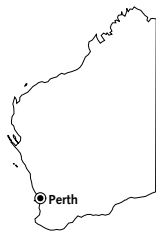


# Perth



Planted by a river and almost permanently housed under a great blue sky, the city of Perth takes natural beauty to extremes. Bounded by pristine parkland, the streets are curiously squeaky-clean. The sleepy Swan River – black swans bobbing atop – winds its way past the city and out to the Indian Ocean. Grassland and bike tracks straddle the city for miles. Yet this is not how Perth defines itself.

Its heart is down the beach, tossing around under clear ocean surf and stretching out on the sand. The city's famous royal-blue and chalk-white beaches trace this outermost point of Australia for some 40km, and you can have one to yourself on any given day – for a city this size, Perth is sparsely populated.

When many a traveller came to visit in the 1990s, the city was dismissed as 'dullsville'. The streets were dead, there was nowhere to party. Locals were just too lackadaisical, at home, in their boardshorts and desert boots, tinkering with the barbecue.

Today it has all changed. Another mining boom has made young property owners rich, and they're feeling damn good. They're out eating, socialising, spending money, flexing their muscles in the sun. A successful native title claim – although under appeal at the time of research – has at least acknowledged indigenous ties to the land. This is a huge feat for the Noongar people. And amidst all this, the city's fabulous beaches remain unchanged.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Stretch out on the lawn, glittering river and city below you, in the wonderland that is **Kings Park** (p62)
- Crunch up some crispy hot fish and chips as you stroll around **Fishing Boat Harbour** (p85), Fremantle
- Dive into crystal-clear ocean surf at **City Beach, Floreat** or **Leighton Beach** (p64)
- Scream your head off at a footy game, clad in a footy scarf, at **Subiaco Oval** (p77)
- Bask in the sunset under the charming Norfolk Pines of **Cottesloe Beach** (p64)
- Cruise from winery to winery, all afternoon long, in the sleepy **Swan Valley** (p87)
- Relive historic break-outs at the **Old Fremantle Prison** (p81)
- Dive in deep with the sharks at the **Aquarium of Western Australia** (p63)



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 08

■ POPULATION: 1.4 MILLION

■ AREA: 5,386 SQ KM

## HISTORY

The site that is now the city of Perth had been occupied by groups of the Aboriginal Noongar tribe for thousands of years before the first Europeans settled there. The tribe's ancestors can be traced back some 40,000 years (evidenced by discoveries of stone implements near the Swan Bridge).

In December 1696 three ships in the fleet commanded by Willem de Vlamingh anchored off what is now known as Rottneest Island. On 5 January 1697 a well-armed party landed near present-day Cottesloe Beach, then marched eastward to a river near Freshwater Bay. They tried to contact some of the Noongar to inquire about survivors of the *Ridderschap van Hollant*, lost in 1694, but they were unsuccessful. So they sailed north, but not before de Vlamingh had bestowed the name 'Swan' on the river.

Perth was founded in 1829 as the Swan River Colony, but it grew very slowly until 1850, when convicts were brought in to alleviate a labour shortage. Many of Perth's fine buildings were built using convict labour.

Even then, Perth's development lagged behind that of the cities in the eastern colonies. That is, until the discovery of gold in the mid-1880s increased the population fourfold over the following decade and initiated a building boom.

The mineral wealth of Western Australia (WA) has continued to drive Perth's growth. In the 1980s and 1990s, though, the city's clean-cut, nouveau-riche image was tainted by a series of financial and political scandals. Today Perth is back on track, thanks to another mining boom, and so the frontier-town image is again thriving.

Largely excluded from this race to riches is the Noongar people. In 2006, however, the Perth Federal Court recognised the Noongar people's connection to the land. Though this decision was quickly appealed by the state government, it was a huge step forward for indigenous rights, and proof that Perth still harbours the pioneering spirit that built it.

## ORIENTATION

The city of Perth lies along a sweep of the Swan River. The river borders the city centre to the south and east, and links Perth to its port, Fremantle.

The train line runs along the north of the city centre. Immediately north of the train line

is Northbridge, a big entertainment enclave with hostels. To the west, Perth rises to Kings Park, which overlooks the city and the Swan River. The suburbs extend west to Cottesloe and Scarborough on the Indian Ocean.

The city is 10km to 13km from the airport; for more information on the airport shuttle, bus and taxi, see p78.

## Maps

**Perth Map Centre** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9322 5733; www.mapworld.com.au; 900 Hay St; 🕒 9am-5.30pm Mon-Thu, 9am-6pm Fri, 10am-4pm Sat) Full range of maps and travel guides.

## INFORMATION

### Bookshops

**All Foreign Languages Bookshop** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 9275; 101 William St; 🕒 9am-5.30pm) Travel books, foreign-language guides, phrasebooks, Lonely Planet guidebooks.

**Boffins Bookshop** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 5755; 806 Hay St; 🕒 9am-5.30pm) Boffins' technical and specialist range includes travel. There's a well-mannered station of boffins upstairs.

**Dymocks** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 3969; 705-707 Hay St Mall; 🕒 9am-5.30pm) WA travel section and maps, plus a decent range of contemporary literary fiction.

**Oxford St Books** (Map pp56-7; ☎ 9443 9844; 131 Oxford St, Leederville; 🕒 10.30am-10.30pm) Knowledgeable staff, great range of fiction and a travel section.

**Planet Books** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 7464; 636-638 Beaufort St; 🕒 10am-10pm Sun-Thu, 10am-12am Fri & Sat) A big polished concrete shell decked out with leather lounges and a brazen chandelier. Stacked with books.

## Emergency

**Ambulance, fire, police** (☎ 000)

**Lifeline** (☎ 13 11 14) Crisis counselling.

**Police station** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 131 444; Beaufort St)

**RACWA roadside assistance** (☎ 13 11 11)

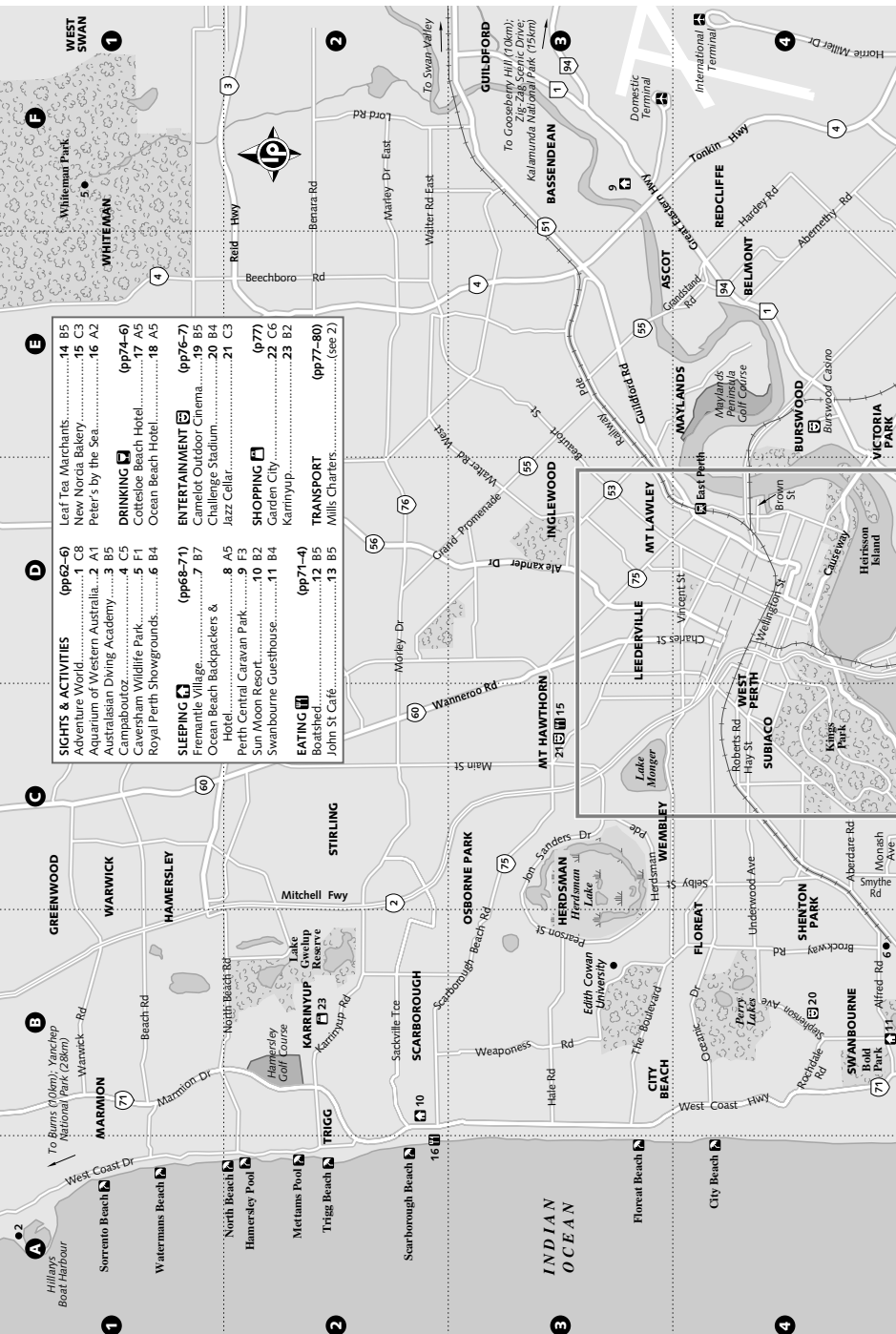
**Sexual Assault Resource Centre's crisis line** (☎ 9340 1828; 🕒 24hr)

## Internet Access

**Travel Forever** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 6267 0700; www.travelforever.com.au; 123-125 William St; per hr \$3; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun)

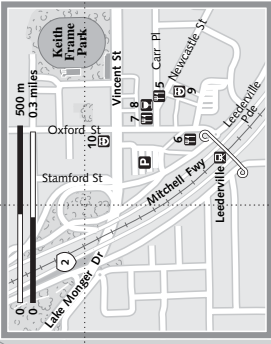
**Traveller's Club** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9322 1406; www.travellersclub.com.au; 137A William St; per hr up to \$2.50; 🕒 9am-7pm Mon-Thu, 9am-6pm Fri, 9am-5pm Sat & Sun)

(Continued on page 62)





<b>SLEEPING</b>	Peninsula (pp66-71) 4 CG
<b>EATING</b>	Quarantine (pp71-4) 5 CB
	Kalbarri (see 5) 6 CB
	Marion (see 5) 7 CB
<b>DRINKING</b>	Oxford 130 (pp74-6) 8 CB
	Leederville Hotel (pp76-7) 9 CB
<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>	Funk Club (see 8) 10 CB
	Luna (pp62-6) 11 A7
	Manor (see 9) 12 F5
	Holmes & Court Gallery 2 F4
	Somersville Auditorium 11 A7
	Perth Zoo 3 D7



**INFORMATION**  
Oxford St Books (see 6)

**SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES**  
Functarts 1 E6  
Holmes & Court Gallery 2 F4  
Perth Zoo 3 D7



## INFORMATION

All Foreign Languages

Bookshop.....	1	C6
Amex.....	2	C6
Boffins Bookshop.....	3	C6
Dymocks.....	4	C6
Job Centre.....	(see 11)	
i-City Information Kiosk.....	5	D6
Lifecare Dental.....	6	D6
Main Post Office.....	7	C6
Perth Map Centre.....	8	B5
Planet Books.....	9	F2
Royal Perth Hospital.....	10	E6
Travel Forever.....	11	C5
Travel Medicine Centre.....	12	B6
Travel Recruitment Centre.....	(see 14)	
Travelex.....	13	C6
Traveller's Club.....	14	C5
Western Australian Visitors Centre.....	15	D5

## SIGHTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

(pp62-6)

Art Gallery of Western Australia.....	16	D5
Beatty Park.....	17	B2
Bicycle Transportation Alliance.....	18	A4
Boat Torque.....	19	D7
Cycle Centre.....	20	F7
Oceanic Cruises.....	21	C7
Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts.....	22	D5
Perth Mint.....	23	F7
Scitech.....	24	A4
Supreme Court.....	25	D7
Swan Bell Tower.....	26	D7
Western Australian Museum.....	27	D5

## SLEEPING

(pp68-71)

Billabong Backpackers Resort.....	28	E3
Britannia YHA.....	29	D5
City Waters Lodge.....	30	E7
Coolibah Lodge.....	31	D3
Governor Robinsons.....	32	D4
Hotel Northbridge.....	33	D3
Medina.....	34	D6
Melbourne.....	35	B5

Miss Maud.....	36	D6
Mont Clare Apartments.....	37	F7
Oneworld Backpackers.....	38	C4
Pension of Perth.....	39	D2
Perth City YHA.....	40	E6
Riverview on Mount Street.....	41	A6
Royal Hotel.....	42	C5
Rydgcs Perth.....	43	C6
Saville Park Suites.....	44	F7
Seasons.....	45	D6
Witch's Hat.....	46	D3

## EATING

(pp71-4)

Annalakshmi.....	47	C7
Balthazar.....	48	C7
Good Fortune Roast Duck House.....	49	D4
Hong Kong BBQ Chinese Restaurant.....	50	D4
Jackson's.....	51	F2
Joy Garden.....	52	D5
Kakulas Bros.....	53	D5
King Street Café.....	54	C6
Matsuri.....	55	B6
Maya Masala.....	56	C4
Must Winebar.....	(see 76)	
Must Winebar.....	57	F2
Organica.....	58	C6
Red Teapot.....	59	D4
Riverside Chinese Restaurant.....	60	D4
Soto Espresso.....	61	F2
Sparrow.....	62	D3
Taka.....	63	C5
Tarts.....	64	D3
Tiger Tiger.....	65	C6
Viet Hoa.....	66	D4
Welcome Inn Tea House.....	67	D4

## DRINKING

(pp74-6)

Belgian Beer Café.....	68	C6
Box Deli.....	69	B5
Brass Monkey.....	70	D5
Brisbane.....	71	E4
Deen.....	72	D4
Flying Scotsman.....	73	F2
Grapeskin.....	(see 70)	
Hula Bula Bar.....	74	E7

Luxe.....	75	F3
Must Winebar.....	76	F2
Queens.....	77	F2
Universal.....	(see 70)	

## ENTERTAINMENT

(pp76-7)

Ambar.....	78	D6
Amplifier.....	79	C5
Astor.....	80	F1
Bakery.....	81	C4
Cinema Paradiso.....	82	C4
Connections.....	83	D5
Geisha.....	84	C5
His Majesty's Theatre.....	85	C6
Hoys Cinema City.....	86	D6
Hyde Park Hotel.....	87	C2
La Bog.....	88	C4
Metro City.....	89	C5
Perth Concert Hall.....	90	E7
Perth Oval.....	91	F4
Playhouse Theatre.....	92	D6
Rise.....	93	C5
Rosemount Hotel.....	94	D1
Velvet Lounge.....	(see 73)	

## SHOPPING

(p77)

78 Records.....	95	B5
Form.....	96	C6
Keith & Lottie.....	97	D4
Periscope.....	98	C6
Varga Girl.....	99	C6

## TRANSPORT

(pp77-80)

Avis.....	100	F7
Bayswater Hire Car.....	101	F7
Budget.....	102	B5
Esplanade Busport.....	103	C7
Ferries to South Perth, Fremantle, Swan Valley, Rottneat.....	104	C7
Hertz.....	105	B5
Long-Distance Coach Bookings Office.....	106	D5
Qantas.....	107	C6
Thrifty.....	108	F7
Traveller's Autobarn.....	109	C4
Wellington St Bus Station.....	110	C5
Wicked Campers.....	111	C4



## INFORMATION

King Edward Memorial Hospital For Women.....	1	A2
Kings Park Visitors Centre.....	2	D4

## SIGHTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

(pp62-6)

Surf Sail Australia.....	3	C1
Yoga Company.....	4	A2
Yoga Space.....	5	D2

## SLEEPING

(pp68-71)

Outram.....	6	D2
-------------	---	----

## EATING

(pp71-4)

Boucla.....	7	A3
Café Café.....	8	A1

Chef Jean-Claude Patisserie.....	9	A3
Chutney Mary's.....	10	A2
Ecco.....	11	A1
Food.....	12	A2
Fraser's Restaurant.....	13	D4
Rialto's.....	14	A2
Station St Markets.....	15	A1
Subiaco Hotel.....	16	A2

## ENTERTAINMENT

(pp76-7)

Ace Subiaco.....	17	A1
Moonlight Cinema.....	18	A5
Regal Theatre.....	19	A1
Subiaco Arts Centre.....	20	A2
Subiaco Oval.....	21	B1

## SHOPPING

(p77)

Indigenart.....	22	C2
-----------------	----	----

(Continued from page 53)

## Internet Resources

**www.heatseeker.com.au** Gig guide and ticketing.  
**www.perth.citysearch.com.au** Entertainment and restaurants.  
**www.scoop.com.au** Entertainment.

