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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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THINGS TO SEE AND DO CAMPING

Camping areas are situated all down the coast. Facilities are limited (see map).

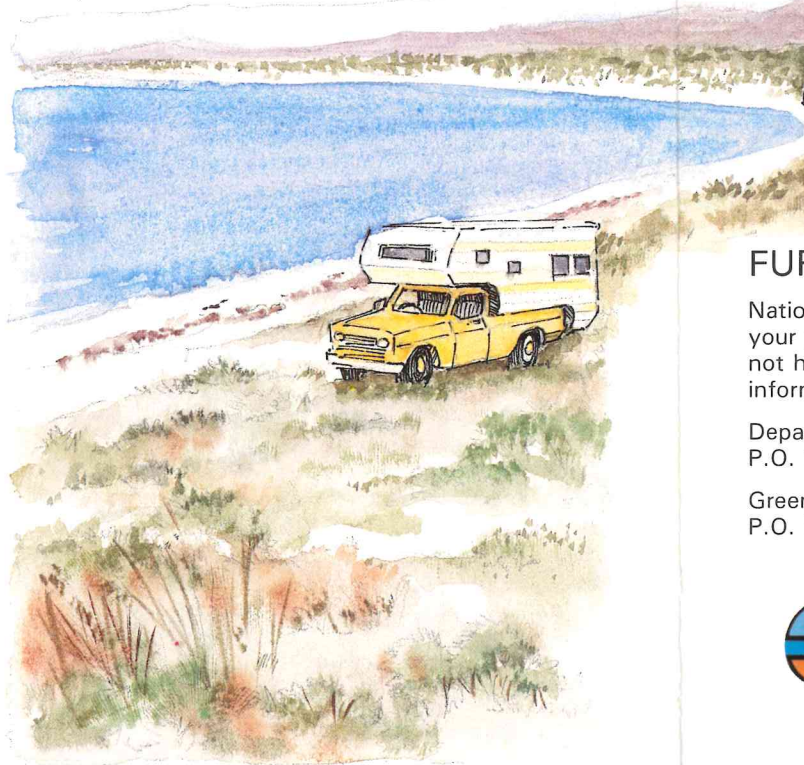
Fresh water is available at Mangrove bore near the northern entrance to the Park.

Please bring your own gas stove. Wood or charcoal fires are not permitted.

Camping fees apply, and will be collected by the Park ranger at the campsites. You may be asked to move camp after a period of time. This is to help protect the environment, and allow everyone a fair share in its use.

Excellent caravan parks with modern facilities are available outside the Park at Exmouth to the north, and Coral Bay to the south. Contact Holiday WA centres or the Exmouth Tourist Bureau for more information.

Please note: The sandbar crossing at Yardie Creek is normally impassable for conventional vehicles, and occasionally, when the creek opens to the ocean, for 4-wheel drives.



REMEMBER

BE CAREFUL: Your enjoyment and safety in natural environments is our concern, but your responsibility.

BE CLEAN: Put your litter in bins, or better still, take it with you.

STAY COOL: Don't light fires. Bring your own portable gas stove.

PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS: No firearms or pets. . . please.

STAY ON THE ROAD: Follow signs in the Park, and stay on the roads marked in this brochure. Normal road rules apply.

DRIVE SLOWLY: to avoid kangaroos, and above all, enjoy the scenery.



FURTHER INFORMATION

National park rangers are always glad to help make your park visit more enjoyable and informative. Do not hesitate to contact them if you require any information or assistance.

