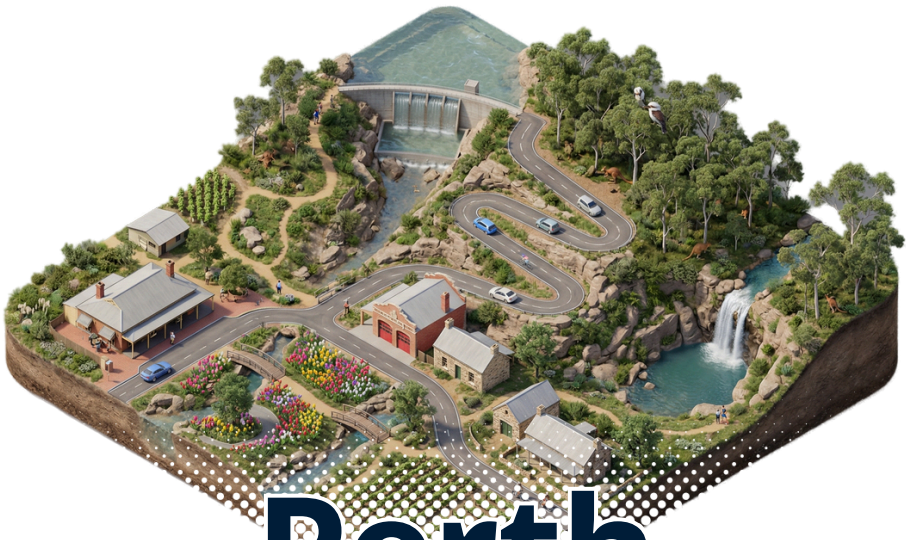


Perth

Western Australia · Australia

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

Perth is one of the most remote capital cities in the world. It sits alone on Australia's west coast, more than 2,000 kilometers from the next major city.

That isolation gives it an easy, outdoor pace. Locals surf before work, walk along the Swan River at lunch, and head to the beach most summer evenings. The city center sits on the river, ringed by parkland, with white-sand beaches a short drive away.

First-time visitors find a mix of gold rush-era architecture and Noongar Aboriginal heritage going back tens of thousands of years. The skyline itself was built on decades of mining wealth. Perth suits travelers who want warm weather and easy day trips to wine country and offshore islands. It's a relaxed city break rather than a dense old town to explore on foot. The actor *Heath Ledger* grew up here.

When to visit

Summer (December to February) is hot and dry, with long stretches of sun and little rain. Spring (September to November) and autumn (March to May) are mild and the most pleasant times to visit. Winter (June to August) is cooler and brings most of the year's rain.

Plan around **Fringe World Festival**, held every January and February. It is one of the largest fringe arts festivals in the world, with hundreds of shows staged across the city.

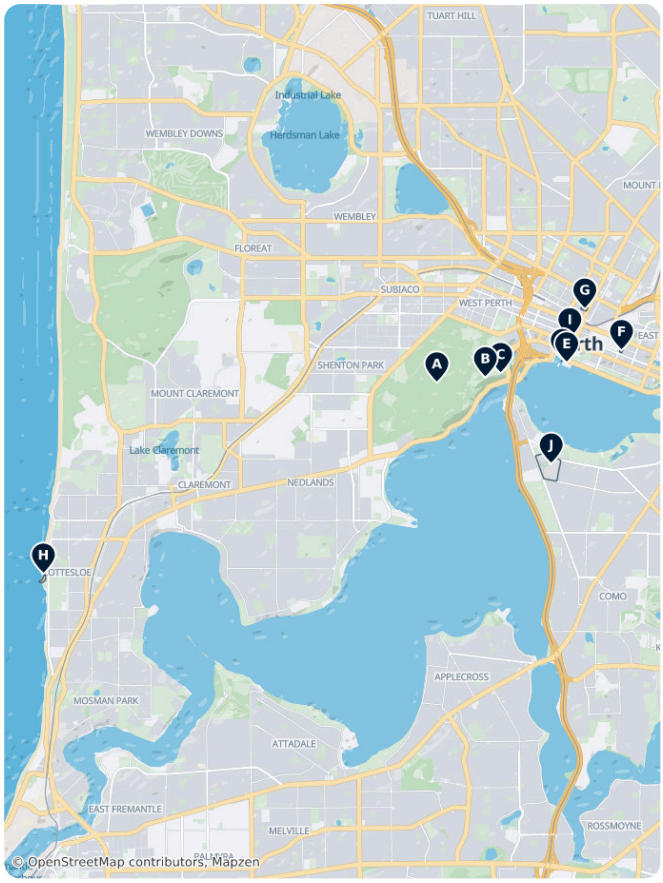
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for the beach	31° / 39°	19° / 14°	26 sunny days · UV 13 (Extreme) · Up to 7 days above 35°
February	Great Great for the beach	32° / 38°	19° / 15°	23 sunny days · UV 11 (Extreme) · Up to 6 days above 35°
March	Great Great for the beach	29° / 36°	18° / 13°	23 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high)
April	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	15° / 11°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	13° / 9°	Dry air
June	Great Great for cycling	18° / 22°	11° / 7°	Dry air
July	Good Good for cycling	17° / 20° Feels like 14°	10° / 6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
August	Good Good for cycling	17° / 22°	10° / 6°	Dry air
September	Great Great for cycling	19° / 25°	11° / 7°	Dry air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 30°	12° / 9°	Dry air
November	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 35°	15° / 11°	22 sunny days · Dry air · UV 10 (Very high)
December	Great Great for the beach	29° / 38°	17° / 13°	26 sunny days · Dry air · UV 12 (Extreme)

