

DETAILED EXCURSION INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

Address: 310 Hay Street
East Perth WA 6004
Phone: 08 9421 7223
Fax: 08 9221 9804
Email: reception@perthmint.com.au
Website: www.perthmint.com.au/visit

PURPOSE OF THE EXCURSION

The Perth Mint fascinates all age groups and is particularly educational, with many links to the curriculum framework. School groups interested in discovering more about Western Australia's gold history, the gold mining industry, and precious metal coining, should consider The Perth Mint for their next visit.

OUR HISTORY

Three branches of Britain's Royal Mint were established in the Australian colonies during the 19th century - Sydney in 1855, Melbourne in 1872, and Perth in 1899. Each was granted authority to refine gold from the newly discovered goldfields and to strike gold sovereigns and half sovereigns for the Empire.

The Sydney and Melbourne Mints have since closed their doors. However, ownership and control of The Perth Mint transferred to the Government of Western Australia in 1970. Today, as the Western Australian gold rush of the 1890s continues, The Perth Mint remains an institution of Australia's gold industry.

While a visit to The Perth Mint is educational, cultural and historical, its wealth of unique displays enable people to bask in the pleasure of being surrounded by the most alluring natural treasure known to man – gold! At the heart of the State's gold industry since 1899, The Perth Mint remains an invaluable resource providing insight into the tremendous impact the discovery of gold had on shaping Western Australia.



The Perth Mint in 1936

OUR BUSINESS

In 1986, under a unique agreement with the Commonwealth Government, The Perth Mint was empowered to manufacture and market our nation's legal tender precious metals coin program under the *Australian Currency Act 1965*.

Since the early 1990s, it has also established itself as a multi-award winning tourist attraction, welcoming more than 80,000 visitors to its heritage site each year. The Perth Mint is today one of the State's premier destinations and one of the city's most meticulously maintained architectural landmarks. Winning more than 11 tourism awards in seven years, including the coveted Sir David Brand Award for Tourism three times, for its contribution to the State's tourism industry, the Mint offers a unique visitor experience duplicated no where else in the world.



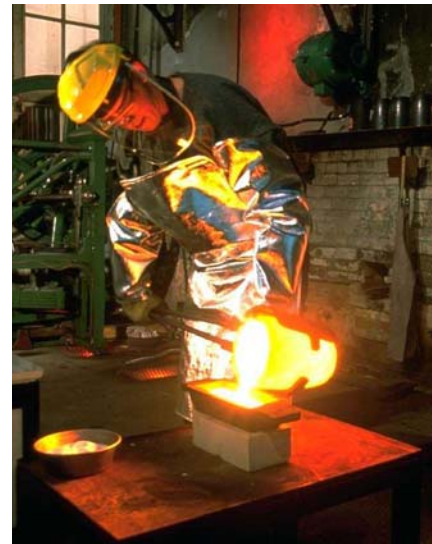
The Perth Mint building today



Pure gold Australian Kangaroo coins

OUR ATTRACTIONS

- As one of the oldest mint's in the world still operating from its original premises, The Perth Mint is Australia's only remaining 'gold rush' mint. After 90 years, it opened its imposing wrought iron gates and majestic doors to the public, offering privileged access to the normally secretive and security-obsessed world of precious metal minting.
- Housed in one of Perth's grandest and most meticulously maintained late-Victorian heritage buildings, its carefully preserved edifice and interior presents a fascinating insight into another era.
- Students can view millions of dollars worth of precious metal coins being struck through expansive viewing windows. A highly successful manufacturing enterprise, the Mint demonstrates traditional minting skills and modern techniques behind the production of Australia's internationally sought-after pure gold, silver and platinum bullion coin program, and an extensive range of precious metal commemorative coins honouring acclaimed Australians and their



Gold pouring performance

achievements, and anniversaries of historical significance.

- The Mint offers absorbing exhibitions, interpretive displays, and informative guided heritage tours. Students can experience the harsh conditions endured by early prospectors seeking their fortune at the reconstructed late-19th century prospectors' campsite, and marvel at the world-famous gold pouring performances held in the original 1899 Melting House. Combined, these attractions provide a unique opportunity to discover the astonishing impact the discovery of gold has, and continues to have, on the economic, social, political and cultural development of the 'golden' State of Western Australia.
- The fortified walls of the Mint's original 1899 vaults house a multi-award winning Gold Exhibition. Australia's most impressive display of natural gold nuggets, which includes Newmont Mining's Normandy Nugget, weighing an impressive 25 kilograms is on display, together with the world's largest collection of gold investment bars – The International Gold Bar Exhibition – part of an independently owned exclusive collection of more than 800 gold bars sourced from more than 32 countries.



