

SUGGESTED DAY TRIPS FROM THE SHANNON

Tree Top Walk and Ancient Empire, at the Valley of the Giants, Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

The Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk is a series of 60-metre lightweight steel trusses, built on steel pylons, forming a semi-rigid ramp that rises slowly, while the terrain below falls away to a deep valley. At its highest point the 400-metre long bridge structure is about 40 metres above the forest floor. A fee is charged to experience the Tree Top Walk.

The redevelopment of the Valley of the Giants includes a boardwalk among a grove of veteran tingle trees known as the Ancient Empire. This area contains the giant trees for which the forest was named. Some of the trees in the Ancient Empire are five metres in diameter at the base. There is no charge to walk through the Ancient Empire.

Windy Harbour and Salmon Beach.

On the way it's worth dropping in at the Northcliffe Tourist Centre on Wheatley Coast Road. Continue to the spectacular views at Mt Chudalup and Point D'Entrecasteaux, before arriving at the coast.

There are three lookout trees open to the public. The **Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree** is in the Warren National Park, eight kilometres south of Pemberton, and the **Gloucester Tree** is three kilometres out of Pemberton. **Diamond Tree** is 10 kilometres south of Manjimup on South Western Highway.

Broke Inlet and **Mandalay Beach** for fishing and sightseeing.

Mt Frankland via Fernhook Falls. (You can also camp at Fernhook Falls.)

REMEMBER

BE CAREFUL: Your enjoyment and safety in natural environments is our concern, but your responsibility.

BE CLEAN: Put your litter in the bins or, better still take it with you. When backpacking, it is a sound idea to carry a trowel, and where toilets are not provided, use it to bury organic waste. The hole should be at least 30 centimetres deep, and at least 100 metres from water courses, picnic areas or campsites.

BE COOL: Don't light fires except in barbecues and designated fire places. Listen to fire danger forecasts on AM radio, and on days of extreme fire danger do not light any campfires. If possible, bring a portable gas stove and use it with care.

STAY ON THE ROADS: Normal road rules apply. For your own safety do not travel on logging roads. Be aware that the Great Forest Trees Drive is a two-way drive along Middleton Road and Deeside Coast Road.

FALLEN TREES: If a tree has fallen across the road, turn around and drive out slowly and carefully with your headlights on, sounding your horn on bends. Reporting road closures to local CALM offices is appreciated.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

CALM officers are always pleased to help you. Do not hesitate to contact them if you need information on camping fees, or any other assistance.

PEMBERTON DISTRICT OFFICE

Department of Conservation
and Land Management
Kennedy Street
PO Box 20
Pemberton WA 6260
Tel: (08) 9776 1207. Fax: (08) 9776 1410

WALPOLE DISTRICT OFFICE

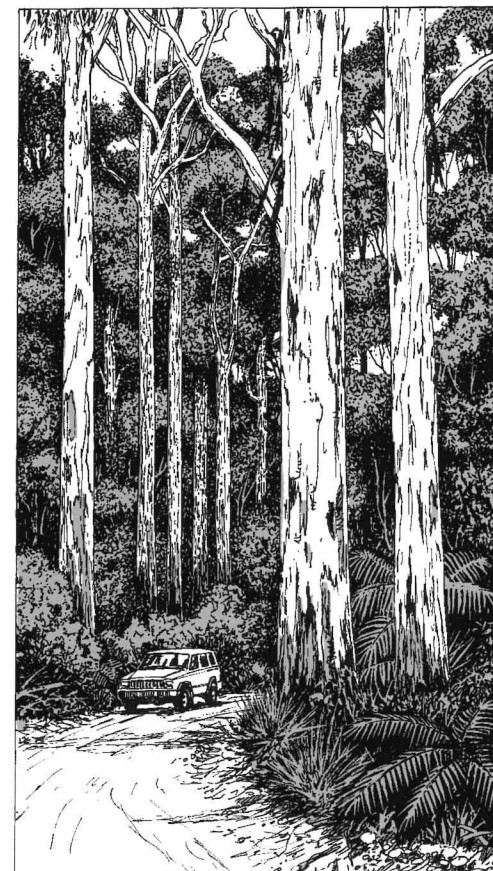
Department of Conservation
and Land Management
South Western Highway
Walpole WA 6260
Tel: (08) 9840 1207. Fax: (08) 9840 1251

