



• WALKING TRAIL •
BUST
OR
BOOM
•



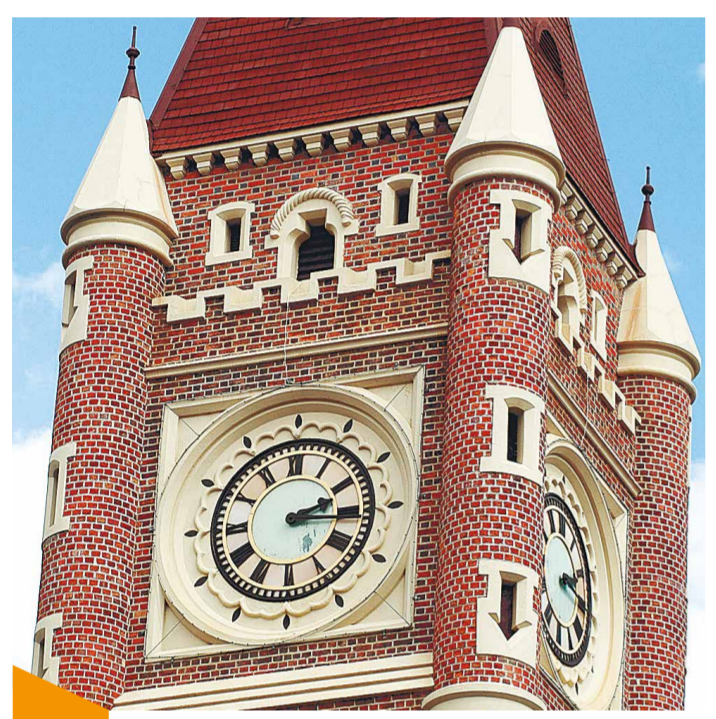
This self-guided trail will take up to two hours. You can join in or depart from the trail anywhere along the way.
The trail intersects with the city's free CAT buses servicing East Perth, Northbridge, West Perth, central Perth and the foreshore.
(except Good Friday, ANZAC Day and Christmas Day)

OTHER CITY WALKING TRAILS:

- ▲ Convicts & Colonials
- ▲ Icons of Influence
- ▲ Parks & Gardens
- ▲ Public Art

City Visitor Service
Murray Street Mall (near Forrest Place), Perth
City of Perth
Council House, 27 St. George Tce, Perth
Audio versions of these trails can be accessed by going to www.visitperthcity.com

This historical walk through Perth city will highlight the 'boom' created by gold and the surge of growth, wealth and prosperity in Western Australia that followed. The city's population swelled from 8,500 to over 27,000 in a decade and it seemed Perth would 'bust' as this remote town turned into a buzzing cosmopolitan city.



1 PERTH TOWN HALL
CORNER HAY AND BARRACK STREETS

The Perth Town Hall was officially opened on June 1, 1870 and is the only capital city town hall in Australia to be built by convicts. Major restoration works completed in 2005 have revealed the original brickwork, undercroft and arches of the Victorian Free Gothic style building. The Perth Town Hall has served numerous roles over the years, including as a government meeting place, marketplace, camel stable for explorer Ernest Giles and fire station. From the late 1870s, the city's firefighting equipment including a 12-man carriage were stored in the undercroft, although the firefighters were located some distance away and the horses were tied to taxis. In the event of a fire, the Town Hall bell rang out and the burly firefighters would dash up to the Town Hall, while the taxi drivers harnessed their horses to the fire equipment. This economical arrangement meant the service was not entirely efficient!

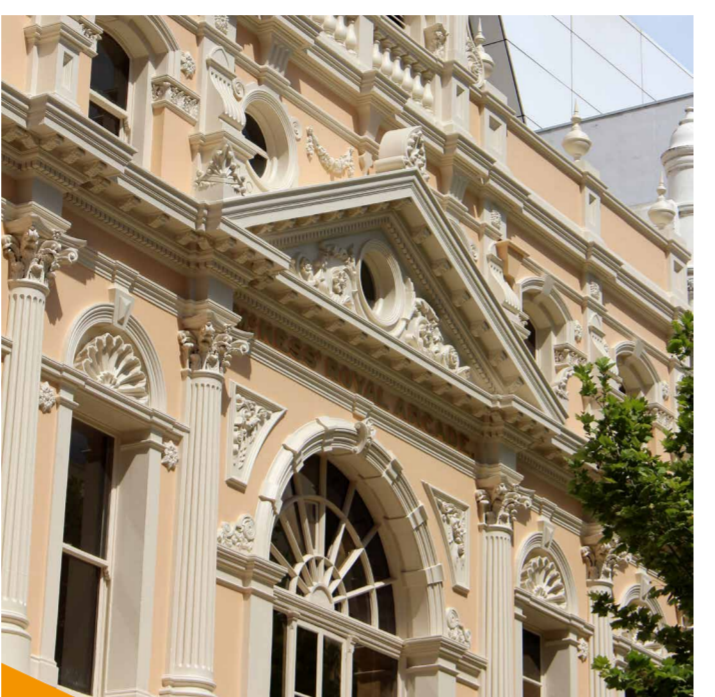
Head north up Barrack Street to view the Albany Bell Tea Rooms from the opposite side of the street.