Best months: March, April, May, October, November, December

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Summer sun is intense and humidity stays low all year. Pack sunscreen and a hat even for a mild-looking day.

Top sights



Ⓐ Kings Park covers about 400 hectares of bushland and gardens above the Swan River. Walk the treetop Ⓑ Lotterywest Federation Walkway for the best photo of the city, or visit the Ⓒ State War Memorial for panoramic views.

Ⓓ Elizabeth Quay is the city's modern waterfront precinct, built around an artificial inlet on the Swan River. Promenades, public art, and a pedestrian bridge link it to the city center, and ferries leave from here for South Perth.

The 82.5-metre glass and copper spire of Ⓔ Swan Bells holds one of the largest sets of change-ringing bells in the world. Some of the bells were cast for London's St Martin-in-the-Fields church. Climb inside to see and hear them ring.

Ⓕ Perth Mint has struck gold coins and bars since 1899, at the height of Western Australia's gold rush. Its exhibition includes a live gold pour and one of the world's largest gold coins.

Ⓖ WA Museum Boola Bardip tells the story of Western Australia, from Noongar culture and shipwrecks to the state's mining boom. It sits inside a striking modern building in the Perth Cultural Centre.

Ⓗ Cottesloe Beach is Perth's classic sunset beach, with calm turquoise water and a grassy foreshore for picnics.

Ⓘ London Court is a mock-Tudor shopping arcade built in 1937 by a gold-mining magnate, with a clock tower at each end and mechanical figures that strike the hour.

Ⓙ Perth Zoo, across the river in South Perth, is home to native Australian wildlife alongside orangutans, elephants, and other international species.

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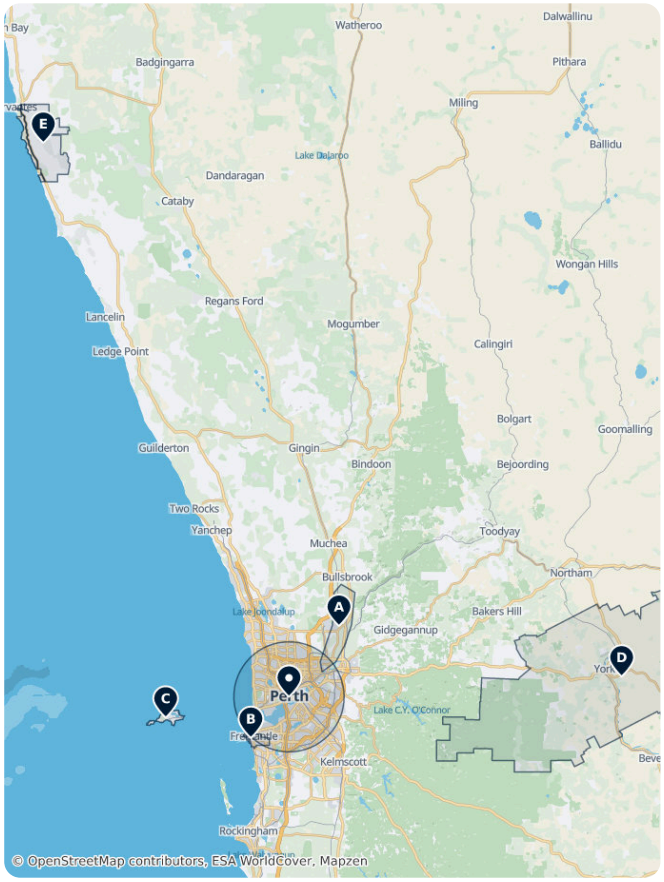
What to experience

