



Migration Stories: Western Australian Cameleer's Walking Trail

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

STATE LIBRARY



Migration Stories: Western Australian Cameleers' Walking Trail

More than 150 years ago, camels and the men who cared for them were a familiar sight along the tracks connecting Australia's outback to its settler colonies. This diverse community, their stories and nationalities have often been simplified into stereotypes.

We invite you to walk in the footsteps of the cameleers of WA. This trail accompanies the State Library's 2024 exhibition *Sheiks, Fakes and Cameleers* and starts and finishes at the State Library of Western Australia. Allow one hour to complete this walk with a school group comfortably.

The State Library collects and preserves maps, photographs, and other items to record the history of Western Australia. It also provides free online resources and workshops for school students to develop historical investigation skills.

To book a workshop, speak to an education officer on (08) 9427 3202, complete the online form or email your request to ed@slwa.wa.gov.au

Links to additional resources can be found through the State Library catalogue and website slwa.wa.gov.au

1

Students arrive at the State Library via Francis Street or the Perth Cultural Centre.

COOL INTERIOR, PUBLIC TOILETS AVAILABLE

5 minutes

Western Australia is rich with the stories of Aboriginal people and those who have migrated here since colonial settlement. The State Library shares these stories and records the impact of migration.

slwa.wa.gov.au/our-services/teachers

2

Walk through the Perth Cultural Centre and head west towards William Street. Stop on the corner of William and James streets.

AREAS WHERE GROUPS CAN REST, EAT, AND PLAY

Look up at the top of the building opposite on the corner of William and James Street. Can you find the bees?



BUSY BEE ARCADE BUILDING, 2006 | BA3106/117

3 minutes

The Busy Bee Arcade was constructed in 1894 and is an example of the economic affluence and increased development that followed the gold boom. Camels, and the men who handled them, were pivotal in the gold rush. They helped to locate water supplies and build the railway connecting Coolgardie to Perth.

3

Walk north to the intersection of William and Francis Streets. Look across the intersection towards the eastern end of Francis Street.

Notice the modern white building above William Square. On the ground floor you can find the WA branch of the National Archives. Much of the early WA cameleer history is recorded here including the men's travel from their home countries to WA. The Archives regularly hold free exhibitions.

naa.gov.au/visit-us/western-australia

4

2 minutes



NATIONAL ARCHIVES, 2024 | SLWA

Continue walking north along William Street to the corner of William and Aberdeen Street. Find the North Metropolitan TAFE.

The first camels to arrive in WA came on the steam ships Abergeldie and Yeoman from the port city of Karachi in 1887. On board were 44 handlers and 299 camels. Most of these men came from northern India and neighbouring countries. Some had been educated in the British education system and were able to navigate life in the early colonies with no language difficulties.

Today new migrants can access classes at North Metropolitan TAFE, including English tuition. Approximately 170,000 people arrive each year to live in Western Australia, but recently even more people have been leaving. Flows of migration change all the time. Why do you think that is?

northmetrotafe.wa.edu.au

THE HISTORY OF NORTHBRIDGE HAS BEEN FORMED AND DEFINED BY MORE WAVES OF MIGRATION THAN ANY OTHER AREA OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA. THIS RICH CULTURAL DIVERSITY HAS HELPED TO SHAPE ITS CHARACTER

5 minutes

5

Continue walking north along William Street to the corner of William Street and Robinson Avenue. Find Mela Indian Sweets and Eats.

The men were called 'Afghan cameleers' even though they were not all from Afghanistan. Most though not all, were practicing Muslims.

People arriving to WA introduced new foods making our diets much more interesting. Do you have a sweet tooth?



MELA, 2024 | SLWA

6

2 minutes

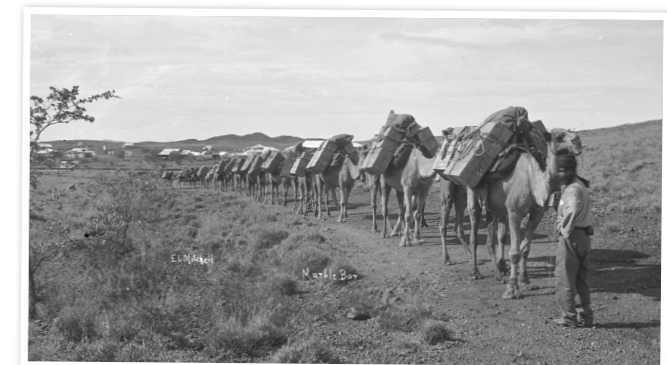


PERTH MOHAMMEDAN MOSQUE, 1935 | 003998D

Opposite Mela is the Perth Mosque.

