



William Bay National Park

About 1.5 billion years ago, the granitic rocks along the south coast of Western Australia began to form. Once a great mountain range, they slowly weathered away to form rounded outcrops and boulders that protect secluded beaches from the Southern Ocean.

William Bay National Park, just 15 minutes west of Denmark, is revered for its turquoise green waters, white sandy beaches and giant granite rocks. Windswept headlands and

Top Elephant Rocks.
Photo – Marc Russo

Above Greens Pool.
Photo – Bron Anderson/DBCA

Above right Australian sea lion.
Photo – Jon Pridham/DBCA

large granite outcrops sweep down to meet the Southern Ocean and tranquil bays and white beaches lie between the towering rocks. Huge oval boulders resemble a herd of elephants, paddling in the shallow waters at the famed Elephant Rocks.

Sheltered from the power and force of the Southern Ocean by huge granite boulders, Greens Pool is one of Western Australia's most iconic beaches. The calm, clear water makes it a perfect place for swimming and snorkelling. Protected from fishing, a myriad of sea creatures call Greens Pool home.

The popular 1000-kilometre Bibbulmun Track passes through William Bay National Park and takes walkers through many different vegetation types while offering spectacular views of the southern coastline. Cyclists can also enjoy the park along a section of the Munda Biddi Trail – a 1000-kilometre world-class cycling trail.

Upgrades to the park were completed in late 2020 making it easier to enjoy the incredible natural beauty of the area.

A WILDLIFE HAVEN

One of the drawcards of William Bay National Park is its diversity. The park boasts



more than 470 plant and animal species, with some species endemic to the area. Hidden pockets of karri forest, Warren River cedar and shady groves of peppermint trees shelter many different species of mammals, birds, and insects. And, in the spring, the coastal heathlands are peppered with wildflowers.

The park is a haven for wildlife. The calm waters of Greens Pool are abundant with marine life while hooded plovers and fairy terns nest on the pristine beaches. Magnificent birds such as eastern ospreys, splendid and red-wing fairy-wrens, sooty and pied oystercatchers, also call the park home.

CULTURAL HISTORY

Aboriginal people are thought to have occupied the area for up to 50,000 years. Through the eyes of the traditional owners of the area, the Menang people, this area is rich in value. The plants provide food, medicine, shelter, and tools and the landscape provides habitat to an abundance of animals. Aboriginal ranger

groups care for country by sharing the stories and lessons of the past to future generations and complete customary activities on country.

NEW AND IMPROVED

In 2019, the State Government invested \$4.4 million over two years to rejuvenate the ageing visitor infrastructure in the park.

Completed just in time for summer 2020, the upgrades have enhanced the overall visitor experience. The park's spectacular and natural beauty draws almost 300,000 visits by locals and tourists each year and this number is expected to rise as more people get out to explore the south coast of WA.

Traditional owners from several families were engaged throughout the project to ensure Aboriginal heritage values of the area were considered, including checking there was no disturbance to cultural values; supporting on-ground projects that protect cultural sites around the park; and initiating cultural mapping.

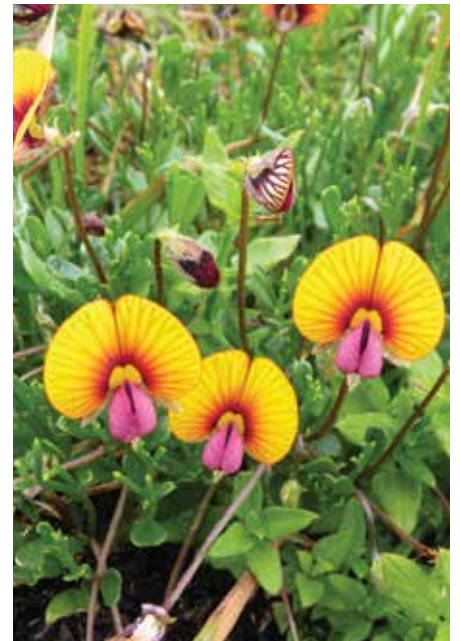
Clockwise from top New signs at Greens Pool. Access to Greens Pool. Photos – Cliff Winfield; Bull banksia (*Banksia grandis*). Photo – Bron Anderson/DBCA; Fairy tern (*Sternula nereis*). Photo – Jiri Lochman; Splendid fairy-wren (*Malurus splendens*). Photo – Sallyanne Cousins

Below Cyclists enjoy the park's coastal scenery on a section of the Munda Biddi Trail. Photo – Peter Nicholas/DBCA

Hear more about William Bay National Park

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

Parks for people William Bay National Park



The visitor experience has been improved with the completion of new roads and carparks, toilet blocks, picnic tables and signage. The upgrade included sealing 2.6 kilometres of Madfish Bay Road, enabling easier and safer access to the eastern end of the park, and allowing the provision of more than 200 parking bays, including disabled access bays, across the park. Three new accessible toilet and changeroom facilities have been built at Greens Pool, Elephant Rocks and Madfish Bay.

Safer roads, improved parking facilities and improved pedestrian pathways will cater to the high visitor numbers at William Bay National Park, helping to drive tourism in the area. It's important to note the park is very busy during peak periods, such as school holidays, and visiting outside

these times may lead to a more rewarding experience.

Local people have a long-held affection for the park and the William Bay National Parks Association has a dedicated team of around 50 volunteers. These local residents regularly carry out activities such as weeding, beach clean-ups, Bibbulmun Track maintenance and assisting park rangers.

WHAT'S NEXT

The next stage of the renewal project is now underway and will include access paths to the beach, new interpretative signage and a lookout. Future stages will see the completion of new trails, making travel around the William Bay and Denmark areas easier than ever before.

Top Eastern osprey (*Pandion cristatus*).
Photo – Sallyanne Cousans

Above Granny bonnets (*Isotropis cuneifolia*).
Photo – Bron Anderson/DBCA

Do it yourself

Where is it? 14 kilometres south-west of Denmark

Total area: 1700 hectares

Recreational activities: Diving, snorkelling, swimming, surfing, fishing, bushwalking

Nearest Parks and Wildlife Service office: Frankland District office, South Coast Highway, Walpole 6398. Phone: (08) 9840 0040.