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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Below Mount Ragged, Cape Arid National Park. Photo – Allion Rose/Parks and Wildlife



Below left Banksia. Photo – Gordon Roberts/Parks and Wildlife
Centre Chuditch. Photo – Babs and Bert Wells/Parks and Wildlife
Right Cockles tongue. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Below Tagon Beach, Cape Arid National Park. Photo – Allion Rose/Parks and Wildlife

The climate of the south coast favours the spread of dieback, which thrives in wet soil and can easily be spread in mud or soil that adheres to vehicle tyres or bushwalkers' footwear. Because of this, it is sometimes necessary to close roads and tracks or temporarily restrict access to certain areas.

To avoid spreading dieback when driving in the park, it is essential to keep to established roads and tracks and obey all 'ROAD CLOSED' signs. Bushwalkers can help by cleaning mud and soil from their boots before entering a park or reserve. By washing the tyres and underbody of your car before and after a trip to a park or reserve, you can help preserve WA's natural areas.

Dieback – help stop the rot

Phytophthora dieback is a plant disease caused by a waterborne mould, which is lethal to hundreds of plant species. Dieback kills plants by destroying their root systems and places many of the parks' plant species at risk.

Feral animal control

One of the biggest threats to native animals is the European fox. Due to the success of Parks and Wildlife's ongoing *Western Shield* baiting program, which targets foxes and feral cats, the chuditch has been reintroduced into Cape Arid National Park.

Cape Arid National Park is an important conservation area for birds, as it protects a broad range of habitats that support more than 160 bird species. Sixteen of the 18 species of honeyeater found in southern WA are found here.

Several threatened bird species visit the park including the Australasian bittern, Carnaby's cockatoo and the Cape Barren ground parrot.

Threatened birds



Above Little Tagon Bay, Cape Arid National Park. Photo – Gordon Roberts/Parks and Wildlife

Remember

Plan ahead and prepare Caution is required in any natural environment with potentially hazardous terrain. Your safety is our concern but your responsibility.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces Follow signs and keep to roads shown on this brochure. Be aware that some tracks may be closed during wet conditions.

Dispose of waste properly Please take your litter with you.

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

Minimise campfire impacts Don't light fires. Bring your own portable gas stove.

Respect wildlife No firearms or pets are permitted in national parks or nature reserves.

Be considerate of your hosts and other visitors

Fish safely on the South Coast

Choose fishing or swimming sites with great care. The Southern Ocean is unpredictable, making fishing from rocks and swimming especially dangerous. Huge waves and swells can occur suddenly, and rocks become slippery when wet.

- Always tell someone where you are going and your expected return details.
- Never fish alone.
- Wear appropriate clothing, cleats and a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times.
- Take note of the locations of any safety equipment at the site (for example anchor points, angel rings) and know how to use them.
- Recfishwest's website has essential safety information for fishing. Visit recfishwest.org.au.



Above Thomas River and Yokinup Bay. Photo – Gordon Roberts/Parks and Wildlife

Wildlife

Life in **Cape Arid National Park** is ruled by scarce water. Granite outcrops and the occasional pool of permanent water form micro-habitats that support plants and animals not found elsewhere in the park.

On and near Mount Ragged, many species of orchid and several ferns have been identified, together with a small population of the sticky-tail flower (*Anthocercis viscosa*), which previously has only been found near the coast.

Animals found throughout south-west WA inhabit Cape Arid National Park, including the southern bush rat, western brush wallaby, quenda, several species of small marsupial predators, plus reptiles and amphibians.

Flora in **Eucla National Park** includes common South Australian species that have followed the sea cliffs into WA.

Templetonia retusa, found in limestone rich areas, typically has red flowers that are the reason for its common name of 'cockles tongue', yet it can also be found with pink or yellow flowers.

During winter and early spring, whales are regularly spotted off the coastline of both parks. Seals occasionally visit beaches in Cape Arid National Park.

Below left Banksia. Photo – Gordon Roberts/Parks and Wildlife
Centre Chuditch. Photo – Babs and Bert Wells/Parks and Wildlife
Right Cockles tongue. Photo – Parks and Wildlife

Cape Arid and Eucla national parks

Israelite Bay/Nuytsland Nature Reserve



Visitor guide

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.

