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Exploring the Walpole Wilderness and surrounding areas



Visitor guide



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



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Walpole Wilderness

Welcome

Kaya moort, wanjoo koora koomba boorn boodja. Moorditj ba kwobidak boorn boodja yirra yaakiny. Kwop wirn boorn, noonook barang madjitil boola kaaditjin.

Hello people, welcome to old big tree country, strong and beautiful tree country standing strong. Good spirit trees, you will take many magical memories.

Established in 2004, the Walpole Wilderness is an important component of an international biodiversity hotspot, which recognises biodiversity under threat. The area protects wilderness, tingle forest, old-growth forests, wetlands, threatened ecological communities and threatened, endemic and ancient flora and fauna, allowing them to be maintained and enhanced for future generations.

This ancient landscape is recognised for its great visual and aesthetic appeal and for its rich Aboriginal heritage. The traditional way of life is dependent on a deep understanding of the land, its attributes and behaviour to acquire food, medicines and the requirements for life. Noongar people care for the land with the understanding that people are a part of the environment, and not separate from it.

In the early 1900's, Minister for Lands and Agriculture James Mitchell, visited this area with a view towards development in the south west. He visited Monastery Landing on the Frankland River and was so impressed by the beauty of the river and the surrounding forest that he made an on-the-spot decision to set aside the area for conservation. This was the beginning of the Walpole Wilderness



Coalmine Beach and Knoll Drive

Walpole-Nornalup National Park



This is an attractive recreation area that encompasses a scenic drive, lookouts over the Nornalup Inlet, picnic areas and Coalmine Beach. The fantastic scenery is perfectly described as 'where the forest meets the water.'

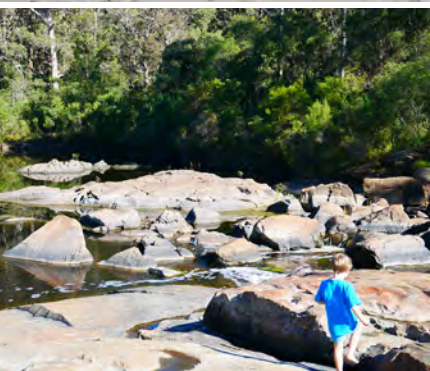
You can have a barbecue at the Coalmine Beach Picnic Area on the north shore of the beautiful Nornalup Inlet. The beach is a great place for a swim as the water is shallow and ideal for children.

The Channels Picnic Area has dazzling views of the narrow channel that links the Walpole and Nornalup inlets. Picnic shelters and gas barbecues make this a great place to spend a sunny afternoon.

There are two fishing spots on Knoll Drive where you can access the water and hopefully catch some fish!

To extend your stay in this area, accommodation is available at the Coalmine Beach Holiday Park.

Boats can be launched from the Coalmine Beach boat ramp.



Top Coalmine Beach. **Above** Circular Pool. **Above right** Giant Tingle Tree.

Hilltop Drive – Hilltop Lookout, Giant Tingle Tree and Circular Pool

Walpole-Nornalup National Park



Easily accessible from Walpole, this is a beautiful excursion through the tingle and karri forests of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. It is a wonderful place to visit all year round – shady and cool in summer and a riot of colourful wildflowers in the spring.

Take a scenic drive on a gravel road to Hilltop Lookout where you have views of Nornalup Inlet and the Southern Ocean. Continue your drive through the karri and tingle forest to the Giant Tingle Tree picnic area. You can walk to the Giant Tingle Tree itself where you will get a different perspective on the forest from inside the tree! Circular Pool is the last stop on this drive and features rushing rapids in winter and a large, tranquil pool in summer.

There are universally accessible paths here leading to viewing platforms over the Frankland River.

Hilltop Drive is not suitable for caravans.

William Bay National Park



Greens Pool is famous for its turquoise waters and pristine white sands, edged by granite boulders. The centrepiece of William Bay National Park, this area is perfect for swimming, snorkelling, relaxing or exploring the granite rocks.

The granite boulders and rocky shelves extend for 100m or more out to sea along the coast between Greens Pool and Madfish Bay. Sheltered pools, channels and granite terraces inside this reef create a fascinating landscape for exploring.

Many fish and sea creatures live in the calm waters of Greens Pool. Why not go for a snorkel and discover this fascinating seascape?





Above Paddling on the Frankland River.

