





Above Small zawn, Edwards Point steps. Above Whalebone Cove.



Above Whoogarup Range from Edwards Point. Photo - John Watson

### Full Day Walks

#### Cave Point to Edwards Point Steps

**13.8km return – allow five to six hours**

This is a longer class 4 day walk from Cave Point for which you should allow 5-6 hours return. Follow the trail as described for the half day walk to West Beach Headland (3.3km, about 1 hour) continue to Nature's Rockery Lookout platform, which has an almost 360 degree view of the central wilderness peaks and the rugged western coastline.

From here to the Edwards Point Steps takes about 20 minutes. A superb view of the rocky beach shore below opens up from the top of the steps. At the base of the steps, visit the small zawn about 15m to your left. The word zawn is derived from the Cornish word 'sawan' meaning chasm and is a deep and narrow sea-inlet cut by erosion, with steep or vertical walls. This zawn is relatively small compared with others along the Fitzgerald River National Park coastline. Return by the same route to Cave Point.

#### Hamersley Inlet to Whalebone Point and Whalebone Creek campground

**17.6km return – allow six to seven hours**

This is a longer walk from Hamersley Inlet to Whalebone Creek. Follow the trail as described for the half day walk to Tamala Karst Lookout. It continues along the edge of the limestone scarp and gradually descends to Central Whalebone Point. Walk around the point and pass below a short section of low *Melaleuca* woodland where the small trees have been blown by the prevailing winds into an almost horizontal form. Allow 30 minutes from Tamala Karst Lookout.

The trail heads towards Whalebone Point in the distant west. After passing an unusual boomerang shaped limestone edge the trail skirts inland and then curves around the head of a dry stream valley before swinging back parallel to the coast.

Eventually you will emerge onto the final coastal karst section where the trail parallels the edge of the cliff line with spectacular ocean views in both directions. In windy or gusty conditions you are advised to stay well back from the cliff edge. Another viewing platform (Whalebone Coast Lookout) on the final knoll before you descend towards Whalebone Point – about 2½-3 hours from Hamersley Inlet carpark.

If you are short of time you can go past the Hakea Trail turn off 80m on your right beyond the carpark and continue a further 70m up the hill to visit a fine viewpoint which looks back east – down into Whalebone Cove and along the coast beyond. You can then start your return journey without visiting the campground. Otherwise follow the Hakea Trail turn off, which descends to the Whalebone Creek valley and the Whalebone Creek campground in a few hundred metres (10 minutes) and commence your return walk from there. You will pass a short path on your left as you near the creek and this leads down to the nearby inlet beach. This is the last accessible beach area along the trail all the way to Quoin Head.

### Two Day Walk

#### Cave Point to Quoin Head

**46.8km return – allow 12 to 14 hours actual walking**

This class 4 walk takes you the entire length of the Hakea Trail. Allow 7-8 hours walking one way from Cave Point and 5-6 hours one way from Hamersley Inlet carpark.

Starting from Cave Point follow the full day walk description to the Edwards Point Steps. The trail now follows the spectacular rocky beach around to the west and in about 20 minutes you will round the point and reach the east end of Hamersley Beach. This area is accessible by 4WD vehicles, so take care as you continue westwards. Also take care if tides are high as there are some places where the broken waves may lap right up to the base of steep dune slopes. After about 30 minutes you will pass the Hamersley Inlet sand bar on your right and the Hamersley Inlet Link Trail entry. Continue all the way to Whalebone Creek campground as described above for the half day and full day walks from Hamersley Inlet carpark.

On leaving the campground cross over Whalebone Creek using the walkway. Please use the dieback brushdown provided and then climb quite steeply up part of an old 4WD track to the next section of old wave cut platform. The trail now leaves the old track on the left and swings back toward the coast. In a few hundred metres you will reach another resting point where you can sit on the natural rocks and look down across the Whalebone Creek Beach. You can also see distant views of the central wilderness coast and Red Islet just off shore to the south-west. This is an ideal 15 minute (one way) stroll from the campground and a good turn around point if you are not continuing all the way to Quoin Head.

The trail now swings back inland and uphill passing through a stand of the rich crimson coloured Barrens *Regelia*, eventually returning to the old 4WD track (10 minutes) at which point this is followed west to the Whoogarup lookout point at the foot of the southern outlier peak of the Whoogarup Range about 1.8km ahead (one hour from Whalebone campground). This is the only place on this section of trail where you can see back along the eastern coast as well as ahead toward the central wilderness.

After another 800m you will turn off the old 4WD track and walking gently downhill, you will reach a great vista into a deep valley with a gorge which extends to sea level. The trail then swings back to the west descending steeply into the valley to cross the creek on some large rocks above a

Below Quoin Head Beach and Hakea Trail terminus above.



waterfall before rising diagonally up the other side of the valley and then flanking round toward the coast again. The trail then runs parallel between Quoin Head 4WD track and the ocean, with spectacular coastal views to the Quoin Head terminus lookout. (1 hour from Whoogarup Lookout Point). Here there is a stunning view of the central wilderness area, taking in glimpses of Thumb Peak, Mid Mount Barren, the western park peaks and Red Islet off the coast. On a clear day you can see the Doubtful Island peninsular near Bremer Bay. This marks the end of the Hakea Trail.

Return to Cave Point (or other entry points) by the same route.

#### Quoin Head Beach

If you have time to visit Quoin Head beach and headland, return about 90m to the small car park then descend the steep four-wheel drive track down to the beach and small recreation area.

Remember before descending that you will need about 2 hours from here to return to Whalebone Creek campground, and from there another 3-4 hours to Hamersley Inlet trail head or another 5-6 hours to Cave Point trail head, longer if you are tired.

#### Facilities and Campsite

Occasional resting areas with small seats or platforms are provided to rest your legs and take in the wonderful views. There are trail markers and directional signs. There are no toilet facilities along the trail.

There are simple composting toilet facilities and raised sleeping platforms at Whalebone Creek campground. There is no potable water at this site. All water, food and camping equipment will need to be carried in. Bring your own toilet paper and please take all your rubbish back with you.

#### Dieback

Dieback is caused by a pathogen, known as *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, which is lethal to hundreds of plant species. This disease kills plants by destroying their root systems, and threatens many of the park's plant species. The climate of the south coast favours the spread of dieback, which thrives in warm, moist soil and can easily be spread in mud or soil that adheres to vehicle tyres or bush walkers' footwear.

It is therefore sometimes necessary to close roads and tracks or temporarily restrict access to certain areas.

Fitzgerald River National Park is one of the parks least infected by dieback in south-western Australia. With your help it has a chance of remaining so. Bush walkers can help by cleaning mud and soil from their boots before entering a park or reserve, or at the boot-cleaning stations provided at trailhead sites in the park.

When driving in the park, it is essential to keep to established roads and tracks and obey all 'ROAD CLOSED' signs. By washing the tyres and under-body of your car before and after a trip to a park or reserve, you can help preserve WA's natural areas.