



## Yanchep National Park

*Ever popular among locals and visitors, Yanchep National Park has even more to offer thanks to a number of new developments and recreation opportunities. Located an hour's drive from Perth, it's an easy daytrip, a convenient overnight destination or a great place to stop on the way to or from a trip 'up north'.*

**A**s one of Western Australia's oldest national parks, Yanchep National Park has seen significant changes; from its original state, when it served as an important meeting place for Nyoongar people to carry out trade, teaching and socialisation, to when it was a getaway and market garden for people of yesteryear, to now as a much-loved national park that attracts up to 320,000 visits each year.

**Above** Yanchep National Park has a range of walk trails that guide visitors through the park.  
*Photo – Gooitzen van der Meer/Parks and Wildlife*

**Above right** Camping in the park.  
*Photo – Peter Nicholas/Parks and Wildlife*

*Opposite page*

**Right** The park offers a range of accommodation options.

*Photo – Parks and Wildlife*

**Far right** Boardwalks guide visitors around the wetlands.

*Photo – Miranda Jackson/Parks and Wildlife*

There has never been a shortage of things to do and see at this unique natural area, where European and Aboriginal culture co-exist in a landscape made up of manicured lawns, picnic areas and gardens, surrounded by 2,854 hectares of natural bush. And recent developments are making the park even more popular than ever.

### PICK YOUR TIME

A trial of camping in the national park has provided a significant change to the way people use the park. Under the trial, 10 hard stands – ideal for short-stay campervans or caravans – and 10 grass stands – great for tents or other camping options – are operating at Henry White Oval. This is proving to be a resounding success with most sites fully booked on most weekends since the beginning of spring.

The campground is attracting a range of campers – from those who want an 'easy' camping option close to home, to people heading north and those returning

home again. Being able to have a fully cooked breakfast at the Yanchep Inn, lunch at Chocolate Drops Tearooms and then a barbecue for dinner (or returning to the Inn) – as well as being able to buy ice-creams, hot coffee and cold drinks throughout the day – is a welcome option for many. Those who yearn for the creature comforts of a comfortable bed and four walls are well looked after at the Yanchep Inn, which has hotel and motel-style accommodation.

Being at the park after dark gives visitors the chance to experience the natural surrounds in a whole new light, as well as hear the frogs and insects herald the change from day to night with their chorus of calls, croaks and cricks. After dark is also an opportunity to see the park's resident koalas and kangaroos more active than during the day.

### SO MUCH TO SEE

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“An added benefit of staying overnight is that visitors have more time to explore the park and all it has to offer.”

For those who are after a more subdued, passive experience, a picnic on the edge of Loch McNess wetlands provides a relaxing and enjoyable way to while away the day. This also gives visitors an opportunity to appreciate the recovering wetland system. If you're there at the right time of year, you might see swans and their cygnets nesting in the fringing sedges and on the islands, which also provide habitat for fresh-water turtles and tiger snakes.

For something completely different, EasyRider Adventures is offering Airwheel experiences in the park. Squeals of

the park and all it has to offer. The park's various walk trails offer visitors a range of options – from a casual stroll with the family, to a 51.8-kilometre trek through much of the park. There are also guided tours of the park's fascinating cave system where you will see stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, columns and shawls. And there is an opportunity to enjoy one of the

interactive and informative Aboriginal cultural experiences, which feature didgeridoo playing and talks on the plants, animals and cultural significance of the area, or take part in one of the other free activities run by park staff. During the school term, students visit the park by the bus load, while the *Nearer to Nature* school holiday activities provide a more informal educational experience.



delight can be heard from those aboard the otherwise-quiet machines as they manoeuvre around a specially designed obstacle course in the fun zone on Bull Banksia Oval or while on a guided tour around the park. Several different types of machines cater to a range of users (including those with mobility issues), meaning people of a range of ages and abilities can take part.

And, for those with an interest in Pokemon, the park is heavily populated with the virtual characters – proof that Yanchep National Park really does have something for everyone.

**Top** The fringing edges of Loch McNess provide an environment for waterbirds to nest.  
*Photo – Gooitzen van der Meer/Parks and Wildlife*

**Above right** Nocturnal koalas can often be spotted sleeping in the trees.  
*Photo – Parks and Wildlife*

**Right** EasyRider Adventures is offering Airwheel experiences in the park.  
*Photo – EasyRider Adventures*



## Do it yourself

**Where is it?** Yanchep National Park is 50 kilometres north of Perth.

**What to do?** Camping, cave tours, Aboriginal heritage experiences, picnicking, EasyRider tours, bush walking, viewing koalas, kangaroos and wildflowers.

**Facilities:** Trails and toilet blocks, some of which have been designed to accommodate people with disabilities.

Picnic shelters, tables and free gas barbecues throughout the park offer visitors a tranquil and relaxing setting.

Yanchep Inn has accommodation, bar and restaurant facilities, while Chocolate Drop Tearooms provides light meals and refreshments. The visitor centre stocks a range of gifts and souvenirs and the spectacular Cabaret Cave is available for hire (the only cave in Australia available for hire).

Entry fees apply. Camping can be booked at [parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au). For more information visit [parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au).

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**Online campground bookings:**  
[www.parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au)



Discover more about Yanchep National Park

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

