

LIBRARY

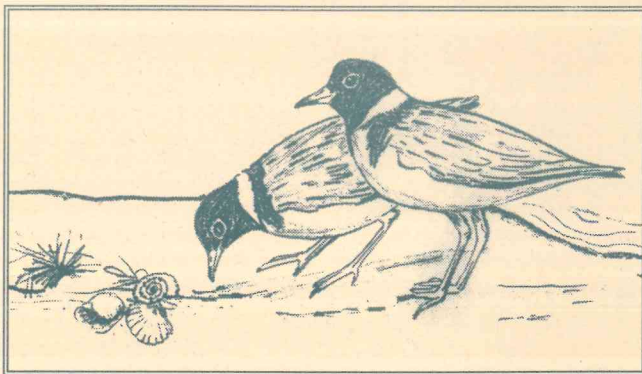
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

BUSH CODE OF ETHICS

- ☐ Stay on established paths wherever possible - take care not to damage surrounding bush;
- ☐ Please use only fuel stoves at bush campsites;
- ☐ Where toilets are not provided, bury toilet waste more than 150mm deep and at least 100metres away from a water supply;
- ☐ Clean, crush and carry out all rubbish;
- ☐ Respect private property by not straying onto land adjacent to the National Park;
- ☐ Be courteous to other track-users, and be prepared to lend assistance if need be;
- ☐ Enjoy the wildflowers, but please do not pick them;
- ☐ Please report any damage or problems to CALM, Busselton Office:
Ph (08) 9752 1677.

HELP US TO MAINTAIN YOUR TRACK!



Hooded plovers: often seen singly or in pairs patrolling sandy beaches

WALK SAFE!

- ☐ Suggest walking parties min 3, max 12.
- ☐ Carry a first-aid kit.
- ☐ Take adequate drinking water. 2 litres per person per day; on a hot day you may need at least 3 litres.
N.B. When overnighing you will need to carry extra water or plan a water drop.
- ☐ Take appropriate clothing (hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, raincoat etc.) - remember, weather conditions can change rapidly.
- ☐ Tell someone where you are going, and how long you expect to be before returning.
- ☐ Take great care when swimming - many beaches have dangerous rips and undertows.
- ☐ Do not walk on black, wet rocks as these can be unexpectedly slippery. Watch out for extra large waves.
- ☐ In the event of a wildfire, move to or stay on the coast for your safety.
- ☐ Snakes are common, but rarely seen. Watch where you walk and keep your distance!
- ☐ Coastal limestone cliffs are fragile at their edges. Never camp or light fires in caves or overhangs, especially under wet, windy conditions.
- ☐ Beware of deep water at creek crossings during winter and after heavy rain.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Augusta Police: (08) 9758 1575

Augusta Ranger: (08) 9758 1756

(Telephone at Hamelin Bay)

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The CALM office in Busselton,
14 Queen Street,

Ph. (08) 9752 1677.

