

# Fitzgerald River National Park



Above Roe's rock pool. Below Royal hakea – Andy Reynolds, Reynolds Graphics



## Information and recreation guide



Department of  
Environment and Conservation



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Information current at October 2009

## Remember

**Stay cool.** Don't light fires. Gas barbecues are provided free of charge at Mylies, Point Ann, Quoin Head, Fitzgerald Inlet and Four Mile and St Mary campsites.

**Be clean.** Please take your litter with you.

**Save animals and plants.** No firearms or pets are permitted in Fitzgerald River National Park.

**Stay on the road.** Follow signs in the park and keep vehicles to the roads marked in this leaflet. Observe the track closures and the speed limits. To drive a 4WD vehicle on sand, engage 4WD and reduce tyre pressure. Don't forget to re-inflate your tyres when you leave the area. It is recommended that 2WD vehicles not be driven on sand or other soft surfaces.

**Be prepared.** Always carry plenty of fresh water (at least four litres per person per day) as there are no reliable water supplies within the park.

## Take care

**Keep your personal safety in mind at all times.** Caution is required in any natural environment with potentially hazardous terrain. The Fitzgerald River National Park is no exception.

**Stand back from rocky headlands and cliff edges.** Many areas within the park have steep, rocky slopes and much of the rock is loose and crumbly.

**Choose fishing or swimming sites with great care.** The Southern Ocean is unpredictable, making rock fishing and swimming especially dangerous. Huge waves and swells can suddenly occur even on calm days. Rocks become slippery when wet. Riptides are common along the coastline.



Please heed warnings shown on signs that display this symbol.

## More information

National park rangers are always glad to make your visit more enjoyable and informative. Don't hesitate to contact them if you need information or assistance.

### Senior ranger

Fitzgerald River National Park  
Quiss Road, Jerramungup WA 6337  
Tel (08) 9835 5043 Fax (08) 9835 5045

### Rangers

Eastern side (East Mt Barren)  
Tel (08) 9838 3060

Western side (Murray Road)  
Tel (08) 9837 1022

### DEC South Coast Regional Office

120 Albany Highway, Albany WA 6330  
Tel (08) 9842 4500 Fax (08) 9841 7105

[www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au)

**Front cover** Fitzgerald River National Park. *Photo – Gordon Roberts/DEC*  
*All photos are by Peter Wilkins/DEC, except those otherwise credited.*





**Above** View from near Quoin Head.

Fitzgerald River National Park covers an area of 329,039 hectares and lies on the central south coast of Western Australia, between the towns of Bremer Bay and Hopetoun, 420 kilometres south-east of Perth.

It is one of the largest and most botanically significant national parks in Australia, with approximately 15 per cent of the State's described plant species.

The park is managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) on behalf of the Conservation Commission of Western Australia. There are three rangers resident in Fitzgerald River National Park.

The park protects magnificent scenery and is one of the most flora-rich conservation areas in WA. So far, 1883 plant species have been identified, 75 of which are found nowhere else. More species of animals live in this national park than in any other reserve in south-western Australia. They include 22 mammal species, 41 reptile species and 12 frog species. The park has more than 200 bird species including rare species such as the ground parrot, the western bristle bird and the western whipbird.

## Man and the Biosphere

The Fitzgerald River National Park is an internationally recognised Biosphere Reserve under the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Program. The aim of this global program is to discover and demonstrate how people and nature can flourish together in a sustainable manner.

The park is large enough to provide a baseline for evaluating environmental change. Landowners, communities and agencies from the surrounding area work together to manage land use and minimise impacts on this magnificent national park.



**Above** Hamersley Beach.

## Dieback

**Roads can be closed because of conditions that promote the spread of the pathogen that causes dieback. Please contact a ranger or DEC office before your visit to find out about road closures.**

Dieback is caused by a fungus-like organism, known as *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, which is lethal to hundreds of plant species. These introduced fungi kill plants by destroying their root systems, and place many of the park's plant species at risk. The climate of the south coast favours the spread of dieback, which thrives in warm moist soil and can easily be spread in mud or soil that adheres to vehicle tyres or bushwalkers' footwear.

Because of this, it is sometimes necessary to close roads and tracks or restrict access temporarily to certain areas.

Fitzgerald River National Park is one of the least infected parks in south-western Australia. With your help it has a chance of remaining so.

When driving in the park, it is essential to keep to established roads and tracks and obey all 'ROAD CLOSED' signs. Bush walkers can help by cleaning mud and soil from their boots before entering a park or reserve. By washing the tyres and underbody of your car before and after a trip to a park or reserve, you can help preserve WA's natural areas.



**Above from left** Dunnart, turtle frog and Quaalup bell.



**Above** Fitzgerald River National Park.

## Access

Park entry fees and camping fees apply. Drive carefully. Speed limits apply on all roads.

### From the north

Three gravel roads – Hamersley Drive, Quiss Road and Pabelup Drive – provide access for 2WD vehicles.

Hamersley Drive (eastern end) is a scenic drive offering excellent views into the heart of the park, as well as access to Four Mile, Barrens, Mylies and West beaches.

