

# Guildford Mandoon

## Visitor Guide



# Wanjoo and welcome to Guildford Mandoon

With its deep connections to Noongar culture, early settlement and convict history, antique stores, character pubs and village charm, Guildford Mandoon has always been a unique and special place.

This guide invites you to explore Guildford Mandoon through its many points of view, from its deep Noongar heritage to its rich natural beauty.

Whether you're here for a stroll, a story, a market day or a meal, Guildford Mandoon offers something for everyone.

Discover walking trails, historic sites, lively events, great restaurants, cosy pubs and unique shops.

Guildford Mandoon is also a great place to start your journey of discovery to the culturally rich and deliciously vibrant Swan Valley. With historic hotels and quality accommodation available, you can also extend your stay in the region.

Use this booklet to uncover the layers of history and community that make Guildford Mandoon one of the most walkable and atmospheric towns in the State.

Ngalak Maali Boodja Kaditj, Whadjuk Moort Noongar Boodjara, Baalap Kalyagool Noyyang, Boodja Kep Moort, Ngalak Kwabaduk Wirn, Kabarli Bworan Kora Kora, Yeyi Ngoongoolong.

The City of Swan acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this region, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and their descendants.



## Did you know?

Guildford Mandoon was declared a historic town in 1984 and added to the State Register of Historic Places in 2019, in recognition of its significance to Western Australia.

## Guildford Mandoon's crest

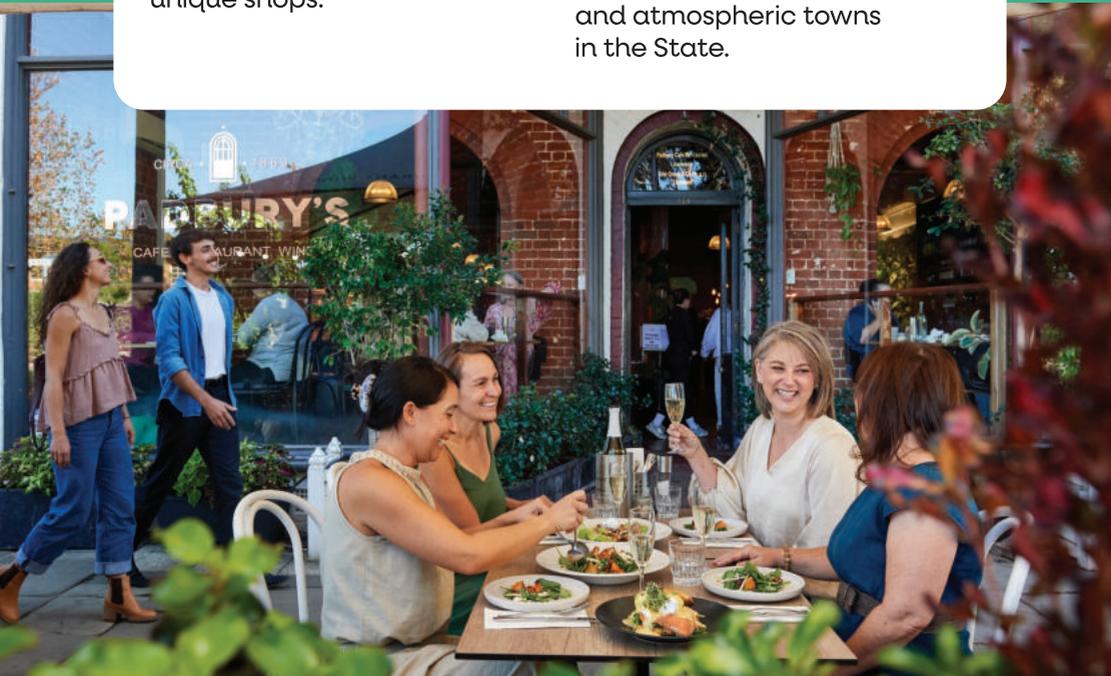
A sheaf of wheat (agriculture), a bunch of grapes (viticulture), and an anchor (trade) reflect the town's early role as a connecting point between agriculture and trade with the wider world.



Brochure produced with assistance from The Guildford Association, a volunteer group that has helped conserve and promote Guildford's unique natural and built heritage since 1975. Published 2025. *Photographer credits: Frances Andrijich, Jarrod Seng, DG Media.*



Scan to discover all that Guildford Mandoon and the Swan Valley have to offer.



# Top 10 about town

There is so much to see and do in Guildford Mandoon that you'll want to come back for more.

Here are just 10 of the top experiences for you to discover, with plenty more to be found throughout this guide.

- 1 Take a walk:** Choose one of four heritage trails, each marked with stories to discover. Our favourite is The River Ramble, which takes you to Padbury's Store precinct and Moulton's Landing on the banks of the Swan River.

*See page 18 for walk trail routes.*



- 2 Sights of Stirling Square:** Easily accessible in the centre of town, Stirling Square is home to towering sugar gums, historic rose gardens, the 10th Light Horse statue, Kaleep Aboriginal Hearth Artwork, playground and more.



- 3 Treat yourself:** Stop for a coffee and some sweet treats or freshly made daily delicacies at the Guildford Town Bakery, The Dutch Shop, Mimmo's Gourmet Gelato, Keni Donuts and Café and more!

- 4 Heritage hotspot:** Uncover the secrets of Guildford Mandoon's convict history within the old courthouse and gaol on Meadow Street – and book a tour! Learn about the history of Guildford Mandoon and the Swan Valley.

