



## Wellington National Park

*Hidden among the jarrah, marri and yarri forests is an ancient valley gorge, flowing waters and an abundance of wildlife. It comes as little surprise that Wellington National Park is popular all-year-round, with spectacular shows of colourful wildflowers in spring and misty, moody fog over still waters in winter.*

**W**ellington National Park is approximately a 2.5-hour drive from Perth or 30 minutes from Bunbury or Collie. Being so close to Perth, it's a popular destination for city dwellers for a day or overnight visit.

The iconic and central feature of the park is the beautiful Collie River Valley, with its ancient valley gorge and scenic landscapes. Visitors enjoy sightseeing, picnics, swimming, rafting, canoeing, fishing in spots like Rapids, Big Rock, Little Rock and Long Pool, and camping in Honeymoon Pool and Potters Gorge.

The spectacular scenery and height differences of up to 240 metres along the valley chasm make for an exciting network

of hiking and mountain bike trails that attract tourists from all over the world.

In 2020, plans were announced to expand Wellington National Park to include an additional 7000 hectares along the southern boundary to the Preston River, increasing the park to 25,000 hectares. The expansion area includes the Glen Mervyn Dam, a popular recreation site for waterskiing, fishing and hiking, will be completed in 2021.

Planning is currently underway to develop additional infrastructure in the expansion area, which is likely to involve new camping areas, walk trails, and recreation sites. Hiking and mountain biking offerings in the area are currently being expanded, with works expected to

be completed in 2023. These upgrades will be a huge drawcard for visitors to the area.

### A LONG HISTORY

The boundaries of the Kaneang and Wiilman Noongar people intersect with the park. The Collie River is believed to be sacred and created by a Walgu spirit that formed the surrounding hills while manifested as a water snake.

Traditional Custodians of the Collie River speak of the Ngarngungudditj Walgu, the hairy-faced rainbow serpent. They say the Ngarngungudditj Walgu came from the north of Collie, passed through the area and moved towards Eaton, forming the Collie River. When the serpent reached Eaton, it turned its body creating the



Leschenault Estuary and then travelled back up the river to rest at Minningup Pool.

Waterways in WA's south-west have long played an important role in the lives of Noongar people and their connection to the Collie River is not only mythological and spiritual. Noongar migratory routes incorporated the area and the river served as a water source and hunting ground.

European exploration of the area began in the mid-1800s. After Captain James Stirling ventured up the river in the 1830s, Collie developed a coal industry. Workers' cottages still present in the park are evidence of the district's forestry history. During World War II, the park hosted a number of army training camps for young men preparing to go to New Guinea. They stumbled upon local couples honeymooning alongside the river; hence the pool earned its colourful nickname, Honeymoon Pool.

## NATURAL PLAYGROUND

The area is popular all-year-round with magnificent shows of some of the 300 species of colourful wildflowers every spring and a rich mosaic of vegetation

communities. Networks of rock outcrops, wetlands and forested valley ecosystems intersect with distinct and interesting floral communities and more than 70 bird species. Visitors may even spot animals such as a chuditch, quenda, quokka, brushtail possum, woylie or western ringtail possum.

Despite its proximity to major population centres and travel routes to the

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*Opposite page*

**Main** Wellington Dam near Collie.  
*Photo – Frances Andrijich/Tourism WA*

**Anticlockwise from left to right** Camping at Honeymoon Pool. *Photo – Lauren Cabrera; Arklow adaptive mountain bike trail. Photo – DBCA; Pink rainbow (Drosera menziesii). Photo – Rob Davis; Wellington Dam. Photo – Shem Bisluk/DBCA; Potters Gorge new sheltered barbecue overlooking Wellington Dam. Photo – DBCA; Family toasting marshmallows in Wellington National Park. Photo – Amanda Smith/DBCA; Wellington Dam mural. Photo – Stuart Harrison/DBCA*

