



Image courtesy of York Visitor Centre

Story: Sheryl Allen

LOCATION: York
1.25 hours east of Perth

POPULATION: 2,080

INDUSTRIES: Agriculture, tourism

CLIMATE: Temperate
Summer: 16.2°C – 34.1°C
Winter: 3.8°C – 16.9°C
Rainfall: 413.8mm

The township of York is often described as “living history” where beautifully restored Victorian and colonial buildings and grand old country homesteads create a pleasing sense of yesteryear.

In the 1830s York was Western Australia’s first inland settlement – named for the likeness of its undulating countryside to the Yorkshire homeland of its earliest pioneers.

Nestled on the rich soils alongside the picturesque Avon River, York developed its own character as a wheatbelt town, and enjoyed more than a century and a half of agricultural prosperity. Now with some of the larger properties being divided up, there’s less emphasis on big-scale farming.

Tourism has taken on a life of its own, leveraging from proximity to the Perth population.

York’s grand streetscapes are a popular Sunday brekkie or brunch destination for a legion of Perth motorcycle tourers.

Day-trippers love the scenic drives, the village

atmosphere and the always-on-offer products of cottage industries.

A growing B&B sector teases day-stay into overnight, weekend and beyond.

But history is not the only thing hovering over York. The region has a fast-developing reputation for adventure tourism with paragliding, skydiving and hot air ballooning attracting those who dare.

Nearby Northam is the starting point for the Avon Descent, the world’s longest white water race of paddlers and power boats. Each August the two-day event sees competitors race 133km along the Avon and Swan Rivers. Over the years more than 25,000 people have competed, watched by an eager crowd of spectators drawn from across Australia and the globe.

A calendar of music festivals and cultural events rounds out the year: from The York Jazz Festival to the Spring Garden Festival and on to the Easter Antique and Collectables Fair.

“It’s all about being within striking distance of Perth,” said Landmark’s Tim Bahen. “It’s commutable, day-trippable and very livable. Midland is less than an hour’s drive away.”

That proximity has excited a new generation of tree-changers who keep the hobby farm market in steady rhythm.

“This is a very tightly-held area, yet we’ve seen the splitting up of some of the larger farms into smaller lifestyle blocks of 5 to 100 acres which have become very popular. That sector has slowed somewhat since the economic downturn but we’re fully expecting some lively action come the

spring,” confirmed Tim. “With the bigger holdings we’re seeing a mix of local buyer resistance balanced by some overseas interest from corporate players looking to spread their investment risk.”

York offers residents a relaxed lifestyle in a friendly country community. There are excellent educational facilities, a hospital and 24-hour medical service, shopping precincts, aged care facilities, many churches and a host of community organisations.

Sports-lovers can head to the skatepark, the racetrack, the swimming pool or various facilities for netball, hockey, tennis, croquet, cricket and more.

For brain food, try the library, the Jah Roc Mill Gallery, the Motor Museum or a lively chat in one of the many cafes or art and craft spaces.

Whatever you choose to do in York, you’ll find a friendly welcome and an inviting combination of yesterday and today.

CONTACT:

Landmark Midvale (08) 9274 6800

Tim Bahen 0419 924 534

PROPERTY GUIDE:

Residential: median house price \$340,000

Lifestyle: 100-acre land only \$300,000

Rural: 2,000 broadacres with some farm improvements \$1,500 – \$2,200 per acre