Cape Arid and Eucla national parks
Israelite Bay/Nuytsland Nature Reserve

Remember

Be careful
Caution is required in any natural environment with potentially hazardous terrain. Your safety is our concern but your responsibility.

Be clean
Please take your litter with you.

Be cool
Don’t light fires. Bring your own portable gas stove.

Stay on the road
Follow signs and keep to roads shown on this brochure. Be aware that some tracks may be closed during wet conditions.

Protect animals and plants
No firearms or pets are permitted in national parks or nature reserves.

Be CoastSafe
Choose fishing or swimming sites with great care. The Southern Ocean is unpredictable, making fishing from rocks and swimming especially dangerous. Huge waves and swells can suddenly occur even on calm days. Rocks become slippery when wet. Riptides are common along the coastline.

Information and recreation guide

Above Little Tagon Bay, Cape Arid National Park. Photo - DEC

More information
National park rangers are always glad to make your visit more enjoyable and informative. Don’t hesitate to contact them if you need information or assistance.

Senior Ranger
Cape Arid National Park
PO Box 185, Esperance WA 6450
Tel (08) 9075 0055
Fax (08) 9075 0055

Esperance District Office
PO Box 234
92 Dempster Street, Esperance WA 6450
Tel (08) 9083 2100
Fax (08) 9071 3657

South Coast Regional Office
120 Albany Highway, Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9842 4500
Fax (08) 9841 7105
www.dec.wa.gov.au

Healthy Parks Healthy People

ACT NOW FOR THE FUTURE
Department of Environment and Conservation
Our environment, our future

RECYCLE Please return unwanted brochures to distribution points

Information current at July 2008

Front cover Beach, north of Barrier Anchorage. Photo - Allan Rose/DEC

Above Kangaroo paw (Anigozanthos rufus). Photo - DEC

Below Red wattlebird (Anthochaera carunculata). Photo - Babs and Bert Wells/DEC

Flora in Eucla National Park comprises a wide range of species, including the Cape Banksia and the Flinders Pink Pea. Photo - DEC

Animals found throughout south-west WA inhabit Cape Arid Park. Photo - DEC

Kangaroo paw (Anigozanthos rufus). Photo - DEC

Nuytsland Nature Reserve features 3,340 hectares of mallee scrub and includes common South Australian Flora such as the Donkey Orchid (Thelymitra), which previously has only been found near the coast. Photo - DEC

Tagon Beach, Cape Arid National Park.
**Landscape features**

*Cape Arid National Park*, located 125 kilometres east of Esperance, encompasses nearly 280,000 hectares of native vegetation and is best known for its stunningly beautiful beaches, clear blue seas and rocky headlands. Low granite hills extend inland and in the northern part of the park, the jagged Russell Range rises to its highest point at Tower Peak (594 metres). Southern sandheaths and mallee extend inland to Mount Ragged, after which the vegetation transforms into woodlands dominated by saltbush and bluebush.

*Cape Arid National Park* and *Nuytsland Nature Reserve* to the east form a continuous protected area reaching from east of Esperance almost to the South Australian border.

**Nuytsland Nature Reserve** features a mallee landscape north of Wylie Scarp, which marks the start of limestone cliffs that extend eastwards for more than 100 kilometres and include the 90-metre tall Baxter Cliffs. Heath-covered sandplain stretches to the east and west of Israelite Bay. To the east, the landscape between the scarp and coastline is broken by a series of salt lakes and clay pans. Point Malcolm and the eastern group of islands of the Recherche Archipelago can be seen as you drive down Wylie Scarp, just west of Tooklejenna Rock and about 25 kilometres west of Israelite Bay.

**Eucla National Park** features 3,340 hectares of mallee scrub and heathland near the Western Australian and South Australian border. The park’s most significant features are Wilson Bluff, a high limestone cliff that provides a vantage point for viewing the spectacular sea cliffs of the Great Australian Bight, and the Delisser Sandhills, which are clearly visible from Eyre Highway.

![Photo - Allan Rose/DEC](image)

**Wildlife**

Life in *Cape Arid National Park* is ruled by scarce water. Granite outcrops and the occasional pool of permanent water form micro-habitats that support plants and animals not found elsewhere in the park.

On and near Mount Ragged, many species of orchid and several ferns have been identified, together with a small population of the sticky-tail flower (*Anthocercis viscosa*), which previously has only been found near the coast.

