

# Parks of the Capes



## Visitor guide



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



**PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**

Download this guide and take it with you.



**Cover page** Sugarloaf Rock. **Above** Surfer in Margaret River.  
*Photos in guide - Tim Campbell, By\_Denzil, Tourism WA, Miles Brotherson/DBCA and Sailor Jay.*

## Welcome to the parks of the Capes

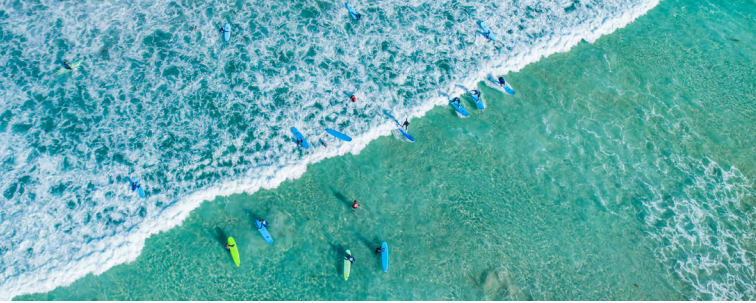
The Capes Region offers visitors a chance to immerse themselves in some of Western Australia's most breathtaking landscapes. From towering forests and rugged coastal cliffs to pristine beaches and rich wildlife habitats, these protected areas showcase the region's natural diversity and beauty. Whether you are here to hike scenic trails, spot native wildlife, or simply unwind in nature's calm, the region's parks provide unforgettable experiences for every kind of visitor.

### Kaya, wandjoo

We recognise and acknowledge the Wadandi (Saltwater) peoples as the Traditional Owners of these parks. We ask that you please respect Boodja (Country), tread carefully, take only memories and leave only footprints.

---

<b>Park essentials</b>	<b>3–4</b>	<b>Walk trail classes</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Featured parks</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Trails</b>	<b>13–15</b>
<b>Map of parks</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Cape to Cape Track</b>	<b>16–17</b>
<b>Things to see and do</b>	<b>7–8</b>	<b>Boating and fishing</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Camping</b>	<b>9–10</b>	<b>Geology, flora and fauna</b>	<b>19–21</b>
<b>Caring for the parks</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Contact information</b>	<b>22</b>



**Above** Surfers at Redgate Beach.

## Park essentials

### Summer in the South West: What to expect

**Arrive early morning or late afternoon:** On busy summer days, carparks can quickly become overcrowded. Try carpooling or check with your accommodation for transfer services.

National park campgrounds book out fast, especially during school and public holidays, so plan in advance. Bookings must be made online at [Park Stay WA](#). For more on campgrounds view [page 9](#).

### Planning your visit

Margaret River is the central point of the Capes Region, located 270km south of Perth.

Download the [Avenza Maps](#) app for access to offline, GPS-enabled maps of the parks and trails. Some maps may incur a fee, with proceeds directly supporting the not-for-profit WA Parks Foundation.



**Above** Caves Road, Boranup Forest.



**Save the app that could save your life**



[emergencyplus.com.au](https://www.emergencyplus.com.au)

Download the free Emergency+ app before your visit. Use the app in an emergency to call for assistance. If there is no mobile phone coverage you **WILL NOT** be able to call **000** but the app will provide you with your GPS location.



**Above** Kangaroo and joey.

## Park essentials

### Facilities and services

Check [Explore Parks WA](#) for available facilities at each site. Bring adequate drinking water as there is none available within the parks. Mobile phone reception can be variable, check your mobile network for coverage. Supplies are available in towns or at service stations.

### Park regulations

Parks and Wildlife is bound by its mission to protect the parks' natural and cultural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

#### Prohibited activities include:

- Feeding wildlife.
- Collecting firewood, plants, animals and artefacts.
- Camping outside of designated campgrounds.
- Use of firearms.
- Bringing domestic pets into protected natural areas.
- Fires outside of designated campground fire rings and during prohibited burning periods.



#### **Dogs are not allowed in national parks.**

They can disturb wildlife and are also at risk of a snake bite and poisoning from 1080 fox baits, which are laid throughout the park as part of the Western Shield wildlife recovery program.

#### **Wildlife is more active at dawn and dusk.**

Avoid driving at these times. If you need to travel, stay alert and abide by the speed limit. In Australia, millions of native animals are killed in road collisions every year.

