Karri Forest Explorer

Department of
Environment and Conservation

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Warren National Park *Photo Wendy Eiby*

Warren National Park

Warren National Park protects magnificent virgin karri forest along the valley of the Warren River. The one-way Heartbreak Trail follows the river, sometimes level with the water and sometimes high above it. The steep track was built by hand to clear a path down to the river for fire fighters, its name reflecting the hardship of the job. Heartbreak Trail can be slippery when wet and is not recommended for towing caravans or trailers.

The rapids of Heartbreak Crossing and Warren Lookout, high above the river, are good stopping places along the trail, and there are excellent camping sites for those looking for a longer stay.

Warren National Park also has the Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree, one of the three fire lookout trees open to the public in the Pemberton area. It was pegged in 1988 as part of Australia's bicentennial celebrations. (You can also climb the Gloucester Tree in Gloucester National Park and the Diamond Tree, south of Manjimup on the South Western Highway.)

Another tree in the park is named after Marianne North, the English artist whose 1880 painting of the misshapen karri now hangs in a gallery at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree

Clematis (*Clematis pubescens*)

Visitor fees

Park entry fees apply in Warren, Gloucester and Beedelup national parks. For current information on fees please see the *Park visitor fees* brochure or the DEC website.

Annual Local, Holiday, Annual All Parks, and Gold Star passes are available at DEC offices, selected tourist outlets and visitor centres in Western Australia.

These fees assist in conservation and park management including the improvement of visitor facilities and services.

For more information

DEC Pemberton Office
Kennedy Street, Pemberton
Phone (08) 9776 1207
www.dec.wa.gov.au

Pemberton Visitor Centre
Phone (08) 9776 1133
www.pembertonvisitor.com.au

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Karri Forest Explorer Drive

The Karri Forest Explorer Drive was developed and funded by the Department of Environment and Conservation with support from the Pemberton tourism industry. It winds through some of the south-west's most magnificent karri forest.

Explore it at your own pace—stop for a picnic at Big Brook Dam, climb 60 metres to the Gloucester Tree lookout, see Beedelup Falls from the suspension bridge, go bushwalking, or fishing, or just sit and take in nature. You'll find trail-side information to guide you through the forest, including a series of tourist radio stops (100 FM).

You can stop for a wine tasting, coffee or a gourmet meal; visit a gallery or craft centre or cast your rod for trout. Choose from the wide range of places to stay and give yourself longer to explore the 86-kilometre drive.

The Karri Forest Explorer Drive starts just outside the historic timber town of Pemberton, but you can join it at several points along the way, depending on which way you're travelling, or where you're staying.

Karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) grows up to 90 metres high, making it the tallest tree in Western Australia and one of the tallest in the world. The Californian coast redwood is thought to be the tallest at more than 100 metres.

The main belt of karri forest grows south from Nannup to Manjimup to the Frankland River, then east to Denmark and Torbay, near Albany.

Karri has a long, straight trunk with smooth bark that is shed each year. The outer bark changes colour as it matures, so the trunks are multi-coloured in shades of pink, orange, grey and white. Karri produces white flowers in spring.

Gloucester National Park *Photo Wendy Eiby*

Gloucester National Park

Best known for the Gloucester Tree lookout, this park is three kilometres south-east of Pemberton and a main attraction on the Karri Forest Explorer Drive. The 60-metre Gloucester Tree was chosen for a fire lookout in 1947, one of a network of lookouts built in the karri forest between 1937 and 1952.

The Gloucester Tree was named after the then Governor-General of Australia, His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, who was visiting Pemberton as the lookout was being built. Today, visitors can climb 60 metres to see one of the most spectacular views of the karri forest.

At Cascades, in the southern end of the park, the Lefroy Brook tumbles over a series of rocky shelves. Lookout platforms and a walk trail take you to the best viewing points.

Beedelup National Park

Beedelup National Park surrounds Beedelup Brook, a name thought to have come from the Nyoongar Aboriginal word *beedja*, meaning sleep.

The park includes dense karri forest, mixed with marri and jarrah, with several beautiful stands of pure marri. Its main attraction is Beedelup Falls, which drop for 100 metres over a series of steep granite rocks. The falls are in full flow during winter and spring and can be viewed year-round along a walk trail and from two bridges.