Senior Ranger

Cape Arid National Park
PO Box 234, Esperance WA 6450
Tel (08) 9075 0055
Fax (08) 9075 0055

Esperance District Office

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South Coast Regional Office

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Things to do and see

Camping

- Bring a portable gas stove for cooking (no solid fuels permitted).
- There is no water provided in the parks. Always carry your own water supply.
- Generator running hours – 8am to 1pm and 5pm to 9pm.

Cape Arid National Park

Unsealed roads lead to campgrounds at Thomas River. Mount Ragged, Jorndee Creek and Thomas Fisheries are accessible by four-wheel-drive vehicle only.

Nuytsland Nature Reserve

Camping is permitted in the Shire of Esperance Israelite Bay Recreation Reserve. Access is by four-wheel-drive vehicle only.

Eucla National Park

No camping is permitted within the park. Facilities are located at Border Village and Eucla Pass.

Fishing

Coastal fishing is excellent all year round. Recreational fishing regulations apply. Ask a park ranger or call the Fisheries WA office in Esperance.

Be aware. The Southern Ocean is unpredictable. Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous.

Four-wheel driving

Please keep to designated four-wheel-drive tracks to avoid spreading plant disease and causing erosion.

Some tracks may be closed during wet conditions including Telegraph Track, Thomas Fishery Track, Balladonia Track, Pasley Track and Gora Track.

- Some beaches may be inaccessible
- Consider the conditions on the day.
- Remember that beach sand can be treacherous.
- Check tide charts when planning your trip and remember to adjust your tyre pressure.

Contact the ranger for details.

Closest fuel outlet is Condingup (55km from Thomas River campground) or Esperance (180km from Israelite Bay).

Birdwatching

All walks in the park offer good opportunities for spotting birds.

Thomas River campground's banksia woodland is home to many species of honeyeater when banksias are in flower.

Thomas River estuary is home to waterbirds and waders, including pied oystercatchers and crested terns.

Yokinup Bay is a breeding area for hooded plovers.

Poison Creek Road's roadside heath is home to Australian bustards, brown falcons, rufous fieldwrens and southern emu-wrens.

Mount Ragged and its surrounds feature mallee scrub and woodlands, home to malleefowls, mulga parrots, chestnut quail thrushes, shy heathwrens, purple-gaped honeyeaters, yellow-plumed honeyeaters and crested bellbirds.

Historical sites

Cape Arid National Park

Ruins of homesteads, buildings and dams constructed by pioneer graziers in the early 1870s are found around Thomas Fishery and Pine Hill. See gravesites of early travellers near the water hole at Pine Hill and the grave of an early settler in a deep valley near Hill Springs east of Mount Arid.

Nuytsland Nature Reserve

Ruins of the National Trust-classified Post Office and Telegraph Station (built in 1895) are located within the National Trust historical reserve at Israelite Bay.

Eucla National Park

Near the western boundary of the park, the ruins of the Eucla Telegraph Station and original Eucla township are gradually being buried by encroaching sand dunes. These ruins date from the construction of the original transcontinental telegraph line. Ask Parks and Wildlife staff for details.