The [Wildcare Helpline](#) provides advice on where to find care for sick or injured native animals.

Call us on **(08) 9474 9055**.





**Above** Carnaby's black cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*).

## Featured parks

### **Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park**

This is the most visited national park in Western Australia, stretching 95 kilometres between Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin. Offering stunning coastal views, ancient limestone caves, towering forests and epic hike trails. It also provides habitat for plants and animals found nowhere else in the world.

### **Ngari Capes Marine Park**

Stretching from Busselton to Augusta, Ngari Capes features limestone and granite reefs, diverse marine habitats and animals, and is renowned for world-class surf breaks which attract enthusiasts from around the globe. Its sheltered bays are ideal for swimming, snorkelling, and fishing.

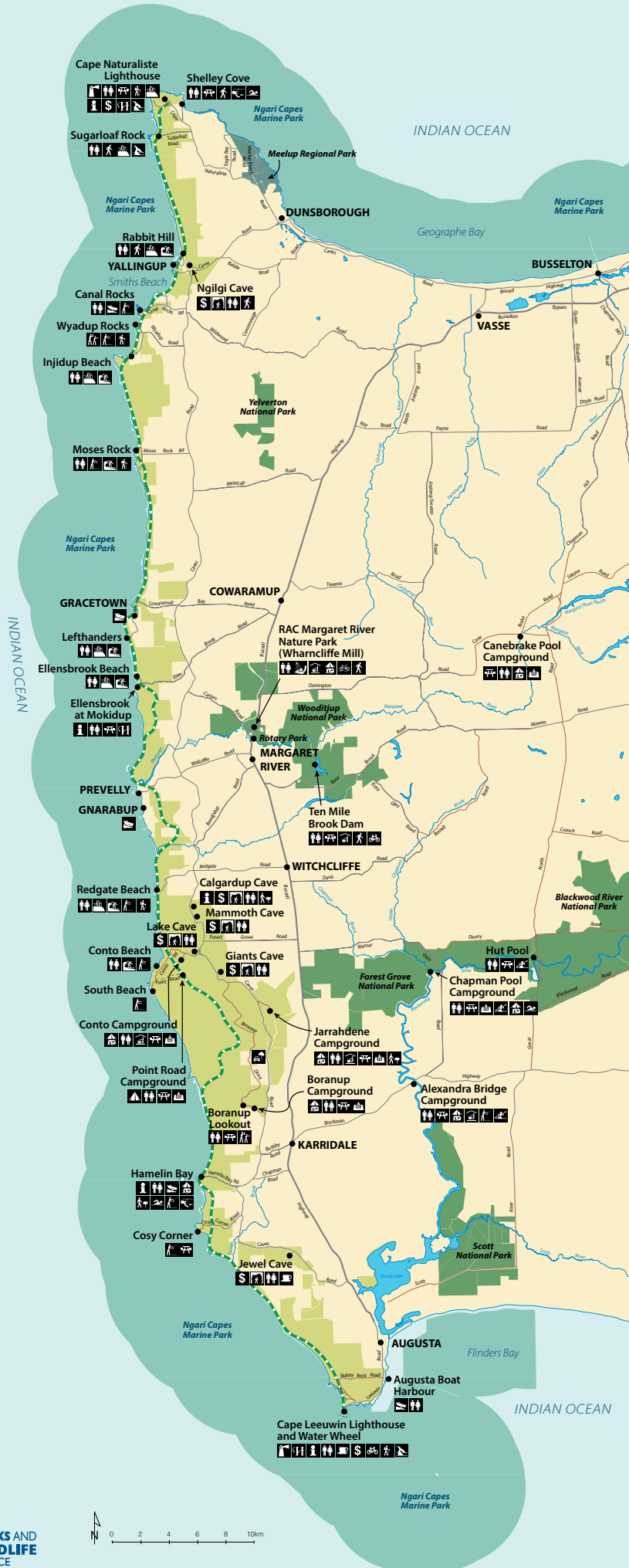
### **Woodijup National Park**

Nestled beside Margaret River, Woodijup is a lush forest retreat, home to towering jarrah, marri and karri trees. Scenic walk and mountain bike trails wind through the forest, while spring brings colourful wildflowers. All year round, visitors can enjoy birdwatching or relax with a tranquil picnic.

