

Exploring the **Southern Forests** and surrounding areas

Pemberton – Northcliffe – Quinninup – Manjimup



Visitor guide



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



**PARKS AND
WILDLIFE**
SERVICE

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Photos courtesy Wendy Eiby, Bron Anderson and DBCA
Above Greater Beedelup National Park.

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. Scale the giddy heights of a fire lookout tree for magnificent views across the landscape, take in the vast extent of the Southern Ocean from windswept limestone headlands, set off on foot or 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.



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 650m 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.



Above King Jarrah.

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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 II. 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 follows some 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.

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

One Tree Bridge Conservation Park

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.

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!



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, climb to the Gloucester Tree lookout, see Beedelup Falls from the suspension bridge, go bushwalking, or 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.





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.

You can climb 65m into the canopy of the karri forest 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. Today, visitors can climb the 153 pegs to the top where they are rewarded with commanding views of the karri forest and surrounding farmland. Back on firm ground, visitors can enjoy one of the area's walk trails ranging from 400m to 10km 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.



Above Greater Beedelup National Park. **Below** Brockman Sawpits.

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.

A mildly challenging 4.5km walk also runs between the falls and Karri Valley Resort.

Brockman Sawpits



The Brockman Sawpits are believed 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. You are welcome to enjoy this area with your dog.





Above Shannon campground.

Camping

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. Two camp huts are available on a first arrival basis.

You can also camp at Shannon Horse Camp with your horse. Yards, a tap and compost bays are provided in a large fenced area. Campgrounds at Shannon are bookable online at parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au

Carey Brook – Snottygobble Loop – Grass Tree Hollow

Hawke National Park 

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



Above Draftys camp.

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 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 pets are allowed on a leash.

Greens Island



One Tree Bridge Conservation Area

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

Bushwalking in the Southern Forests

Warren River Loop Walk

Class 4 – 10.5km return– 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 – 2.5km return – 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 – 1km one way – 20 minutes

One Tree Bridge Conservation Park

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

Lefroy Brook Loop Walk

Class 3 – 1.2km return – 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 – 10km return – 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 – 4.5km return – 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 – 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 www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au.

Munda Bididi Trail

The Munda Bididi 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 Bididi 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 www.mundabididi.org.au.

Climbing trees

Climbing to the top of a fire lookout tree is an experience that you can only enjoy in Western Australia's southern forests.

Spotting bushfires from towers built on high ground traditionally gave firefighters their best chance of responding to fires quickly in the hope they could bring them quickly under control. However, in karri forest it was hard to build towers taller than the trees.

Local forester Don Stewart came up with a possible solution: to use the tallest karri trees as fire lookouts. His colleague Jack Watson scaled 40 trees to check which would make the best lookouts. Eight trees were selected as lookouts and these were built between 1937 and 1952. Pegs were hammered into their trunks to form a ladder and a cabin built on top. Today, two lookout trees remain open for visitors to climb.

The **Gloucester Tree** stands 53m tall and is located in Gloucester National Park. It was named after the then Governor-General of Australia, His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. He visited the tree and watched the pegging of the ladder and lopping of the branches to construct the lookout. The Duke tried his hand at using the auger to bore holes for the climbing pegs and remarked that it did not seem too difficult a task. The axeman replied "Come off it, you're not through the bloody sapwood yet!"

The **Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree** is located in Warren National Park, and standing at 65m high, is the highest treetop lookout in the world. Climbing this tree is not for the faint-hearted, however, those who do venture up the 182 pegs to the top will be rewarded with 360-degree views of the karri forest and glimpses of the Yeagarup Dunes and coast beyond.

Until 2019, the **Diamond Tree** was also able to be climbed. Unfortunately extensive decay was found in the tree trunk and it was closed to climbing for public safety.

The Diamond Tree is still a great place for a picnic and dogs on leads are welcome here.

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.

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 only in the fire rings provided 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 not permitted within national parks 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 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 most designated camping areas and can be paid at the self-registration stations.

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.



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Above Yeagarup Lake.

