

FAQs – Fees and Charges 2009

1. Is the Admission Fee a new fee for 2009? If not, why haven't I heard of it before?

No. Admission fees have been charged since 1988 under Rottnest Island regulations. For the majority of visitors, the admission fee is collected as part of the ferry fare by the commercial ferry companies.

2. What is the Admission Fee and who pays it?

- The Admission Fee is paid by all visitors to Rottnest, as an A Class Reserve. It applies to all visitors, whether they come by private vessel, ferry or aircraft.
- The changes to current fees have been introduced to ensure that the “user pays” – those who visit Rottnest, including international and interstate visitors, pay a fair amount for the services they use and contribute towards the costs of maintaining the natural and built environments.
- The aim is to ensure that visitors to the island pay a fair contribution for the costs associated with generation of electricity, water, sewage and waste management.

3. Why has there been a 28% surcharge on extended-stay visitors?

This relates to the difference paid by a day-tripper and an extended-stay visitor. An adult who stays longer on the island than one day pays a higher admission fee (28% higher) to cover the costs of the use of Rottnest Island resources and services over subsequent days.

4. Does this make Rottnest Island too expensive for Western Australian families?

- The increases bring Rottnest Island into line with other tourism destinations such as Perth Zoo.
- Rottnest Island is a not-for-profit Government authority. All money is reinvested into the Island and its infrastructure, heritage and environment.

5. Where does the money go?

The admission fee helps offset the costs of infrastructure, facilities and services as well as the cost of protecting the environment and cultural heritage of the Island. It also means that the Rottnest Island Authority is self funded and does not rely on regular handouts from tax-payers.

6. Will the increases damage businesses servicing the Island?

When developing the fees and charges schedule, the RIA considered its visitor profile. The Authority is confident that the new structure will not have an adverse effect on the Island's visitor numbers.

7. How is the fee paid?

The fee is collected in several ways.

- For those travelling by ferry it is collected by ferry operators on behalf of the Rottneest Island Authority. The charge is incorporated into the ticket fare.
- If travelling by private vessel it can be paid either as an annual fee or, for occasional visits, can be paid at the Visitor Centre.
- Fishing and diving charter operators pay an annual fee.
- Any aircraft visiting the aerodrome will pay per landing.

8. Why should extended stay visitors pay more?

The new structure will help offset the costs of infrastructure, facilities and services and protecting the environmental and cultural heritage of the Island. It is appropriate that day-trippers to the island pay a lower admission fee than those on an extended stay, as they will use less of the island's resources and services.

9. When will the fee be likely to increase again?

The new fees are set for the next five years. In the meantime, they will only increase by CPI (consumer price index).

10. When do the new fees come into effect?

The new fees are effective from 1 July 2009.

11. Why is the family concession restricted to families with two children?

This is based on the industry standard.

12. When was the last time that boating admission fees, aerodrome usage fees and annual fees for charter operators were increased?

These fees were increased on 1 July 2008 but only by CPI. These rates have not increased above CPI for at least 5 years.