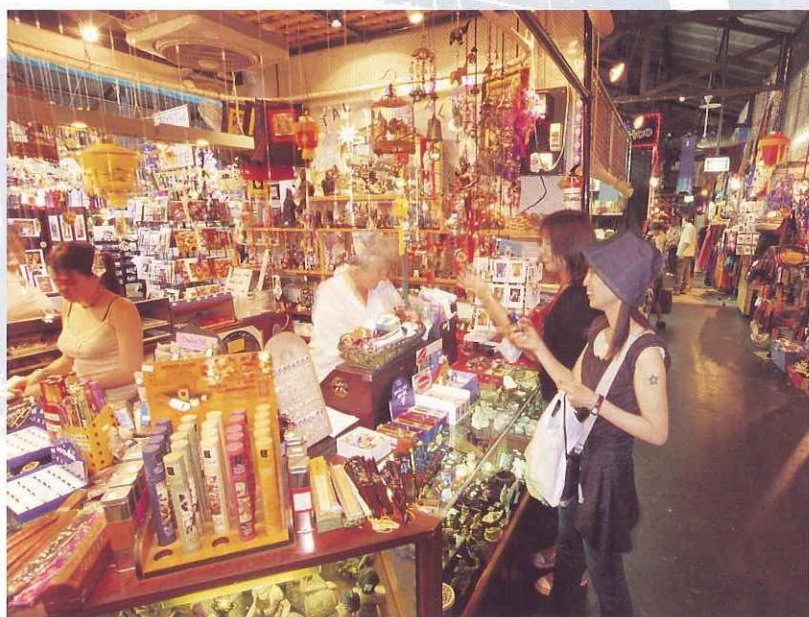


From home made jams, exotic spices and ostrich meat to designer jewellery, vintage clothes and tarot readers, Perth's markets are genuine treasure troves offering everything your heart could possibly desire.



the bargain hunters

Story Robin Bower
Images Norm Bailey, Fremantle Tourist Bureau



White linoleum is dotted with tall silver racks housing thousands of items as the fluorescent lights dazzle our vision. The camera slides down the escalators of the three-storey structure, across the park and round the corner. People mill around the street, colourful buskers belt out a song, jugglers and fire-eaters amaze the crowd, artists capture the souls of passers-by on canvas, stalls sell handmade, once-in-a-lifetime treasures, amidst exotic red fruit and vegetables you've never seen before. It's market day!

The beating heart of a city lies in its markets. Bangkok has its Chatuchak Weekend Market with 15,000 stalls on 14 hectares of land and 200,000 visitors a day – more than enough exercise for legs and

purse! London's Portobello Road and old Camden Town continue to charm locals and visitors alike. Temple Street night market in Hong Kong tempts more than just the tastebuds. Cinematic images of markets never go away – Eliza Doolittle selling flowers with a grubby nose and the pickpocket with dirty hands, the Artful Dodger, amidst the rampant colour of flowers, vegetables and fruit in an all-dancing London street. Markets breathe life into a city.

Perth has increased its markets to a total of 14, servicing the ever-growing population from Rockingham to Joondalup. Most offer food, entertainment, a huge range of goods from leather to jewellery to tattoos, and the popular array of soothsayers and fortune tellers. You can get a foot, neck and back massage and even have your head read!



"The three most important things about a market environment are price, product and convenience or ambience. It's definitely 25 per cent cheaper than conventional shopping," says Ric Cazzolli, the previous property manager and owner and today,

part owner of the Malaga Markets since its beginning 10 years ago. "We've seen tenants come and go. Some get it right and some don't. It's a valuable testing ground for a new business."

There are currently 85 different tenants and 123 stalls. The food market is a major drawcard because the fresh fruit and vegetables are generally grown by the stall holders themselves. This grower-direct system ensures cheaper and fresher produce. "We wanted to create a community environment and attract people to the markets as a specific destination. As owners we are involved with our community."

Ric also assures an environmentally aware site. "All waste is recycled and used for off-site worm farms to make organic fertilisers for plants." Strict counting practices keep an eye on the numbers – 30,000 patrons per week at last tally.