## Media

Free guides to Perth include *What's On* and *Your Guide to Perth & Fremantle*, available at hostels, hotels and tourist offices.

**Express** Long-running tourist rag and a good source of live music information. Available in cafés and record stores.

**Go West** Backpacker magazine with information on activities throughout WA, and seasonal work.

**West Australian** Local newspaper with cinema times.

## Medical Services

**King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women** (Map p61; ☎ 9340 2222; 347 Bagot Rd, Subiaco)

**Lifecare Dental** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9221 2777; Forrest Chase; ☎ 8am-8pm)

**Royal Perth Hospital** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9224 2244; Victoria Sq) In CBD.

**Travel Medicine Centre** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 7888; 5 Mill St; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri)

## Money

Accessing Aussie dollars is straightforward; ATMs are plentiful. There are currency-exchange facilities at the airport and city banks, and branches of major banks in the CBD.

**Amex** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 1300 132 639; 109 St Georges Tce) Within the Westpac building.

**Travelx** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 7811; 760 Hay St; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) The branch at the international airport is open Sundays.

## Post

**Main Post Office** (GPO; Map pp58-9; ☎ 9237 5460, 13 13 18; 3 Forrest Pl; ☎ 8am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-12.30pm Sat)

## Tourist Information

**i-City Information Kiosk** (Map pp58-9; Murray St Mall; ☎ 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 9.30am-8pm Fri, 12pm-4.30pm Sun) Volunteers answer your questions and run walking tours.

**Travel Forever** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 6267 0700; www.travelforever.com.au; 123-125 William St) Books tours and runs the Job Centre (p260).

**Traveller's Club** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9322 1406; www.trsaust.co.au; 137A William St) Excellent resource centre. Books tours, has a bulletin board, and runs the Travel Recruitment Centre (p260).

**Western Australian Visitors Centre** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 1300 361 351; www.westernaustralia.net; cnr Forrest Pl & Wellington St; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Thu, 8.30am-6pm Fri, 9.30am-4.30pm Sat, noon-4.30pm Sun) A good resource for a trip anywhere in WA.

## SIGHTS

Sightseeing is best married with the outdoors: view buildings and landmarks from the Swan River or the heights of Kings Park, or take an even more leisurely pace in the Swan Valley (with a full belly; p88). Many of Perth's sights are in the CBD; the Cultural Centre, which includes the Art Gallery of WA, the State Museum and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, is in Northbridge.

## Kings Park

Kings Park (Map p61) cuts a swathe from the Swan River back up to the inner suburbs, affording the best views of the city and the Swan, day or night. Its 4-sq-km, bush-filled expanse is carefully tended by a team of khaki-clad gardeners and boffins, year-round; walking and running tracks wind through the land; and picnic spots, lookouts, wildflowers and playgrounds abound. In short, it's the city's pride and joy.

The architect-designed **Lotterywest Federation Walkway** (tree-top walk; admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm) is a broad 222m-long, glass-and-steel structure that winds over stands of eucalypts. It's a highlight. The walkway starts near the Lord Forrest Statue, on the roundabout on Fraser Ave. If your legs are feeling weary – or if you've a penchant for riding buses disguised as trams – the tourist tram tours the park. Pick-up is behind the visitors centre. Just tell the driver if you don't want the full tour, which continues to the city.

Another highlight is the 170,000-sq-m **Botanic Garden**, with over 2000 plant species from WA. In spring you can enjoy an impressive display of the state's famed wildflowers. Free **guided walks** (☎ 9480 3659; ☎ 10am & 2pm) of Kings Park and the Botanic Garden are available year-round.

**Kings Park Visitors Centre** (☎ 9.30am-4pm) is opposite the war memorial on Fraser Ave. Nearby you'll find a kiosk, café, gift shop and Frasers restaurant.

To get here take bus 37 (39 on weekends), heading west along St Georges Tce (S-stand), to the visitors centre. Alternatively, catch the red Central Transit (CAT) bus to the entrance

## BEST PICNIC SPOTS

- Fraser Ave, Kings Park (opposite), just past the Bali Memorial, for the city's best views
- Hyde Park (p64), North Perth, Vincent St side – idyllic and low-key
- City Beach (p64), near the kiosk, for a beachside picnic without the sand
- Esplanade Reserve (p83), Fremantle, for restful pines and lawn by the harbour

See p72 for self-catering options.

of Kings Park (stop 26, or Ord St before Have-lock, a short walk to the entrance of Kings Park). You can also walk up (steep) Mount St from the city or climb Jacob's Ladder from Mounts Bay Rd, near the Adelphi Hotel, a climb demanding enough to provide a sense of achievement at the top.

## Art Gallery of Western Australia

Founded in 1895, the **Art Gallery of Western Australia** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9492 6600; www.artgallery.wa.gov.au; Perth Cultural Centre, Northbridge; admission free, except some special exhibitions; ☎ 10am-5pm, tours 11am & 1pm Tue-Thu, 12.30pm & 2pm Fri, 1pm Sat, 11pm & 1pm Sun), founded in 1895, houses the state's pre-eminent art collection. The indigenous artworks are the highlight of the gallery, with Western Desert works from Fitzroy Crossing, Balgo Hills and Warburton – including works by Jimmy Pike, Rover Thomas, Shane Pickett and Christopher Pease – given pride of place.

There are also important post-WWII works by artists such as Arthur Boyd, Albert Tucker and Sidney Nolan; other Australian historical works; landscape watercolours of the region, including Fremantle and Rottne; and contemporary pieces by artists such as Ricky Swallow. The coffee shop and gallery store are worthwhile.

## Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts

Cutting-edge contemporary art – installations, performance, sculpture and video works – lives at **Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 6144; www.pica.org.au; Perth Cultural Centre, Northbridge; admission free; ☎ 11am-6pm Tue-Sun), commonly referred to by its acronym, PICA (pee-kah). This gallery has long promoted

new and experimental art, and exhibits graduate works annually.

## Western Australian Museum

The **museum** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9212 3700; www.museum.wa.gov.au; Perth Cultural Centre, Northbridge; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-5pm, tours 11am & 2pm) includes an excellent 'land and people' display that examines the history of the indigenous people and the more recent past; a gallery of dinosaur casts; a good collection of meteorites; and mammal, butterfly and bird galleries. In the courtyard, set in its own preservative bath, is 'Megamouth', a curious-looking species of shark with a soft, rounded head. Only about five of these benign creatures have ever been captured; this one beached itself near Mandurah, south of Perth.

The museum complex also includes Perth's original **gaol**, built in 1856 and used until 1888 – once a favourite spot for hangings. There is a shady **café** (☎ lunch) on the ground floor of the gaol building, as well as the **children's discovery centre**, which runs popular programmes in school holidays on themes such as biodiversity.

## Aquarium of Western Australia

Few will fail to be impressed by this **aquarium** (AQWA; Map pp54-5; ☎ 9447 7500; www.aqwa.com.au; Hillarys Boat Harbour, Hillarys; adult/child \$24/\$13; ☎ 10am-4pm). Here you can wander through a 98m underwater tunnel as gargantuan turtles, stingrays, fish and sharks stealthily glide over the top of you. A series of mini marine worlds show off the state's underwater treasures: intriguing sea dragons, seahorses, moon jellies (which billow, iridescent, through a giant cylinder), venomous fish, sea snakes, and even the odd grumpy-looking octopus. Watch stingrays and seals play in the underwater viewing area.

The daring can snorkel or dive with the sharks in the giant aquarium with the help of the inhouse divemaster. Book in advance (\$105, with your own gear; 1pm and 3pm). Or you can simply dip your hands into the touch pool and get to know guys like the port Jackson shark, sea stars, sea cucumbers and the Western stingaree.

To get here on weekdays, take the Joondalup train to Warwick Interchange and then transfer to bus 423. On the weekend, catch the train to Greenwood station, then hop on bus 456 to Hillarys Boat Harbour. AQWA is by the water, behind Hillarys shopping complex.

## Parks & Gardens

Kings Park (p62) may be the city's premier green patch, but there are a number of other enjoyable parks and gardens, each with its own character and purpose. **Hyde Park** (Map pp58–9) is one of Perth's most exquisite parks, a top spot for a picnic or lazy book-reading session on the lawn. A flat path traces the small lake, and the grounds are dotted with palms, firs and Moreton Bay figs – there's plenty of shade. It's walking distance from Northbridge.

**Stirling Gardens** (Map pp58–9; cnr St Georges Tce & Barrack St) comprise lovingly tended, pristine gardens and lawn that make a great spot for lunch. The nearby **Supreme Court Gardens** (Map pp58–9), which look out onto the river, are larger and offer little shade but are still a popular lunch stop.

**Lake Monger** (Map pp56–7), in Wembley, is where local birdlife meet: in spring black swans and their ducklings plod about the grounds, nonplussed. A number of bird species reside here. The flat 3.5km path that circles that lake is also the local jogging track, and there's plenty of grass for cricket, football and picnics. It's walking distance from Leederville train station.

## Other Sights

Close your eyes and think of England as you listen to the ringing of the **Swan Bell Tower** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 9218 8183; adult/child \$6/4; 🕒 10am–4pm, ringing noon–1pm Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun). Just north of Barrack St Jetty, the tower contains the royal bells of St Martin's-in-the-Fields, dating from the 14th century. These were given to WA by the British government in 1988, and are the only set known to have left England. Clamber to the top for 360-degree views of Perth by the river.

The **Perth Mint** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 9421 7277; cnr Hill & Hay Sts; adult/child \$9.90/4.40; 🕒 9am–4pm Mon–Fri, 9am–1pm Sat & Sun, gold pours hourly weekdays & 10am, 11am & noon Sat & Sun) sounds staid but is oddly compelling. Dating from 1899, the mint shows off a variety of coins, and you can stroke a 12.54kg gold bar worth about \$200,000, mint your own coins and watch gold pours (as part of a tour).

Located by the idyllic river in East Perth, the small but active **Holmes à Court Gallery** (Map pp56–7; ☎ 9218 4540; 11 Brown St; www.holmesacourtgallery.com.au; admission free; 🕒 noon–5pm Thu–Sun) hosts a changing display of works from one

of Australia's finest private art collections as well as touring exhibitions. The gallery was started by the late millionaire industrialist Robert Holmes à Court in the 1970s, and today the collection comprises more than 3000 artworks. About one-third of these are indigenous, with the best canvas and bark paintings by indigenous artists in private hands; the remainder includes some of Australia's leading contemporary artworks. Access the gallery from the river end of Brown St, where there is parking.

## ACTIVITIES

### Beach Swimming & Surfing

Run by the Surf Life Saving Club of WA, the website www.mybeach.com.au has a profile of all the city beaches, including weather forecasts and information about amenities and beach patrolling. Note that many city beaches are rough with strong undertow and rips – swim between the flags.

Popular swimming beaches include **Cottesloe Beach** (Map pp54–5), with cafés, pine trees and fantastic sunsets; **City Beach** (Map pp54–5), with a lawn area and amenities; **Floreat Beach** (Map pp54–5), less crowded but sometimes windy; **Leighton Beach** (Map pp82–3; North Fremantle); and **Trigg Beach** (Map pp54–5), also a surf beach that is dangerous when rough and prone to rips. **Swanbourne Beach** (Map pp54–5) is the nude (gay) beach.

**Port Beach** (Map pp82–3; North Fremantle), **City Beach** and **Leighton** are also surf beaches. And **Scarborough Beach** (Map pp54–5) is a popular young surfers' spot, though good surf can be found in pockets all the way up and down the coast, depending on the weather (ask a local).

To the north lies a string of excellent swimming beaches: **North Beach** (Map pp54–5), **Watermans Beach** (Map pp54–5), **Hamersley Pool** (Map pp54–5) and **Mettams Pool** (Map pp54–5). Up here there are plenty of picnic areas and barbecues – Mettams is almost like a turquoise paddle pool – and a paved bike path snakes through the scrub, following the shoreline. **Sorrento Beach** (Map pp54–5), south of Hillarys Boat Harbour, is patrolled because the onshore winds make the surf rough. **Burns Beach**, much further north, is yet another well-set-up swimming beach.

There are a couple of surf schools, including **surfschool.com** (☎ 6267 0700; per lesson \$45) and **Adrift Learn to Surf Tours** (☎ 1800 094 480; www

## BEACHES BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

No wheels? No problem. The following beaches are all very accessible by public transport:

**City Beach** Bus 81 or 84 from Wellington St, Perth. Thirty minutes one-way; buses leave every half-hour weekdays. On weekends, route 85 takes over.

**Cottesloe** Cottesloe train station. About 20 minutes from Perth; trains leave every 15 minutes. Check that your train stops at Cottesloe – some express trains don't.

**Floreat** Bus 84 from Wellington St; less than 30 minutes one-way. Buses leave hourly. On weekends, route 85 takes over.

**Port & Leighton** North Fremantle train station. Less than 30 minutes from city; trains leave every 15 minutes. Some express trains don't stop at North Fremantle.

**Scarborough** Bus 400 from Wellington St bus station. Forty minutes, one-way; buses leave every 15 to 20 minutes.

**Swanbourne** Swanbourne train station. Just under 20 minutes; trains leave every 15 minutes.

.adriftsurfing.com; one-day surf tour \$95). Both operate in Lancelin.

## Water Sports

Here you'll enjoy some of the cleanest city beaches in the world and some of the best surf in the country. It all makes for great wind-surfing, kite-boarding, surfing (see opposite) and bodyboarding. Check wind speeds at the website www.seabreeze.com.au.

When the afternoon sea breeze blusters in, windsurfers take to the Swan River, Leighton and beaches north of Perth. You can hire windsurfers at **Surf Sail Australia** (Map p61; ☎ 1800 686 089; www.surfsailaustralia.com.au; 260–262 Railway Pde, West Leederville).

Because Rottneest is a coral reef with tropical fish so close to Perth, it's a top spot for scuba diving and snorkelling. There are many companies, including the **Australasian Diving Academy** (Map pp54–5; ☎ 9389 5018; www.ausdiving.com.au; 3/142 Stirling Hwy, Nedlands; 4-day open-water dive course plus Rottneest dive \$525; without Rottneest dive \$375), which hires out equipment and teaches you how to dive.

It'll take you five minutes to learn how to sail one of the catamarans for hire on the South Perth foreshore – try **Funcats** (Map pp56–7; ☎ 0408 926 003; Coode St jetty, South Perth; per hr 2 people \$30).

If the wind has kicked up and you just need to stroke through some cool water, Perth has some excellent 50m pools, including **Beatty Park** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 9273 6080; 220 Vincent St, Leederville; adult/child \$4/\$2.80) and **Challenge Stadium** (Map pp54–5; ☎ 9441 8259; Stephenson Ave, Mt Claremont; adult/child \$4.50/\$3.40), favoured by the super-sporty. To get here, take westbound bus 28 from Wellington St, Perth (about 20 minutes; hourly).

## Cycling

Cycling is an excellent way to explore Perth, though some drivers are still learning to share the roads. Kings Park has some good bike tracks. There are also cycling routes along the Swan River, running all the way to Fremantle, and along the coast. For cycling route maps, see www.dpi.wa.gov.au/cycling. Or if you want to pick up your own hard copies, pop in to the **Bicycle Transportation Alliance** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 9420 7210; 2 Delhi St, West Perth; per map \$3.95). Bike shops also sell these. To hire bikes, try the **Cycle Centre** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 9325 1176; 282 Hay St; mountain bikes per day/afternoon \$25/\$15; 🕒 9.30am–5.30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–1pm Sat, 1–4pm Sun).

