

# Shannon National Park

Part of the Walpole Wilderness, this beautiful national park is a great spot to camp, experience nature and learn about the history of the south-west.

**Above** Karri forest.

**Above right top** Honey possums live in Shannon National Park.  
*Photos – Marie Lochman/Lochman Transparencies*

**Above right** The South West Highway travels through Shannon National Park.  
*Photo – Cliff Winfield*

**Far right** Western grey kangaroos are among the most commonly sighted animals in the park.  
*Photo – Jiri Lochman*

Located in the midst of karri country between Manjimup and Walpole, Shannon National Park was once the site of a timber mill and forestry settlement. Today it is an important conservation reserve known for its natural, Indigenous and recreational values such as bushwalking and camping.

## History

Aboriginal people have a significant connection to all the land in and around what is now Shannon National Park, with Shannon River being a significant feature. During their travels from inland to the coast in the warmer seasons, Aboriginal people used the river to source food and as a place of shelter.

In the 1940s, the area was the location of a small but vibrant settlement known as Shannon, established by the Forests Department in response to a timber shortage after World War II. Shannon had a number of facilities including 90 houses, a sawmill, forestry headquarters, hall, church, golf course and oval. In 1968

the mill closed, and in the coming years the settlement's buildings were dismantled and removed.

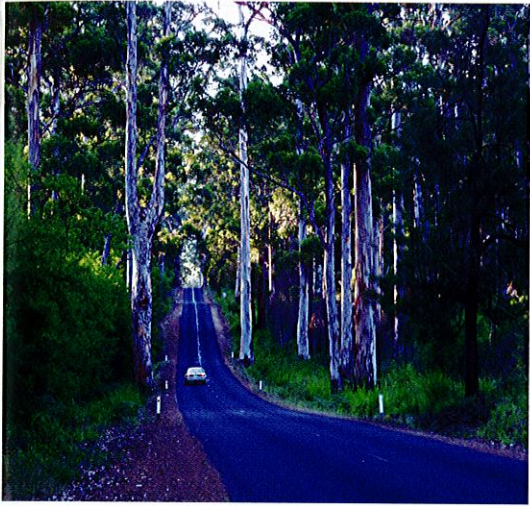
In the early 1980s, the government announced the creation of the national park. Logging in the proposed park ceased immediately, and planning and construction of visitor facilities began. Shannon National Park was formally proclaimed in December 1988.

The site of the former settlement, located just south of South Western Highway, is now a campground for park visitors. A number of reminders about the area's past can be found there, such as fruit trees and signs featuring historical photos, as well as building foundations that have proved useful for campers with caravans. Old tramways and railway lines have been transformed into walk trails.

## Visiting the park

It is not difficult to see why Shannon National Park is so popular with visitors. The 80-metre-tall karri trees with their straight, smooth trunks, interspersed with jarrah, marri,