Quiss Road (western end) and Pabelup Drive travel through an undulating landscape and connect to roads leading to West Mt Barren, Point Ann and St Marys campsite.

### From the east

The park is entered near Hopetoun via the Southern Ocean West Road which provides access to several coastal sites. The tracks to Whale Bone Beach Track, Quoin Head Track and Moir Track are 4WD only and are frequently closed during wet conditions.

### From the west

Devils Creek Road enters the western section of the park and can be accessed from the South Coast Highway just north of Gairdner. Pabelup Drive connects Devils Creek Road and Quiss Road, allowing 2WD vehicles to explore a vast section of the park.

Points of interest that are accessible by 2WD vehicles are Mt Maxwell, West Mt Barren and Point Ann. The access tracks to Fitzgerald Inlet, Trigelow Beach and Twertup are 4WD only and are frequently closed during wet conditions.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Roads within Fitzgerald River National Park are not suitable for caravans, large buses and motor homes.

However, caravans are allowed into Quaalup from the west.

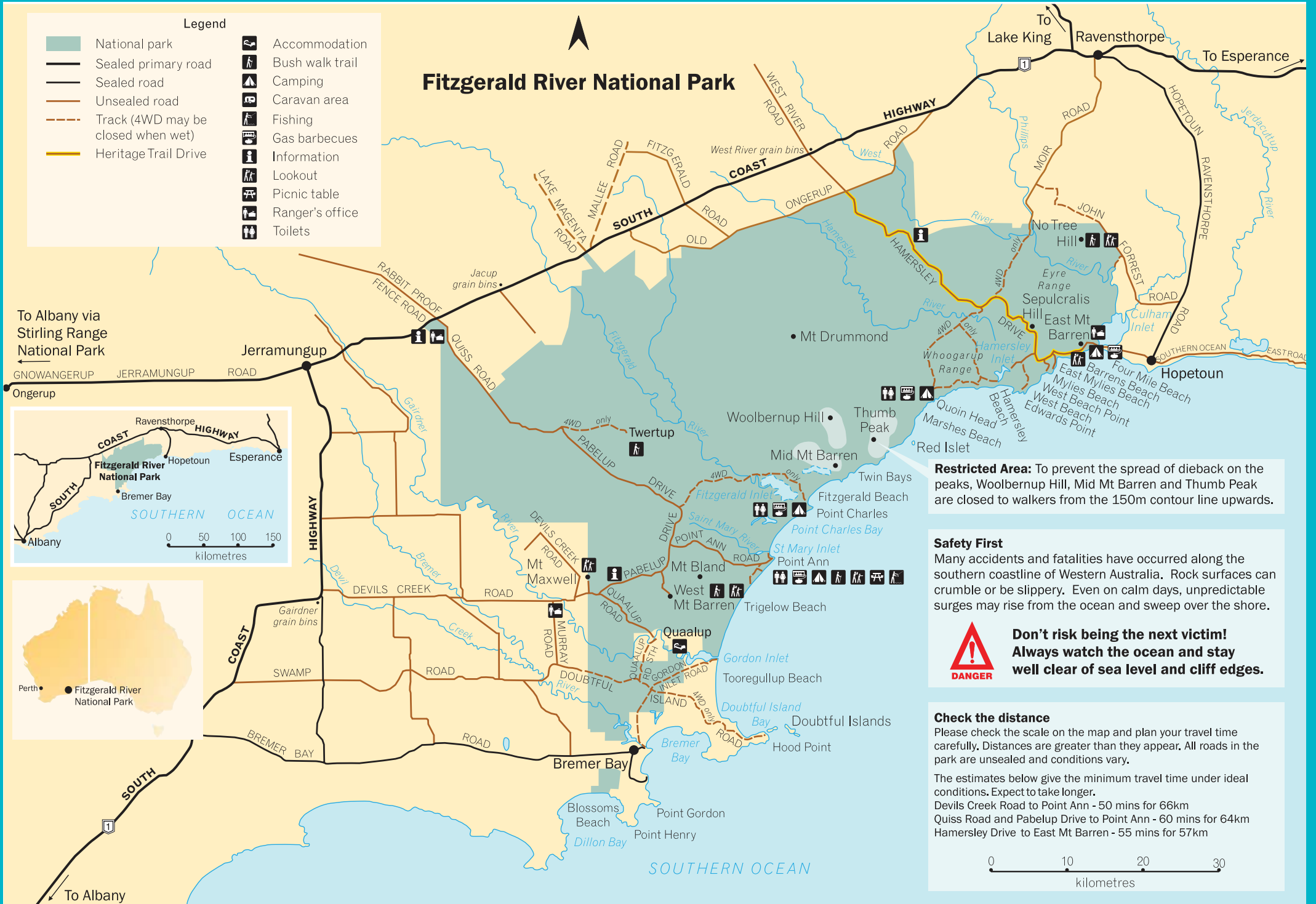
Buses larger than 20-seaters are only permitted to East Mt Barren car park from the east, and Quaalup from the west. Buses with 20 seats or less are allowed to West Mt Barren, Point Ann and Mylies Beach.

