

Western Australian Museum

A trek through **TIME**

A historical journey between the
WA Shipwrecks Museum and the
WA Maritime Museum



Bathers Beach in the 1890s
Image courtesy of Fremantle Ports



WAM WA
SHIPWRECKS
MUSEUM



Navigate your way

Use the map and numbered pins to guide you to each stop.

- 1 Start at the Shipwreck Galleries, near the large anchor (pictured).
- 2 Walk onto the lawn outside the Shipwreck Galleries so you have a good view of the Esplanade Park (but don't actually go to the park).
- 3 Make your way over to the CAT bus stop and start walking down Cliff Street, along the path on the left hand side.
- 4 About halfway along Cliff Street, stop at a building with the name 'Samson' on a metal plaque.
- 5 Continue along Cliff Street until you reach the corner of High Street. Stop here where you can see the Round House.
- 6 Cross the railway and walk through the Round House tunnel.
- 7 Walk back through the tunnel to Cliff Street. Continue up Cliff Street. At the end, cross Phillimore Street and look across to the Weighbridge (small red building). Turn back to look at the building on the corner of Cliff and Phillimore Streets.
- 8 Continue along the pathway towards the railway track. Take care when crossing the railway track and the roads and walk up to a statue of a man and a dingo.
- 9 Cross at the zebra crossing and stop in front of a tall white building where you will see a tall statue of a man.
- 10 Walk down the centre path of the Museum carpark towards the Maritime Museum. Explore the outside of the building.



Western Australian Museum - A Trek Through Time

Let's go back in time.

Stand beside the anchor. Imagine this space 200 years ago.

This is the traditional land of Whadjuk Nyoongar people.

The Whadjuk name for Fremantle area is Walyalup.

On the other side of the railway is Bathers Beach.

Called Manjaree by Whadjuk people, this area was an important meeting and trading place.

This area is also where Captain James Stirling's fleet landed in 1829, bringing people from England.

This picture of Fremantle was painted by a lady called Mary Ann Friend in 1830.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



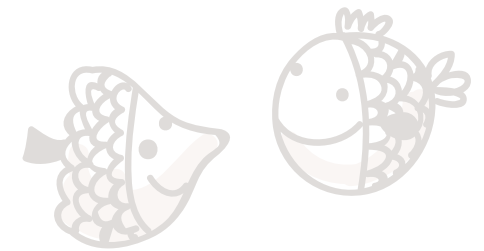
Stay outside the Shipwrecks Museum and find this line of bricks.

What is it showing us?

The bricks show us where the old shore line once was.

When the first English people arrived, Esplanade Park across the road did not exist - it was all water!

Over time, people replaced the water with land.



Now let's investigate the Museum building a little closer...

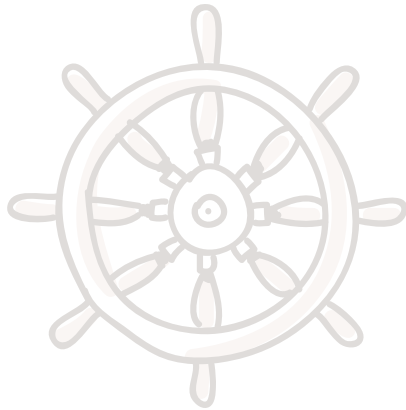
How old do you think it is?

