/ words Lara Dunston / photos Terence Carter

DISTRICT FREMANTLE

Loft cafés, contemporary art galleries and unique concept stores, all oozing vintage style, line the laidback streets of this hip new shopping quarter in Perth

When locals in Western Australia's capital Perth want to kick back on the weekend, they head to Fremantle - or "Freo" as it's fondly called. A lovely, low-rise, low-key suburb at the Swan River's mouth, with a pretty boat harbour, sandy beaches and sprawling pine-covered park, Fremantle is one of the oldest parts of Perth.

Settled thousands of years ago by the Noongar aboriginals, Europeans arrived in 1829 and used convicts to build Fremantle's splendid sandstone buildings such as the Round House,

Fremantle Arts Centre and Fremantle Prison. When the port boomed with the 1880s Gold Rush, prosperous merchants established headquarters here in grand edifices and constructed majestic hotels with intricate wrought iron balconies.

Fremantle's most handsome façades line the quiet streets of West End, a compact quarter sandwiched between the port and harbour. Freo's laidback atmosphere has long attracted musicians, artists and writers, giving the place a bohemian

hippy vibe, but recently a more taking shape in the West End where cafés, and cutting-edge art galleries have moved into historic buildings.

Whereas traditionally a Fremantle

You should still enjoy Freo's quintessential experiences - coffee at Gino's (which offers 21 different cups of coffee), Perth's best fish and chips by





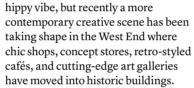
Comfy vintage chairs at The Attic café

Streetscape of High Street in Fremantle's West End

Opposite page, Love in Tokyobeautiful textiles are the shop's speciality

Gino's Café, the best of Fremantle's old-school Italian cafés on "Cappuccino Strip'





visit might involve a museum (Western Australian Maritime Museum, Shipwrecks Galleries and Old Fremantle Prison are all excellent), Fremantle's lively weekend markets on South Terrace - called "Cappuccino Strip" because of its abundant cafés an amble through Esplanade Reserve with its colossal Norfolk Island pines to the boat harbour for fish and chips, followed by beers at boutique brewery Little Creatures, now it requires time shopping the hip West End.





the water at Cicerellos, and icy beers in the sun overlooking boats bobbing on the harbour at Little Creatures. Order the White Rabbit Pale Ale and crispy wood-fired pizzas. But after, walk across the park to West End.

On Henry Street, Moore & Moore in a historic merchant house dating to 1868, is popular with university students and local shop \rightarrow



Gino's Café inoscafe.com.au

Cicerellos

Little Creatures

Moore & Moore

B&M Store

Remedy emedvonline.net.au

Love in Tokyo oveintokyo.com.au

Cocoon Textiles ocoontextiles.com

Kartique artiaue.com.au

The Attic

Clockwise from left Cocoon Textiles owner Liz Dawes at work

Moore & Moore café interior

Reautiful antique-style wooden boxes holding stamps at Remedy

The Moores Building Contemporary Art Gallery adjoining Moore & Moore café



owners. The quirky space is furnished with vintage pieces and curios, there's a sunny courtyard out back and a studio for artists-in-residence, while in the adjoining Moores Building Contemporary Art Gallery, you can browse art - anything from installations to videos.

Nearby on High Street, home to the West End's best shops, is the **B&M** Store, where owners Jayden and Jess offer a carefully curated selection of design favourites from Australia and the world, including their own colourful woollen felt products - coasters, placements, laptop covers and wallets - to lifestyle essentials like Hookturn BYO Coffee Cups from Australia and Baggu Bags from the US. Ask them to point out Australian products from PageThirtyThree, Ink&Spindle, Lad & Lass and Not Tuesday. The FutureShelter timber brooches make unique souvenirs.

Local designer Sheree Dornan has filled Love In Tokyo with her ethereal creations - flowing layers of silk, slip dresses and dainty camisoles - along with floaty Eastern-influenced clothes, scarves and textiles, many embellished with gems and beads, as well as handmade jewellery. Don't miss Australian labels Vixen and High Tea with Mrs Woo. Sheree works on site, as does designer Liz Dawes, across the road at Cocoon Textiles, who you might see cutting fabrics. Along with her original bold printed fabrics and fashion, Liz devotes rack space to Western Australian designers like Ashe, Chinky Wooster and Petals in Disarray.

The shelves at Remedy hold lovely sustainable and eco-friendly products, from antique-style stamp sets in recycled wooden boxes to colourful baskets handmade by indigenous women. Buy Australian-



made Aesop skincare products and illustrated tea towels by Third Drawer Down. Close by, Irene Daly has decorated Kartique with her favourite things as if it was a beautiful home, with vibrant embroidered ottomans and handcrafted furniture, strewn with colourful cushions.

In keeping with the West End's vintage style is The Attic on Bannister Street. A funky retroinspired café recently opened by graphic designer Conrad and tea-obsessed Jess, the loft space is decorated with second-hand furniture and a "chandelier" of old suitcases. While the coffee is superb (freshly roasted beans are for sale), try the masala chai with a homemade orange and almond or chocolate and beetroot cake - quintessential Freo creations.

MUST-TRY EATS AT FREMANTLE

In Freo, you're now spoilt for choice when it comes to eating, but the classics still rule. Some highlights:



GINO'S CAFÉ Coffee AU\$4



CREATURES Wood-fired pizza

with harissa spiced lamb, melanzane and feta AU\$23



CICERELLOS Fish and chips AU\$18



