

BEVERLEY

GOOMALLING

NORTHAM

TOODYAY

YORK

# Avon Valley

VINTAGE AND VIBRANT



DESTINATION  
**Perth**



*The Avon Valley acknowledges and pays their respects to the Ballardong people of the Nyoongar Nation as the traditional custodians of the land, waterways and skies of the area. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge their ongoing contribution to Country, culture and community.*







# DISCOVER THE **AVON VALLEY**

Welcome to the Avon Valley, a region of green rolling hills, golden farmlands, babbling brooks and historic country towns full of character and yesteryear charm. Visit the vintage towns of Beverley, Goomalling, Northam, Toodyay and York, all within a 30-minute drive of each other, and immerse yourself in each place's heritage and stories.

The region is also rich in the stories of the **Ballardong Nyoongar** people who lived in harmony with the natural environment of the Avon region for thousands of years. In 1831, the first European settlers arrived, two years after Perth's settlement, and townships were established along the Avon River. To this day, the Avon Valley presents a fusion of heritage and culture, natural environment and contemporary country living; encouraging visitors to rediscover a vintage and vibrant landscape of festivals, events, galleries and craft shops, hot-air ballooning, walk and bike trails, stargazing, and natural bushlands.

Foodies are well-catered for with traditional country pub fare and bespoke eateries featuring locally-sourced jams, olives, chocolate and honey. Leisurely afternoon teas also beckon where you can pile the scones high with jam and cream, wind back the clock and feel worlds away.

History buffs and art lovers can discover a range of hidden public art, sculptures and murals within the main townsites, whilst visiting the array of museums, art galleries, historical attractions and antique shops that are dotted around.

For the adventurous, the region boasts the only place in Western Australia where you can soar to the skies in a hot-air balloon. The gondola basket offers panoramic views of the tributaries flowing into the Avon River along with sweeping fields of barley and canola, Australia's green and gold.

The Avon Valley plays host to a plethora of year-round festivals and events that breathe vibrancy into the region. Regular farmers markets, antique fairs, vintage car rallies, motorcycle, art and cultural festivals, and the annual **Avon Descent** bring this charming region even more to life.

Spring is the perfect reason (and season) to experience the Avon Valley. Landscapes of yellow canola, rolling lush green farmlands, and carpets of wildflowers all invite you to rediscover the natural world. Rare and unique orchid species can be found in a number of National Parks, reserves and scenic walk trails throughout the region.





# AVON VALLEY MUST DO'S



## Hot-air ballooning in Northam

The Avon Valley is renowned for its gorgeous scenery, and what better way to see it than a hot-air ballooning experience in Northam. Enjoy a spectacular sunrise flight, taking in the majestic sights of the valley in the early morning light. In winter you can experience a foggy, mystical sunrise, with golden canola coming to life during spring.



## Explore a wildflower trail

The Avon Valley provides an exquisite range of wildflowers to discover, with dedicated wildflower trails dotted across the region. Beverley is home to two new trails at **Brooking Street Reserve** showcasing over 12 native orchid species including the hybrid pink fairy and cowslip orchid.



## Motorbikes welcome

Each year in April, the **York Motorcycle Festival** attracts thousands of motoring enthusiasts to experience the motorcycle-friendly region, through charity rides across the region, industry stalls, and plenty of motorcycle-friendly stops. Outside the Festival, towns across the region offer helmet storage, visor-wiping and coat-racking areas at participating businesses. Ask for more details at the local Visitor Centres.

## Enjoy a pub meal

In every town of the Avon Valley, you will find a historical pub with a story to tell. Sit down to a quintessential Australian meal of paddock-to-plate steak and mashed potato, chicken parmigiana, or try something a little different with a number of fusion food twists available in the region.







### The Avon Descent

This two-day, white-water event is held on the Avon River on the first Saturday and Sunday in August. Families, support crews and over 600 competitors descend into the region to paddle, row, boat, and explore the beautiful countryside whilst enjoying additional festivities held across the region.

### Storytelling, culture and connection

The **York Festival** is an annual three-weekend arts festival taking place each spring (Djilba and Kambarang in the Nyoongar six seasons) in the historic town of York, on Ballardong Nyoongar country. Featuring arts and crafts, theatre, dance, music, storytelling, family workshops and activities, and more. The York Festival celebrates community and cultivates creativity.



### Swing by a weekend market

On most weekends you'll find a bustling country or farmers market in action within the Avon Valley. It's a great opportunity to sample some fresh produce, chat to the locals, or take home a local craft souvenir.



### Follow the yellow field road

Fields of gold make for a stunning sight when the Avon Valley puts on a show during August and September. Head into the local visitor centre to find out how you can safely view the crops of canola either roadside or at purpose-planted properties, or book a gliding experience in Beverley for a bird's eye view. Spring and festival season coincides with canola flowering and it is the most popular time of the year to visit the region.

### Visit Slater Homestead

One of WA's best-kept secrets, the historic stone and mud-brick dwelling of **Slater Homestead** can be found just outside Goomalling and is a must-see location. Relax and watch the local birds whilst taking in the surrounds, then bask in the ambience of Mary's Tearoom whilst enjoying homemade classic cakes and Devonshire Tea.

### It's Christmas 360 – the Toodyay Christmas Shop

Christmas 360 has long called Toodyay home and provides residential and commercial Christmas decorations to people all over the world regardless of the time of year. It's a great chance to indulge in festive cheer whilst browsing or buying local, Australian and international decorations.





# DISCOVER BEVERLEY



## Experience life in a heritage country town with a proud history

The township of Beverley is one of the first colonial settlements established in Western Australia. Located 123km east of Perth, it is believed to be named after the English town of Beverley in Yorkshire. Marked by fine examples of colonial architecture, Beverley is steeped in tales of pioneering triumphs and tribulations. Visitors can explore the area's heritage buildings, art galleries and other historical attractions. This rural heritage town in the wheat/sheep belt sits on the banks of the Avon River and is surrounded by tranquil rolling hills, pastures and native bushland.

A stroll down the main street offers the opportunity to admire a variety of heritage architectural styles. The award winning **Vincent Street Heritage Trail**, a self-guided tour of the heritage buildings in town, showcases the various architectural styles from Art Deco to Georgian to the newly-built Cornerstone. A unique, augmented reality app is available to download from the app store to guide you on this hour-long tour, starting at the **Beverley Visitor Centre** that also houses a contemporary **Aeronautical Exhibition**. Well worth a look is the nearby Dead Finish Museum, Ferguson Vintage Collection, and the Avondale Agricultural Museum, open by appointment, and 6km out of town at Avondale Farm.

