Exploring the Southern Forests and surrounding areas



Visitor guide

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of **Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Above Walk Through Tree, Greater Beedelup National Park.
Photos – Wendy Eiby, Bron Anderson, Sean Tysoe and DBCA

Welcome

Kaya wandjoo ngaalang kwobidak moorditj boodjar
Hello welcome to our beautiful strong country

Ngaalang noongar moort yira yaakiny nidja kwoba djaril-mari boodjar
Our Noongar people stand tall in this good forest country

Noonook wort-koorl djoorabiny kada werda ngaalang miya
You go along happily across our place

Take a journey to Western Australia's southern forests region and you'll discover some of the most enchanting forests and awe-inspiring coastline in the world. For thousands of years this land has been home to the Piblemen Noongar people who have been nourished by its abundant landscape and continue to have a profound physical and spiritual connection to the area.

There is much to do and see within the southern forests region and the surrounding area. Wander through towering karri forests, take in the vast extent of the Southern Ocean from windswept limestone headlands, cycle through breathtaking forests, or simply stop and camp by a pristine river in one of the many camp sites. This is a region like no other and it is worth spending some time exploring and discovering its unforgettable treasures.



Above Boorara Tree.

Boorara-Gardner National Park

Boorara Tree

Boorara Tree was one of the last fire lookouts of its kind built in the southern forest in the 1950s. The tree is no longer used as a lookout and its cabin and lower climbing pegs have been removed for safety reasons. Visitors can explore a replica cabin located at ground level near the tree's base.

Lane Poole Falls

From the Boorara Tree, visitors can follow a 5km return walk to Lane Poole Falls. Granite outcrops along the trail support a rich diversity of fragile plants and the trail is decorated with wildflowers in season. Lane Poole Falls is at its best in winter when the Canterbury River cascades 12m over the polished granite rocks into the foaming pool below.

King Jarrah

State Forest

A popular picnic site on the doorstep of Manjimup, this site is home to one of the biggest jarrah trees in the south-west. A 600m sealed walk trail starts at the foot of this majestic tree, allowing visitors to enjoy the forest and abundant spring wildflowers.

Lake Muir Lookout

Lake Muir Nature Reserve

A popular stop with travellers on the Muir Highway, visitors can follow a boardwalk through the internationally significant wetlands to an elevated bird hide with expansive views over Lake Muir.



Shannon National Park

Home to some of the state's most magnificent karri forest, Shannon is a spectacular place to explore. Halfway between Manjimup and Walpole, it was once home to a mill town built in the 1940s to cater for a timber shortage after World War ll. The settlement had 90 houses, a hall, church, store, post office and a nursing station. The mill was closed in 1968 and the buildings were dismantled and removed.

You can stay at Shannon campground which has toilets, barbeques, showers and spacious sites. There is also a fenced area around the Shannon oval where you can camp with your horse. Use this as your base to check out the three bridle trails that leave from the campground.

Make sure to visit the Shannon Dam while you are there. Built to supply the town of Shannon with water, it is now a peaceful place for a picnic or a paddle and you can follow the Rocks Walk Trail which takes you high above the Shannon Basin.

Great Forest Trees Drive

The Great Forest Trees Drive is a 50km self-guided drive that winds its way through spectacular old-growth forest. There are several places along the way to pause and appreciate the scenery. Interpretive signage weaves the stories of the great trees of this forest. The drive mostly follows unsealed roads but is suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles.



Donnelly River Valley

Winding through the karri forest, the Donnelly River is a haven for freshwater fish and supports an enormous diversity of mammals, birds and invertebrates that live in the water and along the banks. There are many ways to explore the Donnelly River Valley.

You can also explore the Donnelly River Valley along the Bibbulmun Track or Munda Biddi Trail. Whether on foot or on a bike, you can set off for an hour or even a couple of days!

One Tree Bridge – Glenoran Pool - Four Aces – Greens Island

Located close to each other on the Donnelly River, these sites provide a fantastic hub for bushwalking, birdwatching and photography. See the remains of a bridge made from a single karri tree, have a picnic at Glenoran Pool or wander through the karri forest at Four Aces. Camping is available at Greens Island.

King Karri

At 71m tall, this giant karri stands out among a sea of regrowth karri forest. It is the fourth largest karri on the Significant Trees Register. Follow the walk trail from Donnelly Village to get up close to this giant.

Foresters Wood

Foresters Wood is an arboretum that is dedicated to the famous trees of commerce, culture, legend and literature. Here you can see trees from all over the world. Download the Foresters Wood app before you go to enrich your experience.



