

Maidens Reserve

Welcome to Maidens Reserve, an area of bushland that protects a variety of plant communities. Coastal heath blankets the dunes nearest the sea and hardy plants with special adaptations grow on the exposed slopes at the very edge of the beach. Tuart woodland appears on the more sheltered eastern slopes of the taller dunes and also in combination with unique sedgelands in the swales (dips) in between.

The woodlands and freshwater seepages in the sedgelands provided important seasonal resources for Noongar people over many thousands of years, making this a significant cultural site.

The Maidens takes its name from a pair of dunes, 65 and 66 metres above sea level, the highest points in Bunbury. From Noongar people to early seafarers, overland explorers and modern cartographers, these tall peaks have been a valuable navigational aid and mapping reference.

## Let's explore



#### Maidens Lookout Walk (Easiest)

**Distance:** 670 metres to the lower lookout. Allow 30 minutes return.

A sealed path, suitable for **assisted wheelchairs**, winds upwards to a lower lookout with a bird's eye view over Maidens Reserve and Bunbury. Steps (Class 4 - Difficult) lead from the lower lookout to an upper lookout and trig point with sweeping 360 degree views.



#### Quandong Walk (Moderate)

**Distance:** 1.5km return or 1.8km to the beach and return. Allow 1 hour.

A walk through Maidens Reserve that reveals a distinct shift in vegetation from open tuart woodland to low coastal heath. The walk leads to beach access and Maidens Coastal Trail.



### Maidens Coastal Trail (Moderate)

Distance: 1km one way. When combined with the Quandong Walk it is 3.5km from Maidens Reserve playground to Mindalong Beach and return. Allow 2 hours.

A scenic trail that winds across coastal dunes with views to the ocean. This trail connects Quandong Walk to Mindalong Beach carpark.



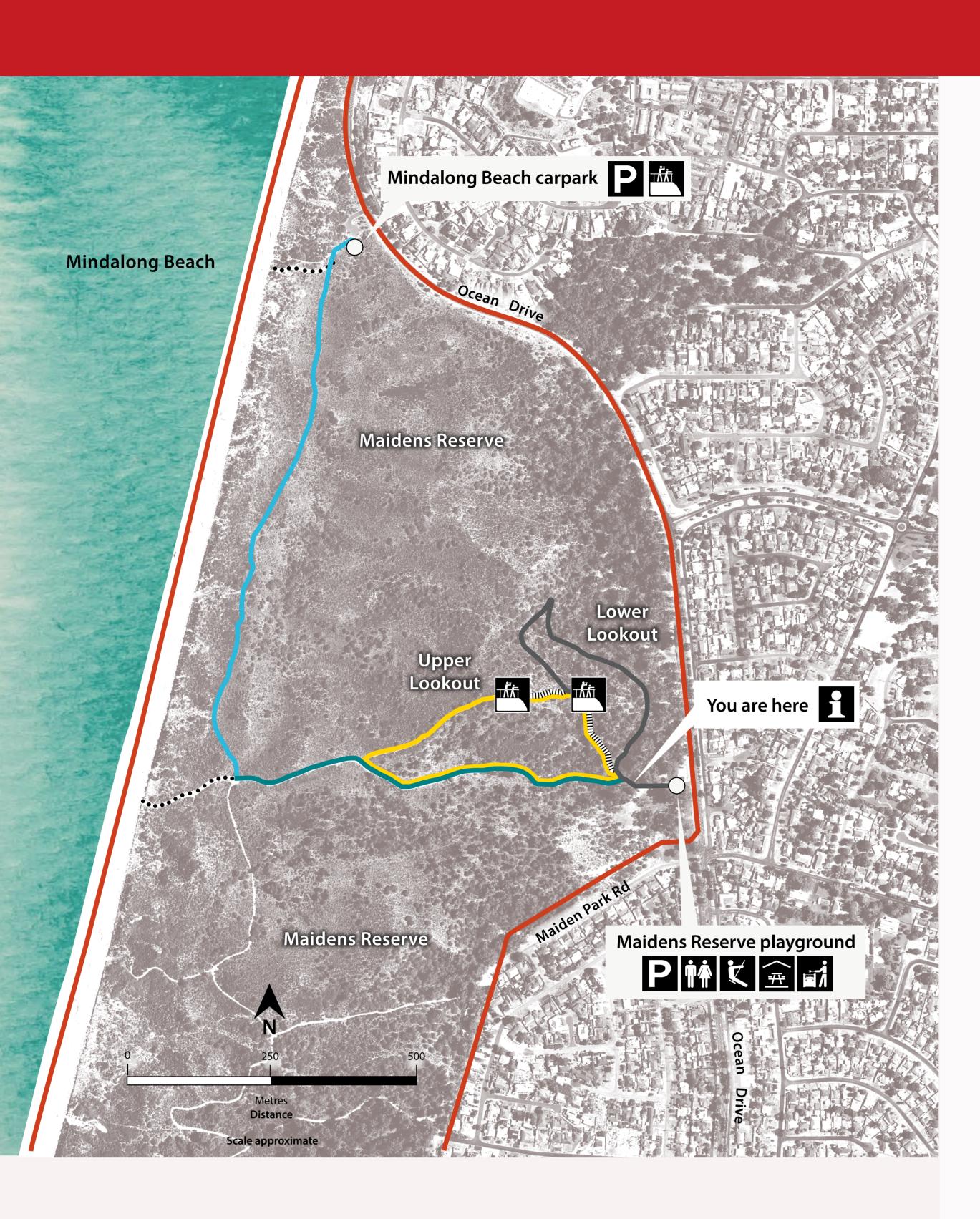
#### Maidens Ridge Walk (Difficult)