Beverley is also home to some fun, quirky little shops and eclectic art galleries that support local Wheatbelt painters, jewellers, and sculptors. The **Beverley Station Arts and Platform Theatre** is located in the 1886-built Victorian Tudor-style Railway Station. As well as housing the Shire of Beverley art collection and artists-in-residence (who you can chat to) it also hosts outdoor performances and events between September and April.

If you're visiting Beverley with children, don't miss **Moort Wabiny Park**, located along the main street. The park offers something to entertain the whole family for hours including a nature play area with a restored red Austin truck, basketball court, pump track, and skate bowl with street elements. Geocaching is also a great way to explore Beverley and the many geocaches hidden throughout the Shire can also entertain the kids for the day.







In 1930, the flight of a locally-built aeroplane, "The Silver Centenary", began Beverley's long association with flying, producing one of Western Australia's first privately-built aircraft. The biplane was built to commemorate the State's Centenary and was constructed from chalk drawings sketched on the floor of the town's powerhouse. Today the Visitor Centre pays homage with a wonderful interactive display, complete with a 1:5 scale model, exact replica of the Silver Centenary plane built in Beverley.

Nature-lovers will adore **Yenyening Lakes**, a series of salt lakes just 35 minutes east of the township, and a haven for local birdlife and wildlife. Recreational use of the lakes has been enjoyed by local families since the early 1960s which include canoeing, kayaking, surf-cat sailing and bird-watching.

Yenyening Lakes is also a popular stargazing location and a hotspot for photographers wanting to get a spectacular astrophotography shot with no light pollution. The backdrop of the lakes and surrounding farmlands make for a unique and tranquil setting.

For the avid photographer, historic **Avondale Farm**, managed by the National Trust, and the Beverley Airfield also make for great locations with unique backdrops.

The **Beverley Airfield** was upgraded in the 1940s to support the war effort but these days it's home to the largest gliding club in Western Australia, where gliding is a popular past-time for members. Visitors can also book an exhilarating 30 minute Air Experience Flight where you can even have a go at taking the controls yourself.

If keeping both feet firmly on the ground is more your thing, take a hike up **County Peak** for incredible panoramic views of the region. Although there are no formal trails it is still worth the hike up. County Peak was given its name when the first surveyors drew up the original counties for the Swan River colony in 1829, with the peak being the intersection of counties York, Howick, Grantham and Minto. The peak is also known as Mount Quajabin, and is believed to be derived from an Aboriginal word meaning 'good camp'. For an easier, but longer walk, check out the **Christmas Tree Well Walk**, which is a 12km loop. With all walks, make sure you dress appropriately, take water and in the warmer months keep an eye out for snakes.

Wildflower season is a real spectacle in Beverley, and you can discover a particularly amazing patch within walking distance of the main street at the **Brooking Street Reserve**. Poison Hill Reserve and the Dale River Reserve are also hotspots for seasonal orchids and native birds, with dedicated walking trails either installed or underway to help discover and protect the native flora in the area and are best visited from July through to October. The agricultural landscape is also particularly magnificent this time of year with acres of golden canola.

A range of accommodation options in Beverley will make you feel right at home, including a bed-and-breakfast, a caravan park offering well-appointed cabins, hotels, and authentic farm stays – the perfect way to immerse yourself in the rural experience. There is also a popular free 48-hour RV stopover site located alongside the beautiful Avon River.

Make sure you also check out the gorgeous public art and murals painted by James Giddy. Try to spot all five of his pieces which are dotted around the buildings in Vincent Street and were inspired by the local, natural environment.





# DISCOVER GOOMALLING



## History, nature, farming, and a humble wheatbelt town feel

132km north-east of Perth, Goomalling is a delightful rural township and was amongst the first of WA's colonial settlements. Giant wheat domes provide a striking landmark in Goomalling, while art and crafts, country markets, and a colourful history add to the rustic vibe. Enveloped by seemingly endless open countryside that changes dramatically with the seasons, the region had its colonial beginnings in the mid-1800s when pastoralists settled in the area. Later in 1880s and 1890s it became a stopover for prospectors heading to the eastern goldfields, instigating an increase in permanent settlers who established accommodation and provisions. The opening of a railway line from Northam in 1902 led to the formal establishment of the townsite in 1903.

Goomalling originates from a Nyoongar word meaning '**place of possums**' due to the silver-grey possums that were once abundant in the area. Today the townsite remains the gateway to the central Wheatbelt and contains many place names of Aboriginal origin, chiefly water holes and geographical features.

The first European settler and farmer in Goomalling was George Slater, whose historic **Slater Homestead** was the first residence and can be visited 3km east of the Goomalling townsite. This homestead was used as a stopover for prospectors during the gold rush days of the 1880s.

A visit to the homestead offers an opportunity to step back in time as you wander through the beautifully restored heritage-listed building, with restorative Devonshire teas and light lunches served in the on-site cafe, Mary's Tearoom, from April to October.

In town you can immerse yourself in more history, by following the Heritage Walk past the old Farmers' Club, churches, convent, railway station, and many other places of historical interest. Another fascinating place to explore is the **Goomalling School House Museum**, where the displays and rooms showcase the local history including a range of old machinery, a rare windmill, a school room, and an adjacent residence, all restored to reflect the 1900-1940 era.





Goomalling is a key stop on the Pioneers' Pathway, a scenic self-drive journey that traverses the Wheatbelt, following the well-worn trail many prospectors once took on their way to the Yilgarn and Kalgoorlie Goldfields.



Goomalling is home to a variety of artists, and their creative work can be seen as you travel throughout the Shire. The **Wheatbelt Wander Wall** on Railway Terrace reflects the local history, culture and lifestyle, and is a result of a large community project in 2004 that was instigated by local artist, Fleur Schell.

Wildflowers take bloom in Goomalling from July to September each year, with a variety of unique and beautiful orchids found in the local reserves. The Shire itself is within one of Australia's 15 National Biodiversity Hotspots, with **Oak Park** and Salmon Gum Way being vital reserves for protecting the local biodiversity. The interpretative 3km walk trail at Oak Park includes information about Goomalling's First Nations Ballardong people and their culture, and where you can discover the gnamma holes which were a water source when they collected rain. The nature walk at Salmon Gum Way, right in town, is another interesting stroll where you can discover local birdlife, echidnas, and possibly the koomal possum.

Another impressive site to visit is the **Gabby Quoi Quoi Lookout**, providing views over the agricultural landscape. This can be an especially beautiful sight during canola season when carpets of yellow can be seen all the way to the horizon. The lookout is also a great place to see the hundreds of thousands of trees that local families have planted to improve the environment, and tours are available from the Gabby Quoi Quoi Catchment Group. Panoramic night-time views will also satisfy avid stargazers, with magnificent views above the local bush and farmlands.

