



Western Australia's top

10 most visited parks*

On behalf of the people of Western Australia, Parks and Wildlife manages the State's national parks, marine parks and other reserves, which cover more than 27 million hectares – an area roughly the size of Victoria and Tasmania combined.

WA has 100 national parks and 13 marine parks with a diverse array of landscapes and seascapes, from coral reefs and tall forests to deep gorges and open plains of wildflowers. In 2013/14 these areas received 16 million visits from visitors and locals who were spoiled for choice for places to visit and enjoy. *LANDSCOPE* magazine takes a closer look at Western Australia's top 10 most visited parks and what makes them special.

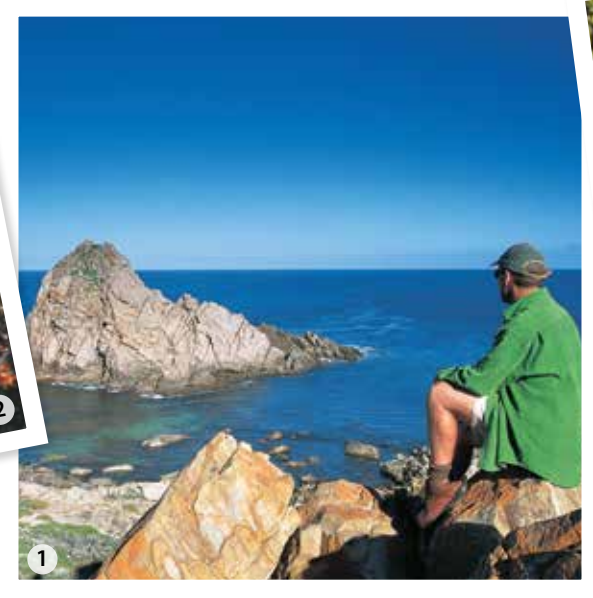




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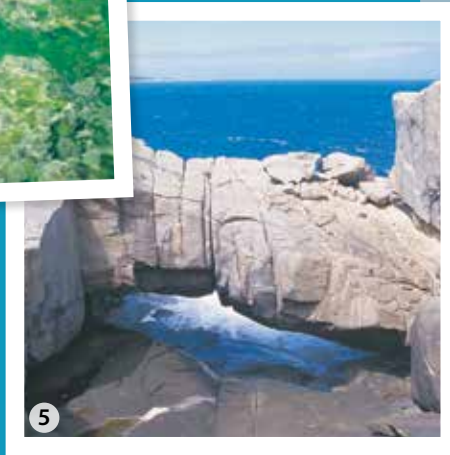
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1. LEEUWIN-NATURALISTE NATIONAL PARK

Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park attracts about 2.7 million visits each year from people who come to enjoy the stunning coastal scenery and beautiful beaches, fascinating geology and majestic karri forests. New camping facilities at Conto Campground cater to campers while the Cape to Cape Track and various walk trails play host to those who want to explore the park on foot.

2. MARMION MARINE PARK

The clear shallow lagoons, reefs and tiny islands of Marmion Marine Park (located offshore from Perth's northern suburbs between Trigg Island and Burns Beach) play host to a raft of marine mammals such as sea lions, bottlenose dolphins and humpback whales, when they're passing. People can experience these natural wonders at the many lookouts along the coast, aboard a boat or kayak, or underwater swimming, snorkelling or scuba diving.

3. MATILDA BAY RESERVE

Located a short drive, walk, run or bike ride, from Perth CBD, this popular parkland is an ideal place to picnic, sail, row, paddle and play, or simply sit back and enjoy stunning views of the Swan River, Perth city and Kings Park. Universally accessible pedestrian and cycle paths guide visitors through the reserve where they might be lucky enough to spot a range of waterbirds, or dolphins.

*Managed by Parks and Wildlife

Explore WA's parks on us

Simply present this voucher where you pay your entry fees or self-register at any national park or reserve where an entry fee is required. Or redeem its value (\$12) off an Annual All Parks Pass to visit WA's parks all year round. Redeemable online at shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park-passes using voucher code 'FVP15' or by phoning (08) 9219 9071 or (08) 9219 9072.

Note Restrictions apply. This pass is not valid for entry into special attractions (e.g. Tree Top Walk) tours or special events (e.g. Avon Descent).



