

Valley of the Giants & Beyond

Attractions & activities guide for your Valley of the Giants venture. The maps (in your unit or available from reception) will assist to plan day trips to suit your preferences and the best route. Take the time to discover the wonders of the Denmark to Walpole region, visit the hamlets of Bow Bridge, Nornalup and Peaceful Bay which are surrounded by wilderness. Relax in your accommodation, view our stunning art or sample our exceptional restaurants, fine wines and cafes. You can dive, surf, fish, canoe, go boating, explore our forests or walk part of the impressive Bibbulmun Track. Discover the history and heritage of the area. Indulge in the taste of local cuisine.



The **Valley of the Giants and its surrounds** are a varied and spectacular portion of the state, including magnificent coastal beaches, cliffs, inlets and rivers, as well as majestic forests of karri, tingle, jarrah and bottlebrush flats. Explore our rugged coastline; bask on our wonderful clean beaches, fish, boat or canoe on our tranquil rivers. And all of this can be found in and around the world renowned Walpole-Nornalup National Park and the Walpole Wilderness.

To compliment this, there are numerous attractions including the Tree Top Walk, the Wilderness Discovery Centre, Ancient Empire Walk, Bibbulmun Track, Art Galleries, Wineries, Restaurants, Olive Groves, and much more, all within 10 to 20 minutes from Ayr Sailean.

The Southern Ocean Wilderness Coast: where the forest meets the sea. Winding rivers flow silently through majestic forests and cascade down waterfalls towards pristine inlets. Rugged cliffs and unique rock formations lend dramatic touches to the forest-clad landscapes. The endless turquoise waters, spectacular unspoilt beaches, abundant marine life and towering forests are made accessible by trails along beaches and through coastal heath, wetlands and forest. The lush fertile farmland and undulating vine clad hills showcase the best of the region, providing year round peace and tranquillity to wile away the hours.

Location

The Valley of the Giants region extends from Walpole in the west to Parry Beach in the east, stretching some 50 km along South Coast Hwy, and including Nornalup, Peaceful Bay, Bow Bridge and Kentdale. Also encompassed are the Nornalup, Irwin and Parry Inlets, the Frankland, Deep Bow and Kent Rivers and Owingup Swamp. Beaches include Coalmine Beach on the Nornalup Inlet, Conspicuous Beach, Bellanger Beach, Quarram, Boat Harbour and Parry Beaches. Slightly further a field we have William Bay, Denmark and numerous other beaches, wineries and attractions. See separate list of names and phone numbers. Beyond that again, we are within easy reach of the towns of Albany, Mt Barker and the Stirling Range and Porongurup's and Manjimup. These make pleasurable day outings.

VALLEY OF THE GIANTS & TINGLEDALE

A drive from **Bow Bridge**, along the **Valley of the Giants Rd**, takes you through the lush pastures of the **Tingledale and Hazelvale** farming areas. **Tingledale Hall** has a wonderful collection of photographs from the early days of Group Settlement and the scheme that bought so many Poms to Australia, to the virgin forests and hardships of the southern forest. Next to the hall are the **Tingledale Tennis Courts**, where visitors are always welcome for a game. A short detour from here takes you to **Valley of the Giants Olive Grove** in Vigus Rd.

The road then brings you to **The Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk** and accompanying **Ancient Empire Walk**. These are World class attractions and one of the area's most popular tourist destinations. Rising 38 metres into the tree canopy, the walkway overlooks a large area of forest, yet nestles deep into the Tingle forest endemic to this area. All ages and abilities can view the canopy of the magnificent tingle forest and get a different perspective on the shapes, sounds and movement of the forest. The **Ancient Empire Walk** dwarfs those that walk in it, with giant Red Tingles in many

shapes and hollows. Come and be amazed and wonder at the Old Men of the forest. The walkway and the first part of the Ancient Empire walk are accessible to assisted wheelchairs.

The **Wilderness Discovery Centre** is a ‘must see’ whilst visiting the **Tree Top Walk**. The imaginative displays and interpretation in the centre is an inspirational focal point of the undertaking of sustainable management of the area and will entice you to spend more time in the wonderful **Walpole Wilderness Area**.

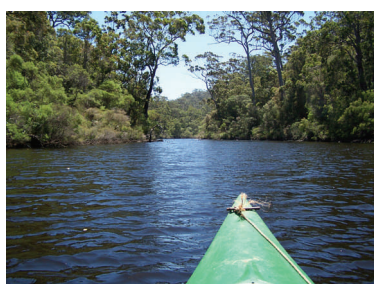


NORNALUP & THE FRANKLAND RIVER

Nornalup and the majestic yet placid Frankland River is located just 10 minutes west of the Valley of the Giants. Take a short drive up Riverside Drive to see its majestic sweeps and forest clad banks. You can fish from its shores or boat or canoe up river as far as **Monastery Landing** and imagine being here as Pierre Bellanger did in 1908, with no one else around. “If this was in France, they would build a monastery here”. A trip down river will take you to the Nornalup Inlet.

