

The background of the entire page is a bokeh effect with large, out-of-focus circles in shades of blue, green, yellow, and pink. At the bottom of the page, there is a dark silhouette of a city skyline, including several tall skyscrapers.

# City of Perth **Sister Cities**

giving our capital city a voice on the global stage



## Foreword by the Lord Mayor

The City of Perth is very proud to be an active member of the global Sister City family.

Sister City relationships and friendship agreements are born out of a mutual desire for international peace and goodwill. They encourage a wider understanding of other cultures and foster economic development, tourism and trade relations. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century they are often referred to as global partnerships.

A Sister City program enables citizens to become directly involved in international relations in a unique and meaningful way, bringing long-term benefits to the local community and its partners abroad. It allows communities to exchange ideas, gain an international perspective and increase their understanding of global issues.

The Council's active Sister City relationships are based upon benefits which can accrue in the five key areas of trade, tourism, culture, education and sport.

Efforts to leverage Sister City projects for business development purposes are gradually increasing, mainly through partnerships with state government agencies, overseas trade offices and chambers of commerce.

During my time as Lord Mayor and Councillor for the City of Perth, I have had the privilege of meeting many delegations from our Sister Cities and have enjoyed the opportunity to promote Perth on the global stage and leverage opportunities for both cities.

The City of Perth must maximise the benefit it receives from international partnerships and ensure they contribute to the objectives of its international relations program. The City is aware that in the future it may be productive to consider new partnerships in emerging economies or partnerships based on state and federal government trade market and industry sector priorities.

It is my great pleasure to share with you this information about one of our most dynamic international programs.

**Lisa Scaffidi**

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor



CITY of PERTH

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# About the City of Perth

The City of Perth is the capital city of Western Australia, the nation's largest state. Western Australia forms one third of the Australian continent, with 13,000 kilometres of coastline stretching from the Timor Sea, along the Indian Ocean and on to the Southern Ocean. Its landscapes range from the tropical north to the verdant south, with endless variations in between.

Most of Western Australia's 2 million people live in the greater metropolitan area of Perth, of which the City of Perth forms the nucleus. The city is the centre of commerce, culture, education, sports, recreation, shopping and entertainment. It is set between the stunning Swan River and the 400 lush hectares of Kings Park on Mt Eliza. Perth enjoys more hours of sunshine than any other Australian capital.

Western Australia is one of the leading resources industry cities in the Asia Pacific region. Australia's fourth most populous capital city is the driving force behind one of the most productive and diversified mineral regions in the world.







# The International Sister Cities Network

The Sister Cities concept originated in the United States shortly after World War II, when President Dwight Eisenhower proposed a people-to-people citizen diplomacy network. The President's aim was to involve individuals and groups at all levels of society in community-level agreements that would lessen the chance of world conflicts.

Today, Sister Cities International – the global sister cities network - promotes peace and partnerships between thousands of city communities in more than 130 countries. In Australia, the Sister Cities Australia association register of affiliation lists over 600 Sister City partnerships.

## Perth's Sister City Program

The City of Perth has long embraced the Sister Cities concept, enabling the people of Perth to build relationships with cities and communities around the world.

We entered into our first Sister City Agreement with the city of Kagoshima in Japan in 1974 and this long-standing partnership is now respected as one of the most successful Sister City relationships in Australia.

*“A Sister City program gives your community a voice on the global stage, allowing citizens and elected officials alike to be participants in diplomacy. As the world changes so do the activities of local Sister City programs to better meet the needs of their citizens.*

*Communities now engage in economic development projects, clean water programs, technical training projects and higher education exchanges, just to name a few.”*

– **Sister Cities International**

# **The Benefits of Sister City Relationships**

Our Sister City program helps promote the City of Perth as a city of global significance, through exchanges and initiatives that focus on five key areas – education, culture, trade, tourism and sport.

The program enables the City of Perth to foster international peace and goodwill, enriching its community with a broader understanding of other nations, their traditions, customs and cultures. Crucially though, it also provides a multi-lateral framework for cultivating economic growth across a host of trade, industry and business sectors.

## **The Economic and Business Benefits**

As one of the most liveable cities in the world, located in the same time zone as our Asian neighbours, our active Sister City relationships have an important role to play in developing international economic partnerships.

Helping to establish reliable business contacts and thereby improve business opportunities, the program acts as a gateway to new markets and trade alliances. It acts as a springboard and catalyst for new investment and knowledge-sharing opportunities, while also promoting tourism, inbound education and providing a platform from which we can address global issues with our international partners.

## **The Social and Cultural Benefits**

Through cultural, educational and sporting exchanges, the program helps to break down intercultural barriers. It promotes diversity and encourages openness, tolerance and mutual understanding, all of which enrich our communities and those of our international partners.

In short, the Sister City program provides a host of exciting opportunities with the potential to enhance and add value to our personal and professional lives, ultimately making our world a safer and richer place.