Mandalay Beach

D'Entrecasteaux National Park



Mandalay Beach is located at the eastern end of D'Entrecasteaux National Park and takes its name from the Norwegian barque wrecked there in 1911. The wreck is usually buried but occasionally parts of it are visible above the shifting sands. Mandalay is popular for fishing and offers spectacular views of the Southern Ocean and Chatham Island. It is accessible by conventional vehicles along an unsealed road.

Conspicuous Cliff

Walpole-Nornalup National Park



The spectacular limestone cliffs are a photographer's delight, as is the large surf that pounds the shore at this pristine beach. Easily accessible by two-wheel drive, the walk trails and lookouts provide remarkable views and a chance to witness the antics of migrating whales in season.

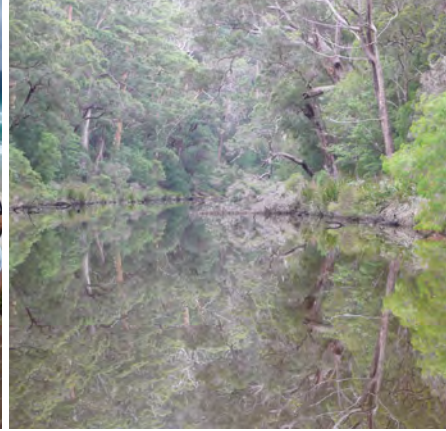
Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park



The marine park encompasses the Walpole and Nornalup inlets and the tidal parts of the Frankland, Deep and Walpole rivers and is surrounded by the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

Enjoy fishing, boating or swimming in the pristine waters. A paddle on the Kapagup Nornalup Paddle Network is one of the best ways to explore the inlets and rivers.

See the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park brochure for more information.



Above left Mandalay Beach. **Above** Monastery Landing.

Monastery Landing

Walpole-Nornalup National Park



Enjoy a picnic in serene surroundings of the historic Monastery Landing, the birthplace of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. You can access it by car in the drier months of the year and via the Frankland River all year round in a small boat or canoe launched at Nornalup.

John Rate Lookout

Walpole-Nornalup National Park



Named after the first forester in the Walpole district, this is one of the most scenic places in the area for picnics and views over the pristine Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park. In recognition of John Rate's dedication to the preservation of the forests, the Rate's tingle was named after him.

Below Conspicuous Cliff.





Camping

Banksia Camp

D'Entrecasteaux National Park



Banksia Camp offers a great place to go camping or fishing and has fantastic coastal views across to Chatham Island. There are six camp sites of which one is suitable for group camping and camper trailers. Banksia Hut is a roomy shelter that can accommodate up to 12 people comfortably. The Hut cannot be prebooked so visitors are advised to carry a tent in case it is fully occupied on arrival.

Banksia Camp is accessible by four-wheel-drive vehicle only.

Crystal Springs

D'Entrecasteaux National Park



Base yourself at this pretty campground under a grove of peppermint trees and explore the beaches of D'Entrecasteaux and Walpole-Nornalup national parks. It was once a stop on the stockmans route to the coast where they grazed their cattle.

It is accessible by two-wheel-drive vehicles and is suitable for small caravans.

Above Banksia camp. **Above right** Fernhook Falls.

Below Camping at Crystal Springs.





Fernhook Falls

Mount Frankland South National Park



Fernhook Falls is an attractive bush camping and picnic spot on the Deep River. The Deep is one of the few rivers in the South West with an almost completely forested catchment. Spectacular in winter when it flows in heavy torrents, the falls spill down over granite rocks and into Rowells pool.

The campground has tent sites, picnic tables, a shelter with free gas barbecues and toilet facilities. There are also two cosy huts that have wooden slat beds and a wood heater to make your stay more comfortable. Due to popular demand, please limit your stay to three nights in these huts.

It is accessible via an unsealed road by two-wheel-drive vehicles and is not suitable for caravans.

Shannon Campground

Shannon National Park



The Shannon was once a thriving mill town and is now the ideal base for exploring the natural riches of the Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux national parks.

There is ample room for large caravans and camper trailers and there are also some secluded sites for tents. Hot showers, interpretive signs and barbecue shelters make this a great place to stay for a few days and enjoy all the area has to offer.

Shannon Horse Camp offers yards, hitching rails and water within a large fenced area for camping with your horse.

Four-wheel driving



Appreciate the beauty of the southern coastline... isolated and unspoiled beaches, pristine white sands and the powerful Southern Ocean.

Coastal ecosystems are fragile so be considerate if you take your four-wheel drive into the park. Driving off the track destroys native vegetation and disturbs wildlife, so please drive carefully and responsibly.

Engage four-wheel-drive and reduce your tyre pressure to suit the conditions.