2 ALBANY BELL TEA ROOMS
91 BARRACK STREET

Still recognisable in Barrack Street is the classically inspired façade of the Albany Bell Tea Rooms (c. 1896). Australian born Albany Bell seized the opportunity of the rapidly expanding population and went from a small confectionery business to a large factory, eventually running 11 tea rooms in Perth. Tea rooms were one of the few venues where women and men could mix respectfully at the turn of the century and the popularity of the rooms was an indication of the extra spending money available in the newly wealthy society. Albany Bell introduced the delights of the American-style soda fountain and the ice-cream 'sundae' to Perth, which he had learnt about on a trip to New York.

Albany Bell provided some sweet conditions for employees in his confectionery factory in Maylands. He established the factory riverside to provide pleasant surroundings for his workers, provided two weeks annual leave on full pay before it was a legal requirement to do so. He also paid rail fares and a two week annual stay at a seaside resort for his Kalgoorlie based workers.

Return to the intersection of Barrack Street and the Hay Street Mall.



3 MCNESS ROYAL ARCADE
CORNER HAY AND BARRACK STREETS

McNess Royal Arcade (1897) is a great demonstration of the wealth that poured into Perth from the Goldfields. Designed by American architect William Wolf, it was described as an extravagant building with a generously designed interior and exterior. The owner of the building, Charles McNess, was a scrap metal trader and ironmonger who made his fortune during the gold boom by purchasing property, eventually expanding into mortgage broking.

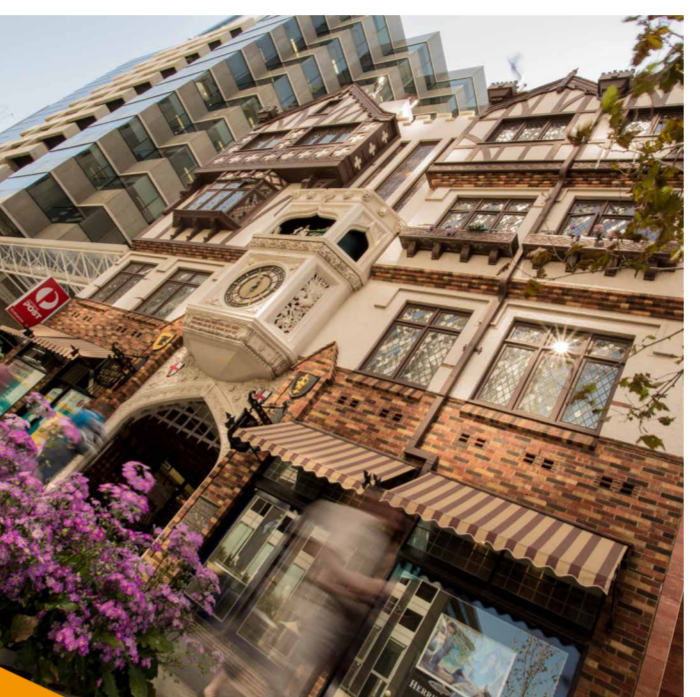
Proceed 10 metres west along the Hay Street Mall to the building left of London Court.



4 THE METROPOLE HOTEL & THEATRE ROYAL
HAY STREET MALL

Built in 1897, the Theatre Royal was the first purpose built theatre in Western Australia. The locals considered the theatre exceptional for its time, with its 'red plush and glitz, and a roof that could slide open on hot nights'. Thomas Molloy built the Theatre next to his Metropole Hotel, and went on to create the landmark His Majesty's Theatre less than a decade later. Molloy, the son of a Pensioner Guard, started his working life as the manager of Cooperative Stores in Perth, then became a baker in Goderich Street. He grew to be a prominent member of the community, serving terms as Town Councillor, Mayor, and as a member of the Legislative Council. However, many believed that his greatest achievement was the introduction of barmaids to Perth!

