

Credit: Fata Photography

# 2025 SPECTATOR GUIDE

## AVON DESCENT

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WALKING ON A DREAM



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# WHERE DREAM EVENTS HAPPEN

Step into a dreamscape of wondrous events and embark on unforgettable adventures in Perth / Boorloo, the most relaxed and naturally adventurous capital city.

- Soar over the dreamlike Avon Valley in a hot air balloon or experience true awe paragliding.
- Sip your way through the award-winning Swan Valley, home to more than 40 wineries and 70 restaurants and cafes.
- Feel the thrill of powerboating, skiing, stand up paddle boarding and kayaking in the region's otherworldly 295km long Avon River.
- Watch Mother Nature paint a fiery sunset over the sparkling Indian Ocean at one of Perth's 19 beaches.
- Cycle or walk along the Swan River / Derbal Yerrigan and experience Perth's unique flora and fauna.
- Feel the thrill of Optus Stadium's Halo Rooftop Walk or Matagarup Zip+Climb.
- Discover Rottnest Island / Wadjemup, where you'll be greeted by 63 wondrous beaches and the world's happiest animal, the adorable quokka.
- Immerse yourself in Noongar culture on an Aboriginal tour — discover the cultural significance and ancient stories of this region.

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**WELCOME MESSAGE FROM  
HON REECE WHITBY  
MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

**Avon Descent 9–10 August 2025**

The Western Australian Government is a proud sponsor of the Avon Descent through the Metro Events Program.

The Metro Events Program was established in 2024 to support local event holders to expand their existing events, further activating the Perth region for locals, and drawing in visitors from outside Western Australia.

In its inaugural year, 11 events, including the Avon Descent, have been awarded funding through the Metro Events Program. The Western Australian Government is proud to sponsor these events, which help bring vibrancy to the State, give visitors a time-sensitive reason to book a trip to Western Australia, and enhance the experience of tourists in the city.

The Western Australian Government also sponsors a range of sporting, cultural, arts and culinary events across the State, as we strive to populate an exciting, diverse and world-class calendar of events that is always on, year-round.

Tourism is a key part of the Western Australian Government's plan to diversify the economy, create jobs, and develop business opportunities. Events play an important role in this plan as we strive to achieve our vision for Perth and Western Australia to be the fastest growing events destination in the South East Asia region.

We hope everyone enjoys the Avon Descent and takes the time to explore all that the Perth region has to offer.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Hon Reece Whitby.

HON REECE WHITBY MLA  
MINISTER FOR TOURISM

# More than just a race

The Avon Descent is an exciting weekend of river racing and festival fun! The unique Western Australian event offers competitors long stretches of flat water to whitewater rapids, thick ti trees, rocky drops and all varieties of challenges a changing, untamed river environment can present.

In addition to the traditional, 124km two-day challenge, the Avon Descent weekend offers short course options and on day 2, there are paddle courses and opportunities to participate for everyone—no experience necessary!

Not to mention festivals at Northam, Lilac Hill and Bayswater, and excellent spectating at Garvey Park. For more information on what the 2025 Avon Descent has to offer, visit [avondescent.com.au](https://avondescent.com.au)

## Access to spectator spots

Competitors and spectators are advised to only access the river from publicly accessible locations. Northam's Avon Descent Association is generously given permission to run the event by making use of private land and must ensure landowner wishes are respected at all times to ensure the event can continue. All spectators must use common sense when assessing the suitability of their chosen viewing location, including distance from the river and likelihood of craft exiting the water. Please note the following:

- **Katrine Bridge** — Please follow traffic management instructions.
- **'Glen Avon' Rapid** — Situated on private land and must not be accessed without explicit landowner permission.
- **Extracts/Williamson Weir** — Access via Millard's Pool only. Adjacent farmland is strictly private property and you must have landowner permission to do so.
- **Ti Trees on Day One** (otherwise known as 'Deepdale' or 'the Drainpipes') — Access only via Wetherall Reserve. All areas downriver of Wetherall Reserve until Cobbler Pool road are situated on private property and are strictly prohibited. Much of this area includes sensitive biological control areas and Police will enforce attempts at trespassing.
- **Cobbler Pool** — Access during the Avon Descent is restricted and there is a fee to park.
- **The Valley Road** — This area is not accessible to the public, only to authorised vehicles. There is a high level of train traffic making it very dangerous.
- **Emu Falls** — Walking access only.
- **Stronghills Farm** — Private leasehold land and not open to the public.
- **Walyunga Pool** — This is a National park area and rules apply. A fee is applicable on entry.
- **Bells Rapids** — Access during the Avon Descent is restricted and parking is available at the State Equestrian Centre, Cathedral Avenue.

# When will Competitors arrive?

		High Water		Medium Water		Low Water	
		Power	Paddle	Power	Paddle	Power	Paddle
Day One	Northam	7:30	8:45	7:30	8:45	7:30	8:45
	Extracts Weir	8:00	10:35	8:05	10:50	8:10	11:05
	Cobbler Pool	8:45	12:00	8:55	12:15	9:05	12:45
Day Two	Cobbler Pool	12:00	7:00	12:00	7:00	12:00	7:00
	Bells Rapids	12:45	9:10	12:55	9:50	13:15	10:15
	Middleswan	13:05	10:30	13:15	11:15	13:30	12:00
	Lilac Hill Park	13:05	10:50	13:15	11:35	13:35	12:25
	Garvey Park	13:10	11:05	13:20	12:00	13:40	12:45
	Bayswater	13:15	11:15	13:25	12:15	13:45	13:00

The above arrival times are a guide only. These indicate when the first paddle and power craft will pass by each spectator location at high, medium and low river levels. Many factors affect these times including rainfall and start times.