Be sure to stop and wander through the **Mortlock River Reserve**, located less than 10km south of Goomalling. If you're lucky, you might see an echidna here, so keep your eyes peeled.

A visit to Goomalling is not complete without visiting the iconic grain storage domes. The 'Dolly Twins' stand out from miles away and are not to be missed. These four huge grain storage domes form a striking and unique structure – the only one of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

If you are after a true country dining experience, head to the **Jennacubbine Tavern**, the Shire's famous steak house, for a satisfying meal and drink. Or check out one of the region's many local roadhouses, pubs or cafes for classic Australian meals, delicious cakes and gourmet snack boxes.

Goomalling offers a variety of accommodation options to suit everyone's needs, ranging from the centrally-located caravan park and motel units, to a self-contained farm cottage or boutique bed-and-breakfast.

This humble townsite has a variety of attractions to enjoy, and the friendliness of its people have visitors returning time and time again.





# AVON VALLEY ROAD TRIP

Hit the road for a self-drive that oozes authentic country vibes

## DAY 1 PERTH TO TOODYAY

Approx. 75mins & 87km

Arrive in the historic town of Toodyay after a scenic drive from Perth. Head straight to the Toodyay Visitor Centre to discover the town's highlights and all there is to see and do in one of the oldest inland towns in WA.

History is alive in Toodyay where you can explore the **Newcastle Gaol Museum**, the iconic **Connor's Mill Museum**, World War II sites in Pelham Reserve, and the town's walking trails.

In spring, the wildflower season puts on a show at the **Pelham Reserve**, Dawn Atwell Reserve, and Wongamine Nature Reserve, with spectacular walking trails peppered throughout. The popular **Bilya Walking Track** begins in town and then follows alongside the Avon River behind town to lead to secluded, serene bushland.

Toodyay is known for its parks, nature reserves and natural bushland – so expect this in abundance. Bring your picnic basket, stock it up at the award-winning bakery and a winery or two, and head to one of the many picturesque locations for an afternoon of natural bliss.

If kids are in tow, then check out the local archery park or emu farm. But the real star of the show occurs every first and third Sunday of each month (except during the fire ban season), where the **Toodyay Miniature Railway** comes to life.

Rest easy overnight at one of Toodyay's accommodation options, ranging from luxurious glamping tents, tiny cabins, historical bed-and-breakfasts, tastefully decorated self-contained cabins, or set up your caravan or tent at the local caravan park.

## DAY 2 TOODYAY TO NORTHAM VIA GOOMALLING

Approx. 35mins & 49km then approx. 35mins & 46km

On your way from Toodyay to Northam, take a diversion to the humble wheatbelt town of Goomalling, where from July to September, the streets are lined with bright wildflowers and orchids. Spend the morning exploring the **Goomalling Schoolhouse Museum**, then visit the **Gabby Quoi Quoi Lookout** and check out the walk trail, wetlands and gnamma holes at **Oak Park**.

Afterwards, embrace old world charm at **Mary's Tearoom** within **Slater Homestead**, one of WA's best-kept secrets. Unwind to the warm country hospitality as you enjoy an indulgent Devonshire Tea or devour a delicious homemade cake with a coffee.

On arriving in Northam make sure you take in the bright public artwork and unique architecture before stopping by the Northam Visitor Centre. Here, gather all the information you'll need to explore this historic town.

Be sure to visit the **Bilya Koort Boodja Centre** for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge on the foreshore of the Avon River. This regional tourist attraction offers an interactive educational experience that recognises the rich Aboriginal and environmental presence in the region. While you're by the river, look out for **white swans** – this is the only place in WA that they call home.

Northam is an official Astrotourism Town, so out-of-this-world stargazing experiences await after sunset. Northam's dark night skies allow you to enjoy the Milky Way at its finest.

There are loads of great places to rest your head for the night, including beautifully-renovated historic hotels, caravan parks, chalets, motels and hotels, plus free overnight Recreational Vehicle parks on the outskirts of town.

The next morning, create memories that will last a lifetime on a **hot-air balloon flight** in Northam – the only place in Western Australia where you can take to the sky like this. Between April and November, you can enjoy a spectacular sunrise flight that takes in the majestic sights of the Avon Valley with its rolling green hills and morning mists to fields of golden canola if you catch them in season.





The Avon Valley region is perfect for both a day trip or a longer jaunt where you can easily explore historic Beverley, Northam, Goomalling, Toodyay and York on a self-drive getaway. We've done the legwork and have mapped out an epic three-night itinerary. Sit back, strap in and start the car – it's time to hit the road for the ultimate Avon Valley road trip.



### DAY 3

## NORTHAM TO YORK

Approx. 25mins & 36km

As you head into town stop off at the York Visitor Centre and **York Town Hall** for a warm welcome and to plan your perfect itinerary for the day ahead. Meander through the iconic Town Hall, its majestic staircase, upstairs dress circle, and spend a moment in quiet reflection at the Town Hall honour board.

Stretch your driving legs with a wander along the Terrace, stopping to admire York's heritage buildings including **Sargents Pharmacy** (with its mortar and pestle pediment on the roof), the **York Courthouse and Gaol**, and the many bullnose verandas and nostalgic signs along the way.

Take in a couple of galleries (that also offer a well-earned coffee or Devonshire tea) or check out the **York Motor Museum** – the only community-owned-and-operated motor museum in Australia.

Pack a picnic from one of the many eateries and enjoy lunch alfresco at **Avon Park** on the banks of the Avon River, a short two-minute walk from the main street, with picnic seating, toilets and grassy nooks.

Rejuvenate with a walk across the suspension bridge with views towards **Mount Bakewell** following the loop back to the park via the oldest croquet club in WA, or walk further afield to join the **Avon Walk Trail**, discovering birdlife that call the river home.

Settle in at a range of accommodation from boutique bed-and-breakfasts, homesteads, farm stays, caravan parks, holiday homes and other self-contained accommodation options. A RV rest stop adjacent to Avon Park on the banks of the Avon River makes for a perfect overnight stop right in the heart of the town.

Before the sun goes down, take the heart-starter walk or short drive from the townsite to **Wongborel / Mount Brown Lookout** and experience a wheatbelt sunset. The lookout provides picnic tables and offers stunning 360-degree panoramic views of York and amazing stargazing.



### DAY 4

## YORK TO PERTH VIA BEVERLEY

Approx. 25mins & 34km then approx. 1-hour 41mins & 123km

On the cruisy drive back to Perth, stop by the vibrant heritage town of Beverley.