**Distance:** 1.2km loop. Allow 45 minutes.

A challenging loop for fitness enthusiasts or optional return for visitors from the upper lookout. This walk combines 305 steps to the upper lookout with a moderately steep sandy path down the western side of the dune and then return along a crushed limestone path. Please consider your fitness level before attempting this walk. Wear sturdy shoes and stay on the path.







#### Legend

Park Boundary Steps ••••••• Beach Access

i	Inform
<b>†</b> †	Toilets
Ρ	Parking

Informatic
Toilets
Parking

K	Playg
	Looko

round

BBQ
Picnic table

## Walk safely, tread lightly

Unsealed paths in Maidens Reserve have moderately steep sections. Mostly crushed limestone with some soft sand. Loose rocks, gravel and plant debris may pose a slipping or tripping hazard.

Be smart: Wear comfortable, sturdy shoes and sun protection. Avoid walking on hot days and take plenty of drinking water.

Stay on the path: Help prevent dune erosion and the spread of Phytophthora dieback, a disease that kills our native plants.

**Protect wildlife:** Please pick up after your dog and keep them on a leash at all times to protect wildlife and your pet.

#### Ancient rivers

Bunbury and Kalgulup Regional Park are located on the Swan Coastal Plain, which stretches from the beach to the foothills of the Darling Scarp in the east, and from Jurien Bay north of Perth to Cape Naturaliste in the south.

The coastal plain has diverse origins that date back a staggering 200 million years when quartz sediments, consisting of fine sands and clays, were carried by rivers from the granite uplands towards the sea to form floodplains on the coast.

#### Shifting sands

Over the last 2 million years, changing sea levels have created a series of sand dune systems that lie parallel to the coast. These consist of ocean sediments, the remains of ocean life rich in calcium and silica, that have been blown onto the coastal plain. The youngest dunes nearest the ocean are only 10,000 years old. These are the dunes that Maidens Reserve protects.

Mobile sand dunes Coastal heath on primary dunes

Coastal heath on stable, secondary dunes

Tuart and Peppermint

 Tuart, Orange Wattle, Southern Diplolaena and sedges

# 能 Landforms and links

#### **Ribbons of green**

The dune systems and river floodplains are still evident today in the rise and fall of the land, the different types of soils and the diverse types of plants that grow on them.

Coastal heath and tuart woodlands, which favour the younger calcareous dunes near the sea, shift to jarrah and banksia woodlands and other plant communities further inland in a bushland corridor that links the ocean to the Preston River.

The connected sequence of landforms and vegetation in this east-west corridor is unusual on the Swan Coastal Plain, where much of the natural vegetation has now been cleared. This gives Kalgulup Regional Park special significance.

