

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 contemporary creative scene has been taking shape in the West End where chic shops, concept stores, retro-styled cafés, and cutting-edge art galleries have moved into historic buildings.

Whereas traditionally a Fremantle 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.

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

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 →

Gino's Café
ginoscafe.com.au

Cicerellos
cicerellos.com.au

Little Creatures
littlecreatures.com.au

Moore & Moore
mooreandmoorecafe.com

B&M Store
www.bandmstore.com.au

Remedy
remedyonline.net.au

Love in Tokyo
loveintokyo.com.au

Cocoon Textiles
cocoontextiles.com

Kartique
kartique.com.au

The Attic
theatticfremantle.com.au

*This page,
clockwise
from top*
Find eco-friendly
products at
Remedy

*Comfy vintage
chairs at The
Attic café*

*Streetscape of
High Street in
Fremantle's
West End*

*Opposite page,
from left*
Love in Tokyo –
beautiful textiles
are the shop's
speciality

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



*Clockwise
from left
Cocoon Textiles
owner Liz
Dawes at work*

*Moore & Moore
café interior*

*Beautiful
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 retro-inspired 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



LITTLE CREATURES

Wood-fired pizza
with harissa spiced
lamb, melanzane
and feta
AU\$23



CICERELLOS

Fish and chips
AU\$18