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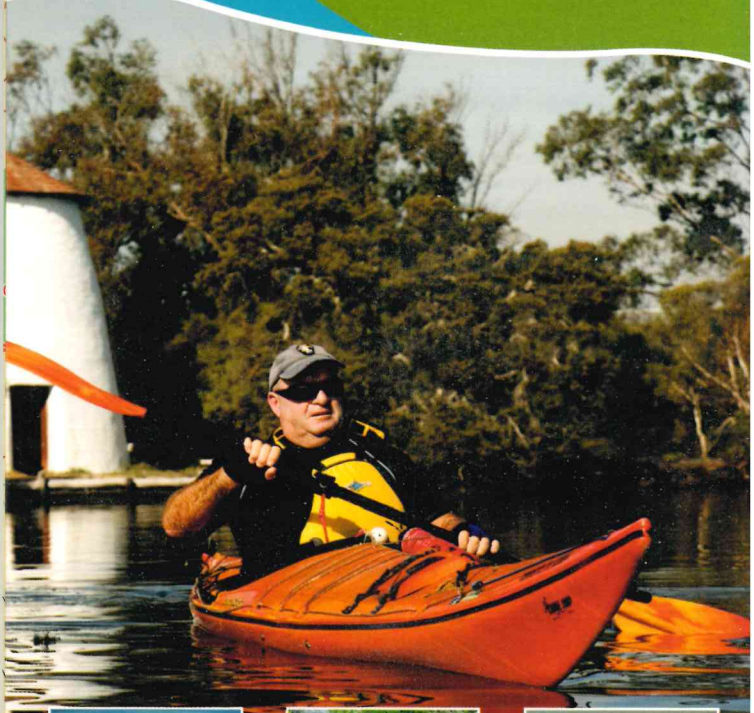
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Canoeing Western Australia Inc

Paddle the Murray River

Pinjarra to Peel Inlet



Department of Environment and Conservation



Flat Water Grading

Flat water includes inland waters, such as small open lakes and rivers no wider than 200metres, with waves less than 0.3metres.

Flat Water Grades largely depend on the water flow at the time of paddling, which has seasonal and rainfall variations. Check water levels and flow.

Grade 1: Easy

Flat, sheltered undemanding water with no flow. Occasional power boats.

Suitable for novices.

Grade 2: Medium

Water with minimal flow that has below surface obstacles, and low above surface clearances. Easy path to find and follow. Regular power boat traffic.

Suitable for beginners with manoeuvring and balancing skills.

Grade 3: Difficult

Moderate flow with submerged, or above surface obstacles requiring tight manoeuvring to avoid damage to person and equipment. Busy power boat traffic without speed limitations or clear pathways.

Suitable for intermediate paddlers with good manoeuvring, some bracing and combination stroke skills.

Open Water Grading

Open water includes lakes, rivers and inlets, but not ocean.

Open water difficulties increase with a combination of water body size and waves, together with wind and tidal streams. Wind and waves often pick up quickly posing a hazard for capsizing and make crafts hard to control. Always check the weather forecast before heading out onto open or exposed water. Check tide tables and local knowledge to assess impacts from tidal streams. Consider combined effect of tidal stream and wind.

Open Water Grades depend on wind, waves, currents and the distance from the shore at the time of paddling, not the local features of the water body.

Grade 1: Easy

Wind conditions below eight knots and not further than 400 metres away from the shore.

Suitable for beginners with the ability to assess safe wind and weather conditions.

Grade 2: Medium

Wind conditions nine to 15 knots and white caps on waves. More than 400 metres away from the shore.

Sea paddling safety equipment and skills required, including deep water rescue.

Grade 3: Difficult

Wind conditions 16-22 knots and braking waves. Currents greater than two knots.

Sea paddling safety equipment and advanced sea paddling skills required.