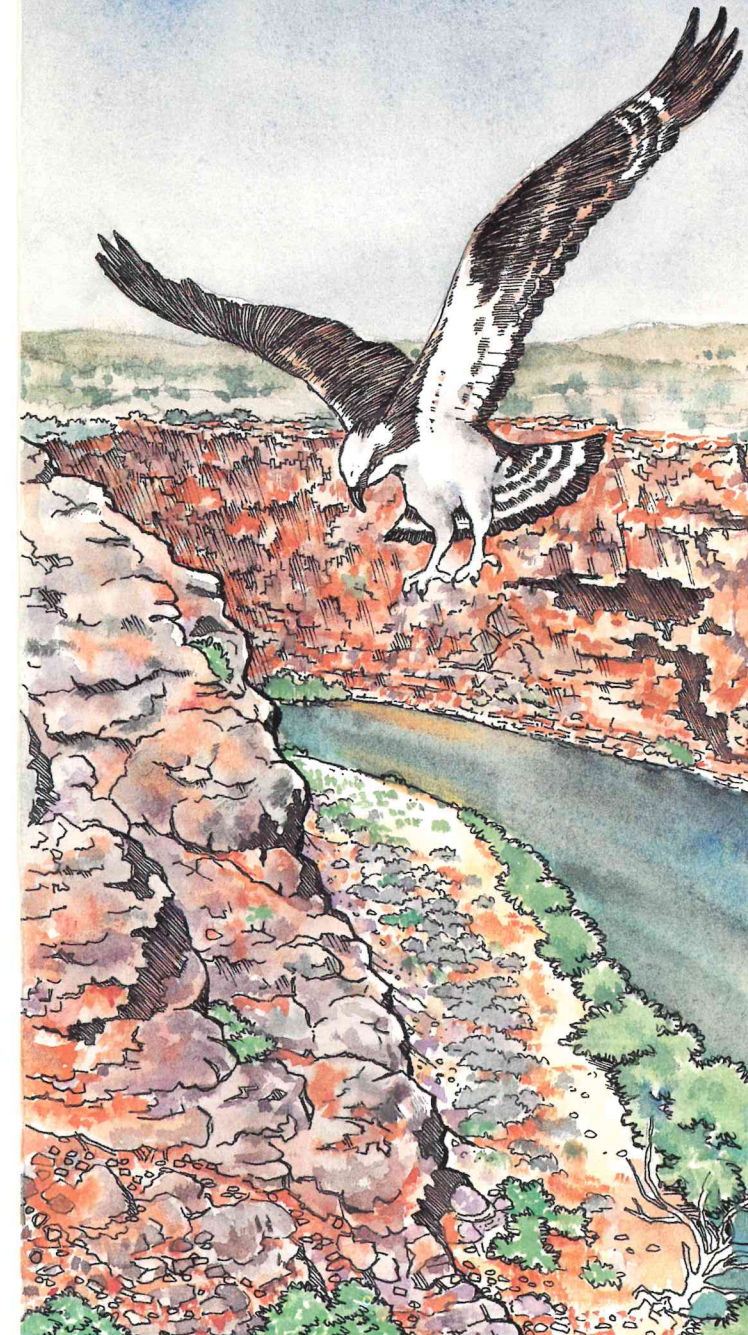
Department of Conservation and Land Management,
P.O. Box 201, Exmouth, 6707. Ph: (099) 49 1428

Greenough Regional Office,
P.O. Box 72, Geraldton, 6530. Ph: (099) 21 5955.



Department of Conservation
& Land Management
50 Hayman Road, Como,
Western Australia. 6152
Phone: (09) 367 0333
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CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK

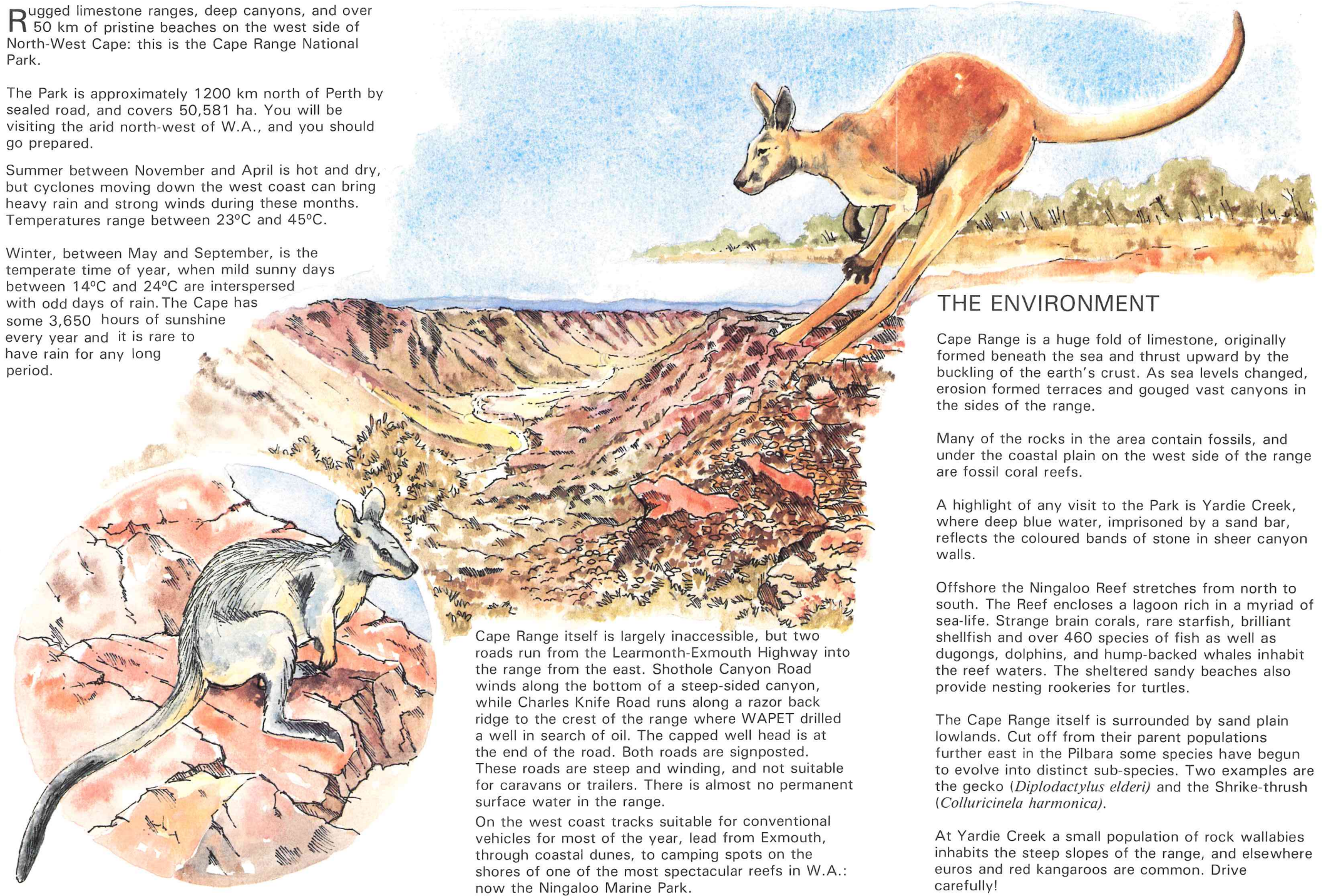


Rugged limestone ranges, deep canyons, and over 50 km of pristine beaches on the west side of North-West Cape: this is the Cape Range National Park.

The Park is approximately 1200 km north of Perth by sealed road, and covers 50,581 ha. You will be visiting the arid north-west of W.A., and you should go prepared.

Summer between November and April is hot and dry, but cyclones moving down the west coast can bring heavy rain and strong winds during these months. Temperatures range between 23°C and 45°C.

Winter, between May and September, is the temperate time of year, when mild sunny days between 14°C and 24°C are interspersed with odd days of rain. The Cape has some 3,650 hours of sunshine every year and it is rare to have rain for any long period.



THE ENVIRONMENT

Cape Range is a huge fold of limestone, originally formed beneath the sea and thrust upward by the buckling of the earth's crust. As sea levels changed, erosion formed terraces and gouged vast canyons in the sides of the range.

