



WAGGA WAGGA

This information is intended as a guide only. Please check websites.

Location:

Wagga Wagga is the main city in an area of southern NSW called the Riverina.

It is roughly the same distance from Sydney (460km) and Melbourne (450km) and is 246km from Canberra.

Other (smaller) cities in the Riverina are Griffith, which is 190km away and Leeton, 125km away.

128km south of Wagga Wagga is another major inland city: Albury.



Overview:

Wagga Wagga means 'place of many crows' in the language of the local Aboriginal inhabitants, the Wiradjuri people, and is situated on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River.

Wagga Wagga (or just Wagga as it is often called) is a city of over 62,000 people and is NSW's largest inland city. Wagga Wagga is home to two major Australian Defence Force training centres, the largest campuses of Charles Sturt and the NSW TAFE Riverina Institute. Wagga Wagga also the site of the new NSW Health Regional Referral Hospital and has numerous industries associated with agriculture, road and air transportation and science and technology. A number of Federal and State government regional offices, are located in Wagga Wagga.

Who lives there:

Wagga has also been a place of significant Aboriginal settlement and become an important contemporary centre for Wiradjuri people, their culture and learning.

Today the majority of the people in Wagga were born in Australia or came to Australia from Europe.

People from other parts of the world now call Wagga home as well. Many of these people came to Australia as refugees. In Wagga there are communities from Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Nepal, Vietnam and many other countries.

Wagga has been settling refugees for many years and the city has declared itself a Refugee Welcome Zone.

How to get there:

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

It takes approximately 4 hours 40 minutes to drive from Sydney to Wagga (and a similar time to Melbourne).

There are two trains each day between Sydney and Wagga. It takes about 6 hours 20 minutes and prices for a one way ticket start at \$45 if you have a concession card and \$62 for an adult fare.

The bus from Sydney to Wagga takes about 7 hours 20 minutes and costs about \$60.

There are several flights between Sydney and Wagga Wagga each day. They take about 1 hour 15 minutes and one way prices start at \$149. You can also fly to Melbourne and other destinations.

Employment:

Being a major regional city, Wagga Wagga has a good range of skilled and unskilled job opportunities. Key employment areas include manufacturing, retail, aged care, child care, health, construction and education. Wagga is emerging as a hub for innovation in web application development and other applied technologies.

There are also websites you can look at to find employment:

- The Daily Advertiser (local paper): www.dailyadvertiser.com.au
- The Riverina Leader (local paper): www.riverinaleader.com.au
- Seek: www.seek.com.au/jobs/in-Wagga-Wagga-&-Riverina-NSW

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).

Education and training:

For adults:

- Wagga Wagga TAFE (TAFE NSW Riverina) offers a wide range of courses including fee-free Smart and Skilled courses.
- The TAFE College in Wagga Wagga has AMEP (English) classes.
- Charles Sturt University has a major campus in Wagga Wagga.
- Riverina Community College is a large VET provider.

For school students:

- Wagga Wagga has 7 public primary schools and 3 public secondary schools. There are also several private schools. Schools in Wagga Wagga are familiar with working with children from non-English speaking backgrounds.

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

Accommodation:

The median weekly cost of renting a one bedroom apartment in Wagga is \$200 per week and \$250 for a 2 bedroom unit. Median weekly rent for a 3 bedroom house is \$340 and \$405 for a 4 bedroom house. There is a reasonable supply of rental accommodation, however at peak demand times (such as the start of the University year rental accommodation is competitive.

Cheaper housing is available in surrounding villages such as Collingullie, Uranquinty, Ladysmith Mangoplah, The Rock and Currawarna and Ganmain and Matong, however these centres are all considerable distances from Wagga and there is no reliable public transport.

Websites you can look at to find rental accommodation include:

Domain: www.domain.com.au/rent/wagga-wagga-nsw-2650/

Realestate.com.au: www.realestate.com.au/rent/in-wagga%20wagga,+nsw+2650/list-1

Ray White: www.raywhitewagga.com/rent/property/

Places to look for short term budget accommodation options include:

Stayz: www.stayz.com.au

Gumtree: www.gumtree.com.au.

There are also three caravan parks that rent out cabins:

Carinya Caravan Park: 449 Pine Gully Road, www.carinyacaravanpark.com.au

Wagga Wagga Beach Caravan Park: 2 Johnston Street, www.wwbcp.com.au

Big4 Wagga Wagga Holiday Park: 93 Hammond Avenue, www.big4.com.au.

Health Services:

Wagga Base Hospital is a major regional hospital that matches large urban hospitals in terms of its facilities and provides access to most specialist acute and rehabilitative medical and nursing care, including inpatient psychiatric and obstetric services.

Wagga Wagga Community Health Centre is located in the Regional Referral Hospital grounds and provides access to a range of specialist and generalist primary allied health and health education services. Specialist Sexual Assault and child protection counselling services operate from this building.

There is a specialist Refugee Health Assessment Clinic in Wagga Wagga which is located at the offices of Wagga Wagga Multicultural Council: 18 Station Place, phone (02) 6921 6666. This service can help you to find suitable medical services.

There are several bulk Billing General Practices in Wagga Wagga offering a full range of primary health care services. They are:

Trail Street General Practice
Kincaid Street Medical Centre
Wagga General Practice (Baylis Street)
Trinity Medical Practice (Best Street)

STARTTS (the specialist service for those who have experienced trauma) has staff members in Wagga based at Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga (18 Station Place). Phone 02 6921 4403.