## Whale-Watching

The whale-watching season runs from September to December. The three-hour trip with **Mills Charters** (Map pp54–5; ☎ 9246 5334; www.millscharters.com.au; Hillarys Boat Harbour; adult/child \$65/\$50) is very informative. The search is for the humpback whale, as it returns to Antarctic waters after wintering in the waters of north-west Australia. Mills has a new hydrophone, which is like a microphone that's dropped into the water, so that you can listen to the whales singing.

Also recommended:

**Boat Torque** (Rottneest Express; Map pp58–9; ☎ 9421 5888; tours \$53) Leaves Barrack St Jetty at 11am Wed, Sat and Sun.

**Oceanic Cruises** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 9325 1191; www.oceaniccruises.com.au; adult/child \$53/\$27; 🕒 Wed & Fri–Sun). Leaves Perth at 12pm.

## Yoga

The following outfits run yoga sessions: **Yoga Company** (Map p61; ☎ 9388 6683; 136 Rokeby Rd; www.theyogacompany.com.au; per session \$16) Hatha.

**Yoga Space** (Map p61; ☎ 9243 5114; www.yogospace.com.au; Shop 6, Seasons Arcade, 1251 Hay St; per session \$14) Ashtanga.

## WALKING TOUR

This tour traces some old remnants of Perth. It also spans the new, and takes you to the best views of the city atop Kings Park. Start in the Cultural Centre, out the front of the **Art Gallery of Western Australia** (1, p63). Head over the walkbridge towards the train station. At the newsagency, head right down the last set of escalators (don't cross the second walkbridge). Take your first left, across Wellington St and into the square. The **post office** (2) looms to your right. Bear southeast up Murray St Mall, then right down Barrack St. At the corner of Hay and Barrack you'll find the beautifully restored **Town Hall** (3), the only convict-built town hall in the country (1867–70).

Continue southeast up Hay St, then turn left up Irwin St. At the corner of Irwin and Murray is the **Fire Safety & Education Museum** (4), Perth's fire headquarters between 1900 and 1979. Further along the street a fig arches lazily over the road, and you'll pass the red-brick buildings of **Royal Perth Hospital** (5). Waiting down the end of the street is **St Mary's Cathedral** (6; 1863), sited on its own square. Wander around Victoria Ave to **Perth Concert Hall** (7; p77) – a fine auditorium and grand structure built in the early 1970s – nestled to the right of the Duxton.

Continue along St Georges Tce, with **Government House** (8; ☎ 12-2pm) to your left,

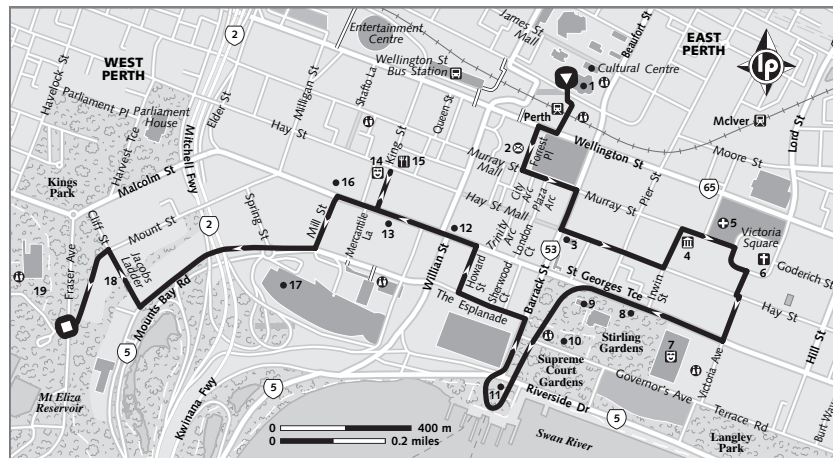
a Gothic-looking fantasy built between 1859 and 1864, followed by the impressive **Council House** (9), designed by Howlett and Bailey in the early 1960s. Past Council House, head southwest through Stirling Gardens and down to the creamy-yellow **courthouse** (10), adjacent to the Supreme Court. The courthouse is one of Perth's oldest buildings (1837).

Wind south of the Supreme Court and make for the river. Within moments the **Swan Bell Tower** (11; p64) will be in view: a modern copper-and-glass structure that contains St Martin's-in-the-Fields, royal bells dating to the 14th century. Double back up Barrack St, northwest along the Esplanade, and up Howard St. Back on St Georges Tce, bear left: the **Palace Hotel** (12), now home to Bankwest, is to your right. Continue to King St, but before you turn, note the **Old Perth Boys School** (13), a modest structure today dwarfed by gleaming office towers. On the corner of King and Hay, you'll find **His Majesty's Theatre** (14; p77), where you can look around in the lobby.

If you don't wish to make the climb to Kings Park, head up to **King St café** (15, p71) for some cake. Otherwise, back on St Georges Tce, you'll see **Cloisters** (16; 1858) to your right,

### WALK FACTS

**Start** Art Gallery of Western Australia  
**Finish** Kings Park  
**Distance** 4.5km  
**Duration** Two hours to Kings Park



originally a school and notable for its brick-work. Roll down Mill St (not signed), straight for the **Perth Convention Exhibition Centre** (17), one of Perth's vaunted landmarks. Stick to the north side of the road as it winds under the underpass, and keep an eye out for **Jacob's Ladder** (18), up a path by the Adelphi Hotel. Once you're at the end of Cliff St, head northwest, following Fraser Ave in to **Kings Park** (19; p62), along to the architect-designed Bali Memorial and, further, various lookouts. Perhaps have a snooze on the lawn.

To return to the city, go back to the roundabout on Cliff St, and head down Mount St and across the overpass to St Georges Tce. Or hop on the free red CAT bus at Havelock St.

## PERTH FOR CHILDREN

There's plenty of free kids' entertainment: **Cottesloe Beach** (Map pp54–5) has long been a family favourite and, just south, **Leighton** (Map pp54–5) beach is fairly sheltered and shallow. **Kings Park** (p62) has numerous playgrounds, walking tracks and gardens. And there's always the bike tracks (p65) that stretch along the river and the coast, long enough to tire out any young kelpie.

The **Royal Perth Show** (Map pp54–5), held September to October, is an ever-popular family outing, all sideshow rides, showbags and proudly displayed poultry. And many of Perth's big attractions – the **Aquarium of Western Australia** (p63), the **Western Australian Museum** (p63) and the **Art Gallery of Western Australia** (p63) – cater well for young audiences. **Perth Zoo** (Map p61; ☎ 9474 3551; www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au; 20 Labouchere Rd, South Perth; adult/child/family \$17/8.50/45; ☎ 9am–5pm), across the river from the city centre in South Perth, is a consistent attraction. The zoo has a number of interesting collections, including a nocturnal house, an Australian wildlife park, a numbat display and a reptile 'encounter' room. Enjoy the sunshine by taking the ferry across the river from Barrack St jetty to the Mends St jetty, from which the zoo is walking distance. Otherwise catch bus 30 or 31 (to front of zoo) or 34 (to north of zoo) from Wellington St bus station or the Esplanade Busport.

**Scitech** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 9481 6295; City West Centre, cnr Sutherland St & Railway Pde, West Perth; adult/child \$14/9; ☎ 9.30am–4pm Mon–Fri, 10am–5pm Sat & Sun) is another option – especially if it's raining. It has over 160 hands-on, large-scale science and technology exhibits.

**Adventure World** (Map pp54–5; ☎ 9417 9666; 179 Progress Dr, Bibra Lake; adult/child \$39/32; ☎ 10am–5pm Thu–Mon Sep–Apr), packed with kids and teenagers, has all the palm-sweat-inducing rides such as 'Bounty's Revenge', a giant boat that swings around in an arc, as well as pools and waterslides. Open daily school holidays and through December, it's 18km south of Perth.

Slip on a gingham shirt and drive down to **Tumbulgm Farm** (☎ 9525 5888; www.tumbulgmfarm.com.au; 1475 South Western Hwy, Mundijong; admission free; farm shows adult/child \$15/8; ☎ 9.30am–5pm), 6km south of Armadale on South West Hwy. Tumbulgm is a big display farm where you can feed animals, milk cows, and catch some sheep-mustering and whip-cracking. Wander around the grounds for free.

## TOURS

Organised tours of Perth abound. Tour brochures can be found in hotel lobbies and visitors centres. For day tours to Rottnest Island, see p92; for Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, see p94; for Fremantle, see p83; for state-wide tours, see p258; for surf tours, see p64.

Recommended tours:

**Big Sky Tours** (☎ 9443 8473; www.bigskytours.com.au) Backpacker-happy tours that wind up with beer in Northbridge.

**Boat Torque** (☎ 9421 5888; www.boattorque.com.au) To Fremantle and Rottnest.

**Captain Cook Cruises** (☎ 9325 3341; www.captaincookcruises.com.au) Goes to the Swan Valley and Fremantle.

**City Explorer Tram** (☎ 9322 2006; www.perthtram.com.au; adult/child \$24/10) This hop-on, hop-off tram, which is actually a bus, takes you around some of Perth's main attractions – the city, Kings Park and Barrack St jetty. It departs from 565 Hay St (near Barrack St) at least five times daily.

**Oceanic Cruises** (☎ 9325 1191; www.oceaniccruises.com.au; adult/child \$119/75) Operates lunch cruises to the Swan Valley.

**Out & About Wine Tours** (☎ 9377 3376; www.outandabouttours.com.au) Follows a similar theme to Swan Valley tours, but has a stronger focus on wine. Runs a twilight tour.

**Swan Valley Tours** (☎ 9299 6249; www.svtours.com.au) Food-driven tours that cruise up the Swan.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

New Year's Day sees Perth's biggest day at the races, the **Perth Cup** (www.perthracing.org.au) come to town, with the party people heading to 'Tentland' for DJs and daiquiris.

Artists like Laurie Anderson, Antony Gormley (who once exhibited on a dry salt



lake near Kalgoorlie) and Philip Glass (who once took to the desert, with his piano) perform at the annual **UWA Perth International Arts Festival** ([www.perthfestival.com.au](http://www.perthfestival.com.au)) alongside the top local talent. Held for several weeks in January and February, the program spans theatre, classical music, jazz, contemporary art, dance – the whole gamut. It's worth scheduling your trip around the festival, particularly if you're nocturnal.

**Perth Pride** ([www.pridewa.asn.au](http://www.pridewa.asn.au)), a gay and lesbian event, is in October, as is the annual **Pride March**. **Artrage** ([www.artrage.com.au](http://www.artrage.com.au)), October to November, is a cutting-edge contemporary arts festival.

## SLEEPING

Perth is very spread out: choose your location carefully. Northbridge is overpopulated with hostels, and is best for those unperturbed by noise. But the CBD and Northbridge are close to all forms of public transport, and hopping out to inner-city suburbs such as Leederville and Mt Lawley is simple. If you can most for the beach, consider Cottesloe, Swanbourne or Scarborough, as public transport to the beaches from the city can be time-consuming. South Perth is a good choice for families, due to its proximity to child-friendly attractions and the wide-open spaces.

Note that many midrange and top-end hotels fiddle with their rates daily.

## City Centre

### BUDGET

**ourpick** **Perth City YHA** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9287 3333; [www.yha.com.au](http://www.yha.com.au); 300 Wellington St; 4-bed dm \$24, 6- & 7-bed dm \$21, s \$50, d without bathroom \$62, d with bathroom \$75, non-YHA members add \$5; 📺 📺) This is the YHA experience at its best. Sure, it's a little predictable, and has that boarding-school feel in the halls (there are 240 beds), but the floorboards gleam – and charmingly creak – and the brightly painted rooms still smell new. In a well-preserved 1940s art deco building, Perth City YHA is in a quieter part of town. Perhaps the best bit is the bathrooms: half the rooms have brand-spanking-new ensuites. Family and twin rooms also available.

**Royal Hotel** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9481 1000; [wentpert@fc-hotels.com.au](http://wentpert@fc-hotels.com.au); cnr Wellington & William Sts; s \$70, without bathroom \$54-60, d \$87-98, without bathroom \$65-70; 📺) A creaking, character-filled historic building, Royal Hotel is well-placed for early morning trips out of town (the busport's metres away).

Family rooms are light but noisy, with kitchenettes and cane bedheads. Cute but modest single rooms have atticlike roofs.

### MIDRANGE

**City Waters Lodge** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9221 2794; [www.citywaters.com.au](http://www.citywaters.com.au); 118 Terrace Rd; s/d/ffrom \$82/90/135; 📺) City Waters is an old-school motel: rooms face the carpark, railings are rickety, and there's a friendly lass at reception. Rooms are light-filled, if simple, and the waterfront location is top-notch – nothing comes between you and the river. Top floor rooms are best; river views exist but are difficult to secure.

**Riverview on Mount Street** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 8963; [www.riverview.au.com](http://www.riverview.au.com); 42 Mount St; d from \$95; 📺 📺) There's a lot of brash new money up here on Mount St, but character-filled Riverview stands out as the best personality on the block. Its refurbished 1960s bachelor pads sit neatly atop the modern foyer and relaxed, minimalist café. Rooms are sunny and simple, even if beds are a few years old. Rooms at the back, which have garden rather than river views, are quieter.

**Miss Maud** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9325 3900; [www.missmaud.com.au](http://www.missmaud.com.au); cnr Murray & Pier Sts; d from \$139; 📺) Anyone with a love of Scandinavian, kitsch or *The Sound of Music* will find a few of their favourite things in the alpine murals and dainty rooms. The Scandinavian rooms are best, as they're bigger and well maintained. The smorgasbords (from \$40 per person) are enough to feed a goat herd.

### TOP END

**Melbourne** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9320 3333; [www.melbournehotel.com.au](http://www.melbournehotel.com.au); cnr Hay & Milligan Sts; d from \$150; 📺) Classic country charm wafts through this modern-day heritage-listed hotel. Built in the gold-rush era, its façade – particularly the deep corrugated-iron balcony that wraps around the building – recalls the mining-town pub perched on the edges of the red-dust desert. Inside you'll find a stylish and serious dining room, and a polished bar and café buzzing with office workers. Rooms are unpretentious and comfortable, though 1st-floor rooms facing Murray St can be noisy.

**Seasons** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 1800 999 004; [www.seasons.ofperth.com.au](http://www.seasons.ofperth.com.au); 37 Pier St; d \$160; 📺 📺) Standing proudly in the eastern pocket of the CBD, Seasons is a large hotel with newly refurbished rooms that are big and fresh-feeling (think white linen and duck-egg-blue covers). But

not all rooms have been refurbished just yet, so be sure to ask. Views start from the 8th floor, and some rooms have a better wi-fi signal than others.

**Medina** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9267 0000; [www.medina.com.au](http://www.medina.com.au); 138 Barrack St; studio/d \$161/195; 📺 📺) When the Medina's rooms were designed, the owner conducted extensive research, staying in his own rooms, handpicking the furnishings, generally pretending to be a sharp-eyed traveller. It's all come together nicely – these apartment-sized hotel rooms are minimalist yet welcoming. All one-bedrooms have balconies, and rooms on Barrack St tend to have more natural light (not always easy to obtain in Perth).

**Mont Clare Apartments** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9224 4300; [www.montclareapartments.com](http://www.montclareapartments.com); 190 Hay St, East Perth; 1-2-bedroom apt from \$170/190; 📺) Friendly and unfussy, Mont Clare's apartments are spacious and, notably, private. Even reception's cordoned off discretely – they leave you to do your own thing. It's all a bit chalk-white and plain, but in summer the pool makes this a cool and restful spot. Fully self-contained. Discounts for stays longer than six nights.

**Saville Park Suites** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9267 4888; [www.savillesuites.com](http://www.savillesuites.com); 201 Hay St, Perth; 1-2-bedroom apt from \$185/210; 📺 📺) There are 152 apartments here; this is no modest building block. And it could easily feel like a massive, faceless apartment factory, but somehow it doesn't. Instead, this Tuscan-orange structure close to the Swan River is relaxed and friendly. Privacy is preserved, anonymity eschewed. Apartments are roomy, with laundries, dishwashers and good-sized benches – plenty of room to chop up some local rock lobster here.

