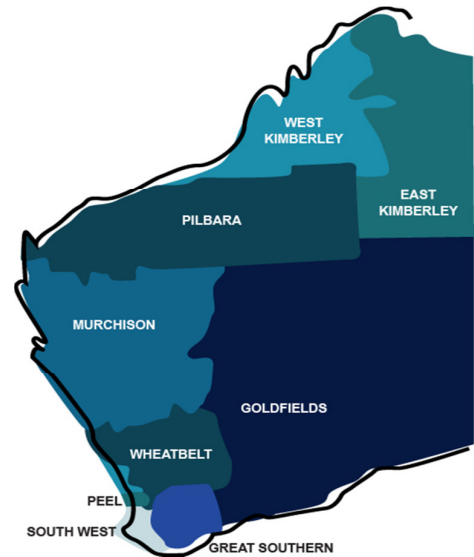


# Guide to the WA Country Locations



## **Goldfields - Esperance**

Kalgoorlie was the site of WA's first mining boom, when gold was discovered in the 1890s. The outback town remains a major mining centre. Esperance is located on the stunning white beaches of the Southern Ocean. This friendly small town has some of the best views in the country!

### *Location*

The Goldfields - Esperance region is located in the south eastern corner of WA, bordering the Southern Ocean to the south and South Australia to the east.

### *Geography*

The area covers 770,488 square kilometres (including offshore islands). It is the largest of the state's nine regions and over three times the size of the state of Victoria. The gold mines and deserts of the north contrast the white sandy beaches of the south.

### *Major towns*

The major population centres are the towns of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Esperance. Other important towns are Coolgardie, Kambalda, Laverton, Leonora, Norseman and Ravensthorpe.

### *More information:*

» [Australia's Golden Outback tourism](#)

## **Wheatbelt**

Home to quaint old pubs, and natural wonders like Wave Rock near Hyden. The town of Northam on the scenic Avon River is just 100km from Perth.

### *Location*

The Wheatbelt region partially surrounds the northern and eastern parts of the Perth metropolitan area.

### *Geography*

The area contains 44 local government authorities with hundreds of unique towns. It contains the majority of the state's grain growing areas.

### *Major towns*

The major population centres are the towns of Narrogin and Northam. Other important towns are Merredin, Moora, Merredin, Southern Cross and York.

### *More information:*

» [Australia's Golden Outback tourism](#)

## **Kimberley**

In the far north is Broome, perfectly located between Cable Beach and the turquoise waters of Roebuck Bay. The area has sheer red cliffs, white sandy beaches and deep blue water.

### *Location*

The Kimberley is the state's most northern region. The coastline faces the Indian Ocean to the west and the Timor Sea to the north.

### *Geography*

The Kimberley's area of 424,517 square kilometres is almost twice the size of the state of Victoria, and three times that of the United Kingdom. It features deserts, gorges and river valleys, beaches, rainforest areas and cave systems.

### *Major towns*

The major population centres are the towns of Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Kununurra and Wyndham.

There are also over 100 Aboriginal communities of various population sizes throughout the region and nearly 100 properties servicing the pastoral industry.

*More information:*

» [Australia's North West tourism](#)

## **Midwest**

Geraldton is a major centre with over 25,000 people and all the services you need without the stress of city living. Tropical Carnarvon is the area's second largest town. In the north of the region the famous Monkey Mia dolphins who welcome thousands of visitors every year.

*Location*

The Midwest region stretches from the Indian Ocean coastline more than 800 kilometres east.

*Geography*

The Midwest covers an area twice the size of the United Kingdom. It features beaches and coastal islands including the Ningaloo Marine Park near Exmouth and Monkey Mia in the Shark Bay World Heritage area, as well as extensive farmland and inland mining areas.

*Major towns*

The major population centres are the towns of Geraldton and Carnarvon. Other important towns are Dongara, Exmouth, Kalbarri and Meekatharra.

*More information:*

» [Australia's Coral Coast tourism](#)

## **Pilbara**

The towns of Port Hedland, Newman and Karratha are always busy due to the mining boom. You can relax at nearby Karijini National Park with its waterfalls and gorges.

*Location*

The Pilbara is bordered by the Indian Ocean to the west and the Northern Territory border to the east. It lies south of the Kimberley region.

## *Geography*

The Pilbara's area of 507,896 square kilometres (including offshore islands) contains most of the population in the west. The eastern third is largely desert with few inhabitants. The area features the gorges and river valleys of Karijini National Park and is home to two of the state's most valuable export industries, iron ore and liquefied natural gas.

## *Major towns*

The major population centres are the towns of Port Hedland and Karratha. Other important towns are Dampier, Newman, Onslow, Pannawonica, Paraburdoo, Roebourne and Tom Price.

## *More information:*

» [Australia's North West tourism](#)

## **Great Southern**

Albany is the vibrant capital of the area, with historic attractions and an amazing rugged coastline. Visit the nearby Mount Barker wine region.

## *Location*

The Great Southern region is located on the south coast of WA, adjoining the Southern ocean, where the coast extends for approximately 250 kilometres.

## *Geography*

Small in area, making up only 1.5% of the state, this area has many different characters. The rugged Porongurup Ranges, Mount Barker wine region and Southern Ocean whale watching can all be found here.

## *Major towns*

The major population centre is the town of Albany, the state's oldest European settlement and a major port.

Other important towns are Denmark, Katanning, Kojonup and Mount Barker.

## *More information:*

» [Australia's South West tourism](#)

## **South West**

The Margaret River wine region produces world class reds and whites and is WA's most popular holiday destination. The regional capital of Bunbury is home for more than 50,000 people. Visit towering forests – you can walk amongst the tree tops at the awe-inspiring Valley of the Giants. There are caves to explore and great spots for scuba diving.

### ***Location***

The South West region is found in the south west corner of the State, facing the Indian and Southern Oceans.

### ***Geography***

The region covers an area of 23,998 square kilometres. The rugged coastline, world-class surfing, caves and wineries are some of the many attractions for visitors. The Valley of the Giants tree top walk is found near Walpole.

### ***Major towns***

The major population centre is the town of Bunbury. Other important towns are Busselton, Collie, Manjimup, Margaret River and Pemberton.

### ***More information:***

» [Australia's South West tourism](#)