# Map of parks

Legend for all maps in visitor guide

	Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park
	Ngari Capes Marine Park
	National park
	Regional park
	Highways
	Sealed roads
	Unsealed roads
	4WD only
	Rivers and streams
	Cape to Cape Track
	Information
	Toilets
	Picnic table
	Fire ring
	Sheltered barbecue
	Showers
	Tent sites
	Tent/caranav sites
	Lighthouse
	Historic site
	Boat ramp
	Cafe
	Entry fees apply
	Whale watching
	Caving
	Walking
	Hiking
	Interpretive walk
	Scenic lookout
	Scenic views
	Mountain biking
	Cycling
	Swimming
	Surfing
	Snorkelling
	Fishing
	Paddling





**Above** Tour the tallest lighthouse on mainland Australia at Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse in Augusta.

## Things to see and do

Refer to the map on [page 6](#) and look for the icons below to find where you can enjoy these activities.



### Whale watching

From May to November, spot humpback, southern right and blue whales as they migrate along the coast, often just metres from shore.



### Caving

Venture underground to explore one of the six ancient limestone caves, each offering a unique experience. Calgardup and Giants are self-guided caves, lit only by torchlight. Calgardup offers boardwalks and interpretive signage for a more family-friendly experience, while Giants is more adventurous with narrow caverns, rock scrambling and ladders. Go to [Explore Parks WA](#) for opening hours and entry fees. The other caves include Mammoth, Lake, Jewel and Ngilgi. Entry fees apply at all, and bookings for these four caves can be made at the [Capes Foundation](#).



### Historic sites

Go on a guided tour of the historic lighthouses at Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin, and explore the charming lighthouse keepers' cottages. For a glimpse into 19th-century life, enjoy a self-guided tour of the old homestead at Ellensbrook at Mokidup. Entry fees apply at the lighthouses and Ellensbrook. You can also explore the remnants of Jarrahdene Timber Mill and Hamelin Bay Jetty where you might see stingrays foraging in the shallows during summer.



**Above** Fishing from the shore.



## Fishing

Cast a line at one of the many spots along the coast where the pristine waters are teeming with Australian salmon, herring and bream. View [page 18](#) for which zones you can fish in. Several fishers drown in Western Australia each year. Be aware of the risks and check weather conditions. Visit [Recfishwest](#) for safety advice, fishing rules and responsibilities.



## Water activities

The region is full of spectacular bays, beaches and scenic rivers. Perfect for surfing, swimming, snorkelling and paddling. Know the hazards and your limitations. Visit [Beachsafe](#) for beach safety information.



## Scenic drives

Experience the towering karri forest on a scenic drive along Caves Road or Boranup Drive.



## Picnicking

Relax and listen to the sounds of nature at one of the many picnic spots dotted throughout the parks.

# Camping

## Bookings and camping fees

All campgrounds require a prior online booking, which can be made at [Park Stay WA](#), payable as a nightly fee.

## Facilities

Basic facilities include toilets, fire rings and picnic tables, with caravan sites available at all campgrounds except Point Road, which is 4WD access only. Bring your own drinking water as tank water is not always available and requires treatment before consuming.

