



Bramley National Park

Long popular among visitors to and locals of Margaret River looking for a forest getaway, Bramley National Park is also now catering to mountain bike riders who are looking for a thrilling adventure in one of the region's beautiful national parks.

Surrounding the popular south-west town of Margaret River, Bramley National Park provides visitors with stunning forest areas as well as a plethora of ways to enjoy the natural environment. The national park is home to a number of native species including western ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), brush-tailed phascogales (*Phascogale tapoatafa*), quenda (*Isoodon obesulus*) and the endemic Margaret River hairy marron, and provides vital habitat for Baudin's, Carnaby's and red-tailed black cockatoos. It is ablaze with colour in spring when wildflowers carpet the landscape. And there is a rich Aboriginal history to discover. One of the best things about this national park is the choice of ways

Above Bramley National Park.
Photo – Marie Lochman

Above right 10 Mile Brook Trail in Bramley National Park caters to riders of a range of ages and abilities.
Photo – Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association

to explore it – whether on two wheels on one of the mountain bike trails or on foot on the 26 kilometres of walking trails.

ALONG FOR THE RIDE

Mountain bike riding is one of the world's fastest-growing sport and recreation activities and Western Australians are along for the ride. The \$13 million *South West Mountain Bike Master Plan*, completed in 2015, outlines a comprehensive plan to provide for cycle tourism in the area. The Margaret River area already has many existing trails and Bramley National Park has been identified as a high priority for future trail development.

Funded through the *Parks for People* initiative and developed in partnership with the Margaret River Offroad Cycling Association, Department of Sport and Recreation, Lotterywest and the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, the first section of a new trail in Bramley National Park was opened in November 2015. Called the Paper Trail, it is already proving popular

among riders who are travelling from afar to ride it. The trail has acquired a reputation as being the most difficult trail in the Margaret River area – a challenge welcomed by many riders – thanks to its rock drops and jumps. The 600-metre section is the first part of an eight-kilometre trail network which, when complete, will offer a purpose-built adventure tourism experience. It was created through a mix of volunteer and contract labour and by using natural features and contours in the landscape. The second part of the trail will be opened later this year.

BACK ON TWO FEET

Another way to explore the park and meander among its magnificent karri, marri and jarrah trees is on one of a number of the walk trails in the park. A 15-kilometre-return trek out to 10 Mile Brook Trail is a moderately easy walk that winds along the edge of Margaret River and takes in an ever-changing landscape. Feasting on a packed lunch is a welcome reward at the half-way mark picnic area.



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Alternatively, shorter walks (which can be designed to journey to some of the beautiful river swimming spots or the region’s famed breweries or cafes) can be enjoyed by people of a range of ages and abilities. Getting out for a bushwalk can be a welcome activity for those who may have over-indulged in some of the delicacies that the region is famed for.

A PLACE TO REST YOUR HEAD

For a longer forest getaway (but with some of the modern conveniences that many people desire), visitors to Bramley National Park can stay at Wharnccliffe

Mill – a bush camp that offers powered campsites, caravan sites, cabins, an eco-lodge, dormitory facilities and safari tent camping. The camp – which is run under a lease agreement from Parks and Wildlife – caters to small and larger groups and provides showers, toilets, barbecues, picnic tables, table tennis and a communal camp fire pit. It minimises its environmental impact by generating its own power, using rainwater and running a state-of-the-art waste water treatment facility. It offers visitors information and education about the natural environment and sustainable living.

Top left Canoeing on the Margaret River can be a wonderful way to explore Bramley National Park. Photo – Margaret River Discovery Co

