



## CYCLING FACT SHEET No. 81

# Albany rides set the standard

The Perth Bicycle Network has long been considered a world-class infrastructure initiative for cyclists, but there are also now a number of regional areas with excellent riding facilities.

Towns such as Mandurah, Kalgoorlie, Kalbarri and Margaret River are all developing state-of-the-art path/trail systems.

However, it is Albany that is setting the standard for everyone else to follow.

With a population of 35,000, Albany boasts a range of cycling facilities that double as transport links for locals and tourism opportunities for visitors.

For the latter, there are four major routes commencing at Middleton Beach that use a combination of paths and quiet roads – the Wind Trail; the Waves and Whales Trail; the Wildflower Trail; and the Go Taste Trail.

The Wind Trail is a 30km route, taking riders out to a new wind generation plant perched above the coast.

Waves and Whales, as the name suggests, is a 30km point-to-point ride (60km return journey) that concludes at the rugged Salmon Holes. This route takes riders along the scenic boardwalk, passing the yacht club and the iconic Whale World with its exhibits, displays and other attractions. The ride has some small hills but the spectacular views are worth the climb.

A 30km Wildflower Trail is another point-to-point route that is at its best in Spring, but well worth the effort at other times of the year.



Heading eastwards, this route takes in picturesque Lower King Bridge, a marron farm and Two People's Bay Nature Reserve

Go Taste is the longest route, at about 75km, and uses some busier roads for part of the journey. It is a loop ride that gives riders the ultimate farm-gate experience, visiting bicycle-friendly establishments such as wineries, breweries and craft factories.

Visitors to Albany don't need to bring their own bicycles, because there is a bike hire outlet offering a free pick-up and drop-off service to any accommodation in the area.

All of the above mentioned routes are shown in the Go Cycle Amazing Albany guide that can be obtained from visitor centres or downloaded in pdf format from the Bikewest website.

***This fact sheet is one of a series dealing with the use of bicycles for recreation and transport in Western Australia. The series looks at a range of cycling-related topics including ride routes, touring tips, maintenance, safety, road rules, insurance and product reviews. It is not to be construed as the provision of legal advice or advice about insurance products.***

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