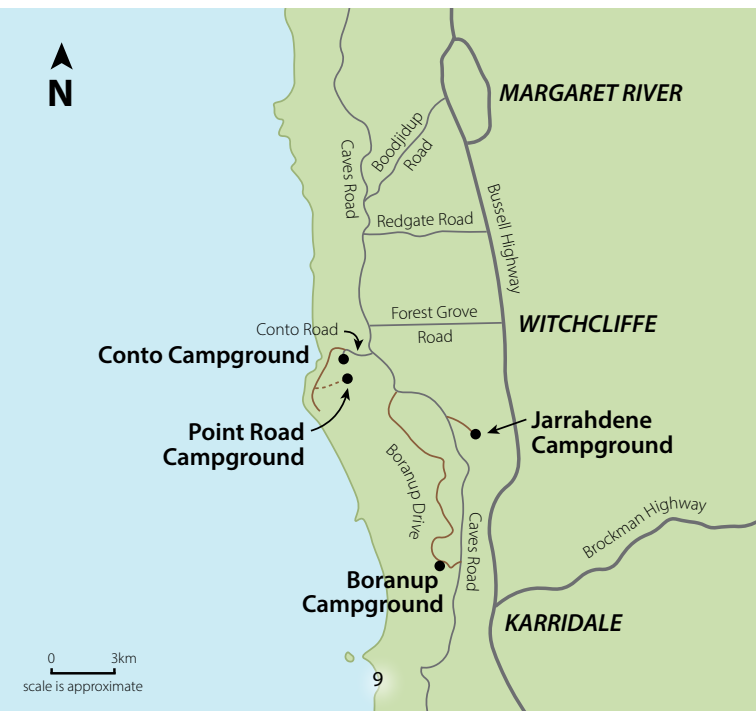
## Campfires

Campfires are only permitted in the fire rings provided at campgrounds and outside of the summer prohibited campfire season. Visit [Explore Parks WA](#) for more information.

Purchase firewood locally to prevent the spread of pests. Firewood collection in national parks is prohibited.

## Bushfire safety

Bushfires can happen all year round. But during the hottest and driest times of the year, bushfire risk is at its highest. They can start without warning and can spread rapidly on hot, windy days. Have a bushfire survival plan. In case of a bushfire call Triple Zero (000).



## Conto Campground



A very large campground 4km from Conto Beach. There are eight separate camping loops with 116 sites of varying surfaces to suit tents and caravans. The larger camping areas have gas barbecues and food preparation areas, while the smaller sites have picnic tables and fire rings.



## Jarrahdene Campground



A medium-sized campground surrounded by karri forest. There are 36 campsites available with sites to suit tents and caravans. There are food preparation areas with gas barbecues. All campsites have a fire ring and picnic table.



## Boranup Campground



A small, shady campground on the edge of Boranup Forest. There are seven campsites available, each with a picnic table and fire ring.



## Point Road Campground



A small campground nestled among peppermint trees, accessible by 4WD only. There are six campsites available suitable for tents, swags, campervans and rooftop tents.





Above Pink fairy orchid (*Caladenia latifolia*).

## Caring for the parks



### Plan ahead and prepare

Your enjoyment and safety is our concern, but your responsibility.



### Stay on track

Follow the signs in the parks and keep to the tracks. Other tracks in the parks are for management access only. If you drive, walk or ride on them, you risk introducing and spreading weeds and disease.



### Dispose of waste properly

Please take your rubbish with you and dispose of it responsibly. Recycle where possible.



### Leave what you find

Picking wildflowers is prohibited – leave them for others to enjoy.



### Minimise campfire impacts

Follow campground **campfire regulations**. Only light fires in designated fire rings when permitted and ensure fire is completely extinguished before you leave.



### Respect wildlife

Do not disturb or feed wildlife. It can alter their natural behaviours and impact their health.



### Be considerate

National and marine parks are there to enjoy and to conserve native plants and animals. Be respectful of the parks, its inhabitants and other visitors.

# Walk trail classes



## Class 1 - Easiest

All abilities access, flat, even, hardened surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for unassisted wheelchair users and prams.



## Class 2 - Easy

A trail with a modified or hardened surface, and gentle hills or occasional steps. May be suitable for assisted wheelchair users (if ramps are provided at steps).



## Class 3 - Moderate

A trail that may have short steep hills, rough surface, many steps or some rock hopping. Some bushwalking experience and moderate fitness required.



## Class 4 - Difficult

A trail with rough surface that may have very steep hills or extensive rock hopping. Bushwalking experience, navigation and emergency first aid skills, and good fitness required.



## Class 5 - Extreme

A trail with very rough surface, and may have very steep hills, arduous rock hopping or rock scrambling. Limited or no directional signage. For very experienced bushwalkers with navigation and emergency first aid skills, and high level of fitness.

## Walk safely, tread lightly

- Keep to the marked trail and leave natural objects as you find them.
- Take water and remember to drink regularly.  
**1 litre per person, per hour** is advised.
- Wear sturdy shoes, sun protection and weather-appropriate clothing.
- Walk with a buddy or tell someone your plans and what to do if you are overdue.
- Keep away from cliff edges and drop-offs.

