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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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eight hours. Always carry drinking water with you.

approximately two days, however it can be done in about This trail is ideally a multiple day walk, taking and Hellfire Bay with excellent coastal views.

Rossiter Bay to Le Grand Beach via Lucky Bay, Thistle Cove

The Coastal Trail is a spectacular but hard walk trail from

**Coastal Track – 17km one way**

wet. The summit features great views over the park.

and includes steep sections of granite that are slippery when

A track leads from the car park, up the east slope of the peak,

**Frenchman Peak – Class 4, 3km return, 1.5 hours**

### Cape Le Grand

surrounds.

The path gives magnificent views of the inlet and

On-site plaques describe changes to the inlet environment.

**Stokes Inlet Trail – Class 2, 3.8km, 1.5 hours**

### Stokes National Park

### Bushwalking

own water.

facilities in this wild area, so be prepared and carry your

heaths and salt lake systems. There are limited visitor

Woodlands and provide sweeping views over sandplain

Peak Eleanora, are a key gateway to the Great Western

National Park. This ancient granite peak and its companion,

One hundred kilometres inland from Stokes is Peak Charles

inlet and associated lakes support a variety of wildlife.

rocky headlands backed by sand dunes and low hills. The

encompasses Stokes Inlet and features long beaches and

Stokes National Park, 80km west of Esperance,

(345m), Frenchman Peak (262m) and Mississipp Hill (180m).

form an impressive chain of peaks including Mt Le Grand

of the park, massive rock outcrops of granite and gneiss

with swamps and freshwater pools. In the south-west corner

protects an undulating heath-covered sandplain interspersed

beaches set between rocky headlands. Inland, the park

by sealed road, features attractive bays with wide sandy

Cape Le Grand National Park, 50km east of Esperance

Esperance area.

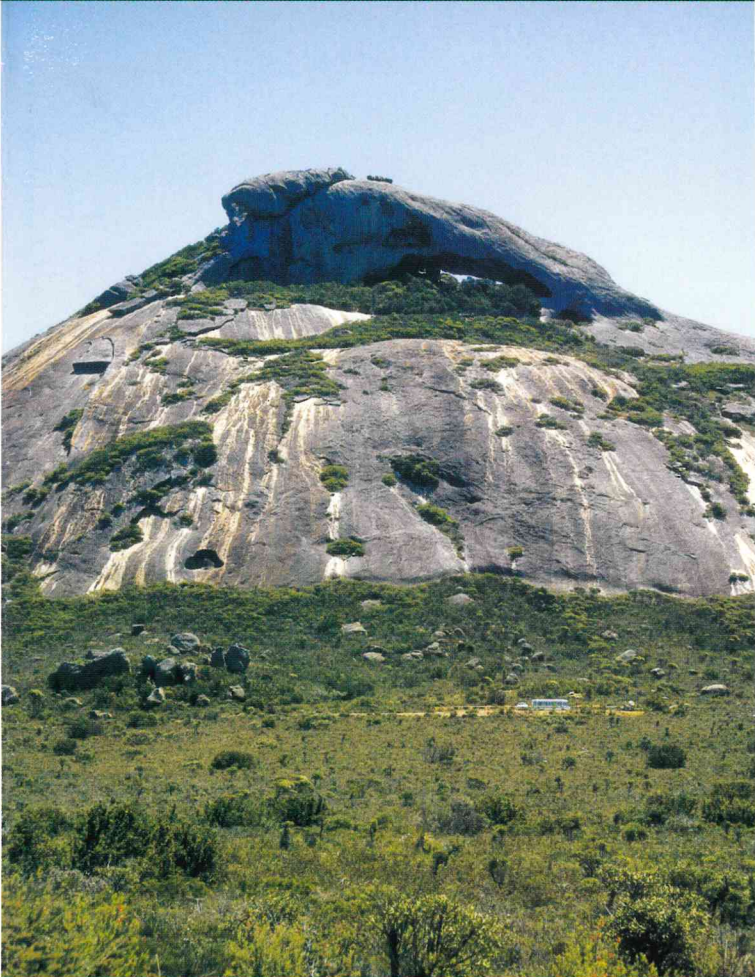
### Parks of Esperance

Wild coastal scenery, rugged granite peaks and sweeping

heathlands characterise the national parks of the

# Esperance national parks

Peak Charles, Cape Le Grand and Stokes



### Visitor guide



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife



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the trail ends at Mushroom Rock.