**Rydgcs Perth** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 1800 857 922, 9263 1800; [www.rydgcs.com/perth](http://www.rydgcs.com/perth); cnr King & Hay Sts; d from \$195; 📺) The floor-to-ceiling portholelike windows here are the real highlight; get into your robe and watch the world from up high. The rooms, happily enough, are massive and stylish: comfortable new beds, white- and matt-coloured linens, attention to detail. It's all fun retro with a flash of 1970s California. The light-filled CBD restaurant-bar busies itself with free-running Margaret River Chardonnay and local deep-sea catches.

**Outram** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9322 4888; [www.theoutram.com](http://www.theoutram.com); 32 Outram Street, West Perth; s/d from \$295/335; 📺) Blink and you'll miss it. That's how discreet the Outram is, with its understated European style – an olive-green pitched-roof building quietly nestled among the small office blocks

## LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION

Sharing a house with travellers is an economical option, if you're a couple particularly, and affords a break from the hostel scene. Check the bulletin boards at Traveller's Club and Travel Forever (p53) and <http://au.easyroommate.com>. You should be able to rent a fully furnished room for two for not much more than \$200 to \$300 per week, for a minimum of two weeks. Be sure to inspect before laying down cash.

of West Perth. Super-stylish open-plan rooms (including the bathroom, with a walk-through shower) have king-sized beds draped in white linens, flat-screen TVs, and spas big enough to hide a pony. This is more switched-on luxury for those in the know rather than out-and-out indulgence.

## Northbridge & Around

Most of Perth's hostels are in Northbridge. There are so many here, in fact, that it's possible to walk around and inspect rooms before putting your money down – some are not up to snuff.

### BUDGET

**Britannia** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 6000; [www.perthbritannia.com](http://www.perthbritannia.com); 253 William St; dm \$19-22, s \$35, tw & d from \$50; 📺) If you want to launch yourself into the heart of the action, Britannia's your answer. This is a no-frills backpackers in the centre of Northbridge, with some of the area's best cheap eats just up the road. Dorms are good value, though the kitchen is, admittedly, a bit like a shearer's canteen. Staff are friendly, and there's a busy vibe about the place.

**Billabong Backpackers Resort** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 7720; [www.billabongresort.com.au](http://www.billabongresort.com.au); 381 Beaufort St; dm \$20-23, d \$65; 📺 📺) Billabong is a big, relaxed hostel (about 150 beds), brought to life by Australian murals along the walls. Well-kept dorms are very good value, though doubles aren't quite as good a deal. Beer-clutching boys and gals congregate around Billabong's pool all hours – even when it's too cold to swim – and get together for soccer and more beers when the sun goes down.

**Coolibah Lodge** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 9958; [www.coolibahlodge.com.au](http://www.coolibahlodge.com.au); 194 Brisbane St; dm/s \$21/41, d \$52-56; 📺 📺) Built on two big old colonial-style homes, Coolibah Lodge is comfortable and

homely but nothing fancy. It's one of the oldest hostels on the block, actually, so there's a real backpackers vibe in here – no pretence. Dorms are tidy if a bit pokey, and doubles are of a good standard.

**Oneworld Backpackers** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 8206; www.oneworldbackpackers.com.au; 162 Aberdeen St; dm/d \$22/\$58; 📶) Oneworld is like a hippy backpackers on an inheritance: clean, green and beautifully maintained. Polished floorboards beam brightly in all the rooms of this nicely restored old house, and the dorms are big and sunny, if a little messy sometimes. The kitchen is large and functional, with everything provided, and the hostel tends to be quiet at night.

**our pick** **Governor Robinsons** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 3200; www.govrobinsons.com.au; 7 Robinson Ave; dm \$22, d from \$60; 📶) In two restored colonial homes, this small and beautifully furnished hostel (chesterfields, floorboards) is more like a cosy B&B than a backpackers. The kitchen's a highlight – a bit like cooking at your rich friend's parents' place – and the gas-top stove works a treat. Dorms are fresh and clean, if a little snug. And the sparkling new Federation-style bathrooms are a real hit.

**Witch's Hat** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 4228; www.witchshat.com; 148 Palmerston St; dm/d \$23/64; 📶) Witch's Hat is something out of a fairytale. The building itself could be mistaken for a gingerbread house, and the witch's hat (an Edwardian turret) stands proudly out the front, beckoning the curious to step inside. Dorms are light and uncommonly spacious, and there's a red-brick barbecue area out back. Kids retire at 10.30pm.

## MIDRANGE

**Pension of Perth** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 9049; www.pensionperth.com.au; 3 Throssell St; s/d from \$115/145; 📶) Pension of Perth's French turn-of-the-century style lays luxury on thick: chaise lounges, rich floral rugs, open fireplaces and gold-framed mirrors. There's even a 100-year-old French walnut bedhead. Two doubles with bay windows (and slightly small bathrooms) look out onto the park; the spa room is round the back. And it's across the road from Hyde Park, which is gorgeous.

**Hotel Northbridge** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 5254; www.hotelnorthbridge.com.au; 210 Lake St; d with spa \$120-140; 📶) Hotel Northbridge has long been the star attraction for couples and folks from the country. It's not the hippest kid in the city, but

a recent refurbishment has dropped a spa in every single room – and kept the prices down. Considering it's in the heart of Northbridge, that's pretty good value.

## South Perth

**Peninsula** (Map p61; ☎ 9368 6688; www.thepeninsula.net; 53 South Perth Esplanade; 1-/2-bedroom ste \$135/165; 📶) What the Peninsula lacks in amenities (no laundry, no oven) it makes up for with its riverside location, perfect for lazy ferry rides and sunset strolls along the river. It's a slightly older complex.

## Cottesloe, Swanbourne & Scarborough BUDGET

**Ocean Beach Backpackers** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9384 5111; http://oceanbeachbackpackers.com; cnr Marine Pde & Eric St, Cottesloe; 6-/8-bed dm with bathroom \$21, d with bathroom \$63) This is not just a big, bright, surfie hostel. It's so close to the beach you're almost on the sand (no other hostel in Perth gets this close), and the dorm rooms have ocean views. However, the train line doesn't come up here from the city (the bus does), so this is best for those focused on the beach and happy to take things slow.

## MIDRANGE & TOP END

**Swanbourne Guesthouse** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9383 1981; www.swanbourneguesthouse.com.au; 5 Myera St, Swanbourne; d \$95) Peace and solitude are the key here. Off a leafy residential street, 20 minutes' walk from Swanbourne Beach, you'll hear nothing more than the birds twittering from your sun-filled room.

**Sun Moon Resort** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9245 8000; www.sunmoon.com.au; 200 West Coast Hwy, Scarborough; d \$126-198, 2-bedroom ste \$176-226; 📶) Here the Bali-style resort makes an unlikely friend in Scarborough, but the two work together nicely. Wood-slatted pathways lead you under shady palms while bright-orange carp splash in the pond below. The rooms are enormous, and the terracotta-tiled floor is cool and pleasing under bare feet. Batik furnishings adorn otherwise minimalist rooms. Just across the highway from the beach.

**Ocean Beach Hotel** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9384 2555; www.obh.com.au; cnr Marine Pde & Eric St, Cottesloe; d/f \$180/340; 📶) The only boutique-style hotel on Cottesloe Beach. Inside, smart, playful colours and contemporary furnishings bring this art-deco building to life. Stark white linens rest on deep-blue twill carpets, all set off by plum-

coloured cushions and blond-wood chairs. Rooms are big, with a separate dining area; from the hallway, all you see are the waves. It's like one big LSD-driven shrine to the sea.

## Greater Perth

**Perth Central Caravan Park** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9277 1704; www.perthcentral.com.au; 34 Central Ave, Redcliffe; unpowered/power sites for 2 \$30/32, cabins for 2 \$95; 📶) This small caravan park, 8km east of the city, is the closest to Perth. The refurbished one-bedroom chalets are functional; the two bedrooms are a little older but not pokey. Tent sites are conveniently close to amenities. It's a pleasant enough spot to stop.

**Perth International Tourist Park** (☎ 1800 626 677; 186 Hale Rd, Forrestfield; unpowered sites for 2 \$30, powered sites for 2 \$33-\$35, studio rooms \$56, 1-bedroom cabins \$120; 📶) This caravan park, 15km out of the city, is more of a holiday complex than a passing-through point. It's big, with plenty of accommodation options, including cheap backpackers rooms. These are just a simple spot to rest your head, but do have big square balconies to lounge about on. There's a huge public pool up the road.

## EATING

Every day, the finest regional produce is trucked in to Perth and rolled out onto the tables of the city's best restaurants and cafés. Serious dining has been around for a while, and is now thriving in Mt Lawley, Nedlands, Subiaco and the Swan Valley. But cheap, top-value meals have long been available, too, especially in Northbridge, where you can still get a cracking cha kway teow for \$7 or a belly-bloating laksa for \$8. No doubt this tradition will continue.

BYO is widely accepted (but check ahead); a lot of restaurants do mark their wine list up by about \$15 per bottle.

## City Centre CAFÉS

**Tiger, Tiger** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9322 8055; shop 4, Murray Mews, signed off Murray St; mains \$6.50-\$8.50; 📶) breakfast & lunch) Young bespectacled bloggers tap away on their laptops in this wi-fi hotspot, pondering the source of the café's name (Blake? Chinese idioms?). It's a coveted spot. And it's not just good looks and good cheer in here, with the polished concrete floor, communal table, and antique-style wooden chairs – the food's worth the twist down the laneway. Slices of

## THE BEST COFFEE

The latte in Perth was long derided as the 'Western Milkshake': oversized, weak, milky. Probably in a tall glass with a handle. Today, the standard is greatly improved, and you can easily source a good espresso – so long as you know where to go. Here are the top spots:

- Café Café (p73) – a pilgrimage
- Soto Espresso (p73) – a relaxation form
- Tiger Tiger (left) – a secret

Many coffee shops top up short and long macchiatos with milk as a matter of course. If you just want a stain of milk, be sure to say so.

bread as thick as your arm attempt to clasp pieces of kangaroo, home-spun chutney and fresh greens; hot chocolates come with sesame seeds, hazelnuts and coconut. It all works.

**King Street café** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 4476; 44 King St; mains \$18.50-33; 📶) breakfast, lunch & dinner) Officially called No 44 King St, this stalwart played a crucial role in creating a café culture when only immigrants and well-travelled types drank espresso. Great wine list and expansive menu, including desserts like apple and rhubarb parcels served with port custard.

## RESTAURANTS

**our pick** **Annalakshmi** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9221 3003; www.annalakshmi.com.au; Jetty 4, Barrack St, behind Bell Tower; pay by donation; 📶) lunch Tue-Fri, dinner Tue-Sun) Take in the 360-degree views of the Swan River and the city – decidedly romantic. But this is no touristy cash cow: Annalakshmi is a curry house run by volunteers (formidable baby-boomers, in the main) and you pay by donation. Assorted hippies and other locals line up for spicy potato-and-pumpkin curries and fragrant dhal. Chilled coconut-milk and cardamom desserts cleanse the palate. It's all good fun.

**Matsuri** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9322 7737; cnr Hay & Milligan Sts; mains \$13-20.80; 📶) lunch Mon-Fri, dinner) You'll feel a bit like a carp in a fish tank here – floor-to-ceiling glass runs the perimeter of this large Japanese restaurant. Matsuri has long been a consistent Perth favourite, and today it's as good as ever. The tempura udon with sushi set (\$17.80) is enough to feed two salarymen.

**Balthazar** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9421 1206; cnr Sherwood Ct & the Esplanade; mains from \$26, desserts \$13.50; ☺ dinner Mon-Sat, lunch Mon-Fri) There's a distinct feel of the New York bistro in this low-lit, discreet restaurant tucked away on the Esplanade. The menu's worth observing closely – it's refreshingly original, with a strong European twist. Dishes like caramelised witlof, Roquefort tempura, and fenugreek brulée with fresh strawberries grace the menu. They're serious about food and wine here but the atmosphere's not snotty.

#### QUICK EATS

**Taka** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9324 1234; shops 5 & 6 Shafto Ln; mains \$6.50; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) This straightforward Japanese eatery whips out standards like tempura, udon and sushi (ten pieces for \$6). Takeaway and sushi packs too. There's another branch on the corner of Wellington and Barrack, where lines run 20 metres long at lunchtime (but move fast).

**Organica** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 0345; Shop 3B Shafto Ln) Down the Hay St end of Shafto Ln, Organica is an organic-produce specialist that turns out fantastic freshly squeezed orange juice, hand-made rolls and plenty of other quick, healthful bites.

#### Northbridge CAFÉS

**Tarts** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 6607; 212 Lake St; breakfast \$9.90, lunch \$7-14; ☺ breakfast & lunch) Massive tarts piled with berries, apples or lime curd; rich scrambled eggs tumbling off thickly sliced sourdough; mini custard tarts stacked with glazed strawberries. Tarts is good food and country style, in the city. Packed like a hamper on weekends.

#### SELF-CATERING

Below we've listed the pick of the crop.

**Boatshed** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9284 5176; 40 Jarrad St, Cottesloe) Enormous upmarket shed stacked with fresh produce, soft drinks and bread.

**Chez Jean-Claude Patisserie** (Map p61; 333 Rokeby Rd; ☺ 6am-6.30pm Mon-Fri) Line up with the locals for brioche and baguettes.

**City Farm** (Map pp58-9; train-station end of Brown St, East Perth; ☺ until 12pm Sat & Sun) Local organics producers sell eggs, avocados, spinach, beef, coffee and juice. About 20 stalls.

**Kailis** (Map pp56-7; ☎ 9443 6300; 101 Oxford St, Leederville) Big fresh seafood supplier.

**Kakulas Bros** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 5744; 183 William St; ☺ Mon-Sat) Ramshackle provisions store overflowing with dirt-cheap legumes, nuts and olives.

**New Norcia Bakery** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9443 4114; 163 Scarborough Beach Rd, Mt Hawthorn) Perth's best bread.

**Station St Markets** (Map p61; Subiaco Markets; ☺ Thu-Sun) Cheaper fresh produce. No meat.

#### RESTAURANTS

**Sparrow** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 2238; 434A William St; lunch from \$5.50; dinner from \$6; ☺ lunch Fri & Sat, dinner Mon-Sat) Perfect for those on a sparrow-sized budget, this little eatery is filled with locals in search of a taste of home, whether they're craving nasi goreng, rendang curry, or a little gado gado. The 1970s decor and tiled floor will keep you feeling grounded.

**Good Fortune Roast Duck House** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 3293; 344 William St; mains from \$6; ☺ lunch & dinner Wed-Mon) This is the real thing – just like being in China. Locals charge in for family-sized feeds of barbecue pork, roast duck and noodles – the front window is crammed with options. An entire boneless duck is only about \$17, and you can ask for a half-serve.

**Hong Kong BBQ Chinese Restaurant** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 3968; 76 Francis St; noodle soup \$8, rice dishes \$7.50-\$12; ☺ lunch & dinner Thu-Tue) This welcoming, small restaurant, with the family-run vibe, is among the best Cantonese in town. The *san choy bow*, peppered with roast duck, is superb.

**Red Teapot** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 1981; 413 William St; mains from \$7.90, noodles \$8.90-\$10.90; ☺ Mon-Sat lunch & dinner) This intimate restaurant is always busy with diners enjoying stylishly executed Chinese favourites like fragrant prosperous chicken and chilli salt squid.

**Viet Hoa** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 2127; 349 William St; mains \$8-16; ☺ lunch & dinner) Don't be fooled by the bare-bones ambience of this corner Vietnamese restaurant – or you'll miss out on the fresh rice-paper rolls and top-notch *pho* (beef-and-rice-noodle soup). Greenery creeping up the beams gives the place an off-beat feel. Busy even on Monday nights.

Also recommended:

**Welcome Inn Tea House** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 8886; 354 William St; ☺ dim sum) Good for no-fuss yum cha.

**Riverside Chinese Restaurant** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 1688; 74 Francis St; mains \$7-15; ☺ dim sum & dinner Wed-Mon) Authentic Chinese and cheap dim sum.

**Maya Masala** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 5655; cnr Lake & Francis Sts; mains \$13-16; ☺ lunch & dinner) Southern Indian.

**Joy Garden** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 8638; 65 Francis St; mains \$15-20; ☺ dim sum & dinner Wed-Mon) Top-rate Chinese. Banquets (for ten) \$28 a head.