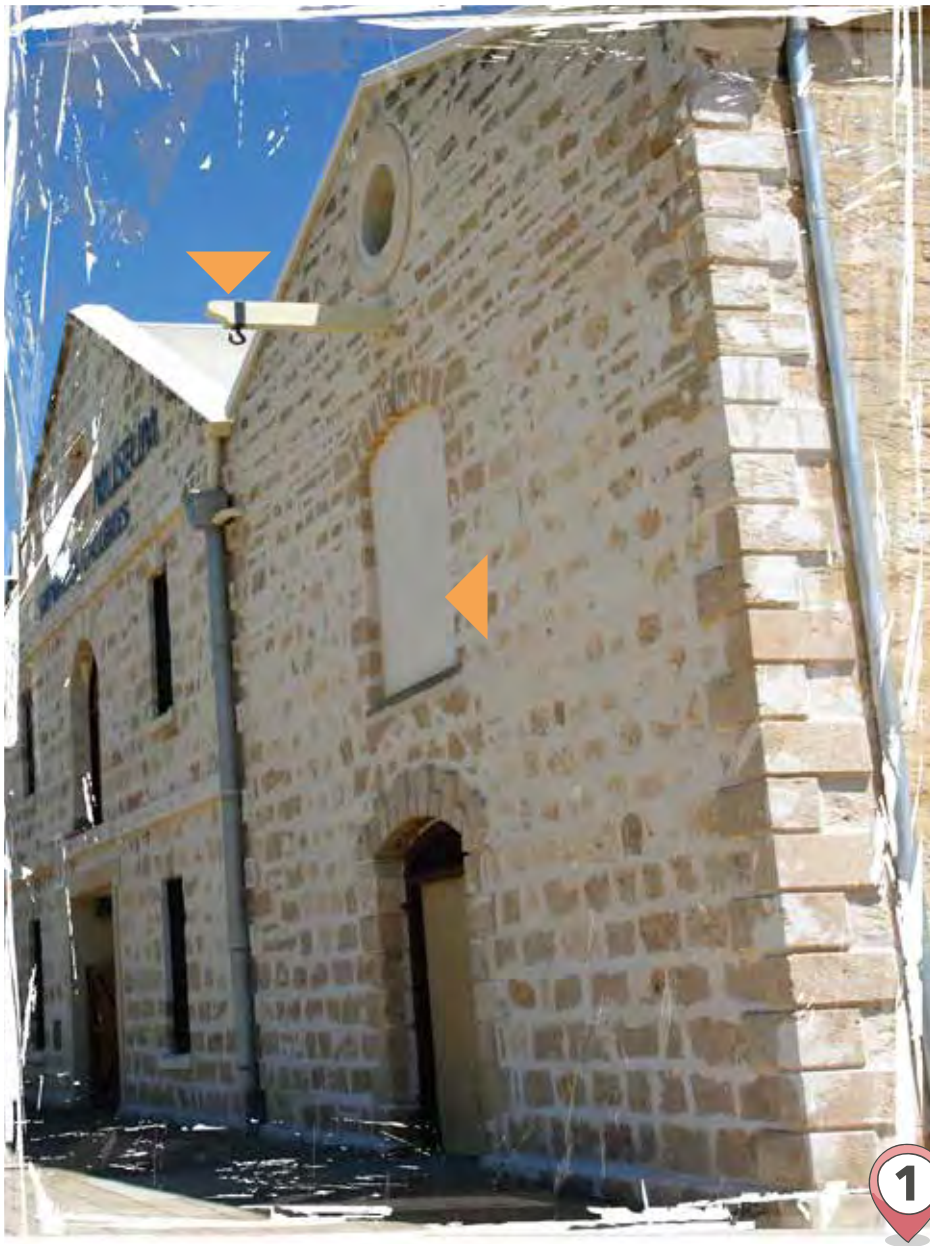
It was built in the 1850s by convicts.

Touch a limestone block and imagine the cracked, worn hands of a convict lifting this block into place.

Do you know any other buildings in Fremantle that were built by convicts?

Over 9700 convicts were sent to the Swan River Colony between 1850 and 1868 to build roads, bridges and buildings.





Look up!

Can you guess what this building was first used for?

The building was called a *commissariat*. It was a warehouse used to store goods that were being exported and imported.

Check out the arrows on the photo.

◀ The hooks were used to lift heavy objects up to the second floor, through the big, wide doors.

Look closely and find some symbols hidden on the window bars.



The *broad arrow* was stamped onto many British government-owned objects and buildings.

Find a plaque that tells you when this building became a Museum.

Find a place where you can get a good view of the Esplanade Park.

This picture shows what the park looked like in 1905.

The Norfolk Pine trees in the park were planted in 1908.

How old are they now?



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Start walking down Cliff Street.

This used to be one of the main streets in Fremantle. It was the path between the ocean and the Swan River.

The limestone building on the left-hand side of this photo was once a customs house and a post office.

Can you see any evidence of the building's history?

Not far up Cliff Street, find a building with the name 'Samson' on a metal plaque.