Some high stepping onto rocks is required. This section of

Charles. From here the trail is marked by white-tipped poles.

terrain with loose rocks, to exposed rock at the base of Peak

passing through open woodland and mildly undulating

wet. The start of the trail is well defined with no markers.

Moderate incline, rough surfaces, very slippery when

**height 295m, 45 minutes**

• **Mushroom Rock – Class 3, 600 metres return,**

and weather conditions.

Choose your section based on your fitness level, equipment

consists of three sections.

Peak Charles differs from other rock outcrops in the region

in size, height and steepness. The trail to the summit

**Peak Charles National Park**

– often at awkward angles. Another campground awaits.

The hardest part of the trail, taking walkers up and downhill

• **Hellfire Bay to Le Grand Beach – Class 4, 3 hours**

this extraordinary panorama.

Little Hellfire Bay beach, you are beckoned for a swim by

From Thistle Cove the trail is mostly granite which becomes

dangerously slippery when wet. On approach to the isolated

• **Thistle Cove to Hellfire Bay – Class 4, 2 hours**

A campground is at Lucky Bay.

The easiest part of the walk, with spectacular views in every

direction including out to sea to the Recherche Archipelago.

• **Lucky Bay to Thistle Cove – Class 3, 1 hour**

bright white sand is so fine, it squeaks when you walk.

first ridge, the vast expanses of Lucky Bay unfold below. The

Rossiter Bay, a long beach, is one end of the walk. Over the

• **Rossiter Bay to Lucky Bay – Class 3, 2–3 hours**

shorter sections:

Starting at Rossiter Beach and finishing at Le Grand Beach

car park, the trail has additional access points at Lucky Bay,

Thistle Cove and Hellfire Bay and may be broken into four

Above Lucky Bay, Cape Le Grand National Park. Photo – Tourism WA



Above Moir Homestead, Stokes National Park. Photo – Tourism WA

### More information

National park rangers are there to provide any advice to make

your visit more enjoyable and informative. Don't hesitate to

contact them if you need information or assistance.

Visitor fees apply to Cape Le Grand and Stokes national parks.

Fees are used to improve and maintain facilities.

**Cape Le Grand National Park**  
PO Box 234, Esperance WA 6450  
Ph: (08) 9075 9072  
Fax: (08) 9075 9073

**Stokes National Park**  
PO Box 234, Esperance WA 6450  
Ph/fax: (08) 9076 8541

**Peak Charles National Park**  
92 Dempster St, Esperance WA 6450  
Ph: (08) 9083 2100

**Esperance District Office**  
92 Dempster St, Esperance WA 6450  
Ph: (08) 9083 2100  
Fax: (08) 9071 3657

**South Coast Regional Office**  
120 Albany Highway, Albany WA 6330  
Ph: (08) 9842 4500  
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**State Operations Headquarters**  
17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington WA 6151  
Ph: (08) 9334 0333

[dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://dpaw.wa.gov.au)



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife



**Front cover** Frenchman Peak, Cape Le Grand National Park. Photo – Tourism WA

Information current as at June 2016.

Available in alternative formats on request.

fit and experienced bushwalkers should attempt.

and frequent unstable or slippery surfaces. Only very

as long, steep sections and climbs, water crossings,

sections. You may encounter natural hazards such

**Class 5** No directional signage and very difficult

and bushwalking experience is recommended.

unstable or slippery surfaces. A good level of fitness

such as long steep sections, water crossings, and

sections. You may encounter natural hazards

**Class 4** Limited directional signage and difficult

level of fitness is recommended.

crossings, and unstable or slippery surfaces. A good

signage. You may encounter minor natural hazards

**Class 3** Moderate trail with clear directional

for people with mobility impairments.

experience and fitness but may present difficulties

and occasional steps. It is suitable for all levels of

surface. You may encounter gentle hill sections

**Class 2** Easy, well defined trail with a firm

### Trail classifications

and sliding down short steep sections.

crawling on your hands and feet with your back to the rock

appropriate hand and foot holds. The descent requires crab

are no markers and you must be able to find and assess

and hand placement in crevices to pull yourself up. There

You must be able to lift your own weight and use foot

when wet. Winds are often strong.

exposed incline, rough surfaces, and can be very slippery

it requires frequent rock scrambling. It has a very steep,

This section exceeds the Class 5 walktrail classification as

**3 hours**

• **Peak Charles Summit – 3.4km return, height 651m,**

wet. Strong winds.

• **Central Ridge – Class 4, 2.2km return, height 460m,**

2 hours



Above Shoal Cape in Stokes National Park. Photo – Klaus Tiedemann/  
Parks and Wildlife

### The environment

The Esperance region's national parks and nature reserves

form a network of conservation areas protecting native

plant communities and landscapes.