*See page 20 for more.*



- 5 Fine feasts:** The many cafes, pubs and restaurants in and around Guildford Mandoon cater for breakfast, lunch, dinner and everything in between. Whatever your appetite, whatever the cuisine, you're sure to find a favourite.



*Scan to see all that's waiting to satisfy your tastebuds.*



**6 Museum of Natural History:**

You will never forget your visit to this world-class display of hundreds of Australia's native animals. This taxidermy attraction on James Street is unique to Guildford Mandoon and even includes life-size models of dinosaurs.



**7 Event extras:** Guildford Mandoon has plenty of exciting events for a range of audiences throughout the year – market days, community events and more.



*Find out what's on for a little extra something during your visit.*

**8 Treasure troves:** Dive into Guildford Mandoon's antique and homeware stores on James Street to find that special something for your home or as a gift for a loved one.



**9 Historic hotels:** Guildford Mandoon has four of the most historic hotels in the state, offering quality food and extensive range of beers, wine and fresh cocktails.

*See page 8 for more.*



**10 Need more than a day?**

Stay overnight in a historic hotel or other quality accommodation giving you extra time to enjoy all that's available in Guildford Mandoon.

Just a short drive away, the nearby Swan Valley is a place where heritage, hospitality and harvest come together, offering a taste of something truly Western Australian.



*Discover where to stay to make the most of your visit to Guildford Mandoon and the Swan Valley.*



## Good food and good finds

Guildford Mandoon has a long tradition of hospitality that comes to the fore when sampling the vibrant local scene of pubs, eateries and specialty shops.

The Rose and Crown Hotel, established in 1841, is the oldest operating hotel in Western Australia and a beautifully preserved example of colonial Georgian architecture. It has hosted everything from public meetings to spirited nights out.

Not far away, the Stirling Arms Hotel has been drawing a crowd since 1852, while the Guildford Hotel, with its grand belvedere, and Woodbridge Hotel, located on East Street, make for great spots for casual dining and drinks.



The town's hospitality extends to many cafes, restaurants, historic hotels and beer gardens, offering everything from classic pub meals to modern Australian fare and multicultural cuisines. Many menus reflect the town's proximity to the Swan Valley, with local wines and seasonal produce on show.

A different kind of institution, Alfred's Kitchen began as a burger van in 1946 and still draws crowds today. Its open fire, famed burgers and legendary pea and ham soup have made it a late-night staple for locals and visitors alike.

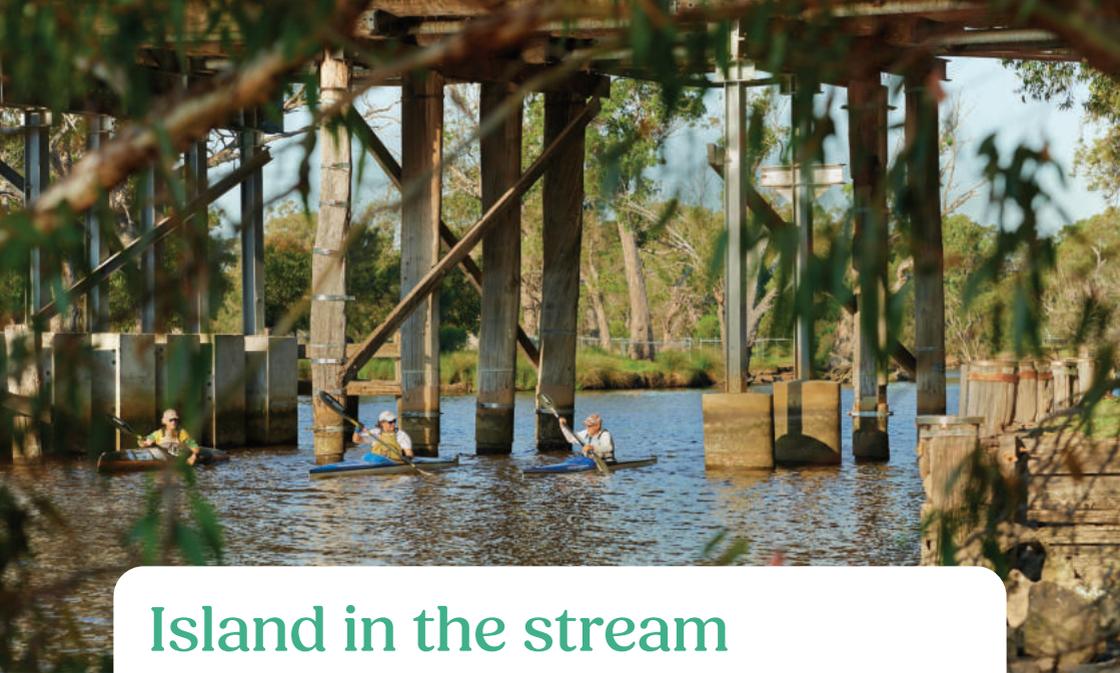
Meanwhile, there are great coffee spots and specialty food stores including gelato made fresh every day, The Dutch Shop and the town's bakery.

## Shop til you drop

James Street has been Guildford Mandoon's commercial heart since the 1880s. It is the perfect place for browsing vintage wares, rare books, collectables and locally made gifts. You can also find specialty food, gift, art and homeware stores.

And don't forget to check out Padbury's Store on Terrace Road. Built in the 1860s by Walter Padbury, a self-made entrepreneur and Guildford Mandoon's first mayor, it is now home to a popular brunch spot and boutique shop.





## Island in the stream

Guildford Mandoon is almost an island, which has helped shape its identity, reinforcing a sense of community that endures to this day.

Only a narrow strip of higher ground to the east connects Guildford Mandoon to the wider landscape.

