



## Shannon National Park

*Located at the north-western end of the Walpole Wilderness, Shannon National Park provides a perfect setting for exploring the giant trees of the southern forest and can be used as a base for discovering all this area has to offer. And now, thanks to a new campground and facility upgrades, it's even better than ever.*

**T**here's no doubt that Western Australia houses an abundance of beautiful places to visit. But there's something inherently soul-enriching about standing at the base of an ancient tree that soars into the sky – it gives you the humbling sense that you are one tiny part of a gigantic landscape, while providing you with a sense of belonging to something much bigger than yourself. Just a little more than 350 kilometres from Perth and 55 kilometres from Manjimup, Shannon National Park boasts some of the State's most magnificent old-growth forest and provides a range of ways for visitors to experience it.

**Above** The stunning Shannon National Park.  
*Photo – Bron Anderson/DBCA*

*Opposite page*

**Top** Exploring Mokare's Rock.

*Photo – Brett Dennis/Lochman Transparencies*

**Centre** Purple-crowned lorikeets are one species found in the park.

*Photo – John Anderson*

**Right** The new Shannon Campground.

*Photo – Damon Annison*

### STEP BACK IN TIME

What is now known as Shannon National Park was locally important to the Wagyl Kaip people, the traditional custodians of the area. There are 21 sites of significance registered under the Aboriginal Heritage Act in Shannon National Park and the neighbouring D'Entrecasteaux National Park.

The European name given to Shannon National Park comes from the HMS *Shannon*, an English Royal Navy ship that defeated an American frigate in 1813. The area was one of the last in the south-west to be opened up to logging and it was largely untouched until the mid-1940s when a shortage of timber during WWII led the State Government to begin timber cutting there. By the late 1940s, the town and timber mill were established. During the 1950s and 1960s, the town had 90 houses as well as a butcher, baker, general store, post office, nursing station, church, school and a town hall. The government-owned mill was sold in 1961 and then closed in 1968 when the new owners rationalised their timber



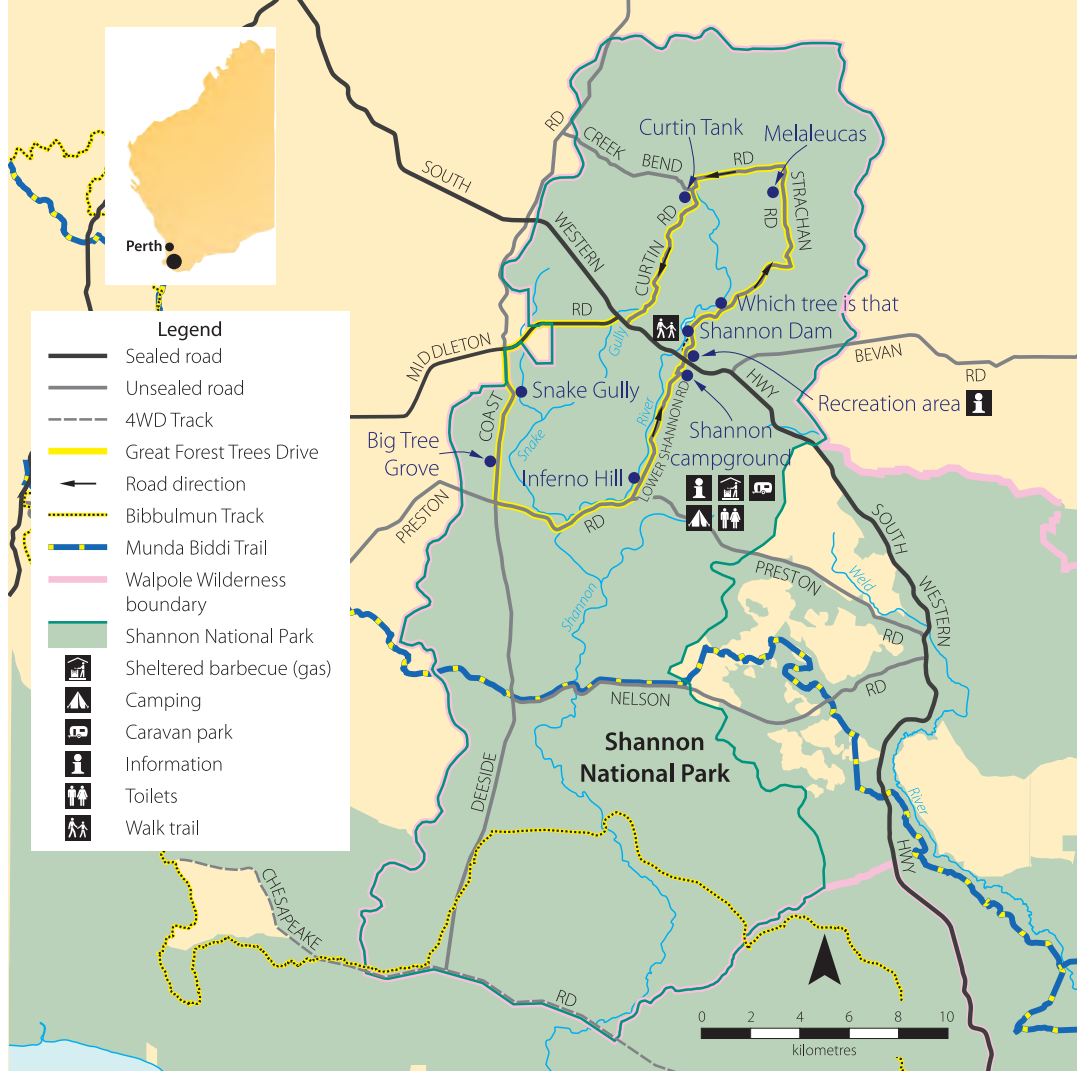
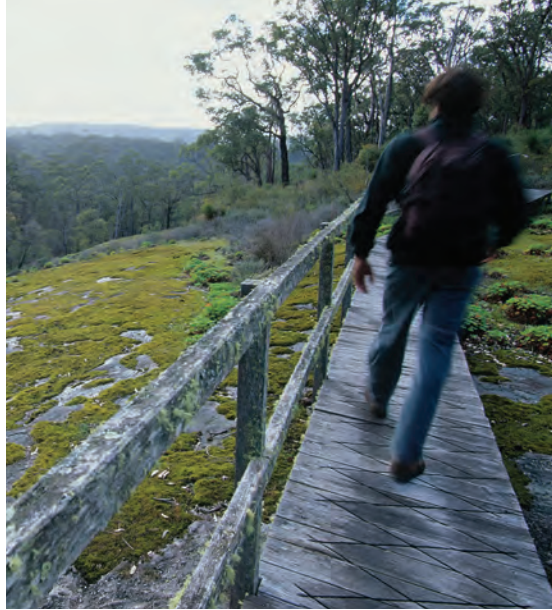
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Park

