

The Ultimate Swan Lagoon Tourist Guide

Welcome to Swan Lagoon, where gold rush history meets coastal paradise! This guide will help you navigate the most exciting spots in our unique town, where you might just find a prospector's descendent serving you ice cream or spot a black swan doing the backstroke (yes, they actually do that here!).

Top 5 Must-Visit Attractions

1. The Golden Swan Mine Historical Site

Originally operated by the West Australian Aurum Corporation until 1935, this historic mine has a peculiar claim to fame: it's the only gold mine in Australia where miners reportedly found gold nuggets shaped like swan eggs. The guided tours, available daily through the Tourist Information Centre (located in the historic Telegraph Office at 12 Beach Street), feature a fascinating display of these unique formations. Fun fact: The mine's third level, 47 meters below ground, maintains a constant temperature of 18.3°C year-round, making it a popular escape during summer heatwaves. The gift shop, run by former miner "Lucky" Pete O'Malley's great-granddaughter, sells replica "swan egg" nuggets that double as paperweights.

2. Jed's Beachfront Cafe

More than just a cafe, this iconic establishment at 23 Beach Street serves what locals call "The Prospector's Breakfast" - a massive pile of golden hash browns arranged in the exact shape of Jedediah Stone's original mining claim. Open daily from 7:00-21:00, the cafe's walls feature the largest collection of original Swan Lagoon Miner's Gazette newspapers in existence, including the infamous "Great Swan Robbery" edition from 1896. Don't miss their signature "Black Swan Sundae," which uses a special black vanilla ice cream recipe that's been kept secret since 1965. The sundae comes with a certificate of authenticity, making it the only dessert in Western Australia with its own documentation system.

3. Nightingale Coastal Walk

This 5km scenic trail, named after the visionary Mrs. Elara Nightingale, holds a fascinating secret: it follows the exact path where she documented 27 previously unknown plant species in 1938. The walk features special markers every 231 meters (the exact length of the original Golden Swan Mine shaft) where visitors can scan QR codes to learn about her discoveries. The trail's most popular spot, "Nightingale's Rest," sits at the exact coordinates where she wrote her first tourism article. Local legend says that sitting on the bench there at precisely 3:38 PM (a nod to the year 1938) brings good luck - a tradition started by the O'Malley family in 1955.

4. St. Agnes Church

Built in 1892 from local sandstone, this church holds the distinction of being the only building in Western Australia with a bell tower that was originally a mining ventilation shaft. Open to visitors daily from 9:00-16:00, the church features unique stained glass windows depicting scenes from the gold rush, including one of Jedediah Stone's legendary first gold discovery. The church's most unusual feature is its "Miner's Prayer Corner," where the original prayer books still bear gold dust fingerprints.

from the 1890s. Every third Sunday, they still ring the original mining bell using the same sequence that once signaled shift changes at the Golden Swan Mine.

5. Blackwood's Beach Bar

Located at 95 Beach Street, this modern establishment sits on the exact spot where the infamous "Dusty Nugget Saloon" once stood. Owned by the great-great-granddaughter of "Baron" Bartholomew "Bart" Blackwood, the bar maintains several quirky traditions from its gold rush predecessor. Their signature cocktail, "The Fool's Gold," is served in original assaying cups from the 1890s, and every Friday at exactly 18:88 (6:88 PM), they reenact the historic moment when Jedediah Stone first announced his gold discovery. The bar's most unique feature is its "Prospector's Corner," where the floorboards are original to the Dusty Nugget Saloon and allegedly still have gold dust in the cracks - though this has never been officially verified.

Essential Tips for Visitors

- The Tourist Information Centre issues "Prospector's Passports" that get stamped at each historical site
- Best time to visit is during the Annual Swan Lagoon Swan Festival (third weekend of October)
- Local buses run on "Gold Rush Time" (add 18.88 minutes to scheduled times for actual arrival)
- Don't forget to try the "Black Swan Sundae" - it's the only ice cream in Australia that comes with a certificate of authenticity
- Visit the library's Local History Collection to see the original telegraph announcing the first gold discovery

Remember: Every corner of Swan Lagoon tells a story, and sometimes those stories come with a side of fish and chips or a secret family recipe ice cream. Happy exploring!