Pop into the Beverley Visitor Centre to find your bearings, then learn about the town's rich history at one of the museums and explore the town following the award-winning Vincent Street Heritage Walk. Inspired by the stunning murals you spot along the way, you might even like to drop into the **Beverley Station Gallery** and meet the current artist-in-residence.

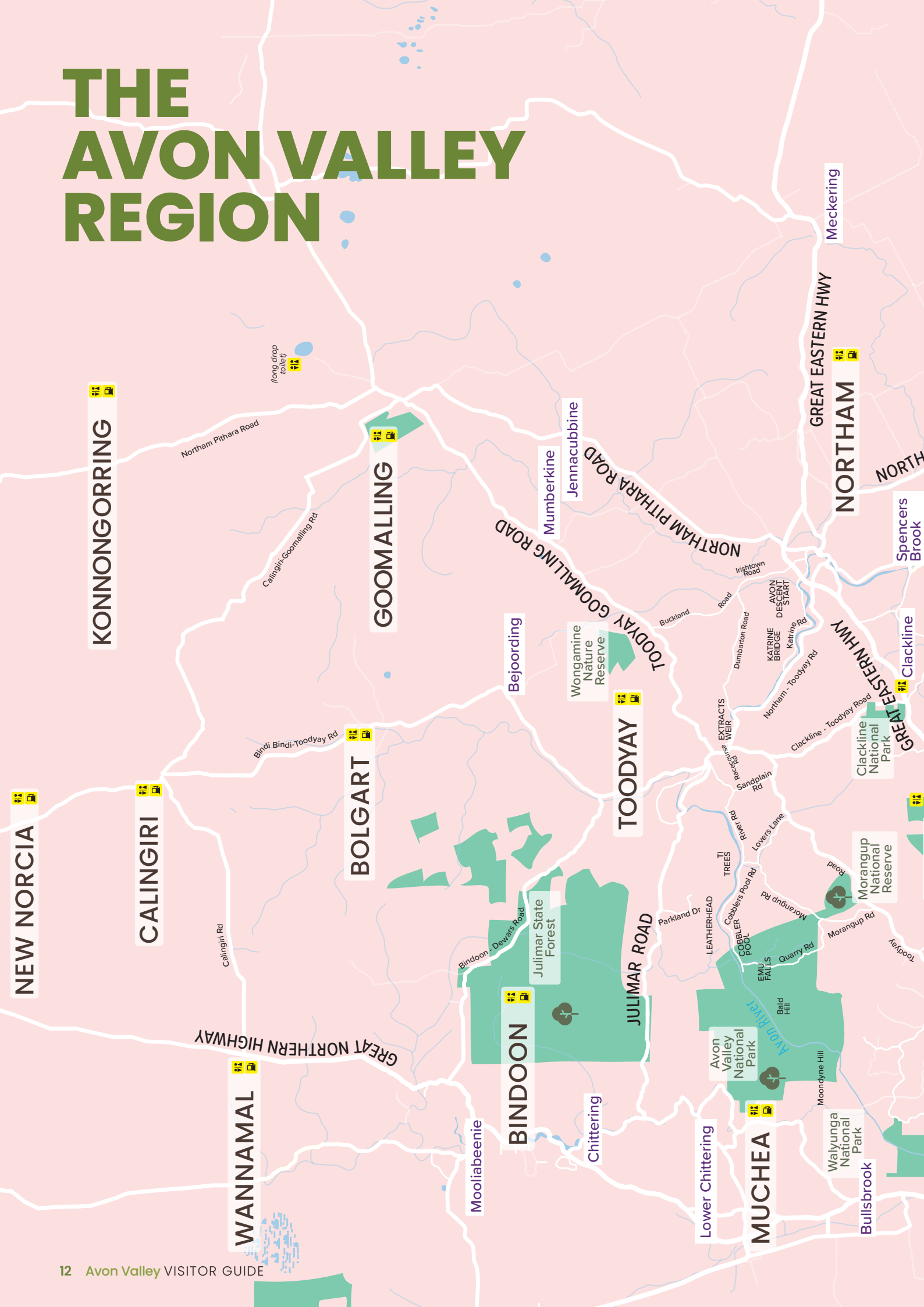
If you haven't pre-booked a glider experience to view the Avon Valley by air, head off on a walking trail instead to enjoy the Shire of Beverley's varied landscapes and diverse vegetation. There are also a number of geocaching trails to explore.

If you decide to stay an extra night, the Beverley Caravan Park boasts luxury cabins with modern furnishings and extremely comfortable king beds – perfect for one last night on the road.

