Animals of the lake
The Yalgorup lake system is significant for waterbirds and is recognised under the international Ramsar Convention (named after the place where it was signed in Iran). The lakes provide important habitat for the international trans-equatorial waders that migrate from the northern hemisphere. These waders include the bar-tailed godwit, red-necked avocet, hooded and red-winged stilts, red-breasted merganser, and red-throated loon. Surveys show that the Yalgorup lakes support high numbers of these waders, which use them as a rest stop on their migration route. The lakes are also home to many species of waterfowl, including mallard, teal, and widgeon. The Yalgorup lakes are also important for breeding waterfowl, with several species, including the black swan, common duck, and red-breasted merganser, breeding in the area.

Caring for the park
Please report any incidents to the ranger on (08) 9303 7750.

Be kind
Do not disturb animals and plants. No firearms or pets are permitted in national parks.

Be responsible
Fires restrictions apply. Fires are only permitted in communal fire pits outside the fire ban season.

Be clean
Please take your rubbish out of the park when you leave. Be careful
Your enjoyment and safety are our concern but your responsibility. Stay on marked trails and roads.

How to get there
Yalgorup National Park lies on the western edge of the Swan Coastal Plain just south of the Dawesville Channel, near Mandurah.

Situated only 80 minutes drive south of Perth, 45 minutes drive south of Mandurah or 45 minutes north of Bunbury. Yalgorup National Park offers panoramic views of the local beaches, peaceful settings of forest and woodlands and sweeping views over tranquil lakes.

More information
Department of Parks and Wildlife
Mandurah Work Centre
432 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210
Phone: (08) 9303 7750

Yalgorup National Park

Things you need to know
Yalgorup National Park offers visitors panoramic views of the beaches, dunes and lakes from several spots. Peaceful settings among the patches of hard forest and woodland, and sweeping views over the tranquil lakes, give the area a wilderness feel.

Where is it?
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How to get there
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Walk trails
Lake Pollard trail
Length 6km
Grade 2 (a well defined trail with gentle gradients)
Walk time 1.5 hours
Where is it? 30km south of Mandurah
Travelling time About 45 minutes from Mandurah or Bunbury
Facilities Information shelter, toilets, boardwalk over lake
Best season Late winter and spring

This walk explores the many different vegetation types of Yalgorup National Park, from the towering tuarts to the delicate flowers of the limestone ridges.

1. Begin at the information bay on Preston Beach Road and head west along the track signposted as Caves Road. This refers to the limestone tunnels or shafts discovered here in the 1940s, which are now largely derelict.

2. As you turn left and begin to climb, the understorey of the woodland on your left thins and grass trees stand tall and proud among the forest. On the other side of the track, where the soils are shallower and the trees cannot grow, there is a scrubland of wattles, hakeas, grevilleas and other plants.

3. As you near the top of the rise, some swamp banksia (Banksia ilicifolia) grow in the lee of the hill. On the hilltop, the rare limestone mallee (Eucalyptus petrescens) and Fremantle mallee (E. foecunda) cling to the limestone outcrops. Enjoy the view over the limestone tunnels or shafts discovered here in the 1940s, which are now largely derelict.

4. When you reach the next marker you can take a small detour to the lake edge through the fringe thickets of swamp paperbark. Back at the marker, you are surrounded by thick peppermints. If you look carefully, you may see a nest-like structure high in the branches, called a drey. It is made by the rare western ringtail possum, which has successfully been reintroduced into this area. The track turns east and, after you leave the peppermints again, you re-enter the tuart woodland.

5. A totem indicates that the path leaves the track and winds off to the right, and you travel through thick scrubland, around a small outcrop, then drop back into the cool peppermints once more, before rejoining the track.

6. The marker indicates to turn left onto the track which returns to the start.

Lakeside Loop walk trail
Length 7.8km
Grade 2 (a well defined trail with gentle gradients)
Walk time 2 hours
Where is it? 30km south of Mandurah
Travelling time About 45 minutes from Mandurah or 50 minutes from Bunbury
Facilities Information shelter, toilets, boardwalk over lake
Best season Late winter and spring

Lake Clifton contains the largest known community of living thrombolites in the southern hemisphere and is an important refuge for waterbirds.

1. The track begins near the information shelter. Head north along the limestone track from the trail head sign.

2. The track runs parallel to the eastern side of Lake Clifton. You will notice the difference in the vegetation on both sides of the track. Paperbark trees (Melaleuca) occur next to the lake edge and peppermint (Agonis flexuosa) and tuart (Eucalyptus gomphocephala) occur on the other side of the track. Changes in water levels determine where the different kinds of trees grow.

3. On the left hand side, small trees with long fruits bend towards the track. These are honey myrtle (Melaleuca huegelii) – these trees grow near the coast, particularly on shallow limestone soil and rocky areas. Large numbers of insects are attracted to this species for its nectar.

4. On the east side of the track there are some old fences and a cattle ramp. Farming was established in this area in the early 1900s.

5. At this point a fork occurs in the track – stay to the left and continue heading north.

6. At the T-junction turn right as indicated by the yellow arrow and follow the track about 100m up a slope, before turning right again. You are now following the private property fence boundary and heading south toward the car park area. Notice how the vegetation has suddenly changed. These limestone ridge areas (Yamal limestone) have shallow soils and support shrubland vegetation such as dryandras, acacias, melaleucas and xanthorrhoeas, or balgas. You will get glimpses of Lake Clifton as you proceed south.

7. The track turns right through the peppermint trees then links up with the lakeside track heading back towards the car park.