SWAN RIVER COLONY City Walking Trail

Heritage Perth and the State Library of Western Australia hope you enjoy this walk exploring Perth’s colonial heritage. The walk can begin at the Supreme Court Gardens and end at the State Library of Western Australia, or be done in reverse. Allow an hour to complete this walk comfortably.

This trail is an introduction to the history of the area from colonisation in 1829 to the early 20th Century and provides free workshops for school students to develop historical investigation skills. www.slwa.wa.gov.au

To book a workshop, speak to an education officer on (08) 9427 3202, complete the online form, or email your questions to ed@slwa.wa.gov.au

The State Library of Western Australia preserves maps, photographs and documentation recording the history of Western Australia and provides free workshops for school students to develop historical investigation skills. www.slwa.wa.gov.au

HASSchat links and other resources can be found on the Heritage Perth Learning Portal – learning.heritageperth.com.au

The development of this walking trail is proudly supported by The City of Perth.

City Walking Trail

DIRECTIONS
Bus drops students at bus bay on Grosvenor Avenue beside Supreme Court Gardens (near corner of Riverside Drive) or near the Bell Tower. Walk across the Gardens to the back of the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

Near the Supreme Court on the side facing the river, you will find the original site of the river bank marked by limestone. The Supreme Court Gardens were formed from the reclamation of the Swan River shallows in 1903.

The Old Court House, built in 1837, is the city’s oldest surviving public building. Today you can visit it as a Museum and the Francis Burt Law Centre.

DIRECTIONS
Climb the narrow stairs to the east (right) of the Supreme Court to the Old Court House Law Museum.

The Old Court House Law Museum includes the offices of the City of Perth. The building was opened in 1963 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. ‘Tom the Grocer’, Thomas Wardle, was lord mayor at that time.

DIRECTIONS
Walk diagonally through Stirling Gardens towards the north-west gates on the corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack St.

The Stirling Gardens were established as an acclimatisation garden by botanist James Drummond in 1845. Some of the trees he planted still stand today, including the oak trees.

Find the dragon trees, a unique Australian botanical specimen. Collect a seed or leaf from the ground to study and draw later. (Please don’t pick any from the plants.)

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Alexander Forrest (1849-1901) was a surveyor who made two transcontinental expeditions with his brother John. He is portrayed here in his exploration clothes. This statue was the first made in Western Australia to commemorate a local person.

Find the plaque in the pavement for Point Zero.

Point Zero is the marker from which all distances from Perth have been measured since 1925. It represents the centre point of the city. This point also marks the site of the former General Post Office.

DIRECTIONS
Cross St Georges Terrace with the traffic lights; turn right and walk along the front of the Treasury Building.

DIRECTIONS
Walk past the front of St George’s Cathedral through Cathedral Square and past the new Perth City Library.

The new City of Perth Library was designed by Kerry Hill and completed in 2015. A time capsule is under the Tree of Knowledge.

DIRECTIONS
Walk west along Hay St to the Perth Town Hall.

Perth Town Hall was designed by Richard Roach Jewell and partly built by convicts on the highest point of the city. When completed in 1870 it was the only building with a clock. It is said that in 1899 Mrs Dance fell on a tree near here to commemorate the foundation of Perth.

DIRECTIONS
Walk the walk around the perimeter of the State Library of Western Australia, or be done in reverse.

Swan River Colony

5 minutes

Comfortable toilets are nearby and the lawns are shady and cool.

DIRECTIONS
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What would you put in a Perth time capsule?

What materials can you recognise?

DIRECTIONS
Find the statue of James Stirling on Hay Street near the Town Hall. What does it commemorate?

What would you put in a Perth time capsule?

DIRECTIONS
Look for the plaque in the northwest corner of Cathedral Square and past the new City of Perth Library.

St George’s Cathedral was built by convicts and is constructed of handmade bricks. Consacrated in 1888, the cathedral is built from West Australian materials.

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Swan River Colony

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A shady cool area.
DIRECTIONS

Cross Barrack Street at traffic lights to Hay Street Mall. Walk to London Court.

Most early buildings in the city were made of timber and iron but were replaced during the 1890s gold boom. Next to London Court is the original Theatre Royal. It was the first purpose built theatre in the state. Across the mall you can see the remains of the Savoy Hotel, built by architect John Talbot Hobbs, once described as 'The Ritz of Australia'.

Some of the original gold boom buildings still stand today.

Guess which of the buildings in Hay Street Mall date back to this time?

London Court was built in 1937 for gold miner and financier Claude de Bernales. It was designed to look like an English Tudor street scene.

This is a pedestrian precinct but there can be unexpected traffic.

DIRECTIONS

Cross Barrack Street at traffic lights to Hay Street Mall. Walk to London Court.

Perth's first railway line ran from Fremantle to Guildford and opened in 1881. The original station was designed by Richard Roach Jewell and had just one platform. In 1893 this new building designed by George Temple-Poole was built to accommodate the increasing population and new routes.

HASSchat Thanks to the Goldrush

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DIRECTIONS

Walk across Wellington Street and turn right past Perth Railway Station entry. Go up the stairs to the south of the main station entrance. Walk across to the Perth Cultural Centre.

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HASSchat Transport

DIRECTIONS

Visit the State Library of Western Australia

Walk past the Art Gallery and into the State Library.

There are toilets at the back of the Library. It's cool inside!

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Please notify the Welcome Desk of your arrival.

Organise your bus to meet you on Francis Street.

State Library education
Heritage Perth Learning Portal

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Comfy shoes
Water bottle
Hat

make happy walkers

SWAN RIVER COLONY
City Walking Trail

Forrest Place was the Central Arcade until 1914. The new General Post Office was completed in 1923. This land is reclaimed from Goologoolup (Lake Kingsford), significant for the Whadjuk Noongar people and one of a series of lakes drained by the early settlers.

What feature here reminds us of the wetlands?

The walkways are shaded.

The Plaza Theatre was built in 1937 in the Art Deco style. It screened the first feature film in Perth.

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There's public seating in Forrest Chase.

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DIRECTIONS

Turn right to walk through Plaza Arcade to Murray Street Mall and into Forrest Place precinct.

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