

Western Australian Free Beaches

NORTH SWANBOURNE BEACH, PERTH



North Swanbourne Beach

Description

North Swanbourne beach is some 20 minutes by car from the centre of Perth and is located north of Fremantle between Cottesloe and City beaches. It is the most popular of the clothing optional beaches in the metropolitan area. The sand is clean and there are several large rubbish bins provided. The water is clear, clean and great for splashing, body surfing or boogie boarding in the surf.

The beach faces west and can shelve moderately so care is required if a sea breeze is blowing. The beach itself does not have a life saving station, however the Swanbourne Surf Life Saving Club patrols the much less used textile beach 300m south of the nude section.

Insects are not a problem, but there is no shade on the beach so take a beach umbrella, and a wind break if you want to stay into the afternoon.

The section for nude bathing is 3km long and stretches from the welcome sign 300m north of the Swanbourne beach access, to the municipal boundary with the City of Cambridge which is marked with a "No Nude Bathing" sign. The beach has a minimum width of 30m of sand at high tide and behind this is an area of dunes and natural bush, most of which is army land. Red flags flying from the military look-out posts indicates that live firing is occurring in the range behind the beach and the zone between Swanbourne and City Beach will be closed.

There are active efforts to protect the dune area which is fenced off so please stay on the beach. The beach and dunes are regularly patrolled by police on horseback or using quad bikes and the beach is also inspected by Nedlands Council rangers. Please note that neither the car park nor paths leading on to the beach are designated as clothing optional areas, so make sure you are at least 300m north of the Swanbourne beach access before stripping off.

Facilities

The sealed car park is only 200m from the beach and a grassed overflow parking area is immediately above. If both are full then street parking is available.

There are large toilet and shower blocks either side of the Swanny Beach Café which serves a great cooked breakfast,

cappuccino, fast food, ice creams etc. and hires beach umbrellas/wind breaks. They also have a quad bike with trailer travelling up and down the beach all day with drinks, ice creams, pies, rolls etc. Order your lunch to be delivered fresh to you on the beach.

At the Northern (City Beach) end there are small car parks along Challenger Parade, that leaves you with a 500m walk south along the beach to get to the nude section. The nearest toilets, showers and café are at City Beach which is 1.4km north.



Current Status

North Swanbourne beach has been used for nude bathing since before the Second World War. In 1981 the title changed to State ownership and although some groups have tried to disrupt nude use, the long history, popularity, and vigorous campaign of the North Swanbourne Beach Users Association has protected its status.

In 1998 the State Government announced an initiative to protect areas of natural bush in the Perth region. One of the areas proposed as a reserve is the land previously used by the SAS, which comprises dunes and coastal heath. If the proposal is successful, the area behind Swanbourne will forever remain as undeveloped bush land, which would be very positive for the future of Swanbourne as a nude beach.

When To Visit

The weather is usually suitable between November and April but occasional days outside this period can be delightful. Temperatures vary from 20 to 40°C during the day in these months and rain is unusual from January to April.

The sea breeze usually comes in around midday and can blow strongly on this west-facing beach, so the morning is usually the best time. Take a strong windbreak if you intend staying during the afternoon. On those days when the sea breeze does not arrive enjoy a barmy evening on the sand and watch the sun sink into the Indian Ocean.

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Contacts

Other than Perth's two nudist clubs there are no contacts for this beach.



View south from City Beach end

How To Get There

There are two access points for the nude beach, if you are coming from the north you may wish to use South City Beach, however you will need to walk a bit further and the facilities are not so convenient. Alternatively, if you prefer to be with more people on the beach then the Swanbourne access is for you.

South City Beach:

Access is from the West Coast Highway (Route 71), driving south from Scarborough turn right into Challenger Parade (just past the Floreat Surf Life Saving Club) and continue south to the City Beach car park. Drive 800m further south and you will find the first of two small car parks. Park here if you wish, walk 200m along established sandy paths on to the beach, and then 500m south along the beach to the nude section.

There are paths on to the beach for a further 600m south along Challenger Parade but don't park on Challenger itself or on the road verge or you will be towed or fined.

Swanbourne Beach:

From the north, continue driving south along Route 71 to the traffic lights at North Street. Turn right and drive ~1.2km to the ocean and turn right around the roundabout into Marine Parade and drive 300m to the car park.

From Perth City take Stirling Highway (Route 5) heading for Fremantle. Approximately 1.5km past the Claremont shopping area turn right into Eric Street at the traffic lights heading for Cottesloe (this is also the start of Route 71). Drive 1.4km straight to the sea crossing over the Perth to Fremantle railway and at the T junction with Marine Parade turn right. Drive 1.3km north along Marine Parade.

The closest railway station is Grant Street. Exit the station on the western side (cross the railway bridge if coming from Perth) and walk 1.1km straight down Grant Street to the coast. Walk 800m north along Marine Parade to the beach.

You can catch the 102 bus from the Wellington Street Bus Station in the centre of Perth. This will take you along North Street to Marine Parade. Get off the bus at the first stop on Marine Parade and walk a few hundred metres back past North Street to the beach.