Many of the rocks in the area contain fossils, and under the coastal plain on the west side of the range are fossil coral reefs.

A highlight of any visit to the Park is Yardie Creek, where deep blue water, imprisoned by a sand bar, reflects the coloured bands of stone in sheer canyon walls.

Offshore the Ningaloo Reef stretches from north to south. The Reef encloses a lagoon rich in a myriad of sea-life. Strange brain corals, rare starfish, brilliant shellfish and over 460 species of fish as well as dugongs, dolphins, and hump-backed whales inhabit the reef waters. The sheltered sandy beaches also provide nesting rookeries for turtles.

The Cape Range itself is surrounded by sand plain lowlands. Cut off from their parent populations further east in the Pilbara some species have begun to evolve into distinct sub-species. Two examples are the gecko (*Diplodactylus elderi*) and the Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*).

At Yardie Creek a small population of rock wallabies inhabits the steep slopes of the range, and elsewhere euros and red kangaroos are common. Drive carefully!

Cape Range itself is largely inaccessible, but two roads run from the Learmonth-Exmouth Highway into the range from the east. Shothole Canyon Road winds along the bottom of a steep-sided canyon, while Charles Knife Road runs along a razor back ridge to the crest of the range where WAPET drilled a well in search of oil. The capped well head is at the end of the road. Both roads are signposted. These roads are steep and winding, and not suitable for caravans or trailers. There is almost no permanent surface water in the range.

On the west coast tracks suitable for conventional vehicles for most of the year, lead from Exmouth, through coastal dunes, to camping spots on the shores of one of the most spectacular reefs in W.A.: now the Ningaloo Marine Park.

BUSHWALKS

Walk 1: Charles Knife-Shothole Canyon. 5 km one way (allow 2 hours for a one-way trek).

Running across the range between picnic areas at Charles Knife and Shothole Canyon the trail takes you through some spectacular gorge country. The walk is one-way, not a loop. To return to your starting point you will need to retrace your steps. The climb out of Shothole Canyon is difficult, and recommended only for the sure-footed and physically fit. We regret that camping is not permitted in this area.

Walk 2: Mandu Mandu Gorge. 1-2 km (allow 1 hour).

On the west side of the range about 26 km from the Park entrance. Not a marked trail, but makes a fascinating ramble along the bed of an ancient river, between sheer walls carved by water over millions of years.

Cape Range is rugged and waterless. Temperatures in the gorges can be much higher than elsewhere. Many experienced bushwalkers have been overcome by exhaustion because they underestimated the harsh conditions. Ensure you have adequate footwear and clothing, take plenty of water: **LET SOMEONE KNOW** where you intend to go and keep to that plan. We do not advise cross-country walking during the summer months.

FISHING

Normal fisheries regulations apply. Amateurs, fishing for their own or their family's needs, are welcome in the Park.

Coastal fishing is some of the best W.A. has to offer. Inshore angling species include sweetlip, spangled emperor and several types of trevally. In deeper waters spanish mackerel, wahoo, tuna, marlin and sailfish are common.

GO FOR A SNORKEL

The undersea world of the reef offers an incredible opportunity for underwater photography or just casual observation. Gaze in wonder at the fascinating holothurians, or the incredible colours of the nudibranchs. Explore the coral gardens of the back reef.

All northern waters are home to some potentially dangerous species such as sharks and stingrays. Be careful where and when you swim. Pick a clear sandy bottom and keep a wary eye open when in the water.

SUPPLIES

The nearest towns for supplies:

Exmouth — 40km from northern end of the Park.

Coral Bay — 70km from the southern end of the Park.

LEGEND

	Sealed Road		Fuel
	Unsealed Road		Information
	Walk Trail		Lookout
	Accommodation		Toilets
	Launching Ramp		Walk Trail
	Camping Area		Picnic Area
	Caravan Park		Day Use Only
	First Aid		
	Water (Drinking)		