#### Inner-City Suburbs CAFÉS

**Soto Espresso** (☎ 9227 7686; 507 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley; breakfast \$4-10, lunch \$8.50; ☺ 7am-midnight) Modern Soto opens out onto the street, welcoming its inner-city crowd – stay-at-home dads, ladies who lunch and shop, bleary-eyed students. The lime-green banquettes is a great spot to watch all the comings and goings, and the rather large *croque-monsieur* (a fancy fried cheese-and-ham sandwich) will tackle any hangerover. Open late.

**Oxford 130** (Map pp56-7; 130 Oxford St, Leederville; sandwiches \$7.50; ☺ 6am-midnight) Art and music posters are plastered over one wall. Big jars of jam and lemon butter rest on the bench-top, expectant. There's even a little home-drawn graffiti. Slices of toast are as thick as your copy of *Infinite Jest*, and the No 22 sandwich – pesto, semisundried tomatoes, avocado, cheese and spinach – comes recommended. Elbow your way into a booth, or pull up a crate out front, and let the day slip by.

#### RESTAURANTS

**Duende** (Map pp56-7; ☎ 9228 0123; 662 Newcastle St, Leederville; tapas \$9-17; ☺ 6pm-late, late lunch Sun) A long list of modern-twisted tapas is served up at sleek Duende, where a late-night glass of dessert wine and *churros* (Spanish doughnuts served with hot chocolate sauce), or perhaps some duck prosciutto served with thin slices of apple, are par for the course.

**Lamont's** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9202 1566; 11 Brown St, East Perth; mains \$18-38; ☺ breakfast Sat & Sun, lunch Tue-Sun, dinner Wed-Sat) White tablecloths and high-backed chairs sit out on the veranda, metres from the river's edge. The surrounds are pristine, and it's quiet. Inside, fire-engine-red flourishes and canary-yellow beams signal that cutting-edge food's coming out of this kitchen. It sure is: asparagus with cauliflower

pannacotta and Sturgeon caviar, butter-grilled Pemberton marron with mesclun and salsa verde – it all changes with the seasons. Access is off Brown St, by the river.

**Must Winebar** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 8255; 519 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley; mains \$29.95-36.50; ☺ noon-late) This is probably Perth's best wine bar. It's also a restaurant, and a great one at that, with European-style dishes like beef-cheek ravioli with wild-mushroom crème or duck-leg confit with braised red cabbage. If you're just in the area, you're obliged to at least stop in here for a glass of Sauvignon Blanc.

**Fraser's Restaurant** (Map p61; ☎ 9481 7100; Fraser Ave, Kings Park; mains \$31-39; ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) Atop Kings Park, overlooking the city and the glittering Swan River, Fraser's location is unrivalled. And the food itself has enjoyed a good name for years – Mod Oz standards like chargrilled rock lobster and Mt Barker chicken confit. It's a big space.

**Jackson's** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 1177; 483 Beaufort St, Highgate; mains \$32-46, 9-course tasting menu \$95, with wine \$140; ☺ dinner Mon-Sat) If you love fine food and wine, don't deny yourself one of Perth's top dining experiences: Neal Jackson's tasting menu. This is a serious, long-established dining room that enjoys an excellent reputation. The menu spans dishes like crispy pork belly with caramelised apple and sage, or wagyu beef steak with celeriac and Roquefort mash.

#### Subiaco CAFÉS

**Café Café** (☎ 9388 9800; Shop 20, Subiaco Sq, 29 Station St; breakfast \$7.50-\$10.90, lunch \$7.50-\$9.90; ☺ breakfast & lunch) Locals speak longingly about Café Café as some sort of shrine to the bean – many consider its coffee the best in Perth. Metres from the Subiaco train station, this is a down-to-earth, unfussy spot where the focus is more on the Illy coffee than the food.

**Boucla** (☎ 9381 2841; 349 Rokeby Rd; mains \$12; ☺ breakfast & lunch Mon-Sat) Boucla may be a little isolated from the thick of the Rokeby Rd action, but that's a good thing. This Middle Eastern-inspired den of sheeshes, artworks and crafts is a locals' secret. Honey-sticky sweets smile at you from the corner, and huge tarts filled with blue-vein cheese and roast vegetables spill off plates. The salads are great too.

**Food** (☎ 6380 2000; 151a Rokeby Rd; mains \$14, shared platters \$69, morning or afternoon tea \$7.90; ☺ lunch Mon-

Sat) As its name suggests, this café is straightforward, practical, and very focused on the food. Choose your dukkah-crumbed chicken wings with mango chutney – or perhaps some veggie-and-rice-noodle fritters – at the counter, then snap up a spot on the bright-blue lounge out front.

## RESTAURANTS

**Ecco** (☎ 9388 6710; 23 Rokeby Rd; pizzas \$19; 🕒 11am-late Tue-Fri) With black-and-white prints of home (Italy) licked along the walls, small and rustic Ecco is all about simple Italian pizza done well. Slip into a wooden table inside, or gaze at passersby out front, and get busy munching.

**Chutney Mary's** (☎ 9381 2099; 67 Rokeby Rd; mains \$12-24; 🕒 lunch & dinner) The feisty, authentic Indian food here is much-loved. The menu's huge, and much of it's devoted to vegetarian favourites like malai kofta and dal makhani. The vibe's colourful and casual.

**Subiaco Hotel** (☎ 9381 3069; www.subiaco.com.au; 465 Hay St; mains \$16-28; 🕒 breakfast, lunch & dinner) The Subiaco Hotel is an institution. Middle-clutching men perch themselves for hours in the side bar, friends banter in lounges by the central bar, and suit-clad lunchers get down to business in the dining room. The sun-speckled courtyard is wonderful in summer, and it's heaving on weekends.

**Rialto's** (☎ 9382 3292; 424 Hay St; mains \$35; 🕒 lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat) Bold red leather, slick black stools, chalk-white walls and chairs: Rialto's is see-and-be-seen Euro-chic with flair. And food is a very serious business, with dishes like pan-fried rabbit served with endive, speck and Danish fetta sauce. Locals view this place as an essential experience.

## Cottesloe & Scarborough CAFÉS

**Leaf Tea Merchants** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9284 3830; Shop 1, 29 Napoleon St, Cottesloe; high tea \$20, mains \$7.95-14.50; 🕒 lunch) Leaf Tea could be dismissed as nothing more than fancy tea in a homeware store. But look closer: these people are obsessed with high tea and all its attendant delights, such as tiffins, three-tier cake stands, delectable almond-berry teacakes and egg-and-home-made-mayonnaise finger sandwiches. A huge range of herb, fruit and berry infusions come in glass teapots.

**John St Café** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9384 3390; 37 John St, Cottesloe; mains \$11.40-19; 🕒 breakfast & lunch) Dwarfed by gargantuan stands of pines and tucked up

a residential street, cute John St Café is the spot for your late-morning fry-up. Dig into massive eggs Benedict, or a BLT with basil pesto and cherry tomatoes. Two minutes' walk from the beach.

## QUICK EATS

**Peter's by the Sea** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9341 1738; 128 The Esplanade, Scarborough; burgers & kebabs \$5-10; 🕒 lunch & dinner) A while back, the developers of the huge Observation City complex tried to buy out this Perth icon, but its owners refused to budge, and the complex was built around it. Similarly, locals have been refusing to buy their burgers anywhere else for decades. The bacon-and-egg burgers are well-known hangover cures.

## DRINKING

Much like Los Angeles, Perth's gems are studied throughout the suburbs – the CBD has lost the locals' attention. Generally, the big mainstream drinking venues are in Northbridge; smaller, more laid-back clubs and bars are in Mt Lawley and Leederville. Some big beer gardens are strewn around the suburbs, notably in Cottesloe.

One of the first things you'll notice is that pubs are enormous. This is because of massively expensive licences; once you've got one, you have to turn out the beers at a rapid rate to make a return. Big drinking venues have become part of the culture. And although the licensing laws have recently been changed, this culture is likely to continue for a while yet.

Connections (p76) is the main gay club. Other good places, such as Luxe (opposite), the Brisbane (opposite) and Grapeskin (below), are gay-friendly rather than gay-only.

## Bars

### CITY CENTRE

**Ourpick Hula Bula bar** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9225 4457; 12 Victoria Ave; 🕒 late Wed-Sun) You'll feel like you're back on Gilligan's Island here, especially with the big fake parrot perched over your shoulder. This tiny Polynesian-themed bar is decked out in bamboo, palm leaves and totems, and the ostentatious cocktails come in ceramic monkey's heads. Plus it's got the tackiest toilets in town. A rather cool but relaxed crowd jams in here weekends.

**Box Deli** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9322 6744; 918 Hay St; 🕒 9.30am-late Mon-Fri, 4pm-late Sat) This bar-cum-restaurant has a distinct club feel, with its

deep bar and decks. A well-located spot for a pre-dancing drink.

## NORTHBRIDGE

**Grapeskin** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 9596; 215 William St, Northbridge; 🕒 11am-midnight Mon & Tue, 11am-1am Wed & Thu, 11am-2am Fri & Sat, 11am-10pm Sun) This slick-but-cosy wine bar, next door to the Brass Monkey, used to be a gym, but the only weights being lifted these days are glasses heavy with wines and cocktails. There's a great big bar on which you can rest your elbow and marvel at the wines and spirits lined along an entire wall – so long as the place isn't already heaving. Gay-friendly.

**Universal** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 6771; 221 William St, Northbridge; 🕒 until 2am Wed-Sat, 10pm Sun) The unpretentious Universal, for jazz and blues enthusiasts, is one of Perth's oldest bars.

## INNER-CITY SUBURBS

**Brisbane** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 2300; www.thebrisbane.com.au; cnr Beaufort & Brisbane Sts, Mt Lawley; 🕒 11.30am-late Mon & Tue, 11.30am-midnight Wed-Sat, 11.30am-10pm Sun) The Brisbane's a big 'n' slick beer hall-cum-bar with a massive outdoor area. Huge palms and yuccas provide a balmy holiday feel and, inside, Andy Warhol-inspired prints subtly confirm the inner-city spirit that keeps this place thumping night after night.

**Luxe** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 9680; 446 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley; 🕒 late Wed-Sun) With retro wood paneling, big sexy lounge chairs and Twin Peaks-style red-velvet curtains, Luxe is one of the coolest spots around. Like any serious bar, it's also armed with decks and a specialist cocktail bar. The crowd here is usually very relaxed and friendly.

**Must Winebar** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 8255; 519 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley; 🕒 noon-late) Considering there's French house floating through the sound system and the perfect glass of wine in your hand (there are 40 by the glass, 500 on the wine list), it's very difficult to leave this buzzing bar in the thick of Beaufort St. It's probably the best wine bar in Perth, and the food is also excellent.

## Pubs

### CITY CENTRE

**Belgian Beer Café** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 4094; 347 Murray St; 🕒 11am-midnight Mon-Sat, noon-10pm Sun) The Belgian Beer bar is a good spot to start your evening. With loads of beers like Stella

and Hoegaarden on tap, it's a bit like a big cheery beer barn.

## NORTHBRIDGE

**Deen** (Aberdeen Hotel; Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 9361; 84 Aberdeen St; 🕒 5pm-2am Mon, 5pm-2am Thu-Sat) The Deen's popular with travellers, especially on Monday night's backpacker night (the band kicks off at 9pm). Thursday is all about Brazilian dancing – just slug back some cheap beer and your salsa will improve in no time. Other nights see DJs, pool tables and big lines out the front.

**Brass Monkey** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 9596; cnr James & William Sts, Northbridge; 🕒 11am-midnight Mon-Tue, 11am-1am Weds-Thu, 11am-2am Fri & Sat, 11am-10pm Sun) This is a great big heritage pub with different areas, each with its own vibe. Take your pick: sit up on a stool at the bar, lean back in the relaxed beer garden, or hunker down on a chesterfield by the fire (and sports screen). There's a restaurant upstairs, too.

## INNER-CITY SUBURBS

**Flying Scotsman** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 6200; 639 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley; 🕒 11am-midnight Sun-Thu, 11am-1am Fri & Sat) There's nothing particularly Scottish about the young, chilled-out crowd that gathers here for pints over small communal tables – if anything they're a bit Aussie-indie. The place will be either heaving or dead, depending on what else is up.

**Leederville Hotel** (Map pp56-7; ☎ 9286 0150; 742 Newcastle St, Leederville; 🕒 noon-midnight Mon-Thu, noon-1am Fri & Sat, noon-11pm Sun) The good old Leederville has been turning out beers and Midori shakers for many generations. The something-for-everyone philosophy is etched out in the sports screens, dance floors, pool tables and, on Fridays, very-fun Funk Club, upstairs. Wednesdays are big with the younger folk.

**Queens** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 7267; 520 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley; 🕒 until midnight Mon-Sat, until 10pm Sun) This is a big federation-style pub, popular on Sundays. A nice cold beer in the sun-speckled courtyard is the standard routine.

## SUBIACO

**Subiaco Hotel** (Map p61; ☎ 9381 3069; cnr Hay & Rokeby Rd, Subiaco; 🕒 7am-late) The Subi's a local favourite and the institution of choice for a pre-footy beer. It's also not bad for a Sunday sundowner or an afternoon of quiet beers and people-watching.

## COTTESLOE

**Ocean Beach Hotel** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9384 2555; cnr Marine Pde & Eric St; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Sat, 11am-10pm Sun) Keep a sharp eye out for the OBH's very own bumper sticker: 'There's nothing like a country crowd'. Backpackers and country kids drink up the beer and soak up the sun at this rambling beachside pub, especially on Sundays.

**Cottesloe Beach Hotel** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9383 1100; 104 Marine Pde; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Sat, 11am-10pm Sun) Grab a spot on the lawn in the massive beer garden, or watch the sun set from the balcony, where guys check out chicks all afternoon long. Sundays are big.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Most of the big clubs are in Northbridge; Leederville and Mt Lawley are also nightlife spots. Theatre and classical music are found in Subiaco and the city.

To check out what is happening around town online, see p62.

## Nightclubs

**Geisha** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 9808; 135a James St, Northbridge; ☎ 11pm-6am Fri & Sat) Geisha's a small-and-pumping DJ-driven club. The vibe's usually music-focused and chilled out.

**Manor** (Map pp56-7; entry \$6, after midnight \$8) Search for this spot down a laneway behind the Hip-E Club (through the carpark off Newcastle St), and dance to till your heart's content among the chandeliers and chesterfields. There's a small but danceable space downstairs, and another bar and lounge chairs upstairs for when you need to catch your breath. DJs play funk and retro tunes till the wee hours.

**Funk Club** (Map pp56-7; 742 Newcastle St, Leederville) Upstairs at the Leederville Hotel on Friday nights, the Funk Club is full of colour and fun. A happy bunch bop away for hours up here, seemingly unaware of the entirely different vibe downstairs.

**Connections** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 1870; 81 James St, Northbridge; ☎ Wed, Fri & Sat) This is the one real gay club, supposedly the first of its kind in Australia. Saturday nights pull a fun gay and straight crowd, though things can be hit-or-miss – you'll just have to try your luck.

**Velvet Lounge** (Map pp58-9; 639 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley) Out the back of the Flying Scotsman is this small, red-velvet-clad lounge with hip-hop, drum 'n' bass, house and funk. Punters pop

in and out of here and the Flying Scotsman (p75) all night long.

Other clubs:

**Ambar** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9325 0000; 100 Murray St) The place for international DJs.

**Hip-E Club** (Map pp56-7; ☎ 9227 8899; 663 Newcastle St, Leederville; ☎ Tue-Sun) Thrust about to 'Tainted Love' all night long. Tuesday is backpackers night.

**La Bog** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 0900; 361 Newcastle St, Northbridge; ☎ 6pm-6am Mon-Sat, 8pm-1am Sun) Bump 'n' grind to Eddie Vedder belting out 'Better Man'. Backpackers night on Tuesday.

**Metro City** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9228 0500; 146 Roe St, Northbridge) Ten theme bars in this thumping super-club.

**Rise** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 7447; 139 James St) Serious clubbers head here for non-stop trance.