## Cape Naturaliste Walk Trails

### Lighthouse Loop

Distance: 2.2km loop

Allow: 45 minutes



An easy, sandy trail through coastal heath with views of the lighthouse and Indian Ocean. **This trail does not provide access to the lighthouse.**

### Whale Trail

Distance: 2.4km return

Allow: 1 hour



An easy trail with access to the whale lookout. Steps at the end lead to a viewing platform where whales can be seen between September and November.

### Shelley Cove Loop

Distance: 3.1km loop

Allow: 1 hour



A moderate trail featuring diverse vegetation of tea tree, banksia woodland, and coastal heath.

### Cape Naturaliste Loop

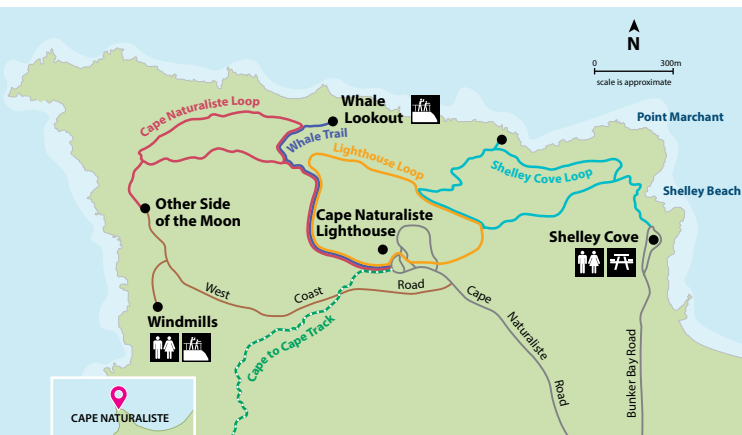
Distance: 3.4km loop

Allow: 1.5 hours



A moderate trail with varied terrain and panoramic views of the ocean.

**Below** View of Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse from Lighthouse Loop trail.



# Yallingup Walk Trails

## Torpedo Trail

**Distance:** 3km loop

**Allow:** 1 hour



A moderate 3km loop around Yallingup town with a scenic lookout halfway between Slippery Rocks and Torpedo Rock carparks.

## Quenda Trail

**Distance:** 4km loop

**Allow:** 1 to 1.5 hours



A moderate loop between Smiths Beach and Torpedo Rock carparks through coastal heath and soft sand.

## Wardanup Trail

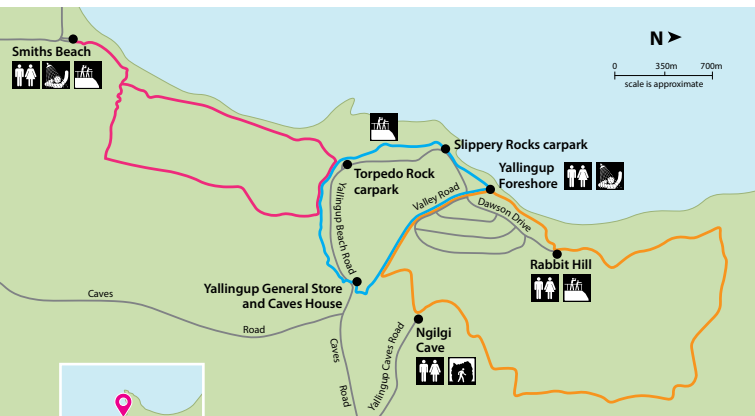
**Distance:** 6.3km loop

**Allow:** 1.5 to 2 hours



A moderate loop over varied terrain, with steep hills, dunes and several scenic lookouts.

**Below** Smiths Beach.



## Margaret River Trails

### Bunnitj Bidji

**Distance:** 14.6km return

**Allow:** 3.5 to 4.5 hours (walk)

**1 hour (cycle)**



A moderate walk or cycle to Ten Mile Brook Dam that follows the Margaret River. Start at Rotary Park in town. Use the optional routes in winter when creeks may be flooded.

### Chimney Trail

**Distance:** 3.4km loop

**Allow:** 1 to 1.5 hours



A moderate scenic loop that takes you past the historic Keenan's Chimney site. Start at Carters Trailhead.