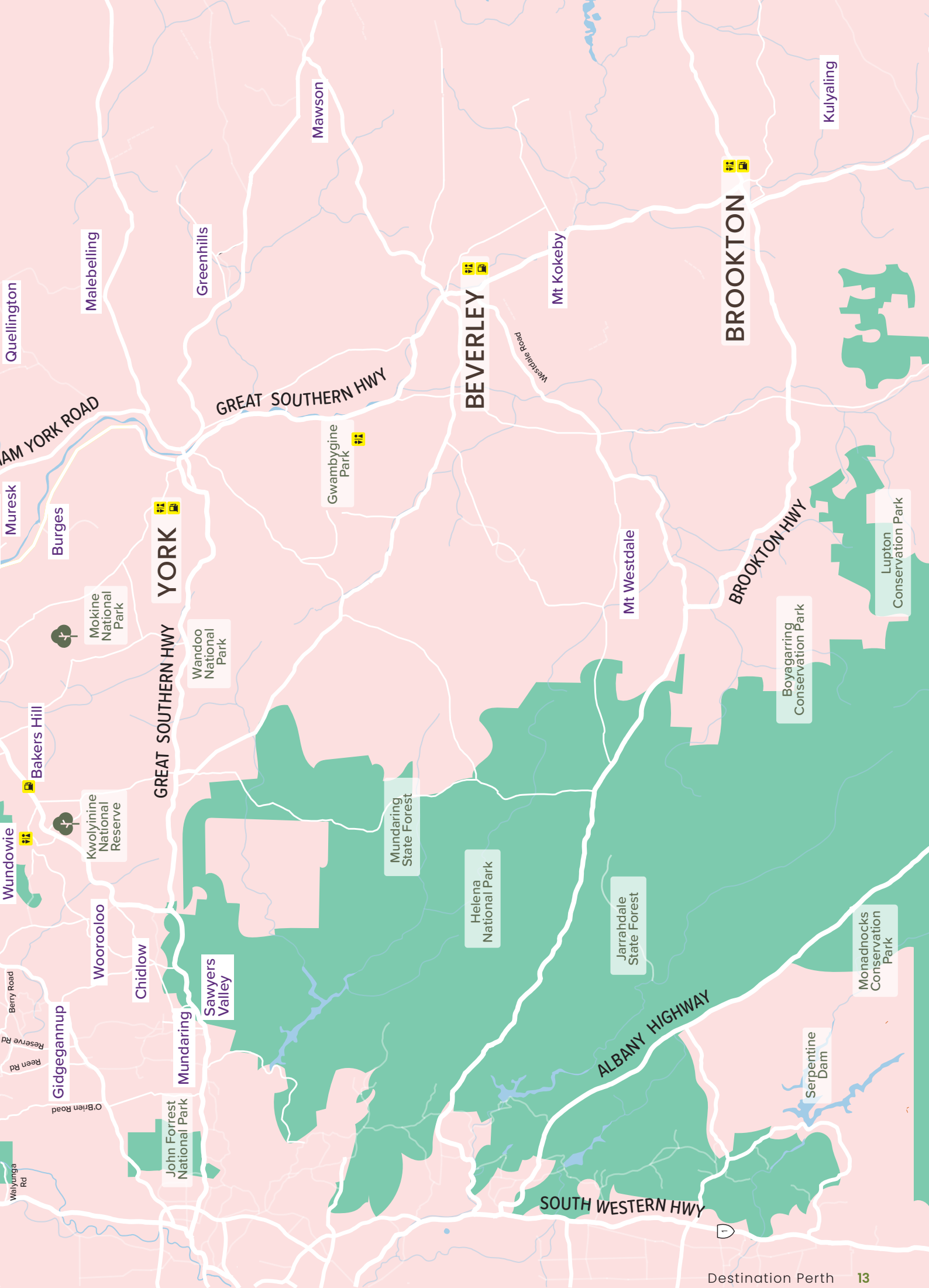




# THE AVON VALLEY REGION









# DISCOVER NORTHAM



## The valley's cultural hub

Nestled in the heart of the Avon Valley and located just 96km from Perth, Northam is known for its diverse collection of tourist and heritage attractions including hot-air ballooning, cultural experiences, historical buildings, wildflowers, and horse-racing. Alongside a vibrant calendar of regular events, Northam also hosts national and international hot-air ballooning championships, and is the starting point for the annual two-day river challenge, the Avon Descent.

As the largest town in the Avon Valley, Northam makes a great base for your explorations of the region. With over 185 heritage-listed buildings, the town has the second-highest number of heritage buildings in WA, making for some spectacular streetscapes.

There are many activities around town for visitors, including nature trails, adventure activities, historical assets, and drive trails highlighting beautiful large-scale public artworks.

Exploring the town's architecture on foot is a rewarding experience as along the way you'll also discover many craft and curio shops. Whilst meandering down Fitzgerald Street, you may notice 12 sculptures placed outside historically-significant places. This collaborative project between the Avon Valley Arts Society and the Northam Historical Society lifts the veil on some of the interesting stories of Northam's past.

With a variety of murals, sculptures and exhibitions from local art groups, Northam has a wealth of arts for you to discover around town. The iconic **Northam Flour Mill Mural**, a stunning piece on the historic flour mill building, was designed and painted by Perth-based artist, Amok Island, and is not to be missed. The large-scale mural celebrates Northam's white swans and their home on the banks of the Avon River.

Northam is rich in both colonial and Aboriginal history, and the **Northam Heritage Centre**, located at the Old Northam Railway Station, houses exhibits from early settlers' times including a steam locomotive, train carriages, and historical displays.

**Morby Cottage** was Northam's very first house and built by the town's founder John Morrell, the first settler to farm in Northam. The cottage is a perfect preserved piece of history and a fascinating insight into Northam's rich and varied history. A number of self-guided tours, such as the Heritage Trail are available, so visit the Northam Visitor Centre for a tour brochure and to find out more.



Northam's key attraction and must-see is Bilya Koort Boodja Centre for Nyoongar Culture and Environmental Knowledge. The centre offers an interactive educational experience that highlights and celebrates the rich Aboriginal history and presence in the Nyoongar Ballardong region. Located on the foreshore of the Avon River, the centre hosts many events, tours and workshops, and is also a great place to purchase authentic Aboriginal artwork and souvenirs by local Nyoongar artists.





A 38-metre-high mural painted onto eight silos side-by-side is quite a spectacle and makes up part of WA's PUBLIC Silo Trail. Situated right in the midst of a fully working CBH Group grain receival site, this icon is located between the townships of Toodyay and Northam.

The Avon River flows through the town and is fringed by soft grassy banks and shady trees. Picnicking beside the river is a popular pastime, but no trip to Northam is complete without taking a walk along one of **Australia's longest pedestrian suspension bridges**. Commonly-known as the 'Swinging Bridge', it stretches 117 metres across the vast Avon River, and is capable of withstanding 150kph winds and holding 400 people. Built in 1975, this iconic bridge is a wonderful spot to view the local **white swan** population, which were brought here by settlers nearly 150 years ago. Northam is the only location in Australia where the white swan will breed naturally in the wild and are now a protected species.

To learn even more about this beautiful town, why not join one of the Shire of Northam's Bilya Bidi guided tours, where you can join experienced and knowledgeable local guides on a walking or bus tour to discover Northam's diverse natural and cultural history.

While there are many activities to choose from in Northam, **hot-air ballooning** is one experience definitely worth including, with rides operating in the region since 1977. Lifting off at dawn you'll float gently over this rural landscape of rolling hills, lush green fields and meandering streams as you wait for the first signs of sunrise. Canola season proves to be a popular time for this activity, with passengers having the opportunity to float above fields of gold during the flowering season.

Northam's local reserves offer an ideal chance to view the region's unique flora and fauna. **Clackline Reserve** has a number of walk trails, with the popular Flora Trail coming alive in spring with everlastings, orchids, fringed lilies, and more. **Woondowing Nature Reserve** is another must-see for the avid wildflower enthusiast. Whilst year-round you can take in the beautiful vistas from the **Mount Ommanney Lookout**, situated just outside the Northam townsite.

Since 1863, Northam has been home to one of WA's premier provincial racecourses, the **Northam Racecourse**. The Northam Race Club hosts approximately 22 race meetings per year from May to December, with the majority of race dates held mid-week on either Wednesday or Thursday. There are five feature weekend race meetings throughout the year, the first being the **Northam Stakes**, with on-course entertainment, fashions, and of course some of WA's best galloping action on the track.

