



## Kings Park and Botanic Garden

*There would be very few locals or visitors to Perth who do not have fond memories of time spent in Kings Park. And the activities on offer are as varied as the surrounds. While this metropolitan haven is popular year round, without a doubt the most beautiful (and exciting) time to visit is springtime, when the park is transformed by an array of wildflowers, and comes alive with free activities as part of the annual Kings Park Festival.*

**K**ings Park has a special place in our city – literally and figuratively. It is one of the world's largest inner city parks, and attracts about six million visitors each year. The experiences on offer are as varied as the landscape and range from enjoying twilight concerts on balmy summer's nights, to standing with war veterans on a sombre April morning; from family barbecues, to gala events; and visiting one of the playgrounds or learning about the area's ancient Aboriginal history. Or, for many, Kings Park simply provides a unique setting to walk, run or cycle through bushland to find some tranquility just minutes from the bustle of the city.

### AN ANCIENT HISTORY

Kings Park spreads over 400.6 hectares and is bounded by Thomas Street and Kings Park and Mounts Bay roads. This area has been an important land to people for as long as 40,000 years. What is known now as Mount Eliza – the highest point in

Kings Park – was known as Kaarta Koomba and was used as an important ceremonial and cultural setting. And the area at the base of the park, which was known as Goonininup, was an important mens' site. Kings Park also features in stories about the Wagyl's journey to sea, which shaped the Swan River. This cultural significance is celebrated in displays and innovative interpretive designs found throughout the park. Indigenous Heritage Tours also runs cultural tours that showcase Aboriginal culture, including how Aboriginal people use native plants for bush food and medicine.

### WILDFLOWER HAVEN

Two-thirds of Kings Park is reserved as natural bushland, protecting more than 300 Western Australian species. And there's a point in August when the smell of the park changes and the damp brought by winter rains and cold mornings is replaced by the beautiful perfume of wildflowers. During

spring, common donkey (*Diuris longifolia*) and pink fairy orchids (*Caladenia latifolia*), red and green kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos* sp.), and Swan River myrtle (*Hypocalymma robustum*) transform the park, illuminating the bushland with colour. Walking, running or cycling along the park's many trails when these and other species are in bloom is nothing short of glorious.

For a snapshot of the State's magnificent native flora, visitors can venture to the Western Australian Botanic Garden, which showcases 3,000 of WA's 12,000 plant species. Here you can see everything from the stunning boab trees of the State's north-west to the precious banksia species of the State's south coast. During spring, this area is bursting with charming pink everlastings (*Rhodanthe chlorocephala*), Qualup bells (*Pimelea physodes*), blue lechenaultia (*Lechenaultia biloba*) and Mangle's kangaroo paw (*Anigozanthos manglesii*).



*Opposite page*

**Far left** The Lotterywest Federation Walkway guides people over an elevated bridge, providing stunning views out and below to the forest floor.

*Photo – Andrew McInnes*

**Above right** Pink woolly featherflowers are one of a number of species showcased in the Western Australian Botanic Garden.

*Photo – Marie Lochman*

**Above** Kings Park has a network of paths and roads for walking, cycling and running.

*Photo – Sallyanne Cousans*

**Right** Everlastings.

*Photo – Rhianna King/DBCA*

For those who want to enjoy these and other beautiful species in their own properties, the Friends of Kings Park Native Plant Sale is held on 16 and 17 September. Thousands of expertly cultivated plants will be available for sale, including rare and unusual species that you can't find in commercial nurseries.

## INNER CITY PLAYGROUND

Kings Park is dotted with playgrounds that have been designed with nature-based play in mind. In line with the movement to facilitate kids making their own fun in nature, Saw Avenue Picnic Area, May Drive Parkland, Lotterywest playgrounds and, when it reopens in late 2017, Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park provide families and groups with bountiful opportunities

## Kings Park Festival: 1–30 September 2017 Festival highlights:

**Ephemeral Outdoor Art and Sculpture** – set in the heart of the WA Botanic Garden, this work by Western Australian sculptor Sally Stoneman will celebrate the Kwongan region of the south-west.