School children admiring pure gold bars in the International Gold Bar Exhibition



Newmont Mining's Normandy Nugget

ENVIRONMENT

The Perth Mint is nestled in the heart of the city at 310 Hay Street, East Perth. One of the first heritage-listed sites in the State, an excursion to the Mint will include entry onto the manicured grounds, participation in an informative and entertaining guided heritage walk, followed by a traditional gold pouring performance and an opportunity to explore the International Gold Bar Exhibition.

All activities occur within the secure gates of The Perth Mint and predominately within the heritage building. Should Mint staff permit on your school's excursion day, you may receive an exclusive guided heritage walk. However, the traditional gold pouring performance held each hour will also include members of the general public in the audience. Conducted in the original Melting House, optimal viewing of the gold pour is possible from the theatre style seating provided. Seating capacity in the Melting House is for approximately 100 people. The physical pouring of gold is carried out at a distance from the audience, within a separate partitioned area behind a perspex safety shield.

At the commencement of each gold pouring performance, visiting students and public will be provided with detailed instructions should an emergency occur during your visit with security guards highly visible at all times. Each guard and select staff are specially trained in first aid, so there is always a first aid provider on duty.

Due to security reasons, there is no storage of personal bags or valuables granted on site. Also, photography is restricted to the outside areas of the Mint's front forecourt and prospector's campsite only. Photography is not permitted within the building, which includes the Melting

House, vaults, exhibition area and the retail shop.

The Perth Mint provides wheelchair access and disabled toilet facilities. Easy wheelchair access is available through all exhibition and display areas including the Melting House and the retail shop.

There are no undercover facilities for students to eat lunch or other refreshments. Langley Park is only a short walk from The Perth Mint and is a popular place for lunch activities.

TRANSPORT

Transport is to be arranged by the school. Although parking can not be guaranteed, bus or coach parking is available on Hill Street, just outside the Mint's boundary fence (Cnr Hay and Hill Streets) in East Perth.

Once students disembark from their bus or coach, school groups are requested to assemble outside the main gate of the Mint before proceeding into the forecourt. The teacher-in-charge may then proceed through the main gates, then inside the double green entry doors of the heritage building to reception. Here, the teacher-in-charge will be greeted by a staff member, advised when your tour will commence, and where you are to assemble your students.

The Perth Mint is located within easy walking distance of the Perth CBD and is Stop 11 on the Red CAT route for commuters. Street parking is available and a City of Perth car park is located just behind The Perth Mint on Goderich Street where hourly fees apply.

STUDENTS' CAPACITY

The Perth Mint is suitable for all ages, with a strong link to the educational curriculum for primary school students. On a visit to The Perth Mint, students can:

- **see the world's largest collection of gold investment bars gleam from the darkness of the 1899 vault;**
- **watch molten gold being poured in time-honoured fashion to form a gleaming 6 kilogram gold bar within the Mint's original Melting House;**
- **handle more than \$400,000 worth of gold bullion;**
- **view Australia's greatest collection of natural gold nuggets, including the 820-ounce Newmont's Normandy nugget, the second largest nugget in the world still in existence;**
- **take part in an entertaining and informative guided heritage walk;**
- **experience the excitement of the early gold rushes;**
- **see the harsh conditions endured by prospectors seeking their fortunes in the reconstructed 1890 prospectors' campsite;**
- **discover the value of their weight in gold;**
- **see millions of dollars worth of precious metal coins and medallions being struck; and**
- **Mint-Your-Own-Medallion.** (*This is an optional extra as a memento of the students visit. To create a medallion, students require a \$2.00 coin, which they put into a coin press to produce a medallion which features an image of The Perth Mint. The medallion is then placed in a capsule for safekeeping.*)

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday
9am to 5pm

Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays
9am to 1pm

Days Closed - Christmas Day (December 25), Boxing Day (December 26)
New Years Day (January 1), ANZAC Day (April 25) & Good Friday

TOUR TIMES

Monday to Friday
9.30am to 3.30pm

Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays
9.30am to 11.30am

GOLD POUR PERFORMANCES

Monday to Friday
10am to 4pm (on the hour)

Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays
10am to 12pm (on the hour)

The gold pouring performance is theatrical. During the actual pouring of gold the lighting in the Melting House will be dimmed to allow optimal effect as the crowd also becomes silent in anticipation of the pour. It is recommended to advise younger students that the room will darken during the presentation.

