



Perth & Western Australia

POP 2.6 MILLION / 2008

Includes ➔

Perth	879
Fremantle	903
Rottnest Island (Wadjemup)	911
Margaret River Region	932
Esperance	956
Monkey Mia	969
Ningaloo Coast & the Pilbara	972
The Kimberley	992
Broome	992

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Long Chim (p892)
- ➔ Bread in Common (p908)
- ➔ Rustico at Hay Shed Hill (p937)
- ➔ Piari & Co (p931)
- ➔ Pepper & Salt (p948)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Burnside Organic Farm (p938)
- ➔ Gnarlou Station (p972)
- ➔ Como The Treasury (p887)
- ➔ Beach House at Bayside (p951)
- ➔ Karijini Eco Retreat (p991)

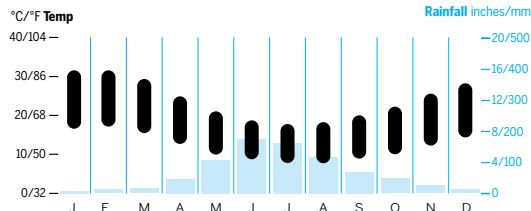
Why Go?

Larger than most of the world's countries, Western Australia (WA) is Australia's last frontier, a place known for its epic scale and isolation. Up north in the Kimberley, you'll encounter wide open spaces that shrewdly conceal striking gorges, waterfalls and ancient rock formations. At the other end of the state, the south is a playground of white-sand beaches, expanses of springtime wildflowers, lush green forests and world-class wineries.

But WA is more than just its seemingly unending coastline, dramatic outback landscapes, fascinating wildlife and strong Indigenous culture. The continued development of the Margaret River wine region and a renewed appreciation for boom-town Perth, raffish, arty Fremantle and melting-pot Broome are attracting growing numbers of visitors to the region.

When to Go

Perth



Dec–Mar In the south the weather is at its hottest and driest, while in the north, this is the wet (low) season.

Apr, May & Sep–Nov The best time to visit the north. Wildflowers, humpback whales and whale sharks.

Jun–Aug Coolest time in the south. High season for the Coral Coast, the Pilbara, Broome and the Kimberley.

PERTH

POP 2.02 MILLION / 08

Laid-back, liveable Perth has wonderful weather, beautiful beaches and an easygoing character. About as close to Bali as to some of Australia's eastern state capitals, Perth combines big-city attractions and relaxed, informal surrounds, providing an appealing lifestyle for locals and lots to do for visitors. It's a sophisticated, cosmopolitan city, with myriad bars, restaurants and cultural activities all vying for attention. When you want to chill out, it's easy to do so. Perth's pristine parkland, nearby bush, and river and ocean beaches – along with a good public-transport system – allow its inhabitants to spread out and enjoy what's on offer.

History

The discovery of stone implements near the Swan River suggests that Mooro, the site on which the city of Perth now stands, has been occupied for around 40,000 years. Modern Perth was founded in 1829 when Captain James Stirling established the Swan River Colony, and named the main settlement after the Scottish home town of the British Secretary of State for the Colonies. At the time Mooro belonged to a Wadjuk leader called Yellagonga and his people. Relations were friendly at first, the Noongar believing the British to be the returned spirits of their dead, but competition for resources led to conflict. Yellagonga moved his camp first to Lake Monger, but by the time he died in 1843 his people had been dispossessed of all of their lands and were forced to camp around swamps and lakes to the north.

Life for the settlers was much harder than they had expected. The early settlement grew very slowly until 1850, when convicts alleviated the labour shortage and boosted the population. Convicts constructed the city's substantial buildings, including Government House and the Town Hall. Yet Perth's development lagged behind that of the cities in the eastern colonies until the discovery of gold inland in the 1890s. Perth's population increased by 400% within a decade and a building bonanza commenced.

WA's 21st-century mining boom has cooled slightly in recent years, but there are still plenty of Aussie dollars awash in the state's economy, and Perth continues to blossom like WA's wildflowers in spring. Major civic works include a new football stadium, and visitors to Perth can witness ongoing

work on two major reboots of the central city's urban landscape.

Largely excluded from this race to riches have been the Noongar people. In mid-2015, a \$1.3-billion native-title deal was settled by the WA government recognising the Noongar people as the traditional owners of the southwest. Covering over 200,000 sq km, the settlement region stretches from Jurien Bay to Ravensthorpe, and includes the Perth metropolitan area.

Sights

Many of Perth's main attractions are within walking distance of the inner city, and several are in the Perth Cultural Centre precinct past the railway station in Northbridge.

★ **Kings Park & Botanic Garden** PARK

(Map p898; 08-9480 3600; www.bgpa.wa.gov.au; guided walks 10am, noon & 2pm) **FREE**

Rising above the Swan River on the city's western flank, the 400-hectare, bush-filled expanse of Kings Park is Perth's pride and joy. At the park's heart is the 17-hectare Botanic Garden, containing over 2000 plant species indigenous to WA. In spring there's an impressive display of the state's famed wildflowers. A year-round highlight is the **Lotterywest Federation Walkway** (Map p884; 9am-5pm), a 620m path including a 222m-long glass-and-steel bridge that passes through the canopy of a stand of eucalypts.

★ **Art Gallery of Western Australia** GALLERY

(Map p888; 08-9492 6622; www.artgallery.wa.gov.au; Perth Cultural Centre; 10am-5pm Wed-Mon) **FREE** Founded in 1895, this excellent gallery houses the state's pre-eminent art collection. It contains important post-WWII works by Australian luminaries such as Arthur Boyd, Albert Tucker, Grace Cossington Smith, Russell Drysdale, Arthur Streeton and Sidney Nolan. The Indigenous art galleries are also very well regarded: work ranges from canvases to bark paintings and sculpture, and artists include Rover Thomas, Angilya Mitchell, Christopher Pease and Phyllis Thomas. Check the website for info on free tours running most days at 11am and 1pm.

Aquarium of Western Australia AQUARIUM

(AQWA; 08-9447 7500; www.aqwa.com.au; Hillarys Boat Harbour, 91 Southside Dr; adult/child \$30/18; 10am-5pm) Diving WA's vast coastline into five distinct zones (Far North,