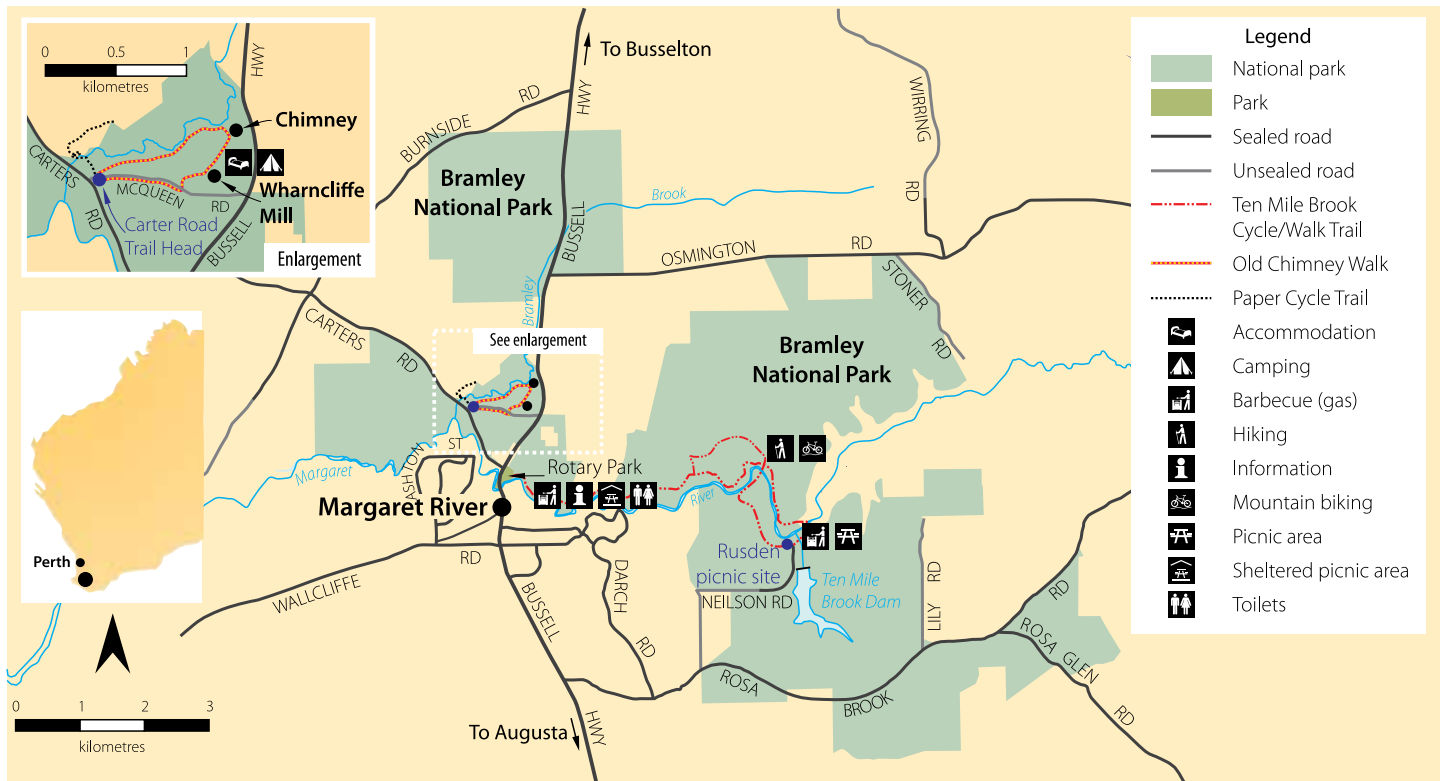
Above far left *Chorizema diversifolium* is one of a number of species that occurs in the park. Photo – Jiri Lochman

Above left Wharnccliffe Mill offers a range of accommodation options. Photo – Wharnccliffe Mill

Top A kiln associated with the Wharnccliffe Mill remains as a reminder of park’s heritage. Photo – Ann Storr

Above Enjoying the nature playground at Wharnccliffe Mill. Photo – Wharnccliffe Mill

Parks for People Bramley National Park



CULTURAL RICHNESS

Wharnccliffe Mill has partnered with Josh Whiteland from Koomal Dreaming to offer group cultural experiences. Groups can take part in short sessions where they learn how local Aboriginal people hunted for food and sample some of the traditional food. There are also demonstrations of tool making and musical performances. Those with a bit more time can sign up to a two-day cultural immersion program where they have the opportunity to explore the area's caves, go on a guided bushwalk and spend time hearing about Aboriginal Dreaming stories. These activities add to the experience of this beautiful natural area

which has been sacred to the traditional owners of this area for thousands of years, and is now becoming a favourite of many modern-day visitors too.



Do it yourself

Where is it? Bramley National Park is a two-minute drive (five-minute walk) from Margaret River or three-hour drive south of Perth.

What to do? Camping (at Wharnccliffe Mill), mountain bike riding, birdwatching, bushwalking, photography, wildflower appreciation, swimming at the weirs, geocaching and picnicking.

Facilities: Wharnccliffe Mill has campsites, accommodation, toilets, showers, playground and cooking facilities for guest use. Rusden (10 Mile Brook) picnic area provides toilets, gas barbecues; Rotary Park has toilets, picnic shelter, gas barbecues and Carters Road walk trails (see interpretation panels for information).

Nearest Parks and Wildlife office: Busselton (Blackwood District), 14 Queen Street, Busselton 6280, phone: (08) 9752 5555.



Above left Wharnccliffe Mill offers a range of cultural experiences.

Left Bramley National Park is gaining popularity among mountain bike riders.

Photos – Wharnccliffe Mill

Discover mountain biking in Bramley National Park

See how mountain bike enthusiasts are taking up a number of opportunities in this increasingly popular sport, thanks to the release of the *South West Mountain Bike Master Plan*.

Scan this QR code or visit Parks and Wildlife's 'LANDSCOPE' playlist on YouTube.