- Watch an AFL football match at Optus Stadium during the season, roughly March to September.
- Climb Matagarup Bridge to its summit platforms for a view over the Swan River and the city skyline.
- Paddleboard or kayak on the Swan River from one of the foreshore hire spots near the city center.
- Take a sunset cruise on the Swan River, departing from the jetty near Elizabeth Quay.
- Join locals for evening drinks on the sand at Cottesloe or Scarborough Beach as the sun goes down over the Indian Ocean.

Day trips

Perth's isolation means the wider region rewards a rental car, though several highlights are reachable by public transport. Here are the best days out, ordered from closest to farthest.

- A Swan Valley — about 25 minutes by car, Western Australia's oldest wine region, with cellar doors, breweries, and chocolate and cheese producers within walking distance of each other.
- B Fremantle — about 30 minutes by train, a historic port city with 19th-century streets, the World Heritage-listed Fremantle Prison, and the weekend Fremantle Markets.
- C Rottnest Island — a ferry ride from Fremantle or the city center, this car-free island is known for its quokkas, snorkeling spots, and cycling trails.
- D York — about an hour by car, Western Australia's oldest inland town, with an intact 19th-century main street, antique shops, and historic pubs.
- The Pinnacles, in E Nambung National Park — about 2.5 hours by car, thousands of limestone pillars rising from yellow desert sand, best seen at sunrise or sunset.



Where to explore

Fremantle makes an easy half-day or full-day trip from Perth, with a distinct character of its own: a working harbour, a 19th-century streetscape, and a lively cafe scene along the so-called "cappuccino strip." It is about 30 minutes from the city center by train.

Getting there

- **By air**: Perth Airport receives direct flights from most Australian capitals plus a growing number of routes to Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. It is about 12 km from the city center; the Airport Line train reaches the CBD in around 15–20 minutes, and a taxi or rideshare takes about 20–25 minutes depending on traffic.
- **By train**: Perth is the western end of the transcontinental Indian Pacific from Sydney, a multi-day scenic journey rather than a practical way to arrive. Regional trains such as the Prospector connect Perth to inland Western Australian towns.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches link Perth to regional Western Australia, but the distances to other state capitals are too great for bus travel to be practical.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Transperth runs the bus, train, and ferry network. Tap a contactless bank card or phone directly on board, or use a SmartRider card, for the best fares. Free CAT buses loop the city center and Northbridge at no cost. See Transperth for routes and planning.
- **On foot and by bike**: The city center is compact and walkable. Flat, well-marked paths run along both banks of the Swan River, and bike hire is available near the foreshore.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The city center is compact and flat, but Perth's suburbs and beaches are spread out, so plan on transit or a car beyond downtown.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Flat shared paths run along both banks of the Swan River, and bike hire is available near the foreshore.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city center — public transit and walking cover downtown, Kings Park, and Fremantle easily. A car helps for the beaches, Swan Valley, and day trips further afield.
- **Driving is on the left** — the opposite side to the US and most of continental Europe.
- **Parking**: Metered street parking and multi-story car parks are available throughout the CBD; pay by ticket machine or parking app.
- **Restrictions**: Perth has no congestion charge or low-emission zone.

Food & drink

Western Australia's seafood is a highlight of any visit — look for WA rock lobster on menus, and freshly cooked fish and chips at Fremantle's harbour. Perth's small-bar scene, which grew quickly after licensing laws changed in 2006, means many of the best nights out are in tucked-away laneway bars rather than large pubs.

