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Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve

Gull Rock National Park and

Mt Martin Botanical Reserve

Waychinicup National Park



Information and recreation guide



Department of
Environment and Conservation



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Fairy Rocks, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

Two Peoples Bay

Partly sheltered from the Southern Ocean by the granite massifs of Mt Gardner and Mt Manypeaks, Two Peoples Bay lies 35 kilometres east of Albany.

The bay was a gathering place for the local Indigenous Noongar people, known as the Minang, who hunted and fished along streams that fed into the bay.

Long before European settlement, ships carrying whalers, sealers and explorers visited the coast. The chance meeting of French and American mariners resulted in the naming of the bay as Baie des Deux Peuples in honour of the two new republics.

To augment their meagre incomes, early settlers took up shore-based whaling – flensing and rendering (stripping and melting) the whale blubber on the bay's gently sloping beaches.

As the region developed, coastal land was cleared for farming, holiday and salmon fishing shacks appeared at the edge of the bay and a township was planned.

In 1961, the surprising rediscovery of the noisy scrub-bird, long thought to be extinct, prompted naturalists to recognise the area's value as an important wildlife sanctuary. Following much local and political debate, the township plan was abandoned.

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve was established in 1966, a fortunate decision as in 1994 a small colony of another 'lost' species, the Gilbert's potoroo, was discovered. Today 12 threatened animal species are known to survive in the nature reserve.

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.



Fighting dieback

Phytophthora dieback is a major problem in the South Coast Region. Caused by a microscopic water mould that dwells in the soil, this plant pathogen kills plants by rotting their roots. More than 2,300 plant species in south-western Australia are susceptible to dieback. Unfortunately, the moist conditions on the south coast create perfect conditions for the spread of the disease.

Machinery, humans and animals spread the disease by moving infested soils to healthy areas. Once present in the landscape, the dieback water mould can move in soil and water or by root-to-root contact between plants.

Dieback threatens biodiversity by not only killing plants but also by destroying wildlife habitat, placing the health and survival of whole ecosystems at risk.

You can help to prevent the further spread of dieback.

- Stay on designated tracks and trails.
- Avoid walking and driving on tracks in wet soil conditions.
- Abide by management signs and do not enter restricted areas.
- Clean soil from footwear at the start and finish of any walks in natural areas. A small spray bottle of 70–100% methylated spirits is ideal for cleaning footwear.
- Clean vehicle (tyres and undercarriage) before entering national parks.

Protecting habitat and wildlife

Leave rocks and plants undisturbed. Please take your rubbish out with you. Bins are not provided.

Pets are not permitted in national parks and nature reserves, including within cars and parking areas.

Poison baits are used in national parks and nature reserves to kill foxes. These small chunks of dried meat or pinkish-brown sausages will kill dogs and should not be handled.

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve

The purpose of a nature reserve is to maintain the natural environment and protect native flora and fauna. However, due to a history of commercial fishing and recreational use of the area, visitor facilities are provided within the Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

Opportunities for bushwalking, beach walking, fishing, boat launching, picnicking and barbecuing are provided within designated areas shown on the map (inside page).

Camping is not permitted.

In order to protect threatened animal species and their limited habitat, areas of the highest conservation values are RESTRICTED ACCESS. These areas cannot be entered without a written permit, typically granted for research purposes only.

Two Peoples Bay Visitor Centre

The visitor centre contains colourful displays and video presentations that tell of the reserve's history, biodiversity and important recovery programs for threatened species.

Over summer months, the centre is usually open from 10am to 4pm and is often staffed by volunteer hosts. During other months, the centre is open when staff are present. Group visits can be arranged by contacting the ranger.

A 4.6-kilometre return trail leads from the rear of the visitor centre and loops back along the beach. A five-kilometre return spur leads to picturesque Little Beach.

Two Peoples Bay Visitor Centre.



Protecting yourself

Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility.

Carry plenty of drinking water for each person.

Wear sun protection, boots or sturdy footwear and clothing that is weatherproof and scratchproof.

Be prepared for sudden changes in the weather.

Sloping, rough and uneven surfaces exist throughout the parks and reserves.

Granite rocks can be extremely slippery when wet.

Cliff edges can crumble without warning.

The Southern Ocean is very unpredictable.

