



ALBURY

Location:

Albury is a major NSW inland city, located on the main road between Sydney and Melbourne (the Hume Highway) on the Border between NSW and Victoria.

On the Victorian side of the border is Albury's twin city, Wodonga. In many ways the two cities operate as one, separated only by the Murray River that runs between them.

Albury is about 550km from Sydney and 330km from Melbourne.



Overview:

The first inhabitants of the region were the Wiradjuri people who continue to have an important connection to the land.

Albury then took on an important role in Australia's colonial history, being where the first inland explorers (Hume and Hovell) crossed the Murray River. They were followed in the 1830s by people who wanted to farm the land and by those who set up shops to sell goods to the farmers. By the late 1840s the town was well established. Its significance as an inland town grew further after the railway line from Sydney arrived in 1881.

Both Albury and Wodonga have strong multicultural roots. Early settlers came from many parts of the world and diversity grew further from the mid 1900s. In 1947 a camp was established at nearby Bonegilla to be the first home for refugees who came to Australia after the Second World War. By the time the camp closed in 1971, some 320,000 people from over 30 countries had spent time there.

Albury today is a thriving inland city with all of the amenities of a major urban centre and a vibrant culture. It has an active cultural and artistic scene and a wide variety of recreational activities and venues.

Albury is also a Refugee Welcome Zone and its past history of supporting the refugees that came to Bonegilla is reflected in community attitudes towards refugees today.

Who lives there:

Albury has a population of about 55,000 and Wodonga has a population of about 40,000. Both cities support a regional area of about 180,000 people.

While the majority of the population are Australian born, Albury is home to a diverse population. More recent arrivals are people from India and the Philippines and refugees from Bhutan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka and elsewhere. There are also international students from many countries.

How to get there:

You can get to Albury by car, train, bus and plane.

It is approximately 6 hours drive from Sydney and 3½ hours from Melbourne.

There are three trains each day from Melbourne (V-Line) and the Sydney to Melbourne XPT service stops at Albury twice a day in each direction. Fares from Sydney start at \$85.

The bus from Sydney to Albury takes about 8 hours and prices start at about \$55.

Albury is served by three major airlines: Qantas, Virgin and Rex and there are several flights to/from Sydney and Melbourne each day. It takes about 1 hour to fly from Sydney and fares begin at about \$120 one way. Flights from Melbourne take about 45 minutes and fares start at \$116 (one way).

There are also flights from Albury to Brisbane and the Gold Coast on Jetgo.

Employment:

Albury has a rapidly growing economy. Key sectors of the economy include manufacturing, property, business services, retail, health, construction and education.

A number of large companies operate their businesses from Albury and the surrounding area including Geofabrics, Asahi Beverages, Norske Skog and Overall Forge. Other key employers are the Australian Taxation Office (which has a processing centre in Albury) and Albury Wodonga Health.

Websites you can look at to find employment:

- Border Mail (local paper): www.bordermail.com.au/jobs/
- Evojobs: www.evojobs.com.au
- Jora Australia: www.au.jora.com
- Seek: www.seek.com.au/jobs/in-Albury-Wodonga-&-Murray-NSW.

Another place you can try is:

- Drake International: Level 1, 490 David Street, Albury. Phone 02 6023 7222

For more employment agencies look at www.jobsearch.gov.au/serviceproviders.

You can also go to:

- Centrelink: 430 Wilson Street.

You might also like to make contact with:

Refugee Talent: specialises in linking refugees and employers (www.refugeetalent.com)

Thrive Refugee Enterprise: supports refugees to establish small businesses and provides access to micro-finance (www.thriverefugeeenterprise.org.au).

If you need documents translated for employment or other reasons, you can go to **Service NSW:** 520 Smollett Street, Albury.

Education and training:

For adults:

- There are two TAFE campuses, one in Albury (TAFE NSW Riverina) and one in Wodonga (Wodonga TAFE). Both offer a wide range of courses including fee-free Smart and Skilled courses.
- The TAFE College in Albury has AMEP classes.
- There are two universities: Charles Sturt in Albury and La Trobe in Wodonga.
- Albury Wodonga Community College also offers a range of courses.

