The highlights of

ROTTNEST ISLAND

home to the happiest animal in the world

Nestled just off the coast of **Western Australia**, Rottnest Island is a sun-soaked paradise known for its stunning beaches, crystal-clear waters, and unique wildlife.

But perhaps its most famous resident is the quokka, often dubbed "the happiest animal in the world." With their adorable smiles and friendly nature, quokkas have captured the hearts of visitors from around the globe, making Rottnest Island a must-visit destination for animal lovers.

Beyond meeting these charming creatures, the island offers a wealth of experiences for all kinds of travellers.

You can **snorkel** through vibrant coral reefs, cycle around the **car-free island**, or unwind on one of the **63 secluded beaches**.

History buffs will appreciate the island's fascinating wartime **history**, while thrill-seekers can enjoy **water sports** or explore hidden caves.

Whether you're here for the wildlife, adventure, or pure relaxation, Rottnest Island has something for everyone.

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WHY THE NAME 'ROTTNEST ISLAND'?



In 1696, Willem de Vlamingh,
a Dutch explorer, mistook the
island's unexpected
marsupial population for
common rats and named it
Rottnest - literally
translating to "rats' nest" in
Dutch.

Today taking a photo with a quokka is one of the main attractions of the Rottnest Island!

QUICK INFO ABOUT THE ISLAND

Rottnest Island is situated 18 kilometres off the coast of Western Australia, spanning an area of 19 square kilometres - measuring just 11 kilometres in length and 4.5 kilometres in width. The local Noongar people refer to it as Wadjemup, while Australians affectionately call it Rotto.



The island boasts a permanent population of approximately 300 residents and attracts around 500,000 visitors annually, with peak periods seeing up to 15,000 visitors at once! Clearly, Rottnest is a favoured getaway, particularly for Perth locals looking to escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

The island shares a **Mediterranean-style climate** similar to that of Perth. Typically, it's a few degrees cooler during the summer and experiences milder winters with less rainfall than the mainland.

The ideal times to visit Rottnest Island are in autumn (April to May) and spring (October to November). Spring is particularly favoured due to its pleasant weather and calm seas, making it perfect for swimming or engaging in water sports.

THINGS TO DO

Kick back on soft sand beaches, take a swim or snorkel, see abundant marine life, take a selfie with quokkas, explore many bike and walking trails... There's something to do for single travellers, couples and families.

1. TAKE A SELFIE WITH A QUOKKA

Quokkas are native to
Rottnest Island and you can't
find them **NOWHERE else on**Earth.

They are related to wallabies and have no fear of humans, so will often come right up to you.

It is **illegal to touch or feed** quokkas, so keep a distance and be considerate when taking photos, especially selfies.



They are easy to spot, as they simply bound and hop along the ground, although they can climb trees if they need to.





Quokkas use the front paws to search for and pick up food and this is **the best moment to take a photo** of them. Because it is when they're eating it looks like **they're smiling!**



But please remember not to give them any of your food, as eating 'human food' can be very detrimental to the quokkas' health, causing them to be dehydrated and malnourished.

Also, you can get a fine.

How to take a #quokkaselfie



Get your smile and camera ready



Quokkas in the Settlement are friendly. Wait nearby and let them come to you



Quokkas are trusting, so plan your selfie carefully and never touch or pat a quokka as this could make you both sick



If they are camera shy, don't tempt them with food or water



Use a selfie stick to maintain respectful distance



No one loves a camera in their face all day. Once you've got your shot, be sure to sit back and spend some non-screen time with the quokkas



Remember they are a wild animal, and you are visiting their home



#quokkaselfie and share the love with your friends

rottnestisland.com/protectwildlife

There are around 10,000-12,000 quokkas on Rottnest Island and this habitat is essential for the survival of the species.

They are listed as Vulnerable and highly protected.

A quick quokka fun fact:

they need very little water and can go months without drinking from a direct water source.

With a 15% increase in tourism on Rottnest Island in recent years, funds have been generated for the research and preservation of quokkas.

So, by simply sharing a selfie with this adorable creature, you can help raise awareness and contribute to their wellbeing!



ADOPT A QUOKKA

If you'd like to have a lovely souvenir from Rottnest Island and do your bit for the future of the quokka species, you can adopt one! All you have to do is buy a quokka soft toy, which comes with an Adoption Certificate. 1.00 AUD from every sale will go towards quokka conservation efforts. They are available for purchase at the Visitor Centre. You can find more information on the Rottnest Foundation Website.

2. JUMP ON A BIKE



The island is predominantly a car-free area, making cycling the ideal way to explore! You can take advantage of over 22 kilometres of recommended cycling trails.

To ride around the whole island, you'll need around 3 to 5 hours, though shorter routes are also available. Bicycles can be rented through the ferry company or directly on the island

The best hire bikes are <u>Rottnest Island Pedal & Flipper</u> and <u>Bicycle & Snorkel Hire by Sealink</u>.

Day hire of an adult bike starts from around AUD 32.00 / children's AUD 20.00.

Snorkel Hire: AUD 20.00.

If cycling around the island doesn't appeal to you, you can also enjoy the sights from an air-conditioned coach on the Island Explorer. The tour takes you to many of the secluded bays and secret hideaways on a hop-on/hop-off basis. Day passes can be purchased from the Rottnest Island Visitors Centre.

Another option here is to explore the island by **bike and bus**. When you get tired riding a bike you can leave it at a
bus stop and take the bus ride back to the settlement. This
is a good option for families or beginner cyclists.