## Perth's Sister City Partnerships

A Sister City Agreement or Charter of Mutual Friendship is like any relationship – for it to be fruitful it has to be actively nurtured. It must be built on solid foundations of mutual respect and shared values, the common ground upon which rewarding partnerships can be established and strengthened.

It's a commitment we take very seriously at the City of Perth. Moreover, it's a commitment shared by our international partner cities.

- **Chengdu**, People's Republic of China
- **Houston**, United States of America
- **Kagoshima**, Japan
- **Megisti-Kastellorizo**, Greece
- **Nanjing**, People's Republic of China
- **Rhodes**, Greece
- **Perth**, Scotland
- **San Diego**, United States of America
- **Seocho**, Republic of Korea
- **Taipei**, Taiwan
- **Vasto**, Italy



# Chengdu, People's Republic of China

**Charter of Mutual Friendship established:** 2010

**Location:** South-western China, at the western edge of the Sichuan Basin

**Area:** 12,390 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Humid, subtropical

**Distance from Perth:** 8,840 km

**Population:** 13 million

**Other partner cities:** Montpellier, Ljubljana, Linz, Kofu, Phoenix, Mechelen, Palermo, Gimcheon, Medan, Dalarna and Bonn

**Background:** In July 2009, the City of Perth accepted a request to form a new Sister City relationship with Chengdu City. The proposal to the City of Perth was supported by recommendations from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia's Ambassador to China, the University of Western Australia, Perth Education City and state government agencies including Tourism Western Australia and the Department of State Development. The agreement will enable both cities to develop a mutually beneficial relationship spanning economic development, business migration, tourism and investment.

**Website:** [www.chengdu.gov.cn](http://www.chengdu.gov.cn)





# Houston, United States of America

**Sister City since:** 1984

**Location:** On the gulf coastal plain in Texas in the south of the USA

**Area:** 1,558 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Humid, subtropical

**Distance from Perth:** 14,330 km

**Population:** 2.2 million

**Other Sister Cities:** Abu Dhabi, Baku, Chiba City, Grampian Region (Aberdeen), Guayaquil, Huelva, Istanbul, Leipzig, Luanda, Nice, Shenzhen, Stavanger, Taipei Municipality, Tampico, Tyumen and Karachi

**Background:** Houston, the fourth largest city in the US, shares a number of similarities with Perth, not least a pioneering frontier history and an economic development base forged in the natural resources industries.

**Website:** [www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)



# Kagoshima, Japan

**Sister City since:** 1974

**Location:** The south-western tip of the Kyushu island of Japan

**Area:** 547.06 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Humid, subtropical

**Distance from Perth:** 8,306 km

**Population:** 606,153

**Other Sister Cities:** Naples, Miami and Changsha

**Background:** Perth and Kagoshima share the same 32 degrees of latitude, albeit on opposite sides of the equator, as well as many other similarities, such as a warm climate, beautiful natural scenery, a strong marine heritage and an independent yet open and friendly outlook.

**Website:** [www.city.kagoshima.lg.jp](http://www.city.kagoshima.lg.jp)



# Megisti-Kastellorizo, Greece

**Sister City since:** 1984

**Location:** South-eastern Mediterranean, approximately 1.3km south of Turkey

**Area:** 8.9 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Mediterranean

**Distance from Perth:** 14,684 km

**Population:** 430

**Other Sister Cities:** Antalya

**Background:** The increasing Kastellorizan population in Western Australia was a key factor in establishing a partnership with Megisti. Indeed, the City of Perth's Lord Mayor between 1982 and 1988, Mr M.A. Michael OAM JP, was of Kastellorizan origin.

**Website:** [www.megisti.gr](http://www.megisti.gr)



# Nanjing, People's Republic of China

**Sister City since:** 1998

**Location:** Lower Yangtze River basin, in south-eastern China

**Area:** 6,600 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Humid, subtropical

**Distance from Perth:** 7,950 km

**Population:** 7.7 million

**Other Sister Cities:** Alsace, Barranquilla, Belo Horizonte, Birmingham, Bloemfontein, Daejeon, Eindhoven, Florence, Hauts-de-Seine, Leipzig, London (Ontario), Malacca Town, Mexicali, Nagoya and St. Louis

**Background:** Nanjing and Perth share a commitment to cultural, business and educational development. China is Western Australia's largest trading partner and export destination, while WA is also the fastest growing market for Chinese students seeking overseas studies in Australia.

**Website:** [www.nanjing.gov.cn](http://www.nanjing.gov.cn)



# Rhodes, Greece

**Sister City since:** 1984

**Location:** North-east tip of the island of Rhodes, 18 km southwest of Turkey

**Area:** 19.5 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Mediterranean

**Distance from Perth:** 14,812 km

**Population:** 80,000

**Other Sister Cities:** Ávila, New Braunfels, Conches-en-Ouche, Greece, Yalta, Majorca, Limassol, Puebla, Rhode Island, Roses, Valletta, Visby and Pisa

**Background:** Rhodes and Perth have strong links through immigration. There are some records that suggest the first Greek family settled in Perth as early as 1830. According to the Consulate of Greece, the Greek population in Western Australia has risen from 148 people in 1901 to an estimated 30,000 in 2010.

