



Avis self-drive tours from Perth

TOODYAY - Avon Valley

Today Toodyay is a small bustling country town less than one hours drive from Perth. Our picturesque town is nestled between Mt. Anderson and Pelham Hill, on the banks of the Avon River.

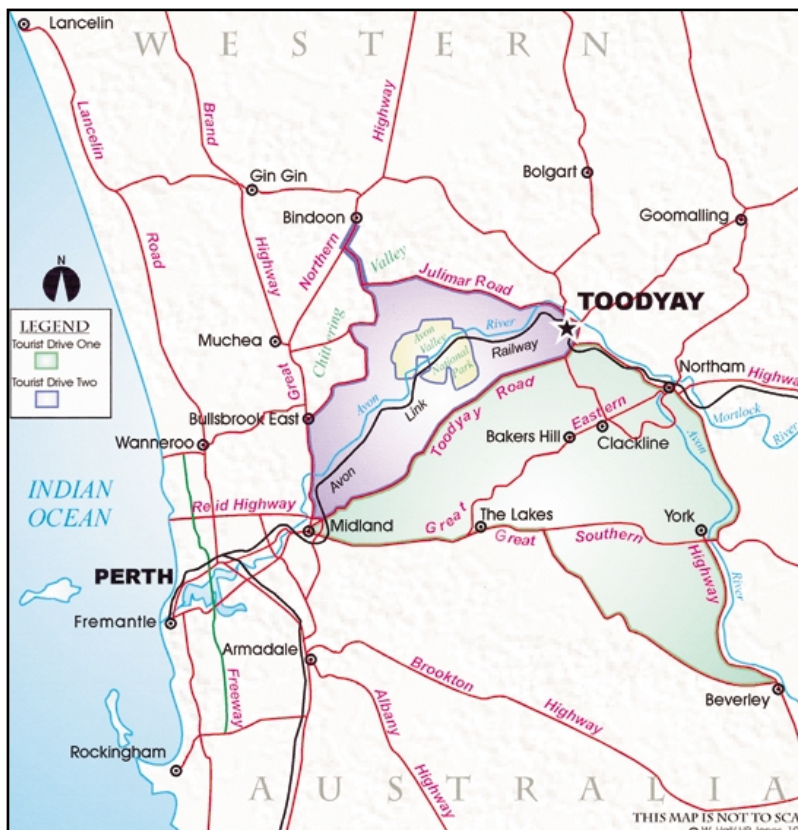
Yesteryear Toodyay boasted of being the "wildest town in the west". Many of the buildings date back to the convict era of the 19th century. The Old Newcastle Gaol Museum reflects these times and that of the famous Bushranger "Moondyne Joe" who was living in the area in the 1860's. The main street, Stirling Terrace, has many old buildings, including Connors Mill, Australia's finest example of an 1870's steam driven flour mill.

Toodyay is currently one of the fastest growing towns in the State, due mainly to the increase in hobby farm activity. Current population is 3850, considerably smaller than the 1920's when the population was near 6000, but certainly more than the late 1970's when the population was at a low of 1100.

Toodyay has many excellent businesses including tourist operators. These operators offer an excellent range of soft adventure activities, accommodation, food outlets and general attractions.

Toodyay is a great place to visit, and we, the people of Toodyay welcome you, your family and friends.

Tourist Drives of Toodyay



NORTHAM - Avon Valley

Northam, the major town of the Avon Valley, is W.A.'s largest inland town and the commercial hub for the area's rich farmlands. Located just over an hour's drive from Perth on the Great Eastern Highway. Northam makes a perfect day trip, weekender or central base from which to explore the valley.

The Avon River flows through the town and is fringed by soft grassy banks and shady trees - providing numerous picturesque spots where you can relax, stretch out and enjoy the sights and sounds of the river.

The river is also home to an abundance of birdlife including the unique and much revered White Swans. Spanning the river, Northam's pedestrian suspension bridge is the longest of its kind in Australia and makes an ideal spot from which to view and photograph the swans. This beautiful setting is further enhanced by the recently completed Avon Valley Visitor Centre which houses the Tourist Information Bureau, a cafe with Alfresco dining and a permanent - "A Sense of Place" - which showcases the area's significant post-war migrant history. There are extensive public amenities including showers and a parent's room, all with access for the disabled and the visitor centre also provides bread packs for those who wish to feed the swans.

There is much to see around Northam, including Morby Cottage. Built in 1836 by John Morrell, the founder of Northam, the Cottage was the town's first church and school and is now been lovingly converted to a Museum. The old railway station, listed with the National trust has also been turned into a museum and is another piece of yesteryear that is well worth a visit.

Just out of Northam on the Northam-Toodyay Road is an area called Katrine Valley which brings you from Toodyay to Northam and on this road is Avonlea Park-Alpaca Tourist Farm and Avon River Pottery. At Avonlea Park-Alpaca Tourist Farm visitors can see farm animals close up and enjoy the picnic and barbecue facilities. For those who prefer to get a birds-eye view of life why not go hot air ballooning with Windward Balloon Adventures. The scenery is spectacular and the experience memorable.

Northam - Avon Valley Self Drive