Published: February, 2000 - 3rd edition

CALM LIBRARY
NOT FOR LOAN

000942

edition 5

CAPE TO CAPE WALK TRACK

*Hamelin Bay to
Cape Leeuwin - 29 km*

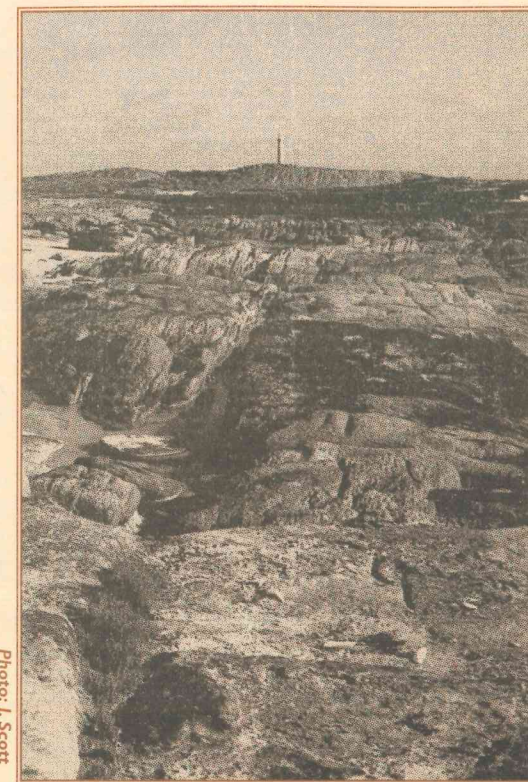


Photo: J. Scott

Leeuwin Lighthouse from
north of Quarry Bay

PAM00823



Conservation and
Land Management



THE LEEUWIN-NATURALISTE NATIONAL PARK

The Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge is a major feature of the National Park, running from north to south between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin, roughly parallel to the coast, and up to 200 metres high in places. This ridge is composed of two very different rock types. Forming the basement of the ridge are hard ancient granitic rocks, over 600 million years old, in places maybe much older. Lying directly above, on much of the western side of the ridge, is the Tamala Limestone formation, rock which has consolidated from wind-blown sand dune deposits probably within the last 2 million years, a mere split second in geological time.

As the Australian land-mass drifted north and east, over millions of years, away from Antarctica, the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge became isolated from the main plateau of Western Australia. This south-western corner of the continent has been left projecting into the Indian Ocean, to be buffeted and sculpted by the waves, its superb scenery the result of its geology and position.

The granitic rocks were formed by the melting, and reconstitution of the upper layers of the earth's crust. They are hard, crystalline and highly resistant to erosion. However, even the most massive granites are criss-crossed by joints; in places the rocks have been altered by enormous heat and pressure, until they have become folded and layered into thin bands of varying mineral composition and hardness; and during later periods of intense volcanic activity, rocks in some areas have been intruded by igneous dykes, which may be softer than the surrounding rock. Weaker areas have been

SHAPING THE CAPES: Rocks and landforms of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge.

etched by the waves, resulting in the detailed shape and indentation of the shoreline.



Rimstone pools at seepages near Quarry Bay.

The overlying limestone is derived from fragments of coral reef, shells and skeletons of sea-creatures which lived in warm, shallow seas several million years ago. During the last (Pleistocene) series of ice-ages, when sea-level was lower than at present, this material, together with granite sand, was blown inland to form massive dune systems along the western side of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge. Calcium carbonate from these fragments has been dissolved by ground-water and then redeposited around the sand grains cementing them together to form rock. In places, probably where a thin film of water has trickled over a long period, a hard thin layer of almost pure calcium carbonate has formed. This is sometimes known as cap-rock and can often be seen exposed at or near the

top of sea-cliffs. Below this the limestone may be much more fragile, consisting mainly of sand grains, tenuously held together by a limey cement, and easily eroded by the sea.

Hollow solution pipes are numerous, often formed in association with tree-roots which later rot away. They are generally lined with a hard layer of limestone formed as water has trickled down the sides. Concentric layers may build up, blocking the pipes, and these structures may later be left standing as pinnacles after the surrounding, softer rock has been worn away. Similarly, hard limestone surrounding plant roots is also left, producing magnificent sculptures.

The ridge contains hundreds of caves, and much of its drainage is underground. Only the larger streams such as the Margaret River and Willyabrup and Boodjidup Brooks have maintained their surface flow and cut deep valleys through to the sea. In today's climate these streams only flow in winter, with sand-bars forming across their mouths in summer. Springs and seepages occur all along the coast at the point of contact between limestone and underlying, impervious granite. **Beware! Do not rely on drinking water from these, as most dry up over summer.** Only large springs such as Conto's and Bob's Hollow, flow all year.

For ease of reading, the track is described from North to South, but may be enjoyed equally walking the opposite way.

For map and track notes, see overleaf

OVERVIEW: SECTION 5

Long stretches of sandy beach, rocky scrambles and picturesque bush-track, characterise this remote and scenic section of the Cape to Cape Walktrack. The middle section, between Cosy Corner and Skippy Rock, is particularly wild and magnificent, and probably the most challenging section of the walk overall. Vehicle access along this 20 km stretch of coastline is limited to a few steep 4WD fishing tracks.

Hamelin Bay.

Named after Capt. J.F.E. Hamelin, commander of the French Corvette "Naturaliste", Hamelin Bay was a thriving port and community during the timber era of the 1890's. The jetty was built in 1882 and extended in 1898. The dangers of its position, exposed to the N.W. winds, are evident from the 11 wrecks which lie around its shores. Three barques, "Nor'wester", Lovespring" and "Katinka" were wrecked in a single night with the loss of 5 lives during a particularly violent storm on July 22nd, 1900.

Today Hamelin Bay is a popular swimming and fishing beach with a camping ground where the timber yards stood. Watch for sting rays which often swim close to shore underneath the remains of the jetty.