Animals found throughout south-west WA inhabit *Cape Arid National Park*, including the southern bush rat, western brush wallaby, quenda, several species of small marsupial predators, plus reptiles and amphibians.

Flora in *Eucla National Park* includes common South Australian species that have followed the sea cliffs into WA.

Templetonia retusa, found in limestone rich areas, typically has red flowers that are the reason for its common name of cockie’s tongue, yet it can also be found with pink or yellow flowers. During winter and early spring, whales are regularly spotted off the coastline of both parks. Seals occasionally visit beaches in *Cape Arid National Park.*

![Photo - DEC](image)

**Threatened birds**

*Cape Arid National Park* is an important conservation area for birds, as it protects a broad range of habitats that support more than 160 bird species. Sixteen of the 18 species of honeyeater found in southern WA are found here.

Several threatened bird species visit the park including the Australasian bittern, Carnaby’s black-cockatoo and the Cape Barren goose. The park is also home to the critically endangered western ground parrot.

**Feral animal control**

One of the biggest threats to native animals is the European fox. Due to the success of DEC’s ongoing *Western Shield* baiting program, which targets foxes and feral cats, the chuditch has been reintroduced into *Cape Arid National Park.*

**Dieback – help stop the rot**

Dieback is a plant disease caused by a waterborne mould known as *Phytophthora cinnamomi,* which is lethal to hundreds of plant species. Dieback kills plants by destroying their root systems and places many of the park’s plant species at risk.

The climate of the south coast favours the spread of dieback, which thrives in wet soil and can easily be spread in mud or soil that adheres to vehicle tyres or bushwalkers’ footwear. Because of this, it is sometimes necessary to close roads and tracks or temporarily restrict access to certain areas.

To avoid spreading dieback when driving in the park, it is essential to keep to established roads and tracks and obey all ‘ROAD CLOSED’ signs. Bushwalkers can help by cleaning mud and soil from their boots before entering a park or reserve. By washing the tyres and underbody of your car before and after a trip to a park or reserve, you can help preserve WA’s natural areas.

![Photo - Allan Rose/DEC](image)

**Frequently asked questions**

- **Are there any national parks near Cape Arid National Park?** Yes, *Cape Arid National Park* and *Nuytsland Nature Reserve*.
- **Where is Cape Arid National Park?** Located 125 kilometres east of Esperance.
- **What animals can be seen in the park?** Southern sandheaths and mallee, many species of orchid and several ferns.
- **Can I camp in the park?** Yes, with a permit.
- **Is there a visitor centre?** Yes, at Esperance District Office.
- **What is the climate like?** Mediterranean climate with dry winters and hot summers.
- **What is the best time to visit?** During winter and early spring, when the weather is cooler and the beaches are less crowded.
Things to do and see

Camping
- See maps for locations.
- Bring a portable gas stove for cooking.
- Always carry your own water supply.

Cape Arid National Park
Unsealed roads lead to camp sites at Seal Creek and Thomas River. Mount Ragged and Jorndee Creek are accessible by four-wheel drive only.

Nuytsland Nature Reserve
Camping is permitted in the Shire of Esperance Israelite Bay Recreation Reserve, access is by four-wheel drive only.

Eucla National Park
No camping is permitted within the park. Facilities are located at Border Village and Eucla Pass.

Fishing
Coastal fishing is excellent all year round. Recreational fishing regulations apply. Ask a park ranger or call the Fisheries WA office in Esperance.

Be aware. The Southern Ocean is unpredictable. Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous.

Four-wheel driving
Please keep to designated four-wheel drive tracks to avoid spreading plant disease and causing erosion.

Some tracks may be closed during wet conditions including Telegraph Track, Thomas Fishery Track, Balladonia Track and Gora Track.

Contact the ranger for details.

Some beaches may be inaccessible.

Consider the conditions on the day.
Remember that beach sand can be treacherous.
Check tide charts when planning your trip and remember to adjust your tyre pressure.

Closest fuel outlet is Condingup (55 kilometres from Thomas River camp site) or Esperance (130 kilometres from Israelite Bay).

Birdwatching
All walks in the park offer good opportunities for spotting birds.

Thomas River camp site's banksia woodland is home to many species of honeyeater when banksias are in flower.

