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Conservation and Attractions

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Photo courtesy Pemberton Hiking and Canoeing



Karri Forest Explorer

The Karri Forest Explorer is an 86-kilometre drive that winds through some of the south-west's most magnificent karri forest and passes through the Warren National Park.

You can explore it at your own pace – view Beedelup Falls from the suspension bridge, have a swim at Big Brook Dam, picnic at Pure Marri, go bushwalking or fishing or just sit and take in nature. There is trailside information to guide you through the forest and a series of tourist radio stops (100FM).

You can stop for a wine tasting, coffee or gourmet meal and visit galleries and craft centres. There is a range of places to stay overnight so you can relax and spend time exploring the area.

The Karri Forest Explorer starts just outside the historic timber town of Pemberton but you can join it at several points along the way, depending on which way you're travelling or where you're staying.

For more information, pick up a brochure at a Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) office or visitor centre.

Plan ahead and prepare

Your safety in natural areas is our concern but your responsibility.

Please heed warnings shown on signs that display this symbol.



Visitor fees

Park entry and camping fees apply in Warren National Park. For more information, see the *Fees and charges – A visitor's guide* brochure, available from DEC.

Annual Local, Holiday, Annual All Parks and Gold Star Passes are available at DEC offices, selected tourist outlets and visitor centres in Western Australia.

Need more information?

Department of Environment and Conservation
Donnelly District Office

Kennedy Street

PEMBERTON WA 6260

Ph: (08) 9776 1207

Email: donnelly.district@dec.wa.gov.au

Web: www.dec.wa.gov.au



Pemberton Tourist Centre

Brockman Street

Phone: 08 9776 1133

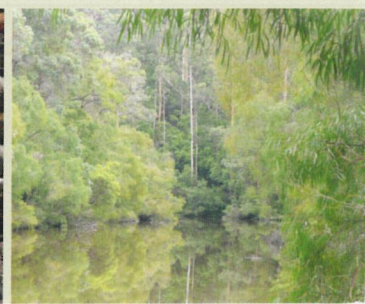
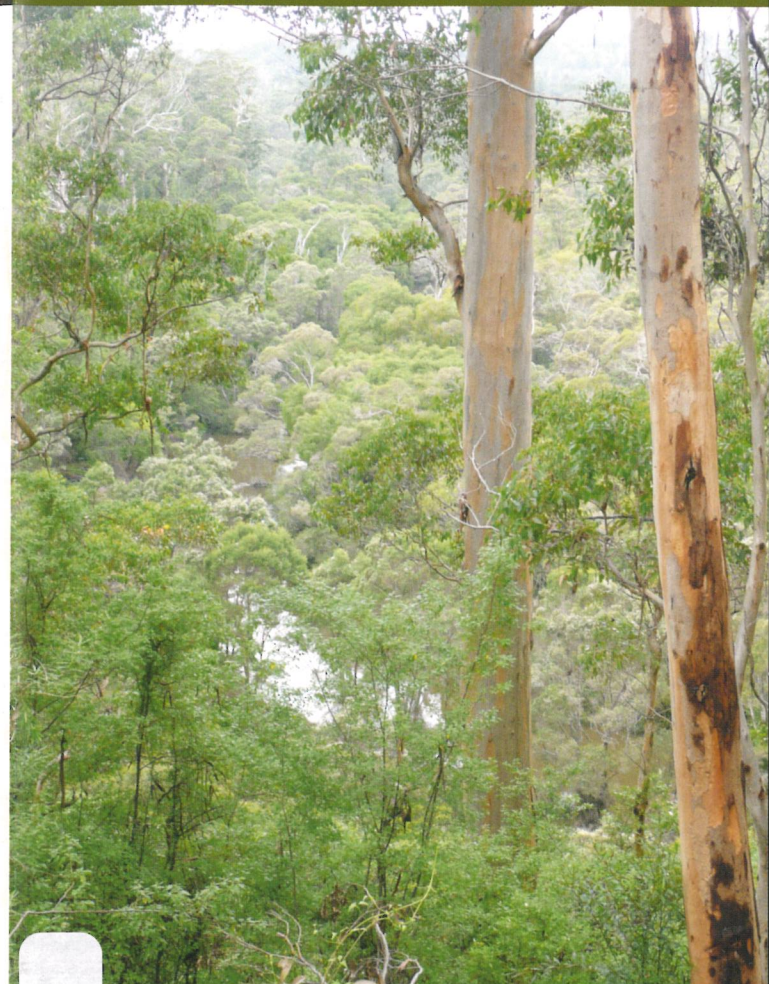
Free call: 1800 671 133