Huge waves and extreme swells can suddenly occur even on calm days.

Waves can sweep over rocky headlands.

Powerful rips and undertows can occur.

Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous.

Please heed the warning signs that display this symbol.



For further information

DEC officers are always willing to help. Do not hesitate to contact us.

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve
Gull Rock National Park
Mt Martin Botanical Reserve
Waychinicup National Park
Tel (08) 9846 4276

DEC South Coast Region
120 Albany Highway
Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9842 4500

DEC State Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington WA 6151
Tel (08) 9334 0333



Department of
Environment and Conservation



Information current at May 2011.

Front cover Two Peoples Bay.

Noisy scrub-bird.



Gilberts potoroo.





Gull Rock National Park.

Gull Rock National Park and Mt Martin Botanical Reserve

Positioned on the outskirts of Albany's residential area, Gull Rock National Park and the adjacent Mt Martin Botanical Reserve provide a beautiful coastal setting for recreation and enjoyment of natural beauty.

High vista points in the landscape offer outstanding views of Breaksea and Michaelmas islands, Albany's harbours and Torndirrup Peninsula.

The diverse landforms and soils found within these two protected areas support an exceptional botanical richness. The largest known stand of Albany's floral symbol, *Banksia coccinea*, exists within a priority ecological community found in the park which unfortunately is threatened by *Phytophthora* dieback.

A complex patchwork of forest, woodlands, wetlands, sedges, granite shrublands and coastal heath covers the landscape. The wetlands and sedgelands are of special importance to bird species, including noisy scrub-birds which have been reintroduced to this area.

Gull Rock National Park and Mt Martin Botanical Reserve are recent additions to the DEC-managed estate.

Waychinicup River.

Waychinicup National Park

Located 65 kilometres east of Albany, Waychinicup National Park includes the lower reaches and beautiful rocky inlet of the Waychinicup River. Unlike other south coast estuaries, this inlet does not form a sand bar and remains open throughout the year.

Deeply incised gullies descend from boulder-strewn hilltops to the sea. Within these gullies, nearly impenetrable vegetation provides habitat for threatened plants and animals including noisy scrub-birds, western bristlebirds and whipbirds. The granite slopes support plant species that are found nowhere else.

Quendas (bandicoots) can often be seen digging at the roadside during the day while quokkas travel through hidden 'runnels' (tunnels in dense vegetation).

Nocturnal western ringtail possums are rarely seen but their dreys (basketball-sized nests made of sticks) can sometimes be spotted in trees.

Waychinicup National Park's snug inlet and camping area is popular with family groups for swimming, canoeing and fishing. Facilities are basic.

Waychinicup Inlet.

Gull Rock National Park.

Things to do

Bushwalking

Interlacing trails travel over the coastal hills of Mt Martin Botanical Reserve offering up-close viewing of wildflowers and remarkable vistas of Albany's coastline.

At Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, trails start from the visitor centre and from Little Beach, offering expansive views of the bay and of Mount Manypeaks.

Picnic and barbeque

Cooking fires are not allowed in any national parks or nature reserves. Gas barbeques are provided for use free of charge at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

Camping

Limited tent camping sites, not suitable for caravans, are located at Waychinicup National Park. Caravan parks are located in Albany and at Cheyne Beach.

Campfires and cooking fires are not allowed.

Camping is not permitted at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, Gull Rock National Park or Mt Martin Botanical Reserve.

Fishing

Many fishing sites are found along the south coast. Normal fishing regulations apply. Keep safety in mind when choosing a site. Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous. Some local sporting goods suppliers loan out safety vests provided by the Nathan Drew Memorial Trust.

Swimming

These locations are popular with visitors; however, local conditions, waves, swell, rips and personal ability must be considered before choosing to swim.

Gull Rock National Park – Boiler Bay at eastern end of Ledge Beach

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve – Little Beach

Waychinicup National Park – Waychinicup River inlet

Boat launching

Boats can be launched from the beach at Two Peoples Bay and at Cheyne Beach located to the east of Waychinicup National Park.

Four-wheel driving

Limited opportunities for four-wheel driving exist. Be aware that tracks can be very rough and sandy. High clearance vehicles and experienced off-road drivers are required. Follow vehicle manufacturer's guidelines for tyre pressure.