Elsewhere it is bounded by the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) to the north and west and the Mandoon Bilya (Helena River) to the south.

For Noongar people, these rivers have long been sources of life, movement and connection. They provided an abundance of food and water, and their spiritual and practical values are still honoured today.

The river also played a significant part in Guildford Mandoon's development as a colonial town when transport by road wasn't possible.

Today, the rivers are places of leisure and discovery, offering kayaking, fishing and peaceful walks with views rich in wildlife and heritage.

You may spot the iconic maali (black swan), darters, ibises and herons. Estuarine fish thrive here too and are regularly caught by local anglers. If you're lucky, you might even spot the Swan River dolphins.

## Guildford Mandoon's bridges

Four historic bridges connect Guildford Mandoon to the lands across its rivers: Barker's Bridge, Bassendean Bridge, Water Street Bridge and Johnson Street Bridge. These crossings are both practical and picturesque, offering beautiful river views that are popular with walkers, cyclists and birdwatchers.

## Moulton's Landing

Established in 1829, Moulton's Landing was the first public wharf in Guildford Mandoon. The current timber jetty, built in 1984, is a reconstruction of the original and can be found at Barker's Bridge, providing a place to stop and enjoy the river.



This c1830 map of Guildford shows the extent of the floodplain. Courtesy State Records Office WA S235-cons3868 169

Half of the land that makes up Guildford Mandoon is a floodplain, which has protected the town from further development while leaving beautiful rambling riverside tracks for you to explore.

## Take a walk

The **River Ramble** heritage trail takes you to the Derbal Yerrigan via the historic Rose and Crown Hotel and Padbury's Store. Interpretive panels highlight the river's importance to Guildford Mandoon's development and cultural heritage.

See page 18 for trail route.



## Place of many trees

One of the most striking features of Guildford Mandoon today is its tall trees, which contribute as much to the town's character as its heritage buildings.

The best-known are the towering sugar gums in Stirling Square, many of which were planted for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. While native to South Australia, these majestic eucalypts have become the signature trees of Guildford Mandoon and are a treasured part of the local landscape.

Guildford Mandoon's association with trees has deep roots. Whadjuk Noongar people know this area as Mandoon – "place of many trees". The name reflects the native forest that once thrived here, nourished by rich alluvial soils, seasonal flooding and a steady supply of groundwater. This natural abundance made it a vital place of shelter, gathering and sustenance for generations.

Although much of the original tree cover has been cleared, there are still remnants. Majestic moitch (flooded gums), some centuries old, still line the riverbanks, while other native species can be found in nature reserves and along walking trails, providing essential habitat for birds, insects, reptiles and mammals.



## How does your garden grow?

Guildford Mandoon is known for its established private gardens, many dating back generations. Roses are especially popular, gracing front yards and cottage gardens across town, and contributing to the town's distinct village atmosphere.



### Take a walk

Follow the **Stirling Square Circuit**, a short 20-minute trail that takes in the best of the historic Meadow Street precinct including the sugar gums, rose garden ambience, military history and St Matthew's.

See page 18 for trail route.



# Always was, always will be

Long before settlement, the area now called Guildford was known to Whadjuk Noongar people as Mandoon, a meeting place for trade, ceremony and exchange.

This land was rich in natural resources and deeply spiritual. Whadjuk Noongar people lived in harmony with the seasons, practising sustainable hunting, fishing and plant harvesting.

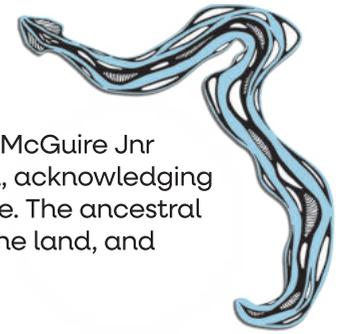
Firestick farming helped maintain open woodland where yonga (kangaroos) grazed and seasonal plants thrived. Mandoon and the Swan Valley was wonderful boodja (country) for yonga hunting. Wetj (emu) were also on the menu.

Men hunted, while women and children walked bush tracks gathering bohn (blood root) and kar (milkmaid tubers) which roasted beautifully in the coals with the yonga.

Meanwhile, the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) was not just a water source but the lifeblood of the region with spiritual significance. It was made by Wagyl (Rainbow Serpent), who is believed to be still resting beneath the river's waters.

## Way of the Wagyl

This artwork designed by Noongar Artist Walter McGuire Jnr sits proudly at the entries to Guildford Mandoon, acknowledging the Wagyl's continued presence and importance. The ancestral rainbow serpent carved the rivers and shaped the land, and its story continues to guide cultural practice.



## Kwobardak Boodja (Beautiful Country)

Discover Noongar artist Chloe Calyon's Kwobardak Boodja (Beautiful Country) mural at the Swan Valley Visitor Centre on Meadow Street.

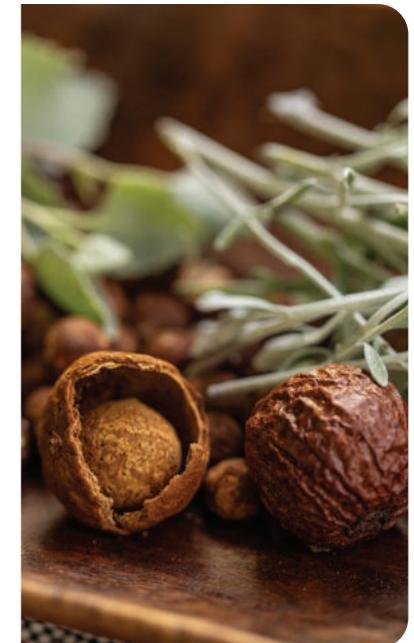
## Merenj (Bush Tucker)

Plants that Whadjuk Noongar people have harvested for thousands of years still grow in the area. Yanget (bull rushes), djiridji (zamia seeds), warrine (yams) and wattleseeds are just a few.