Nornalup is the original settlement of the area having been settled in 1908 by Pierre and became the supply line to the settlements of firstly Tinglewood on the Deep River, then Rest Point on the Walpole Inlet, prior to the settlement of Walpole in the 1930’s, and has a rich history which will soon be able to be viewed at the new Nornalup Community Hall. The **Nornalup Tea House** is located in the Shaw home, the original telephone exchange for the area, and an award winning location to dine for lunch or dinner.

Further west is the **Hill Top Rd** and **Giant Tingle Tree**. View the Frankland River, southern coast hills and seas and Goose and Saddle Islands from the **Hill Top Lookout**, then proceed to **The Giant Tingle Tree**. This tingle is the largest in the area that is easily accessible. A short walk through the forest brings you to this giant large enough to fit a small car inside it. From here a



short drive brings you to **Circular Pool**. Spectacular at any time of year, these pools in the Frankland River are particularly magnificent in winter when the natural tannins of the eucalyptus froth up into a cappuccino with its layer of foam up to a metre deep over the pools, as the winter flow rushes down stream. Structured platforms and trails meander through the forest and along the banks of the river. From here you can return via North Walpole Rd, visiting the Swarbrick Art Block on the way. Then continue into Walpole and return via South Coast Hwy or do the Mt Frankland, Fernhook Falls drive.

Swarbrick Forest Art Loop makes an inclusive Wilderness forest experience. In an old growth Karri forest, off North Walpole Road the mirrored wall of perceptions, 39 metre long is designed to show how people influence the forest and how they have been influenced by the forest, beginning with indigenous quotes and forestry workers in the early group settlement scheme. The art loop walk is among the trees and the sculptures are larger than life-size some suspended throughout the forest canopy.

MT FRANKLAND, FERNHOOK FALLS, BROKE INLET

From the Swarbrick Art Loop on North Walpole Rd, you can continue on to Mt Frankland. The climb to the top is gentle most of the way, with just the ladder at the top a bit of a challenge. The effort affords a 360 degree view of forests, farming land, rivers and the southern ocean. A most spectacular vista, with wonderful flora to view on the way up. Or if you don’t fancy the climb, just take the walk around the base and look up at this wonder and emersed yourself in the forest. There is also a hut and picnic facilities here. Coming soon will also be an aerial walk giving views to Little Mt Frankland and Granite Peak, with an information centre as an extension of the Walpole Wilderness Discovery Centre,

From Mt Frankland, travel due west to the Deep River and Fernhook Falls. There is a BBQ shelter here and camping sites, and a wonderful walk along the river. An absolute must in spring with a spectacular display of wildflowers, but great any time of year.

You then travel further west to the South Coast Hwy, turn south and then take the road to Broke Inlet. This road can be badly corrugated, and so is better for 4x4 vehicles, but is passable to standard vehicles with care. Broke (or Brookes Inlet) is a favourite camping site and fishing spot for many and is the largest inlet on the south coast. Birdlife abounds, as well as the fish.

For the more adventurous, a further extension to this day trip is to take the Chesapeake Rd and Deeside Coast Road through the Shannon National Park, and return via South Coast Hwy.

BOW BRIDGE, PEACEFUL BAY & FICIFOLIA DRIVE

A short drive along Station Rd from Nornalup brings you to **Conspicuous Beach and Cliff**, with easy access to the beach by boardwalk. Beachcomb on this magnificent white beach or for the more energetic, surfing here is ideal. You can also climb Conspicuous Cliff for a magnificent view over the area. You may even see a whale or two from the viewing platform. Whale season is May to October. At the far end of the beach is a headland which when climbed overlooks a V shape cove. When a swell is running this gives a spectacular display of waves colliding and the resultant flumes of spray.

Nut Hill Lookout is a short drive up Nut Rd from Ficifolia Rd. This overlooks the Irwin Inlet and panoramic view of the south coast and ocean.

Peaceful Bay lives up to its name, being a tranquil beach in all weathers, safe for swimming for all ages, coastal fishing and for launching boats for sea fishing. This small hamlet is home to many locals as well as being a favourite destination for holiday makers. Strolling along the streets reading the imaginative names of the homes is a favourite pass time. It is also the access point to 4x4 tracks to Rams Rame Head and beyond. The hamlet has a one-stop-shop open daily for fuel, gas & refreshments.

From the Peaceful Bay Rd, you can access the **Irwin Inlet**. This is a sheltered fishing venue for canoeing or for shore and boat fishing.

