

## Discover the magic, allure and wonder of gold at The Perth Mint!

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### Purpose of the Excursion

The Perth Mint fascinates children of all ages and is particularly educational, with many links to the curriculum framework for school groups interested in learning more about Western Australia's history, gold mining industry, and precious metal coining.

#### 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 has had on shaping Western Australia.

#### OUR BUSINESS

In 1986, under a agreement with the Commonwealth Government, The Perth Mint was empowered to manufacture and market Australia'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 some 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 for its contribution to the State's tourism industry, the Mint offers a unique visitor experience duplicated nowhere else in the world!

## 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 colonial buildings, its carefully preserved edifice and interior presents a fascinating insight into a bygone era.
- Students can view millions of dollars worth of precious metal coins being struck through expansive viewing windows. A highly successful manufacturing business, the Mint blends traditional minting skills with modern technologies to produce Australia's internationally sought-after annual bullion coin program. Similar expertise is also used to create an extensive range of collector coins showcasing Australia's history, landscapes and icons to the world, and a number of coins featuring popular culture and universal themes.
- The Mint offers absorbing exhibits, interpretive displays, and informative guided heritage tours, with the highlight being the world-famous gold pouring performance held in the original Melting House. Combined, these attractions provide visitors with the opportunity to discover the astonishing impact the discovery of gold has, and continues to have, on the development of Western Australia – the 'Golden' State.
- Within the Mint's darkened exhibition halls, visitors will find Australia's largest collection of natural gold nuggets. This display includes the second largest nugget still in existence – Newmont's Normandy Nugget – which weighs an impressive 25.5 kilograms.
- The fortified walls of the Mint's 1899 vaults house a stack of traditional 400oz pure gold bars with one lone solid gold bar available for children to handle. But beware - digital security guards remind visitors why gold is so securely guarded!
- The Mint's modern Gold Exhibition is also home to the largest coin in the world. Created by the Mint's talented team of artists and technical staff, the colossal coin tips the scales at one tonne of 99.99% pure gold and measures 80cms in diameter and 13cms deep. Issued as Australian legal tender, this gold icon is displayed in all its glory on a revolving platform in the center of the visitor center. It represents the importance of the gold industry and how it continues to shape the economic landscape of Western Australia.

## Environment

The Perth Mint is located in the east end 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, entry into the glittering Gold Exhibition and participation in an informative and entertaining guided heritage walk.

All activities occur within the secure gates of The Perth Mint and predominately within the heritage building. Should staff levels 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 tiered theatre style seating provided. Seating capacity in the Melting House is 70 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 members of the 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 exhibition staff member is trained in first aid and fire safety, so there is always someone on duty who can offer assistance, as required.

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 only. These include the front forecourt and Courtyard Café outdoor dining area, which is framed by a prospector's campsite and includes replica gold nuggets. Photography is not permitted within the building, which includes the foyer, retail Shop, and Exhibition areas such as the Melting House, vaults, nugget or coin rooms.

The Perth Mint provides wheelchair access, wide passageways and toilet facilities suitable for people with special needs.

There are no undercover facilities for students to eat lunch or other refreshments, however, lunches can be eaten on the manicured lawns in the Mint's forecourt. In addition to this, Langley Park is only a short walk from The Perth Mint and is a popular place for lunch activities. The Perth Mint Café is also open where students are able to purchase food and beverages.

## **Transport**

Transport is to be arranged by the school. Although parking cannot 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, and 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 6 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 Mint, students can:

- 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 \$500,000 worth of gold bullion;
- marvel at the spectacular one tonne gold coin, which has been recognised by Guinness World Records as the largest coin ever made.
- view Australia's greatest collection of natural gold nuggets, including the 25.5 kilogram Newmont Normandy Nugget, the second largest nugget in the world still in existence;
- take part in an entertaining and informative guided heritage walk;
- interact with multimedia screens located throughout the visitor center which bring the history of gold mining in Western Australia, and The Perth Mint, to life;
- get a glimpse at the harsh conditions endured by prospectors seeking their fortunes in a

miners' campsite which frames the outdoor dining area of the Courtyard Café;

- stand on the scales to discover the value of their weight in gold at today's metal prices, and print a free sticker to show their family and friends;
- see millions of dollars worth of precious metal coins 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 \$2.00, which they put into a coin press to produce a medallion which features an image of The Perth Mint.*)

## **OPENING HOURS**

### **Monday to Sunday (including public holidays\*)**

9am to 5pm

### **CLOSED\***

New Years' Day (Jan 1), ANZAC Day (April 25), Good Friday, Christmas Day (Dec 25) and Boxing Day (Dec 26)

## **TOUR TIMES**

### **Monday to Sunday (including public holidays\*)**

9.30am to 3.30pm

## **GOLD POUR PERFORMANCES**

### **Monday to Sunday (including public holidays\*)**

10am to 4pm (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 interesting facts and figures presented during the activities in which students may participate.

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 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 us of this request prior to your visit.

## **Supervisor/Supervisory Team**

Your nominated Perth Mint tour guide and gold pourer may 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 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 that all staff are screened and have obtained an official national police clearance prior to employment at The Perth Mint. Qualified first aid officers and train fire wardens 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 1300 366 520.

## 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 available for your group, it is the responsibility of the teacher-in-charge and accompanying adults for the wellbeing and behaviour of students within the 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 that 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 and 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.

Limited free WiFi may be accessed on site. Please enquire at Reception.

The nearest public phone is located on the corner of Hill Street and Goderich Street, a short walk from the main gates of The Perth Mint.

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 1300 366 520.

### **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, are \$7 per student and \$12.50 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 1300 366 520 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/visit> for further information.

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