**Right** Woylie (*Bettongia penicillata*).  
*Photo – Sallyanne Cousins*

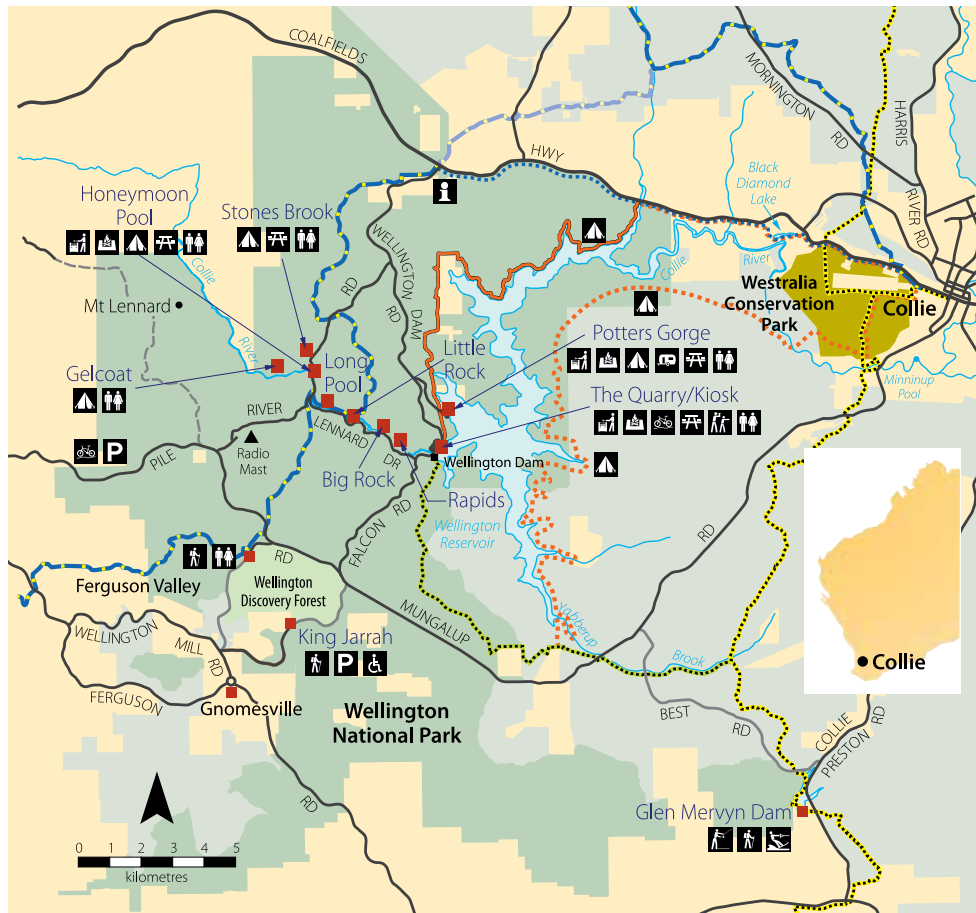


Learn more about  
Wellington National  
Park

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# Parks for people Wellington National Park



Legend			
	National park		Munda Biddi Trail
	Conservation park		Munda Biddi Trail to be closed
	State forest		Munda Biddi Trail realignment
	Sealed road		Wilman Bilya walk trail
	Unsealed road		Wilman Bilya proposed
	Bibbulmun Track		Recreation site
	Wellington Spur (Bibbulmun Track)		Barbecue (gas)
			Barbecue (wood)
			Camping
			Caravan park
			Fishing
			Hiking trail
			Information bay
			Mountain biking
			Parking
			Picnic facilities
			Scenic lookout
			Toilets
			Waterskiing
			Wheelchair access



south-west of the State, the park has a sense of seclusion. It has a varied landscape with well-defined and steeply-sloping valleys, granite outcrops, mature forest and rivers that are enjoyed by walking on the Bibbulmun Track or cycling on the Munda Biddi Trail that both pass through the area.

The Wellington Dam no longer supplies public drinking water but is a popular attraction for visitors, due to its close proximity to Perth and the recently completed 8000-square-metre mural by artist Guido van Helten.

Entitled 'Reflections', the mega-mural was inspired by local stories and photographs, and celebrates the significance of the waterways. Other

than visiting the mural, the most popular activities around the dam are swimming, fishing and marroning.

Recreational use near the dam goes back to when the dam was first constructed in the 1930s. The area is now a popular recreation destination and intrinsically linked to the lifestyle of the local community, who have a strong connection to the area.

Most visitors come during the summer period from October to April, particularly around public and school holidays, the marron season and when the dam overflows, which it does every few years.

Visitation is increasing and during peak periods recreation sites are often filled to capacity.

**Top** New facilities at Potters Gorge.

**Above** Pump track in Potters Gorge.  
Photos – DBCA

## Do it yourself

**Where is it?** 2.5-hour drive from Perth or 30 minutes from Bunbury or Collie

**Total area** Approximately 25,000 hectares

**Recreational activities** Sightseeing, picnics, swimming, rafting, canoeing, fishing, marroning and camping

**Nearest Parks and Wildlife**

**Service Office** Collie, 147 Wittenoom Street, Collie WA 6225 (08) 9735 1988