Northam became an official **Astrotourism Town** in 2019, with a number of designated astrophotography hotspots within its borders. Katrine Road is a perfect location, with no light pollution, an abundance of natural beauty, and historic buildings such as the Glenfield Homestead ruins. Bert Hawke Oval is another key viewing site, with ample space for the set-up of telescopes.

A range of accommodation is available in Northam to make the perfect home away from home; including local glamping tents, historical inns, hotels, manors and estates dotting the township, as well as a caravan park and free overnight Recreational Vehicle parks in Wundowie and Eadine Springs.





# DISCOVER TOODYAY



## An eclectic destination immersed in landscape and legend

The picturesque Avon Valley town of Toodyay is one of the oldest inland settlements in Western Australia. Only 86km north-east of Perth, Toodyay features charming displays of 19th century history, with the architecture reminiscent of its colonial and convict past. From 1860 to 1910, the town was known as Newcastle, but when this caused problems with mail being delivered to Newcastle in New South Wales, the name was changed to Toodyay – derived from the Nyoongar word, “Dudja,” meaning place of mist and fog. The Shire is unique as it is within the three Nyoongar Boodja boundaries of the Ballardong, Yued and Whadjuk peoples.



Nature lovers won't want to miss the Toodyay Reserve Trails, spanning the Dawn Atwell Nature Reserve, Rugged Hills Reserve, Majestic Heights Reserve, Panorama Reserve, Pelham Reserve, and Ray Paynter Reserve at the Wongamine Reserve, all showcasing the spectacular flora and fauna of the region. In season, wildflower sightings include Blue Leschenaultia, Fringed Lily, Cats Paw, a variety of orchids, fields of everlastings, and more! The popular Bilya Walking Track begins in town then follows alongside the Avon River behind town to lead to secluded, serene bushland.





Toodyay is also a treasure trove for those with a taste for colonial history, as it oozes stories of bushrangers, convicts and war heroes, including the infamous Moondyne Joe.

World War II sites with walking trails can also be found in Toodyay, with the **World War II Bunker Trail** taking you around a local Bunker Complex – look out for the four trench entrances dotted around. The World War II Revetment Spillway and Original Reservoir is assumed to have sheltered the main building of a planned field signal unit. The Rifle Range Loop will take you to the remnants of the old rifle range, believed to date back to World War I.

In the heart of town, exploring the **Newcastle Gaol Museum** offers a step back in time, with many displays and opportunities to learn about the local history, including the **Gnulla Karnany Waangkiny** (Our Truth Telling) exhibit, that honestly relates the experience of the Nyoongar people during the years of colonial settlement and beyond and is a part of the Shire's Reconciliation Action Plan. Further down the main street you'll find the iconic **Connor's Mill Museum**. Built in 1870, the mill has had a number of uses over the years, including a flour mill, powerhouse, and private residence. Climb the three floors of displays and check out the working milling machinery and Brotherhood steam engine.

The Newcastle Gaol Museum in Toodyay has a cell dedicated to Moondyne Joe. Authorities commissioned the building of the gaol to prevent other prisoners escaping after Joe's dramatic escape from the Toodyay Convict Depot lock-up. Today, Toodyay celebrates Moondyne Joe in style – with a free, family-friendly Moondyne Festival held mid-year. You can visit the Newcastle Gaol Museum throughout the year and take a step back in time to discover the era of Moondyne Joe, Western Australia's most famous bush ranger.

Toodyay has a thriving art community including an art gallery that supports local artists, playing host to various art exhibitions throughout the year. Toodyay is also a great place for public art spotting. Check out the murals at Charcoal Lane behind the IGA supermarket, including the bright birds mural – a joint venture between Toodyay Tidy Towns and the Shire of Toodyay after its win at the 2015 National Tidy Towns award. Opposite the mural is a Bushells sign which dates back to the 1930s, and is situated behind the heritage-listed Jager Store that has been home for a number of diverse businesses since it was built in 1897.

If you feel like some retail therapy, **Uniquely Toodyay**, a cooperative of local artists and producers, located in the Old Post Office, offers the chance to browse original artworks and creations, and discover local wares and produce. Toodyay is also home to a farmers market on the third Sunday of every month, with organic vegetables, eggs, chickens, plants, and more; plus education, art and music. For even more unique shopping, the town is home to a permanent Christmas store, allowing you to get into the festive spirit nine months of the year.

For kids, Duidgee Park and the **Toodyay Miniature Railway** offer a unique playscape and the perfect spot for a picnic with freshly-baked goods from the famous award-winning **Toodyay Bakery**. There are barbecues, picnic shelters, two playgrounds and a skate park. Hop aboard the Toodyay Miniature Railway for an eight-minute ride along the river. On your journey you will see some colourful characters amongst the beautiful scenery. The mini railway runs on the first and third Sunday of each month (except during fire ban season). If you are looking at taking the kids to meet some furry animals, the world's oldest emu farm and a number of cuddly animal attractions are all close by.

Overlooking the town, **Pelham Lookout** is a peaceful place to observe the landscape and the stars, with a number of walk tracks that you can explore day and night. The Avon River also offers a magical location to take in the scenery and look at the stars – Millard's Pool and Red Bank Pool, along the Bilya Walk Track are both ideally-located to admire both the sky and the river together.

A number of motels and hotels, historically-renovated hotels, bed-and-breakfasts, and self-contained accommodation options are dotted around Toodyay. Caravanning and camping are also popular within the township, with two parks available.





# DISCOVER YORK



## A small country town with a big history

Located 97km east of Perth city, the township of York is listed as a National Heritage Precinct. The town's natural stone masonry pubs, pediments a-top buildings, and century-old manors tell stories of times gone by. It is a town rich in history, arts and culture.

Make your first stop the York **Town Hall**, constructed in 1911, and home to the York Visitor Centre. The building showcases the ambitious plans settlers had for the town, with its sweeping jarrah staircase, pressed tin ceilings, and ornate column pillars. It was designed to be large enough to generate income from travelling picture-shows, but with the start of the First World War priorities changed and York never recovered the same confidence expressed in the Town Hall's construction.

Tours of the Town Hall take you on a journey through the days of its prosperous history, including tragic tales of the 'permanent residents' that linger, and into spaces that are not generally available for public access. The team at the Visitor Centre within can tailor other walking and coach tours, and recommend eateries, attractions and accommodation options.

Take a trip back to vintage times, stopping in at **Penny Farthing Sweets**, an eclectic collection of boiled sweets and chocolate treats from across the globe. Next pay a visit to the **Courthouse Complex and Gaol** – a poignant reminder of York's convict past and policing in the mid 1800's. The complex includes a cell block, exercise yard, troopers' cottage, and two courtrooms that were used until 1896. Today the complex showcases an extensive array of contemporary and traditional Aboriginal art and artisan products. Regular 'Trooper Tours' are also available throughout the year.