Leave No Trace for Paddlers

Plan ahead and prepare

- Leave a float/trip plan with a responsible person or authority.
- Pack at least three litres of water per person per day.
- Protect yourself from hypothermia and heat exhaustion.
- Check weather forecast, flood levels and fire risk and plan accordingly.
- Paddle with a partner and stay within sight of each other.
- Schedule the trip to suit the group level of fitness and skills.
- Be aware the bigger the group the slower your progress.
- Carry and know how to use a map and compass. Have appropriate emergency equipment.
- Waterproof your belongings and secure them to your craft.
- Check access road conditions and their status as open.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces

- Camp above the high tide and avoid the soft and easily damaged water's edge. Consider possible storms, floods and tides.
- Use existing campsite where possible. If no site is available camp on bare ground, rock, weeds or grasses and avoid creating new tracks.

Dispose of waste properly

- "Pack it in, pack it out." Take all waste with you in a water proof bag.
- Use existing toilet facilities where available.
- Where toilet facilities are not available, carry a trowel and bury human waste at least 15 centimetres under the ground 100 metres from any watercourses and campsites. Burning toilet paper is a fire hazard.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 100 metres from water bodies and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Strain dishwater, carry out or dig in solid waste and then scatter grey water.

Leave what you find

- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Take care of the river bank when launching your craft.
- Observe but do not touch cultural or historical structures, artifacts and other sites of significance.

Minimise fire risk and impacts

- Check campfire regulations for where and when you are traveling.
- Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a lantern for light.

Where campfires are permitted:

- Only use established fire rings, a fire pan, or mound fire, supervise it at all times, and ensure it is fully extinguished.
- Keep fires small. Wood is a habitat for fauna and birds.

Respect wildlife

- Avoid areas used by wildlife, especially where they access water.
- Observe wildlife from the distance and don't feed them.
- Store all food and scraps securely from wild animals foraging.
- Leave all pets at home.

Be considerate of your hosts and others

- Let nature's sounds prevail, avoid loud voices and noises.
- Respect other paddlers and visitors and assist if required.

Map B-Mandurah Estuary & Serpentine River



| Recommended Launch Sites Serpentine River | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------|
| Distance (km) | Launch | Riverside downstream | Vehicle Access |
| 8.4 | Wanda Road/ Riverside Gardens Reserve | right | |
| 3.7 | Norton Avenue corner Birchley Road | right | |
| 1.9 | Furnissdale Road corner Riverside Drive | left | |
| 1.5 | Nairn Street corner Bertram Street | right | |

Peel Region and its waterways

Western Australia's Peel region is located about 75 kilometres south of Perth and is named after Thomas Peel, who arrived in Western Australia in 1829. The diverse and abundant vegetation provides a great habitat for native fauna, including more than 160 species of birds.

The Murray River stems from major tributaries, the Hotham River and the Williams River. It winds through the range of hills known as the Darling Scarp, passing through Lane-Poole Reserve and the town of Pinjarra before flowing into the Peel Inlet. In terms of average annual discharge, the Murray River ranks with the Swan-Avon system.

The Serpentine River rises in the Darling Scarp below Bowerling Hill and continues to the Serpentine National Park. It flows through Serpentine Dam and over Serpentine Falls and down into the Swan Coastal Plain.

Riverside Gardens Reserve to River Mouth at Peel Inlet

Paddling Type - Flat Water

Overall Grade - Grade 2 (regular power boat use)

Distance Table

| Distance | Feature |
|----------|--|
| 8.4km | Dedicated canoe sand launch site 100 metres downstream from boat ramp, Riverside Gardens Reserve, Wanda Road. |
| 7.8km | Jetty & picnic table right. |
| 5.8km | Pinjarra Road bridge. ➔ Stay right to avoid oncoming boats. |
| 5.8km | Creek entering immediately after bridge right. Landing & car park left, Pinjarra Road. ➔ Stay right but follow main river left. |
| 4.8km | Creek entering right. ➔ Follow left bank. |
| 4.3km | Sandy shore left. |
| 3.7km | Parkland right with boat ramp and jetties, Norton Avenue corner Birchley Road. |
| 2.8km | Speed sign right. Small beach launch site left 60 metres downstream from carpark, Riverside Drive. |
| 1.9km | Boat ramp & jetty left with beach canoe launch site 30 metres further downstream, corner Riverside Drive and Furnissdale Road. |
| 1.5km | Boat ramp & jetty right, corner Nairn and Bertram Street. |
| 1.4km | Mid river channel markers. ➔ Follow further markers right to estuary. |
| 0.0km | Estuary channel marker (Serpentine River & Mandurah) |