**Wildflowers and Superpowers** – this fun outdoor exhibition will showcase the quirky relationships between plants and animals.

**Friends of Kings Park Native Plant Sale** (16 and 17 September) – thousands of plants will be available for sale, including rare and unusual ones not available from commercial nurseries.

**Free walks and talks** – Kings Park staff and volunteers will conduct a series of free walks that will explore Kings Park and Bold Park and showcase the magnificent biodiversity of WA.

**Aspects of Kings Park Gallery Shop** – a number of creative activities, displays and events will be held, including the opportunity to meet artists at work.

*The Kings Park Festival is proudly presented by Kings Park and Botanic Garden and the Friends of Kings Park, with the generous support of Lotterywest. For more information about the Kings Park Festival visit [www.kingsparkfestival.com.au](http://www.kingsparkfestival.com.au).*

to explore nature, develop and test gross motor skills, learn about the natural environment by experiencing it first-hand and get a little dirty along the way.

The beautiful manicured lawns of the Fraser Avenue precinct play host to community events such as memorials and weddings, and are a favourite for family picnics and gatherings. The magnificent view across the Swan and Canning rivers, city skyline and the Darling Ranges is a must-see for visitors to the city. For those who would like a spot of retail therapy, or visitors who want to take a memento of this beautiful place home with them, the Aspects of Kings Park Gallery Shop is a treasure-trove



Learn more about  
Kings Park

Scan this QR code or visit Parks and Wildlife's 'LANDSCOPE' playlist on YouTube.



of Australian-made and designed souvenirs, art, jewellery and books. The Aboriginal Art Gallery specialises in Indigenous art pieces, artefacts and books. A drink or ice-cream at one of the cafes, or dinner at Fraser's Restaurant, is an added treat.



Above *Leucospermum* species.  
Photo – Andrew McInnes

Below (background) *Boronia*.  
Photo – Jason Thomas

Visitors to the park in September will also be able to revel in a number of special displays, as part of the annual Kings Park Festival. Local sculptor Sally Stoneman is creating a large and stunning piece that will be on show in the heart of the WA Botanic Garden. This work – an ephemeral art piece – honours the precious Kwongan region of south-west WA. The Wildflowers and Superpowers outdoor exhibition will showcase the relationships between plants and animals, where visitors of all ages will be informed and entertained. On certain days in September visitors will also have the opportunity to meet Kings Park scientists and join guided walks of the exhibition.

### TAKE A LOOK

As part of the Kings Park Festival, Kings Park staff and volunteers will also run a

series of free guided walks and talks that will highlight the conservation values of Kings Park and Bold Park and feature the State's magnificent biodiversity.

Of course visitors can explore the park on the network of trails year round—whether it be a casual stroll through the manicured gardens, or a more rigorous journey through the bush. The 620-metre Lotterywest Federation Walkway starts at the Lord Forrest statue and finishes at the Beedawong Amphitheatre and guides people across the 52-metre elevated walkway that soars through the treetops and provides a view of the forest floor below. The Bushland Nature Trail is a perfect way to experience the park's beautiful wildflowers, trees and birdlife. A mia mia marks the beginning of the trail. Meanwhile, the 1.7-kilometre Memorial

Walk passes the State War Memorial, Lord Forrest statue, 10th Light Horse Memorial, South African War Memorial, Bali Memorial, Kokoda Track Memorial, ANZAC Bluff and the Jewish Memorial. These walks, and others, are all made more beautiful by the springtime wildflowers and, conveniently, are right on our city doorstep and available for all to enjoy.

### Do it yourself

**Where is it?:** Kings Park is 1.5 kilometres from Perth's CBD.

**What to do:** Picnicking, walking, running, cycling, wildflower and bushland appreciation, climbing the DNA tower, taking free guided tours, visiting Aspects of Kings Park Gallery Shop and the Aboriginal Art Gallery.

**Facilities:** Aboriginal Art Gallery, restaurants, gallery shop, cafes, kiosks, toilets, walk trails, playgrounds, Lotterywest Federation Walkway.