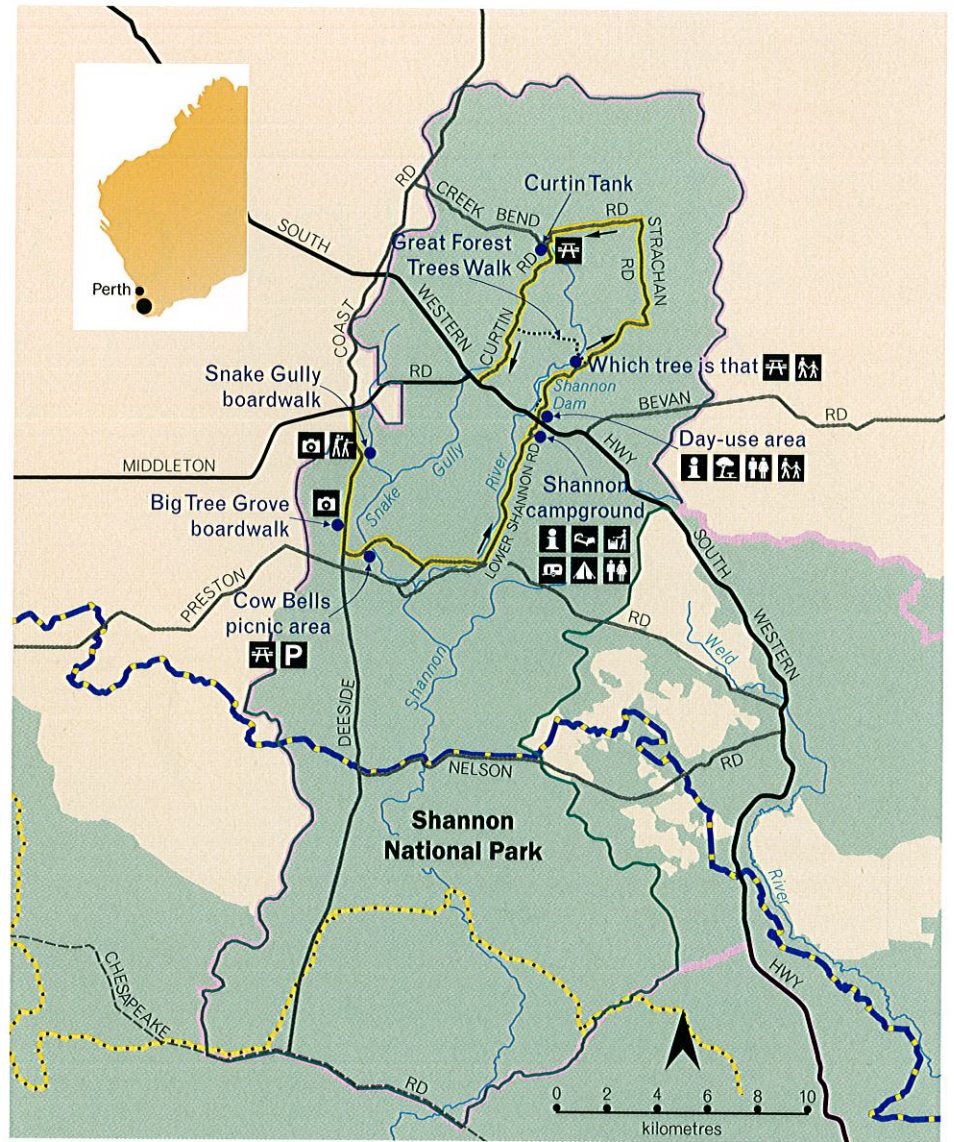


bullich and blackbutt trees, make for an impressive and tranquil nature-appreciation experience. In addition, the park's high-quality camping facilities and easy accessibility via South Western Highway make it an ideal spot for a weekend getaway or day visit.

Shannon campground has 23 single and group camp sites. Two rustic weatherboard huts remain from when the Bibbulmun Track ran through this section of the park and can be used as accommodation. The nearby Shannon Lodge is also available for visitors to hire, sleeping up to six people. Shannon National Park is one of the few parks in the state that offers showers with hot running water—a drawcard for many campers.

One of the park's most-used features is the 48-kilometre scenic Great Forest Trees Drive, which winds its way through towering karri trees, with opportunities to stop at picnic areas and lookout points. The self-guided trail has a dedicated radio channel that people can tune into to learn interesting facts about the area, including information about the cattle drives that once ran through the forest.

There are several options for those wishing to explore the park on foot.



- |  |                          |  |                             |  |                     |
|--|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | Sealed road              |  | Walpole Wilderness boundary |  | Day-use area        |
|  | Unsealed road            |  | Shannon National Park       |  | Information         |
|  | 4WD track                |  | Accommodation               |  | Photo opportunities |
|  | Great Forest Trees Drive |  | Barbecue (gas)              |  | Picnic area         |
|  | Bibbulmun Track          |  | Camping (bush)              |  | Scenic vistas       |
|  | Munda Biddi Trail        |  | Caravan park                |  | Toilets             |
|  | Walk trail               |  | Car park                    |  | Walk trail          |
|  | Road direction           |  |                             |  |                     |

The Shannon Dam Walk Trail is 3.5 kilometres long and links the day-use area to Shannon Dam via the banks of the Shannon River. The eight-kilometre Great Forest Trees Walk runs through dense karri forest in the northern section of the park, while the moderately hard 5.5-kilometre Rocks Walk Trail can be walked from the day-use area to Mokare's Rock, a granite outcrop with views of the Shannon River valley.

Mountain bike riders can also enjoy the park, following the opening of the world's longest off-road cycling trail, the Munda Biddi Trail, in early 2013. The trail runs through the park to the south of the campground.

### park facts

**Where is it?** 33 kilometres east of Northcliffe, 53 kilometres south of Manjimup and 65 kilometres north of Walpole.

**Total area:** 52,598 hectares.

**What to do:** Camping, bushwalking, cycling, visiting historic sites and exploring the scenic drive.

**Facilities:** Campground, picnic benches, covered picnic and barbecue facilities, hut accommodation, toilets, showers.

**Park fees:** Entry and camping fees apply.

**Nearest DPaW office:** Donnelly District Office, Kennedy Street, Pemberton, phone (08) 9776 1207.



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