Karri Forest Explorer Drive

The Karri Forest Explorer is an 86km scenic drive that winds through some of the south-west's most magnificent karri forest. It starts just outside the historic timber town of Pemberton, but you can join it at several points along the way, depending on which way you're travelling, or where you're staying.

The drive winds through Gloucester, Greater Beedelup and Warren national parks, and Big Brook Forest.

You can explore the forest at your own pace. Stop for a picnic at Big Brook Dam, visit the famous Gloucester Tree, see Beedelup Falls from the suspension bridge, go bushwalking, fishing, or just sit and take in nature. You'll find trail-side information to guide you through the forest.

Why not stop for a wine tasting, coffee or a gourmet meal; visit a gallery or craft centre or cast your rod for trout? Choose from the wide range of places to stay and give yourself longer to explore the Southern Forests.

Some sections of the Karri Forest Explorer are unsealed but suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles.

The Karri Forest Explorer Drive was developed and funded by the department with support from the Pemberton tourism industry.

Check out **exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au** for more information and a map.





Above Shannon campground.

Camping

Book your camping experience before you arrive at parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au

Shannon campground

Shannon National Park

Shannon campground offers a convenient base for exploring the park and surrounding attractions. Single and group sites are available for tents and vehicle-based camping and many sites are suitable for caravans and trailers. There are even two rustic camp huts.

You can also camp at Shannon Horse Camp with your horse. Yards, a tap and compost bays are provided in a large fenced area.

Carey Brook - Snottygobble Loop – Grasstree Hollow

Hawke National Park

Snottygobble Loop and Grasstree Hollow each provide secluded vehicle-based camping close to Carey Brook. Snottygobble Loop has 11 camp sites including a group camping area. Grasstree Hollow has seven shady camp sites and basic facilities. A moderately easy 5km return walk trail runs from Grasstree Hollow, through Snottygobble Loop to the mysterious Goblin Swamp. The Donnelly Boat Landing is also located nearby.

Draftys camp

Warren National Park 

Draftys camp has two camping loops with shady camp sites spread along the Warren River. The area allows for river access and provides decks with views overlooking the river.

Warren camp

Warren National Park 

Warren camp has six secluded camp sites tucked away in the forest. Shaded viewing platforms overlook the river next to the canoe launch site.

Big Brook Arboretum

Big Brook State Forest 

Located 3km from Big Brook Dam along the Karri Forest Explorer Drive, visitors can camp at the Big Brook Arboretum. The site is suitable for caravans and dogs are allowed on a leash.

Greens Island 

Set near the banks of the Donnelly River, Greens Island camping area provides an ideal setting for exploring surrounding attractions and access to the Bibbulmum Track and Munda Biddi Trail. Dogs are allowed on a leash.

Warren National Park 

Warren National Park encompasses some of the southwest's most spectacular virgin karri forest. With some reaching a height of almost 90m, the karri trees tower over an enchanting world of lush undergrowth, wildflowers and colourful fungi. The picturesque Warren River meanders through the park and it is well set up for paddlers with several canoe launches provided. Drafty's Camp and Warren Camp provide sheltered campsites close to the river.

Experience the thrill of climbing a karri tree at the Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree or visit the Marianne North Tree. This is a huge, misshapen karri that is named after the English artist who painted it in 1880. If you're feeling energetic, the 10.5km Warren River Loop Trail is one of best ways to explore Warren National Park.

Heartbreak Trail

The 12km Heartbreak Trail is a drive trail that descends into the Warren River valley. This steep track was built by hand to clear a path down to the river for firefighters and the name reflects the hardship of the job. The rapids of Heartbreak Crossing and the Warren River Lookout are great stopping places along the trail.

The Heartbreak Trail is a one-way, gravel road that is steep in places and not suitable for buses or caravans. Be aware this trail can be very slippery when wet.

Big Brook Forest

Big Brook Dam 

Big Brook is a young forest, regenerated after harvesting in the 1920s. Visitors can swim in the dam, picnic by the water's edge or enjoy the sealed 4km Big Brook Dam Walk that circumnavigates the dam. Fishing for trout or using a snare to catch marron in season are also popular activities, visit **fish.wa.gov.au** for more information.

Dogs may be taken on a leash to the Big Brook Dam, but are not allowed in the water or on the beach.

Big Brook Arboretum 

The arboretum is 3km from Big Brook Dam by vehicle, or 1km on foot via a walk trail that leads off from the upper reaches of the dam. You can wander among the many plots of exotic trees that were planted here and see how they grow and respond to the local soil and climate.

