



Walk the Bibbulmun Track

Feel the spirit of Australia's South West



2-5 days

Karri Voyager

Donnelly River Village to Northcliffe

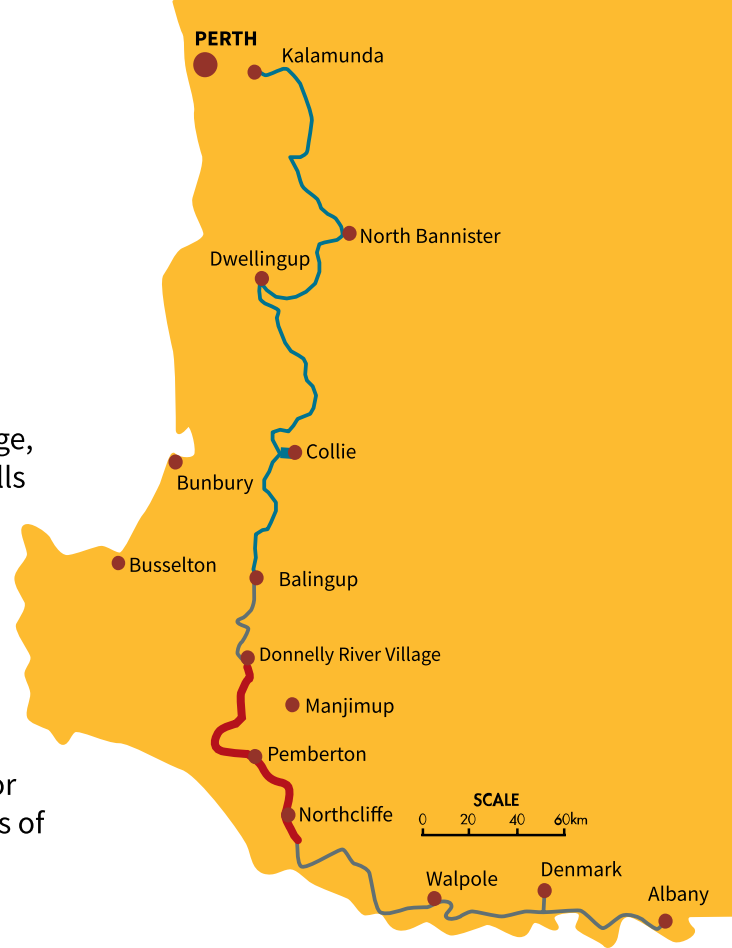
Karri Voyager

Follow the Bibbulmun Track deep into the South West's magnificent karri forests on this five day adventure.

Beginning in the historic mill town of Donnelly River Village, you will travel through tall forests, pass beautiful waterfalls and skirt the edges of peaceful rivers on your way to the timber towns of Pemberton and Northcliffe.

In this itinerary, each day includes a day walk on the Track, as well as stops at interesting sights and attractions in the Track Towns.

Whether you complete the whole trip or just pick a walk or two, this itinerary will help you to explore some highlights of the Bibbulmun Track.



Track Towns offer plenty to see and do



Pemberton Tramway. Photo: Tourism WA



Understory Trail, Northcliffe



The friendly wildlife of Donnelly River Village



Climbing the Gloucester Tree. Photo: Tourism WA

Day One - Enter the forest



Perth to Donnelly River Village

Morning

To drive to Donnelly River, take the South Western Highway via Balingup to Bridgetown. Turn right onto the Brockman Highway immediately crossing the Blackwood River Bridge at the south end of the main street in Bridgetown. Turn left into Mokerdillup Rd and follow signs to Donnelly River Village. If departing from Perth it's around 280kms (3.5 hours) south.



Donnelly River Village General Store

Take a trip back in time to the 1950s by exploring Donnelly River Village's original steam mill and workers cottages. By now, you're probably ready for lunch, so head to the Donnelly River General Store to pick up something delicious.

On your way, you might even be joined by the locals – a bunch of very tame kangaroos and emus!



The beautiful Gregory Brook Campsite

Afternoon

After a relaxed morning, it's time to stretch those legs with a walk along the Track, starting from Karri Gully picnic area. To get there, leave the village, turn left onto Sears Road for 15 minutes and then left onto Brockman Highway. Drive for 4km to Karri Gully picnic area which will be on your right. The picnic area is on a bend in the road after travelling downhill along the highway. Look for the brown picnic spot signs on the approach and the very tall karri tree.