The Peel Inlet-Harvey Estuary system is a large and shallow estuarine waterway, at 133 square kilometres and less than 2m deep. It is connected to the Indian Ocean by the Mandurah Estuary and the man-made Dawesville Channel. The Murray River, the Serpentine River and the Harvey River flow into the inlet and provide it with fresh water throughout the winter months.

General information and warnings

Distances given are from the river or estuary mouth and directly relate to the map adjacent. The directions of left and right refer to downstream view.

Sections of the Peel Inlet are generally shallow. Strong wind can create waves on the inlet and estuary. There is regular power boat traffic on the inlet, estuary and sections of the rivers. Algal bloom may occur during summer months. Check with the Shire of Murray or the City of Mandurah for details.

Peel Inlet To Mandurah Estuary Mouth

Paddling Type - Open Water

Overall Grade - Dependent on wind and wave conditions and distances to shore. Conditions to be assessed on the day. Regular power boat traffic

Distance Table

| Distance | Feature |
|----------|--|
| 0.0km | Mandurah Estuary Mouth |
| 1.7km | Hall Park, swimming enclosure, beach and vehicle access west, Mary Street |
| 1.8km | Old Mandurah Bridge ➔ Watch fast tidal movements and waves from passing power boats under the bridge |
| 3.4km | Mandurah Estuary Bridge. Just north of the bridge are two vehicle access points on either side of the estuary. Foreshore reserve east, Waterside Drive, and foreshore reserve west, Leisure Way. |
| 4.4km | Channel marker 499. |
| 5.1km | Channel Marker 500. |
| 5.6km | Channel Markers 501. Mandurah Quays on western side. |
| 6.0km | Channel markers 502. |
| 6.7km | Southern side Boundary Island. ➔ Watch shallow waters. |

Recommended Launch Sites Mandurah Estuary

| Distance (km) | Launch | Riverside downstream | Vehicle Access |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1.7 | Hall Park, Mary Street | west |  |
| 3.4 | Dudley Park, Waterside Drive | east |  |
| 3.4 | Foreshore Reserve, Leisure Way | west |  |

Paddling guides

The information provided in this guide provides the minimum requirements for the safe conduct of recreational canoeing and kayaking activities on protected waters, including rivers and inlets. Different requirements apply for paddling on the ocean.

In the south-west of Western Australia river water levels vary between seasons. Water levels are generally higher in wetter winter months which usually makes the river more challenging. In summer the water levels can drop substantially and may require paddlers to carry their craft in some areas. Check for up to date river level information at www.water.wa.gov.au and locally prior to the paddle. Location of logs and other obstacles may have changed since the initial assessment at time of print.

The streams and rivers of the south-west are vital to the world class conservation values of this region. Their water and shore lines support a diverse range of flora and fauna. Please be considerate of these values when paddling the south-west rivers.

Rivers and streams are also of significance to the Aboriginal people of the south-west and paddlers are asked to respect their cultural and heritage values. Beel-ya (rivers) are life blood for the Noongar people who traditionally used them as routes through their country. They provided food such as turtle, bream and marron. Hunting was easier while woylies, tamar, quokkas, coomal (possum) and yonga (kangaroo) came to drink from the river. The local Noongar clan groups Minang and Pibelman are some of the traditional carers for the rivers of the South-West.

Visitors can minimise their impact on the environment by applying the 'Leave No Trace' principles. Leave No Trace is an international initiative, which aims to build awareness, appreciation and respect for our natural and cultural heritage, including limiting damage to vegetation, preventing the risk of wildfires and avoiding water pollution from unsafe toilet practice.

Camping is permitted at marked DEC, Shire or private campgrounds. Please contact the local DEC district office to camp outside these areas. Large groups or organised events accessing or camping on DEC-managed lands and waters are required to contact the local DEC district office in the area they intend to visit at least two months before their planned trip to obtain local regulations, up-to-date prescribed burning advice, information about other large groups in the area and to assist DEC manage wildfire events.