Email: pemtour@karriweb.com.au

Web: www.pembertontourist.com.au



The 'Top Trails' icon identifies the top trails experiences in WA – find out more at www.toptrails.com.au



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Information and recreational guide



Department of
Environment and Conservation



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2009345-0809-10M

Exploring the Warren National Park

Warren National Park encompasses some of the south-west's most spectacular virgin karri forest. With some reaching a height of almost 90 metres, the karri trees tower over an enchanting world of lush undergrowth, wildflowers and colourful fungi. The picturesque Warren River meanders through the park, flowing smoothly around corners and tumbling over rapids. The park is located 15 kilometres south-west of Pemberton and covers 3,131 hectares.

Following the Heartbreak Trail is a great way to see Warren National Park. This 12-kilometre drive leads you deep into the karri forest with plenty of stops along the way so you can appreciate the beauty of this area.

For those who prefer to get out of their cars and get among the trees, the Warren River Loop Trail is a 10.5-kilometre walk that winds through the karri forest and along the banks of the river.

There are two trees of particular interest within Warren National Park: the Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree, which can be climbed by those who are feeling brave, and the Marianne North Tree.

The Warren River is also a great destination for paddlers. There are a series of canoe launches along the river within the park.

Heartbreak Trail

The 12-kilometre Heartbreak Trail is a drive trail that descends into the Warren River valley, following the river for a while before climbing back up the karri-clad slopes. This steep track was built by hand to clear a path down to the river for fire fighters and the name reflects the hardship of the job. The rapids of Heartbreak Crossing and the Warren River Lookout are great stopping places along the trail and there are excellent camping sites for those looking for a longer stay. Tune in to 100FM for more information about the area while at Warren Lookout. The Heartbreak Trail is a one-way, gravel road that is steep in places and is not suitable for buses or caravans.



Warren River Loop Walk

The Warren River Loop Walk is a spectacular 10.5-kilometre moderately hard walk trail that passes through some of the region's most magnificent old-growth karri forest. The trail takes you deep into the moss-clad Warren River valley where it meanders alongside the river through groves of karri sheoak and Warren River cedar.

In springtime, the colourful display of wildflowers typifies the diversity of plants that grow in this pristine national park. The colours and forms of the fungi that inhabit the forest during the cooler, wetter months have to be seen to be believed.

The trail passes beautiful picnic places alongside the Warren River at Maiden Bush, Drafty's Camp and Warren Camp and takes in the whirling rapids at Heartbreak Crossing. Warren Lookout provides sweeping views down the steep valley to the river below.

Being a loop trail, this walk can be started from any point and can be walked in short sections ranging from 300 metres to 2.8 kilometres. The track is steep in places as it climbs in and out of the river valley. To avoid walking up the steepest section, the trail is best walked in an anticlockwise direction.

For your safety:

- Avoid walking under trees on windy days.
- Be sun smart and carry drinking water for longer sections.
- Wear appropriate footwear and clothing.

