



Jetstar Magazine

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CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



FAMILY

— **With an average of eight hours of sunshine a day, Perth is officially Australia's sunniest city. But with plenty of family-friendly attractions, Natascha Mirosch says it might just take the crown as the best city for kids, too** —

ISLAND LIFE

> It's about 45 minutes by fast ferry from Perth to Rottnest Island, or "Rotto", as the locals call it. There, you'll almost certainly get the chance to interact with the island's famous inhabitants, the quokkas, who seem unperturbed by the crowds and happy to pose for photos (but there's strictly no feeding or patting). Rottnest also boasts some idyllic swimming beaches, fringed by coral and perfect for wave haters and beginner snorkellers. Rent a bike on the car-free island to explore sites such as the historic lighthouse, the Rottnest Island Museum (housed in the original old mill and haystore) or discover salt lakes and secluded clifftops to spot passing seals and dolphins.

rotnestfastferries.com.au



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THE TRAVELLER 051

ROTTNEST ISLAND



CYCLE AROUND ROTTNEST ISLAND

CONNECT WITH NATURE

> At 400 hectares, Kings Park is one of the world's largest inner-city parks. Overlooking the Swan River and CBD from Mount Eliza, the area is a mix of parkland and curated gardens, with two-thirds conserved as natural bushland. It's a great place for a bushwalk or a family picnic and there are also some unique playgrounds, such as the Rio Tinto Naturescape, which has a creek and billabong to paddle in, a 40-metre "python" walk along the treetops, a tangle of ropes to climb and more. The Lotterywest Family Area is ideal for younger kids, with a "learn to ride" bike path and a café. Keep an eye out for kids' shows in the amphitheatre over the school holidays as well as open-air movies at the Moonlight Cinema in the summer months.

bgpa.wa.gov.au/kings-park



RIO TINTO NATURESCAPE AT KINGS PARK

Jason Thomas, Grant Taylor



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JUMPING OFF THE JETTY AT HILLARYS BOAT HARBOUR

CULTURE-UP

> Perth is the traditional home of the Whadjuk people and Go Cultural tour guide Walter McGuire is an elder of the Nyungar, one of the Whadjuk people's tribal groups. Walter's tour of Elizabeth Quay, along the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River), starts with a moving traditional welcome in the Nyungar language, with ochre markings being applied to participants' hands. As a font of knowledge about the Indigenous and colonial history of Perth, Walter tells stories of the dreamtime, explains the six seasons the Nyungar follow, talks about sacred sites, traditional hunting and foraging grounds, and the conflicts between early settlers and the Whadjuk people. Kids will love walking around wearing kangaroo furs, participating in a smoking ceremony and having a go with traditional hunting tools.
gocultural.com.au

SAND, SUN AND SLIDES

> Sure, there are plenty of places to swim in Perth but Stillwater Beach at Hillarys ticks all the safety boxes for parents while providing plenty of fun, too. Older kids will love diving off the swimming pontoon and sliding down the water slides, while the smaller ones can play on the sandy shore, drop a line off the jetty or go wild on the beachside slides and swings. There are barbecues and picnic tables but if you don't fancy a BYO lunch, family-friendly food options such as pizza and sushi (and perhaps even a well-deserved wine or beer for Mum and Dad), are available harbourside.

hillarysboatharbour.com.au

GO CULTURAL GUIDE WALTER MCGUIRE





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"KIDS WILL LOVE THE PETTING TANKS WHERE THEY CAN INTERACT WITH STARFISH, RAYS AND HARMLESS BABY SHARKS."

MARKET FUN

> Established in 1897, the Fremantle Markets are housed in their original heritage building, featuring 19th-century cobblestones and original signage. Located 30 minutes from the CBD and open Friday to Sunday and Monday public holidays, the markets host 150 stalls with everything from Indigenous art to fashion. But the first thing you're likely to notice is the mouth-watering smells – you won't leave hungry, with the huge array of food stalls offering a variety of cuisines from Japanese-style crêpes to the famous WA honeycake and donuts. Buskers add to the lively atmosphere and there is plenty on offer for the kids – from face painters to fairies and a wildlife zoo where kids can have a close encounter with koalas, snakes and dingoes.

fremantlemarkets.com.au

GO TO GAOL

> Fremantle Prison is the country's best-preserved convict building. Regular tours of the gaol operate throughout the day, where you can hear the history of former inmates, visit the cells, chapels and exercise yards and even see the remnants of the gallows. Tour guide Andrew Henry is perfectly placed to impart his knowledge of the prison – which was built by the convicts themselves – having grown up on-site while his father was the prison's chief medical officer. Older kids will enjoy exploring the kilometre of tunnels beneath the prison, dug to provide fresh water, and the adventurous can opt for a torchlight night tour complete with spooky ghost stories.

fremantleprison.com.au

Joel Barbitta

PERTH 053



HANDS-ON AT THE AQUARIUM TOUCH POOL



THE AQUARIUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

UNDER THE SEA

> Trying to tempt your tribe away from their devices? The Aquarium of Western Australia will entice them to look up. The aquarium houses one of the world's largest living coral reef displays and has a dazzling range of sea creatures. Hop on the 98-metre long moving walkway (the longest in Australia) for a tour through the three million-litre glass tunnel. It's home to all manner of marine life, including Dopey the grey nurse shark, octogenarian turtle Eddy, schools of colourful reef fish and elegant rays. Younger kids will love the petting tanks where they can interact with starfish, rays and harmless baby sharks, or the chance to take a behind-the-scenes tour to see how the aquarium operates. There are daily shark and turtle feedings and the intrepid can dive with the sharks, too.

aqwa.com.au

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KILOGRAMS IS THE WEIGHT THAT CAN BE REACHED BY A FULL-GROWN SHOVELNOSE RAY



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054 PERTH



A GOLD POURING DEMONSTRATION AT THE PERTH MINT

MONEY TALKS

> "Where does money come from?" It's an age-old question posed by kids all over the world. Now they can have all their currency questions answered at the historic Perth Mint. Daily scheduled tours explore exhibits such as the world's biggest gold coin – a one-tonne cast that's 99.9 per cent gold and worth a staggering \$50 million dollars – as well other historic coins, gold nuggets and gold bars. Kids can also see a live gold pour in the historic melting house and marvel as the metal turns to liquid in a furnace before being poured into a mould and plunged into water to set. Kids will be fascinated by the Perth Mint challenge – a quiz with its answers found among the exhibits – and love the chance to pick up a hefty \$700,000 gold bar, mint their own coin and step onto the scales to discover what their weight is worth in gold. perthmint.com



STAY

> Hillarys Harbour Resort Apartments

Located on the waterfront with easy access to the aquarium and the Rotttnest Island ferry terminal. hillarysresort.com.au

> Quest East Perth

CBD apartments with kitchens, a barbecue area, guest laundry and pantry shopping service. questapartments.com.au

> The Westin Perth

Newly opened and centrally located, with family rooms, plus a rooftop infinity pool. marriott.com

> Be Fremantle

Recently renovated serviced apartments (pictured above) with spectacular over-water views, full kitchen facilities, barbecues and bike hire. befremantle.com.au

> Hotel Rotttnest

Located in the main settlement on Rotttnest Island, there are 18 rooms, some with courtyards. hotelrotrtnest.com.au

> Discovery Rotttnest Island

Opening in March 2019 with its own pool and restaurant and 83 permanent glamping eco-tents, connected by boardwalk to Pinky Beach. discoveryholidayparks.com.au



JETSTAR HAS GREAT LOW FARES TO PERTH.

JETSTAR.COM

Ross Swanborough