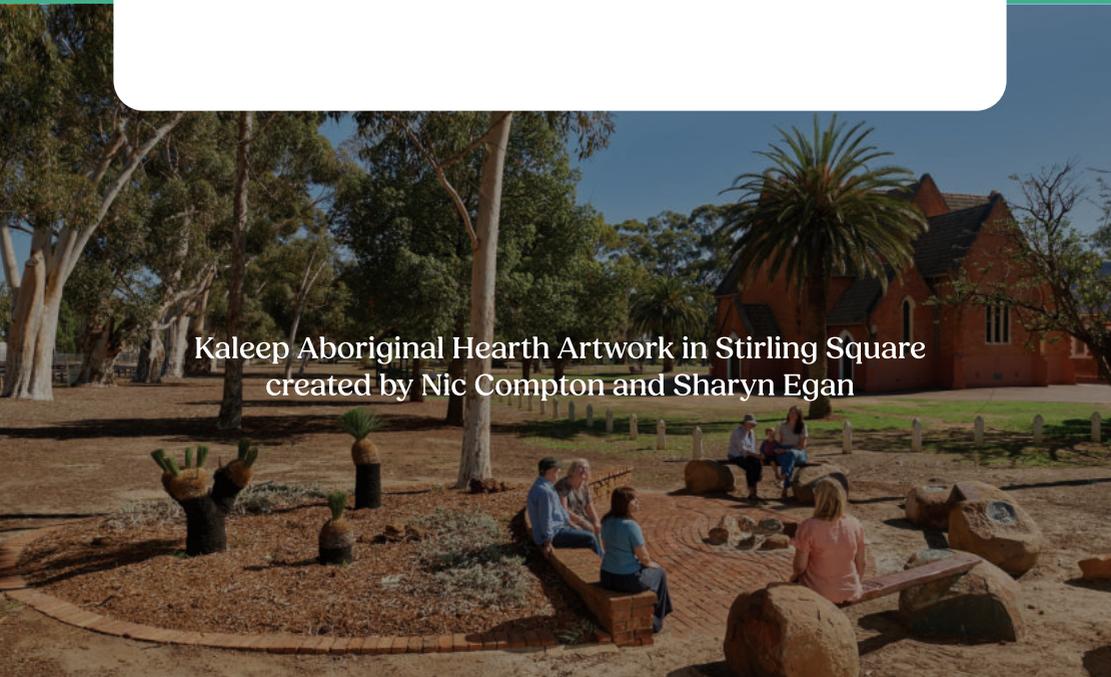
To discover more, follow the **Swan Valley Bush Tucker and Beyond Trail**, which starts in Guildford Mandoon and journeys into the Swan Valley.



Scan for the trail route.



Kaleep Aboriginal Hearth Artwork in Stirling Square created by Nic Compton and Sharyn Egan



## Continuing connection

**Whadjuk Noongar people's connection to Mandoon endures, despite the disruptions and devastation of settlement.**

The arrival of the British in 1829 disrupted Noongar life. Conflict grew as European farming practices reduced the ability to hunt and gather traditionally. Many Noongar people were killed, displaced or imprisoned. Some worked for settlers as labourers, domestics, mail carriers and trackers.

By the late 1800s, starvation, disease and discriminatory laws had had a devastating impact on Noongar people. Government policies further fractured communities by removing children from their families.

Yet Noongar people in the Guildford Mandoon area maintained cultural traditions. Generations have kept stories, language and cultural practices alive, passing them down through moort (family) and community. Local Elders still share knowledge of bush tucker, the six seasons and the respectful way to move through Country.

Today, Noongar people are present, holding events and sharing culture that help to inform, educate and connect with non-Aboriginal people. Importantly, Guildford Mandoon is not just a historic town, it is, and always has been, living Noongar land.