The track leaves from the boat ramp crosses the bare headland then follows the beach for 1 km. Just before the first rocky outcrop, look for the markers and steps heading off the beach. A track leads through peppermint woodland inland for 1/2 km, before turning south to climb up to the lighthouse where there are superb views back to Hamelin Island.

Foul Bay Lighthouse.

The original lighthouse was built on Hamelin Island in 1937 where it was powered by acetylene hauled across in cylinders via an aerial cableway. The remains of the brick structure and gantry can still be seen, but in 1967 the light was moved to this much higher position, 80 metres above sea-level. The lighthouse itself is 3.9 metres high and is fully operational.

Cosy Corner.

This pretty spot, with its white sandy beach, red granite headlands and offshore islands of limestone is fascinating place. A sanctuary for thousands of sea-birds, the islands are remnants from a period when sea-level was much lower and the dunal limestone extended far out into the bay. The low limestone platform, over which the track passes, is full of shell fragments and granite pebbles. It may have been deposited underwater, before formation of the dunes and is pitted with numerous circular solution tubes, known as the "blowholes". Many of these connect with the sea and make strange sounds as the swell washes back and forth. Large slabs have broken and tip towards the sea as wave action gradually undercuts their base. Near Cape Hamelin, there is a clear junction between limestone and granite. Look at the contact area where an old boulder beach has been cemented in by the more recently deposited limestone.

The track picks a route around the weather-worn rocks of Cape Hamelin to Deepdene Beach. 1 km along the beach, just before Turner Brook, a large blow-out gives access to a 4 WD track. 1/2 km along is a sheltered campsite, shaded by peppermint trees. N.B. Water from Turner Brook should be boiled or treated before use. May be dry in summer. Please do not enter private property which commences several hundred metres up the Turner Brook Track.

After crossing Turner Brook, there follows a long beach section of soft sand which can be heavy going especially in a strong wind. After approximately 3 km the beach gives way to a narrow rocky shelf of limestone 2-3 m above the sea. (NB. Take care along this section for another 3 km). After rounding a low granite headland, a short stretch of beach soon ends and the track leads up over vegetated dunes and above steep cliffs, to intersect a 4WD track. Take a short diversion right here, to enjoy the superb views at the cliff edge looking south.

The track follows the 4WD track steeply uphill for 1/2 km, then branches right along an old fire-break. Apart from a few steep ups and downs this follows the contours for approximately 4 km at roughly 80-100 m above sea-level. Another spectacular viewpoint offers an opportunity for a rest, before dropping down through thick peppermint scrub to the Skippy Rock Road.

A shady path continues down onto flat granite rocks and around to Quarry Bay. Numerous seepages from beneath the limestone have built up tiers of beautiful rimstone, or "gour" pools which spill out onto the granite. Late winter and spring is a good time to explore here, when there is plenty of running water!

SHORT WALK SUGGESTIONS

Waterwheel to Skippy Rock - 3km.

Short but varied, taking in beach, rocks and bush. Easy grades.

Hamelin Bay to Cosy Corner - 6 1/2 km.

Excellent half-day walk with magnificent views. Some easy scrambling and short steep sections. Organise a car to meet you, or return along the beach (NB. Circuit of 13 km.)

FULL DAY WALK SUGGESTION

Cosy Corner to Skippy Rock - 20 km.

A challenging hike for experienced walkers. The terrain is magnificent but rugged, involves long stretches of soft sand and scrambles along narrow rock platforms. Vehicle pick-up essential.

Quarry Bay.