Gloucester National Park

Gloucester Tree 

Gloucester National Park is home to the 53m-tall Gloucester Tree that was once used as a fire lookout tree. Although no longer used as a fire lookout, visitors can climb into the canopy of the Gloucester Tree and get a different perspective on the karri forest. Back on firm ground, visitors can enjoy one of the area's walk trails ranging from 400m to 8km long.

The Cascades 

The Cascades are located at the southern end of the park. This waterfall is a great place to visit year-round, and is particularly impressive in winter when the Lefroy Brook transforms from a gentle flow to a raging torrent. Lookout platforms and a 1.2km loop walk trail provide vantage points to view the rapids and surrounding forest. The walk trail is steep in places.



Greater Beedelup National Park

Beedelup Falls

Beedelup Falls – the national park's main attraction – are pleasant all year round, but are in full flow in winter and early spring. Visitors can access the falls via a 600m walk that traverses a boardwalk and suspension bridge and offers passage across Beedelup Brook. There is also wheelchair access to a viewing platform with views of the falls, Lake Beedelup and the Karri Valley Resort.

The 4.5km moderately hard Beedelup Loop Walk meanders through the karri forest via Karri Valley Resort and the Walk Through Tree.

Brockman Sawpits

The Brockman Sawpits are believe to have been dug by convicts in about 1865 to supply cut timber for the Brockman Homestead. There is one sawpit near the carpark and you can check out a second one along a gentle 400m return walk trail.

Munda Biddi Trail

The Munda Biddi Trail (which gets its name from the Noongar words for 'path through the forest') is a world-class nature-based cycling experience. Whether you camp in the shelters provided or stay in quaint country towns, including Manjimup, Pemberton, Quinninup and Northcliffe, the Munda Biddi has something for everyone. There are sections of trail to suit anyone's cycling ability and pace. The trail is easily accessible by car, so you can begin your journey wherever it is convenient. The trail is predominantly off main roads, so you can enjoy the scenery while you safely cycle through the forest on a dirt track.

For suggested trips matching your experience and fitness level, see **mundabiddi.org.au**



Above Rocks Walk Trail.

Hiking in the Southern Forests



Warren River Loop Walk

Class 4 – Difficult 10.5km return, allow 4 hours

Warren National Park

This walk is a spectacular 10.5km moderately hard walk trail that passes through some of the region's most magnificent old-growth karri forest. The trail takes you deep into the moss-clad Warren River valley where it meanders alongside the river through groves of karri, sheoak and Warren River cedar.



Rocks Walk Trail

Class 3 – Moderate 2.5km return, allow 2 hours

Shannon National Park

The trail up to Mokare's Rock is steep in places but the view of leafy karri crowns and across the Shannon Basin is magnificent. This is a great place to view the wildflowers in spring.



One Tree Bridge to Four Aces

Class 2 – Easy 1km one way, allow 20 minutes

Wander through the karri forest between One Tree Bridge and the Four Aces along this gently sloping trail.



Lefroy Brook Loop Walk

Class 3 – Moderate 1.2km return, allow 40 minutes

Gloucester National Park

Starting at Cascades in the lower section of Gloucester National Park, this trail follows the edge of the Lefroy Brook and has great vantage points over the water.



Gloucester Route

Class 3 – Moderate 8km return, allow 4 hours

Gloucester National Park

For a rich karri forest experience, step out along this trail which loops around the northern section of Gloucester National Park and has pretty views over the Eastbrook.



Beedelup Loop Walk

Class 3 – Moderate 4.5km return, allow 1.5 hours

Greater Beedelup National Park

From Beedelup Falls, this trail takes you through the lush undergrowth of the karri forest to the Walk Through Tree and around Lake Beedelup.



Big Brook Dam

Class 1 – Easiest 4km loop, allow 1 hour

Big Brook State Forest

Suitable for wheelchairs and prams, this sealed trail takes you around Big Brook Dam. There are plenty of places to stop along the way to enjoy the views or cast a line for a fish.

The Bibbulmun Track

This world-class long-distance walk trail winds its way through the spectacular landscapes of the south-west for 1000km from Kalamunda near Perth to Albany on the south coast. It takes in the picturesque settlements and towns of Donnelly River Village, Pemberton and Northcliffe. Camp sites are strategically placed in sensational locations between the towns providing walkers with simple timber sleeping shelters and other facilities including bush toilets, picnic tables and tent sites.

Many day walk options are available from towns along the track. For more information visit **bibbulmuntrack.org.au**



Above The Aboretum.

