The Perth Cultural Centre has been a favourite spot for locals and a great tourist attraction for many years. It is located between Roe, Francis, Beaufort and William Streets in Northbridge, and is an easy walk just north of the Perth train station. The Perth Cultural Centre is home to some of WA’s key cultural and learning institutes. One of these places is the Art Gallery of Western Australia. After speaking to the friendly staff located at the reception of the gallery I was able to find out what exhibits are currently being shown and other details you may not know about. The State Art Collection is an ongoing exhibition and features art from Australian, Indigenous and International artists, which the gallery have acquired since it was first opened in 1895. This exhibit takes you through some of Western Australia’s earliest pieces in 1827 right through to recent works. The Art Gallery of Western Australia is open Wednesday – Monday from 10am to 5pm. It is free to enter but a small donation is encouraged and special exhibits may incur an entry fee. Another way to stay head when new developments happen at the Art Gallery is to become a member. This enables you to become more involved in what is happening at the gallery and get a real appreciation of art through the different programs they offer.

Another highlight of the Perth Cultural Centre is the Western Australia Museum. The museum was first established in 1891. It has been home to many different exhibits over the years, including the latest exhibition; A Day in Pompeii running until the 12th September 2010. Located just next to the Art Gallery of Western Australia this is something to check out. Not only does it host some exciting exhibitions, you can come and learn about the local aboriginal culture or discover what Dinosaurs used to inhibit Western Australia. The museum is open daily, from 9.30am- 5pm excluding Public Holidays. Once again, admission is free but a donation is greatly appreciated.

So whether you’re a local looking for something new to do or a tourist looking to be inspired by Western Australia, the Perth Cultural Centre has something to offer. If you stop by on the weekend you can check out The Markets and pick up everything from fresh fruit and vegetables to locally made arts and crafts. Even if you just want to sit in the newly renovated Urban Orchard whilst you read a book from State Library or catch up with a friend, this is the spot for you. *By Lindsey*



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