



City Walking Trail

SWAN RIVER COLONY



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 links for further study.

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

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

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SLWA 6923B/162



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.

10 minutes

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.

[HASSchat Reclaiming the Land](#)



SLWA 6909B/130

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



DIRECTIONS

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

5 minutes

Read the plaque on the front. What else has this building been used for?

[HASSchat Old Court House](#)

Look across to **Council House**, 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.

How many T shapes can you count?

[HASSchat Council House](#)



SLWA 10003PD



City of Perth



DIRECTIONS

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

5 minutes

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.

A shady cool area.

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.)

[HASSchat Stirling Gardens](#)



DIRECTIONS

Find the **Alexander Forrest statue** on the corner of St Georges Terrace and Barrack St.

5 minutes

CAREFUL! This is a busy corner!

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.

[View Trove Newspaper article Western Mail 5th September 1903, page 30](#)



DIRECTIONS

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

5 minutes

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.



SLWA 007334D



DIRECTIONS

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

3 minutes

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

What materials can you recognise?

[HASSchat St Georges Cathedral](#)
[St Georges Cathedral history](#)

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

Toilets are inside on the first floor.

What would you put in a Perth time capsule?



DIRECTIONS

The **statue of James Stirling** is on Hay Street near the entry to the City of Perth Library.

2 minutes

Sir James Stirling was a British naval officer and the first governor of Western Australia. His persistence persuaded the British Government to establish the Swan River Colony in 1829. He died in England in 1865.

[View Australian Dictionary of Biography](#)



DIRECTIONS

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

3 minutes

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 1829 Mrs Dance felled a tree near here to commemorate the foundation of Perth.

Look for the plaque in the northwest corner of the Town Hall. What does it commemorate?

[HASSchat Perth Town Hall](#)
[HASSchat Where Perth Began](#)



SLWA BA1823/20

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State Library
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



DIRECTIONS

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

5 minutes

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.

[HASSchat Thanks to the Goldrush](#)

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



SLWA 113577PD



DIRECTIONS

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

5 minutes

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

Forrest Place was the Central Arcade until 1914. The new General Post Office was completed in 1923.

This land is reclaimed from Goolgoolup (Lake Kingsford), significant for the Whadjuk Noongar people and one of a series of lakes drained by the early settlers.

There's public seating in Forrest Chase.



SLWA 211038PD



What feature here reminds us of the wetlands?



SLWA 7098B



SLWA 090757PD



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**.

10 minutes

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 Transport](#)

The walkways are shaded.



SLWA 013888PD



SLWA 013898PD



DIRECTIONS

Visit the **State Library of Western Australia**

Walk past the Art Gallery and into the State Library.

Please notify the Welcome Desk of your arrival.

Organise your bus to meet you on Francis Street.

[State Library education](#)

[Heritage Perth Learning Portal](#)

There are toilets at the back of the Library, it's cool inside!



- Comfy shoes
 - Water bottle
 - Hat
- make happy walkers