Long Point four-wheel-drive track

Starting at Crystal Springs, this 9km four-wheel-drive track provides access to Hush Hush, Long Point, Little Long Point and Lost Beach. This track meanders through coastal heath, which is in flower throughout spring. The beaches offer breathtaking coastal scenery ideal for photography, fishing, walking, beachcombing and sightseeing.

Peaceful Bay four-wheel-drive tracks

Starting from the settlement of Peaceful Bay, Rame Head, The Gap and Soft Beach four-wheel-drive tracks take you through coastal heath to the spectacular coastline of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

Try your luck for a fish at Groper Bay, The Gap or Salmon Camp Beach, watch for whales and seals from the lookout points or go for a walk along a deserted beach.

This stretch of coastline can be hazardous due to large unpredictable waves and swells, slippery rocks and strong currents. Fishing along this coastline can be dangerous.



Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk

Walpole-Nornalup National Park



The Valley of the Giants is home to the famous Tree Top Walk which reaches a height of 40m above the forest floor. Experience the excitement of exploring the canopy of the magnificent tingle forest. This 600m walk has a gentle gradient which is suitable for children and wheelchairs.

Enjoy the forest at ground level along the Ancient Empire walk which takes you around and through some of the giant tingle trees.

Activity programs are run during school holidays which give you a deeper insight into the forest and surrounds.

For more information, contact the Valley of the Giants on (08) 9840 8263.

Below Tree Top Walk *Photo – Nic Duncan*



Mount Frankland

Mount Frankland National Park



Enjoy the easy, universally accessible walk to the Mount Frankland Wilderness Lookout or take the more challenging hike to the summit of Mount Frankland, and you will be rewarded with views across the Walpole Wilderness. The Caldyanup Trail circumnavigates the base of Mount Frankland allowing a closer look at the intricacies of the granite environment.

Below Mount Frankland. *Photo – Wendy Eiby*



Swarbrick

Mount Frankland South National Park



The 500m loop walk at Swarbrick provides you with spaces for introspective contemplation of the wilderness. It features forest art exhibits and a mirrored 'Wilderness Wall of Perceptions' which encourages people to explore perspectives of the forest and wilderness. Swarbrick is home to a fine stand of Western Australia's famous old-growth karri forest. Keep an open mind and expect to be challenged.

Below Swarbrick. *Photo – Micheal Hemmings*





Bibbulmun Track

This world-class long-distance walk trail winds its way through the spectacular landscapes of the south-west for 1000km from Kalamunda near Perth to Albany on the south coast. It takes in the picturesque settlements and towns of Walpole, Denmark and Peaceful Bay. Camp sites are strategically placed in sensational locations between the towns providing walkers with simple timber sleeping shelters and other facilities including bush toilets, picnic tables and tent sites.

Many day walk options are available from towns along the track. For more information visit bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Munda Biddi Trail

The Munda Biddi Trail is a world-class nature-based cycling experience. Whether you camp in the shelters provided or stay in Walpole or Denmark, the Munda Biddi has something for everyone. There are sections of trail that will suit everyone's cycling ability and pace. The Munda Biddi is easily accessible by car so you can begin your journey wherever it is convenient. The trail is predominantly off main roads, so you can enjoy the scenery while you safely cycle through the forest on a dirt track.

For suggested trips depending on your experience and fitness level, see mundabiddi.org.au



Bushwalking in the Walpole Wilderness



Mount Burnett Walk Trail

(Class 3 – 1km return, 30 minutes)

Mount Frankland South National Park



A great place to stretch your legs if travelling between Walpole and Manjimup, this moderate walk trail takes you around a granite outcrop through jarrah forest to a wilderness lookout.



Mount Pingerup Walk Trail

(Class 4 – 5km return, 2 hours)

D'Entrecasteaux National Park



Steep in places, this walk takes you to the summit of Mount Pingerup where you can enjoy spectacular views of Broke Inlet, the Southern Ocean and the surrounding D'Entrecasteaux National Park. A good level of fitness is required.

Mount Clare

Walpole-Nornalup National Park



Mount Clare Summit Trail

(Class 3 – 2.4km return, 40 minutes)

A gradual uphill walk takes you through magnificent tingle and karri forest to the summit of Mount Clare. You will be rewarded with views to the coast and across the Walpole Wilderness. A good level of fitness is recommended.