Mountain biking in the Southern Forests

Pemberton is a mountain biking mecca with a variety of experiences on offer. From the long-distance Munda Biddi Trail to the challenging black trails at the Arboretum, there is something for everyone here.

Ride among some of the world's tallest tree species at The Arboretum. This family-friendly trail network offers something for everyone - gentle cross-country loops for beginner riders contrast with more difficult flow trails packed with features bound to get the adrenaline flowing. Sheep Thrills and Scabracadabra will test even advanced riders while Jack Flash and Wildlings are perfect for beginners to build their skills. There's even a dual slalom trail, Slasher, which is built for head-to-head fun with your mates. The variety of trails makes the Arboretum the perfect destination for all skill levels.

Set in the centre of Pemberton, the Pemberton MTB park has 25km of MTB tracks ranging from smooth flowing beginner rides to technical descents for skilled riders against a backdrop of huge karri trees. The pump track and skills loop are perfect for those just starting their MTB journey.

For more information on hiking and mountain biking in the Southern Forests, check out TrailsWA.

Trails WA



Above Cathedral Rock.

Fees

For current information about fees, please see the Park visitor fees brochure or visit DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service website.

Camping fees apply at designated camping areas and campsites can be booked online.

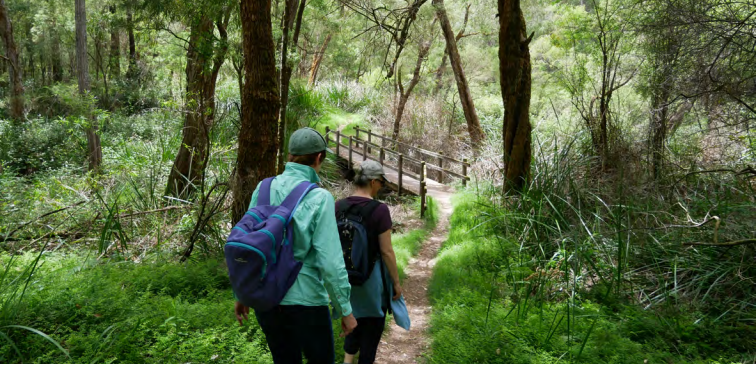
Annual Local, Holiday, Annual All Parks, and Goldstar passes are available at Parks and Wildlife Service offices, selected tourist outlets, visitor centres in Western Australia and online at **shop.dbca.wa.gov.au**

These fees assist in conservation and management of parks including the improvement of visitor facilities and services.

Leave No Trace

When visiting this area, please consider the following:

- Take rubbish with you and dispose of it appropriately.
- Leave what you find to pass on the gift of discovery to those who follow.
- Fires are permitted in Parks and Wildlife Service supplied fire rings only except during the bushfire season when no fires are allowed. Preferably use your portable stove. Wood from the forest is habitat for wildlife.
- Pets are only permitted in designated areas as they threaten wildlife and can disturb other visitors. This is also to protect pets. Baits used to control feral animals will kill domestic animals if eaten.
- Stay on paths provided to protect plants and prevent erosion to the landscape.



Above Warren River Loop.

Playing it safe – Caring for yourself

- Branches can fall from trees at any time. Avoid camping and picnicking under tree canopies, especially on windy days.
- Take great care on rocks and cliffs on the coast, as there is a risk of slipping and falling. Large waves can suddenly appear without warning and wash over rocks.
- Don't fish if it is too rough; check the weather forecast and tides before fishing. Always fish with someone else.
- Keep clear of cliffs and drop-offs. Stay on paths and behind barriers and fences.
- Swimming at beaches and inland waterways can be dangerous. Be aware of strong rips, variable water depths, submerged obstacles and wet slippery surfaces. For your safety do not dive or jump into the water.
- Stay alert and supervise children at all times.
- Before consuming, all water should be treated by vigorous boiling for a least one minute, mechanical filtration or chemical treatment. Please use water sparingly.

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Above Yeagarup Lake.

More information

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Donnelly District Office
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Pemberton Visitor Centre
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Northcliffe Visitor Centre
Ph: (08) 9776 7203 Email: **info@visitnorthcliffewa.com**
visitnorthcliffewa.com.au

Manjimup Visitor Centre
Ph: (08) 9771 1831 Email: **info@manjimupwa.com**
manjimupwa.com

Check for alerts and updates directly related to parks and major trails at **alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au** and for all emergency information in Western Australia at **emergency.wa.gov.au**

Find more park visitor information, book campsites and share your experiences at **exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au**

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