STATE HEADQUARTERS

50 Hayman Road
Locked Bay 104
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
Tel: (08) 9334 0333.

SHANNON

National Parks



VISITOR GUIDE

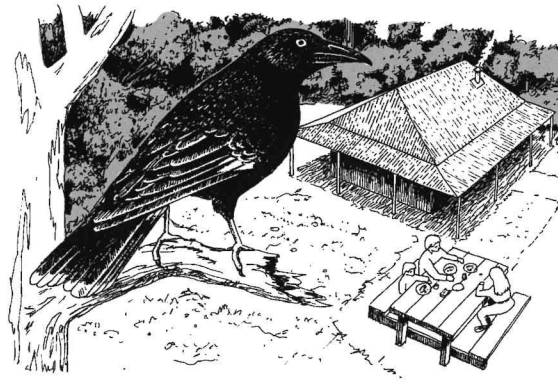


DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

THE PARK

In the heart of karri country, about 53 kilometres south of Manjimup, lies Shannon National Park - an ideal place for a day trip from nearby towns or for a camping holiday. The park includes mixed karri, jarrah and marri forests, sedges, heaths, wetlands and granite outcrops. It is a popular destination for backpackers, cyclists, caravan and tent campers, and holiday makers touring by car. The spectacular self-guided Great Forest Trees Drive and the beautiful bushwalks attract many visitors. It's also a perfect base from which to explore the D'Entrecasteaux National Park with its extraordinary coast, and to visit other local attractions.

The Shannon National Park covers 53 500 hectares. A feature of the park is that virtually all of the Shannon River catchment, which drains surface and ground water into the Shannon River, is included within the national park.



THE OLD SHANNON TOWN SITE

The Shannon was one of several areas chosen for the siting of new timber mills, built in the late 1940s to overcome the post World War II shortage of building materials. It briefly held the record as the State's biggest timber mill. It was closed in 1968, although timber harvesting continued until 1983. The Shannon became a national park in 1988.

The present camping ground was once the thriving Shannon Town, including a small Forests Department settlement. The timber mill complex was located at the present day picnic area, north of the Southwest Highway.

Exotic plant species, including fruit trees and northern hemisphere deciduous trees and some cleared areas, are the only reminders of the old town. Along the Shannon Dam walk trail, traces of the foundations of old buildings and railway lines can be seen. Former logging tramways and roads are now used for walk trails and scenic drives.

The town had 90 mill houses in one double U-shaped row surrounding a central communal area, which housed a hall, church, school, butcher, baker, general store, post office and nurse station.

THE GREAT FOREST TREES DRIVE BOOK

The best way to enjoy the drive and your stay in the National Park is to buy The Great Forest Trees Drive (\$12.95) before you arrive. It is a valuable reference book on local history and ecology. Much of the detailed information (such as the identification of tree species, understorey plants and wildflowers, and the explanation of dieback and forest fire strategies) are relevant to many other places in the southern forests.

It's available from:

CALM, Kennedy Street, Pemberton, tel: (08) 9776 1207, CALM State Headquarters in Como, tel: (08) 9334 0333,

as well as from the RAC, some tourist centres, selected outlets in the local region and Perth metropolitan area, and via the Internet on CALM's NatureBase website at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>

TAKE TIME TO EXPLORE AND RELAX!

The camping ground is a peaceful place to stay any time of the year. You can linger in the beautiful forests by day, and fall asleep to the sound of the southern boobook owl at night. In the wetter months, you might choose to stay in the huts with their cosy fires, or in your caravan. The March flies can be pretty bad towards the end of summer, and sometimes throughout autumn, so be prepared. Make sure you pack wet weather gear in winter and spring.

THE SHANNON LODGE

Adjacent to the camping area, the Shannon Lodge is available for groups, and can sleep up to six people. It has single beds, a hot water system, shower, toilet, and a slow combustion stove. You will need to book this facility by contacting CALM Pemberton on (08) 9776 1207.

THINGS TO DO

Details about the natural features and history of the park, bushwalks and the great Forest Trees Drive can be found at the shingle-roofed Visitor Information Shelter. The Great Forest Trees Drive begins at the information shelter, and the trailhead for the Shannon Dam and Mokare's Rock Walk can be found at the covered barbecue and picnic area, on the northern side of the South Western Highway.

During most of the summer, as well as many long weekends and school holidays, CALM volunteer camp-ground hosts are on site to help you.