Paul Jackson started out with the cleaning contract 10 years ago, bought the

kebab shop and then the fish and chip shop. After divesting the cleaning business and then dropping kebabs from the menu, he and his wife decided to buy the bar and keep Jackson's Fish and Grill. "It's a great place to work – the place is always buzzing and the entertainment is superb especially on a Friday night. It's a family night that is cheap and safe – as well as being a lot of fun." He takes pride in treating his customers as if they were in a restaurant – without the high price tag. They get a number and table service – not your usual chippy! Paul's fish and chipper is almost an institution and he has no plans to leave. "I'm getting the kids into the business now!"

"My business has finally been brought out of the laneways into the mainstream. Piercings have hit the masses!" says Josephine McDonald of The Body Piercing Place. She is in her fifth year of business at Malaga Markets with three stores around Perth and no plans for moving from the

market environment. "Over five years, it's been very consistent all the way." Navels, tongues and anything above the waist can now be adorned with hand-selected jewellery from around the world. "All age groups have piercings – the mystique is gone!" Navels and tongue piercing will set you back \$50 with quality 18K gold jewellery ranging from \$10 upwards.

A major success story in the world of market hairdressing is Salon Express. This salon is in seven markets and the Kwinana Hub, the first hairdresser to operate in the market environment. Albert di Lallo has held the franchise for nine years starting in the Midland Markets where the salon still operates. "We offer value for money and we let the clients make the choice. There's no frills, no champagne or complimentary head massages – just good hairdressing," he said. All staff are qualified and trained in his own school to ensure expertise is of a high standard. "We aim at 85 per cent of the



"It's definitely 25 per cent cheaper than conventional shopping."



population who want the choice." The market's lower rents allow him to pay his staff better and charge \$12.50 for a woman's haircut – way below usual rates.

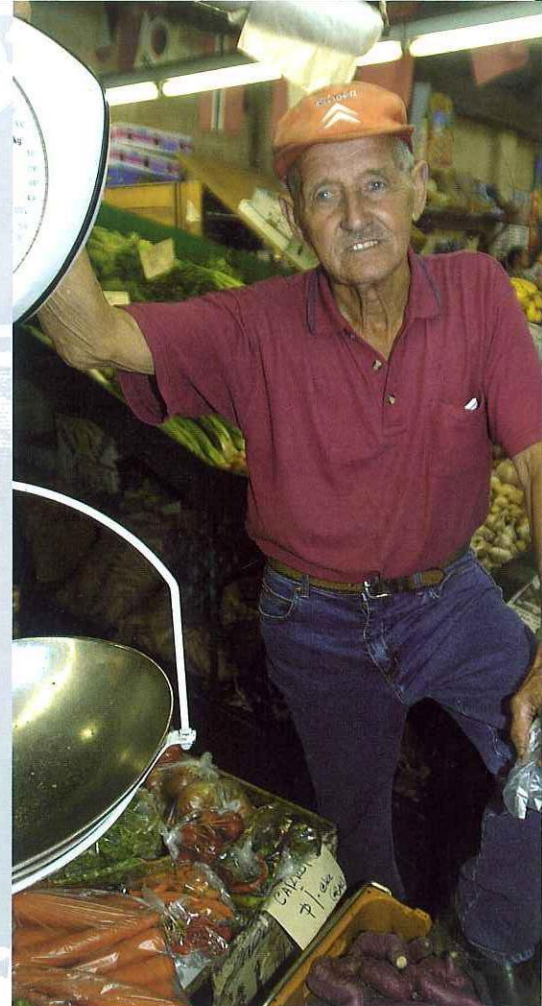
Another institution in the Perth market scene is Fremantle Markets which has seen the city develop through many transitions to become a cosmopolitan and eclectic mix of cultures. John Murdoch, manager of the markets, saw an opportunity for Fremantle in the 100-year-old building owned by the City of Fremantle. His development company took on the project in 1975 and has created an iconic atmosphere enjoyed by generations. "We started with 80 stalls and now have 150. There are all sorts of characters. People come for different reasons," he said. "Bob the Dutchman, in the fruit and veg area, has been there since the start and he still wears his clogs."

