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Exploring the parks of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge



WA'S CAPE CRUSADERS

Archaeologists believe the south-west of Western Australia has been occupied by Nyoongar people for about 50,000 years.

The earliest European account of the area now known as Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park was made in 1622 when 'Leeuwin land' was first sighted from the ship *Leeuwin*, of the United East India Company.

Later explorers included Matthew Flinders, who named Cape Leeuwin in 1801, and Nicholas Baudin, who gave us the names Hamelin Bay, Cape Naturaliste and Geographe Bay. Baudin also named Vasse, in the Busselton region, after a crew member who drowned in the area.

The area has been known at different times for its pastoral and grazing leases, whaling, timber industry and vineyards.

Today the area is also known for its world-class national parks. The Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, stretching 120 km along the coast from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin, is famed for its beautiful beaches, rocky headlands, stunning caves and towering karri forest. Marvel at the scenery by walking on the Cape to Cape Track or descend below the water and discover colourful marine life. At Bramley National Park in the heart of Margaret River you can walk or cycle along the tree-lined river or enjoy a picnic in the forest. Further south at Warner Glen in Blackwood River National Park you can enjoy the quiet of the forest and the majesty of the Blackwood River.

For more information contact:

Department of Environment
and Conservation
Blackwood District Office
14 Queen St, Busselton WA 6280
Ph: (08) 9752 5555

Department of Environment
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South West Regional Office
Corner Dodson Rd and
South West Hwy, Bunbury WA 6230
Ph: (08) 9725 4300

Department of Environment
and Conservation
State Operational Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Ave, Kensington WA 6151
Ph: (08) 9334 0333

Visit DEC's NatureBase website at
www.naturebase.net

Above Cliffs and coastal vegetation at Shelly Cove,
Bunker Bay (photo - Chris Garnett/DEC).
Right Walkers on the heritage trail Margaret River
National Park (photo - Jeff Henderson).



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



THINGS TO DO



Clockwise from bottom left: Whale lookout (photo – Peter Henderson/DEC). Ellensbrook (photo – Gordon Roberts/DEC). New Zealand fur seals (photo – Eva Boogard). Limestone cliffs at Contos Beach (photo – Rob Oliver). Red-tailed tropic bird (photo Babs and Bert Wells/DEC). Sponges on limestone wall at Hamelin Bay (photo – Eva Boogard/Lochman Transparencies).

Redgate Beach

Location: 13 km from Margaret River, 286 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Discover how an iron steamer, the *Georgette*, was shipwrecked in 1876. Learn about the dramatic rescue by Aboriginal stockman Sam Isaacs and 16-year-old Grace Bussell.

Conto Campground

Location: 18 km from Margaret River, 291 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- This campground caters for small to large groups. It has toilets, gas and wood barbecues, tables and park information.
- Take a short stroll to Lake Cave (1 km), Conto Spring or take a longer walk along the Cape to Cape Track.
- Join in with the seasonal interpretive activities.

Point Road Campground

Location: 21 km from Margaret River, 294 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Camping facilities include toilets, tables and wood barbecues. 4WD and walking access only.
- Access the Cape to Cape Track from the campground.

Calgardup Cave and Information Centre

Location: 15 km from Margaret River, 293 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Discover the beauty of caves by doing a self-guided tour. Lights

and helmets are supplied. Suited to all ages. Entry from 9am to 4.15pm every day except Christmas and Boxing Day. Entry fee applies. Toilets available.

- Enjoy a short walk (800 m) through heath, woodland and karri forest.

Giants Cave

Location: 20 km from Margaret River, 288 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Explore the cave on a self-guided tour. Lights and helmets are supplied. This is suited to people with reasonable fitness and for children older than six. Sturdy, enclosed footwear is required. Entry from 9.30am to 3.30pm during school holidays and by arrangement. Entry fee applies.

For more information on the caves contact Calgardup Cave Information Centre on (08) 9757 7422.

Boranup Forest

Location: 25 km from Margaret River, 298 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Drive through the karri forest along Boranup Drive (14 km). Visit the information shelter at the northern end and discover how this forest helped build the timber empire of MC Davies.
- Camp at Boranup Forest. Facilities include toilets, wood barbecues, tables and park information.
- Visit the Boranup lookout and enjoy sweeping views out to Hamelin Bay and inland over farmland and forest. Picnic tables and toilets provided.



Cape Naturaliste

Location: 36 km from Busselton, 261 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Take a short walk and enjoy stunning coastal scenery. Choose from the Cape Naturaliste loop (3.8 km), whale lookout walk (2.4 km return), Bunker Bay loop (3.6 km) or the Cape Naturaliste to Sugarloaf walk (3.5 km). Part of the Sugarloaf walk is suitable for people with limited mobility, including those in wheelchairs with assistance. See trail information on site.

- Visit the historic lighthouse. Take a guided tour. Entry fees apply.

For details phone (08) 9755 3955.

Meelup Regional Park

Location: 36 km from Busselton, 261 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Enjoy a swim or snorkel and discover the colourful marine life.
- Picnic by the water or enjoy one of the many bushwalks in the area. Pick up a walk trail brochure at the Dunsborough Visitor Centre.

Sugarloaf Rock

Location: 36 km from Busselton, 261 km from Perth.

Things to do:

See the unusual sea-sculptured granite of Sugarloaf Rock. From September to February you might be lucky enough to see graceful red-tailed tropic birds circling the rock. This is the southernmost breeding site for these tropical birds.

Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park and surrounds

Marvel at stunning coastal scenery, beautiful beaches and colourful marine life. Admire ghostly karri trees at Boranup Forest or explore the caves with their intricate decorations.

