WALPOLE / NORNALUP

1 HORSEYARD HILL WALK TRAIL

Distance: 120m boardwalk, 2.5km loop
Difficulty: Easy - Moderate
Time: Less than 1 hour

The Horseyard Hill area was used to corral the horses of the first European group settlers in the town in 1930. Follow the 120m boardwalk (assisted wheelchair access) that crosses the low lying swamp area. Continue your adventure by walking through towering karri and tingle forest. This walk begins and ends behind the Walpole Visitor Centre.

2 COALMINE BEACH HERITAGE TRAIL TO COALMINE BEACH

Distance: 6km return
Difficulty: Easy
Time: 2 - 3 hours

Beginning at the Walpole Visitor Centre, this trail follows part of the Bibbulmun Track to Coalmine Beach. On your journey, you will notice many tall kingia's along the path which resemble grass trees though they are different families. As you continue on the trail you will see it becomes swampier and traverses through thick melaleucas and bracken ferns. This area is also home to one of the few mainland quokka populations. You will soon arrive at Coalmine Beach, where you can enjoy the picnic facilities or take a swim.

3 COALMINE BEACH TO WALPOLE INLET

Distance: 3.5km circuit
Difficulty: Easy
Time: Less than 1 hour

Look and listen for the noisy birds in this area such as wrens, fantails and honey eaters as you pass through their favourite habitat, the tingle trees and peppermint heath. The trail meanders along the foreshore of the Walpole Inlet. You are able to gaze out across the inlet and spot the Knoll, recreational boats and marine animals passing the historical Swarbrick Jetty which was rebuilt in 2002.

4 KNOLLS WALK TRAIL

Distance: 2km loop
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: Less than 1 hour

This pretty walk trail gives you a snapshot of the best the Walpole Wilderness has to offer. The mosaic of forest types growing on the Knolls is fascinating. Karri, jarrah, tingle, marri, peppermint and sheoak trees all grow in this small area surrounded by the Walpole-Nornalup inlets. You can start this walk at one of four trail heads around Knoll Drive. The remarkable scenery is perfectly described as where 'the forest meets the water'.

5 COALMINE BEACH TO HILLTOP LOOKOUT

Distance: 10km return
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: 1.5 hours (one way)

This hike begins from the Coalmine Beach recreation area. The first few kilometres of the track provide you with breathtaking views of the Nornalup Inlet. You will pass the Delaney Lookout interpretation shelter which offers spectacular views of the inlet. Continue the walk through the giant karri and tingle trees and gradually climb to Hilltop Lookout, which overlooks the Nornalup Inlet and Frankland River. Rocky Head and Saddle Island can be seen in the distance in the Southern Ocean.

6 HILLTOP LOOKOUT TO THE GIANT TINGLE TREE

Distance: 5km return
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: Less than 1 hour

Rejoin the Bibbulmun Track from the Hilltop Lookout and head east. You will approach a junction of trails. This is the Giant Tingle Tree Loop Walk. Take the right hand path and head toward the Giant Tingle Tree, a large old tingle tree that has been hollowed out by fire. The tree is so large that you are able to walk straight inside the trunk of the largest girthed species of eucalypt in the world.

7 GIANT TINGLE TREE LOOP WALK

Distance: 800m
Difficulty: Easy
Time: Less than 1 hour

The trail winds downhill through the karri and red tingle forests, with an understory including tassel brush, karri wattle and bracken fern. Karri oak can be seen in several places the trail. Along the route you will find interpretative signage which provides a fascinating perspective of this unique, ancient forest as well as the flora and fauna which occupy this area.

8 WALPOLE TOWN TO JOHN RATE LOOKOUT

Distance: 12km return
Difficulty: Easy - Moderate
Time: 2 - 3 Hours

Leaving from the Visitor Centre and heading east along the Bibbulmun Track, you will discover the natural foliage on this walk is quite thick and hosts many small wrens and other bird species. Before you know it, you will reach your destination at the John Rate Lookout, which provides you with glimpses of the inlet through the tall trees. The lookout was named after John Rate, a District Forester and the first in the Walpole area. He discovered a third species of tingle tree, the rates tingle. Unfortunately, a falling tree limb killed John Rate.