Equipment

Canoe, kayak and ski

Choose canoes, kayaks and skis suitable for the nature and duration of the activity; the conditions expected during the activity; and the paddler's size and skill level. All craft should:

- not sink, but remain horizontal when swamped and remain suitable as buoyancy for its crew. Insert additional positive buoyancy where not provided with the craft
- be capable of being towed by rope and grasped by hand using end loops or toggles. Skis may not have end attachment points and are therefore difficult to grab or tow
- allow for easy exit in the event of capsize and not have any sharp points or edges
- have footrests that do not allow feet to become entrapped
- preferably be of a colour that is clearly visible to other water users or rescue authorities.

Personal flotation devices

Wearing an appropriate personal flotation device (PFD) is highly recommended at all times while on any water and is legally required for people on any craft on the ocean (PFD Australian Standard Type 2 or Type 3). Ensure that it is the correct size for each wearer, is securely fitted and is preferably of bright colour. A whistle attached to the PFD enables a person to attract attention in an emergency.

Paddle

Carry at least one spare paddle (break down paddle) in case yours gets lost or broken, especially if paddling in remote location, medium or difficult water grading, in a group or on a journey. Paddle leashes are recommended for exposed Open Water conditions such as inlets.

Clothing

Appropriate clothing for your paddling activity includes:

- wetsuits, spray jackets, thermal underwear (woollen or synthetic) and rash shirts
- wetsuit booties or aquatic footwear
- hat and sunglasses (safely secured).

Cotton clothing should not be worn, as it loses its sun protection and insulation qualities when it is wet.

Spray decks

Spray decks are highly recommended for use in White Water and Open Water paddling. If you are using a spray deck, ensure you know how to exit the craft if you capsize.

Helmet

Wear a paddling helmet while surfing, paddling among rocks and when paddling in White Water Grade 2 or higher. Ensure helmet:

- is a good fit and provides protection to the forehead, temple and back of the head
- has enough positive buoyancy to float
- has a good system to absorb the shock from impacts
- is securely fixed whenever it is worn.

Navigation equipment

Carry the paddling guides and a compass at all times. Keep the guides in a water proof clear bag. GPS is optional, but no single navigation system should be relied upon. Remember to check your batteries before you go and pack spare batteries for longer trips.

