

# Walk the Bibbulmun Track

Feel the spirit of Australia's South West



Kids in the Karri

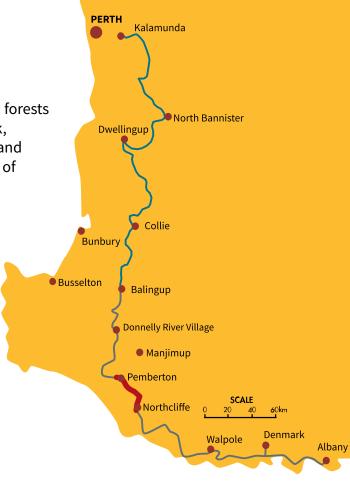
**Pemberton to Northcliffe** 

# Kids in the Karri

Introduce your kids to the wonder of the South West's karri forests on this four-day adventure. Following the Bibbulmun Track, you'll explore magnificent forests, see beautiful waterfalls and climb giant trees on this journey through the timber towns of Pemberton and Northcliffe.

Each day of this trip includes a short, family-friendly walk on the Track, as well as interesting sights and fun activities in the nearby <u>Track Towns</u>.

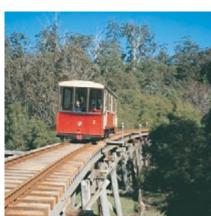
Whether you complete the full trip or pick a walk or two, this itinerary will help your family explore some of the best parts of the Bibbulmun Track



# Track Towns offer plenty to see and do



Pemberton Pool



Pemberton Tramway. Photo: Tourism WA



Take a tour of Yeagarup Dunes. Photo: Pemberton Discovery Tours



Climbing the Gloucester Tree. Photo: Tourism WA

# Day One - Beedelup Falls and Bikes



**Perth to Pemberton** 

### **Morning**

From Perth, make the approximately four hour drive to <u>Pemberton</u> where you can enjoy lunch or pick up supplies for a picnic. From Pemberton, it's a 20 minute (21km) drive west on the Vasse Highway to Beedelup National Park. Watch for signs for the Beedelup Falls shortly after passing Channybearup Road on the right. Park in the Beedelup Falls carpark to begin today's walk.



Beedelup Falls. Photo: Toursim NA

# Day Walk One: Beedelup Falls to Beedelup Campsite

Distance: 3.2km return Difficulty: Grade 2 Time: 1-2 hour

Starting point: Beedelup Falls Carpark,

off Vasse Highway

This easy walk will lead you through karri forest to Beedelup Falls, a 10m high waterfall that is

particularly impressive in winter and spring (June to November). Cross the suspension bridge for a close up view of the falls before returning to the carpark to follow the Track to Beedelup Campsite. The campsite is set amid tall karris on the banks of a brook, making it a peaceful spot to relax and enjoy the sounds of the forest while enjoying your picnic lunch or a cool drink.



Pemberton Mountain Bike Park. Photo: Trails WA

#### Afternoon

Spend the afternoon exploring the town, including Pemberton Pool, a freshwater lake where you and the kids can swim in the shade of towering karris. If you've still got energy to burn, <a href="hire: a bike">hire: a bike</a> and head to the <a href="Pemberton Mountain Bike Park">Pemberton Mountain Bike Park</a>. You'll find plenty of trails for the whole family, from the <a href="Ankle Biters Loop">Ankle Biters Loop</a> for little ones, to the more adventurous <a href="Railway Run XC">Railway Run XC</a> and <a href="Longshanks">Longshanks</a> trails.

# **Evening**

Pemberton offers all kinds of accommodation for families, including a resort, hotels, chalets, caravan parks and campsites. Check out <u>our website</u> to find our walker-friendly businesses.

# Day Two - Trams and Towering Trees



**Pemberton** 

### **Morning**

Today's walk starts from the world's tallest climbable tree where the brave-hearted can climb 61 metres to the lookout for an incredible view over the treetops. The walk also includes a ride on the Pemberton Tramway from the Cascades, through karri forest back to Pemberton. The tram departs twice daily from Pemberton Station (except Sunday and public holidays), so you will need to pre-book your ticket online at <a href="mailto:pemtram.com.au">pemtram.com.au</a> or 9776 1322. Make sure you let them know you wish to be picked up at the Cascades.