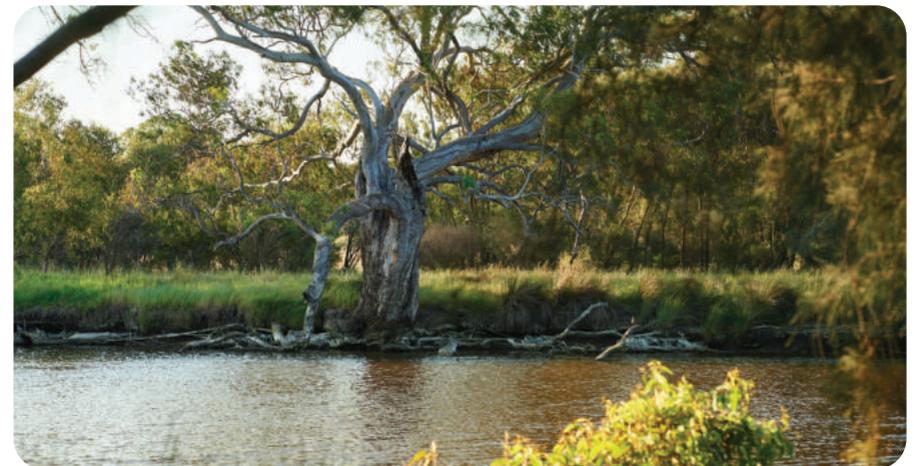


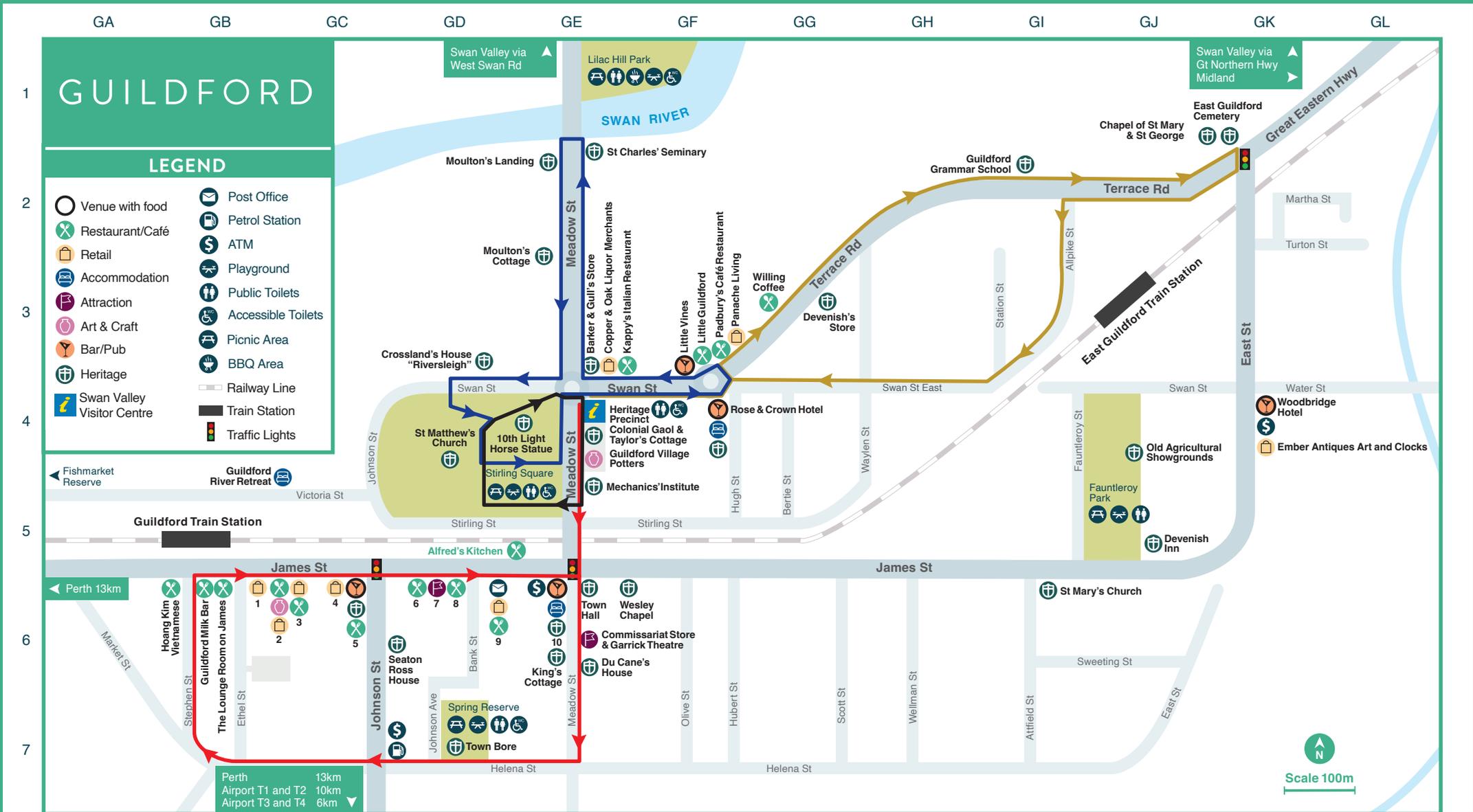
The Old Police Station on Meadow Street, a symbol of control, was also a place where Aboriginal people came for rations and permits – showing how Noongar people were forced to navigate new systems while keeping their culture intact.



Forced from their traditional lands, Whadjuk Noongar people made camp at the edges of Guildford Mandoon at least until the 1950s with Gilly Park (Stirling Square) continuing as a meeting place.

Whadjuk families fished the Derbal Yerrigan sustainably for generations and still today – catching gilgies (freshwater crayfish), booyi (turtle) and djildjit (fish) while respecting seasonal cycles.





# Stirling on the Swan

In 1827, Captain James Stirling sailed up the Swan River in search of land for a new British colony and found something as “beautiful as anything of the kind I have ever witnessed.”

He was struck by the richness of the soil, the open grassy plains, and the fresh water – landscapes shaped and sustained by Whadjuk Noongar people through thousands of years of fire-stick farming.

Two years later, in 1829, the Swan River Colony was officially founded. Guildford Mandoon was one of its three original settlements – alongside Perth and Fremantle – and was established as a key inland port and market town. Stirling named it after his father-in-law’s electorate of Guildford in England.

Guildford Mandoon’s location at the confluence of the Swan and Helena Rivers made it a natural centre for settlement and trade. The town helped open the Swan Valley and beyond for farming and viticulture, attracting more settlers.

Although early interactions between settlers and Noongar people were initially cordial, conflict soon followed, driven by differing views on land, sovereignty, and survival. The consequences reshaped the course of life along the rivers forever.

*Below: View of Swan River, taken at commencement of fresh waters, 1827. Courtesy The State Art Collection, the Art Gallery of Western Australia 1957/00W5*



## Cradle of the Colony

Discover the story of Guildford Mandoon and the Swan Valley through the Cradle of the Colony exhibition featuring items from the Swan Guildford Historical Society collection housed within the Swan Valley Visitor Centre.

