



## John Forrest National Park Park Guide

Originally declared as a conservation reserve in 1898, John Forrest National Park is WA's oldest national park. It became John Forrest National Park in 1947, in honour of the famous explorer and statesman, Sir John Forrest, who was Premier of Western Australia between 1890 and 1901.

The visitor area contains barbecue and picnic facilities and cultivated gardens of native plants. The rest of the park is largely undeveloped and is home to a variety of plant communities and wildlife.

Several trails run through various parts of the park, including the Railway Heritage Trail, which follows the alignment of the old railway line to York. Visitors can walk through the only historical railway tunnel in WA – the Swan View Tunnel. The Eagle View Walk Trail is a 15-kilometre bushwalking circuit that leads to some of the park's less explored areas.



There are outstanding views of Perth and the Swan Coastal Plain from the lookout point on the scenic drive. The park also offers a wide variety of attractions and facilities that make it a popular venue for families and groups.

Surrounding the centrally located ranger's office are rock gardens that lead down to Jane Brook, built by sustenance workers during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The brook has been dammed to create a pleasant pool area, but the water is untreated and swimming is not allowed. Picnic areas and barbecue facilities are provided nearby. Shelters are also provided to allow visitors to enjoy the surrounds all year round.

### Entry fees

Entry fees apply.

### Facilities

- Electric and gas barbecues (no fires allowed at any time)
- Toilets
- Water

### Universal access

John Forrest National Park is very well equipped for people in wheelchairs. There are disabled parking bays as well as accessible toilet and picnic areas. There is also a 450-metre accessible trail that leads around the water's edge. The ramp down to the lower part of the site near the water's edge and some parts of the trail are considered steep, so assistance may be required for some people, but generally access is considered adequate. For more detailed information on access, please visit the Access WA website at [www.accesswa.com.au](http://www.accesswa.com.au).

### How to get there

John Forrest National Park is about 30 minutes from Perth. Leave Perth on the Great Eastern Highway. The park lies to the north of the highway and is well signposted. There are three entrances off the highway.

Entrance to the western side of the park is available off Great Eastern Highway as you head towards Mundaring (just near Bilgoman Pool/Darlington Road), as well as Pechey Road (Swan View side), with walk/hike trails following the old railway line west.

### Best time to visit

Autumn, winter and spring.

### What to do

- Bushwalking
- Mountain bike riding (on approved trails only)
- Picnicking
- Wildlife observation – western grey kangaroos are commonly seen around the picnic areas early morning and late afternoon. The park has 10 species of native mammal (one declared rare), and 91 species of bird (two considered to be in need of special protection), 23 species of reptile and 10 species of frog.
- Photography
- Visit Hovea and National Park falls





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## Walk and cycle trails

- Railway Heritage Walk Trail which is part of the longer Railway Heritage Trail.
- Walk trails lead to features such as Hovea Falls and National Park Falls. A trail continues along the northern side of Jane Brook to Rocky Pool, where the brook can be crossed and the return journey made along the John Forrest Heritage Trail. The falls and creek usually flow from the beginning of winter to about the end of October.
- The Swan View Tunnel.

The Department of Environment and Conservation's *Nearer to Nature* initiative provides fun, hands-on activities within the park. Visit [www.dec.wa.gov.au/n2n](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/n2n) for more information about 'what's on'.

## On-site information

Rangers, an information shelter, trailside signs, park guides.

## Fires

No fires are allowed within the park.

**Important note:** The park may be closed at short notice due to fire risk or other emergency conditions.

## Visitor safety

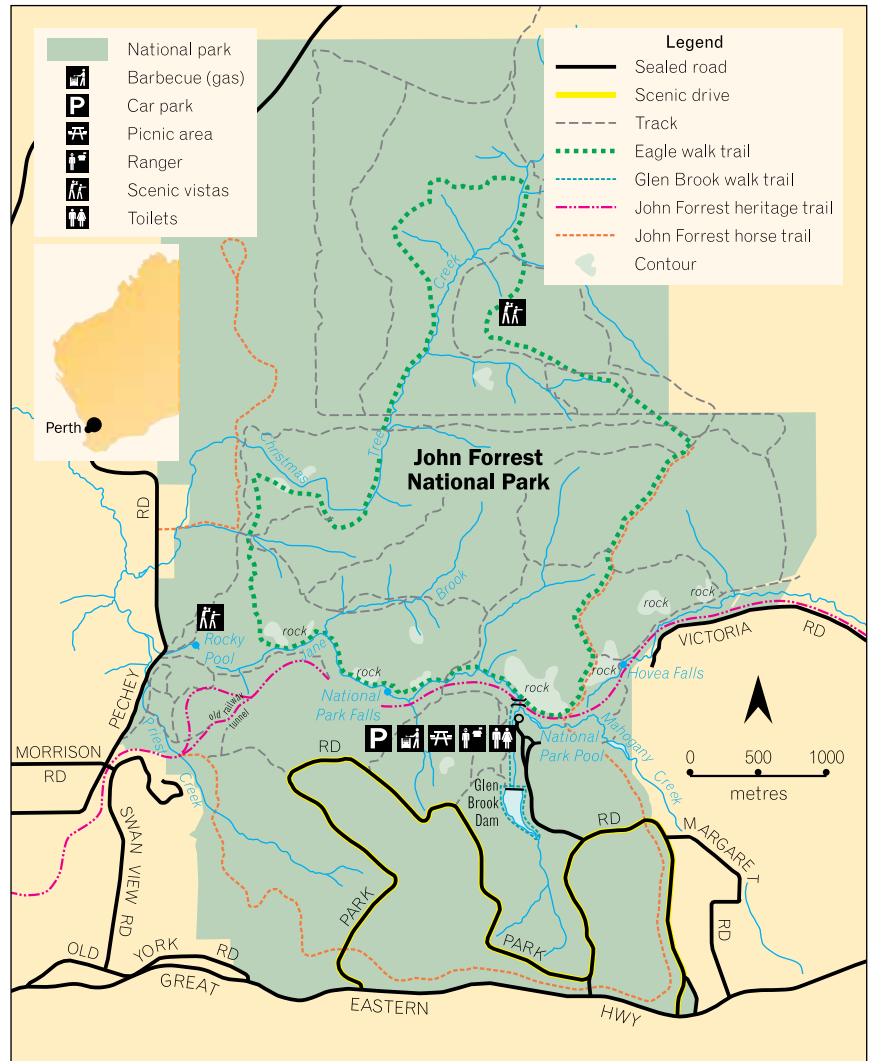
- Stay on tracks and paths.
- Remember that your safety in natural areas is our concern but your responsibility.
- The park contains many waterfalls and risk areas. Extreme caution must be undertaken to avoid slippage and falling in such areas.

## Caring for the park

- Please do not feed the native animals, as it interferes with their natural ability to hunt.
- Pets are not allowed within the park.
- The taking of flora and fauna is prohibited.
- Take your rubbish with you when you leave.
- All Aboriginal sites within Western Australia are protected by law. Leave artefacts where you find them.

## Stay on the road

Public vehicle access is only on the sealed roads leading off Great Eastern Highway. By staying on these roads you will be making an important contribution towards stopping the spread of dieback disease. Normal road rules apply. Mountain bikes may only be ridden on approved management tracks – they cannot be ridden on walk trails, including the Eagle View Walk Trail.



## John Forrest National Park

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