The Cascades

# **Day Walk Two: Gloucester Tree to Cascades**

**Distance:** 6km one-way (tram ride return)

**Difficulty:** Grade 2

Time: 2 hours for the walk + 1 hour tram ride Starting point: The Gloucester Tree, Pemberton

To begin the walk, follow the Gloucester Route until you reach the bitumen road. From here, turn right, cross over the twin bridges, and then turn right again, following the Bibbulmun Track trail markers back into the forest along the gurgling East Brook through the valley. Much of the Track follows an old railway which was once used to transport massive logs to the Pemberton Mill.

Your walk ends at the Cascades. Make sure you arrive by 11.15am so you have time to explore the lookout and boardwalks for excellent views of Lefroy Brook and the rocky rapids below. The tram departs from the Cascades promptly at 11.30am (or 14.45pm if you prefer to walk in the afternoon). Enjoy the one hour tram ride through towering karri, marri and jarrah forest to the Warren River and back to Pemberton.

The tram ride ends in Pemberton which is a 30 minute walk from the Gloucester Tree. To arrange a lift to collect your car ring People & Parcel Movers on 0448 544 784. Alternatively, leave your car in Pemberton and get a lift to the Gloucester Tree at the start of the walk.



On the shores of Big Brook Dam

#### Afternoon

From Pemberton, drive for ten minutes to the Lavender and Berry Farm for a delicious afternoon tea of berry scones, pancakes or homemade ice cream. Alternatively, take a 15 minute scenic drive to Big Brook Dam, where you can enjoy a swim in the crystal blue water, cycle or stroll along the <a href="Big Brook Dam Track">Big Brook Dam Track</a> or simply relax on the sandy beach.

# Pay Three - Sculptures and Swimming holes



**Pemberton to Northcliffe** 

### **Morning**

Enjoy a tasty breakfast in one of Pemberton's cafes before making the 30 minute drive along Pemberton-Northcliffe Road to reach Northcliffe. Stop in at the Northcliffe Visitor Centre to experience Understory, a 1.2km trail through the forest that features a variety of unique artworks including sculptures, stories, poetry and music. Kids can venture into the trail's story nooks and listen to stories *told* by animals of the forest.



Artwork on the Understory Trail. Photo: Trails WA



Beautiful Schafer campsite. Photo: Laughing Ladies

#### **Afternoon**

Stock up on trail snacks from the Northcliffe bakery or supermarket before driving around 14km north on Wheatley Coast road to reach the starting point of today's walk. Where the road crosses the Bibbulmun Track turn right (east) and follow the Track markers to begin today's walk.

## Day Walk Three: Wheatley Coast Road to Schafer Campsite

Distance: 9.6km return Difficulty: Grade 3 Time: 4-5 hours

Starting point: Wheatley Coast Road, Northcliffe

This easy section of the Track leads you through karri forest and farmland to the beautiful Schafer campsite named after Geoff Schafer, whose idea of a long-distance walk trail initiated the creation of the Bibbulmun Track. Metres from the campsite, you'll find an inviting swimming hole where you can enjoy a refreshing dip. Be careful to stick to the roped-off area when swimming, as the dam is on private property and the water is very deep!

# **Evening**

Northcliffe offers a number of comfortable accommodation options including motels, chalets, a caravan park and campsite. Visit <u>our website</u> for a list of walker-friendly businesses in the area.

# Day Four - Dunes and D'Entrecasteaux



**Northcliffe to Perth** 

### **Morning**

After a leisurely breakfast in Northcliffe, take the 30 minute drive along Windy Harbour Road to D'Entrecasteaux National Park to explore the wild and rugged coastal scenery. Stop in at Mount Chudalup and climb to the top for a fantastic panorama of the area's forests and coastline. Continue on to Point D'Entrecasteaux, where you can follow the 400m Pupalong Walk for amazing views over limestone cliffs and the Southern Ocean.

Alternatively, head back to Pemberton and then make the 30 minute drive to <u>Yeagarup Lake</u>. Park here to explore the shores of the lake and head on foot to Yeagarup Dunes. These incredible white sand dunes rise metres above the surrounding karri forest and are the largest landlocked dunes in the southern hemisphere!

### **Afternoon**

From Pemberton or Northcliffe, make your way to South West Highway to begin the four hour drive back to Perth.

#### What's next?

The fun doesn't have to end here. Explore more of the Bibbulmun Track with our other <u>family-friendly</u> itineraries.



Lake Yegarup. Photo: Pemberton Visitors Centre



Mount Chudalup. Photo: Parks and Wildlife Service



The view from Point D'Entrecasteaux. Photo: Tourism NA



Yeagarup Dunes. Photo: Pemberton Discovery Tours

# 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.



Record your adventure with plenty of photos

# 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**

#### **Bibbulmun Track Foundation**

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