

AVON DESCENT

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2026 SPECTATOR GUIDE

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WHERE
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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. ROGER COOK MLA
PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**Avon Descent
8-9 August 2026**

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 second year, 10 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.

ROGER COOK MLA
PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Course Map





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

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** — Verge parking is limited. 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.

General public access to river not permitted

The general public is not permitted on the water, along the event course, during the Avon Descent. Emergency Services and volunteer rescue and recovery must be focused on the safety and wellbeing of event participants. Please do not distract them.

Spectating on bridges

Stopping or standing on any bridge is not permitted during the event.

Limited parking

Spectators to observe local government regulations. Some spectator locations will no longer allow public parking. This is outside the management of the Avon Descent.

When will Competitors arrive?

		High Water		Medium Water		Low Water	
		Power	Paddle	Power	Paddle	Power	Paddle
Day One	Northam	8:00	9:30	8:00	9:30	8:00	9:30
	Extracts Weir	8:30	11:20	8:35	11:35	8:40	11:50
	Cobbler Pool	9:15	12:45	9:30	13:00	9:45	1:30
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

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

Sunday short course events

Day 2 Short Course competitors will commence at Bayswater Riverside Gardens at 9am. The best locations to view participants are at 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.



Weekend events

Discover the exciting lineup for the Lotterywest Avon Descent Festivals and community events.

Friday 7 August	4:00pm – 9:00pm	Northam Bilya Festival	Bernard Park, Minson Avenue, Northam
Saturday 8 August	From 8:00am	Day 1 Start Line	Minson Avenue, Northam
	From 7:30am	Avon Descent Breakfast	Duidgee Park, Toodyay
Sunday 9 August	10:00am – 3:00pm	City of Swan Avon Descent Festival	Lilac Hill Park, Caversham
	From 10:00am	City of Belmont community activities	Garvey Park, Ascot
	11:00am – 5:00pm	City of Bayswater Avon Descent Finish Line Festival 2026	Riverside Gardens, Milne Street, Bayswater



Friday



Friday 7 August Northam Bilya Festival

Time: 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: Bernard Park, Minson Avenue, Northam

Supported by Lotterywest

Join the biggest street party in Northam at the Bilya Festival! Experience the Avon Descent powercraft on Friday afternoon followed by our spectacular community street parade you're sure to enjoy.

Explore this year's Carnival, with free rides, roving entertainment, music, food and a fireworks finale to kick off the start of the Avon Descent weekend.

Come and celebrate the evening in style with the Shire of Northam.

For more information:

www.northam.wa.gov.au

www.visitnorthamwa.com

Check the @shireofnortham on socials



Saturday



Saturday 8 August Northam Start Line

Day 1 start is at Northam and the start order is as follows (subject to weather and Race Director):

- Power dinghy start at 8.00am
- Minijet start at 9.15am
- Paddle craft start at 9.30am

Cheer on the 2026 competitors from the Northam start line and the Weir, as they embark on their journey down the Avon river for day 1 of the Avon Descent.



Saturday



Saturday 8 August Avon Descent Breakfast

Time: from 7;30am

Location: Duidgee Park, Toodyay
Supported by the Toodyay Lions Club

Come for breakfast, stay for the experience!
Everyone welcome!

For more information:

www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/toodyay

Check the @ToodyayLionsClub on socials



Sunday



Sunday 9 August City of Swan Avon Descent Festival

Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm

Location: Lilac Hill Park, Caversham

The City of Swan Avon Descent Festival is the perfect opportunity to get outdoors and experience the excitement of the race, which passes through the Swan Valley vineyard region, Upper Swan Bridge and Bells Rapids.

At the Festival, spectators can sample delicious gourmet food and wine from local growers and wander through pop-up artisan markets and stalls.

The Avon Descent Festival is proudly presented by the City of Swan and Supported by Lotterywest and Perth Airport.

For more information:

www.swan.wa.gov.au

www.swanvalley.com.au

Check the @cityofswan on socials

Photo by Angie Roe Photography



Sunday



Sunday 9 August City of Belmont community activities

Time: from 10:00am

Location: Garvey Park, Ascot

This relaxed family event is held annually at Garvey Park in Ascot for those interested in getting up and close to the Avon Descent action.

Spectators are welcomed at Garvey Park to cheer on the Avon Descent competitors as they chase down their race finish.

For more information:

www.belmont.wa.gov.au



Sunday



Sunday 9 August
City of Bayswater Avon Descent Finish Line Festival 2026
Nothing beats an exciting finish!

Time: 11:00am – 5:00pm

Location: Riverside Gardens, Milne Street, Bayswater

Supported by Lotterywest

Supported by Lotterywest and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Plastic Free Riverpark Program

Join support crews and spectators in welcoming competitors over the finish line of the 2026 Avon Descent. Celebrate competitors of the epic 124km journey down the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River). Enjoy a sensational day of free family-friendly entertainment, live music and more all while enjoying local community groups, food and beverage vendors and market stalls. Find the best viewing points along the river to catch all the action as paddlers and mini jets race towards the finish line.

For more information:

www.bayswater.wa.gov.au

Check the @bayswatercity on socials

AVON DESCENT 26

FULL THROTTLE

It's your chance to challenge the 2026 Avon Descent this 8th and 9th August.

Western Australia's iconic river race will take over the Avon and Swan Rivers, with a **range of paddle and power options to suit everyone**. Choose from the **two-day, 124km course**, or take on a **single day short course** option, where no experience is necessary.

SCAN ME



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