Expires 1 December 2015

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Main Pinnacles Desert, Nambung National Park.
Photo – Andrew McInness





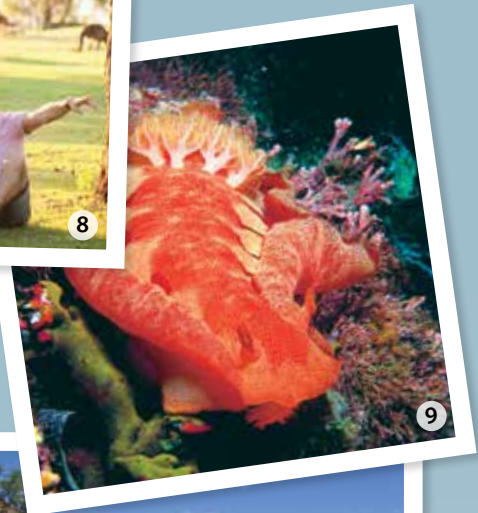
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4. SHOALWATER ISLANDS MARINE PARK

Located two kilometres west of Rockingham, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park is an incredibly rich and diverse marine environment where bottlenose dolphins and sea lions are common. The park also surrounds a chain of unique limestone islands, including Penguin Island. Visitors enjoy a range of water sports, including boating, kayaking, fishing, snorkelling, scuba diving and waterskiing.

5. TORNDIRRUP NATIONAL PARK

The powerful Southern Ocean has sculpted spectacular coastal features known as 'the Gap' and the 'Natural Bridge' along the park's buffeted coastline, while windswept banksia and coastal heathland lie inland from granite headlands, limestone cliffs, sandy slopes and beaches. Located 10km south of Albany, visitors to the park can make use of walk trails, including the Bibbulmun Track, to explore this rugged area.

6. WALPOLE-NORNALUP NATIONAL PARK

This beautiful national park boasts flowing rivers in winter, and a tranquil pool in summer as well as spectacular coastal scenery and recreation facilities, including the world-renowned Tree Top Walk (see also 'Adventuring out: Descending the giants' on page 50). The magnificent tingle forest occurs in Walpole-Nornalup National Park and nowhere else in the world, and is rich in plants and animals.

1 Sugarloaf Rock, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. Photo – Tourism WA 2 Scuba diving at Marmion Marine Park. Photo – Ann Storrle 3 Black swans, Matilda Bay Reserve. Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife 4 Snorkelling at Penguin Island, Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. Photo – Michael James/Parks and Wildlife 5 The Natural Bridge, Torndirrup National Park. Photo – Tourism WA 6 Tree Top Walk, Walpole-Nornalup National Park. Photo – Nic Duncan 7 Pinnacles Desert, Nambung National Park. Photo – Tourism WA 8 Yanchep National Park. Photo – Parks and Wildlife 9 Spanish dancer, Jurien Bay Marine Park. Photo – Ann Storrle 10 Canoeing on the Murchison River, Kalbarri National Park. Photo – Samille Mitchell

7. NAMBUNG NATIONAL PARK

Home to the Pinnacles Desert, where thousands of huge limestone pillars rise out of the shifting yellow sands, Nambung National Park is popular among people who are passing through as well as those making a daytrip from Perth. The Pinnacles Desert Discovery Centre provides a wealth of information about the processes that have shaped the unique and fascinating landscape over the past 500,000 years.

8. YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK

Located 50km north of Perth, Yanchep National Park delights visitors with an array of attractions including limestone caves, walk trails, wetlands, wild kangaroos, a koala colony, and seasonal displays of wildflowers. The park also offers cultural and cave tours as well as accommodation, a function centre, golf course and an on-site chocolate shop and cafe.

9. JURIEN BAY MARINE PARK

An extensive limestone reef system parallel to the shore has created a huge shallow lagoon that provides perfect habitat for Australian sea lions, dolphins and a myriad of juvenile fish. Extensive seagrass meadows inside the reef shelter armies of marine animals such as western rock lobsters, octopus and cuttlefish. Jurien Bay Marine Park is popular for a range of recreational activities including scuba diving, snorkelling, swimming, windsurfing, surfing and fishing.



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10. KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK

Visitors to Kalbarri can marvel at nature's ability to carve the landscape, explore the depths and heights of the river gorges and sea cliffs, and discover the intriguing cultural history of the area. A magnificent wildflower display transforms the landscape from July to November. Hike trails guide visitors though the park or it can be explored by kayak.

For more information about Western Australia's national, regional and marine parks, visit parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au

You can also download **ParkFinder WA** from the iTunes store for information about more than 100 national parks and lots of other sites managed by Parks and Wildlife.