THE GREAT FOREST TREES DRIVE

A feature of the park is the self-guided scenic drive, which follows a circuit of 48 Kilometres along gravel roads, suitable for conventional vehicles and small coaches. You will travel about 23 kilometres through the northern section of the park before crossing the highway into the lower Shannon area. Here, you will find old growth karri forest and awe-inspiring karri giants at Snake Gully Lookout and Big Tree Grove. There are boardwalks at each, to protect vegetation, while encouraging visitors to explore the area. An elevated viewing platform at Snake Gully Lookout provides visitors with spectacular views.

To turn a pleasant drive into an even more rewarding one, tune in your car radio to 100FM when you see this symbol. At each of eight radio stops along the two-hour drive, you will hear about the vegetation and animals that inhabit the area. There are also several picnic sites along the drive.



THE SHANNON DAM AND MORKARE'S ROCK WALK

There is a 3.5-kilometre return walk along the river to the Shannon dam. There is also a 5.5-kilometre circuit via the magnificent views of Morkare's Rock. The first 600 metres of the walk are sealed, and are suitable for prams and wheelchairs. The surrounding forest was cut during the logging days and has now regenerated. The route to Morkare's Rock is steep in places, but the view of leafy karri crowns across the Shannon Basin is well worth the effort. There is a boardwalk across Morkare's Rock to protect the fragile carpet of mosses, flowers and lichens growing on the rock.

THE GREAT FOREST TREES WALK

The four kilometre one way Great Forest Trees Walk leads you through the middle of the northern section of the Great Forest Trees Drive, and crosses the Shannon River. Be sure to carry drinking water and wear sturdy shoes or boots on your bushwalk.

CANOEOING AND SWIMMING

The Shannon dam, which once supplied water to the Shannon town and mill, is a peaceful spot for canoeing, swimming and picnicking. The Shannon River flows only after winter rains and becomes a series of pools in summer.

MARRONING

Marron can be caught in both the dam and river. A marron fishing licence is necessary and may be obtained from the Fisheries Department of WA, the Northcliffe Post Office, or the Pemberton Tourist Centre. There is a closed season and a bag and minimum size limit. For more information contact the Fisheries Department of WA on (08) 9482 7333.

BIBBULMUN TRACK

The newly realigned Bibbulmun Track wanders through the lower reaches of the Shannon and on into the D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

The track is easily accessible from the Deeside Coast and Chesapeake Roads from where walkers can trek into the heart of the Shannon River basin.

The Dog Pool campsite is situated on the banks of the Shannon River.

Spanning the Shannon near Dog Pool is a spectacular timber walk bridge, which leads you to your next day's walk.

Anyone intending to walk the track should first purchase a copy of the Bibbulmun Track maps or guide books. The maps and guidebooks contain essential information on track length and terrain. Up to date information about track conditions can be obtained from the CALM Pemberton Office.

CAMPING

Single and group campsites are available for backpack and vehicle-based camping. There are also sites for caravans, camperwagons or buses. Two huts with bunk beds, skylights and pot-belly stoves are available on a first-come-first-served basis. (It can be difficult to secure these during peak periods and long weekends.)

The camping area has drinking water at the picnic site and the ablution block. Water from elsewhere in the park should be boiled before drinking. The ablution block has toilets and hot water showers. Firewood is also available and there are recycling facilities for glass, plastics and aluminium.

The closest town for supplies, fuel, etc. is Northcliffe, about 32 kilometres from the Shannon town-site, and is well signposted via South Western Highway, Middleton Road and Wheatley Coast Road.



MOVING ON?

For a more rewarding trip pick up a copy of the CALM publication Karri Country from any tourist bureau, or, during weekdays, from one of the CALM offices listed in this brochure. You will find the map and other information covers areas of interest from Manjimup down to Walpole.

CALM camping areas close to Shannon National Park include:

Fernhook Falls: Turn left off South Western Highway onto Beardmore Road, 30 kilometres south of the Shannon camping ground.

Crystal Springs: Turn right at the Mandalay Beach directional sign off South Western Highway, about 45 kilometres south of the Shannon camping ground.

Warren National Park: Leaving the Shannon camping ground, follow directional signs along South Western Highway to Northcliffe. Turn left off the Northcliffe-Pemberton Road onto the old Vasse road. Bicentennial Tree is located a further 3.5 kilometres from this junction, with Heartbreak Trail located a further 2 kilometres from Bicentennial Tree. The camping ground is nearby.