## Stirling’s Estate

Captain Stirling claimed 1,620 hectares of land adjacent to the Guildford Mandoon townsite and named it Woodbridge after his wife’s family home in Surrey, England. He had a small mudbrick cottage built but spent little time there, and after his governorship ended in 1839, he left the colony.

In 1879, Charles Harper leased part of the estate and later purchased a section in 1883, where he built a large home that still stands today.



*Managed by the National Trust of Western Australia, Woodbridge is open to the public at select times throughout the year.*

## Take a walk

Follow the **Captain Stirling Walk** past historic cottages, locations and streetscapes, including the picturesque grounds of Guildford Grammar School.

*See page 18 for trail route.*





## An English town in the Aussie bush

Guildford Mandoon reminds many visitors of an English village – and with good reason.

Planned in 1829 by surveyor Henry Charles Sutherland, the town was laid out in the style of an English country town, complete with a central square, symmetrical streets and a church at its heart.

That central square – Stirling Square – is the oldest public park in Western Australia.

It remains a peaceful green space today, surrounded by civic buildings and elegant homes such as those along Swan Street which was a sought-after address for the town's well-to-do settlers.

Sutherland's town plan also responded to the landscape.

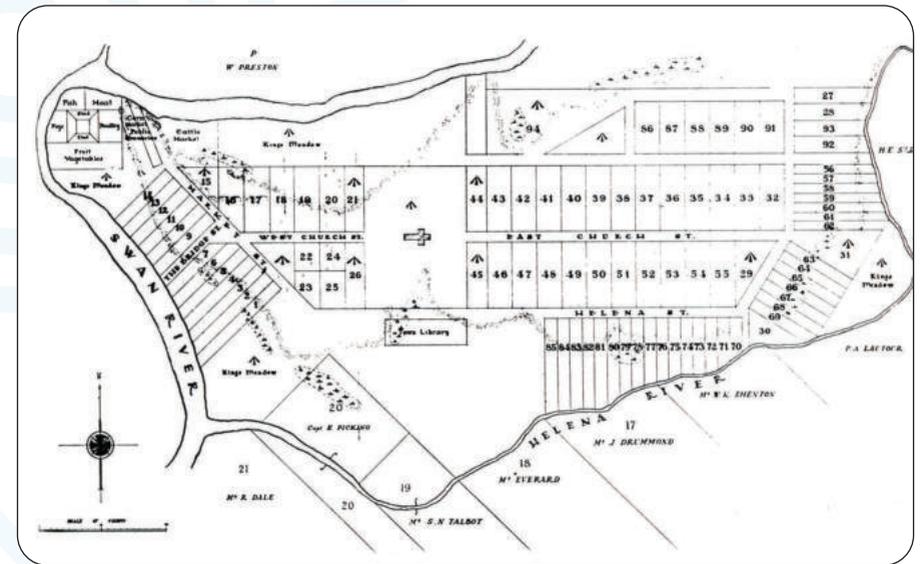
With Guildford Mandoon almost encircled by rivers, a public landing place was created to the north for arriving settlers.

Riverfront reserves – then known as King's Meadows – were used for grazing community livestock.

Markets were originally planned for what is now Fishmarket Reserve, until seasonal flooding forced a move.

The town's distinctive ribbon-like riverfront lots reveal its agricultural and logistical function.

Today Guildford Mandoon retains the most intact town plan dating from 1829 in Western Australia and is one of the most significant towns of first settlement in the country.



Guildford Town Plan, c1829. H. C. Sutherland. Tracing of plan reproduced Bourke M.J. *On the Swan*. Courtesy University of Western Australia Press, 1987

### Take a walk

The **Town Walk** explores Guildford Mandoon's English town layout, beginning at the Guildford Heritage Precinct and looping past Stirling Square, civic buildings and early homesteads.

See page 18 for trail route.



## Convict construction

The arrival of convict labour in 1850 marked a turning point in Guildford Mandoon's development.

In response to settler demands for labour to support farming and public works, the British government transported nearly 10,000 convicts to Western Australia over 18 years.

Guildford Mandoon was one of the first towns outside Fremantle to establish a Convict Depot, which was located on Meadow Street. From here, convicts helped construct essential infrastructure, including roads and bridges. Roads were extended to inland settlements like York and Toodyay, and opened Western Australia's agricultural heartland.

Under the supervision of Pensioner Guards and skilled officials, convicts also worked on schools and government buildings. Government Architect Richard Roach Jewell designed many of these public buildings that still stand today, including the Courthouse and Mechanics' Institute.

The convict system accelerated colonial settlement but also contributed to the displacement of Aboriginal people, further entrenching British control of the land. In addition, many transported convicts were political prisoners, including Irish and Scottish dissidents, whose labour helped shape the young colony.



*The Old Gaol (1841, extended 1851) and Courthouse (1866) on Meadow Street were built with convict labour and encountered everyone from drunken settlers to notorious bushranger and escapee Moondyne Joe. Courtesy State Library of Western Australia, 2586B/19a*



The Commissariat Store and Quarters on Meadow Street are the only surviving buildings from Guildford Mandoon's original Convict Depot.

Built in the early 1850s, they housed supplies and personnel, including Lieutenant Edmund DuCane, who lived and worked in the house next door.

Today, the Commissariat Store is home to the Garrick Theatre Club and can be seen on the Town Walk trail.