## Live Music

**Amplifier** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 7606; 385 Murray St, rear; ☎ 8am-late Fri & Sat) Good old Amplifier's one of the best places for live (mainly indie) bands.

**ourpick Bakery** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 0629; 233 James St) Run by Artrage, Perth's contemporary arts festival body, the Bakery draws the art crowd. Popular indie gigs are held almost every weekend.

**Rosemount Hotel** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 7062; cnr Angove & Fitzgerald Sts, North Perth; ☎ 11am-late Mon-Sat, 11am-10pm Sun) Local and international bands play regularly in this spacious pub, all wood and floorboards. There's a pool table round the front, and a big round bar as the central feature. It even comes with a restful beer garden.

**Jazz Cellar** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9385 8111; cnr Scarborough Beach Rd & Buxton St; admission \$10; ☎ Friday night) Look for the shoe shop, behind which you'll spot a carpark. Then you'll find a red telephone booth: step through and down the stairs to find an older crowd of jazz freaks revelling in swing. Admission gets you a cup of tea or coffee – BYO alcohol (none for sale at the venue).

**Hyde Park Hotel** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 6166; cnr Bulwer & Fitzgerald Sts, Northbridge) The Hydrie's still punky and a bit sticky. Indie and rock bands play here certain nights (check the gig guides).

Big international acts play at Metro City nightclub. Occasionally musicians like Chris Isaak and Augie March play at **Kings Park** (www.mellenevents.com). The **Perth Jazz Society** (www.perthjazzsociety.com) meets every Monday night at the Hyde Park Hotel to play swing and modern jazz. The **Jazz Club of WA**, which plays

traditional jazz and Dixieland, meets at the same place Tuesday night.

## Cinemas

The three art-house cinemas in Perth:

**Astor** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9370 1777; 659 Beaufort St, Mt Lawley) In a spearmint and gold art deco building, the Astor doesn't screen as many films as Luna and Paradiso.

**Cinema Paradiso** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9227 1771; www.luna.com.au; Galleria complex, 164 James St, Northbridge)

**Luna** (Map pp56-7; ☎ 9444 4056; www.lunapalace.com.au; 155 Oxford St, Leederville) \$10 Monday twin-features and a bar.

Hollywood blockbusters are screened at the following:

**Ace Subiaco** (Map p61; ☎ 9388 6500; 500 Hay St, cnr Alvan St)

**Hoyts Cinema City** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9325 2377; 580 Hay St)

There are a number of outdoor cinemas open during summer (including Luna, above):

**Camelot Outdoor Cinema** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9385 4793; Memorial Hall, 16 Lochee St, Mosman Park)

**Moonlight Cinema** (Map p61; ☎ 1300 551 908; www.moonlight.com.au; Kings Park Botanic Garden)

**Somerville Auditorium** (Map pp54-5; www.perthfestival.com.au; UWA, 35 Stirling Hwy, Crawley; ☎ Dec-Mar) A quintessential Perth experience, the arthouse Somerville is on beautiful grounds surrounded by pines. Picnicking before the film is a must.

## Theatre & Classical Music

Check the *West Australian* newspaper for theatre programmes. For theatre, dance and classical music:

**His Majesty's Theatre** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9265 0900; 825 Hay St)

**Perth Concert Hall** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9484 1133; 5 St Georges Terrace) Home to the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO).

**Playhouse Theatre** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9484 1133; 3 Pier St)

**Regal Theatre** (Map p61; ☎ 9484 1133; 474 Hay St)

**Subiaco Arts Centre** (Map p61; ☎ 9382 3385; 180 Hamersley Rd, Subiaco)

## Sport

The *West Australian* has details of all sports games.

During the Australian Football League (AFL) season it's hard to get locals to talk about anything but the two local teams – the Fremantle Dockers and the West Coast Eagles –

and the joy of beating 'the Vics' (any Victorian team is considered an arch-enemy).

**Subiaco Oval** (☎ 1300 135 915; 250 Roberts Rd, Subiaco) There's a great atmosphere during AFL games here.

**Western Australian Cricket Association ground** (WACA; Map pp54-5; ☎ 9265 7222; Nelson Cres, East Perth) In summer, cricket fans spend a lazy afternoon here watching a one-day or test match.

**Perth Oval** (Members Equity Stadium; Map pp58-9; ☎ 9492 6000; Lord St, Perth) The Perth Glory soccer team has many obsessive fans. See them in action here.

**Challenge Stadium** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9441 8222; Stephenson Ave, Mt Claremont) Perth Wildcats play NBL basketball here.

## SHOPPING

Perth's not known for its shopping, but there are some interesting spots around town, and it is a good place to buy indigenous art.

**78 Records** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9322 6384; 914 Hay St) This place has been around since '78 – well, almost. It's as big as a warehouse and has a massive range.

**Keith & Lottie** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9328 8082; 276 William St, Northbridge) An indie kid's delight, this extremely cute store has journals, badges, necklaces, t-shirts, a few homewares, coats and tops.

**Indigenart** (Map p61; ☎ 9388 2899; 115 Hay St, Subiaco) Reputable Indigenart carries major Kimberley, Papunya Tula and Arnhem Land artists. Works span weavings, canvases, works on paper and limited edition prints.

**Form** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9226 2799; 357 Murray St) Just around the corner from King St, Form stocks vases and craft pieces by Australian artists as well as design books, brochures, jewellery and bags.

If you suddenly find you have nothing to wear, try **Periscope** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 6868; 30 Kings St) or **Varga Girl** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 9321 7838; 349 Murray St). Both carry Australian designers. Varga Girl has a good range of dresses, some vintage pieces and jeans.

Elephant-size shopping malls are **Garden City** (Map pp54-5; 125 Risely St, Booragoon), south of the city centre, and the more upmarket **Karrinyup** (Map pp54-5; 200 Karrinyup Rd, Karrinyup), north.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Air

**Qantas** (☎ 13 13 13; www.qantas.com.au; 55 William St) and **Virgin Blue** (☎ 13 67 89; www.virginblue.com.au)

fly between Perth and other Australian state capitals. **Jetstar** ([www.jetstar.com](http://www.jetstar.com)) runs cheapies from Avalon, Melbourne.

**Skywest** (☎ 1300 660 088; [www.skywest.com.au](http://www.skywest.com.au)) flies between Perth and regional destinations such as Esperance and Broome. Qantas also flies to Broome and Kalgoorlie.

## Bus

The long distance coach bookings office is located at the Perth train station.

**Greyhound** (☎ 13 14 99; [www.greyhound.com.au](http://www.greyhound.com.au)) has daily services from the East Perth terminal to Darwin via Broome.

**Transwa** (☎ 1300 662 205; [www.transwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.transwa.wa.gov.au)) operates services from the bus terminal at East Perth train station to many destinations around the state.

**South West Coach Lines** (☎ 9324 2333) focuses on the southwestern corner of WA, doing trips from the Esplanade Busport to most towns in the region, including Bunbury, Busselton and Margaret River.

**Integrity Coach Lines** (☎ 1800 226 339, 9226 1339; [www.integritycoachlines.com.au](http://www.integritycoachlines.com.au)) runs services between Perth and Port Hedland via Meekathara and Newman.

## Train

The intrastate rail network, run by **Transwa** (☎ 1300 662 205; [www.transwa.wa.gov.au](http://www.transwa.wa.gov.au)), is limited to the following services:

**Perth–Kalgoorlie–Boulder** (\$71.80, once daily) Prospector, from East Perth terminal. Some trains leave 7.15am.

**Perth–Northam** (\$13.55, twice daily) Avon Link, from East Perth railway station.

**Perth–Merredin** (\$36.45, thrice weekly) Avon Link, from East Perth railway station.

**Perth–Bunbury** (\$23.90, twice daily) Australind, from Perth train station.

There are connections with Transwa's more extensive bus service.

The Perth–Mandurah railway should be operating mid-2007. See [www.newmetrorail.wa.gov.au](http://www.newmetrorail.wa.gov.au) for the latest.

There is only one interstate rail link: the famous Indian Pacific transcontinental train journey, run by **Great Southern Railway** (☎ 13 21 47; [www.trainways.com.au](http://www.trainways.com.au)), which leaves from East Perth station. To Perth from Sydney, one-way fares are about \$590 (seat only), \$422 (seat only, backpacker rate) or \$1320 (sleeper cabin). Between Adelaide and Perth, fares are \$355 (seat only), \$253 (seat only, back-

packer), or \$1005 (sleeper cabin). There are connections to the Ghan (to Alice Springs and Darwin) and the Overland (to Melbourne) trains.

You can buy train tickets at the Interstate and Country booking office at the Perth train station. The office is off Wellington St.

## GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

The domestic and international terminals of Perth's airport are 10km and 13km east of Perth respectively. Taxi fares to the city are around \$25/35 from the domestic/international terminal.

The **Perth Airport City Shuttle** (☎ 9277 7958; [www.perthshuttle.com.au](http://www.perthshuttle.com.au)) provides transport to the city centre, hotels and hostels. It meets incoming domestic and international flights. The shuttle costs \$12/15 from the domestic/international terminal. Bookings are essential (24 hours ahead if possible).

Transperth bus 37 travels to the domestic airport from Kings Park (or Esplanade Busport) via St Georges Tce (\$3.20; pick-up at C-stand, St Georges Tce near William St) every 20 mins, every 30 to 60 minutes early morning, evenings and weekends.

## Car & Motorcycle

Driving in the city takes a bit of practise, as some streets are one-way and many aren't signed. Perth is well-equipped with car parks – you shouldn't have problems finding one. You'll have no trouble getting fuel, but prices can fluctuate day to day.

All of the major car rental companies – **Avis** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 13 63 33; 46 Hill St), **Budget** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 13 27 27; 960 Hay St), **Hertz** (Map pp58-9; ☎ 13 30 39; 39 Milligan St) and **Thrifty** (☎ 1300 367 227, within WA 136 139; 198 Adelaide Tce) – are in Perth. Some local operators – like **Bayswater Hire Car** (☎ 9325 1000; 160 Adelaide Tce) – can be cheaper, but make sure you read the fine print. Note that some insurance policies, even with the bigger companies, don't cover you outside the metropolitan area after dark – in case you hit a roo.

## Public Transport

Perth's central public transport organisation, **Transperth** (☎ 13 62 13; [www.transperth.wa.gov.au](http://www.transperth.wa.gov.au)), operates buses, trains and ferries. There are Transperth information offices at the Perth train station in Wellington St and at the Es-

planade Busport on Mounts Bay Rd, by the new convention centre. Transperth provides timetables and advice about getting around Perth, available from the offices and its website. There is also a 'journey planner' on the website.

There's a free transit zone for all buses and trains within the city. Look for the 'FTZ' sign. On regular Transperth buses and trains, a short ride of one zone costs \$2.10, two zones \$3.20, three zones \$4. Zone one includes the city centre and the inner suburbs, and zone two extends to Fremantle, Sorrento and Midland. If you're planning a busy day of sight-seeing, the DayRider (\$7.70) is good value. It gives you unlimited travel after 9am weekdays and all day on the weekend. Note that international student cards are not counted as 'concession'.

If you're in Perth for a while, it may be worth buying a SmartRider card, which covers you for bus, train and ferry. It's \$10 to purchase, then you add value to your card. The technology deducts the fare as you go, so you don't have to figure out fares and zones yourself. The SmartRider works out 15% cheaper than buying single tickets (25% if you load directly from the bank). The FamilyRider lets two adults and up to five children travel for a total of \$7.70 weekdays.

## BUS

For travellers, the free Central Area Transit (CAT) services in the city centre are fantastic. There are computer readouts (and audio) at the stops telling you when the next bus is due.

Using the CAT, you can get to most sights in the inner city. Pick up a CAT map at the Perth train station.

The red CAT operates east–west from Oustram St, West Perth, to the WACA in East Perth. It runs every five minutes from 6.50am to 6.20pm weekdays. It also operates every 25 minutes from 10am to 6.15pm weekends.

The blue CAT operates north–south from the river to Northbridge. On weekdays, services run every seven minutes, 6.50am to 6.20pm, and, on Fridays, every 15 minutes 6.20pm to 1am. On weekends, there's a bus every 15 minutes 8.30am to 1am Saturday and 10am to 6.15pm Sunday.

The yellow CAT runs from East Perth up Wellington St to West Perth every 10 minutes, 6.50am to 6.20pm weekdays, and every 30 minutes 10am to 6.15pm weekends.

The metropolitan area is also serviced by a wide network of Transperth buses. See the information office at Perth train station for timetables and advice or use the 'journey planner' on its website.

## FERRY

A popular way of getting to the zoo, Transperth ferries cross the river from the Barrack St jetty in the city to the Mends St jetty in South Perth. Services run every 20 to 30 minutes 6.50am–7.24pm weekdays, and around 8.10am–9.15pm weekends.

## TAXI

Perth has a decent system of metered taxi cabs, though the distances in Perth makes

## HAPPY VANNING

If you're heading up north for, say, more than two weeks, consider the campervan. You won't be hampered by hostel check-in timetables and other hassles, leaving you to go where you want, when you want. And it can be quite economical once costs are split between two or three people. In general, if you're just planning to tour the southwest, a hire car is better value – accommodation's plentiful, and distances aren't as great.

There are a number of campervan rental companies in Perth, including the following: **Campaboutoz** (Map pp54–5; ☎ 1800 210 877; [www.campaboutoz.com.au](http://www.campaboutoz.com.au); 198 Hampden Rd, Nedlands) **Wicked Campers** (Map pp58–9; ☎ 1800 246 869; 49 Shenton St, Northbridge) With graffiti-style murals splashed across the vans (not all are painted).

Be rigorous and compare deals carefully. You should be able to get unlimited kilometres, roadside assistance, and pick-up and delivery within metropolitan Perth.

If you've done the sums and decided to purchase, Freo has a number of secondhand car yards, including a cluster in North Freo, near Mojo's on Stirling Hwy. There's also the **Traveller's Autobarn** (☎ 9228 9500; [www.travellers-autobarn.com.au](http://www.travellers-autobarn.com.au); 365 Newcastle St, Northbridge).

frequent use costly, and on busy nights you may have trouble flagging one down off the street. There are ranks throughout the city and in Fremantle. The two main companies are **Swan Taxis** (☎ 13 13 30, 9422 2240) and **Black & White** (☎ 13 10 08, 9333 3377), both of which have wheelchair taxis.

## TRAIN

Transperth also operates suburban train lines to Armadale, Fremantle, Midland, Thornlie and the northern suburb of Clarkson (Joondalup) from around 5.20am to midnight weekdays. Trains run until about 2am Saturday and Sunday. The line to Mandurah via Rockingham should be operational by mid-2007.

All trains leave from Perth station on Wellington St. Your rail ticket can also be used on Transperth buses and ferries within the ticket's area of validity; the free transit zone extends to Claisebrook and City West stations. You're also free to take your bike on the train in non-peak times.

During the day, some of the Fremantle trains run through to Midland.

## FREMANTLE

☎ 08 / pop 25,500

Creative, relaxed, open-minded: Fremantle's spirit is entirely distinct from Perth's. Perhaps it has something to do with the port and the city's working-class roots. Or the hippies, who first set up home here a few decades ago and, today, can still be seen casually bobbling an old bicycle down the street. Artists always make a difference, and painters, writers and musicians have been toiling away here for years.

Freo lies at the mouth of the Swan, 19km from Perth, making it more like another suburb these days than a city of its own. And there's more than the friendly atmosphere to enjoy here – Freo's home to some fantastic museums, historic buildings, galleries, pubs and cafés. At night on weekends, kids from the suburbs move in to party and cruise the main drag.

## HISTORY

This area was settled thousands of years ago by the Noongar people. Several trails once joined on the south side of the Swan River, at a natural bridge almost spanning the Swan.

This was the hub of intertribal trading routes. Aboriginal groups quickly came to occupy various parts of the area, known to them as Manjaree.

Fremantle's European history began when the ship *HMS Challenger* landed here in 1829. The ship's captain, Charles Fremantle, took possession of the whole of the west coast 'in the name of King George IV'. Like Perth, the settlement made little progress until convict labour was employed. These hard-working labourers constructed most of the town's earliest buildings; some of them, such as the Round House, Fremantle Prison and Fremantle Arts Centre, are now among the oldest in WA.