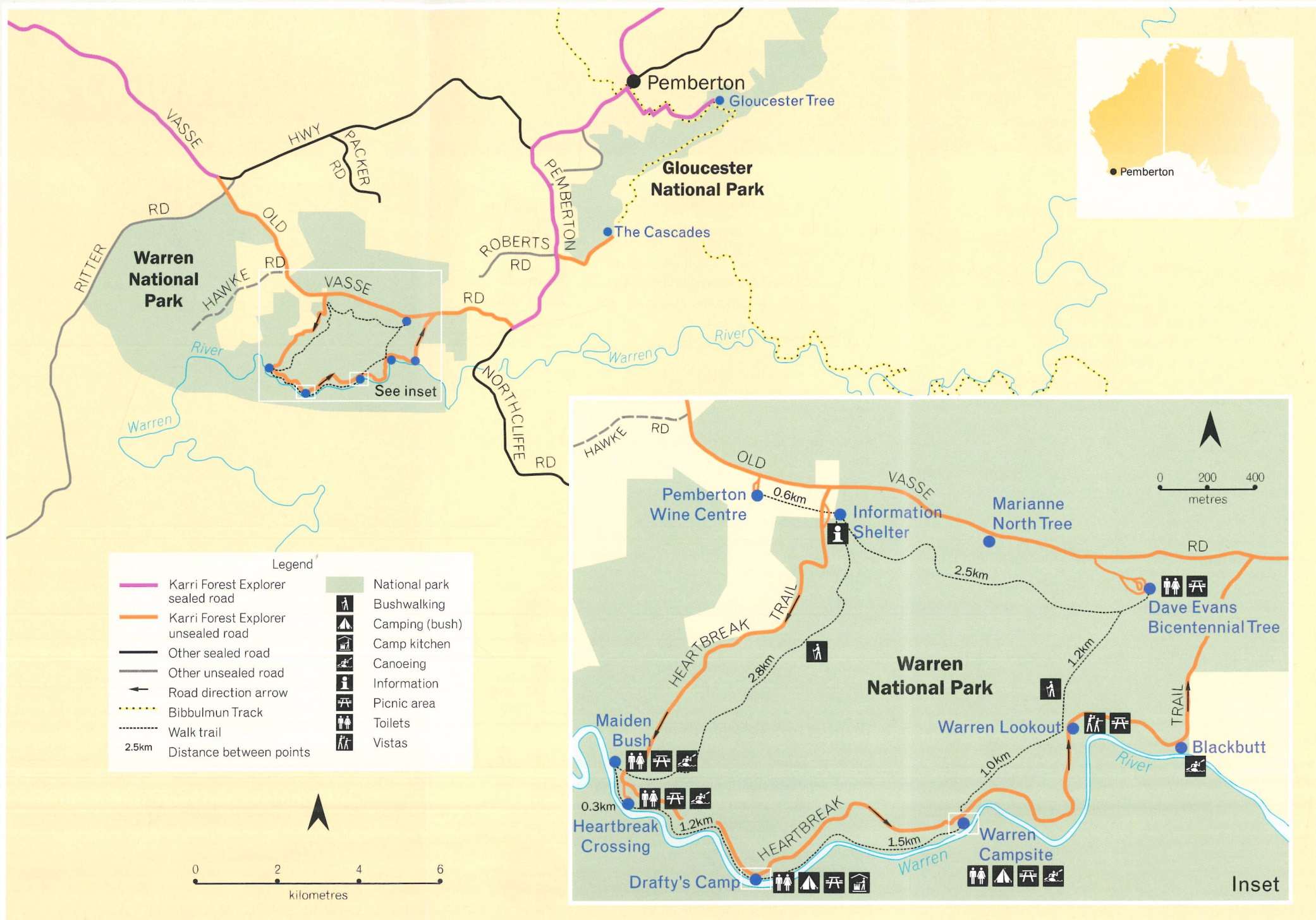
Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree

The Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree, in Warren National Park, is the tallest of the three fire lookout trees open to the public in the Pemberton area. It was pegged in 1988 as part of Australia's bicentennial celebrations. At 68 metres, climbing to the top of the tree is not for the faint-hearted. However, those who do climb the 130 pegs will be rewarded with 360-degree views of the karri forest and glimpses of the Yeagarup Dunes and coast beyond.

Marianne North Tree

The Marianne North Tree, a huge misshapen karri, is named after the English artist who painted it in 1880. An intrepid traveler, Marianne North recorded flora from around the world with her paintbrush. She came to Australia in 1880 and spent much time painting the scenery and flora of the south-west of Western Australia. Her painting of this tree now hangs in the Marianne North Gallery at the Kew Botanic Gardens in England with more than 800 of her other paintings.