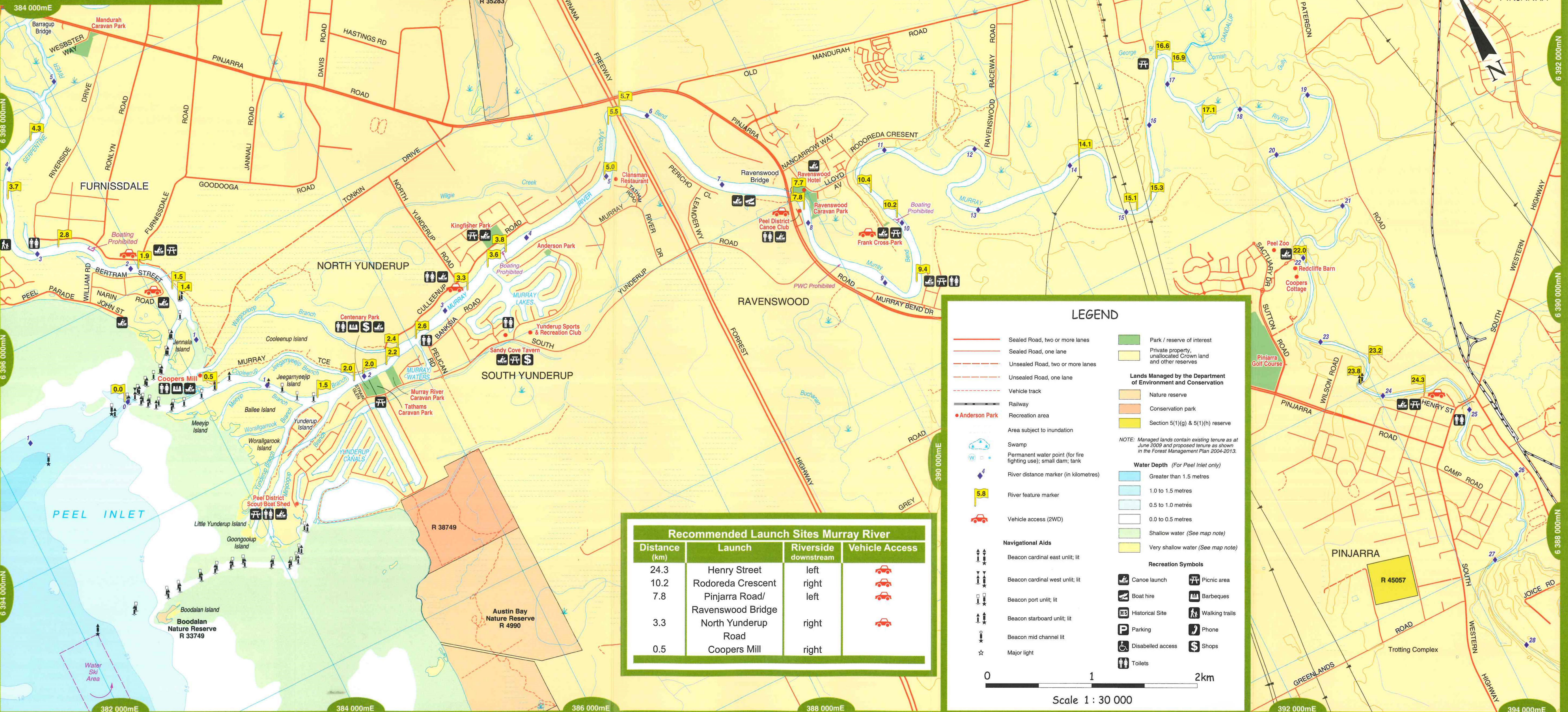
Rescue and safety equipment

It is a legal requirement to carry a bailing bucket or similar in a canoe or kayak. Skis should be self draining. It is a legal requirement that a torch be carried for night time paddling to alert other craft.

Depending on the nature and duration of your paddling trip, the following basic safety and rescue equipment should also be considered:

- emergency communication (Satellite phone, EPIRB/PLB, mobile phone etc)
- an easily accessible knife
- a basic repair kit, including duct tape
- a basic first aid kit with a survival blanket
- a rescue throw bag and quick release tow line for groups
- additional rescue equipment including slings, karabiners and pulleys are highly recommended on moving and white water
- self rescue equipment like pump, paddle float and rescue stirrups to assist recovery after capsize in deep open water, especially if too far from shore access.

Map A-Murray River



| Recommended Launch Sites Murray River | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Distance (km) | Launch | Riverside downstream | Vehicle Access |
| 24.3 | Henry Street | left | |
| 10.2 | Rodoreda Crescent | right | |
| 7.8 | Pinjarra Road/Ravenswood Bridge | left | |
| 3.3 | North Yunderup Road | right | |
| 0.5 | Coopers Mill | right | |

LEGEND

- Sealed Road, two or more lanes
- Sealed Road, one lane
- Unsealed Road, two or more lanes
- Unsealed Road, one lane
- Vehicle track
- Railway
- Anderson Park
- Area subject to inundation
- Swamp
- Permanent water point (for fire fighting use); small dam, tank
- River distance marker (in kilometres)
- River feature marker
- Vehicle access (2WD)
- Navigational Aids: Beacon cardinal east unit; lit, Beacon cardinal west unit; lit, Beacon port unit; lit, Beacon starboard unit; lit, Beacon mid channel lit, Major light
- Park / reserve of interest
- Private property, unallocated Crown land and other reserves
- Lands Managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation: Nature reserve, Conservation park, Section 5(1)(g) & 5(1)(h) reserve
- Water Depth (For Peel Inlet only): Greater than 1.5 metres, 1.0 to 1.5 metres, 0.5 to 1.0 metres, 0.0 to 0.5 metres, Shallow water (See map note), Very shallow water (See map note)
- Recreation Symbols: Canoe launch, Boat hire, Historical Site, Parking, Disabled access, Toilets, Picnic area, Barbeques, Walking trails, Phone, Shops