Places of worship:

There are multiple Christian churches located across Wagga Wagga in all major denominations, Some Churches have adopted a position of openness and inclusiveness toward people of other faiths and look to assist where they can.

There is no designated Mosque or Prayer room in Wagga Wagga itself, however private prayer groups in various Islamic teachings are able to be contacted and joined. The Islamic Prayer and Study Centre on Tooma Way at Charles Sturt University is available to students and staff of the University and their guests.

There are also significant Bhuddist, Ba` hai and other religious groups in the community as well.

Local transport:

Busabout is the local bus service in Wagga Wagga. Go to www.busabout.com.au for information about their routes and timetables.

There are 2 taxi companies in Wagga however at peak demand times (around flight departure and arrivals and weekends) availability can be restricted.

Sport and recreation:

Wagga Wagga is known widely in Australia as a centre of sporting history, derived from the number of successful sporting persons who have lived in Wagga before becoming nationally recognised. There is a standing comment that 'there is something in the water at Wagga that makes sporting champions.

Look at the sport and leisure section of the Wagga Community Directory for links to a wide range of activities: www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/library/information-online/community-directory.

You can also get information about cultural, musical and special interest groups from Wagga Wagga City Library: Corner of Bayliss and Morrow Streets. www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/library.

Shopping and food:

Wagga Wagga has an increasing diversity of food providers reflecting its increasingly diverse culture. There are a several Asian grocers and the major supermarkets; Aldi, Coles and Woolworths and IGA also stock staples of different cultural and religious food traditions including Halal food.

The major suburban areas have shopping centres hosting supermarkets from the major chains, as well as some smaller speciality stores and take away.

There are also specialist farmers markets regularly held in various locations in the city.

There are a number of Food support agencies to assist low income earners and a Food Assistance Map is available

Who can help you:

Australian Red Cross: 88 Murray Street. Phone 02 6937 3140.

Centacare: 210 Tarcutta Street. Phone 1300619 379

Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga: 18 Station Place. Phone 02 6921 6666.

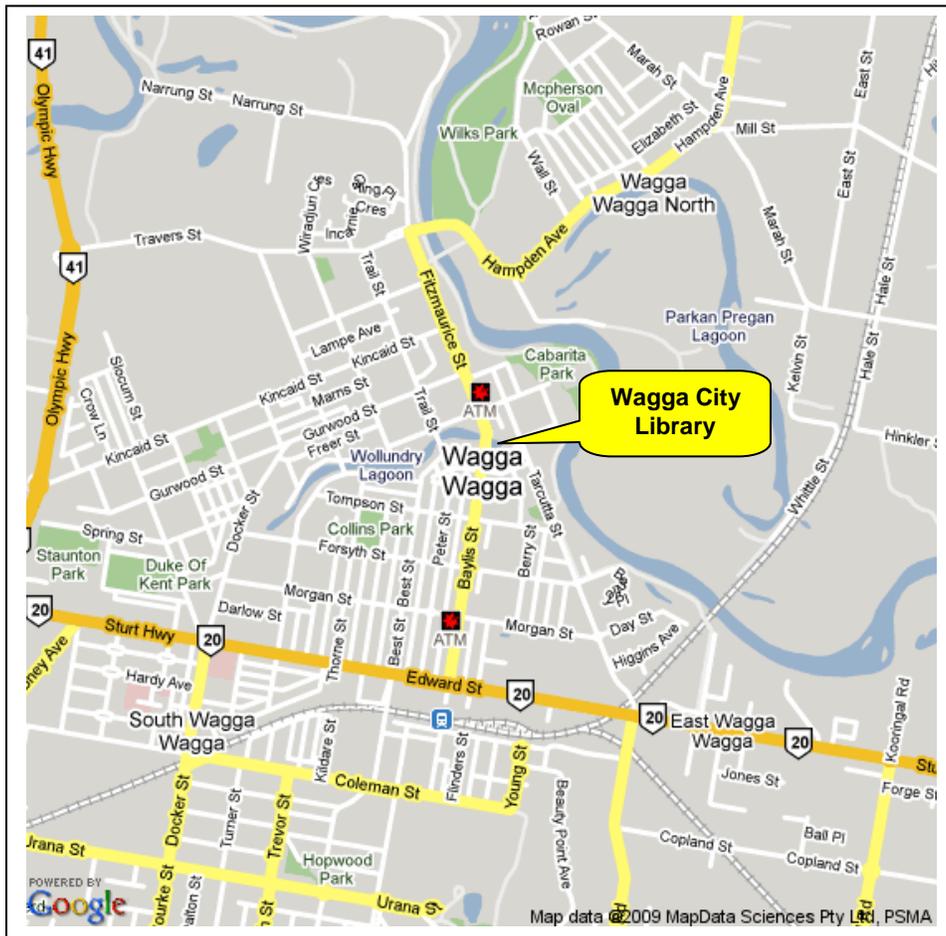
St Vincent de Paul Society: Peter Street.

Salvation Army Welfare Centre: Forsyth Street.

Where to get more information:

Wagga Wagga Community Directory: www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/library/information-online/community-directory.

Wagga Wagga City Library: Corner of Bayliss and Morrow Streets. www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/library.



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