For dinner and drinks, head to Northbridge, Perth's main entertainment district, with restaurants and bars covering many cuisines. In Fremantle, the cafe strip along South Terrace is known locally as the "cappuccino strip."

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Vegemite on Toast · Vegemite
A salty, savory yeast-extract spread eaten in a thin layer on buttered toast — a genuine national quirk best tried sparingly.

LUNCH

Meat Pie
A hand-held pastry filled with minced meat and gravy, sold everywhere from bakeries to servos and football matches.

Fish and Chips
Battered fish and fried potato chips, often eaten at the beach wrapped in paper.

DINNER

Barbecue (Barbie) · Barbie
Grilled sausages, steak, and seafood cooked outdoors — a common way Australians socialize with friends and family.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Sausage Roll
Minced sausage meat wrapped in flaky pastry, a classic bakery and school-canteen staple.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Lamington
A sponge cake cube coated in chocolate icing and desiccated coconut.

Tim Tam
A chocolate-coated biscuit with a chocolate cream filling, a beloved everyday treat.

DRINKS

Flat White
A espresso-based coffee with steamed milk and a thin layer of microfoam, an Australian (and New Zealand) coffee-culture staple.

Schooner of Beer · Schooner
A 425ml beer serving size, the standard pub order alongside the smaller 285ml middy/pot.

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Safety & health

Perth is a safe city for visitors, with low rates of violent crime. Normal precautions apply around Northbridge late at night, where petty theft and alcohol-related trouble are the most common issues.

The biggest safety factor is the sun. UV levels are extreme for much of the year and summer heat can be intense, so wear sunscreen and a hat and drink plenty of water, even on an overcast day. Ocean beaches can have rip currents — swim at patrolled beaches, between the flags, where possible.

History

The Whadjuk Noongar people have lived along the Swan River, which they call Derbarl Yerrigan, for tens of thousands of years before European settlement. Perth's Aboriginal name is Boorloo.

The British founded the Swan River Colony in 1829, led by Captain *James Stirling*, as a free settlement rather than a penal one. Early growth was slow, and the colony began accepting convict labor in 1850. Convicts built many of the city's colonial buildings still standing today, including Perth Town Hall.

Perth's fortunes changed with the Western Australian gold rush of the 1890s, which brought a wave of wealth and grand architecture, including Perth Mint, opened in 1899 to refine the gold flowing in from the eastern goldfields. Twentieth-century mining and energy booms, particularly iron ore and natural gas, built the modern skyline visible from Kings Park today.

Country facts

Here are the essentials for traveling in Australia:

CURRENCY
AUD A$

EMERGENCY
000

ELECTRICITY

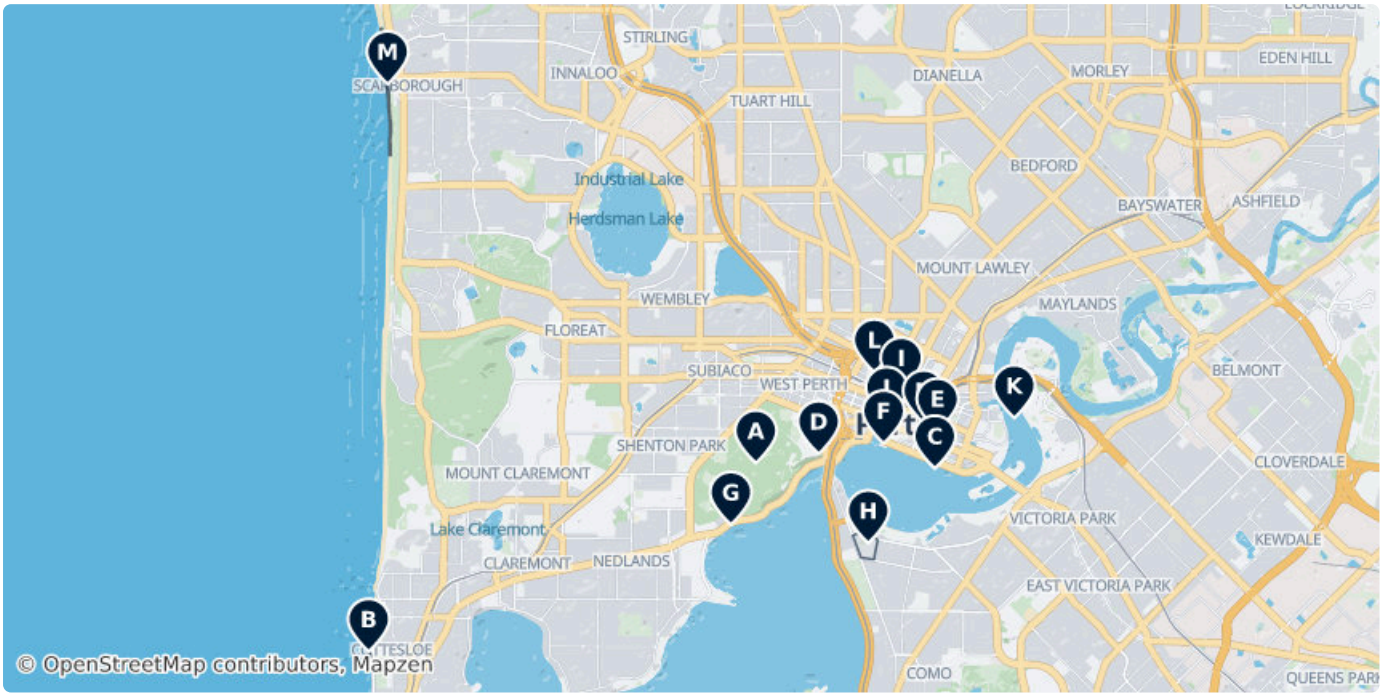


Type I
230 V · 50 Hz

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Perth Essentials

Perth's landscape is defined by the massive Kings Park botanical gardens and the winding Swan River. The city's heritage is visible in the 19th-century Perth Mint and the Tudor-style London Court shopping arcade. Modern landmarks include the glass-encased Swan Bells and the suspension-style Matagarup Bridge. Coastal highlights feature the white sands of Scarborough and Cottesloe beaches, while Northbridge serves as the central hub for dining and cultural institutions like the Western Australian Museum.





A Kings Park

Kings Park, is a 399.9-hectare park overlooking Perth Water and the central business district of Perth, Western Australia.

Fraser Avenue, Kings Park WA 6005, Australia
(-31.96248, 115.83159)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

+61 8 9480 3600



B Cottesloe Beach

Cottesloe is a western suburb of Perth, Western Australia, within the Town of Cottesloe.

104 Marine Parade, Perth WA 6011, Australia
(-31.99573, 115.75102)



C Swan River

The Swan River is a major river in the southwest of Western Australia.

Perth 6151, Australia (-31.96341, 115.86888)



D State War Memorial

People come to this war memorial to reflect on the fallen soldiers, but also for the magnificent views of Perth.

Kings Park WA 6005, Australia (-31.96084, 115.84466)

bgpa.wa.gov.au/kings-park/visit/history/state-war-memo...



E Perth Mint

The Perth Mint is Australia's official bullion mint and wholly owned by the Government of Western Australia.

Hay Street 310, 6004, AU (-31.95686, 115.86942)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

perthmint.com, +61 8 9421 7222



F Swan Bells

The Swan Bells are a set of 18 bells hanging in a specially built 82.5 metre copper and glass campanile in Perth, Western Australia.

Barrack Square, Riverside Drive, Perth WA 6000, Australia (-31.95899, 115.85819)

thebelltower.com.au, +61 8 6210 0444



G Blue Boat House

This iconic blue wooden boatshed, also known as the Crawley Edge Boatshed, dates back to the 1930s. It is situated at the end of a long timber jetty on the Swan River and has become a frequently photographed landmark.

6 Mounts Bay Road, Perth 6009, Australia (-31.97334, 115.82642)



H Perth Zoo

Perth Zoo is a 17-hectare zoological park in South Perth, Western Australia.

Labouchere Road 20, 6151 (-31.97659, 115.85501)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

perthzoo.wa.gov.au, +61 8 9474 0444



I Western Australian Museum

The Western Australian Museum is the state museum for Western Australia.

James Street Mall, Perth Cultural Centre, Perth WA 6000, Australia (-31.94964, 115.86191)

Mo–Su 09:30–17:00

museum.wa.gov.au



J London Court

London Court is a three and four-level open-roofed shopping arcade located in the central business district in Perth, Western Australia.