Molloy was determined to be knighted and in 1931 became a papal knight commander of the Order of St Gregory after which he used the title 'Sir'. He began calling himself Sir Thomas and insisted all who did business with him did likewise. He ensured this dream lived forever when, scandalously, he buried his wife under a headstone reading "Lady Mary Molloy".



5 LONDON COURT
BETWEEN HAY STREET MALL AND ST GEORGES TERRACE

Next door to the Theatre Royal, this mock Elizabethan reproduction of an old London street was built in 1937 as a gift to Perth by the charismatic and debonair millionaire, Claude de Bernales. This arcade is a true reflection of his attachment to England and features ornate mechanical clocks depicting two jousting knights at the Hay Street entrance and St George slaying the dragon at the St Georges Terrace entrance.

De Bernales made his fortune buying and selling mining equipment in the Goldfields, although his business practises were questioned when the machines gained a reputation for poor quality and his acceptance of mine leases in payment for machines angered the miners. Despite this, he always focussed on making a good first impression on the miners, changing into a full business suit carried in a suitcase on his bicycle before cycling into each miner's camp.

Walk through London Court and proceed west along St Georges Terrace to the corner of William Street.



6 PALACE HOTEL
CORNER ST GEORGES TERRACE & WILLIAM STREET

By the mid-1890s, there were so many gold seekers looking for a place to stay that hotels could not be built quick enough to accommodate everyone. The Palace Hotel was built in 1897 by John De Baun, who was determined to build one of Australia's most significant hotels. No expense was spared in the construction of the Palace, which upon opening was considered one of the most beautiful and elegant hotels in the country.

Henry Lawson, a famous Australian writer, and his wife Bertha honeymooned in Perth during 1896. After walking around Perth knocking on the doors of hotels and guesthouses, the already celebrated author discovered no beds were available due to the accommodation shortage. Tired and desperate, the honeymooners camped for a night or two by the railway line, under the cover of the Barrack Street Bridge.

Turn right from St Georges Terrace onto William Street.

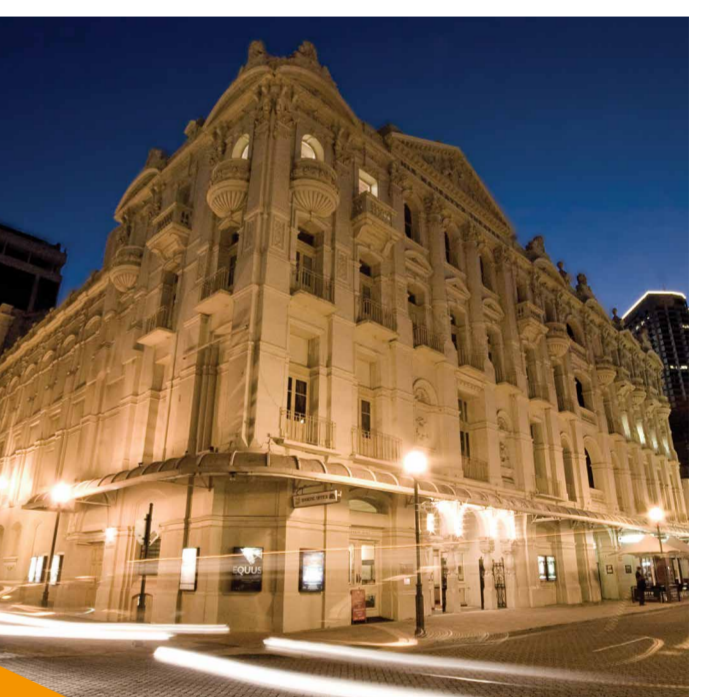


7 WILLIAM STREET

First known as King William Street after King William IV, the uncle of Queen Victoria, this street served as a major thoroughfare for the camel trains that supplied the Goldfields. The trains, harnessed with between 20 and 100 camels, were unable to reverse and had to carefully manoeuvre to change direction. Look down William Street and imagine a 100-strong camel train loaded with supplies performing a U-turn to return to the Goldfields. This procedure influenced the width of the street. The same wide streets are found at the end of the supply route, in Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie.

William Street was also known for activity other than the camel variety. Parents only let their children walk down the eastern side of the street due to the houses of ill-repute and gambling dens that were situated on the western side of the street.

Proceed north up William Street and turn left onto Hay Street. Walk west to King Street.