Paddling on the Warren River

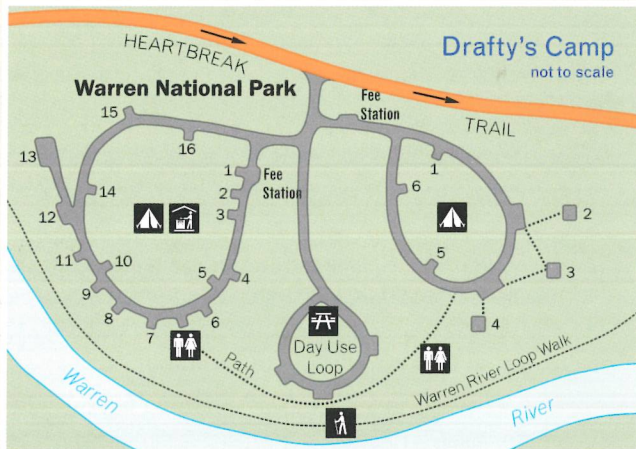
Paddling on the Warren River is yet another way to explore Warren National Park. The park is well set up for paddlers with canoe launches at Maiden Bush, Warren Campsite and Blackbutt. Glide along the river flanked by tall, imposing karri trees, listening to the sounds of the birds. Within the park, the Warren River is graded as moderate (white water Grade 2) with some small rapids. There are some larger rapids further downstream outside the Warren National Park which would require a difficult portage. Paddling maps are available from DEC offices, CanoeingWA and tourist centres.

Campsites

Drafty's Camp

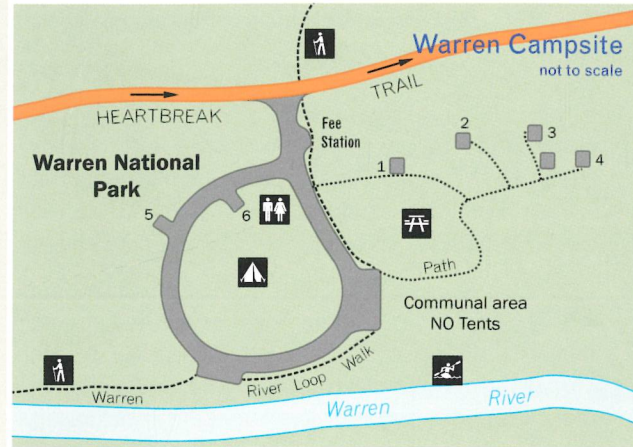
Drafty's Camp has two camping loops with shady campsites spread along the Warren River among karri and marri. Loop one has 16 campsites and an undercover camp kitchen with picnic tables and free gas barbecues. Loop two has six campsites. Both loops have toilet facilities.

There is a day-use area in between the two camping loops which allows for river access. This area has picnic tables, barbecue facilities and decks with views over the river.



Warren Camp

Warren Camp offers six campsites, some on the riverbank, some tucked back in the forest. There are communal wood barbecues and picnic tables close to the water. Shaded viewing platforms overlook the river next to the canoe launch. Toilet facilities are provided.



Natural wonders

Karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) grows up to 90 metres high, making it the tallest tree in Western Australia and one of the tallest in the world. It grows mainly from Nannup and Manjimup, through Pemberton and Northcliffe to Denmark. Karri has a long, straight trunk with smooth bark in shades of pink, orange, grey and white that is shed each year. Karri produces white flowers in spring and has relatively few leafy upper branches that are arranged in distinctive 'broccoli'-shaped clusters. Some of these forest giants in the Warren National Park are more than 200 years old.

Flowering karri trees attract flocks of purple-crowned lorikeets that come to feed on the pollen, nectar and blossoms. These birds are not only raucously noisy, they are a riot of colour with an orange forehead, a red patch in front of their eyes and a dark purple crown. Their back and wings are bright green, their throat, breast and belly are pale blue and the underside of their tail is yellow and green.

The cool, moist environment near the river provides a dazzling display of fungi in the wetter months of the year. Brightly coloured fungi of all shapes and sizes mingle with mosses and lichens on fallen logs and among the leaf litter.



Caring for Warren National Park

- Be considerate... Pets are not permitted. Respect our native wildlife.
- Be cool... Fires are not permitted outside the fire rings provided. Some firewood is provided for cooking purposes only.
- Be wise... Respect this unique environment and leave it as you found it. Take your rubbish home with you.
- Be clean... Don't pollute the Warren River with soaps or chemicals.



Purple-crowned lorikeet