**Website:** [www.rhodes.gr](http://www.rhodes.gr)



# Perth, Scotland

**Charter of Mutual Friendship established:** 2006

**Location:** On the banks of the River Tay, in the east of Scotland

**Area:** 5286 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Oceanic

**Distance from Perth, WA:** 17,330 km

**Population:** 44,000

**Other Sister Cities:** Aschaffenburg, Bydgoszcz, Cognac, Haikou-Hainan, Pskov and Ontario

**Background:** A Charter of Mutual Friendship was signed between the two Perths in recognition of our special relationship, shared history and cultural ties. The link between the two Perths began in 1829 following the decision by the Western Australian colony's first Governor, Captain James Stirling, to name the capital city of WA in honour of the then British Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir George Murray, who was born in Perth, Scotland.

**Website:** [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk)







## The link between the two Perths began in 1829

St. Matthew's Church, on Tay Street,  
Perth, Scotland

# San Diego, United States of America

**Sister City since:** 1987

**Location:** California on the west coast of the USA

**Area:** 963 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Mediterranean

**Distance from Perth:** 12,765 km

**Population:** 1.4 million

**Other Sister Cities:** Alcalá de Henares, Campinas, Cavite, Edinburgh, Jalalabad, Jeonju, León, Taichung City, Tema, Tijuana, Vladivostok, Warsaw, Yantai and Yokohama

**Background:** Perth and Western Australia have important connections to San Diego through US Navy fleet visits. Our cities are also connected through science, including research in the areas of marine oceanography, physical oceanography, biology/biomed/neuroscience and the biotech sector.

**Website:** [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)



# Seocho, Republic of Korea

**Charter of Mutual Friendship established:** 2008

**Location:** The largest district in Seoul

**Area:** 47.1 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Humid, subtropical

**Distance from Perth:** 9,027 km

**Population:** 432,888

**Other Partner Cities:** Suginami, Laoshan, Baishan, Jianhua, Hongkou, Irvine, Manhattan, Southwark, Yugo Zapadna, Chahutemoc and San Martin

**Background:** Seocho and Perth are keen to forge a strong working relationship to explore opportunities for exchange in the areas of education, trade, recycling and sustainable energy systems, urban development and public health policy and promotion.

**Website:** [www.seocho.go.kr](http://www.seocho.go.kr)



# Taipei, Taiwan

**Sister City since:** 1999

**Location:** Northern Taiwan, on the Danishui River

**Area:** 271 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Humid, subtropical

**Distance from Perth:** 7,860 km

**Population:** 2.62 million

**Other Sister Cities:** Houston, San Francisco, Guam, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Marshall, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Oklahoma, Boston, Dallas, Seoul, Manila, Quezon, Ho Chi Minh City, Jeddah, Gold Coast, Ulan-Ude, Ulaanbaatar, Majuro, Lome, Contonou, Greater Johannesburg, Pretoria, Lilongwe, Dakar, Banjul, Bissau, Mbabane, Monrovia, Ouagabougou, Santo Domingo, Tegucigalpa, San Jose, Asuncion, Panama, Managua, San Salvador, San Nicolas, La Paz, Guatemala, Versailles, Warsaw, Vilnius and Riga

**Background:** Taipei and Perth have strong cultural links. In recent years, Perth has played host to the Taipei Youth Folk Sports Group, the annual Taipei + Perth Artist Exchange Program, the Amazing Formosa Performance Troupe and the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan.

**Website:** [www.taipei.gov.tw](http://www.taipei.gov.tw)



# Vasto, Italy

**Sister City since:** 1989

**Location:** The Adriatic coast in southern Italy

**Area:** 70 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** Mediterranean

**Distance from Perth:** 16,117 km

**Population:** 40,000

**Other Sister Cities:** Tremiti Islands

**Background:** The relationship between Vasto and Perth is based primarily on migration. It is estimated that WA's Vastesi population may represent the largest number of migrants from a single European town. Reportedly around 21,000 second and third generation Vastesi currently live in Perth.

**Website:** [www.comune.vasto.ch.it](http://www.comune.vasto.ch.it)



# Useful Resources

## **Sister Cities Australia**

[www.sistercitiesaustralia.com](http://www.sistercitiesaustralia.com)

## **Sister Cities International**

[www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org)



CITY *of* PERTH



## Contact Us

### Enquiries

To make enquiries or to provide feedback, we encourage you to contact the City of Perth

**In Person** Customer Service Centre:  
Ground Floor, Council House,  
27 St George's Terrace, Perth.

**In Writing to:** International Alliances Coordinator  
City of Perth, GPO Box C120,  
Perth WA 6839.

**Web site:** [www.perth.wa.gov.au/web/Council/Global-Affiliations/Sister-Cities](http://www.perth.wa.gov.au/web/Council/Global-Affiliations/Sister-Cities)

**Email:** [sister.city@cityofperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:sister.city@cityofperth.wa.gov.au)

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