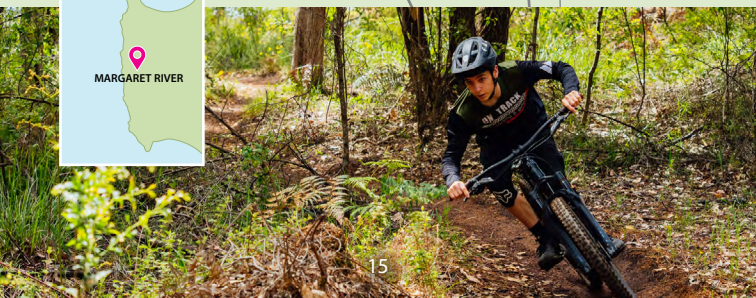
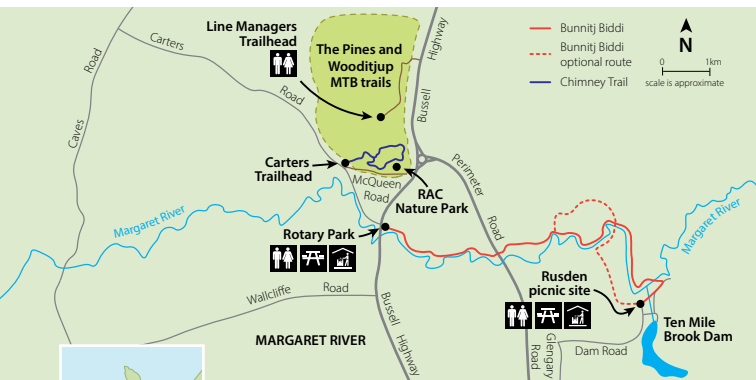
## Mountain bike trails

**Distance:** 28km of singletrack

**Allow:** A day to fully explore

In Margaret River there are two interconnected mountain bike networks - Wooditjup Trails and The Pines. Both have a mix of green, blue and black trails for beginner to advanced riders, with over 28km of singletrack to explore. Access The Pines from Line Managers Trailhead and Wooditjup Trails from Carters Trailhead.

**Below** Wooditjup Mountain Bike Trails.





**Above** Hikers on the Cape to Cape Track south of Wyadup Rocks.

## Cape to Cape Track

**Class 4 - Difficult**

**Distance: 130km**

**Allow 6 to 7 days**



This epic 130km hike extends from Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse in the north to Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse in the south, following the length of Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. For more about the track visit [Explore Parks WA](#).

### Shorter hike options

For those interested in trying the track but not wanting to hike end-to-end, there are several popular shorter walks highlighted on the next page.

### Plan ahead and stay safe

Class 4 trails have limited marking. Use a digital navigation aid or purchase your track map from [WA Naturally](#), Margaret River Visitor Centre, [Friends of the Cape to Cape Track](#) or either lighthouse.

Visit [Park Alerts](#) for trail diversions and closures before you depart and follow the walk safety advice on [page 12](#).

# Cape to Cape Track highlights

All distances are one way



## CAPE NATURALISTE

### Cape Naturaliste to Sugarloaf Rock - 3.4km

This section is Class 2 (easy), which is suitable for assisted wheelchairs and prams.



### Smiths Point to Injidup Beach - 5.8km



## YALLINGUP

### Moses Rock to Quininup Falls - 1.9km

The falls are seasonal. The best time to view them is late winter to early spring.

Quininup Falls cannot be accessed by vehicle.



## PREVELLY

### Redgate Beach to Bobs Hollow - 2.7km

Bobs Hollow can only be accessed by 4WD.



## HAMELIN BAY

## AUGUSTA

## CAPE LEEUWIN





**Above** Boats moored near Dunsborough.

## Boating and fishing

### Know your zones

Marine parks are made up of zones to protect the natural and cultural values, while providing opportunities for commercial and recreational use and enjoyment.

**Sanctuary zones** are areas where visitors can still enjoy water activities such as snorkelling or swimming but where fishing or collection of any kind is not permitted.

**Recreation zones** are designed solely for recreational use such as fishing, diving and swimming.

**Special purpose zones** are areas with priority conservation where certain activities like surfing or shore-based activities are permitted.

**General use zones** are the largest zone in Ngari Capes Marine Park and enable a wide range of sustainable recreational and commercial activities to occur, including fishing.

View the [zone map](#) to see what activities are permitted in each zone in Ngari Capes Marine Park.