Bow Bridge Road House is a hub for the locals and tourists alike with fuel, food and liquor store. Next door, on the Valley of Giants Rd, is the **Valley of the Giants Gallery**, exhibiting established, emerging and indigenous Artists. Close by on the Hwy is the **Interpretive Bird and Reptile Discovery Centre and Dinosaur Museum**.

KENTDALE, PARRYVILLE & BOAT HARBOUR

The **Old Kent Winery and Restaurant** is open for lunch most days and specialises in local Marron and Lamb lunches accompanied by excellent wine; feast the senses at **Moombaki Winery and Art Display** on Parker Rd; call into the **Spiral Studio Pottery** on Swallow Rd; indulge the palate by wine tasting at **Hamlet Cellar Sales** on Greatorex Rd, and view the wonderful garden and wine taste at **Silverstream Wines** on Scotsdale Rd. Kordabup Rd will bring you back down to the South Coast Hwy through lush farming land.



Boat Harbour is a great little beach and fishing spot. The beach is sheltered from the sea by a rocky headland. This is also an ideal drop off point for the **Bibbulmun Track**, a hut being only a few hundred metres from the beach. The beach is only accessible by 4x4, but well worth the trip.

Parry's Beach and Inlet is fantastic swimming and fishing locations all year round, with a wide sweeping beach and easy boat launching.

WILLIAM BAY NATIONAL PARK

1867 hectare of stunning Southern Ocean coastline and forest 10 km west of Denmark renowned for its windswept granite rocks which have a striking primeval appearance. Granite boulders and rocky shelves extending 100 metres or more out to sea, and creating a reef which bears the brunt of heavy seas. Inside the reef, sheltered pools, channels and granite terraces create a fascinating seascape.

Greens Pool is a tranquil bay sheltered by giant granite boulders ideal for fishing, swimming, snor-

keling and beach walking. Take the stairs on to the beach and walk the trail to the massive rock formations, known as **Elephant Rocks**. These large granite rocks look like a herd of elephant by the water.

The peaceful walks to **Madfish Bay** or **Waterfall Beach** are just as scenic and also well worth seeing for more dramatic southern ocean scenery. Facilities include water a car-parks, and toilets.

Denmark

FLORA & FAUNA

Wildflowers of this area are spectacular and are at their dazzling best from August to November.

WA's south-west is recognised internationally as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. There are over 2500 species of native flora with at least 100 of them found nowhere else. The forest is ablaze with orchids, purple native wisteria and green kangaroo paw. Discover the magnificent flora of the karri forests and coastal heath lands for yourself.

There are over 150 species of birds in the local area and over 25 species of mammals including many marsupials such as Phascogale, Pigmy and Honey Possum. Ask at reception for a list, or view our extensive library of reference books.

Red Flowering Gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*), blooms prolifically in late spring in shades ranging from white, pink, orange, to deep red. One of the most widely planted ornamental eucalyptus trees, yet its natural range is a small area between Walpole & Denmark. **Ficifolia Road** off Peaceful Bay Road is an ideal spot to see this magnificent display.

Discover the hidden wonders of the forest floor; amazing ecosystems support a large variety of fauna, trees 300 and 400 years old majestic forests of Karri, giant Red Tingles, Jarrah and many more native species of trees. In the Wilderness south coast, cooler mild climate the wildflowers bloom in mid-winter through to late summer.



The Bibbulmun Track

The famous 963km **Bibbulmun Track** which links Perth and Albany, passes through the Walpole Wilderness Area. The trail meanders through the southern forests of jarrah, marri, karri and tingle, interspersed with sections of coastal peppermint and heath land. It traverses some of the most beautiful and wild areas of the south west and offers facilities unrivalled on any long distance walk trail in Australia. The track is designed to prompt people of all ages and experience levels to 'go bush'. Water tanks, picnic tables, pit toilets, huts and tent sites are spaced a day's walk apart. The track caters for everyone: take a short stroll or set out on an adventure for several days. Ayr Sailean offers a free drop off and pickup service to points along the track from Boat Harbour to Walpole, or for a small fee we can take you further a field.

Information: www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

FOR OTHER ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES – see the Attractions Spreadsheet.

THIS INFORMATION, ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOS, IS IN THE DOCUMENT FOLDER IN YOUR UNIT.

THE INFORMATION ABOVE CENTRES ON THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE VALLEY OF THE GIANTS AND SLIGHTLY BEYOND.

FURTHER EAST AND WEST, THERE IS MUCH MORE TO SEE, ALL WITHIN EASY REACH OF AYR SAILEAN FOR HALF DAY AND DAY OUTINGS.

ASK AT RECEPTION FOR MORE DETAILS.