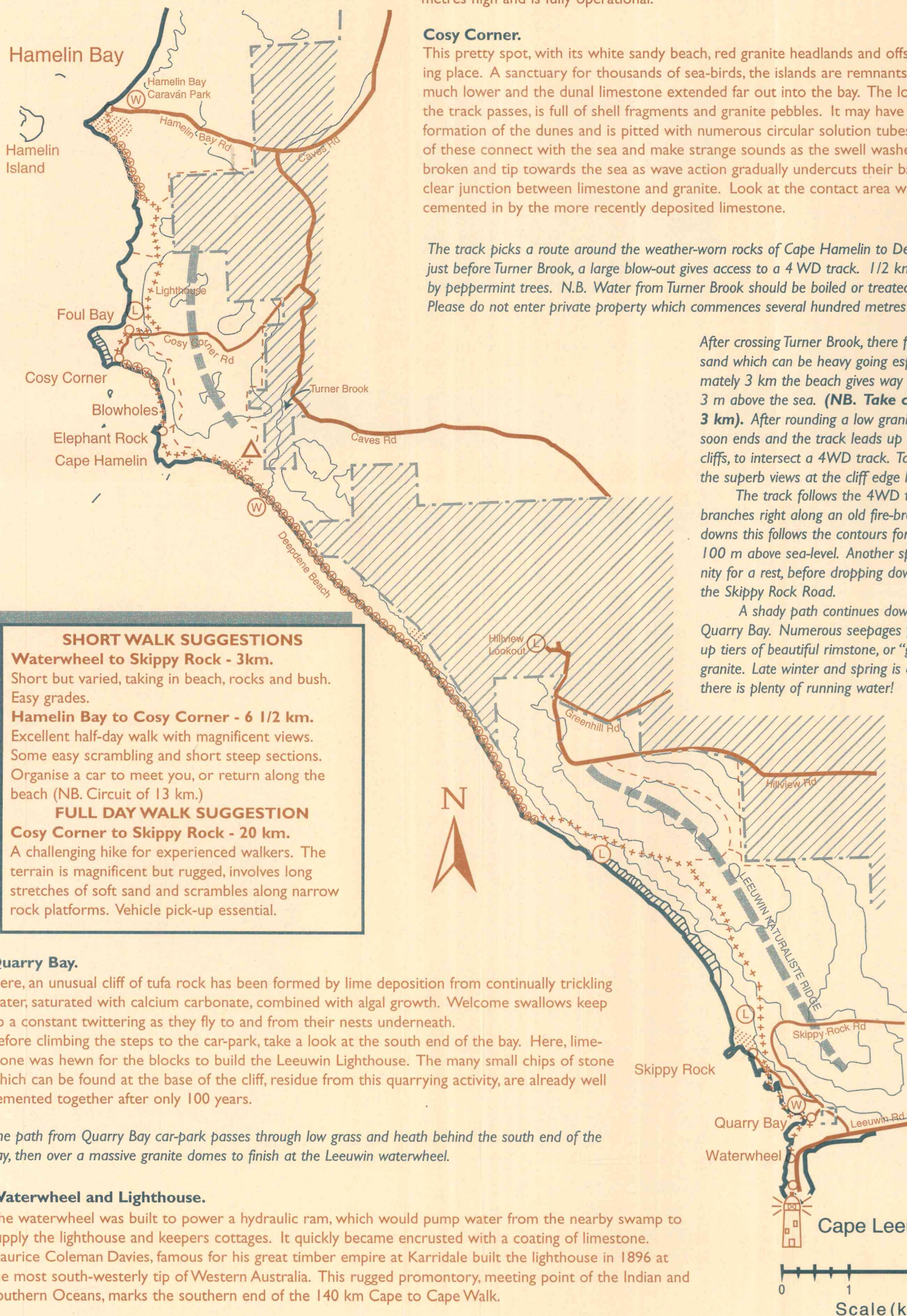
Here, an unusual cliff of tufa rock has been formed by lime deposition from continually trickling water, saturated with calcium carbonate, combined with algal growth. Welcome swallows keep up a constant twittering as they fly to and from their nests underneath.

Before climbing the steps to the car-park, take a look at the south end of the bay. Here, limestone was hewn for the blocks to build the Leeuwin Lighthouse. The many small chips of stone which can be found at the base of the cliff, residue from this quarrying activity, are already well cemented together after only 100 years.

The path from Quarry Bay car-park passes through low grass and heath behind the south end of the bay, then over a massive granite domes to finish at the Leeuwin waterwheel.

Waterwheel and Lighthouse.

The waterwheel was built to power a hydraulic ram, which would pump water from the nearby swamp to supply the lighthouse and keepers cottages. It quickly became encrusted with a coating of limestone. Maurice Coleman Davies, famous for his great timber empire at Karridale built the lighthouse in 1896 at the most south-westerly tip of Western Australia. This rugged promontory, meeting point of the Indian and Southern Oceans, marks the southern end of the 140 km Cape to Cape Walk.



LEGEND

- Private Property
- Cape to Cape Walktrack
- Beach sections
- Contours (50m interval)
- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road
- 4WD Road
- Camp Site
- Car Park
- Blowout Area
- Cliffs
- Viewpoint
- Water

Services: Hamelin Bay

Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse

Scale (km)