8 HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE
825 HAY STREET

His Majesty's Theatre was opened on Christmas Eve 1904 with a large celebration attended by many of Perth's distinguished people. The theatre's design reflects the class structure that was starting to emerge in the city, partly due to the new wealth created in the gold boom. The balcony was created for the upper echelons of society, and "the Gods" for the working class. The poorer folk entered the theatre from a side entrance on King Street to ensure that the classes did not mix. His Majesty's Theatre is the only remaining Edwardian theatre operating in Australia. The Museum of Performing Arts, located downstairs from the theatre, tells the story of the many famous people who have performed there and is open weekdays 10am to 4pm.

During the ceremonial opening of His Majesty's Theatre in 1904, the key stuck in the lock of the ornate black gates at the front of the theatre. To its builder Thomas Molloy's dismay, the gates had to be broken open with a pickaxe. In 1981, before the reopening of the theatre after an extensive restoration, an employee was sent to unlock the gates. Again the key stuck and the gates had to be broken open with a hammer!

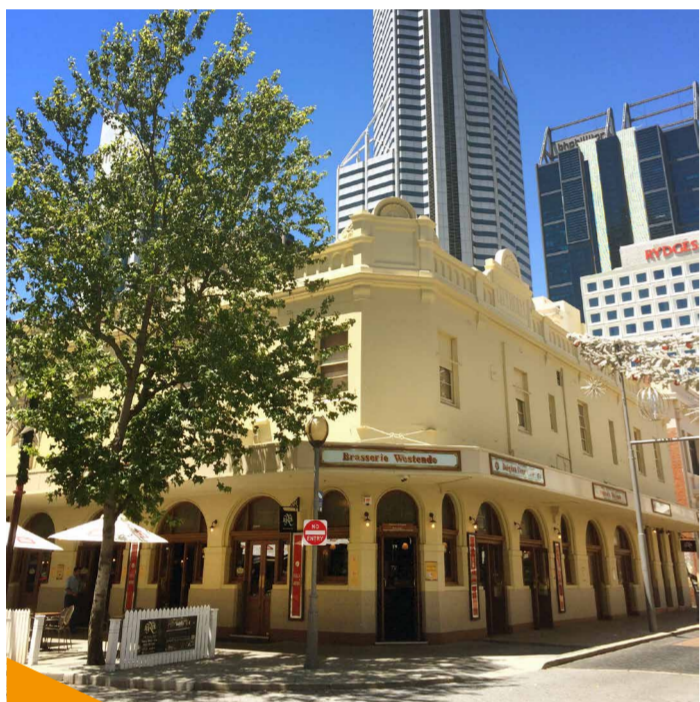
Walk north to the corner of King and Murray Street.

• WALKING TRAIL •

MAP



• KEY • BUS TRAIN INFORMATION TOILETS



9 KING STREET & MURRAY STREET

Also named after King William IV, King Street is one of the best-preserved gold rush period streetscapes in Perth. First a residential street with working class cottages surrounded by coal yards, blacksmiths and laundries, the wealth brought by gold turned it into a bustling area for small business. Milliners, shoemakers, dentists and druggists had shops here and the proximity of the railway made it an ideal site for warehouses and wholesalers supplying the Goldfields. The City Hotel, designed by Henry Trigg, was built on the corner of King and Murray Streets in 1898 and still operates as a pub today: the Belgian Beer Café. The area around King and Murray streets was a well-known location for Chinese businesses. The Chinese were prevented by Government legislation from mining for gold and as a result they became merchants, market gardeners and servants. The illegal gaming houses of Murray and King streets were very popular social venues for the Chinese, providing a meeting opportunity for many men who had to leave their families in China because of the restrictive immigration policy.

The police once raided the gambling house located at 375 Murray Street, arresting 24 Chinese gamblers with a grand total bank of £1, which was duly confiscated.

Walk east along Murray Street through the Murray Street Mall to Forrest Place. Turn into Forrest Place.



10 GENERAL POST OFFICE FORREST PLACE

Forrest Place is named after Sir John Forrest, who was vital in the development of the gold industry in Western Australia. As State Premier during the gold rush period, he instigated the water pipeline from Perth to Kalgoorlie, the railway and The Perth Mint. Forrest Place is Perth's major civic space, and a site for free public events and rallies. The General Post Office built between 1914 and 1923, is one of few large buildings in Australia constructed in the imposing Beaux Arts style and was the tallest building in Perth at the time of its construction. Isolated prospectors would send their gold by post to the General Post Office where it would be forwarded to The Perth Mint. The Mint would refine the gold and then send payment to the Post Office for the prospectors to collect.