As a port, Fremantle wasn't up to much until the engineer CY O'Connor created an artificial harbour in the 1890s. In 1987 the city of Fremantle was the site of the unsuccessful defence of what was, for a brief period, one of Australia's most prized possessions – the America's Cup yachting trophy. Preparations for the influx of tourists transformed Fremantle into a more modern and colourful city. In 1995 the Fremantle Dockers played their first game. And in 2006 a native claim title over the metropolitan area was successful – acknowledgment of the Noongar people's ties to the land (though the claim is now under appeal).

## INFORMATION

**Chart & Map Shop** (☎ 9335 8665; 14 Collie St) Great range of maps and travel guides.

**etch** (☎ 9239 8189; 53 South Tce; per hr \$6; ☎ 8am–8.30pm Mon–Thu, 8am–4pm Fri, 8.30am–3pm Sat) Quiet internet access.

**Fremantle Hospital** (☎ 9431 3333; Alma St)

**Fremantle Post Office** (☎ 13 13 18; 13 Market St)

**New Edition Bookshop** (☎ 9335 2383; 50 South Tce; ☎ 9am–late) Excellent bookstore. Stocks locals titles.

**Travellers Centre** (☎ 9335 8776; 16 Market St; internet per hr \$5) Travellers' hangout with loads of travel information and internet terminals.

**Visitors Centre** (☎ 9431 7878; Kings Square; ☎ 9am–5pm Mon–Fri, 11am–3pm Sat, 11.30am–3pm Sun) On the northwest side of the town hall.

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

### Western Australian Maritime Museum

Housed in a stunning, architect-designed building on the harbour, just west of the city centre, the **Western Australian Maritime Museum** (☎ 9431 8444; www.museum.wa.gov.au; Victoria Quay; mu-

seum adult/child \$10/3, submarine \$8/3, museum & submarine \$15/5; ☎ 9.30am–5pm) is a fascinating exploration of WA's relationship with the ocean. It faces out to the sea, which has shaped so much of the state's, and Fremantle's, destiny.

You can't miss the display of **Australia II**, the famous winged-keel yacht that won the America's Cup yachting race in the 1980s (and stole it away from the Americans, ending their 132-year domination of the competition – an achievement which is the source of much Sandgroper pride). Other boats on show include an **Indonesian fishing boat**, introduced to the Kimberley and used by the indigenous people, and a **pearl lugger** used in Broome. Even a classic 1970s panel van (complete with fur lining) makes the cut – because of its status as the surfer's vehicle of choice.

Well-presented displays cover an exhausting range of topics – from how Aboriginal fish traps work to the sandalwood trade. If you're not claustrophobic, take a tour of another ocean-going machine, the submarine **HMAS Ovens**. The vessel was part of the Australian Navy's fleet from 1969 to 1997. Tours leave every half hour from 10am to 3.30pm.

### Fremantle Arts Centre & History Museum

An impressive neo-Gothic building, the **Fremantle Arts Centre** (☎ 9432 9555; www.fac.org.au; nr Ord & Finnerty Sts; ☎ 10am–5pm) was originally constructed by convict labourers as a lunatic asylum in the 1860s. Saved from demolition in the late 1960s, the building now also houses the **Fremantle History Museum** (☎ 9430 7966), which focuses on the diverse nationalities that make up the town's population.

Today the arts centre has a changing programme of interesting exhibitions; during summer, it's a hive of cultural activity, with concerts, courses and workshops. There's a café and craft shop with books, and the gorgeous elm-strewn gardens have benches.

### Old Fremantle Prison

In some ways, the **Old Fremantle Prison** (☎ 9336 9200; www.fremantleprison.com.au; 1 The Terrace; day tours adult/child \$16/8, night tours \$20/10.50; ☎ 10am–6pm, last tour 5pm), with its foreboding 5m-high walls, dominates present-day Fremantle. Certainly tales of adventures and hardships in here have lived on in the city's imagination.

Suitably enough, the prison was built by convict labour, and it operated from 1855

right through 1991, playing host to people like bushranger Moondyne Joe, a famed escape artist (p100); Brenden Abbott, a bank robber who escaped in prison guard's uniform; and Eric Edgar Cooke, the last person to be hanged in WA.

You can only enter on a tour, which depart every half-hour – and they're highly recommended. Another good time to visit is after 7.30pm Wednesday and Friday for the night tours by torchlight.

### Maritime Museum Shipwreck Galleries

Although the maritime museum commands a lot of attention, don't miss the intriguing **Shipwreck Galleries** (☎ 9431 8444; Cliff St; admission by donation; ☎ 9.30am–5pm), where you can happily poke around for hours learning about gung-ho seafaring adventures and misfortunes.

The museum (in a building constructed in 1852 as a commissariat store) has a display on WA's maritime history with particular emphasis on the history, recovery and restoration of the famous wreck **Batavia**, in addition to other Dutch merchant ships and some more recent wrecks.

At one end of the Batavia gallery is a huge **stone facade** intended for an entrance to Batavia Castle. It was being carried by the Batavia when it sank. The dominant feature of the gallery, however, is the reconstruction of a part of the hull from recovered timbers, which you can view from ground level as well as from a mezzanine floor above.

### Round House

Out on Arthur Head, the western end of High St near the Maritime Museum, is the **Round House** (☎ 9336 6897; admission by donation; ☎ 10am–3.30pm). Built in 1831, it's the oldest public building in WA. It was originally a local prison and the site of the colony's first hanging.

Later, the building was used for holding Aborigines before they were taken away to Rottnest Island. To the Noongar people, the Round House is a sacred site because of the number of their people killed while incarcerated here.

### Gold Rush Buildings

Fremantle boomed during the WA gold rush and many buildings were constructed during, or shortly before, this period. **Samson House** (nr Ellen & Ord Sts; admission by donation of \$3; ☎ 1.15–5pm

## FREMANTLE

INFORMATION		DRINKING	
Chart & Map Shop.....	1 C5	Left Bank.....	31 F2
Elect.....	2 D5	Little Creatures.....	32 C6
Fremantle Hospital.....	3 D6	Norfolk Hotel.....	33 D6
Fremantle Post Office.....	4 C5	Sail & Anchor.....	34 D5
Travellers Centre.....	5 C5		
Visitors Centre.....	(see 16)	ENTERTAINMENT	
		Fly by Night Musician's Club.....	35 D5
		Hoys Millennium.....	36 C5
		Kulcha.....	37 C5
		Luna on SX Cinema.....	38 C6
		Metropolis Fremantle.....	(see 34)
		Mojo's.....	39 E1
		Newport Hotel.....	40 C5
		Swan Hotel.....	41 E1
		SHOPPING	
		Mills Records.....	42 C5
		New Edition Bookshop.....	43 D5
		TRANSPORT	
		Boat Torque.....	44 B4
		Captain Cook Cruises.....	(see 44)
		East St Jetty.....	45 E2
		Oceanic Cruises.....	46 B5
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES			
Customs House.....	6 B5		
Fremantle Arts Centre & History Museum.....	7 E3		
Fremantle Markets.....	8 D5		
Fremantle Tram.....	(see 16)		
German Consulate Building.....	9 B5		
HMAS Owens Submarine.....	10 B5		
Maritime Museum Shipwrecks Galleries.....	11 B6		
Old Fremantle Prison.....	12 E5		
Round House.....	13 B5		
Samson House.....	14 E4		
St John's Anglican Church.....	15 C5		
Town Hall.....	16 D5		
Western Australian Maritime Museum.....	17 B5		
SLEEPING			
100 Hubble.....	18 F3		
Fremantle Colonial Accommodation.....	19 D5		
Old Firestation Backpackers.....	20 C5		
Pirates.....	21 D6		
Port Mill B&B.....	(see 21)		
Terrace Central B&B.....	22 D6		
YHA Backpackers Inn Fremantle.....	23 C5		
EATING			
Cicerello's.....	24 B6		
George St Bistro.....	25 F3		
Gino's.....	26 C5		
Istanbul.....	27 D5		
Kakulas Sister.....	28 C5		
Maya.....	29 C5		
Mussel Bar.....	30 C6		



Sun) is a well-preserved 1888 colonial home in Ellen St. **St John's Anglican Church** (1882), on the corner of Adelaide and Queen Sts, contains a large stained-glass window.

Other buildings of the boom era include Fremantle **Town Hall** (1887) in Kings Square; the 1903 former **German consulate building** (5 Moat St); the 1907 **Fremantle Train Station**; and the Georgian-style **Customs House**, on the corner of Cliff and Phillimore Sts.

### Whale-Watching

Recommended whale-watching tours:  
**Boat Torque** (Rottneet Express; ☎ 9421 5888; tours \$32; ☎ 11am & 1.15pm Wed, Sat & Sun) Leaves Fremantle (C shed).

**Oceanic Cruises** (☎ 9335 2666; www.oceaniccruises.com.au; adult/child \$32/19; ☎ 1.15 Wed & Fri-Sun). Leaves Fremantle (B shed).

### Other Attractions

Originally opened in 1897, the colourful **Fremantle Markets** (☎ 9335 2515; cnr South Terrace & Henderson St; ☎ Fri-Sun) was reopened in 1975 and today draws slow-moving crowds combing over souvenirs like plastic boomerangs and swan-shaped magnets. The fresh produce section is a good place to stock up on snacks.

The huge **Esplanade Reserve**, behind the Fishing Boat Harbour and full of Norfolk Island pines, is a good spot to relax.

### FREMANTLE FOR CHILDREN

Fremantle is great for kids. You can walk everywhere, from the grass and pine expanse of the **Esplanade Reserve** and back up to the markets. Have fish and chips on **Fishing Boat Harbour**, watch buskers (ice-cream in hand) at the **markets** (above), visit the **Maritime Museum** (p80), or catch the train to the two great beaches, **Port Beach** and **Leighton Beach**. At Fishing Boat Harbour, there's also popular and flat **Bathers Beach**, which is great for a splash.

### TOURS

The **Fremantle Tram** (☎ 9433 6674; www.fremantletrams.com.au), in fact a bus that looks like an old-fashioned trolley car, leaves from the Fremantle Town Hall. The historic tours of Fremantle, which go up to the war memorial (great views), leave at 9.45am but you can hop on at other stops around the city (adult/child \$20/5). The 'Very Scary Ghostly Tour' (adult/child \$48/32) runs 6.45pm Fridays and visits the prison, graveyards and other spooky spots.



The training ship **STS Leeuwin II** (☎ 9430 4105; www.leeuwin.com), a 55m, three-masted barquentine, is based at Berth B, Victoria Dock. You can go out for a day sail (adult/child \$99/69) or do a brunch or twilight trip (adult/child \$75/40).

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Perhaps the most interesting is the annual **Blessing of the Fleet** (Esplanade Reserve), an October tradition brought to Fremantle by Mediterranean immigrants. In November is the big, 10-day **Fremantle Festival**, where the streets come alive with performances and parades. Food-lovers will enjoy the annual **Sardine Festival** (January).

## SLEEPING

There's a dearth of accommodation in Freo. Generally B&Bs offer the best midrange value, but there are also some good apartments.

## Budget

So long as you have your own vehicle, the three caravan parks are fairly accessible. Fremantle Village is only about 3km from the centre of Freo, and Coogee and Woodman Point only a few extra minutes' drive down Cockburn Rd. All three are pleasantly located along the shoreline.

**Old Firestation Backpackers** (☎ 9430 5454; www.old-firestation.net; 18 Phillimore St; 6- & 8-bed dm/4-bed dm/d \$18/20/50; ☑) The brawny firemen have long left the building, but there's still plenty of entertainment in this converted firestation: free internet, futsal, Playstation and a sunny courtyard. Not that you'd want to stay on-site all the time. You're right on the harbour here, with Port and Leighton Beaches a five-minute bike ride away. Girls have their own space, including a decent-sized kitchen. Dorms are good value, with natural light and the afternoon sea breeze fluttering in.

**YHA Backpackers Inn Fremantle** (☎ 9431 7065; bpinnfreo@yahoo.com.au; 11 Pakenham St; 8-/4-bed dm/s/d without bathroom/d with bathroom \$18/20/35/45/60, non-members extra \$3.50; ☑) It's as if Freo's famously pleasant afternoon sea breeze, the Fremantle Doctor, has just floated through Backpackers Inn. New management has breathed fresh life into this YHA – the only one in the city – and rooms are bright and clean. Flicks are shown on the mini cinema screen every night, there's a huge indoor recreation area, and it's close to the action.

**Pirates** (☎ 9335 6635; 11 Essex St; dm/d \$22/70; ☑) This sun- and fun-filled hostel in the thick of the Freo action is a top spot to socialise. Rooms are in great shape, and the girls-only bathroom upstairs is freshly tiled and polished. The kitchen area is well-equipped, and eye-catching wall murals of the sea remind you that an ocean swim is minutes away.

**Fremantle Village** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9430 4866; www.fremantlevillage.com.au; 1 Cockburn Rd, South Fremantle, near cnr Rockingham Rd; powered tent site \$27, chalets for two per week \$265, per extra person \$20; ☑) Fremantle Village is a functional caravan park, and the closest to Freo. It's more set up for long-termers – there's a minimum four-week stay.

**Coogee** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9418 1810; http://aspenparks.com.au; Cockburn Rd, near Mayor Rd turnoff; chalets for 2 from \$95, paved site for 2 \$34) This bigger caravan park has a slightly more upmarket feel. It's popular with young families, and has a tennis court and café.

**Woodman Point** (Map pp54-5; ☎ 9434 1433; http://aspenparks.com.au; 132 Cockburn Rd, Munster; chalets for 2 from \$125; powered tent site for 2 from \$38; ☑) A particularly pleasant spot, with tent sites (Coogee doesn't have these). It's usually quiet, and its location makes it feel more summer beach holiday than outer-Freo staging post.

## Midrange

**Norfolk Hotel** (☎ 9335 5405; 47 South Terrace; d from \$95, tr from \$105-115, d without bathroom from \$70) While eucalypts and elms stand quietly in the sun-streaked beer garden, the old limestone Norfolk harbours a secret upstairs: its rooms. Wrought-iron bedheads, crisp white linens and country-style furnishings make this a comfortable spot to rest up. Lounges come with sofas, fans and fridges, and there's a welcoming communal sitting room. There's no air-con, and it can be noisy on weekends, but it's still good value.

**100 Hubble** (☎ 9339 8080; www.100hubble.com; 100 Hubble St, East Fremantle; s \$100, d from \$150; ☑) This must be Fremantle's most eccentric accommodation. You'll sleep in a beautifully restored 1950s train carriage, shower in an outdoor telephone booth, and relax on the sun-filled veranda, paved with gravestone off-cuts. Lovingly created by a well-known Freo artist, this environmentally conscious guesthouse is even heritage listed – for its treasured recycled objects.

**Terrace Central B&B** (☎ 9335 6600; info@terracecentral.com.au; 83-85 South Tce; d/3-bedroom apt \$132/180, rates

higher on Sat; ☑) Terrace Central may be a character-filled B&B at heart, but its larger size – there are about eight rooms here – affords you a little bit of extra space. It's also full of character: miniature boats, flying mallards, giant wooden giraffes, even mounted plates. There are two modern apartments out the back, which sleep up to eight. Doubles are roomy.

**Fremantle Colonial Accommodation** (☎ 9430 6568; fremantle.col@westnet.net.au; 215 High St; B&B d \$145, 2-bedroom apt \$150, cottages from \$180; ☑) Rambling two-storey terrace or historic prison cottage? Whichever you choose, both embrace the colonial theme with gusto. White-painted wrought-iron bed frames, floral quilt covers and dusty-pink walls open out onto lace-work balconies. The prison cottages, next door to the Old Fremantle Gaol, must have the best location in Freo. They're big and comfortable.

## Top End

**Port Mill B&B** (☎ 9433 3832; www.babs.com.au/portmill; 3/17 Essex St; d from \$170) This must be the love-child of Paris and Freo – and one of the most luxurious B&Bs in town. Crafted from local Freo limestone (built in 1862 as a mill), inside it's all modern Parisian style, with gleaming taps, contemporary French furniture and wrought-iron balconies. French doors open out to the sun-filled decks, where you can tinkle your china over breakfast.