If desired, a pad and pencil may be at hand to note the various activities in which students participate, such as recording their 'weight in gold'. This activity involves students standing individually on a large old-style weigh-scale to view their weight in gold. The figure is calculated on the daily metal price of gold and the student's weight and appears at the top of the scale.

The guided heritage walk and gold pouring performance combined will take approximately 45 minutes. The nominated gold pourer will provide students with an opportunity for questions after the performance is completed. Groups are then welcome to browse the exhibition area for whatever time they have remaining. Should you wish to participate in the 'Mint-Your-Own-Medallion' activity, please allow additional time and advise of this request prior to your visit.

SUPERVISOR / SUPERVISORY TEAM

Your nominated Perth Mint tour guide and gold pourer will be available to offer you assistance during your excursion. However, the teacher-in-charge and the school supervisory team is responsible for the supervision and any specific requirements of the students at all times.

Please be aware that members of the general public most likely will be visiting The Perth Mint at the same time as your school. Therefore, it is appreciated if your students demonstrate responsible behaviour to ensure an enjoyable experience for all.

EXTERNAL PROVIDER INFORMATION

It is a condition of employment of The Perth Mint that all staff are screened and granted official clearance by the Gold Stealing Detection Unit, a special division of the Western Australian Police.

Qualified first-aid officers are on the premises at all times and are available for immediate service, should they be required.

The Perth Mint has all legally required insurance including public liability and complies with the Department of Education and Training requirements. Should you require further details about this policy, please do not hesitate to contact us on 08 9421 7223.

SUPERVISION STRATEGIES

It is a compulsory requirement of The Perth Mint that one adult is in attendance for every ten students.

Although a tour guide will be with the group for the duration of your attending tour, it is the responsibility of the teacher-in-charge and accompanying adults, for the wellbeing and responsible behaviour of students within their group. The Perth Mint appreciates that teachers may need to discipline their students, should it be required.

Admission fees will not be reimbursed should students be asked to leave the premises due to misconduct.

IDENTIFICATION OF EXCURSION PARTICIPANTS

Schools are responsible for choosing a suitable method of identifying students and accompanying staff. It is preferred if students wear their school uniform, if available, and that each student be clearly identifiable either as part of a group or with individual name tags.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

The Perth Mint has mobile phone reception, though this may be distorted whilst in the Gold Exhibition vault areas. We recommend that the school supervisory team have mobile phones for use during the excursion, though it is asked that they be placed on silent during the guided heritage walk and for the duration of the gold pouring performance, so as not to distract the presenter.

The nearest public phone is located on Hill Street, a short walk from The Perth Mint main gates.

A public address system is used to notify visitors should an emergency arise.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

The Perth Mint has an Emergency Response Plan, with all staff trained to take control in the event of an emergency. The signal for an emergency evacuation is a fire alarm, with detailed evacuation instructions provided by staff, should an event of this nature occur. For security reasons, The Perth Mint is unable to release its Emergency Response Plan. Should you have any queries regarding these procedures, please do not hesitate to contact us on 9421 7223.

BRIEFING STUDENTS AND SUPERVISORS

To ensure a safe and enjoyable excursion to The Perth Mint, it is recommended that the teacher-in-charge communicate all relevant information to their students and supervisory team prior to your visit.

On arrival at The Perth Mint, the teacher-in-charge will be briefed on the tour proceedings by a member of The Perth Mint team at reception.

OTHER RELEVANT DETAILS

School Group admission fees to the Gold Exhibition, which includes the guided heritage tour and gold pouring performance is \$3.30 per student and \$6.60 for additional adults accompanying the group. One adult for every ten students is compulsory, thus these adults will receive entry to the Gold Exhibition free-of-charge. Bookings are essential and subject to availability. Please contact Perth Mint Reception on 08 9421 7223 Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm to make a booking.

The postal address of The Perth Mint is GPO Box M924, Perth, Western Australia 6843. Please visit http://www.perthmint.com.au/visit_the_mint_visit_the_perth_mint.aspx for further information.

To request further educational information, please contact the Education Officer via telephone 08 9421 7326 or email irina.kizitskaya@perthmint.com.au