

# Walk the Bibbulmun Track

Feel the spirit of Australia's South West



Darling Range Discovery

**Kalamunda to Dwellingup** 

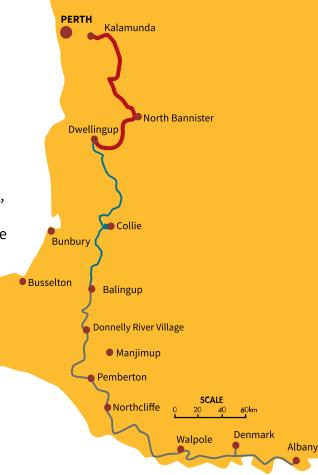
# Parling Range Discovery

Situated less than an hour from Perth, the Darling Range is the perfect place to begin your Bibbulmun Track family adventure.

Travel though the historic towns of Kalamunda and Mundaring, explore the peaceful jarrah and marri forests of Beelu National Park and fill your days with outdoor fun in Dwellingup and Lane Poole Reserve.

Each day of this itinerary includes a short, family-friendly walk on the Track, as well as stops at interesting attractions in <u>Track Towns</u> along the way.

Whether you complete the full trip or just a walk or two, this itinerary will help you discover some of the highlights of the Bibbulmun Track.



# Track towns offer plenty to see and do



Canoeing at Lane Poole Reserve



Trees Adventure. Photo: Dwellingup NA



Calamunnda Camel Farm. Photo: Mundaring Visitor Centre



No. 1 Pump Station Museum at Mundaring Weir

# Pay One - Mundaring Meander

**Perth to Mundaring** 

### **Morning**

Make your way to Mundaring via Great Eastern Highway. Stop in town for a quick coffee and bakery treat before making the 10 minute drive along Mundaring Weir Road to the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. Look for the Bibbulmun Track signs heading north towards Mundaring Weir to begin your walk. Walk toward the amphitheatre surrounded by the buildings. Keeping the animal enclosure on your left and amphitheatre on your right, follow the trail markers.



Mundaring Weir Dam Wall

## Day Walk One: Perth Hills Discovery Centre to Mundaring Weir

Distance: 8km return Difficulty: Grade 3 Time: 2.5-3.5 hours

Starting point: Perth Hills Discovery Centre,

Allen Road, Mundaring

Starting from the Perth Hills Discovery Centre, this return walk leads you through the beautiful jarrah forest of Beelu National Park to Mundaring Weir and

Lake CY O'Connor. Along this section of the Track, you'll pass picnic areas home to kangaroos and birdlife, as well as the historic Mundaring Weir Hotel, where you and the kids can enjoy a yummy pub lunch. Walk along the weir wall for an excellent view over the water. On the way back, visit the No. 1 Pumping Station (entry fees apply) at the base of the dam wall to learn about the fascinating history of the weir and its pipeline, which transports water all the way to Kalgoorlie.



Kalamunda History Village. Photo: Kalamunda and Districts Historical Society

### **Afternoon**

Drive 20 minutes along Mundaring Weir Road to the charming town of <u>Kalamunda</u> where you'll find the Northern Terminus of the Bibbulmun Track. Check out the Zigzag Cultural Centre for handy information on nearby attractions and works from local artists. Next door, take a trip back in time at the Kalamunda History Village, where you can explore century-old classrooms, shops, a fire station, and even hop aboard a steam engine!

# **Evening**

There are plenty of accommodation options to choose from in the Perth Hills, from historic hotels and B&Bs, to self-contained chalets and eco-spas. For a real hills forest experience, you can camp at Perth Hills Discovery Centre – the starting point of today's walk. Visit our <u>website</u> to find a Walker Friendly Business in the area.

# Day Two - Camels to Campsites



#### Kalamunda to Dwellingup

### Morning

Stop in at one of Kalamunda's cafes to pick up a tasty breakfast and a packed lunch to enjoy on today's walk. From Kalamunda, take Mundaring Weir Road to the Camel Farm on Paull's Valley Road in Hackett's Gully. From the Camel Farm parking area, head to the end of the fence and veer left towards the forest, following the Bibbulmun Track trail markers.



Hewett's Hill campsite. Photo: Down Under Discoveries

## Day Walk Two: Camel Farm to Hewett's Hill Campsite

Distance: 6.5km return Difficulty: Grade 2 Time: 1-3 hours

**Starting point:** Camel Farm, Paull's Valley Road, Hackett's Gully

This short section of the Track winds through the forest, leading you past jarrah trees, grasstrees, banksias and maybe a kangaroo or two. The trail gradually descends downhill (which means an uphill on the way back) through the bush to Hewett's Hill campsite. With picnic tables, a toilet and a lovely forest view, the campsite is the ideal spot to enjoy your packed lunch.



Lane Poole Reserve. Photo: Parks and Wildlife Service

### Afternoon

Cool off with an icy-pole from the Camel Farm Kiosk before making the 90 minute drive to <u>Dwellingup</u> via the South Western Highway. Take Del Park Road for 25km to reach Dwellingup town centre. Spend the rest of the afternoon exploring this quaint timber town, or take the 15 minute drive to Lane Poole Reserve.

Located in the heart of the forest, on the banks of the Murray River, Lane Poole Reserve offers plenty of nature-based fun for the whole family. Choose from swimming, canoeing, mountain biking, or simply let the kids run loose to explore the creeks, waterfalls and shady forest walk trails.

