Please return unwanted brochures to distribution points.

The marine park encompasses the Walpole and Nornalup inlets which are bordered by steep granite hills and rocky shores. These hills are known locally as ‘The Knolls’ and are covered with dense karri forest.

There are many accommodation options around Walpole and Nornalup National Parks. You can also take a tour – either by jet ski or catamaran – to see stunning highlights of the area. You might see dolphins, seals and stingrays in the water and animals such as quokkas, bandicoots and water rats on the banks of the inlets. The Nornalup Inlet is surrounded by the Walpole-Nornalup National Park. It is the only marine park on the south coast of Western Australia.

The Walpole and Nornalup inlets lie about 40km south of Albany, off WA 90 East towards Walpole. Sailing on the Nornalup Inlet.

Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park

Top tips for enjoying the marine park

• Launch your canoe at Nornalup for a paddle up the winding Deep, Walpole and Frankland rivers.
• Take a boat over to the mouth of the Nornalup Inlet for a picnic and a spot of fishing or bird watching. Walk over to Shelley Beach and you may be lucky enough to see a quokka.
• Walk part of the Bibbulmun Track from Walpole to Hilltop Point to Sandy Beach.
• Enjoy a barbecue on the edge of the inlets at Coalmine Beach or Channels. Free gas barbecues and picnic shelters are provided for you.

Caring for the marine park

Please drive, walk and camp only on designated roads, tracks and camping areas. Follow the Leave No Trace principles at www.lnt.org.au.

Quickly return undersize and unwanted fish to the water.

Take your litter with you and dispose of it thoughtfully, especially plastics and fishing line.

Anchor in shallow water to prevent shoreline erosion, disturbance to waterbirds and disturbance to other marine park users.

Stay on tracks when accessing the marine park to protect fragile estuarine vegetation.

Net fishing and spearfishing (including hand spears) are prohibited in the marine park.

• Enjoy a barbecue on the edge of the inlets at Coalmine Beach.
• Walk part of the Bibbulmun Track from Walpole to Hilltop Point to Sandy Beach.
• Take a boat over to the mouth of the Nornalup Inlet for a picnic and a spot of fishing or bird watching. Walk over to Shelley Beach and you may be lucky enough to see a quokka.
• Walk part of the Bibbulmun Track from Walpole to Hilltop Point to Sandy Beach.

Explain the marine park

The Walpole and Nornalup inlets are a permanently open estuarine system – one of very few in the south-west – that continues to change over time. Today it is the habitat of many species of fish, invertebrates, mammals, birds and reptiles. This estuarine system is supported by the freshwater Deep River and the saltier Frankland River.

Billions of fish and their young in these calm waters.

Look out for visiting New Zealand fur seals and dolphins that play and look into the marine park. They are an especially important roosting habitat for migratory shorebirds such as stints, great knots and sandpipers. Ospreys and white-bellied sea eagles are often seen hunting the inlets for their meals. The inlets are surrounded by the Walpole Nornalup National Park, a 1300ha marine nature reserve that provides a habitat for many species of fish, invertebrates, mammals, birds and reptiles.

The Walpole and Nornalup Inlets marine park is a permanently open estuarine system that continues to change over time. Today it is the habitat of many species of fish, invertebrates, mammals, birds and reptiles.

Information current at September 2016

20160138-0916-10M

By the Reverend J.B. Hepburn and the late, J.E. and P. H. Hepburn. The Treasurer’s copy of the original 1764 will is kept by the District Magistrates’ Office, Walpole. A copy of this will is on file with the Walpole Visitor Centre.
Monastery Landing
Paddle up the Frankland River from Nornalup to experience the serenity of Monastery Landing.

Knoll Drive
This short drive has something for everyone – lookouts over the water, fishing spots, picnic areas and tall karri and marri forest.

Circus Beach
Walk from Sealers Cove through a grove of peppermints and past the freshwater Crinia Lake to the long, sandy Circus Beach.

Shelley Beach
This short walk offers views of Bald Head, the Nornalup Inlet and the Southern Ocean and you may even see a quokka or a chuditch.

Coalmine Beach
Coalmine Beach is a great place for a swim in the shallow, calm waters of the Nornalup Inlet.

Town Jetty
Situated right in the middle of Walpole, this is the perfect place to launch your boat to explore the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park.

Bushwalking information

Coalmine Beach Heritage Trail
Class 2 (3km one way, 1 hour)
This walk trail is suitable for all levels of experience and fitness and starts at the Walpole Nornalup Visitor Centre. It leads you through wetlands and forest to Coalmine Beach. Interpretive signs along the way will help you imagine what life was like in this area in the 1930s.

Rest Point to Sandy Beach
Class 4 (1.2km one way, 1 hour)
This path guides you around the edge of the Western Knoll and provides you with glimpses of the Nornalup Inlet through the undergrowth of the karri forest. This is a narrow trail with steep drops to the side and it can be slippery.

Circus Beach
Class 3 (1.5km one way, 30 minutes)
This is a moderate walk through peppermint groves, jarrah forest and low coastal heath to Circus Beach. Listen for frog calls as you pass by the freshwater Crinia Lake. A good level of fitness is recommended for this walk.

Shelley Beach
Class 4 (700m one way, 20 minutes)
This steep trail provides you with magnificent views over Bald Head, the Southern Ocean and the Nornalup Inlet. Keep a look out for the quokkas and chuditch which are known to live in this area on your way down to the beach. A good level of fitness is recommended for this walk.

Sandbars, channels and conditions on the inlets change with the tides and weather. It is your responsibility to check the conditions and ensure that you stay safe.