Big Brook Forest

Big Brook is a young forest, regenerated after logging in the 1920s. By 1930, about 2,000 hectares of karri had been clear-felled to produce logs for Pemberton Mill, when a spark from a steam locomotive started a bushfire. The remaining karri dropped their seed on the ash bed from the fire and the seed germinated the following winter.

Big Brook was one of the first tourist destinations developed in the karri forest after the Second World War, and has grown in popularity ever since.

The forest is centred on the scenic Big Brook Dam, built in 1986 to increase the water supply to Pemberton and the local trout hatchery. Visitors can swim and fish in the dam (there's great trout and marron fishing in season) or picnic by the water's edge.

A sealed walk trail suitable for strollers and wheelchairs follows the edge of the dam. Nearby attractions include a boardwalk to a 300-year-old giant karri, Big Brook Arboretum which showcases trees from around the world, and a boardwalk through a stand of Warren River cedar.

Big Brook Aboretum

Camping along the Karri Forest Explorer

Why not spend a few days seeing the sights of the Karri Forest Explorer and camp in the forest surrounding Pemberton?

There are excellent camp sites in Warren National Park. Drafty's Camp has two camping loops with shady camp sites spread along the Warren River. There are 22 camp sites, toilets and a camp kitchen with picnic tables and free gas barbecues.

Warren Camp offers six camp sites that are well shaded in the magnificent karri forest yet close enough to the river to hear the water flowing past. Picnic tables and toilet facilities are provided.

Big Brook Arboretum also offers camping in a large open grassed area. Toilet facilities are provided.

Nestled among marri and jarrah forest, the Carey Brook camp sites, Snottygobble Loop and Grasstree Hollow, present a secluded camping experience close to the pristine Carey Brook. There are tent sites, a site suitable for groups, a camp kitchen and toilets.

Camping fees apply to all of these campgrounds.

Only some sites have fire rings and fires are only permitted in the fire rings provided. No fires are permitted during the prohibited period.

There are many other accommodation options around Pemberton and the Karri Forest Explorer. Please contact the Pemberton Visitor Centre for details.

Camping at Big Brook Aboretum

Cascades *Photo Wendy Eiby*

Exploring the karri forest on foot

There are lots of great opportunities to get out of your car and discover the forest on foot along the Karri Forest Explorer.

Warren National Park

The Warren River Loop Walk is a 10.5-kilometre, moderately hard walk trail that passes through some of the region's most magnificent old-growth karri forest. Rated as one of WA's Top Trails, this loop trail can be started from any point and can also be walked in short sections varying in length from 300 metres to 2.8 kilometres.

Gloucester National Park

There are several walking options leaving from the Gloucester Tree ranging from the easy 400-metre Dukes Walk to the more challenging 10-kilometre Gloucester Route.

In the southern section of the park at Cascades, the Lefroy Brook Loop Walk is a 1.2-kilometre trail that follows the Lefroy Brook before climbing out of the valley through karri and marri forest.

You can also walk the six kilometres between the Gloucester Tree and Cascades along the Bibbulmun Track.

Big Brook Dam

An easy, 3.4-kilometre sealed walk trail circles this picturesque dam and is suitable for prams and wheelchairs. You can also walk the one kilometre to Big Brook Arboretum along a walk trail that leads off from the upper reaches of the dam.