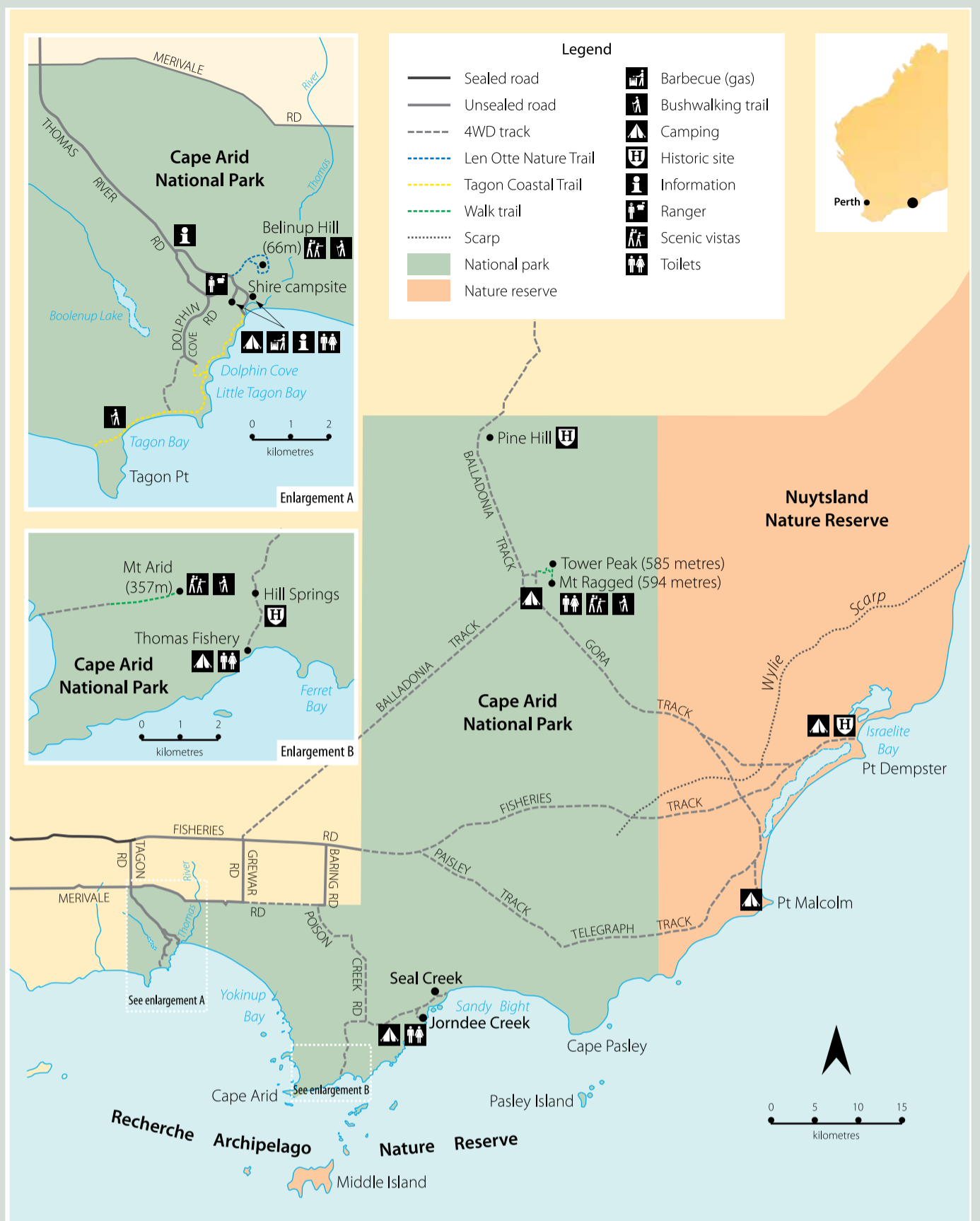
Walking

Bush and beach walks offer scenic vistas and close-up views of the natural beauty of the park. Carry ample drinking water.

Cape Arid National Park

Len Otte Nature Trail – Class 3, 2km return, 1.5 hours

This easy to moderate walk features views over the park and a close look at the varied plant and animal life of the area. Path is well defined and the walk is punctuated with some moderate rises and declines.



Tagon Coastal Trail – Class 4, 10km return, 5 hours

Features views over the wild coastline. Trail covers sections of steep granite which are slippery when wet. In winter, you may spot a southern right whale visiting the bay.

Mount Ragged Walk – Class 5, 3km return, 3 hours

Mount Ragged is a steep-sided ridge surrounded at about one-third height by a wave-cut platform. A difficult walk to the top of Tower Peak (585m). Trail is a tough, steep ascent with the track overgrown in parts. Trail direction markers are limited.

Mount Arid – Class 5, 4km return, 3 hours

A steep granite scramble with limited trail makers. A difficult climb to the summit provides magnificent views of the coastline, Recherche islands and the park's interior landscape. Access is by four-wheel drive only along the beach during suitable tide and swell conditions.

There are no formal walk trails in the western section of Nuytsland Nature Reserve or Eucla National Park.

Trail classifications

Class 3 Moderate trail with clear directional signage. You may encounter minor natural hazards such as short, steep sections, steps, shallow water crossings, and unstable or slippery surfaces. A good level of fitness is recommended.



Class 4 Limited directional signage and difficult sections. You may encounter natural hazards such as long steep sections, water crossings, and unstable or slippery surfaces. A good level of fitness and bushwalking experience is recommended.



Class 5 No directional signage and very difficult sections. You may encounter natural hazards such as long, steep sections and climbs, water crossings, and frequent unstable or slippery surfaces. Only very fit and experienced bushwalkers should attempt.