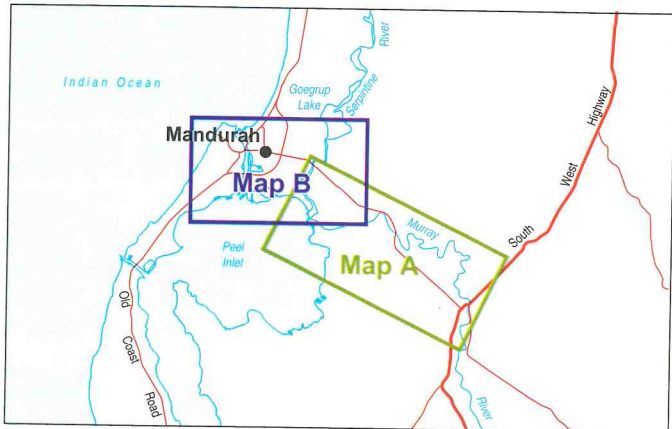
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Henry Street Boat Ramp to River Mouth at Peel Inlet

Paddling Type - Flat Water
Overall Grade - Grade 2 : Medium (obstacles, flow and power boats).
 Look out for above and below surface obstacles like fallen trees in the first section

| Distance Table | |
|----------------|---|
| Distance | Feature |
| 24.3km | Henry Street boat ramp ➔ Avoid Pinjarra/Williams Bridge 500 metres upstream as "low head dam" |
| 23.8km | Fallen trees and foliage left & right. Well sign posted. |
| 23.2km | Fallen trees and foliage left & right. Well sign posted. |
| 22.0km | Public jetty left. 600 metres to Peel Zoo. |
| 17.1km | Substantial fallen tree right. Directly behind a creek enters right |
| 16.9km | Dandalup River enters right. Track left with vehicle access |
| 16.6km | George Brook picnic reserve right. Steep bank with poor river access. |
| 15.3km | Overhead powerlines. |
| 15.1km | "Pipe" bridge with overhead powerlines either side. |
| 14.1km | Overhead powerlines. |
| 10.4km | Ravenswood riverside residential area right. |
| 10.2km | Frank Cross picnic ground. Launch site with vehicle access right, Rodoreda Crescent. |
| 9.4km | Murray Bend boat ramp & jetty left, Ravenswood Road. |
| 7.8km | Mandurah-Murray Vietnam Veteran's Canoeing Group club house. Dedicated canoe launch site left. Vehicle access south of Pinjarra Road/Ravenswood Bridge. |
| 7.7km | Ravenswood Bridge & Hotel/Caravan Park right. Seasonal canoe hire. |
| 5.7km | Freeway overpass. |
| 5.5km | Sign advising of distance to Estuary (5 kilometres) and Pinjarra (20 kilometres) left. |
| 5.0km | Resort with sandy shore left. |
| 3.8km | Yunderup. Deep water landing and picnic right. |
| 3.6km | Entry to Sandy Cove left, launch and shop. |
| 3.3km | Public boat ramp & jetty right, Yunderup North Road. |
| 2.6km | Pedestrian bridge and cafe left. Entrance to canal development left. |
| 2.4km | Wargoorloop Branch creek entrance right. |
| 2.2km | Caravan Park left. |
| 2.0km | Centenary Park hidden behind trees with small public jetty left. Small designated beach canoe launch site. |
| 2.0km | River entrance ➔ Stay right in main channel. |
| 1.5km | River divides ➔ Stay right and follow channel markers. |
| 0.5km | Coopers Mill. Barbeque and toilet. Beach launch site on south side of Cooleenup Island |
| 0.0km | Peel Inlet |

Location Map



Department of
Sport and Recreation



Canoe Trail Friends of
Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc.



For Further Information:

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Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah and Pinjarra Inc

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