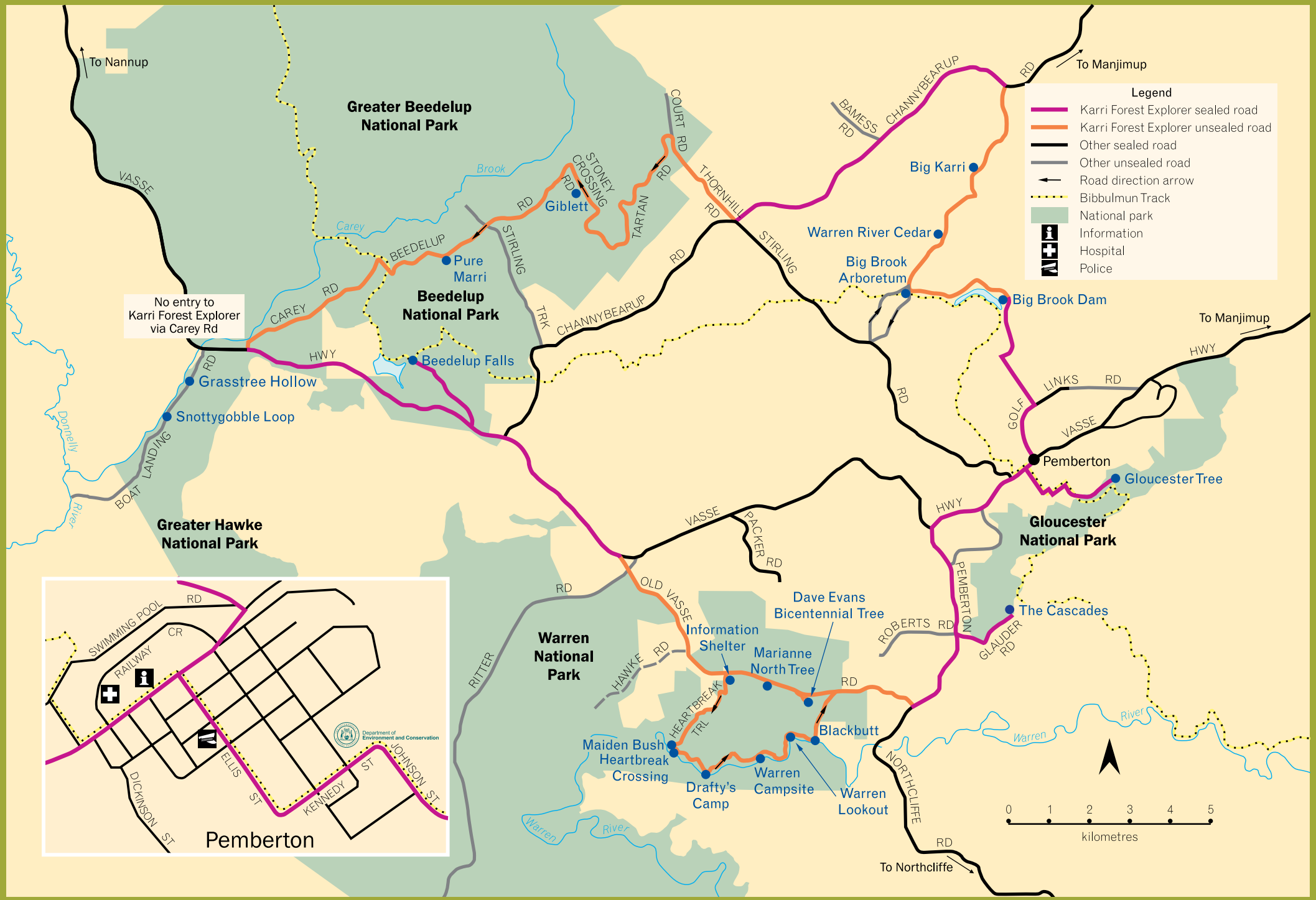
Warren River *Photo K Stender*

A bit more adventurous?

If you are into mountain biking, why not drop into the Pemberton Visitor Centre and ask about the mountain bike trails located at the Pemberton Mountain Bike Park? There is a range of circuits that cater for beginners to the more experienced.

The Pemberton Visitor Centre can help you out with more information on canoeing, four-wheel driving, cycling, mountain biking and local tours.

Riding through the karri forest *Photo Leon Ewing*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Big Karri
Warren River Cedar
Big Brook Arboretum
Big Brook Dam
STIRLING TRK
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Pure Marri
Beedelup National Park
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CAREY RD
HWY
Beedelup Falls
Grasstree Hollow
Snottygobble Loop
Donnelly River
BOAT LANDING RD
Greater Hawke National Park
GOLF LINKS RD
VASSE HWY
Pemberton
Gloucester Tree
Gloucester National Park
VASSE RACKER RD
OLD VASSE RD
RITTER RD
Warren National Park
HAWKE RD
Information Shelter
Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree
Marianne North Tree
HEARTBREAK TRL
Blackbutt
Maiden Bush Heartbreak Crossing
Drafty's Camp
Warren Campsite
Warren Lookout
ROBERTS RD
PEMBERTON HWY
The Cascades
GLAUDER RD
NORTHCLIFFE RD
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