Day Walk One: Karri Gully to Gregory Brook Campsite

Distance: 8km return

Difficulty: Grade 3

Time: 2-3 hours

Starting point: Karri Gully picnic area, Brockman Highway

This short return walk gives you your first taste of karri forest, starting in a gully of tall trees before entering the dense understorey. Early into the

walk, you'll encounter a fork in the trail. Ignore the turn on the left and continue straight ahead. Along the Track, you'll spot remnants of the region's railway and logging history, as well as grasstrees that are hundreds of years old. Surrounded by tall river banksia, jarrah, marri and yarri trees, the Gregory Brook campsite is a wonderful spot to enjoy a break before making the return walk to your car. On the way back, take a short detour on the Karri Gully Walk to enjoy more time walking amongst the giants of the forest.

Evening

Take a walk around the village or a swim in the lake surrounded by majestic karris. Enjoy a BBQ and sit on the deck enjoying the abundant wildlife as the sun goes down. Donnelly River Village offers a range of self-contained accommodation from cottages to shared bunk rooms for hikers. While far from luxurious, the accommodation is clean, comfy and offers an authentic Aussie bush experience. The Donnelly River General Store has a café and is open 8.30am to 5.00pm daily.

Day Two - Beedelup Falls



Donnelly River Village to Pemberton

Morning

The highlight of today's Track walk is the beautiful Beedelup Falls. After a relaxed breakfast, it's a 70km (just over an hour) drive to the start of your walk at Karri Valley Resort. From the village turn right onto Sears Road. The one hour drive takes you through the town of Manjimup, where you can stop for a coffee or wander around the shops.

Not long after leaving Manjimup you can take a short detour to the Diamond Tree – which was used as a forest fire lookout. The brave-hearted can climb up the 51 metres to the wooden cabin for a spectacular view! (There's another opportunity to climb a fire lookout on day 3).



Beedelup Falls Photo: Tourism WA

Day Walk Two: Karri Valley Resort to Beedelup Campsite return

Distance: 7km loop and spur

Difficulty: Grade 3

Time: 2-3 hours

Starting point: Karri Valley Resort

This is an easy walk in the beautiful karri forest of the south west. Walk clockwise around Beedelup Lake at Karri Valley Resort to the Beedelup Falls carpark and then follow the trail up to the falls.

Beedelup Falls are the focal point of Beedelup National Park and are a spectacular sight in the winter and early spring. View the Falls at close quarters from the suspension bridge, then take a short stroll to the Beedelup Campsite, a peaceful spot for a picnic lunch. On the return walk continue clockwise around the lake back to the resort. For a shorter 3.2km option, start and finish at the Beedelup Falls carpark.



On the shores of Big Brook Dam

Afternoon

From Karri Valley Resort, it's a 20 minute drive to the Track Town of Pemberton. Spend the afternoon exploring this pretty timber town's galleries and wineries, or take the 15 minute scenic drive to Big Brook Dam. Edged with karri trees, the dam is a wonderful place to enjoy a swim in crystal blue water, or simply relax on a sandy beach. Keen walkers can follow the 4km [Big Brook Dam Trail](#) around the dam for beautiful scenery and bird spotting opportunities.

Alternatively, if you have a 4WD, then venture into the spectacular Yeagarup Dunes in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park. The pristine Yeagarup dunes form one of the largest dune systems in the world. If you're not a confident four wheel driver, join local tour operator, Pemberton Discovery Tours.

Evening

Pemberton is a much-loved holiday spot and offers all kinds of accommodation. Including, hotels, chalets, B&Bs, hostels and campsites. Check out [our website](#) to find our walker-friendly businesses.

Day Three - Climbing and Cascades



Pemberton to Northcliffe

Morning

From Pemberton town centre, take the five-minute drive to Gloucester National Park. Here you'll find the world-famous Gloucester Tree - the highest fire lookout tree in the world! If you're feeling brave, climb the 61 metres to the lookout for incredible views over the forest below. Once you're back on steady ground, look for the Bibbulmun Track signs to the right of the Gloucester Tree to begin the walk.



