

Serene St Albans



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St Albans is a serene historic hamlet, only 20 kilometres from Wisemans Ferry along scenic St Albans Road and surrounded by National Parks and farmland of the Macdonald Valley.

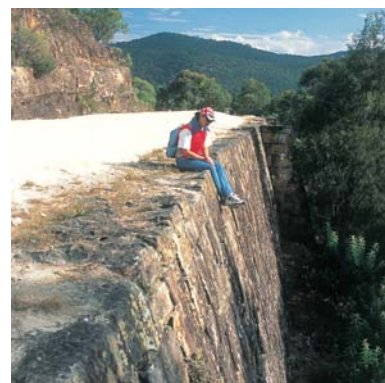


Things to See and Do

- **The Settlers Arms Inn** at St Albans is a great example of one of Sydney's earliest hotels and is a popular destination for those enjoying a country drive. The inn, built of convict-hewn sandstone, dates back to around 1836 providing convivial surroundings to soak up the ambience of past times or warm up by the cosy fire with good friends and a drink in hand.
- **The Old St Albans Cemetery**, on Settlers Road, contains the remains of an Australian "First Fleeter". Wander amongst the headstones and be reminded of the hardship and devastation that the valley's settlers endured. The cemetery is no longer used and has been restored and preserved under trust.
- **Historic Cottages** are dotted around St Albans with two in particular being restored to their past glory and now contain cosy accommodation: the Courthouse Guesthouse and Price Morris Cottage. With your stay, your friendly hosts will happily give you a guided tour of the buildings and enthral you with their history.
- **St Albans Common**, just north of the township, is a natural lake area and grassland. It is a haven for birdlife, kangaroos and wallabies and a great place to soak up the natural environment.
- **St Albans Bridge** crossing the Macdonald River was opened in 1901 and is now classified by the National Trust. The bridge it replaced was severely damaged in the 1889 flood when the water rose to the upper floor of the Settlers Arms Inn and many of St Albans buildings were washed away.
- **St Albans Gallery** displays local and visiting artworks including jewellery and indigenous arts. Other shops also display crafts by local artisans. Stop for coffee or a meal and relax in the crisp country air.
- **The Fickle Wombat** leads the list of establishments providing tasty country meals and welcoming hospitality. The Settlers Arms Inn provides hearty pub fare and often has outdoor entertainment on weekends
- **Walk the Convict Trail**, a wonderful experience on your way travelling south to Wisemans Ferry and the main ferry crossing. Carved from Hawkesbury sandstone by chain gang convicts between 1826 and 1834, the Old Great North Road is a magnificent engineering achievement. Each sandstone block that helps form the massive buttressed walls beneath the road was shaped and placed with such precision that, with the exception of a few wash-aways, the walls still stand perfectly aligned. A **return walk of two hours** will take you along the most spectacular section of the road, where there are interpretive signs provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service explaining the road's unique characteristics. Look out for other fascinating features along the way, like convict-carved graffiti, the remains of a well, building foundations and stocks as well as Hangman's Cave. This cave has a natural hole in the ceiling which folklore reports to be the hanging place of errant convicts. Decide for yourself! This walk is a must do!
- **Historic Wisemans Ferry** is just a short loop drive away from St Albans. The two free car ferries that cross the Hawkesbury River, link Settlers Road and St Albans Road at Wisemans Ferry. Play a round of golf, hire a tinny or launch your own and go fishing, take a river cruise, have a picnic or extend your drive south along River Road in the shadows of towering sandstone cliffs.

Staying Overnight?

There are a number of cosy bed and breakfasts, country cabins, a pub and back-to-nature camping areas to enjoy. Treat yourself with a unique stay in a genuine colonial building at the Courthouse Guesthouse or Price Morris Cottage. Ask at the Wisemans Kiosk beside the main ferry or call **1300 884 881**.



For further information, contact the Sydney Hills Visitor Centre at 656a Old Northern Road, Dural or phone us on: 1300 884 881.

www.sydneyhills.com.au