For instance, higher river levels means faster flowing water and faster moving participants... which could be the case this year! For more information on current and historical river levels visit [water.thebeatentrack.org](https://water.thebeatentrack.org)

Be aware that start times may be delayed 30-minutes or more if there is fog along the course to allow time for it to clear, and this will affect times throughout that day. Please visit the Avon Descent website for historical race times and current participant information [avondescent.com.au](https://avondescent.com.au)

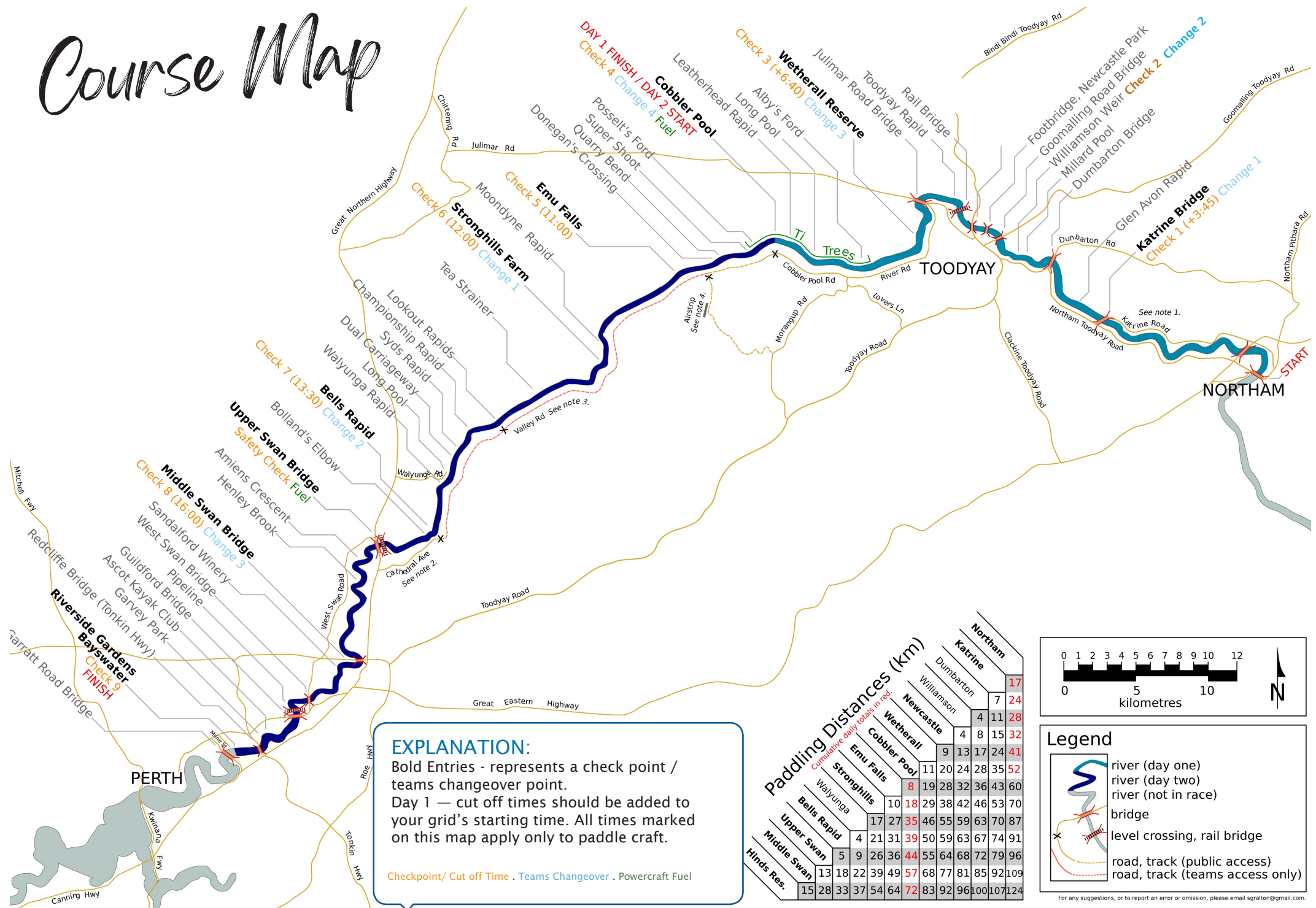
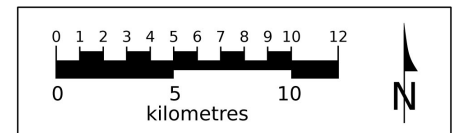
## Sunday short course events

The best locations to view the Avon Descent day 2 short courses are the City of Swan Avon Descent Festival at Lilac Hill, Garvey Park in the City of Belmont, and the City of Bayswater Finish Line Festival at Riverside Gardens.


[avondescent.com.au](https://avondescent.com.au)



# Course Map

[illegible]

# Legend



river (day one)  
river (day two)  
river (not in race)  
bridge  
level crossing, rail bridge  
road, track (public access)  
road, track (teams access only)

For any suggestions, or to report an error or omission, please email [carsten@bowl.com](mailto:carsten@bowl.com)

lotterywest

# Avon Descent FESTIVALS



**FREE EVENTS!**

**8 to 10 AUGUST**

**FRI** NORTHAM Bilya Festival

**SUN** CITY OF SWAN Avon Descent Festival

**SUN** CITY OF BAYSWATER Finish Line Festival

[avondescent.com.au/festivals](http://avondescent.com.au/festivals)



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