

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
SERVICE



Nuyts Wilderness

This remote area provides walking-only access to the pristine southern coastline. For more than 40 years it has been managed as a wilderness area accessible only by foot, offering a challenging and rewarding experience for well-prepared, fit and seasoned bushwalkers. Trails are not marked and there are no facilities.



This area was named after Pieter Nuyts, an official of the Dutch East India Company. He was aboard the company ship *Gulden Zeepaard* (Golden Seahorse), which navigated the South Coast in 1627 – the first recorded European visit. Apart from a few fishing tracks (now walk trails) and grazing some time ago, this area has remained relatively unchanged. In 1976, it was set aside as a foot-access only area. Since May 1976, the Nuyts block has been managed as a wilderness area.

Getting there

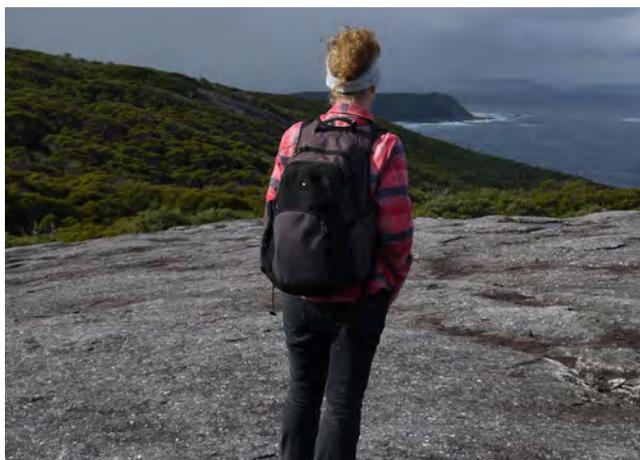
From Walpole: drive about 8km west along the South Western Highway, turn left on to Tinglewood Road. The Mount Clare picnic area car park is a short distance along this road.

Travelling time

From Walpole: about 15 minutes by car to the car park.

Fees

No fees apply in Walpole-Nornalup National Park.



Walking in the Nuyts Wilderness

You need to be a fit and experienced bushwalker to attempt these trails. The area is remote, exposed, trails are not marked and there are **no facilities**. Be well prepared, self-sufficient and tread lightly.



Mount Clare Picnic Area to Thompson Cove

Length: 18km return

Trail Classification: Class 5

Time: One day

On this long day's return walk from the Mount Clare picnic area, you will encounter a wide variety of vegetation and scenery on the way to the seclusion of Thompson Cove. The trail follows the Bibbulmun Track for 3.1km through the heathlands of the Nuyts Wilderness area and then heads in a south-westerly direction for approximately 3.5km towards the coast. You can camp on the beach or at the old grazing camp known as 'The Peppermints'.



Mount Clare Picnic Area to Aldridge Cove

Length: 21km return

Trail Classification: Class 5

Time: One day

This is the same trail as to Thompson Cove except that you branch off to the right as you near the coast (approximately 3.1km after the T-junction with the Bibbulmun Track). A 2km walk across dense heath dunes will take you to Aldridge Cove. Steep granite cliffs around Aldridge Cove provide magnificent views of the coastline and the rolling Southern Ocean.