9 JOHN RATE LOOKOUT TO MOUNT CLARE

Distance: 6.5km return
Difficulty: Easy - Moderate
Time: 1 - 2 hours

On this walk, you will see some great views across the Walpole Inlet. Begin your stroll at the John Rate lookout which is located amidst the Rates' tingle trees, found only in the area. Head east toward the tingle forest at Mount Clare, a relic of the Gondwanan era some 65 million years ago when Australia was joined to Africa, India and Antarctica. These trees occur nowhere else in the world.

10 MOUNT BURNETT WALK TRAIL

Distance: 1km loop
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: Less than 1 hour

Begin you walk between sheoak, marri and jarrah trees along the boardwalk which crosses a low wetland area. The area is a wealth of colour in late winter and spring as the mountain shows off its array of wildflowers. Commence the climb through the granite outcrop to a wonderful wilderness outlook then look back to the car park. Access to the Mount Burnett car park is from the South West Highway, 18km from Walpole.

11 MOUNT PINGERUP WALK TRAIL

Distance: 5km return
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: 2 - 3 Hours

The Pingerup plain is a mixture of dense thickets of ti-tree swamp, open scrubland of whispering sheoak's and small stands of jarrah and karri trees. The trail emerges onto the summits of Mount Pingerup. Enjoy your very own 'tree top walk' whilst experiencing spectacular views of Broke Inlet, Southern Ocean and the picturesque coastline. Access to Mount Pingerup car park is from the South West Highway, 22km from Walpole.

12 SAPPER'S BRIDGE TO FRANKLAND CAMPSITE, VIA CREEK ROAD

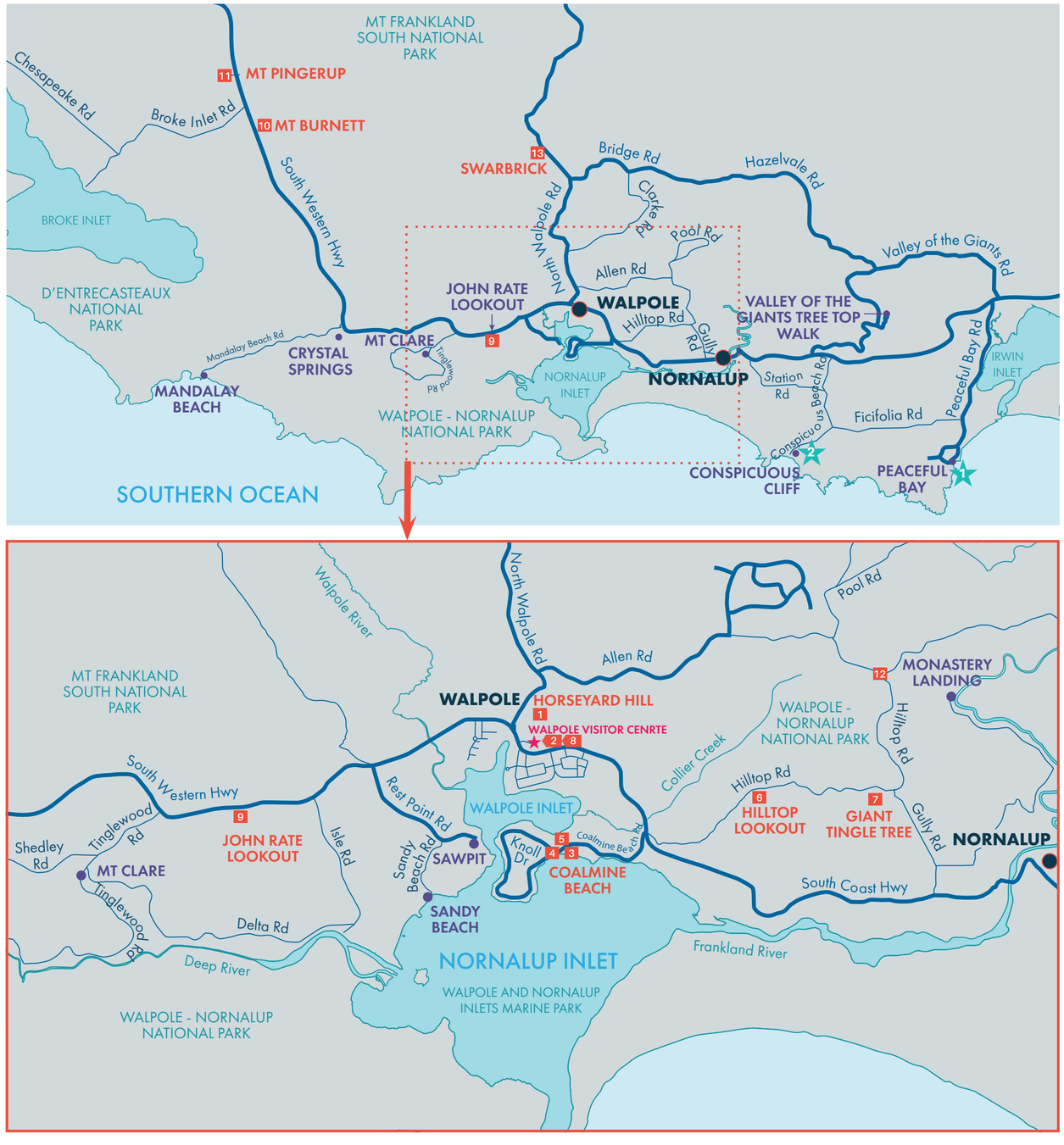
Distance: 6km loop
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: 1 - 2 hours