Canal Rocks

Location: 37 km from Busselton, 262 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Marvel at the ocean crashing through these natural canals and discover how they were formed.
- Find out more about the marine environment.

Injidup

Location: 42 km from Busselton, 267 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Enjoy a surf or swim.
- Watch the shifting sands at Cape Clairault.
- Visit the Warden Aboriginal Centre.

Ellensbrook

Location: 65 km from Busselton, 290 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Visit the first European homestead in the Margaret River area at Ellensbrook, established by Alfred and Ellen Bussell in 1857. Contact the National Trust for opening times on (08) 9321 6088. Entry fee applies.
- Walk to Meekadarabee Falls ('the moon's bathing place') and discover how this area got its name (1.6 km return).





Hamelin Bay

Location: 19 km from Augusta, 309 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Camp at Hamelin Bay Caravan Park.
- Learn about life above and below the water along the Hamelin Bay headland walk (around 700 m).
- See the remains of the timber jetty once so critical to the local timber industry.
- Dive, snorkel or swim in the bay.
- Walk part of the Cape to Cape Track to Cosy Corner and enjoy excellent views. This is a 6.5-km, half-day walk if someone meets you at Cosy Corner or a 13-km, full-day walk if you return. It involves some scrambling and negotiating short steep sections.
- Other facilities include a boat ramp and public toilets.

Cosy Corner

Location: 18 km from Augusta, 312 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Swim, fish, dive and snorkel.
- Enjoy the interesting mix of granite and limestone coast.

Cape Leeuwin

Location: 8 km from Augusta, 324 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Visit the Leeuwin Lighthouse on Australia's most south-westerly point where the Indian and Southern oceans meet. This historic lighthouse was built in 1895 and operated in its original condition until 1982 when it was converted to hydraulics and electricity. Tours available. For more information phone (08) 9757 7411.
- Visit the historic waterwheel and see how water was supplied to the lighthouse builders and later, the keepers' cottages. At the shelter, discover how the Capes and Leeuwin Ridge were formed.

Bramley National Park

Explore the wonders of the forest on the doorstep of Margaret River.

Location: Either side of Margaret River, 273 km from Perth.

Things to do:

- Picnic at Rusden picnic site near the Ten Mile Brook Dam. Rusden has gas barbecues, disabled toilets and picnic facilities.
- Visit the old steam train *Kate* at Rotary Park and learn about the local timber industry history. Picnic facilities provided.
- Walk or cycle in the forest. The Ten Mile Brook walk/cycle trail starts at Rotary Park (15 km return). Three short walks starting from the Carters Road Trailhead (3.5 km from Margaret River) take you through karri and jarrah forests and past some relics of early 20th century history.



Blackwood River National Park

Explore the beautiful Blackwood River and its tributaries.

Warner Glen

Location: About 25 km from Margaret River.

Things to do:

- Camp near the river. This campground caters for small to medium groups. Facilities include toilets, tables, gas and wood barbecues.
- Enjoy a picnic beside the Blackwood River at Blackwood Views.

Above left *Boranup Drive* (photo – Nicci Tsernjavski/DEC). Above *Holly-leaved hovea* (photo – Annie Keating/DEC). Below *Surfers at Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park* (Photo – Tourism WA).

CARING FOR THE PARKS

- Camping is permitted in clearly signposted designated areas. A self-managed system of fee-paying applies at some sites, where campers calculate fees according to a displayed schedule and use a deposit box. At other sites, fees may be collected daily by the DEC Ranger or as you enter.
- Camp fees apply at all campsites. Park passes are not currently required.
- Campfires can only be lit at certain times of the year. Please refer to signs at sites or speak to a DEC Ranger. Generally, fires are not allowed during daylight hours in summer. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own gas or fuel stoves. Gas barbecues are provided at some campsites.
- Firewood is provided by DEC at car-based camp sites. Please use it sparingly. The collection of bush wood is discouraged because it can destroy the habitats of various plants and animals.
- Remove your rubbish and take it home.
- Dogs are not generally allowed in national

parks, and are discouraged in State forests because of the threat they pose to wildlife. However, if you bring your dog to a State forest, keep it on a lead at all times and apply a muzzle to prevent it taking fox baits, which will kill your pet. Guide dogs are permitted in all areas.

- Stay on the tracks.
- Prevent the spread of the **Phytophthora** pathogen, which causes dieback, by observing vehicle access restrictions and using boot-cleaning stations.
- Don't feed or disturb wildlife as this threatens their health.
- Refrain from polluting waterways with detergents or soap products.
- Leave rocks and cultural artefacts as you find them.

When in doubt about park regulations contact or visit the nearest DEC office (see contacts on the front page).

CARING FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- Sightseeing and rock fishing along this coastline can be dangerous. Lives have been lost. Be aware of sudden wave swells and slippery rocks. Never climb down to the water's edge for any reason. For your safety:
 - use appropriate footwear
 - rock fishers should tie themselves to a bolt or natural anchor
 - don't fish if it is too rough. Know the tides before fishing and always fish in pairs
 - contact local tackle shops for more advice on rock fishing safety.
- Keep clear of cliffs and do not camp or light fires under these formations.
- Swimming can be dangerous. Be aware of variable water depths, submerged obstacles and wet, slippery surfaces. For your safety, do not dive or jump into water or use rope swings. Be aware of strong rips and currents. Water depths and temperatures may vary.
- Supervise children at all times.



Emergency contacts: Police, Ambulance and Fire – 000