Contacts

Parks and Wildlife Service

Donnelly District Office

Kennedy Street, Pemberton WA 6260

Ph: (08) 9776 1207 (8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday)

Email: donnellyd@dbca.wa.gov.au

dbca.wa.gov.au

Pemberton Visitor Centre

Ph: (08) 9776 1133 Email: pemtour@karriweb.com.au

pembertonvisitor.com.au

Northcliffe Visitor Centre

Ph: (08) 9776 7203 Email: ncvisitorcentre@westnet.com.au

northcliffe.org.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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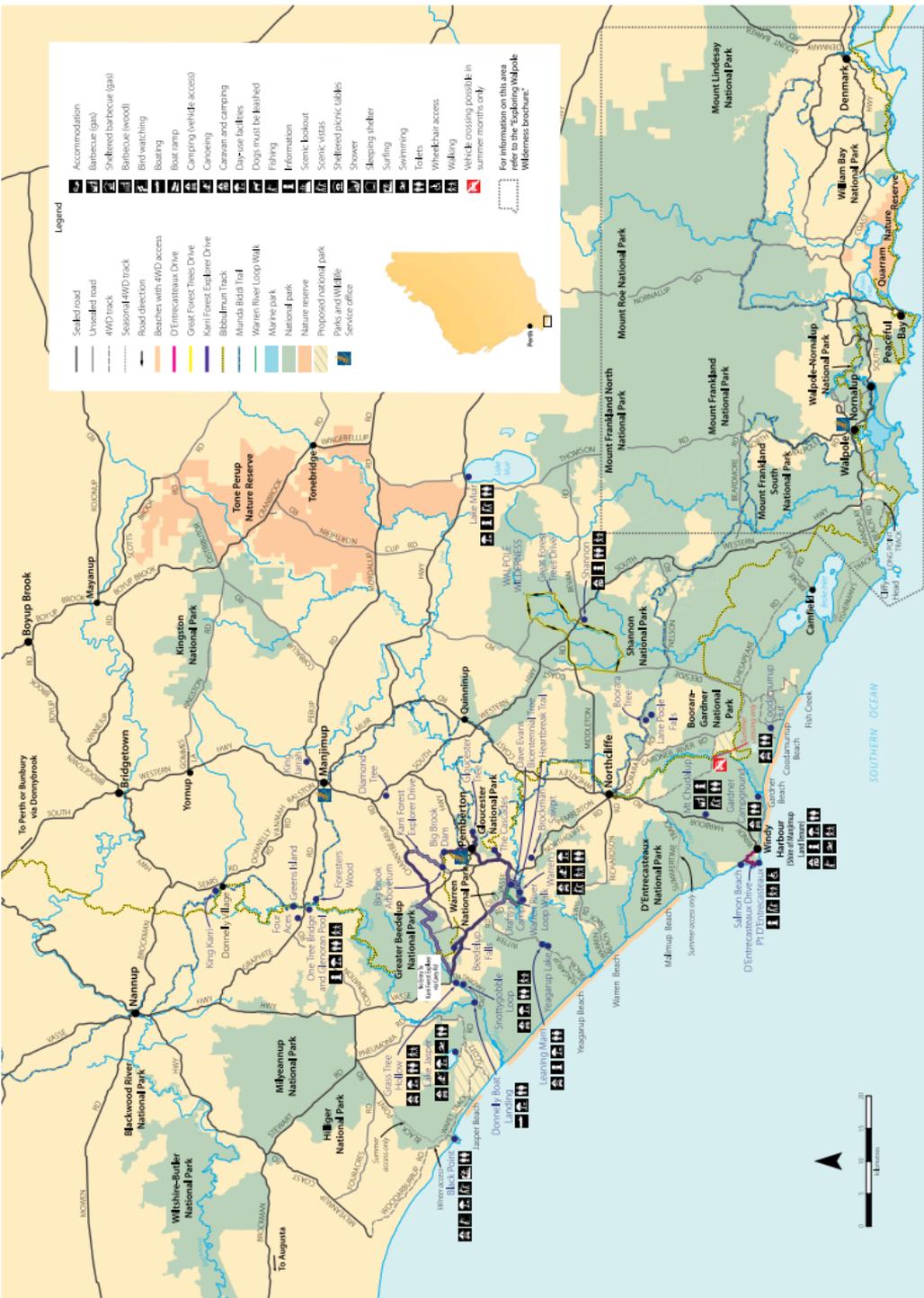
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Information current at October 2022.

Publication available in alternative format on request.

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See the D'Entrecasteaux National Park brochure or parks.dbca.wa.gov.au for information on going to the coast.



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