Thomas River estuary is home to waterbirds and waders,
Things to do and see

Camping
- See maps for locations.
- Bring a portable gas stove for cooking.
- Always carry your own water supply.

Cape Arid National Park
Unsealed roads lead to camp sites at Seal Creek and Thomas River. Mount Ragged and Jorndee Creek are accessible by four-wheel drive only.

Nuytsland Nature Reserve
Camping is permitted in the Shire of Esperance Israelite Bay Recreation Reserve, access is by four-wheel drive only.

Eucla National Park
No camping is permitted within the park. Facilities are located at Border Village and Eucla Pass.

Fishing
Coastal fishing is excellent all year round. Recreational fishing regulations apply. Ask a park ranger or call the Fisheries WA office in Esperance.

Be aware.
The Southern Ocean is unpredictable.
Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous.

Four-wheel driving
Please keep to designated four-wheel drive tracks to avoid spreading plant disease and causing erosion.

Some tracks may be closed during wet conditions including Telegraph Track, Thomas Fishery Track, Balladonia Track and Gora Track. Contact the ranger for details.

Some beaches may be inaccessible. Consider the conditions on the day.
Remember that beach sand can be treacherous.
Check tide charts when planning your trip and remember to adjust your tyre pressure.

Closest fuel outlet is Condingup (55 kilometres from Thomas River camp site) or Esperance (130 kilometres from Israelite Bay).

Birdwatching

All walks in the park offer good opportunities for spotting birds.

Thomas River camp site's banksia woodland is home to many species of honeyeaters when banksias are in flower.

Thomas River estuary is home to waterbirds and waders, including pied oystercatchers and crested terns.

Yokinup Bay is a breeding area for hooded plovers.

Boolenup Walk features heath, banksia and yate woodlands and paper bark swamp. You may see red-eared firetails, pardalotes, scarlet robins, white-naped honeyeaters, red and little wattlebirds and white browed scrubwrens.

Poison Creek Road's roadside heath is home to Australian bustards, brown falcons, rufous fieldwrens and southern emu-wrens.

Mount Ragged and its surrounds feature mallee scrub and woodlands, home to malleefowls, mulga parrots, chestnut quail thrushes, shy heathwrens, purple-gaped honeyeaters, yellow-plumed honeyeaters and crested bellbirds.

Historical sites

Cape Arid National Park
You can see ruins of homesteads, buildings and dams constructed by pioneer graziers in the early 1870s around Thomas Fishery and Pine Hill. Gravesites of early travellers can be seen near the water hole at Pine Hill and the grave of an early settler is viewable in a deep valley near Hill Springs east of Mount Arid.

Nuytsland Nature Reserve
Ruins of the National Trust classified Post Office and Telegraph Station (built in 1895) are located within the National Trust historical reserve at Israelite Bay.

Eucla National Park
Near the western boundary of the park, the ruins of the Eucla Telegraph Station and original Eucla township can be found, gradually being buried by encroaching sand dunes. These ruins date from the construction of the original transcontinental telegraph line. Ask DEC staff for details.

Walking
Bush walks and beach walks offer scenic vistas and close-up views of the natural beauty of the park. Carry ample drinking water.

Cape Arid National Park
Len Otte Nature Trail (1km return) – Allow one hour.
This easy walk features views over the park and a close look at the varied plant and animal life of the area. Pick up an interpretive brochure at the start of the trail.

Tagon Coastal Trail (7km return) – Allow four hours.
A moderately difficult track featuring views over the wild coastline. In winter, you may spot a southern right whale visiting the bay.

Boolenup Walk (4km return) – Allow two hours.
An easy walk to brackish Lake Boolenup. The trail travels from the car park off Tagon Road through banksia, eucalypt, paperbark swamp and coastal heath. Bird life is prolific.

Mount Ragged Walk (3km return) – Allow three hours.
A difficult walk to the top of Tower Peak (594 metres). Mount Ragged is a steep-sided ridge surrounded at about one-third height by a wave-cut platform.

Mount Arid (2km return) – Allow two hours.
A moderately difficult climb to the summit provides magnificent views of the coastline, Recherche islands and the park’s interior landscape. Access is by four-wheel drive only along the beach during suitable tide and swell conditions.

There are no formal walk trails in the western section of the Nuytsland Nature Reserve or Eucla National Park.