**Quest Harbour Village** (☎ 9430 3888; www.questharbourvillage.com.au; Mews Rd, Challenger Harbour; 1-bedroom apt \$190, 2-bedroom apt \$220-280, 3-bedroom apt \$280-330; ☑) Not many locals know this quiet set of apartments, nestled on the harbour. (Which is hard to believe, since they're really quite a find.) All rooms face the harbour and have balconies for maximum nautical experience. Downstairs the rooms are light and simple, if a little dated, and kitchens are fully equipped. Upstairs, there's a more contemporary feel, with solid-coloured furnishings and plenty of room.

**Pier 21 Resort** (☎ 9336 2555; www.pier21.com.au; 9 John St, North Fremantle; studios \$190, 1-bedroom apt from \$205, 2-bedroom apt from \$245; ☑) Pier 21 is in an unlikely spot. Along the harbour in North Freo, few pass here by road. Once you're here, though, it all makes sense: it's quiet, and the glittering boat harbour is your backyard. Rooms are spacious and bright, and there's a tennis court, pool and spa.

## EATING

Eating in Freo is more about casual Italian or fish and chips than serious fine dining. The two main spots are South Tce and Fishing Boat Harbour. People-watching from outdoor tables on South Tce is also a legitimate lifestyle choice.

## South Tce & Around

**Gino's** (☎ 9336 1464; 1 South Tce; mains \$9-24; ☑) breakfast, lunch & dinner) Old-school Gino's must be Freo's most famous café. Pot-bellied Italian men, scriptwriters, musicians and other assorted locals treat it as their second living room, and these days it's a bit of a tourist attraction. When the café was recently refurbished, the coffee machine was simply moved out the front, onto the pavement, and the locals sipped their espressos outdoors, nonplussed. There's no budging these guys.

**Istanbul** (☎ 9335 6068; 19b Essex St; mains \$17.90-21.90; ☑) lunch & dinner) Istanbul is one down-to-earth, no-frills Turkish restaurant. It's damn good, especially for vegetarians, who'll be overloaded with salads, tabouleh, *mezze* and other delicious delights. Comes with an attention-grabbing belly dancer.

**Maya** (☎ 9335 2796; 77 Market St; mains \$18.90-25; ☑) dinner Tue-Sun, lunch Fri) Maya's white tablecloths and wooden chairs signal classic style without the pomp. Its well-executed Indian favourites have made it a popular local spot, right through the week, for years. Special menu Friday.

## SELF-CATERING

**Kakulas Sister** (☎ 9430 4445; 29-31 Market St) This provedore – packed with nuts, quince paste and Italian rocket seeds – is a cook's dream, and an excellent spot to stock up on energy-filled snacks. If you've been to Kakulas in Northbridge, you'll know the deal.

The Fremantle Markets (p83) is also a good spot for fruit and other picnic items.

## Fishing Boat Harbour

**Cicerello's** (☎ 9335 1911; 44 Mews Rd; mains \$11.50-20; ☑) lunch & dinner) This fish and chips factory's been around since 1903. It's also a quintessential Fremantle experience. Choose your fish and chips, then pick a spot out on the boardwalk or in the concrete-floored space inside. It's all very casual. (No-one's going to care if you're in your tracksuit, for instance.) Watch out for the seagulls – they can act like

demonic robots from some b-grade sci-fi flick when they're in the mood.

**Little Creatures** (☎ 9430 5555; www.littlecreatures.com.au; 40 Mews Rd; mains \$14-20; ☎ lunch & dinner Mon-Fri, brunch & dinner Sat & Sun) Little Creatures is quite a gem. In a cavernous converted boat shed overlooking the harbour, this brewery can get chaotic at times (as can the service), but the home-brewed ales are well worth the wait. And the food is excellent – juicy yet crunchy prosciutto-wrapped prawns, classic chilli tomato mussels, wood-fired pizzas. You can inspect the brewery vats yourself from the deck on the second floor or almost nuzzle the boats from the boardwalk out back – you're right on the harbour. No bookings.

**Mussel Bar** (☎ 9433 1800; 42 Mews Rd, Fishing Boat Harbour; mains \$18-29; ☎ lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) Mussel Bar's large glass windows afford romantic views of the glittering harbour. You would say the location is the main reason to come down here, if it weren't for the food. (It's excellent.) Choose from five types of mussel dishes, including traditional chilli and Thai green curry. Mains like blue-manna-crab parpadelle are standouts.

### North & East Fremantle

**Harvest** (☎ 9336 1831; 1 Harvest Rd, North Fremantle; mains \$28-32; ☎ dinner Tue-Sat, lunch Thu-Sun, breakfast Sat & Sun) First you'll find a green-painted cottage, complete with picket fence. Swing through the heavy, fuchsia-painted metal doors and into the dark-wood dining room lined with artworks and curios. Then settle down to comforting dishes like oxtail pie with cauliflower mash, caramelised red wine and shallot juice. Sunday breakfast is big.

**George St Bistro** (☎ 9339 6352; 73 George St mains \$29-34; ☎ dinner Mon, lunch & dinner Wed-Sun) George St Bistro is coveted by the locals – nestled along quiet, leafy George St, it's something of a secret. The European-German menu includes dishes like light linguine with chorizo and squid in a subtle tomato sauce. Contemporary art takes pride of place along the walls, and the banquettes and small tables lend a European feel.

### DRINKING

Most of the big pubs in town are lined up along South Tce.

**Little Creatures** (☎ 9430 5555; 40 Mews Rd, Fishing Boat Harbour; ☎ late) In a huge old boatshed, by the harbour, this brewery's ales are a great

source of WA pride. The four home-brewed ales here – Pale Ale, Little Pilsner, Roger's Amber and the Bright Ale – are fantastic. You can view the brewing vats from the second floor (it's all open), or drink up on the deck and watch the boats, out back.

**Norfolk Hotel** (☎ 9335 5405; 47 South Tce; ☎ late) Slow down to the Freo pace and take your time over one of the many beers on tap here – Asahi, Coopers, Becks, James Squire. The limestone courtyard, with the sun streaking in through the elms and eucalypts, is downright soporific sometimes. There's a big sports screen tucked around the side so you don't miss anything.

**Sail & Anchor** (☎ 9335 8433; 64 South Tce; ☎ 11am-midnight Mon-Thu, 11am-1am Fri & Sat, 11am-10pm Sun) Built in 1854, this Fremantle landmark has been impressively restored to recall much of its former glory. Downstairs is big and beer-focused; it's more sedate upstairs, where there's a veranda.

**Left Bank** (☎ 9319 1315; 15 Riverside Rd; ☎ 7.30am-midnight Mon-Sat, noon-9pm Sun) This Edwardian riverside inn, up from the East St jetty and overlooking the water, is patronised by lively young 'uns in the downstairs café and bar.

### ENTERTAINMENT

Given Freo's long been an enclave for artists, it's no wonder the city has turned out so many talented musicians – Eskimo Joe, the Waifs, the John Butler Trio.

**Mojo's** (☎ 9430 4010; 237 Queen Victoria St; ☎ 7pm-late) Good old Mojo's is one of Freo's long-standing live music pubs – a real stalwart. Local and national bands (mainly Australian rock 'n' roll and indie) and DJs play at this small venue, and there's a sociable beer garden out back. Rest one elbow on the bar and turn your attention to an up-and-coming local band.

**Fly by Night Musician's Club** (☎ 9430 5976; Queen St, opposite carpark below gaol) Variety is the key at Fly by Night, in this huge, shedlike venue that's been around for about 20 years. All kinds perform – The Kill Devil Hills, Renee Geyer, Jeff Lang.

**Kulcha** (☎ 9336 4544; www.kulcha.com.au; 1st fl, 13 South Tce) World culture's the focus here, with Afghani paintings, Hungarian and Romanian music and African drumming workshops. Book ahead.

Other live music venues include the enormous **Metropolis Fremantle** (☎ 9336 1880; 58 South

Tce; ☎ 9pm-4am Fri, 9pm-5am Sat), where international bands and DJs perform. On the weekends, energetic miniskirts and chesty young things jump around for hours. Local bands play at the **Newport Hotel** (☎ 9335 2428; 2 South Tce; ☎ noon-midnight Mon-Thu, noon-1am Fri & Sat, noon-10pm Sun), and the **Swan Hotel** (☎ 9335 2725; 201 Queen Victoria St, North Fremantle) has DJs and bands in the basement.

**Retro Luna on SX** (☎ 9430 5999; www.lunapalace.com.au; Essex St) is the arthouse cinema; blockbuster screen at **Hoys Millennium** (☎ 9430 6988; hoys.com.au; Collie St).

### SHOPPING

Fashion stores run along Market St, towards the train station.

**Kakulas Sister** (☎ 9430 4445; 29-31 Market St) Treat yourself to an essential snack-preparing item, or browse the nuts, seeds, lentils and oils, in this amazing provodere.

**New Edition** (☎ 9335 2383; 50 South Tce; ☎ 9am-late) This excellent, well-stocked bookstore carries fiction as well as a range of local titles.

**Mills Records** (☎ 9335 1945; 22 Adelaide St) Your spot for music and tickets.

**Fremantle Arts Centre** (☎ 9432 9555; www.fac.org.au; cnr Ord & Finnerty Sts; ☎ 10am-5pm) This is an inspiring place to browse local arts and crafts.

### GETTING THERE & AROUND

A very pleasant way to get here is by ferry from Perth's Barrack St jetty to the East St jetty, but allow plenty of time. **Oceanic Cruises** (☎ 9325 1191; www.oceaniccruises.com.au) has boats leaving five times daily (adult/child \$17/11) from jetty five. **Captain Cook Cruises** (☎ 9325 3341; www.captaincookcruises.com.au) also does the trip (adult/child \$36/18), leaving at 9.45am and 11am, and its cruises include wine tastings on the way back.

**Transperth train** (☎ 13 62 13; www.transperth.wa.gov.au) is the most convenient way to get to Freo. One-way trips take 30 minutes from the city, and you can enjoy ocean views as you enter North Fremantle. Trains run about every 15 minutes (adult \$3.20) during the day, 30 minutes evenings.

There are also countless buses between Perth city and Fremantle. These include buses 103, 106, 111 158 and 107. Some travel via the Canning Hwy; others go via Mounts Bay Rd and Stirling Hwy. The journey planner, on Transperth's website, is a useful planning tool.

The **Fremantle Airport Shuttle** (☎ 9335 1614; www.fremantleairportshuttle.com.au; from \$25 per person) departs Fremantle for the airport about 12 times daily about every half-hour to hour. Arrange pick-up from your accommodation.

There is a plethora of one-way streets and parking meters in Freo. It's easy enough to travel by foot or on the free CAT bus service, which takes in all the major sites on a continuous route every 10 minutes from 7.30am to 6pm on weekdays and 10am to 6.30pm on the weekend.

## GUILDFORD & THE SWAN VALLEY

The National Trust–classified town of Guildford was one of the first colonial settlements in Perth. Sited on the Swan River, it was established in 1829 as an inland port. These days trains stop at Guildford, but to explore the Swan Valley you'll need a tour (p67) or a car. For National Park hikes in the Swan Valley region, see p98.

### INFORMATION

**Swan Valley & Eastern Region visitors centre** (☎ 9379 9400; cnr Swan & Meadow Sts, Guildford; ☎ 9am-4pm) Well-stocked with information and maps.

### SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

**Woodbridge House** (Ford St, Guildford; ☎ 1-4pm Thu-Tue) is an 1885 colonial mansion overlooking the river. The **Old Courthouse, Gaol & Museum** (Meadow St, Guildford; adult/child \$2/free; ☎ 9-3pm Wed, noon-4.30pm Sat, 2-4pm Sun) is right by the visitors centre. Call the visitors centre to double-check opening hours ahead of your visit. The 1841 **Rose & Crown Hotel** (☎ 9279 8444; 105 Swan St) claims to be WA's oldest pub. Have a beer in the cellar bar (formerly a convict-built well) and, while you're there, check out the sealed-off tunnel which used to connect the hotel with the river.

In West Swan is the 26-sq-km **Whiteman Park** (☎ 9209 6000; www.whitemanpark.com; enter from Lord St or Beechboro Rd; ☎ 8.30am-6pm), Perth's biggest reserve. It's more recreation area than unbridled forest, with craft displays, old railway buildings and engines (including a vintage steam train) and tram rides. But there are plenty of outdoor activities, with picnic and barbecue spots at Mussel Pool, over 30km of walkways, and bike paths.

The park also hosts the well-maintained **Caversham Wildlife Park & Zoo** (☎ 9248 1984; www.cavershamwildlifepark.com.au; adult/child \$15/6; 🕒 8.30am-4.30pm), which has creatures such as cassowaries, echidnas, kangaroos, potoroos, quokkas and native birds. To get here take bus 60 from the Esplanade Busport in Perth to Morley, change to the Ellenbrook-bound bus 336, and get off at Whiteman Park. (This takes at least 1½ hours, one-way.)

Rambling along the Swan River from Guildford to Upper Swan is Perth's very own bucolic restaurant scene: the **Swan Valley**. Only 18km northeast of the CBD, the region was once overshadowed by Margaret River's wine-producing success – few wineries in the Swan Valley managed to produce top-shelf wines (it's too hot). So the Swan Valley found a new life by focusing on food.

**Margaret River Chocolate Company** (☎ 9250 1588; 5123 West Swan Rd; 🕒 10am-5pm), with its good-quality chocolates, jams and preserves, is often mobbed by families and tour groups. Bring your picnic basket to **Houghton Wines** (☎ 9274 9540; Dale Rd, Middle Swan; 🕒 10am-5pm), a spectacular historic property with rolling hills, huge jacaranda trees, and cellar door sales. **Gomboc Gallery** (☎ 9274 3996; 50 James Rd, Middle Swan; 🕒 10am-5pm Wed-Sun) has a good sculpture park.

## EATING & DRINKING

**Lamont's** (☎ 9296 4485; 85 Bisdée Rd; www.lamonts.com.au; tapas \$6.50-13.50; 🕒 lunch, tapas Sat & Sun) Now that Lamont's fine-dining efforts are focused in East Perth, it's just lazy tapas and snacks up here under the open sky. Try some Manjimup crinkle-cut fries or plump, top-quality kalamata olives.

**Sittella** (☎ 9296 0237; www.sittella.com.au; 100 Barrett St, off Great Northern Hwy; mains \$24.50-\$30; 🕒 cellar door

& lunch Tue-Sun) Sittella's one of the best places to eat in the Valley – Perthites sneak out of the office to lunch up here regularly. Take your time over mains like crispy roasted duckling on kumara puree with mandarin confit, and soak up the view of the vines.

**Riverbank** (☎ 9377 1805; www.riverbankestate.com.au; 126 Hammersley Rd; mains \$25-29; 🕒 lunch daily, breakfast Sun) A pleasant, open restaurant that looks out onto the vines, Riverbank's menu is one of the best. How about Harvey beef fillet wrapped in prosciutto on berlotti beans with mushroom butter? Or twice-cooked crispy-duck-and-eggplant curry with sticky rice and fiery tomato chutney? You could follow this with, say, some dark-chocolate pots and cinnamon Spanish doughnuts. Picnic platters for two (\$40) are available Sunday.

**Sandalford** (☎ 9374 9301; 3210 West Swan Rd; mains \$32; 🕒 lunch) Sandalford is one of two big-time, long-term operators out here (the other is Houghton's). And this winery's menu and environs are testimony to its experience. It's so nice out here, actually, that it's a popular wedding function spot. Mains include dishes like Serrano ham with poached pears and quince paste, or mussels and marron with chilli broth and fennel-and-pea risotto. The cellar door is worth a stop.

Also recommended:

**Mash** (☎ 9296 5588; 10250 West Swan Rd; mains \$16-\$22; 🕒 lunch Mon-Thu, lunch & dinner Fri-Sun) Right by Duckstein, this brewery has a younger crowd and attitude.

**Duckstein** (☎ 9296 0620; 9270 West Swan Rd, Henley Brook; mains \$19.50-26.50; 🕒 lunch & dinner Wed-Sat, lunch Sun) This brewery turns out well-executed German classics like the grilled bratwurst and Hefeweizen (wheat beer).

**Black Swan café** (☎ 9296 6090; 8600 West Swan Rd; mains \$22; 🕒 cellar door & lunch Mon-Sun, dinner Wed-Sat, breakfast Sun)