

Eagle View Walk Trail

The Eagle View Walk Trail is a 15-kilometre bushwalking circuit that leads you to several of John Forrest National Park's less explored destinations. The trail is a bushwalker's delight, covering a variety of relatively pristine habitats. It's also more challenging than other trails in the park, but your efforts are well rewarded. Be sensible and allow plenty of time for the walk which, depending on your level of fitness, will take from about four-and-a-half to seven hours. This also depends on your interest in your surroundings as you go along.



Above Bushwalkers on Eagle lookout.

Trail history

A trail leading to the less-frequented northern parts of John Forrest National Park was first proposed in 1991 by members of the Perth Bushwalkers' Club (Inc). Most visitors rarely saw more than the beautiful Jane Brook area, but the park has so many more attractions to offer. Club members planned a trail route in collaboration with the park rangers and constructed the trail during working bees from 1993 to 1998. Trail signs, markers and an initial brochure were funded and produced by the Perth Bushwalkers' Club. So enjoy the fruits of their labour along with some of John Forrest's best-kept secrets.

The trail name and emblem of the eagle was selected because when the trail was built there was a magnificent wedge-tailed eagle's nest, which stood nearly two metres high on limbs at the top of a wandoo tree. From a particular point along the trail you could look down into the nest. Sadly, the tree and nest were destroyed in a big bushfire during January 1997. However, if you're lucky, you may see wedge-tailed eagles soaring high over the park as you make your way along the walk.

Registration

It is a requirement that you register before leaving on your walk and upon your return.

The registration point is on the verandah of the ranger's office. There is a simple outward form for when you leave and an inward form for when you return. Instructions are written on the box containing the forms. This is primarily for your protection and safety.

Getting started

The trail head sign is just on the other side of the brook about 100 metres from the registration point. Simply head down and over the bridge across Jane Brook directly north of the ranger's office. Originally the trail was designed to be walked in a clockwise direction, but was found to be equally pleasant if walked anti-clockwise. Choose which direction you will take at the trail head sign.

In some sections the trail makes use of the management tracks which run throughout the park, while other sections are purpose-built as walking tracks. Along its whole length, you will be guided by the yellow triangle emblem with the eagle silhouette. Sometimes these are slightly less frequent when the trail coincides with another walk trail, such as along the northern side of Jane Brook. The trail is marked every two kilometres and sign-posted with the letters that appear on the map overleaf, with junction and turning points well indicated.

Below National Park Falls, John Forrest National Park.



Remember

BE CAREFUL

Your safety in natural environments is our concern, but your responsibility. The trail includes moderately steep and rough sections. While it can be travelled in four hours by very fit people, it is advisable to allow seven hours to cover all reasonable levels of fitness.

BE PREPARED

A daypack to carry your food, water and other personal requirements is recommended. Appropriate footwear such as runners or boots are best (no sandals or thongs). And a wide-brimmed hat and sunscreen are also advised.

Because this walk can be strenuous, a minimum of two litres of water per person is required to avoid dehydration (don't rely on creek water along the route; it is not always available and it may be contaminated). In extreme heat conditions, including most of the summer, the walk is not recommended. Take suitable wet weather gear and appropriate winter clothing for cooler weather.

Stay on the trail at all times to minimise the impact on the park's fragile environment. Horses are allowed on the nominated bridal tracks (which are management tracks also) and mountain bikes are allowed on the management tracks, but neither horses nor bikes are allowed on the nominated walk trails within the park. Please inform those you see breaching these rules, and also tell the rangers when you get back.

BE CLEAN

Don't litter. Carry out everything you take on the walk. Place your litter in the bins provided when you get back or, better still, take it home with you.

BE COOL

No ground fires are allowed in the park, whatever the time of year. When total fire bans are in place no flames of any sort, including camp-style fuel stoves, are allowed. Most people find it more convenient to carry a thermos if they require a hot drink during their walk.

PROTECT PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Dogs, cats and firearms are NOT permitted in any national parks.

John Forrest National Park
Park Rd, off Great Eastern Hwy,
Hovea

For more information contact
the Department of Parks and Wildlife
Perth Hills District office on
(08) 9290 6100
or visit www.dpaw.wa.gov.au.



Information current at December 2013

Eagle View Walk Trail

John Forrest National Park



Information and walk trail guide



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Trail guide

Clockwise: Take the path to your left and head westward along the north bank of Jane Brooke. Pass the National Park Falls. Do not cross the brook at any time. Stay alongside the brook until the trail turns steeply away from it as you make your way westward.

When the trail leaves the brook and you climb the steep hill northward, keep an eye out for the yellow trail markers with the eagle silhouette. About halfway up the hill the Eagle View Walk Trail leaves the one heading westward and heads towards the top of the hill.

At the top of the hill you can catch your breath while enjoying a wonderful view out over the coastal plains and Perth city. When leaving the lookout point, head north following the yellow triangle eagle signs.

In the second valley after leaving the lookout point you will come to a section of maintenance track and shortly afterwards cross a creek over a pipe culvert. This is Christmas Tree Creek, and is about four kilometres from your starting point. It is a pretty valley, with a tumbling creek through the winter and spring months, and has a great display of wildflowers during this time.

