



School visits to The Perth Mint

Golden opportunity for your students

The Perth Mint has a long history of welcoming school groups ranging from Primary to Year 12 for an educational, entertaining and thrilling journey of discovery at our heritage premises at the eastern end of the city.

This two-part document provides school administrators and staff with detailed information about a visit to The Perth Mint with their student cohort.

PART A

This outline of the Mint's role through time and an overview of our visitor attractions and services will help teachers understand the historic and cultural value of an instructive excursion to The Perth Mint.

PART B

Delivers useful practical information about school excursions to The Perth Mint, including safety and behavioural guidelines.



Part A - The role of The Perth Mint

The gold rush of the 1890s jump started significant migration and economic development in Western Australia. A lynchpin in the transformation of the colony's stagnating fortunes, The Perth Mint was opened in 1899 to refine raw gold from Kalgoorlie and transform it into bullion bars and sovereigns – coins trusted for their purity and weight throughout the British Empire and beyond.

Providing invaluable support and services to Western Australia's rapidly expanding gold sector at the beginning of the 20th century, the Mint now boasts more than 120 years of continuous operations – a period in which it has evolved from a pioneering colonial branch of Britain's Royal Mint to a Western Australian government-owned global leader in precious metal refining, minting and investor solutions.

Our modern operations

Key facts:

- The Perth Mint's annual turnover in 2020/21 was \$26.35 billion.
- The overwhelming majority of newly mined gold in Australia (the world's second largest producer) was refined to investment grade bullion at The Perth Mint.
- As the manufacturer of the official Australian Bullion Coin Program, we crafted and sold 17.39 million minted products for investors and collectors during the year.
- We are Western Australia's fourth largest exporter.
- More than 60,000 global investors entrust precious metals valued at some \$6 billion to safe keeping in The Perth Mint's high security vaults.
- In 2020/21, the Mint contributed almost \$41 million to our sole owner, the Government of Western Australia.
- Our world-class gold exhibition attracts thousands of visitors annually.

Despite the evolution of our operations over time, the atmosphere of the original gold bullion mint remains tangible. Entering through the arch of the gatehouse lodge, visitors are presented with one of the finest architectural facades in Perth. Classified as a place of historical significance by the Heritage Council of WA, the Federation Romanesque building constructed from limestone quarried at Cottesloe and Rottnest Island is fastidiously maintained.

One of the first organisations of its type anywhere in the world to welcome visitors into the overtly security conscious world of gold, we have won multiple awards, including the coveted Sir David Brand Award for contributions to the State's tourism industry. We are excited to offer new generations of Western Australians an opportunity to learn more about the dynamic gold sector and our exciting role in its development.





The gold exhibition

Offering the chance to experience the thrill of touching pure gold and seeing it in many different forms, our gold exhibition is rightly regarded as one of the best in the world. From awe-inspiring nuggets and specimens to priceless coins, it's a treasure trove dedicated to the most alluring metal known to man.

Your students' eyes will light up at the sight of the world's biggest legal tender gold coin. Verified by Guinness World Records, it was made by The Perth Mint in 2011 from 1 tonne of 99.99% pure gold. At current prices, this gold is worth some \$80 million.

Further excitement is guaranteed in the historic melting room where foundrymen once worked in temperatures topping 50 degrees. In a captivating display of strength and skill, a glowing crucible is carefully extracted from the depths of a white-hot furnace before its molten gold is poured in time-honoured fashion to create a gleaming gold bar.

For older students fascinated by engineering and technology, there's an opportunity to witness the Coining Room through a large viewing window. Equipped with sophisticated machinery producing among others our iconic Australian Kangaroo, Kookaburra and Koala precious metal coins, it's the heart of The Perth Mint's precision manufacturing expertise.



Entertaining attractions within the exhibition include scales that reveal the value of your weight in gold; a large 'touch gold bar'; a working coin press with which each student can actively stamp a pre-purchased copper blank; and the opportunity to mint your own medallion with a personal inscription or school motto to commemorate the visit.

The exhibition also features physical displays and interactive multimedia learning experiences that help paint a vivid picture of what life was like for the original outback diggers – thousands of whom risked difficult and dangerous conditions in pursuit of their dreams.



Part B - Useful information about your excursion



With links to the national curriculum framework, a school excursion to The Perth Mint follows the format of our public Gold Tours, providing access to the gold exhibition in our heritage building.