647-653 Hay St, Perth 6000, Australia (-31.95481, 115.85884)

londoncourt.com.au, +61 8 9261 6666



K Matagarup Bridge

Matagarup Bridge is a suspension pedestrian bridge crossing over the Swan River in Perth, Western Australia.

Perth 6100, Australia (-31.95450, 115.88540)



L Northbridge

Northbridge is an inner city suburb of Perth, Western Australia, historically separated from Perth's central business district by the...

110 Francis St, Northbridge WA 6003, Australia (-31.94643, 115.85628)

northbridgealive.com.au



M Scarborough Beach

Keen on surfing? Then pay visit to the most famous white sand surf beach in the world! The beach is easily accessible by bus.

154 The Esplanade, Scarborough WA 6019, Australia (-31.89556, 115.75496)



N Saint Mary's Cathedral

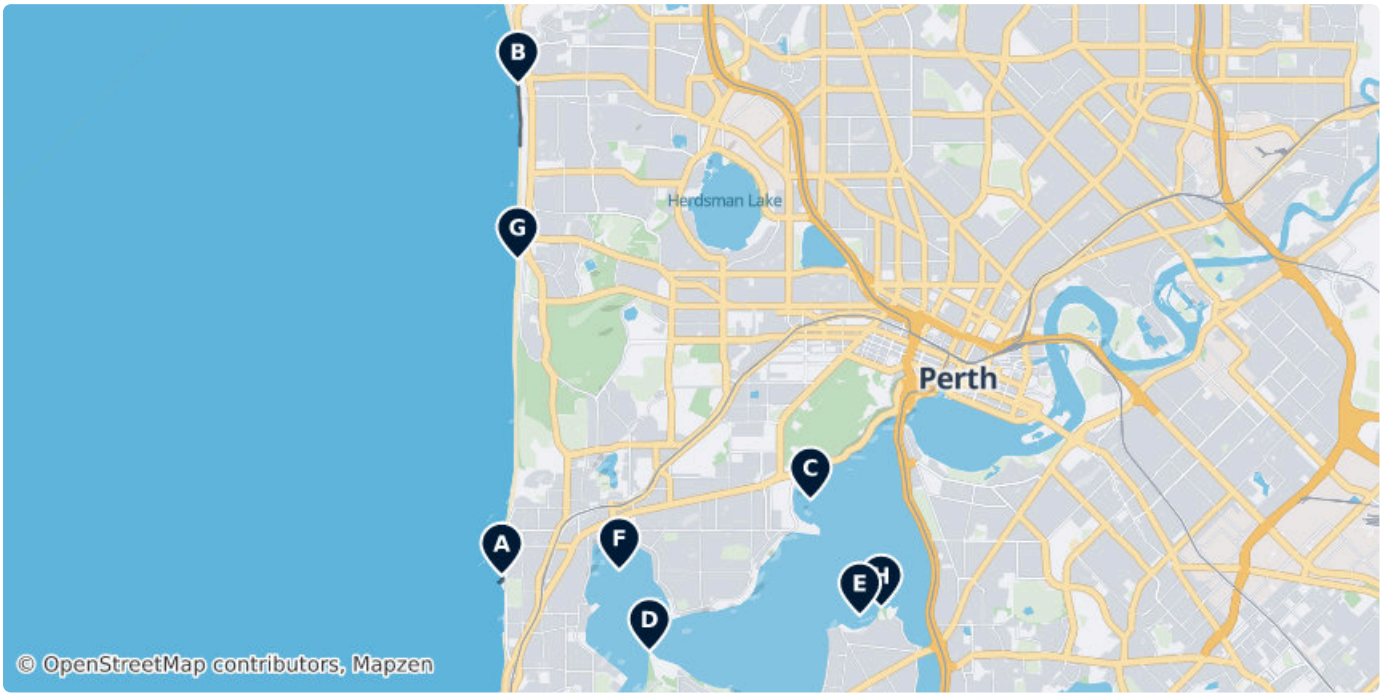
St Mary's Cathedral, Perth, officially the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is the cathedral church of...