At Cape Le Grand, the peaks of the park's south-west

corner are formed from massive outcrops of Precambrian

granite and gneiss, exposed by erosion and movements in

the Earth's crust during the past 600 million years. Caves

and tunnels found in the peaks are thought to have been

formed or enlarged by wave action and underwater currents

40 million years ago, when sea levels were 300m higher

than now.

Sandplains cover much of the park and support a variety

of plant and animal life including *Banksia speciosa* and

*pulchella*. These are a source of nectar and insects for the

tiny honey possum, while after dark the quenda forages for

grubs and worms.

Stokes National Park protects the wildlife habitats of

Stokes Inlet and surrounding heathland and lake systems.

Yate, swamp yate, and paperbark form dense low forests,

supporting a variety of waterbirds. Keep a wary eye open

for tiger snakes when walking in the wetlands. In autumn

look for the magnificent yellow flowers of the bell-fruited

mallee, *Eucalyptus preissiana*.

Peak Charles National Park protects a pristine area of dry

woodlands, sandplain heaths and salt lake vegetation, in the

middle of which rise Peak Charles (651m) and Peak Eleanora.

Below Granite landscape taken from Frenchman Peak. Photo – Klaus Tiedemann/  
Parks and Wildlife



Things to see and do

Facilities such as toilets, gas barbecues, tables and rubbish bins are provided at places shown on the maps. Information shelters on site will tell you more about these national parks.

Camping

Two campgrounds are situated in Cape Le Grand National Park; one at Lucky Bay and the other at Le Grand Beach (see map). Facilities include flushing toilets, showers and sheltered barbecue areas.

Camping fees apply to both Cape Le Grand and Stokes national parks. Wood fires are not permitted. Free gas barbecues are provided.

At Stokes National Park the main campground is located on the shores of the inlet. Please bring sufficient fresh water as there are no available water supplies in the park. Basic bush toilets are provided.

Peak Charles National Park has a small campground with nine separate sites suitable for camper trailers at the base of Peak Charles massif with a toilet and shade shelter. There is no fresh water so make sure you are totally self-sufficient.

Boating

In Cape Le Grand National Park, boats are best launched at Lucky Bay. Small boats can also be launched from Le Grand Beach. Launching at Rossiter Bay is not recommended. These beaches are notoriously treacherous for vehicles and it is easy to become bogged in the most innocent-looking wet or dry sand. Always check beach surface conditions and tides.

Stokes Inlet is also popular for boating and canoeing, and it is possible to launch small boats. However, the capacity of the inlet for sailing is limited. Although the area of water looks large, there are extensive areas of shallows and rocks.

Below Peak Charles. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Above Looking west over Lucky Bay. Photo – Klaus Tiedemann/ Parks and Wildlife

Fishing

Normal fisheries regulations apply in national parks. Fishing is popular at both Cape Le Grand and Stokes national parks. Many species can be caught, including Australian salmon, whiting and black bream.

Fish safe, be coast safe. Your safety is your responsibility.

Park passes

Visitor fees apply in Cape Le Grand and Stokes national parks. Passes can be obtained at the park or from the Parks and Wildlife District Office.

Below Path to Whistling Rock in Cape Le Grand National Park. Photo – Tourism WA



Remember

Plan ahead and prepare Your safety in natural areas is our concern, but your responsibility.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces Stay on paths and help prevent erosion. Follow signs and stay on roads marked in this brochure. Normal road rules apply.

Dispose of waste properly Put your litter in bins or, better still, take it with you.

Leave what you find such as rocks, plants and other natural objects.

Minimise campfire impacts Wood fires are not permitted, except at Peak Charles during the cooler months. Firewood is not to be sourced within the parks. Free gas barbecues are provided at Cape Le Grand and Stokes national parks.

Respect wildlife Firearms and pets are not permitted within these national parks.

Be considerate of your hosts and other visitors



Above Coastal walking trail, Cape Le Grand National Park. Photo – Tourism WA

Dieback – Help stop the rot

Phytophthora dieback is a plant disease caused by a waterborne mould. The mould is microscopic and lives in the soil. Plants die when the mould attacks their roots, because the roots rot and cannot take up water or nutrients.

Vehicles may spread this pathogen, so it is essential to keep to formed roads and follow road signs in conservation reserves. By keeping out of closed areas you will help preserve the beauty of these magnificent national parks.

Bushwalkers can help by cleaning mud and soil from their boots before entering a park or reserve.