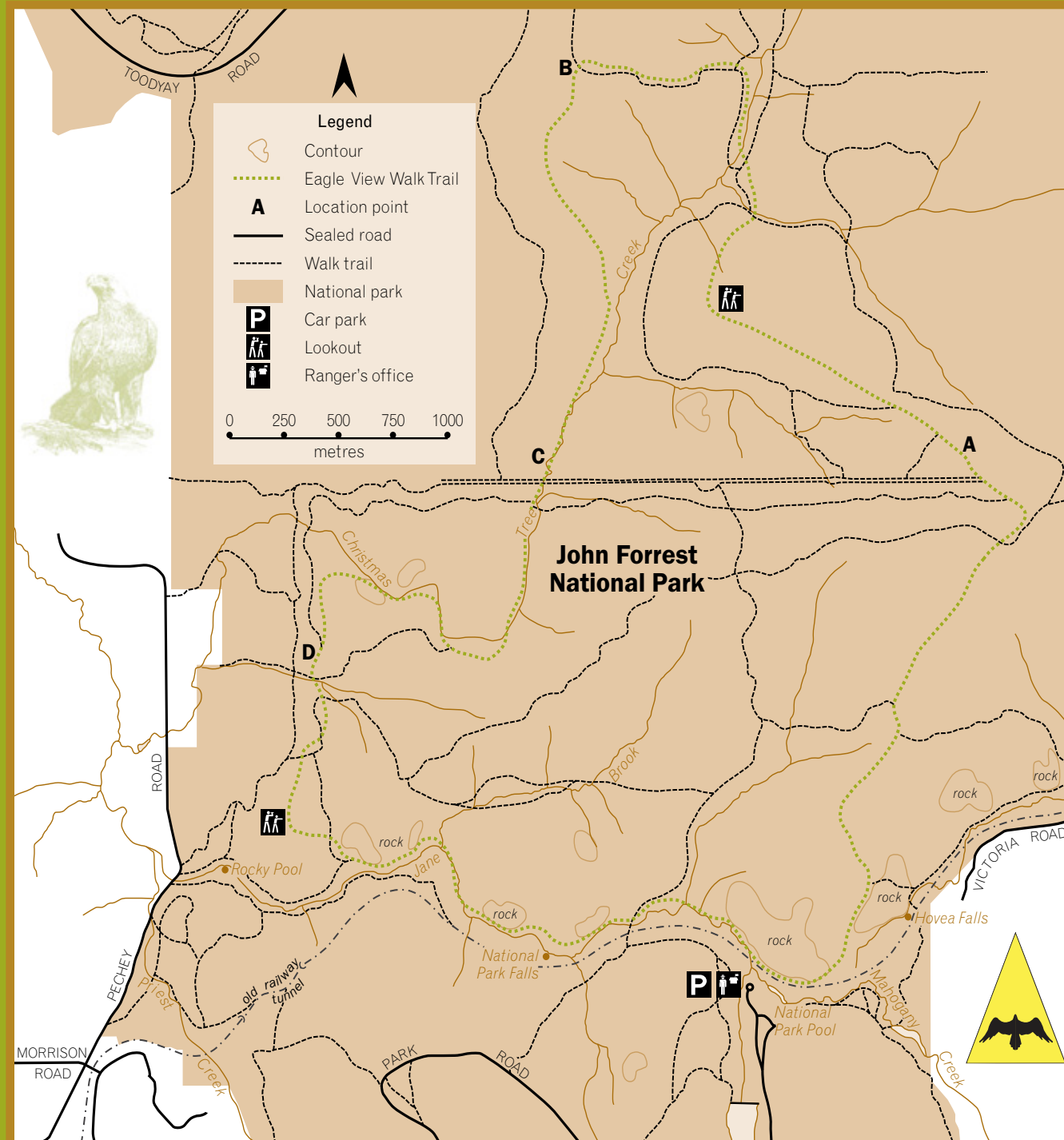
Walking adjacent to the creek for about 300 metres, you leave the management track for the pleasures of the single walk trail, which travels up a long and rocky ridge with a pretty wandoo valley to your right. When you next come out onto a management track and turn right you have reached the halfway point.

Follow the management track downhill for about two kilometres. Then, after crossing two small creeks (which flow into Christmas Tree Creek), again walk onto the single walk trail and begin a climb. Toward the crest of the hill keep an eye out for the magnificent view across the national park and over the city of Perth. Those with cameras can get a wonderful photo of Perth through the forked limbs of a wandoo tree.

When you next reach a management track it's about two kilometres to return to the start point.

Well done! You've made the distance.
Please remember to sign off at the ranger's office.

John Forrest National Park is popular for bushwalking.



Trail guide

Anti-clockwise: Make your way up onto the heritage trail (old railway alignment) and head to the east (your right). About 300 metres along the heritage trail, take the first turn to the north (your left).

Stay on the management track all the way to the top of the hill (about three kilometres). After walking along a short section of old track, cross another management track and enter into the first section of the walk trail. After about 1.5 kilometres you can enjoy the magnificent view down a valley across the park and out over the Swan Coastal Plain to the city of Perth. A good camera shot of the city is available through the fork of a wandoo tree at the best lookout point. At the bottom of the hill you join a management track. At this point you have covered almost five kilometres. Crossing over two small creeks (tributaries of Christmas Tree Creek, which you will come to later), make your way up a long slope following the management track. When you come to where the walk trail leaves the management track, you have travelled about half the distance of the walk.

Emerge from the single track walk trail onto another section of management track alongside Christmas Tree Creek. This is a beautiful area. During winter and spring especially, the scenery is enhanced by a wonderful display of wildflowers. Follow the track down and over the creek at a pipe culvert, and shortly afterwards turn off to your right onto the walking trail again. You are now on the last four kilometres of the walk. The track travels through some pretty heathland, crosses another short section of management track, then climbs to the rocky lookout over the coastal plain and city.

From the lookout, make your way down to Jane Brook at the bottom of the valley and turn eastward (left) along the side of the brook. From here it's about two kilometres to the end of the walk. Simply follow the trail adjacent to Jane Brook all the way until you reach the starting point.

Congratulations! You've made it.
Please remember to sign off at the ranger's office.