Deep River Loop Walk

(Class 4 – 4.2km return, 1.5 hours)

Follow the Bibbulmun Track down a steep valley to the Deep River. Stand on the suspension bridge and take in the river's intense reflections. This trail skirts around to the east of Mount Clare along Tinglewood Drive back to the start point. This walk has limited directional signage and a good level of fitness is recommended.



Shedley Drive Loop Walk

(Class 4 – 8km return, 3 hours)

Follow the Bibbulmun Track until you reach the suspension bridge on the Deep River. Enjoy expansive views of the river as you follow Shedley Drive through the karri forest back to the carpark. This walk has limited directional signage and a good level of fitness is recommended.

Bushwalking in the Walpole Wilderness



Rest Point to Sandy Beach

(Class 4 – 1.2km one way, 1 hour)

Walpole-Nornalup National Park



This path guides you around the edge of the western Knoll and provides glimpses of the Nornalup Inlet through the undergrowth of the karri forest. This is a narrow trail with steep drops to the side and it can be slippery.



Horseyard Hill

(Class 2 – 2.5km loop, 45 minutes)

Walpole-Nornalup National Park



This delightful interpretive trail, illustrated by two local artists, takes you through karri, yellow tingle and marri forest. It has a medium gradient and is wheelchair accessible (with assistance) for the first 120m.



Mount Lindesay Summit Walk

(Class 4 – 10km return, 4 hours)

Mount Lindesay National Park



This steep walk trail takes you up the flank of Mount Lindesay through jarrah and marri forest. Once you reach the granite, the trail can be slippery. At the summit, you have 360° panoramic views of Denmark's coastline, farmland and the Walpole Wilderness. A good level of fitness is recommended.

For those not wanting a long walk, an easy, 600m return wander through the jarrah forest to the Denmark River is a great place to check out the colourful wildflowers in season.



Harewood Forest Walk Trail

(Class 3 – 2.8km return, 1 hour)

Denmark



This trail follows the Scotsdale Brook before winding up through the regenerated karri forest for views back down through the valley. Trailside panels provide a historic profile of land use in the area. This walk is suitable for most fitness levels.



Playing it safe – Caring for yourself

- Branches can fall from trees at any time. Avoid camping and picnicking under tree canopies, especially on windy days.
- Take great care on rocks and cliffs on the coast, as there is a risk of slipping and falling. Large waves can suddenly appear and wash over rocks.
- Don't fish if it is too rough; know the weather forecast and tides before fishing. Always fish with someone else.
- Keep clear of cliffs and drop-offs. Stay on paths and behind barriers and fences.
- Swimming at beaches and inland waterways can be dangerous. Be aware of strong rips, variable water depths, submerged obstacles and wet slippery surfaces. For your safety do not dive or jump into the water.
- Stay alert and supervise children at all times.

Leave No Trace

When visiting this area, please consider the following:

- Take your rubbish home with you and dispose of it appropriately.
- Leave what you find. When we leave rocks, shells, plants, feathers, fossils and other objects of interest as we find them, we pass the gift of discovery on to those who follow.
- Campfires are permitted in Parks and Wildlife Service supplied fire rings only except during the bushfire season when no fires are allowed. Please bring your own firewood as logs and branches from the surrounding national park provide habitat for native wildlife. Portable gas stoves are recommended.
- Pets are not permitted within national parks as they threaten wildlife and can disturb other visitors. Baits used to control feral animals are lethal to domestic animals.
- Stay on the paths provided to protect plants and prevent erosion.
- Respect other visitors to ensure the quality of their experience.



Fees

For current information about fees, please see the Park visitor fees brochure or visit exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au.

Camping fees apply at most designated camping areas and can be paid at the self-registration stations.

Annual Local, Holiday, Annual All Parks, and Goldstar passes are available at Parks and Wildlife offices, selected tourist outlets, visitor centres in Western Australia and online at shop.dbca.wa.gov.au. These fees assist in conservation and management of parks including the improvement of visitor facilities and services.

Contacts

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Parks and Wildlife Service Frankland District Office

South Coast Highway
WALPOLE WA 6398

Ph: (08) 9840 0400 (8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday)

Email: frankland.district@dbca.wa.gov.au

dbca.wa.gov.au

Walpole-Nornalup Visitor Centre

Ph: (08) 9840 1111

Email: info@walpole.com.au

walpole.com.au

Front cover Mount Frankland Wilderness Lookout. *Photo – Michael Hemmings*



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Check for alerts and updates directly related to parks and major trails at alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au and for all emergency information in Western Australia at emergency.wa.gov.au.

Find more park visitor information, book campsites and share your experiences at exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au.

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