For school students:

- Albury has 10 public primary schools and 3 public secondary schools. There are also several private schools.
- Schools in Albury are familiar with working with children from non-English speaking backgrounds.

There are also many pre-schools and early childhood centres in Albury.

Accommodation:

The median weekly cost of renting a one bedroom apartment is \$170 per week and \$230 for a 2 bedroom unit.

Median weekly rent for a 2 bedroom house is \$258, \$330 for a 3 bedroom house and \$370 for a 4 bedroom house. There is a good supply of rental accommodation.

Websites you can look at to find rental accommodation include:

Domain: www.domain.com.au/rent/albury-nsw-2640
Realestate.com.au: www.realestate.com.au/rent/in-albury,+nsw+2640/list-1
allhomes: www.allhomes.com.au/ah/nsw/rent-residential/albury/121449810

Affordable short term accommodation can be found through:

- Stayz: www.stayz.com.au
- Gumtree: www.gumtree.com.au

There are also three caravan parks that have cabins and caravans for rent:

- Albury All Seasons Tourist Park: 481 Wagga Road, Lavington (an Albury suburb): www.alburyallseasons.com.au
- Big 4 Tourist Park: 372 Wagga Road, Lavington: www.alburytouristpark.com.au
- The Travellers Retreat: 286 North Street, Albury North: phone 02 6021 8420.

Health Services:

Being a major city, Albury has high quality medical services including a fully equipped hospital and a specialist cancer centre (both accessed via the Riverina Highway in East Albury).

Gateway Health, based in Wodonga (155 High Street), has a Multicultural Health Clinic that specialises in health care for refugees and migrants. Phone 02 6022 8888.

STARTTS, the specialist trauma counselling service, has an outreach program for Albury. Phone 02 6921 4403 (the Wagga office) to make an appointment.

Places of worship:

The Albury Wodonga Community Guide (www.awcommunitytguide.com.au) lists places of worship for many faiths including those for Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Bahá'ís.

The Islamic Society of Albury Wodonga is located at 494 Wagga Road, Lavington, phone 0436 679 465.



Local transport:

Local and regional buses are run by Martins Albury (go to www.martinsalbury.com.au for information about routes and timetables) and a range of other companies. See www.awcommunitytguide.com.au for a list of other transport options.

There is a good network of bicycle paths in the city and to neighbouring areas and cycling is easy as most areas are fairly flat.

Sport and recreation:

As in most regional centres, people in Albury love sport and there are local teams for most sports.

Albury is home to the Murray Art Museum Albury (MAMA), Albury Entertainment Centre and Library Museum. The Flying Fruit Fly Circus (Australia's national youth circus and circus school) is also based in Albury.

Throughout the year there are many festival and community events, including events that celebrate Refugee Week and Harmony Day.

Information about sport and recreation can be found at:

Albury Library Museum: 540 Kiewa Street, Albury, phone 02 6023 8333.

Albury City Council: 553 Kiewa Street, Albury, phone 02 6023 8111,

www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Shopping and food:

Most of the major retail stores have outlets in Albury and there are also many specialty shops. Because of the diversity in the city, the stores cater for people from different cultural and religious backgrounds.

Who can help you:

Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau: Unit 2, 432 Townsend Street, Albury. Phone 02 6021 0990. www.vrb.org.au.

Albury Wodonga Cultural Exchange (AWCE) initiates, supports and manages activities and events at Albury Library Museum and Lavington Library for new community members from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Phone: 02 6023 8333.

Albury Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council: www.awecc.org.au

Where to get more information:

Albury City Council: www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au

Albury Wodonga Community Guide: www.awcommunitytguide.com.au

Evocities: www.evocities.com.au

Albury Wodonga Visitor Information Centre: www.visitalburywodonga.com/

A map of Albury can be found at:

www.visitthemurray.com.au/uploads/media/default/0001/46/4143e40373f72e8fd837c788ee6974445fb4728a.pdf

A map of Wodonga can be found at:

www.visitthemurray.com.au/uploads/media/default/0001/46/b9d3be9aac4fa48e236852fd7c5e39b4d983c6e7.pdf

For general information in community languages about services available to people holding a Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) or Temporary Protection Visa (TPV), see the DSS Fact Sheet: www.dss.gov.au/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/programs-policy/australian-government-support