This walk is accessible from Hilltop Road, then Creek Road where you will park your car. At this junction, begin your walk to Sapper's Bridge. Note the varied fungi in the undergrowth in autumn and the wildflowers (orchids, pea flowers and myrtles) in spring. A narrow path leads down to the reflective waters of the Frankland River, a truly magical area with the sounds of the flowing river, bird species and the giant trees which surround you at the waters edge.

13 SWARBRICK ART LOOP

Distance: 500m loop
Difficulty: Easy
Time: Less than 1 hour

Located in the stunning wilderness area, this walk takes you through old growth and karri forest. Keep an open mind and expect your perception of wilderness to be challenged by the fascinating art works.



WORTH A VISIT

1 CONSPICUOUS CLIFF

Appreciate the powerful beauty of the southern coastline from the lookout over the unspoiled beach. Conspicuous Cliff is easily accessible by two wheel drive, the walk trails and lookouts provide spectacular views and chance to witness the antics of migrating whales in the winter and spring. Take your time and appreciate the fabulous coastal headland featuring swamp paperbark and the red flowing gum.

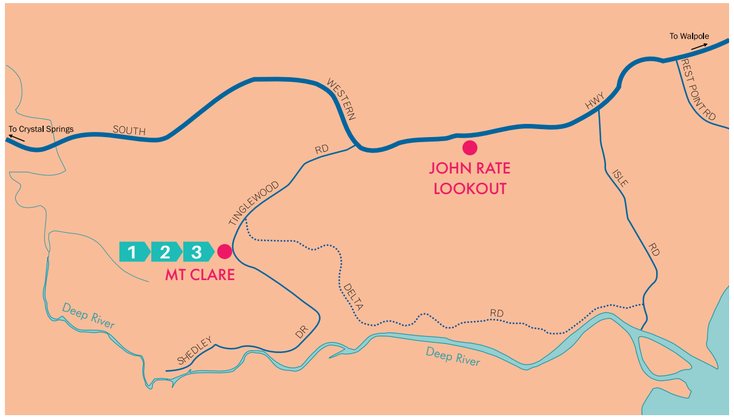
2 PEACEFUL BAY

The calm waters of Peaceful Bay provide a welcome sanctuary from the rugged and wild south coast. There is always a lot to see and do at Peaceful Bay from swimming in the sheltered bays, surfing the famous breaks, exploring the numerous snorkelling and diving spots and trailing the 4WD Tracks. Enjoy the pristine beach while you experience rock and inlet fishing. There is lots for the kids to do such as sandboarding, a playground and sporting oval and Shell beaches.

SWARBRICK

COALMINE BEACH

MOUNT CLARE



1 MOUNT CLARE SUMMIT WALK

Distance: 2.4km return
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: Less than 1 hour

A gradual uphill walk takes you through magnificent tingle and karri forest towards the summit of Mount Clare. After the climb, you will be rewarded with the views of the coast and across the Walpole Wilderness. It is the perfect spot for a picnic in the forest with picnic tables and toilet facilities available.