### Recreational fishing

Ngari Capes has a wide range of fantastic fishing opportunities on offer. Recreational fishing is allowed in all zones except sanctuary zones. For the most up-to-date rules and regulations please visit [Recfishwest](#) or download the Recfishwest app.

### Boating

Recreational boating is permitted throughout Ngari Capes Marine Park with boat ramps located at Canal Rocks, Gracetown, Gnarabup, Hamelin Bay and Augusta Boat Harbour. Refer to [Transport WA](#) for information on boating regulations and safety.



**Above** Wilyabrup Sea Cliffs.

## The landscape

The Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge is a major geological feature of the Capes. It runs north to south and reaches up to 200 metres above sea level. The ridge consists primarily of granitic gneiss (pronounced 'nice'). These are metamorphic or 'changed' rocks that slowly transformed under extreme temperatures and pressures many kilometres below the surface. These rocks began to metamorphose as early as 1100 million years ago and kept occurring sporadically until 520 million years ago. They are best seen along the magnificent coastline at places like Canal Rocks or Sugarloaf Rock.

Overlaying these ancient metamorphic rocks lies much younger Tamala Limestone, formed within the last two million years from the cementing of lime-rich sand dunes. As slightly acidic rainwater seeps through these cemented dunes, it gradually dissolves the limestone, creating underground channels and passages that eventually form caves. Along the coastline, this same limestone is gradually worn away by continual exposure to wind and waves, forming dramatic sea cliffs, overhangs and other striking coastal features.



**Above** Karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*).

## Flora and fungi

The Capes Region is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots with rare species that grow nowhere else. The landscape shifts from banksia and melaleuca woodlands, with salt and wind tolerant coastal heath, to towering karri, marri and jarrah forests. The Boranup karri forest is among the tallest in Australia and supports a rich understorey of shrubs, herbs, and ferns, providing food and shelter for many animals. The region also contains wetlands that are critical habitats for many birds, amphibians, insects and fish.

Springtime brings a spectacular burst of colour with vibrant coral vines, purple hardenbergia and many orchid species blooming throughout the forest. Hibbertia, hovea, and clematis add splashes of yellow, purple, and white to the heathlands. During autumn and winter, the Boranup Forest becomes a wonderland of fungi that thrive on the moist, shaded forest floor.

Just beyond the coastal heathlands, the marine park protects a rich mosaic of habitats shaped by the meeting of the cool Capes Current and the warm Leeuwin Current. Seagrass meadows, limestone and granite reefs adorned with sponges and corals, and thriving macroalgae create a vibrant underwater landscape that offers food and shelter to marine life of all shapes and sizes.



**Above** Bobtail lizard (*Tiliqua rugosa*).

## Fauna

These parks are home to native animals, many of which are unique to this part of Western Australia. The habitats these parks provide are especially important for critically endangered species like the western ringtail possum and white-bellied frog.

Birds like the splendid fairy-wren, western whistler, New Holland honeyeater, and even forest red-tailed black cockatoo are frequent visitors to the forests and coastal heaths. Shorebirds like the pied oystercatcher, and endangered hooded plover may be seen along the beach and humpback, southern right and blue whales are visible close to shore between May and November during their annual migration.

If you are staying at one of the campgrounds, you might even spot small mammals such as the quenda (southern brown bandicoot) or common brushtail possum at dusk or dawn.

Reptiles such as the southern heath monitor and bobtail lizard are a common sight and may be seen sunning themselves on warm roads, paths or rocks.

# Contact information



National park rangers are always glad to help make your visit more enjoyable and informative. Do not hesitate to contact them if you require any information or assistance.

## Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

### Parks and Wildlife Service Blackwood District

14 Queen Street BUSSELTON 6280

Phone (08) 9752 5555

Email [blackwood@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:blackwood@dbca.wa.gov.au)

[dbca.wa.gov.au](http://dbca.wa.gov.au)

### More information

Check for alerts and updates directly related to parks and major trails at [alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au) and for all emergency information in Western Australia at [emergency.wa.gov.au](http://emergency.wa.gov.au)

Find more park visitor information, book campsites and share your experiences at [exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au)

@waparkswildlife



@exploreparkswa



Information current at June 2026.

Publication available in alternative format on request.