Lionel Samson and his brother William arrived in Fremantle in 1829. They began a business trading beer, wine and spirits with England.

Find a date on the plaque that shows the year this business began.

Look up!

The spikes above the door are to stop birds from roosting and pooping on the building!



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



From the Samson building, look back down Cliff Street towards the Esplanade Park.

This photo was taken during a 1922 flood.

Compare this photo with the present view.

Can you see the Norfolk Pines in this picture?



Keep walking up Cliff Street until you reach the corner of High Street.

Compare the buildings in the picture to what remains today.

This photo was taken in 1905 when Fremantle Municipal Tramways opened.

Find the Round House.

This historic building was built in 1830 as Fremantle's first prison.

Why is the Round House still standing today?



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Walk through the Round House tunnel.

From 1838, the tunnel under the Round House was used in Fremantle's whaling industry.

Captured whales were dragged up onto the shore of Bathers Beach.

On the beach, their blubber was carved off and boiled in pots. It was very smelly!

The whale products were then hauled through the tunnel to get to the streets of Fremantle.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

Continue walking down Cliff Street. Cross Phillimore Street and look over to the metal weighbridge next to the small red brick building.

The original weighbridge was first installed in 1897. It was used by horse-drawn wagons and small trucks to weigh their cargo.





Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

Check out this photo and look back across the street at the scene today to find this building.

Built in 1902, this impressive building was originally used as offices for Dalgety and Co, a very important company in Fremantle at that time.

Why do you think this heritage listed building has not changed much over the past 100 years?

What is 'heritage listing'?

Why is it important?

Continue along the footpath, cross the railway and find a statue of a man and a dingo.

What is the tall white building across the road?

Well done if you knew it was the Fremantle Ports building! The signal station on top of the building tracks all the ships coming in and out of the harbour.

The historical photo shows the Harbour Trust building which was replaced by the Fremantle Ports building in the 1960s.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Walk across to the statue of the fellow in the coat and read the plaque underneath.

Who was he?

The man in the statue was C.Y. O'Connor.

C.Y. O'Connor designed Fremantle Harbour so that passenger ships and cargo ships could anchor there.

What else was C.Y. O'Connor famous for?

Continue on down the centre path of the Museum carpark towards the Maritime Museum.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

Stand out the front of the Maritime Museum

This Museum was opened in 2002.

How old is it now?

What are some of the differences between this building and the Shipwrecks Museum building?

What might people think about this building in 200 years' time?



Walk around the harbour side of the Museum and find this mural.

It shows the original Walyalup/Fremantle coastline on top and the current coastline underneath.

Compare the two maps of Fremantle from 1887 and today.

Can you see where more land has been added?



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia



Image courtesy of Map data © 2015 Google



Continue around the harbour side of the Museum to the end of the wharf.

Stand so that you can see a rocky section just beneath the Museum building.

According to Nyoongar creation belief, the mouth of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) is the place where the Wagyl (a serpent creation being) fought a Crocodile Spirit.

The Wagyl used the crocodile's tail to separate the fresh water from salt water.

The 'tail' was a rocky sandbar which stretched across the river's mouth. This formed an estuary where there was plenty of fish to catch.

Being shallow, it was also a good crossing point.

You are standing near the area where this rocky sandbar once existed.



Look out to the harbour.

When C.Y. O'Connor designed Fremantle Harbour in the 1890s, explosives were used to blow up and remove the sandbar to allow ships to enter.

Do you think that the changes that were made to Fremantle's coast line were negative or positive?

Now head back to the front of the Museum.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

Now that you have explored the streets of Fremantle, see what it looked like just a few years after European arrival, through the eyes of a female colonist.

This painting was done by Eliza Jane Currie in 1832.



Image courtesy of State Library of Western Australia

1 Can you spot this shipwreck?

The Marquis of Anglesea ran aground at Bathers Beach in 1829. The wrecked ship was still in good condition so it was used as an office, a post office and a prison!

2 What is this lady doing?

3 Do you recognize this building?

4 What can you see out to sea?

5 Is this swamp still here today?

6 What kind of plants are these?

**7 Why was this land cleared?
What might the fencing (those tiny brown posts) be for?**



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