PLEASE MAINTAIN A QUIET RESPECTFUL MANNER WHILE VIEWING THE MOSQUE, PARTICULARLY AT PRAYER TIMES

Originally proposed in 1904, the Mosque was intended as a place of worship, shelter and community support for travelling camel men. These men led harsh solitary lives on expeditions guiding travellers across the vast inland plains. The camel trains were often the only mode of freight transport that could cope with the sand and arid conditions.



CAMEL TEAM LEAVING MARBLE BAR FOR NULLAGINE 1911 | BA3570/57

7

Walk up Robinson Avenue around to the other side of the Mosque. Note the Brisbane Place entrance.

Members of the community from many religious persuasions helped fund the building of the Mosque. In 1905 Din Mohammed who was an Indian living in Perth, drew up plans based on traditional mosque architectural design. John Eliot was appointed as the supervising architect and went on to construct what was then known as 'The Mohammedan Mosque'.

5 minutes

THE INNER COURTYARD IS A QUIET AREA THAT ENCOURAGES PEACEFUL CONTEMPLATION. MOSQUES CONTINUE TO SERVE AS COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL HUBS, AS WELL AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP



PERTH MOSQUE, 2024 | SLWA

8

Walk back down Robinson Avenue, crossing over William Street and turn right into Lindsay Street.

Find 61 Lindsay Street, can you spot some interesting features of this building?



61 LINDSAY STREET, 2024 | SLWA

9

Turn right into Monger Street and then left into Money Street.

Many different belief systems are followed in Western Australia. In the late 1800s, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism were all practised here. Can you find the Vietnamese Buddhist Temple? There are many sects of Buddhism just as there are in all the major faith groups.



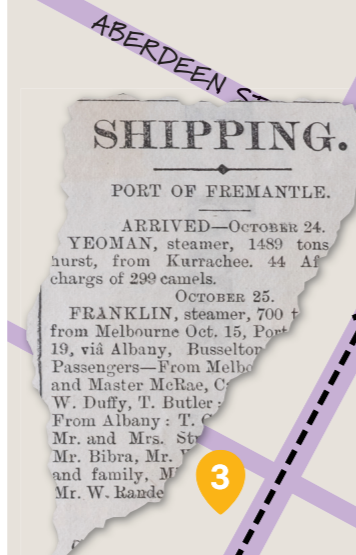
VIETNAMESE BUDDHIST TEMPLE, 2024 | SLWA



'AUSTRALIA'S MUSLIM CAMELEERS' JONES AND KENNY (2007)



PERTH MOSQUE, 2024 | SLWA



SHIPPING NOTICE - THE DAILY NEWS 1887



PROSPECTING PARTY MID-DAY HALT, EASTERN GOLDFIELDS, 1895 | 090078PD

slwa.wa.gov.au
@StateLibraryWA

PLEASE MAINTAIN A RESPECTFUL MANNER WHILE WALKING THIS RESIDENTIAL AREA

10

2 minutes

Continue walking south along Money Street

As you walk down the street see if you can identify older buildings. This area was mainly made up of market gardens until the 1880s. Farmers pushed for more of the wetlands to be drained and more roads. When the Guildford to Fremantle railway opened in the late 1880s Northbridge became more attractive. Many of the first camel men owned shops, businesses and even homes here.

Watch HASSchats Thanks To The Goldrush statelibrarywa.info/4ahy56M



PERTH LOOKING NORTH FROM THE TOWN HALL TOWER, 1870S | 100008PD

11

Turn left into Newcastle Street and after 50 metres turn right into Slyth Way.

12

Walk up the pedestrian path through to Aberdeen Street and turn left.

Can you find some examples of street art?



BABA YAGA HOUSES BY MARWA FAHMY

13

At the corner of Museum Street, find St John's Lutheran Church.

St John's Lutheran Church was first established in 1902. German immigrants expanded the Perth Lutheran congregation.

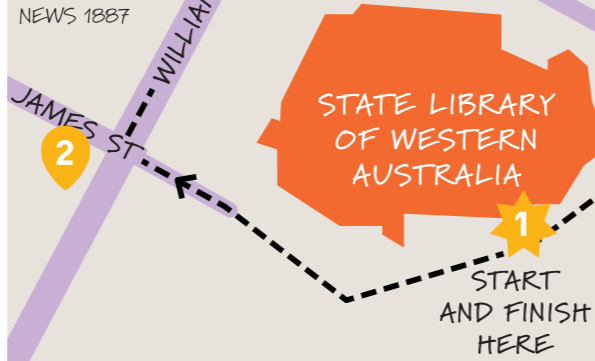
14

Turn south into Museum Street, you should be able to spot your final destination, the State Library of Western Australia.

If you are attending workshops, please notify the Welcome Desk of your arrival.



ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 2024 | SLWA



START AND FINISH HERE

TO PERTH TRAIN STATION