3. HEAD TO THE BEACH

Experience the joy of removing your shoes and enjoying the warm sand and clear waters on Rottnest Island, which boasts 63 beautiful beaches and 20 scenic bays, offering endless opportunities to explore its unique coves.



Here's the official map from <u>Sealink Rottnest Island</u> website, with the most important places marked:



You can go swimming, snorkelling, diving, standup paddle-boarding, fishing, surfing, boating, kayaking or sailing!

BEST SWIMMING SPOTS

If you can't wait to get straight into the water after you arrive, head to **Thomson Bay**. Based in the main settlement, it is very popular with families and has a roped-off area for swimming. Other beautiful spots include **The Basin**, **Little Parakeet Bay**, **Longreach Bay**, **Geordie Bay** and wonderfully long **Rocky Bay Beach**.



BEST SNORKELLING SPOTS

Follow the snorkel and reef trails and see the amazing marine life. With just over 135 species of vibrant tropical fish and 20 species of coral, heading below the surface is a truly worthwhile experience.

The Basin, with its shallow clear waters, is only 10 minutes from the main settlement and makes for a great underwater snorkelling playground. You can put on your snorkelling gear as well at Henrietta Rocks, Parker Point,

Little Armstrong and Little Salmon Bay. Or try more secluded Ricey Beach, City Of York Bay and Catherine Beach.

BEST SPOTS FOR THE VIEWS

If you prefer to just relax, there are plenty of amazing spots to just sit and enjoy your surroundings. For example, located at the westernmost tip of the island West End, provides spectacular coastal views. On the way there you can stop at Cape Vlamingh and admire the sights from a viewing platform. There's one at the Cathedral Rocks next to Eagle Bay as well, where you can spot the pelicans and seals if you're lucky!



Please be advised that swimming and snorkelling are not permitted at Cathedral Rocks and the West End and all 'Danger' signs should be acknowledged and obeyed.

Visitors should not climb down cliffs at any time, including when trying to reach snorkelling spots. Taking marine souvenirs such as shells and stones is also not permitted.

BEST DIVING SPOTS

Seasoned divers can get close to a vast graveyard of over 13 shipwrecks lying just off the coast, waiting to be explored. All the wrecks have informational plaques alongside them.

But you don't need to go underwater to find out their location, as there are some onshore plaques pointing in their direction as well.

(Here's the <u>Wikipedia page</u> with the map and info about them, if you're interested!)

BEST SURFING SPOTS

Rottnest Island is also renowned for surfing, with some of the best breaks in the world. Strickland Bay, Salmon Bay and Stark Bay are particularly popular among surfers, bodyboarders and stand-up paddle boarders. Actually, Strickland Bay has been ranked in the top 50 breaks in the world!

Surfing season is at its best from May to October and boards are available for hire from Rottnest Island Peddle & Flipper.



4. EXPLORE ROTTNEST ISLAND ON FOOT

You can take a walk along the **Wadjemup Bidi** - a series of trails that will take you across spectacular coastal headlands and past inland lakes.



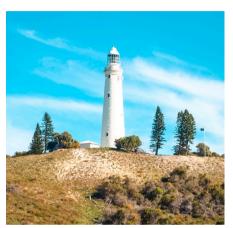
"Bidi" means "trail" or "track" in Noongar, the language of the Whadjuk Noongar people who are the Traditional Owners of Rottnest Island (Wadjemup).

The **5 sections vary in length and style**: the shortest oneway trail is 5.9 km long, whereas the longest is 10 km. All of them add up to 45 kilometres of walk trails! You can find more information about the trails on the official Rottnest Island website here.

5. OTHER ATTRACTIONS, ACTIVITIES AND TOURS

If you're spending more than one day on Rottnest, there's a lot you can do to have fun!

- Enjoy a game of tennis, basketball, lawn bowls or a round of golf.
- Join a tour a walking one, segway, sea bike or a glassbottom sea kayaking



- Go cultural and visit the Rottnest Island Museum, Lomas Cottage, Wadjemup Lighthouse (pictured here) or Pilot Boathouse.
- Jump on a **Captain Hussey train** from the Settlement Railway Station to Oliver Hill, to view the WWII guns and investigate the maze of underground tunnels beneath.
- See the island from a seaplane.
- Visit to the <u>Fun Park</u> for a game of mini putt-putt, trampolines, pinball machines and even the classic Pacman.
- Treat yourself to a massage or a beauty treatment at a spa.
- Go skydiving <u>Skydive Geronimo</u> is Western Australia's only island skydive experience. You will jump out of the plane from 15,000 feet, land on the beach, and enjoy a complimentary drink to celebrate afterwards.
- Go whale watching! From August to December you can join Rottnest Fast Ferries on one of their seasonal 2-hour cruises. You may be able to spot them from the coast as well, especially the West End Boardwalk.

HOW TO GET TO ROTTNEST ISLAND

The best way to reach
Rottnest is a ferry ride
from Perth and you
have a choice of 3
ferry operators.



Rottnest Express and SeaLink Rottnest Island offer departures from Fremantle and Perth City.

It takes approximately 25 minutes to get from Fremantle to Rottnest. The adult same-day return ticket from Fremantle costs AUD84.50, concession AUD79.50 (including AUD20.50 island admission fee). Kids and families discounts available

Leaving from Perth's Barrack Street Jetty it will take 90 minutes to get to Rottnest Island. Return adult tickets are AUD125.50, concession 121.50. Kids and families discounts available.

Rottnest Fast Ferries depart from Hillarys Boat Harbour in the northern suburbs of Perth. It takes 45 minutes to get to the Island. Same-day return adult ticket costs AUD90.00, concession AUD85.00 (including AUD20.50 island admission fee). Kids and families discount available.