Mount Clare Picnic Area to Mount Hopkins

Length: 24km return

Trail Classification: Class 6

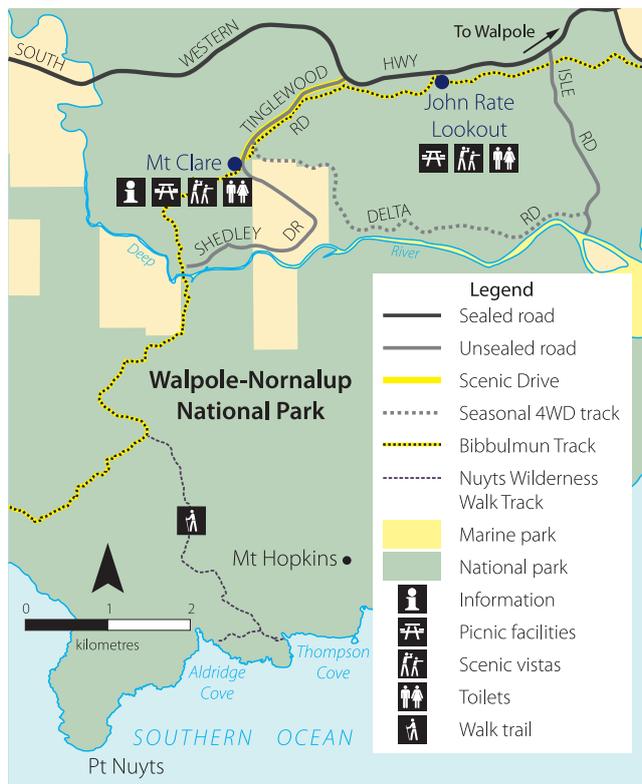
Time: One day

Follow the trail to Thompson Cove. From here, there is no marked track and you must traverse thick scrub. Enjoy spectacular scenery and the challenge of the adventure.

Use of a compass or GPS and map is essential.



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Preparing for your experience

Nuyts is a very special area but it is harsh and exposed. You must be well prepared.

Water Carry adequate drinking water.

Snacks Don't underestimate walking time or overestimate your endurance without food.

Clothing Wear a hat. Be prepared for rapidly changing weather. Wear suitable loose clothing; long trousers are recommended. Remember to slip slop slap for protection against the sun and take insect repellent.

Weather Conditions can change rapidly on the South Coast. Carry warm clothing and wet-weather gear at all times.

Staying overnight There are no shelters at the Nuyts camping areas so you will need to take your own swag or tent.

First aid Always carry a first aid kit and know how to use it. You should always walk with at least one other person and preferably in a group of three.

Bushfires are often caused by lightning. Check the weather forecast and read about what to do in bushfire situations before you leave on your walk. If you are caught in a bushfire, don't panic, remain calm and you will be able to think more clearly.

Visit emergency.wa.gov.au for bushfire and smoke alert information.

Visit alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au for park, road and site closures.



Coast risk area

This stretch of coast can be hazardous due to large, unpredictable waves and swells, slippery rocks and strong currents.

For your safety:

- always pay attention to the ocean and keep well clear of the water
- avoid slippery rocks and loose surfaces
- supervise children at all times
- notify a responsible person of your expected time of return and check in with them at the end of your walk.

Leave No Trace

This is a unique and remote walking experience. Please conduct your activities in a manner to help protect the environment for future visitors.



Plan ahead and prepare. Every walker should have a map and a compass or GPS. Do not rely on having mobile phone reception in the case of an emergency. These are Class 5 and 6 walk trails and there are no trail markers once you leave the Bibbulmun Track. Tell people where you are going and when you will be returning. Notify them again on your return. Remember your safety is our concern but your responsibility.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces. Help us to protect this fragile environment by keeping to the trails where provided. There are limited tent sites at both Thompson Cove (Peppermints camp site) and Aldridge Cove – no clearing of vegetation is permitted in order to extend these sites. Please camp in designated areas only. There are no shelters at these sites so ensure that you have your own tent or swag and warm, waterproof clothing. During school holidays and long weekends, campers are asked to limit their stay to one night.

Dispose of waste properly. No bins are provided so be prepared to carry out all of your rubbish. This includes fruit peels and cores, which may attract native animals and can cause sickness due to animals not being used to this type of food. There are no toilets in the Nuyts area. Please bury all toilet waste at least 15cm deep and at least 200m from streams and campsites.

Leave what you find. This area is home to many species. Respect this unique environment and leave it as you found it. Please use the boot cleaning stations to help stop the spread of *Phytophthora* dieback.

Minimise campfire impacts. Campfires are not permitted in Nuyts Wilderness. Use only portable gas or fuel stoves.

Respect wildlife. Pets are not permitted.

Be considerate of other visitors. Groups are limited to one-night stays at each camp site and are to have no more than eight people, or a total of three tents, in each group. Organised groups wishing to use these sites need to contact the senior ranger at the Parks and Wildlife Service office in Walpole at least 28 days in advance (08) 9840 0400.

More information

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Information current at October 2018. This publication is available in other formats on request.