A stroll to follow one of the town's historic walk trails will uncover more of its interesting history. The **Grand Designs Walk** focuses on York's founding families and iconic buildings dotted along Avon Terrace.

Whereas the **Hidden Gems Walk Tour** reveals the undiscovered jewels of York's side streets and iconic suspension bridge. To follow in the footsteps of York's convicts and those who lived here in the convict era, check out the **Convicts and Crossings Walk**.

Complementing York's built heritage are its natural attractions of sweeping canola fields, golden farmlands, bush trails, orchid reserves, and wildflower hotspots. Take some time to self-drive the area from the hamlet town of **Greenhills** and its heritage trails through to **White Gum Air Park** with its gyrocopters and Boeing aeroplanes, or simply watch the sun set over the town atop the beautiful **Wongborel / Mount Brown**. The lookout is accessible by car, or by foot for the more energetic. Pack a picnic, order a share plate from town, or use the free gas barbecue to cook up a sunset meal. Mount Brown regularly has wallabies and kangaroos wandering the walk trails. In spring, carpets of everlasting wildflowers appear amongst the rocky outcrops.

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Along the Terrace you will discover the York Motor Museum – the only community-owned-and-operated motor museum in Australia. The museum houses WA's largest private car collection and motoring memorabilia, with vintage, veteran, and classic cars, plus motorcycles.





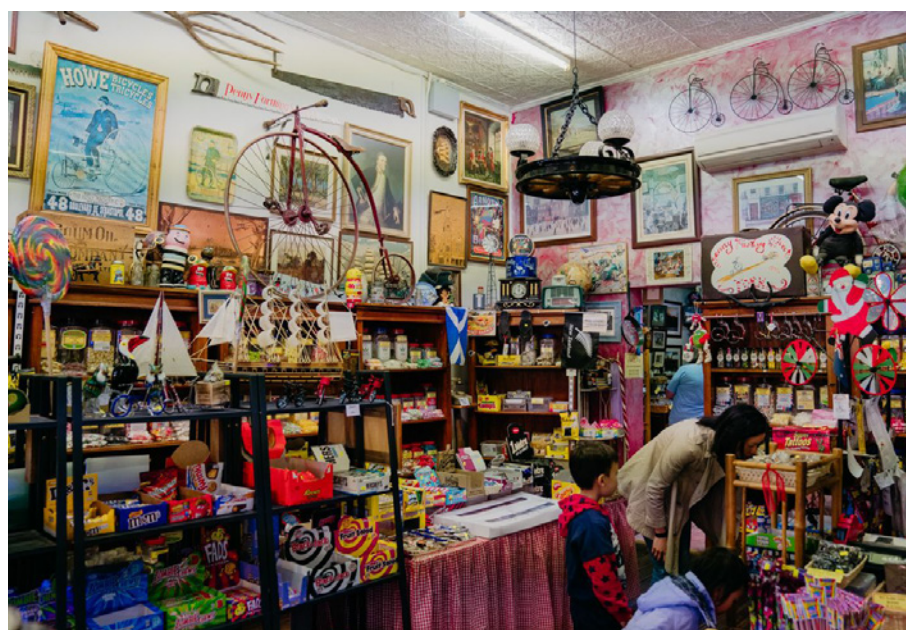


All year round, York hides a trail of tiny doors created for big imaginations, inviting visitors to discover York in a charming and creative way. With themes being added and moved each season to keep tiny hunters guessing.

For nature lovers, York's birdlife is plentiful, both along the river and within its nature reserves. **Wandoo National Park** offers a 2WD-accessible bird hide from September to November. Mokine Reserve, Wallaby Hills and Golf Links Walk offer the perfect opportunity to view Cowslip and Donkey Orchids, as well as Cats Paws, coneflowers, and more.

For the young or young-at-heart, Avon Park, nestled on the banks of the Avon River offers a perfect picnic spot with free gas barbecues, shaded picnic tables, grassed areas and trees. Kids will love the newly-established skate park, Nature Play playground and York's original swinging bridge.

Further up the Avon River, **Gwanbygine Park**, is the perfect location for stargazing. Mount Brown, Talbot Reserve and Greenhills are also popular hotspots, each offering low light pollution, plenty of parking, and wide-open spaces to marvel at the Milky Way spread across the sky.



A large number of artists, authors, growers and collectives also call York home, so it is no surprise that the town is teeming with artisan products, galleries, emporiums and collectives that showcase the town's people and their artistry. Browse the **Flour Mill Emporium**, purveyors of eclectic and quirky finds, or support the Good Life Store's vision of a waste-free world by pouring your own jar of honey. Enjoy a nourish bowl from Gather York, packed with locally-grown and sourced ingredients, and pop into Gallery 152, a great place to discover a striking piece of art.

York is renowned for its annual festivals program. From motorcycle festivals that encourage visitors to ride York's back roads, as well as annual cycle, mountain bike and downhill events, to its internationally-recognised **York Festival** full of authors, artists, eclectics, and musicians. York's calendar of events speaks to its people, place and stories, drawing thousands of visitors to its heart year-round.

The town's range of accommodation is as expansive as its history with over 350 accommodation beds including family cottages and farm stays, well-appointed guest houses and self-contained accommodation, restored manors filled with nostalgia and luxury, and share facilities and free RV parking alongside the Avon River. York prides itself on offering respite for all ages and budgets.



# EVENTS & USEFUL INFORMATION

## An eventful excuse to explore

Antique fairs, bush poetry events, racing days, sporting events, a Medieval Fayre, vintage car rallies, flower shows, farmers markets, and the famous Avon Descent bring this charming region to life. Check out [visit.york.wa.gov.au/events](https://visit.york.wa.gov.au/events) for the latest events in the region.



### The Avon Descent

The Avon Descent is one of WA's most iconic and longest-running multisport races and is held annually during August. In this two-day 124km adventure river race from Northam to Bayswater, solo, double and relay team participants race powerboats, kayaks, skis and SUP's. During the weekend, spectators get to enjoy all the white-water action from the riverbank at Family Fun Days in **Northam** and **Toodyay**.

### Regular Events

#### Beverley Community Market

1st Saturday of the month

#### Northam Lions Markets

1st Saturday of the month

#### Toodyay Farmers Markets

3rd Sunday of the month

#### Toodyay Miniature Railway

1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

#### York Peace Park Market

2nd Saturday of the month







## Northam

The **Avon Descent** August weekend kicks off every year on the Friday evening with the Northam Bilya River Festival. The action begins at midday when attendees can witness a steady stream of watercraft pass through Bernard Park as entrants register for the race. A themed community float parade starts the evening's festivities, followed by a blessing of the river to welcome the coming race. It's a unique way to highlight the importance of the Avon River in Aboriginal culture as well as celebrating the start of one of Australia's most exciting river-based events. The festival includes fun family entertainment, a sideshow alley, and live performances throughout the evening.