2 DEEP RIVER LOOP WALK

Distance: 4.2km return
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: 1 - 2 Hours

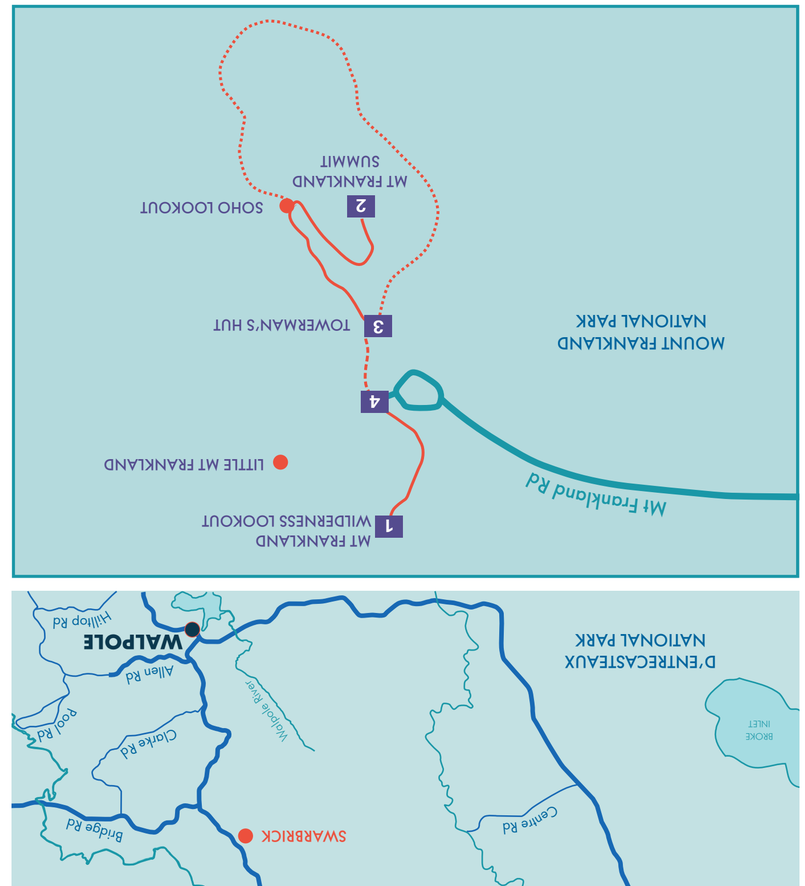
From the summit of Mount Clare, follow the Bibbulmun Track down a steep valley to the Deep River. The Deep River is one of the world's healthiest river systems and is widely known for its habitat to Marron (only available during season). Stand on the suspension bridge and take in the rivers intense reflections. Retrace your steps back to the car park at the base of Mount Clare.

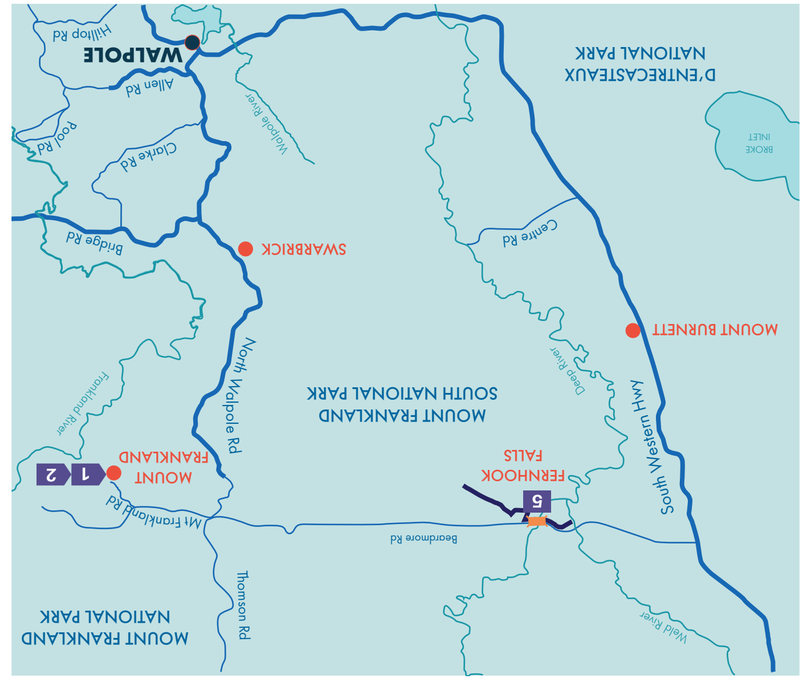
3 SHEDLEY DRIVE LOOP WALK

Distance: 8km return
Difficulty: Moderate
Time: 2 - 3 Hours

Following the Bibbulmun Track from the Deep River suspension bridge, turn into Shedley Drive. Shedley Drive follows the curves of the river. Enjoy expansive views of karri trees. The trail follows Shedley Drive for approximately five kilometres before reaching Tinglewood Drive. Turn right and follow the road back to the starting point.