Cross Wellington Street to Perth Station at the northern end of Forrest Place.



11 PERTH STATION WELLINGTON STREET

Perth Station opened in 1894 and is a fundamental location in the story of gold in Western Australia. The station was an unloading point for gold transported from the Goldfields and is one of the oldest operational central train stations in Australia. The original station was built in 1881, but the railway network grew rapidly. The station building and platform facilities quickly proved inadequate and it was replaced by a larger building in 1894. Additional wings to the east and west completed by 1897 doubled the size of the station and created the building that exists today.

To avoid gold being hijacked, shipments were transported in unmarked carriages with two security guards locked inside with food and beer. It was not uncommon for a gold shipment to go missing when it arrived at the station, as railway authorities would move the unmarked, unclaimed carriage to the side of the tracks. Within a few hours, the frantic Perth Mint staff would be madly searching for the missing gold and the unmarked carriage would be discovered, often containing as well as its valuable cargo, two now slightly intoxicated security guards!

Cross back to Forrest Place and walk through to the Murray Street Mall. Turn left to follow Murray Street two blocks east of the mall to Irwin Street.



12 FIRE STATION NO.1 & MUSEUM

CORNER MURRAY & IRWIN STREETS

At the time of its construction in 1901, this fire station was state-of-the-art and was the first purpose-built fire station in Australia, replacing the Perth Town Hall. By this time the fire department was in a better financial position and could afford to purchase its own horses, kept in unlocked stables and trained to respond to the sound of the alarm bell. On the sound of the fire alarm the horses would trot into place under the fire equipment harness where the firefighters would harness them up and be under way within 18 seconds. This was a vast improvement on previous procedures at the Perth Town Hall. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services operates a free Education and Heritage Centre on site, open Tuesday to Thursday, 10am to 3pm.

Walk east on Murray Street to Victoria Square, the location of Royal Perth Hospital.

13 ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL & MUSEUM

VICTORIA SQUARE

In the 1840s, almost non-existent health services led to plans for a dedicated hospital building, which were later abandoned due to lack of funds. Planning recommenced in the 1850s and Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) was officially opened in July 1855 with wards for males and females and a basement for the kitchen, scullery, store, cells for mental health patients and nurses' quarters. The RPH museum is packed with history, including the first ever x-ray equipment in Australia. The Museum is open each Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 2pm and tours can be booked weekdays. Telephone: 08 9224 3433.

One of the worst public health issues in the settlement was alcoholism, which can be partly attributed to the difficulties of life at the time. In the early days of the city it is reported there was a licensed house for every 75 people and labourers were supplied with nearly 12 gallons of spirits per annum. Even hospital workers were affected, with many complaints made about the alcohol and morphine addictions of the nursing and assisting staff. One can imagine why they chose a form of escape, with operations conducted in full view on open wards and cries of mentally ill patients drifted up from the basement.

Walk around the bottom of Victoria Square and down Victoria Avenue to Hay Street. Turn left onto Hay Street and walk one block to The Perth Mint.



14 THE PERTH MINT CORNER HAY & HILL STREETS

This was the final destination for the raw product from the Goldfields. The Perth Mint formed the prospectors' finds into coins to be used as currency in the rapidly increasing economy. The Perth Mint was one of three branches of the British Royal Mint in Australia. It was constructed in 1899 to process the huge amounts of gold that were coming from the Goldfields and was seen as a symbol of Perth's status in the British Empire. By the time of The Perth Mint's construction, income from gold was responsible for nearly 90 per cent of the colony's wealth. The Mint operated under British control until 1970, when ownership was transferred to the Western Australian Government. Today The Perth Mint is renowned as Australia's specialist precious metals mint and a major tourist attraction. It is one of the oldest mints in the world still operating from its original location, and is open to the public daily. Telephone: 08 9421 7222.

Although The Perth Mint never fell prey to a large robbery throughout the gold boom years, small thefts occurred. One of the supervisors, Mr William Dark, forced workers to stay back late on a number of occasions searching for missing gold which he accused them of stealing. The gold was never found and it was later discovered that Mr Dark himself was the culprit, slipping the gold into his pocket!

EXTRACT FROM THE ROARING DAYS

• BY HENRY LAWSON •

*The night too quickly passes
And we are growing old,
So let us fill our glasses
And toast the Days of Gold;
When finds of wondrous treasure
Set all the South ablaze,
And you and I were faithful mates
All through the roaring days.*