# Fitzgerald River National Park

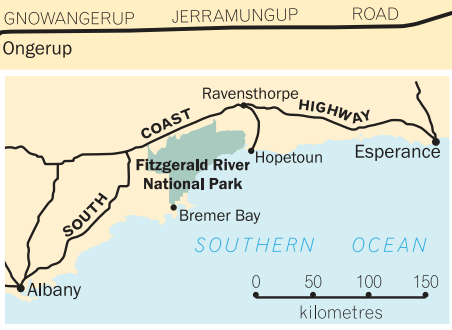


## Legend

- |  |                                    |  |                 |
|--|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
|  | National park                      |  | Accommodation   |
|  | Sealed primary road                |  | Bush walk trail |
|  | Sealed road                        |  | Camping         |
|  | Unsealed road                      |  | Caravan area    |
|  | Track (4WD may be closed when wet) |  | Fishing         |
|  | Heritage Trail Drive               |  | Gas barbecues   |
|  |                                    |  | Information     |
|  |                                    |  | Lookout         |
|  |                                    |  | Picnic table    |
|  |                                    |  | Ranger's office |
|  |                                    |  | Toilets         |



To Albany via Stirling Range National Park



**Restricted Area:** To prevent the spread of dieback on the peaks, Woolbernap Hill, Mid Mt Barren and Thumb Peak are closed to walkers from the 150m contour line upwards.

**Safety First**  
Many accidents and fatalities have occurred along the southern coastline of Western Australia. Rock surfaces can crumble or be slippery. Even on calm days, unpredictable surges may rise from the ocean and sweep over the shore.



**Don't risk being the next victim!**  
**Always watch the ocean and stay well clear of sea level and cliff edges.**

**Check the distance**  
Please check the scale on the map and plan your travel time carefully. Distances are greater than they appear. All roads in the park are unsealed and conditions vary.  
The estimates below give the minimum travel time under ideal conditions. Expect to take longer.  
Devils Creek Road to Point Ann - 50 mins for 66km  
Quiss Road and Pabelup Drive to Point Ann - 60 mins for 64km  
Hamersley Drive to East Mt Barren - 55 mins for 57km







**Above from left** View towards Hopetoun; Pt Ann Heritage Trail.

## Things to do and see

Diverse landscapes, protected beaches, rugged sea cliffs, steep ranges, extensive plains and sheer river valleys ending in inlets all provide a variety of recreational opportunities based on natural settings.

### Wildflowers

Some wildflowers are always in bloom but most abundantly in spring.

### Whale watching

From June to October whales can often be viewed along the coast.

### Bushwalks

- West Mt Barren – allow 1–2 hours
- Point Ann Heritage Trail – 1 hour
- Twertup 'Horrie and Dorrie' – 1–2 hours
- East Mt Barren – 3 hours
- West Beach Point – 1 hour

Please contact a ranger to register for overnight walks or for details on other walks.

### Fishing

Fitzgerald River National Park has many excellent fishing beaches. Keep safety in mind when choosing a site. Normal fishing regulations apply.

### Camping

Vehicle-based camping is available at Four Mile Beach, Hamersley Inlet, Quoin Head, Fitzgerald Inlet and St Mary Inlet. Please check the map for locations.

Camping fees apply.

**Top right** *Banksia coccinea*.

**Centre right** Fitzgerald River National Park.

**Bottom right** Pt Charles Bay.



Recreation sites are currently being improved. See national park ranger for details.	roads and tracks		day use				camping		beach and water access		popular activities				
	2WD road track	4WD track (may be closed when wet)	Scenic outlook	Picnic/gas barbecue	Toilets	Campsite	Group camping	Backpack camping	Foot access to beach	4WD access to beach	Boat launch	Walking	Fishing	Whale watching	Nature study
<b>Inland sites</b>															
East Mt Barren lookout	•		•											•	•
East Mt Barren footpath	•		•									•			•
Hamersley River crossing			•									•			•
Sepulchralis Hill	•		•									•			•
No Tree Hill	•		•									•			•
Twertup		•	•									•			•
West Mt Barren footpath	•		•									•			•
Mt Maxwell	•		•									•			
<b>Coastal sites</b>															
Four Mile Beach	•		•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•
Barrens Beach	•		•					•				•	•	•	•
East Mylies Beach	•		•					•				•	•	•	•
West Beach Point	•		•									•			
West Beach	•		•									•	•	•	•
Edwards Point		•													
Hamersley Dunes		•							•				•		•
Hamersley Inlet	•			•	•					•		•	•		•
Hamersley Inlet (Ravensthorpe Shire Reserve)	•				•	•		•	•		•	•	•		•
Whalebone Beach			•	•				•				•	•	•	•
Quoin Head			•	•	•	•		•	•			•	•	•	•
Fitzgerald Beach			•						•				•	•	•
Fitzgerald Inlet			•		•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
St Mary Inlet	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•
Point Ann	•		•	•	•			•		*		•	•	•	•
Small Boondalup River			•					•	•						•
Trigelow Beach			•						•	**				•	•

\* Point Ann boat launch - no boats over 3 metres. Closed during whale migration season, June to October.

\*\* Check conditions of 4WD track.