



Bare Essentials!

Swanbourne beach is located right in the heart of Perth, well 20 mins from the CBD, which is pretty close! The nude section is actually North Swanbourne beach which is about 300m north of the Swanbourne beach access. Although not a legally recognised nude beach, nude bathing has been in practice there for many, many years and perhaps as far back as the second world war according to the FBA WA web site. When looking for a bit of extra information on Swanbourne I noticed that many WA tourism web sites listed North Swanbourne beach as a must visit place when visiting Perth. Once again I have to say how forward thinking WA is when it comes to nudity. From what I've seen the tourist industry and the majority of local councils seem very proud of the nudist areas and see it as something to promote, not hide.

The thing that struck me about North Swanbourne was the number of people on the beach. The nude section appeared as populated, if not more so, than the clothed section. I guess the overall numbers were due to the central location and the size of the beach (the nude area is around 3km long) and that its really easy to get to by car or public transport.

There was also a large number of females at the beach. Nude beaches are places where the single male often out numbers the females. I think mostly because single males can visit nude beaches freely, where some clubs and resorts often limit single male numbers or ban them completely. Ladies can go just about anywhere, single or not, and for whatever reason there are often not that many on nude beaches. North Swanbourne is different.

When we were there a single lady was getting teased (in good humour) by some clothed guys who were walking up the beach and rather than getting flustered she simply said "why don't you just get your gear off and sit down with me?". A confident attitude that worked as after a bit more friendly banter they quickly left at the thought of taking their clothes off.

As usual, I went and had a chat with a few people and found that the majority of people go there every weekend and had been for years (some 20+ years) and boy did they have great tans. Many of them said they often organised get togethers at the beach with friends. Apollo nudist club organises beach days at Swanbourne quite regularly, in fact we missed one by a day when we were there.

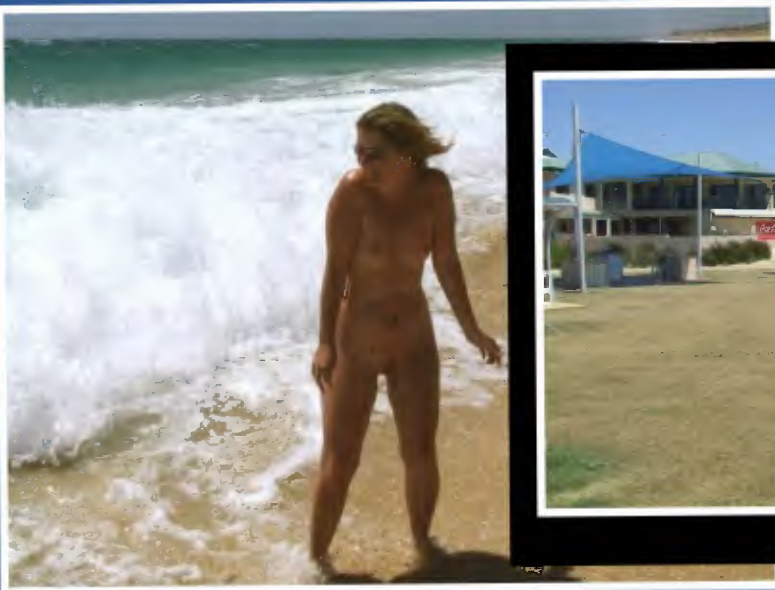
Another thing I noticed about the people at Swanbourne is most of them brought their own wind shelter and as the day wore on I could see why. As with most of the beaches in the southwest of WA Swanbourne got a bit windy later in the day.

The water at Swanbourne was nice and warm but too rough for me, in fact I found it a bit scary but I'm not a strong swimmer and a bit of a wuss in the water (as you may have guessed).

Getting to Swanbourne is easy...

If you're driving 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. At the T-junction with





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Marine Parade turn right. Drive 900m north and then be sure to keep left on Marine Parade, heading for Swanbourne Beach, which is a further 300m.

By train...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. Bus route 102 leaves the City bus station (Wellington Street) for Cottesloe via North Street. "Getting There" courtesy of FBA WA www.fbwa.iinet.net.au

Of course please remember that the car park and the access to the beach is not a nude area so keep your clothes on until you get to the nude area. We don't want to endanger another great beach.