The Cascades

Day Walk Three: Gloucester Tree to the Cascades

Distance: 12km return

Difficulty: Grade 3

Time: Half day

Starting point: Gloucester Tree, Gloucester National Park

Beginning at the Gloucester Tree, this section of the Track meanders through the lush karri forest to the

Cascades, a series of babbling rapids along Lefroy Brook. At the Cascades, follow the platforms and boardwalks for fantastic views of the rapids below. Along the Track, you'll cross the route of the old railway that once hauled heavy logs to the Pemberton Mill. The railway is now used by the Pemberton Tramway to visit the Cascades giving you an alternative to walking along the Track there and back.



The stunning view from Warren Lookout

Afternoon

Take the 30 minute drive along Pemberton-Northcliffe Road to reach the Track Town of Northcliffe. On your way, take a detour along the [Heartbreak Drive Trail](#) through Warren National Park to visit the Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree and Warren Lookout, where you can enjoy a postcard perfect view of the river below. Alternatively, stop in at the Old Vasse Trout and Marron Farm and try your hand at catching tonight's dinner!

If you reach Northcliffe by 3pm, head to the Visitors' Centre to enjoy the [Understorey sculpture trail](#). The 1.2km loop walk features a collection of artworks in a natural bush setting designed to get you looking at your surroundings in a new way.

Evening

Despite its small size, Northcliffe offers several accommodation options including motels, chalets, a caravan park and campsite. Visit [our website](#) for a list of walker-friendly businesses in the area.

Day Four - Trekking to Lake Maringup



Northcliffe

Morning & Afternoon

You have a full day of walking on the Track ahead of you, so it's best to set off early.

From Northcliffe take Wheatley Coast Road (north) for about 2.5km and turn right onto Middleton Road. Follow for about 20km and turn right onto Deeside Coast Road (gravel road).

Continue along Deeside Coast Road for around 26km until you reach Chesapeake Road at a T-junction and turn right. Drive about 14.7km until you reach the Bibbulmun Track on a closed road bridge over the Gardner River to begin today's walk. Take Note: This is the second crossing of the Bibbulmun Track on Chesapeake Road.



Maringup Campsite by the water

Day Walk Four: Chesapeake Road West to Lake Maringup return

Distance: 18.2 km return

Difficulty: Grade 3

Time: Full day

Starting point: Chesapeake Road, about 5.5km from Deeside Coast Road

Water will be your constant companion on this walk, as the route passes through swampy sections with karri-oaks, yarri and peppermint trees,

and crosses creeks and boardwalks to the picturesque Maringup Campsite.

Described as one of the jewels of the Bibbulmun Track, the campsite is perched on a high sandy ridge looking out through the karri and Warren River cedar to one of the largest, fresh-water lakes in the South West. Relax and enjoy the serenity of the lake before retracing your steps back to your start point.

Lake Maringup. Photo: Pelusey Photography

Day Five - D'Entrecasteaux National Park



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 a range of wild and rugged coastal scenery.

Stop in at Mount Chudalup and climb the [short trail](#) to the top for a fantastic panorama of the surrounding forests and coastline.

Continue on to Point D'Entrecasteaux, where a number of lookouts offer spectacular views over limestone cliffs and the Southern Ocean. From September to November, keep an eye out for migrating southern right whales and seals.



Mount Chudalup. Photo: DPAN

Afternoon

From Northcliffe, take the Wheatley Coast Road to the South West Highway to make the 4-hour drive back to Perth.

What's next?

The adventure doesn't have to stop here. Explore more of the Bibbulmun Track with our Clifftops to Treetops itinerary that takes you through Walpole, Denmark and Albany.



Limestone cliffs of Point D'Entrecasteaux



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



Cathedral Rock in D'Entrecasteaux National Park. Photo: DPAN

Important Information



Before you go

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

- A National Park pass is required. You can buy one [online](#).
- 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 [Track Conditions on our website](#).
- 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 [Trails WA website](#) – or download the [Trails WA App \(iOS only\)](#).
- For more tips, visit our [Day Walks – Getting Started webpage](#).

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.



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.

Important Information



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.

On the Track

If you spot any problems or changes to this walk, please email the details to friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au 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 [donation](#) – or become a [member](#)... it's less than the price of a coffee each month.



Contact Us

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