**Northam Farmers Show** in spring is a family-friendly show filled with rides, food, entertainment, animals, and more. It offers the opportunity to immerse yourself in a country glow during the day then stay late to watch the spectacular fireworks display.

October's **Northam Cup** is the major of five weekend race meetings held throughout the year at Northam Race Club, with family-friendly activities, fashions-on-the-field, and live music.



## Goomalling

The **Mother's Day Markets** is a Goomalling annual event that is both unique and wholesome. A range of local stall-holders make their way to the town, showcasing artisan products and local crafts – a perfect way to spend the morning.

**Goomalling's Harvest Festival** in October celebrates all things Goomalling and is a great reason to visit. With family fun, food trucks, art competitions, stalls, and other activities, there is plenty to enjoy and celebrate.

## Toodyay

May brings the annual **Moondyne Festival**, where the legend of Moondyne Joe, the Avon Valley's legendary bushranger transforms the town of Toodyay with an all-day festival with re-enactments of Moondyne's various escapades through the town, his arrests and mock trials. There's also a street theatre, colonial village, entertainment, artisan and heritage crafts, and food stalls – lots of fun for everyone.

The **Toodyay International Food Festival** occurs during the Avon Descent in August, allowing you to nibble on a range of tasty morsels while watching the thrills and spills from the riverbanks. Mouth-watering international cuisine and sweet treats are available from dozens of stalls accompanied by live music, kids' activities, and more.

Every October the **Toodyay Agricultural Show** offers up an authentic country experience, providing a forum for local businesses and producers to showcase their cattle, sheep, goats, home products, and more. You can explore and enjoy unique exhibits, crafters, market stalls, and an extensive entertainment program, whilst kids are catered for in a sideshow alley. Stay overnight to be delighted by the fireworks display, always popular with the young and young at heart.

## Beverley

Easter is a wonderful time to visit Beverley with **Easter Markets** and an **Easter Art Exhibition**, displaying over 400 artworks from renowned artists from all over Western Australia.

The **Beverley Agricultural Show** is an annual event held on the third Saturday in August and attracts more than 3,000 visitors to Beverley. It is a fun-filled, family event with a sideshow alley, exhibition sheds, animals, equestrian displays, and fireworks.

The **Beverley Platform Theatre** is an iconic Avon Valley event venue that hosts an eclectic mix of comedy, music, circus, drama and dance under the stars every month from September to April.



## York

**York Motorcycle Festival** in April is a free and family-oriented event featuring motorbike stunt shows, live music, trade displays, vintage markets, and kids' activities. A charity ride is the highlight of the festival, starting from Perth city and ending in York, incorporating a number of back road rides across the two-day event.

**YORKids** welcomes young people and their families over the WA Day long weekend each year. From magic shows and tiny door discoveries to roving bands, slapstick comedy and camel rides.

**The York Festival**, is an annual two-week arts festival that takes place in spring. Featuring arts and crafts, dance, theatre, music, storytelling, and family activities, the event celebrates community and creativity, and invites visitors to stay, play and explore York.





# Getting to the Avon Valley

## By train

The AvonLink train operates five return services per week between Midland and Northam (via Toodyay), and the MerredinLink train operates three return services per week between East Perth and Merredin. Their trains are spacious, air-conditioned, fully-accessible, and include free Wi-Fi and access to power-points, making it a convenient choice of transport.

## By car

Heading east out of the centre of Perth, you can reach the Avon Valley via multiple major highways and through beautiful countryside within 90 minutes.

## By bus

The GS2 coach from East Perth to Albany runs daily Sunday to Friday, stopping at Northam, York and Beverley. Wheelchair accessible toilet facilities are available.



## Keep the Avon Valley pristine

The Avon Valley is part of Western Australia's large and stunningly diverse state. Here are a few tips so you can help keep it that way.

- Be respectful of each place you visit and ensure you leave no trace. Take away anything you bring, do not pick wildflowers, and so preserve the land as you found it.
- Respect ancient Aboriginal customs and culture.
- Don't travel to areas that are private or not safely accessible. If you want photos of canola, don't trespass on farm land in order to take them. Doing so creates a bio-security risk and trampling on plants can ruin the crop. Instead, ask at the local visitor centre for the location of specially-grown crops that offer the perfect photo opportunity.
- Take care and treat the land with consideration when using a 4WD - stick to designated tracks.



# Visitor Centres



## Beverley

Located in the heart of town and stocking an array of visitor guides, Beverley mementos, gifts, fresh coffee beans, and many locally-made products. There is also a wonderful and interactive aeronautical display of the Silver Centenary bi-plane to discover.

**+61 8 9646 1600**  
**beverleywa.com**  
**@visit.beverley**

## Goomalling

Located along Goomalling's main strip, this small visitor centre is inside the town's mid-century Shire building. There are plenty of brochures on display and knowledgeable team members available to help you make the most of your time in the Avon Valley.

**+61 8 9629 1101**  
**visitgoomalling.com.au**  
**@visitgoomalling**

## Northam

An accredited visitor centre offering a one-stop-shop of information provided by local experts. Stock up on maps, gather ideas on the best things to see and do, and book tours and/or accommodation.

**+61 8 9622 2100**  
**northam.wa.gov.au**  
**@visitnortham**

## Toodyay

An accredited visitor centre filled with information to plan your trip to Toodyay and the Avon Valley with brochures, local produce, souvenirs and gifts on offer. Friendly team members are on-hand for recommendations and information on accommodation, events, attractions, dining options, and more.

**+61 8 9574 9380**  
**toodyay.wa.gov.au/visit-toodyay**  
**@visittoodyay**

## York

The majestic York Town Hall houses this visitor centre which provides expertise, local knowledge, festival information and experiences. Services and facilities include destination brochures, tour bookings, seasonal information, local supplier information, produce and gifts, free WIFI and public amenities.

**+61 8 9641 1301**  
**visit.york.wa.gov.au**  
**@experienceyork**



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Destination Perth is the Perth region's peak destination marketing organisation responsible for promoting the city and surrounds as a desirable leisure destination.

Find out more about the Avon Valley online at [destinationperth.com.au/avonvalley](https://destinationperth.com.au/avonvalley)



SCAN ME

DESTINATION  
**Perth**

WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA  
WALKING ON A DREAM