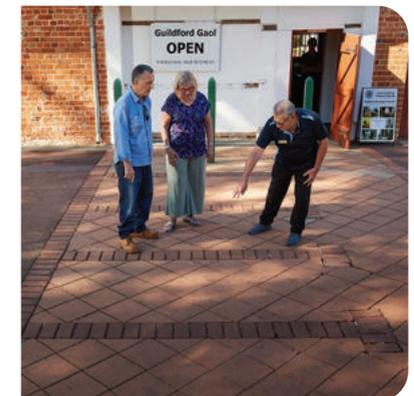


### Museum and walking tours

The Swan Guildford Historical Society offers regular tours of the Old Gaol and Guildford Mandoon heritage precinct.



Book a guided tour.





## River, rail and rush

From riverboats to railcars, Guildford Mandoon's role as a transport and trading hub has helped shape the community and connect it with the wider world.

In the early days of settlement, the sandy roads of the Swan Coastal Plain made overland travel slow and difficult. Guildford Mandoon's location made it a natural inland port, linking the coast with the expanding interior.

Barges and small boats brought goods and passengers upriver, making Guildford Mandoon a thriving gateway to the agricultural lands beyond.

With the opening of the Fremantle-Guildford train line in 1881, and soon after its extension to York, daily

passenger and freight trains began replacing river traffic.

The arrival of the railway brought excitement then anger as Guildford Mandoon residents discovered a plan to cut the line through the lower third of Stirling Square. Protests and petitions forced a change with the railway diverting down James Street.

The line was duplicated and moved in 1897 to its current location, keeping open the visual connection between James Street and Stirling Square.

Above: Train loaded with pipes for Goldfields Water Scheme passing through Guildford, c1902. Courtesy State Library of Western Australia 1797B

The 1890s gold rush brought a boom in both population and infrastructure. Guildford Mandoon's post office, station and hotel were upgraded, streets were paved and lit with electric lamps, and the town became a desirable place to live, home to wealthy pastoralists, tradespeople and farmers alike.



## Guildford Mandoon's Railway Station

Opened in 1898, the Guildford Railway Station precinct reflects the town's golden age of rail. It includes the original brick and iron station building, platform, timber Goods Shed, and a metal footbridge – all reminders of Guildford Mandoon's importance as a transport hub. The Goods Shed is one of only two remaining in Western Australia and speaks to a time when rail linked Guildford Mandoon to markets across the state.



## Well connected, then and now

Just like it was in the 1880s, Guildford Mandoon remains a vital rail link between the city and the regions. Located on the Midland Line, it's less than 25 minutes by train from Perth CBD. With regular Transperth services, it's one of the most accessible heritage towns in Western Australia – perfect for a car-free day out.

## Birthplace of the 10th Light Horse Regiment

Guildford Mandoon's military history stretches back to the earliest days of the settlement of Western Australia.

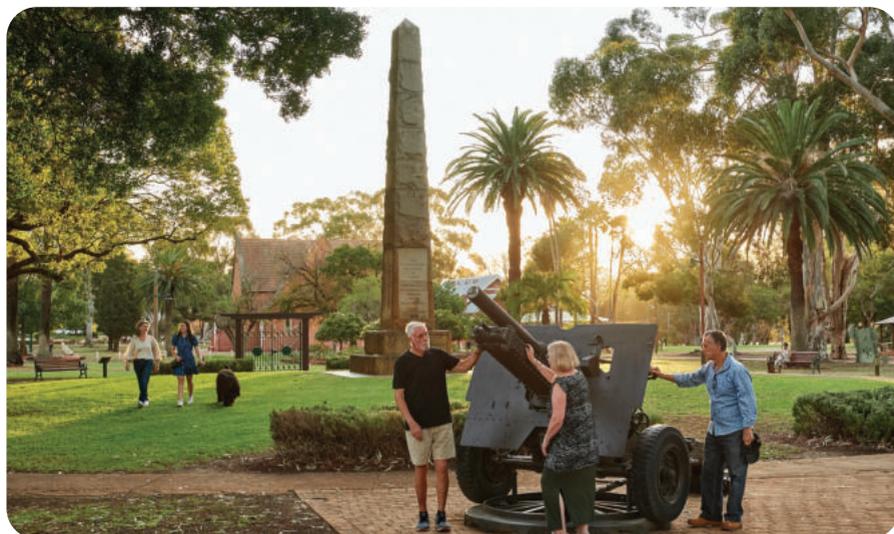
In 1829, Captain James Stirling arrived with two companies of the 63rd Regiment. Many retired officers settled here, shaping the young town. By the 1850s, Pensioner Guards formed a local reserve force after escorting convict transports.

Guildford Mandoon became a key military hub from the late 19th century and in 1914, the 10th Light Horse Regiment – Western Australia's only mounted unit in the Australian Imperial Forces – was raised and trained at the Guildford Remount Depot.

Many troopers had Guildford Mandoon connections and some were Aboriginal men, who joined despite official policies of exclusion. The courage of the 10th, particularly at Gallipoli's Battle of the Nek, became part of ANZAC legend.

St Matthew's Anglican Church, still the regiment's Garrison Church, provided spiritual support. This connection is commemorated each year at the Gunner's Day Parade and Service in November.

During World War II, Guildford Mandoon served as a base for training, reconnaissance and coastal defence, and the town's deep military ties remain a lasting part of its identity and pride.



Unveiled in 2023, Charles Robb's sculpture in Stirling Square depicts a trooper and horse emerging from the Helena River.

It commemorates the regiment's formation in Guildford Mandoon, honours all who served across generations, backgrounds and battles, and celebrates the special bond shared by horse and trooper.



Scan to learn more about Guildford Mandoon's 10th Light Horse statue and military connections.



### Guildford ANZACs Trail

This self-guided experience delves into the impact of World War I on Guildford Mandoon.