The entry price includes an informative and entertaining introduction from a knowledgeable and friendly guide who will lead your school group through the exhibition and conduct a spectacular gold pouring demonstration.

With fascinating stories and anecdotes designed to demonstrate the impact of gold on Western Australia's economy and society, the guided element of your excursion will last between 45 minutes and one hour. If required, groups are welcome to browse the exhibition for longer after the gold pour.

Your guide will provide students with opportunities to ask questions throughout the Tour.

Photography is permitted in all areas except the bullion trading room.

Location and opening hours

We are located in the east end of the city, at 310 Hay Street, East Perth (one block from Mercedes College).

The Mint is open: 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Saturday and 10.00am to 5.00pm on Sunday (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Anzac Day, Good Friday or as otherwise notified).

Tours run daily, commencing: 9.30am*, 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm (* unavailable on Sunday).

Prices and booking

School group admission fees to The Perth Mint are \$7 per student. One adult for every 10 students is compulsory and these adults receive free entry. The cost of additional adults is \$12.50 per person.

Bookings are essential and subject to availability.

Please notify us when booking of your intention to purchase a personalised medallion or medallions, starting at \$17 per item, and whether you wish to pre-purchase copper blanks for stamping using the coin press at a cost of \$2 each.

On arrival

Once on the Mint's grounds, please assemble your school group on the western lawn in front of the heritage building (Hill Street side).

The teacher-in-charge may then proceed to reception inside where they will be briefed on the Tour proceedings and issued with a wrist band and challenge sheet for each student.



Transport and facilities

Transport to and from the Mint is the school's responsibility. Although parking cannot be guaranteed, bus and coach bays are located on Hill Street alongside the Mint's western boundary railings.

Ticketed car parking is available on streets adjacent to the Mint and a City of Perth Car Park can be accessed from Goderich Street at the rear.

The Perth Mint gardens are available for students to eat lunch or other refreshments. Please note there is only limited undercover/shaded areas and 'slip-slop-slap' sun protection protocols are strongly advised.

Lavatories and handbasin wash facilities are provided.

Wheelchair access and toilet facilities are available for visitors with special needs.

Limited free Wi-Fi may be accessed on site. Please enquire at reception.

The Perth Mint does not offer security lockers - visitors are responsible for personal bags and valuables and must carry them at all times while on the premises.



Safety and security

All visitor activities occur within the secure gates of The Perth Mint and predominately within the heritage building.

Actively monitored by CCTV, the premises are patrolled by Security Guards at all times.

The traditional gold pour is conducted within the old melting room where it is viewed from a safe distance on tiered theatre style seating with a capacity for 60 people. Furthermore, the gold pour is performed in a partitioned area fitted with a transparent safety shield. (We recommend younger students are advised that the melting room will be darkened during this presentation.)

The Perth Mint has an Emergency Response Plan, under which all Shop, Exhibition and Security staff are trained to take control in the event of an emergency.

The signal for an emergency evacuation is a fire alarm. In the unlikely event of such a scenario, detailed evacuation instructions will be broadcast via a public address system and supervised by Mint staff on the ground.

For security reasons, The Perth Mint is unable to pre-release its Emergency Response Plan. Should you have any queries regarding these procedures, please do not hesitate to contact us on the telephone number listed below.

It is a condition that our staff are screened and have obtained an official national police clearance prior to employment at The Perth Mint.

The Perth Mint has all legally required insurances including public liability and adheres to Department of Education and Training requirements. Should you require further details about our compliance, please do not hesitate to contact us on the telephone number listed below.



Supervision and responsible behaviour

During your excursion, the teacher-in-charge and the school supervisory team are responsible for the supervision, wellbeing and any specific requirements of the students under their care.

It is a compulsory requirement of The Perth Mint that one adult is in attendance for every 10 students.

In the best interests of your students and in consideration of the general public visiting the Mint, we request that they demonstrate responsible behaviour at all times.

To help monitor and identify students, please ensure they wear their school uniform or that individual students are clearly identifiable either as part of a group or display an individual name tag.

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



Contact us

For further information or to make a booking, please contact:

Telephone: 1300 366 520 or 08 9421 7223

Email: reception@perthmint.com

Web: perthmint.com



THE PERTH MINT
AUSTRALIA