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business. Most of the Shannon workforce was transferred to the Pemberton Mill and the houses and buildings were sold and transported away. A 'Return to Shannon' reunion was held in 2017 for those who were connected to the area. Interpretation throughout the park, including as part of the Great Forest Trees Drive, gives visitors insight into what life was like in the area in yesteryear.

By the end of the 1980s, a 55,598-hectare area was gazetted as Shannon National Park to protect its stunning natural values and important ecosystems. Since then, it has become a popular destination for people who are lured by its magnificent beauty and the opportunity to see some of WA's most



stately karri trees, which can grow to more than 90 metres tall, as well as its beautiful stands of jarrah, marri, bullich, paperbark and blackbutt. Last year, the park attracted approximately 45,000 visits.

## WIDE APPEAL

Shannon National Park has something for everyone. Visitors can try to spot some of the local birds, bushwalk on one of the park's three tracks or take in the views of the Shannon basin from high above the forest on Mokare's Rock along the Rocks Walk Trail. You can also venture to Inferno Hill. Here, the impact of the 2015 Northcliffe fire, which was started by a lightning strike in Shannon National Park and burnt through more than 95,000 hectares of the park and surrounding area, is still very obvious. Parks and Wildlife Service staff have also been working with local groups to develop facilities to accommodate horseriding, which should be available later this year. But perhaps the most popular activity is the Great Forest Trees Drive, a 50-kilometre, self-guided

drive that meanders through spectacular old-growth karri, jarrah and marri forest and past sedgeland, heath and granite outcrops. It also takes in the regrowth forests established following past timber harvesting in the area. There are a number of places to stop along the way to learn more about the area.

Recent upgrades to Shannon Campground cater to those who want to stay a while, including those with mobility issues, and use the national park as a base from which to explore nearby D'Entrecasteaux National Park, Windy Harbour and the spectacular Walpole Wilderness. Shannon Campground offers 68 campsites, which provide for tents, campervans, caravans and even large five-wheeler vehicles. The sites have been designed to provide holiday-makers with room to move and the campground makes use of the former town's roads. Gas barbecues, communal fire rings, hot showers and new toilets make the stay a little more comfortable and football goals will keep the kids amused.



## Do it yourself

**Where is it?** Shannon National Park is 55 kilometres south-east from Manjimup, half way between Manjimup and Walpole on the South Western Highway.

**What to do:** Canoe and kayak, bushwalk, bird watch, explore the area on the Great Forest Trees Drive, camp, swim, fish.

**Facilities:** Information, campground, toilets and showers, barbecues.

**For more information:** Contact Parks and Wildlife Service on (08) 9776 1207 or visit [parks.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://parks.dbca.wa.gov.au)