MOUNT FRANKLAND





1 MOUNT FRANKLAND LOOKOUT

Distance: 600m return
Difficulty: Easy
Time: Less than 30 minutes

Located 35km from the Walpole town site, the Mount Frankland Wilderness Lookout provides uninterrupted views of karri, tingle and jarrah forests, expanses of treeless heathland and distant granite peak. This lookout is fully accessible, including wheelchairs and prams.

2 MOUNT FRANKLAND SUMMIT

Distance: 1.2km walk
Difficulty: Moderate - Difficult
Time: 1 - 3 Hours

The trail starts at the interpretation shelter. Follow the bitumen track and climb to the top of the granite dome. The climb includes over 300 steep concrete steps and requires a short ladder climb so a reasonable level of fitness is required. When you have finished breathing in the fresh, crisp air and admiring the vista from the top of the granite peak, make your way down the steps. You can return via the same trail or take the Caldyanup Trail for a more scenic route.

3 TOWERMAN'S HUT

Distance: 200m return
Difficulty: Easy
Time: Less than 30 minutes

From the interpretation shelter, follow the path to Towerman's Hut. The small hut was used for many years during the fire season, by the person carrying out the fire spotting duties on top of the mountain. Enjoy a short stroll to a shady picnic area with gas barbecues and picnic tables. This sealed path is suitable for all levels of experience, fitness and ability.

4 CALDYANUP TRAIL

Distance: 1.6km loop
Difficulty: Moderate - Difficult
Time: 1 - 2 Hour

This trail loops around the base of the rock via the spectacular Soho Lookout. Immerse yourself in one of the best granite and karri areas in the southwest. In late winter you are likely to see many varieties of wildflowers, including the greenhood, jug and donkey orchids. The trail meanders through a mixed forest and thick understorey which is a welcome haven for many small birds such as wrens and fantails.

FERNHOOK FALLS

5 Spend a few hours or a few days, exploring the waters of the Deep River at Fernhook Falls. In winter, the water gushes furiously over the granite boulders creating a whitewash of froth. In summer, the flow is reduced to a trickle and Rowell's Pool is a calm, tranquil place. Walk trails and boardwalks have been designed to give you a great view of the cascading falls and pristine forest while allowing universal access to most parts of the site.

HIKING TIPS

- Follow the "Leave no Trace" principles while hiking and bush walking through the Southern Forests.
- Notify someone of your plans.
- Make sure you take plenty of water. Take at least 2 litres per person per day, more on hot days.
- Ensure you have the correct clothing to suit the conditions and time of year. A sun hat is necessary in summer and sunglasses are a good idea.
- Always carry a first aid kit.
- Make yourself a healthy trail mix to keep your energy levels up on the longer walks.
- Always stay on the designated trails and be careful not to trample the flora and fauna.
- Remember to take all your rubbish home with you.
- Be careful lighting fires. Never leave a fire unattended and always extinguish it when you leave. Be aware of the prohibited fire regulations.
- It is an offence in Western Australia to pick wildflowers.
- The Southern Forests are home to snakes, some venomous. Be careful in areas of long grass, rocks and near water.

Enjoy your visit, share your experience with friends and be sure to come back soon!

Explore the
WALPOLE WILDERNESS

GEOCACHING

Geocaching is a treasure hunt with something for everyone. Using map coordinates and a GPS enabled device, you can find a geocache near your home, in the city, in the bush or in Antarctica.

Geocaches come in all shapes and sizes too. You can find a tiny little one as small as your fingernail, or a huge geocache with exciting 'treasures' inside. It can be as easy or as hard as you like to make it. You can drive up to your geocache and spot it from the car, or you can choose to hike for miles up and down mountains in search of that elusive container.

Visit www.geocaching.com.au for more information on how to start your geocaching adventure.

Now get out there and have some fun! But beware, it can be addictive!

For all enquiries please contact the friendly staff at theWalpole - Nornalup Visitor Centre

Pioneer Park, South Coast Highway, Walpole WA
Phone: (08) 9840 1111
Email: info@walpole.com.au

or visit the following websites
totaltrails.com.au | trailswa.com.au

COME FOR THE TREES...
STAY FOR THE EXPERIENCE

FURTHER INFO

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