Established in 1829
This project has been made possible through the support of:

The Stirling Square Circuit
A shorter walk for those with less time, this trail incorporates the best of the historic Stirling Square precinct including the Guildford Gaol (c.1841), the Courthouse (c.1866) and Taylor’s Cottage. It gives the visitor an insight into the history of Guildford, its people and the trail incorporates the best of the historic Meadow St precinct including the Guildford Gaol (c.1841), the Courthouse (c.1866) and Taylor’s Cottage. It gives the visitor an insight into the history of Guildford, its people and the buildings that have been preserved for future generations.

The Stirling Square Circuit (black markers)
1. Guildford Courthouse
2. Colonial Goal
3. Taylor’s Cottage
4. Mechanics Institute
5. St Matthew’s Church
6. Sweeney’s Store
7. An Island Village
8. Sugar Gums
9. Gateway to the Inland
10. Barker & Gull’s Warehouse
11. Spiritually Rich
12. An Island Village

The River Ramble
This trail follows the Swan River and Crown Hotel c.1849 and Padbury’s Store c.1869, located in the Heritage Board Business precinct. Walter Padbury is an important figure in the town’s history. He was Guildford’s first mayor (in 1887) and one of early Western Australia’s Terrace Road business precinct. c.1841 and Padbury’s Store c.1869, located in the Terrace Road business precinct. The trail also passes through Padbury’s Landing on the banks of the Swan River where you can learn about the tragic events that occurred.

The River Ramble (blue markers)
1. Guildford Courthouse
2. Rose & Gull’s Hotel
3. Padbury’s Store
4. Barker & Gull’s Warehouse
5. Garden Hill
6. Meadow Lands & Barker’s Bridge
7. Padbury’s Cottage
8. Riverleigh (Evans’s House)
9. Two-storey House
10. Gateway to the Inland

Historic Guildford
Established in 1829 and clustered as a historic town by the National Trust of Australia (WA). For visitor information, maps, souvenirs, accommodation and tour bookings contact: Swan Valley Visitor Centre

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Guildford Heritage Walk Trails

Welcome to Historic Guildford

Alcohol on-n-site, Barker & Gull’s Warehouse is an example of the numerous retail and wholesale businesses that existed in Guildford during the height of the town’s importance as a port and market town in the Swan River Colony. The Swan River quickly became the first highway through the Swan Valley. The trail then loops out into the lovely tree-lined parkland of Stirling Square. Here, there are many interpretive panels that provide education for the working men of the town. The building has always had a strong connection with Guildford community life.

Welcome to Historic Guildford

The traditional owners of this region are the Noongar people who have lived in the area for over 40,000 years. Sites of continuous human habitation at this time scale have not been found anywhere else in the world. Noongar creation stories tell of the giant serpent or crocodile like creature, the Waugyl, travelling from the hills in the east to the ocean in the west, creating the Swan River. Much of Guildford’s original town plan, including the central church square, subdivisions and general land use, remains as it was left by Captain Stirling’s survey, leaving a largely intact early 19th century English market town.

A visit provides a rare glimpse into early colonial settlement with many fine, well-preserved civic, commercial and private buildings including some of Western Australia’s best examples of Gothic Revival architecture. The park called Guildford and within this village green. It is today one of Western Australia’s most beautiful parks.

Today, as in the past, the institute continues to be utilized for entertainment and educational activities. The trail then loops out into the lovely tree-lined parkland of Stirling Square. Here, there are many interpretive panels that provide education for the working men of the town. The building has always had a strong connection with Guildford community life.

Believe it or not, many of the buildings you see today in Guildford were built during the first 30 years of European settlement at Guildford soon after the Swan River Colony was established by Captain James Stirling in 1829. Blocks of land were placed on public sale in 1830 and much of Guildford was rapidly developed by soldiers, yeomen, agriculturalists and servants released from their indentures.

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Explore the history of our town – on foot!

Established on what is virtually an island encircled by the Swan and Helena Rivers, Guildford is ideally suited to exploration on foot. To assist you in discovering the numerous fascinating historical buildings, both characters and wonderful stories of this ‘island village’, four self-guided heritage walk trails with 50 interpretive panels have been built.

The trails start and finish at the Old Guildford Courthouse (Swan Valley Visitor Centre).

Each trail is distinguished by coloured marker plates located on ‘heritage green’ coloured posts. The plates feature the original Town of Guildford crest.

The Guildford ‘crest’ carries the anchor (symbolising its inland port role), a sheaf of wheat (agriculture) and a bunch of grapes (viticulture).

This brochure includes maps that show the trail routes and locations of the 50 interpretive panels.

### The Captain Stirling Walk

2250 metres, 60-75 minutes

A longer walk, featuring the gorgeous old buildings and mature plane trees of Guildford Grammar School.

This trail meanders past the beautifully restored Rose and Crown Hotel c.1841, Western Australia’s oldest continually operating pub, and Padbury’s Store c.1869. It passes a number of historic cottages, locations and streetfronts, and provides an expansive view out over what was Captain James Stirling’s beloved Woodbridge Estate on the Swan River floodplain.

A feature of the trail is the picturesque grounds, and London Plane tree streetscape, of Guildford Grammar School, founded by Charles Harper in 1896. This prestigious boys school provides an Australian interpretation of the traditional English Public School education system and many of its students have become prominent State and Australian citizens.

Located within the school grounds is the imposing Chapel of St Mary and St George, consecrated in 1914, and today one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Australia.

### The Town Walk

1800 metres, 40-60 minutes

This trail passes through the historic Meadow Street precinct and returns via the Guildford town centre.

The Town Walk commences at the Guildford Heritage Precinct, one of the sites where, in 1829, Surveyor H.C. Sutherland set aside substantial land for private residences and government buildings.

In 1831, the first government building was constructed within the precinct consisting of two prison cells and a constable’s room which doubled as the courtroom and post office. In 1832 convict work crews extended the gaol, built the Courthouse and an exercise yard for the prisoners.

The trail then heads south across the railway line to Helena Street, passing numerous historic buildings along the way including the art-deco style Guildford Town Hall c.1937.

It then traces a roughly circular route past Western Australia’s oldest continually operating primary school returning via the shopping precinct on James Street, where you can pause for a coffee or to browse the antique shops.

### The River Ramble

1500 metres, 30-50 minutes

A short walk, featuring the gorgeous old buildings and mature plane trees of Guildford Grammar School.

### The Stirling Square Circuit

450 metres, 20 minutes

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This trail passes through the historic Meadow Street precinct and returns via the Guildford town centre.

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