29 Victoria Square, Perth WA 6000, Australia (-31.95542, 115.86657)

stmaryscathedralperth.com.au, +61 8 9223 1350

Best Beaches & Bays

Perth's coastline and Swan River offer diverse waterfront experiences. Iconic ocean spots include the surf-heavy white sands of Scarborough and the pine-fringed Cottesloe Beach. Along the river, Point Walter is defined by its extensive sandbar extending into the water, while Matilda Bay and Freshwater Bay provide calmer environments for sailing and picnics. City Beach offers modern infrastructure and clear waters, while historical Point Heathcote and Waylen Bay provide scenic viewpoints across Melville Water and the Applecross shoreline.





A Cottesloe Beach

Cottesloe is a western suburb of Perth, Western Australia, within the Town of Cottesloe.

104 Marine Parade, Perth WA 6011, Australia
(-31.99573, 115.75102)



B Scarborough Beach

Keen on surfing? Then pay visit to the most famous white sand surf beach in the world! The beach is easily accessible by bus.

154 The Esplanade, Scarborough WA 6019, Australia
(-31.89556, 115.75496)



C Matilda Bay

Matilda Bay or Crawley Bay, then Sutherland's Bay) is a natural bay in the Swan River in Western Australia, adjacent to the Perth suburb of...

Perth 6151, Australia (-31.98028, 115.82521)



D Point Walter

Point Walter is a point on the Swan River, Western Australia, notable for its large sandbar that extends into the river.

Honour Avenue, Perth 6157, Australia (-32.01115, 115.78650)



E Waylen Bay

Waylen Bay is a small embayment on the west coast of Australia, situated in the Perth suburb of Applecross between Point Dundas to Point...

Perth 6153, Australia (-32.00381, 115.83704)



F Freshwater Bay

Freshwater Bay is a bay of the Swan River, in metropolitan Perth, Western Australia.

Perth 6157, Australia (-31.99461, 115.77928)

G City Beach

City Beach is a beachside suburb of Perth, Western Australia, located within the Town of Cambridge. Its postcode is 6015.

W Coast Hwy, City Beach WA 6015, Australia
(-31.93136, 115.75482)