# **Evening**

Dwellingup has plenty of family-friendly accommodation to choose from, including chalets, lodges, caravan parks and beautiful forest and riverside campsites at Lane Poole Reserve. Visit <u>our website</u> to find Walker Friendly Business in the area.

# Day Three - Train Ride Through the Trees



**Dwellingup to Perth** 

### **Morning**

Today's walk includes a train ride through forest and farmland on the Hotham Valley Tourist Train. The train departs twice daily from Dwellingup Station on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, so be sure to <a href="check online">check online</a> when planning your trip. Take the Forest Train from Dwellingup Station and hop off at the Etmilyn Siding to begin the walk.



The Forest Train. Photo: Hotham Valley Tourist Railway

# Day Walk Three: Etmilyn Siding to Dwellingup

Distance: 9.9km one way Difficulty: Grade 3 Time: Half day or more

Starting point: Etmilyn Siding station

This 9.9km one-way walk starts at Etmilyn Siding station and weaves in and out of beautiful jarrah forest to reach Dwellingup town centre.

This section of the Track closely follows the railway, giving you a glimpse into the region's timber milling past. You are walking through the area that was devastated by the bushfires of 1961 and a memorial on the side of the Track to the townsite of Holyoake, a settlement that was never rebuilt, is a reminder of the dangers of fire in the bush.



The Forest Discovery Centre. Photo: Dwellingup WA

### **Afternoon**

After your walk, reward yourself with a tasty lunch at one of the town's cafes before heading to the Forest Discovery Centre. Here you can learn about local native plants and wildlife or wander through the forest canopy on the 11m high treetop walkway. For a more adrenaline pumping experience, head to Trees Adventure in Lane Poole Reserve where you and the kids can climb, zipline or even aerial skateboard through a forest obstacle course – definitely one for the thrill-seekers!

# **Evening**

After you've had your fill of beautiful forest scenery, head back to Perth via Del Park Road and South Western Highway. Alternatively – stay another day in Dwellingup to go swimming and canoeing in <u>Lane Pool Reserve</u>. Or continue your drive south and explore more of the Bibbulmun Track on one of our other <u>family-friendly</u> itineraries.

# Important Information



## **Keeping kids interested**

Walking on the Bibbulmun Track is a great way for children to experience the wonders of the bush. Try these tips to add even more fun to your walk:

- Spot the Waugal the Track is signposted with Waugal trail markers, challenge your kids to be the first to see the next one.
- Try to identify the different flowers, trees and animals you encounter on the walk. You can find a range of <a href="helpful books">helpful books</a> available from the Foundation.
- Take it slowly. Allow yourself plenty of time so you're not too rushed to stop and rest.
- Listen to the birds, insects, frogs and other sounds of the bush.
- Take a camera to record your adventure.
- Encourage older kids to help plan your walk and give directions using a map or compass.



Older children can help with directions

## Before you go

Here is a list of things you need to do, pack and think about before you go for a day walk.

- Wear good walking shoes, comfortable loose fitting clothes, and a waterproof/windproof jacket.
- Take a watch, wear a sunhat and use sunscreen.
- Pack a bottle of water (1-2 litres depending on distance, terrain and weather).
- Pack a basic first-aid kit and blister kit.
- Pack snacks and lunch.
- Use only appropriate access points.
- Check the current <u>Track Conditions on our website</u>.
- Tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Please note that not all sections of the Track have a phone signal.
- Many of these walks can be found on the <u>Trails WA website</u> or download the <u>Trails WA App (iOS only)</u>.
- For more tips, visit our <u>Day Walks Getting Started webpage</u>.

### Remember, your safety is our concern but your responsibility

# **Along the Track**

The yellow Waugal trail markers clearly show the way along the Bibbulmun Track. The Waugal, or Rainbow Serpent, is an important spirit from the Aboriginal Dreamtime responsible for the creation of the rivers, waterways and landforms around WA's South West.



# Important Information



## **Tread Softly**

The Bibbulmun Track will lead you through some of the most beautiful and pristine landscapes in the South West, and we ask all walkers to respect the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

While exploring the Track, please follow the seven Leave No Trace Principles:

- 1. Plan ahead and prepare.
- 2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- 3. Dispose of waste properly.
- 4. Leave what you find.
- 5. Minimise campfire impacts.
- 6. Respect wildlife.
- 7. Be considerate of other walkers.



In other words, please leave the Track in better condition than you found it. That way we can make sure that you and others can enjoy the beauty of the Bibbulmun Track now and in the future.

Please note that dogs are not permitted in National Parks. They should be restrained on a leash in State Forests, around the town and in local parks.

### **Walk Grades**

All walks in this itinerary are graded using the Australian Walking Track Grading System. Use the guide below and ask yourself 'is this walk suitable for me?'



#### Grade 1

No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. Walks no greater than 5km.



#### **Grade 2**

No bushwalking experience required. The track is hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. Walks no greater than 10km.



#### **Grade 3**

Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surface and many steps. Walks up to 20km.



#### Grade 4

Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.



#### **Grade 5**

Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20km.

# Important Information



### On the Track

If you spot any problems or changes to this walk, please email the details to <u>friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au</u> so we can update it for those that follow in your footsteps.

If you enjoyed this walk, please help us keep it fantastic.

Regular maintenance is undertaken by around 300 volunteers managed by the Bibbulmun Track Foundation. If you enjoyed your walk please make a <u>donation</u> – or become a <u>member</u>... it's less than the price of a coffee each month.



### **Contact Us**

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