Surviving homes of ANZACs who lived in Guildford Mandoon have been marked with a brass poppy plaque.



Discover individual ANZAC military history and poppy plaque location.





## Sacred ground

Guildford was planned around a church but spirituality in this place runs far deeper than its foundations.

For thousands of years before European arrival, Whadjuk Noongar people held strong spiritual connections to the land and waterways here, shaped by ancestral beings and timeless traditions.

This connection continues through today, carrying a tradition that is more than 45,000 years old.

Meanwhile, the establishment of Christian churches in Guildford reflects both the colonial desire for spiritual anchoring and the gradual growth of a religiously diverse community.

Many of the town's early churches still stand, each with stories contained in their walls, graveyards and congregations.

At the centre is St Matthew's Anglican Church, Guildford's Garrison Church. Originally built in 1836 east of the town site, rebuilt in Stirling Square in 1860 and again in 1873 after a devastating hurricane, it holds military and community significance.

It continues to serve as a place of worship, welcome and remembrance, especially for Aboriginal families who gather for sorry business and community events there.

Today Guildford Mandoon's spiritual heritage can be explored on foot via interpretive trails linking early churches with sites of Aboriginal cultural importance along the river.

Together they tell a shared story of faith, displacement, resilience and connection.

## Guildford Grammar's Gothic Chapel

Set within the grounds of Guildford Grammar School, the magnificent Gothic chapel of St Mary and St George was consecrated in 1914.

It remains one of Australia's finest examples of ecclesiastical architecture and continues to be a place of reflection, service and song.



## The Derbal Yerrigan

For Whadjuk Noongar people, the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) is a sacred life source, formed by the Wagyl, a powerful ancestral being. Sites along the river, including nearby Bennett Brook, remain spiritually significant as places of creation and connection.



## Local learning

Education and learning have always been central to life in Guildford Mandoon.

In fact, Guildford Primary School is WA's oldest continually operating government school. Opening in 1848, its heritage-listed buildings are still visible on Helena Street and part of the Town Walk trail.

By the early 20th century, Guildford Mandoon had seen nearly 30 different private schools come and go. Among the most enduring is Guildford Grammar School, founded in 1896 by local MP and newspaper editor Charles Harper in the billiard room of his home at Woodbridge.

Now one of the State's most prestigious private schools, it occupies picturesque grounds beside the river, with striking architecture, towering plane trees and a legacy of academic, sporting and cultural achievement. It can be seen on the Captain Stirling Walk trail.

Guildford Mandoon's commitment to continued learning has early roots with the founding of The Mechanics' Institute in 1865, which was built to provide adult education. Located on Meadow Street, it remains a hub for community gatherings, learning and performance to this day.



*Guildford Primary School, 1903.  
Courtesy Swan Guildford Historical Society PH402-2000*

Education in Guildford Mandoon is more than bricks and books – it's a shared story.

From early colonial settlers to post-war migrant families and today's diverse communities, generations have come here to grow, learn and pass on knowledge.



The Mechanics' Institute (pictured above) is located on Meadow Street, opposite Stirling Square, and can be seen on the Town Walk trail.

The town's schools, trails and historic precincts invite visitors of all ages to keep exploring and learning.



## Famous faces

Guildford Mandoon has been home to many notable Australians, often through their attendance at Guildford Grammar School. These include authors Peter Cowan and Randolph Stow, actor Heath Ledger, politicians, journalists and sportspeople.

# Valley vibes

Guildford Mandoon has long been the gateway to one of Western Australia's most productive and culturally rich regions: the Swan Valley.

From its early days as a transport hub for settlers, Guildford served as a launch point for agricultural expansion into the fertile lands upstream.

Narrow ribbon land grants along the Swan and Helena Rivers allowed early farmers access to water, transport and arable soil, creating the backbone of a growing rural economy.

The gold rush of the 1890s brought a surge in population and new industries, infrastructure and people.

Many early migrants began their journey in Guildford

before taking up farming in the Valley.

Later waves of migration, particularly of Croatian and Italian families, brought valuable viticultural and horticultural expertise, transforming the Swan Valley into the beating heart of Western Australia's wine and table grape industries.

By the 1930s, more than half the Valley's vineyards were run by these migrant families, many of whose descendants are still active in the region today.



The Swan Valley's rich multicultural heritage lives on in its food, wine and community spirit. Over 50 vineyards now dot the Valley, alongside boutique breweries, distilleries, roadside produce stalls and gourmet artisans.

## Play on

Entertainment in Guildford Mandoon is woven through its streets, green spaces and historic buildings.

Whether it's a trivia night, a Garrick Theatre performance or market day, Guildford Mandoon continues to bring people together through play, creativity and connection.

In the early 1900s, locals flocked to The Vaudeville Theatre – now part of the Guildford Hotel – for civic events, weddings and Saturday night socials. That community spirit still thrives today.

Live music, pub nights, art exhibitions and events keep Guildford Mandoon buzzing. Markets, held most months, are a highlight, with vintage stalls, local crafts, live entertainment and fresh food in a relaxed, leafy setting.



## Sporting tradition

Guildford Mandoon also has a proud sporting tradition.

Lilac Hill hosts the City of Swan's Avon Descent Festival, celebrating Western Australia's unique river event, and many cricket matches.



Guildford Mandoon is home to the Perth Polo Club and Swan Bowling and Recreation Club. Both were founded in the 1890s and are the oldest clubs of their kind in WA.



## Swan Valley Visitor Centre

Your one-stop shop for  
visitor information, maps  
souvenirs, digital gift cards  
and personalised advice.



Open seven days, 9am-4pm  
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