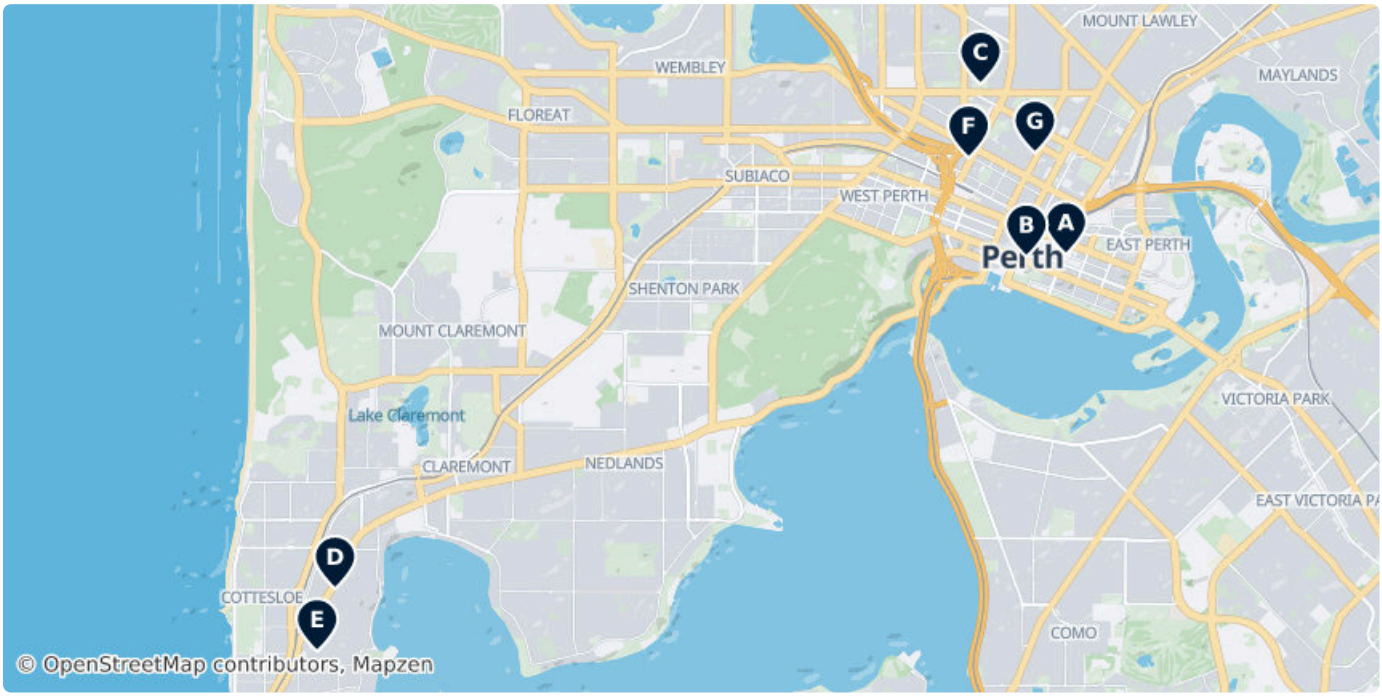
H Point Heathcote

Point Heathcote is a geographic feature located on the south east part of Melville Water on Swan River.

(Unnamed Road), Perth 6153, Australia
(-32.00220, 115.84220)

Historic Religious Sites

Perth's religious history is reflected in its diverse architectural landmarks, ranging from the academic Gothic style of Saint Mary's Cathedral to the heritage-listed Saint Brigid's Church in Northbridge. This collection features the city's principal Anglican and Catholic cathedrals alongside the 1903 Redemptorist Monastery. It also highlights the Perth Mosque, the city's oldest Islamic place of worship and the second oldest purpose-built mosque in Australia. In the suburb of Peppermint Grove, the list includes the prominent Saint Mary Star of the Sea and Saint Columba's Presbyterian Church.





A Saint Mary's Cathedral

St Mary's Cathedral, Perth, officially the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is the cathedral church of...

29 Victoria Square, Perth WA 6000, Australia
(-31.95542, 115.86657)

stmaryscathedralperth.com.au, +61 8 9223 1350



B Saint George's Cathedral

St George's Cathedral is the principal Anglican church in the city of Perth, Western Australia, and the mother-church of the Anglican...

38 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000, Australia
(-31.95570, 115.86116)

perthcathedral.org, +61 8 9325 5766



C Redemptorist Monastery

The Redemptorist Monastery Church in North Perth, Western Australia, is a Roman Catholic church and adjacent monastery built in 1903 for...

(-31.93551, 115.85482)

themonastery.org.au

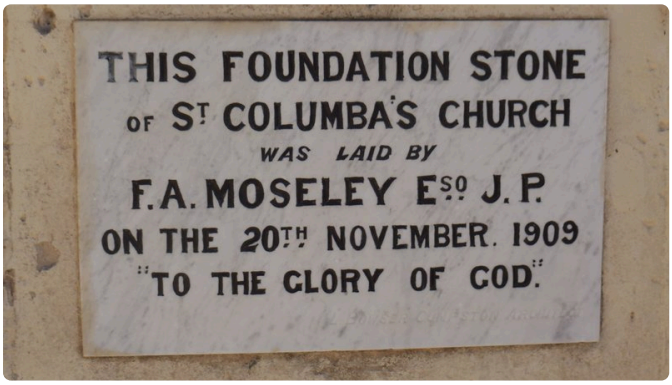


D Saint Mary Star of the Sea

St Mary Star of the Sea is a parish of the Roman Catholic Church in Peppermint Grove, Western Australia.

(-31.99448, 115.76590)

staroftheseachurch.org.au, +61 8 9384 2421



E Saint Columba's Presbyterian Church

St Columba's Presbyterian Church is a Presbyterian church at the corner of Venn and Keane streets in Peppermint Grove, a suburb of Perth,...

16A Keane Street, Perth 6011, Australia
(-32.00179, 115.76343)

stcolumbaspc.wordpress.com



F Saint Brigid's

St Brigid's Church is a heritage-listed Roman Catholic church in Northbridge, Western Australia.

61 Fitzgerald Street, Perth 6003, Australia
(-31.94414, 115.85318)

Perth Mosque

Perth Mosque, located in Perth, Western Australia is the oldest mosque in Perth and the second oldest purpose-built mosque in Australia.

427 William St, Perth WA 6000, Australia
(-31.94356, 115.86233)

aussiemuslims.net/index.php, +61 8 9328 8535

DATA SOURCES

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