It was originally set up for the local community, he says, but since the popularity of Fremantle has grown, tourists now

outnumber the community. The market enjoys about 20,000 visitors every weekend.

"The biggest attraction is the spirit – the Victorian ambience, the buskers along the street and the band in the market bar. We've had all sorts of people visit – kings and queens, governors and mayors. One stall holder even tried to smuggle in snakes! Burglars have broken in but could never get out again – it's a fortress – many have tried and failed!"

Markets around Perth all have a shared vision – to offer an interesting and unusual array of merchandise at cheaper prices. It's about the only place in Perth where you can wheel and deal directly with the owner of the business, and you'll definitely get a bargain. ■



aboriginal

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where to go

Canning Vale Markets

Bannister Rd, Canning Vale

Tel: (08) 9455 1389

This huge undercover market sells wholesale fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, flowers and Asian delicacies. A clearance sale takes place on Saturdays and there's a flea market on Sundays 7am-3.30pm.

E Shed Markets

E Shed, Victoria Quay, Fremantle

Tel: (08) 9430 6393

This dockside market was built in 1928 in Victorian style and was later moved to its present site. More than 120 stalls cater mainly to the tourist market. Open from 9am to 9pm Fridays to Sundays.

Fremantle Markets

84 South Terrace, Fremantle

Tel: (08) 9335 2515

Open Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-5pm, and Monday public holidays.

Galleria Art & Craft Market

Outside the Art Gallery of Western Australia made up of mainly locally produced art and craft stalls.

Tel: (08) 9310 2159

Open weekends from 9am-5pm.

Gosnells Railway Markets

Cnr Albany Highway and Fremantle Rd, Gosnells

Tel: (08) 9398 5399

These theme markets have a range of arts and crafts, clothing, timber products, cards, gifts, rugs, paintings and fresh produce. Open Thursday to Sunday and public holidays from 10am.

Malaga Markets

Cnr Beach Rd and Alexander Dr, Malaga

Stalls open Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday

9am-6pm, Sunday 9am-6pm.

Food Hall open Friday 9am-9pm, Saturday

9am-9pm, Sunday 9am-9pm.

Also open public holidays.

Tel: (08) 9249 9970

Midland Military Markets

3 Clayton St, Bellevue

Tel: (08) 9250 2998.

There are over 88 stalls providing fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, meat, seafood, a tavern, a hairdresser, a tool shop, food and beverages and heaps of variety stalls.

Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and all public holidays.

Scarborough Fair Markets

Cnr Scarborough Beach Road and West Coast Highway, Scarborough

Tel: (08) 9245 1670

This is a smaller market which sells

memorabilia, second-hand goods, books, clothes, furniture. Massages and tarot readers are also in residence.

Open weekends from 9am-5.30pm and public holidays from 10am-5pm.

Subiaco Pavilion

Cnr Rokeby Rd and Roberts Rd, Subiaco

Tel: (08) 9382 2498

This 30-year-old converted warehouse has over 60 stalls selling anything your heart desires. There is a huge food hall with over 15 food stalls hawking cuisines from Italy, China, Japan, vegetarian delights and even ostrich meat. Visit the two Subiaco markets in the one trip.

Open Thursday and Friday 10am-9pm, weekends and public holidays 10am-5pm.

Subiaco Station Street Markets

Station St, Subiaco

Tel: (08) 9382 2832

This market of 130 stalls offers gemstones, souvenir T-shirts and clothing. The garden courtyard and dining area is surrounded by a range of international food stalls and there's often a guitarist to entertain the crowd. Open all day weekends and Monday public holidays.

Stock Road Markets

Cnr Stock Rd and Spearwood Ave, Bibra Lake

These markets have a range of stalls selling clothes, jewellery, used furniture, vegetables, bread baked daily and gift ideas.

Open Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm, public holidays 9am-5pm.

Wanneroo Carpark Market

33 Prindiville Drive, Wangara

Tel: (08) 9409 8397

Popular weekend market with an extensive range of stalls including a vegetable market, deli hall and licensed food hall.

Open Saturday and Sunday 9am-6pm.

