

# Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve Gull Rock National Park and Mt Martin Botanical Reserve Waychinicup National Park



Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

## Two Peoples Bay

Partly sheltered from the Southern Ocean by the granite massifs of Mt Gardner and Mt Manypeaks, Two Peoples Bay lies 35km east of Albany.

The bay was a gathering place for the local Aboriginal Noongar people, known as the Minang, who hunted and fished along streams that fed into the bay.

Long before European settlement, ships carrying whalers, sealers and explorers visited the coast. The chance meeting of French and American mariners resulted in the naming of the bay as Baie des Deux Peuples in honour of the two new republics.

To augment their meagre incomes, early settlers took up shore-based whaling – flensing and rendering (stripping and melting) the whale blubber on the bay's gently sloping beaches.

As the region developed, coastal land was cleared for farming, holiday and salmon fishing shacks appeared at the edge of the bay and a township was planned.

In 1961, the surprising rediscovery of the noisy scrub-bird, long thought to be extinct, prompted naturalists to recognise the area's value as an important wildlife sanctuary. Following much local and political debate, the township plan was abandoned.

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve was established in 1966, a fortunate decision as in 1994 a small colony of another 'lost' species, the Gilbert's potoroo, was discovered. Today, 12 threatened animal species are known to survive in the nature reserve.

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## Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve

The purpose of a nature reserve is to maintain the natural environment and protect native flora and fauna. Visitor facilities are provided within Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve to enhance visitor experience and due to a history of commercial fishing and recreational use in the area.

Opportunities for bushwalking, beach walking, fishing, boat launching, picnicking and barbecuing are provided within designated areas shown on the map (inside page).

**Camping is not permitted. Entry fees apply.**

In order to protect threatened animal species and their limited habitat, areas of the highest conservation values are RESTRICTED ACCESS. These areas cannot be entered without a written permit, typically granted for research purposes only.

## Two Peoples Bay Visitor Centre

The visitor centre contains colourful displays and video presentations that tell of the reserve's history, biodiversity and important recovery programs for threatened species.

Over summer months, the centre is usually open from 10am to 4pm and is often staffed by volunteer hosts. During other months, the centre is open when staff are present. Group visits can be arranged by contacting the ranger.

A 4.6km return trail leads from the rear of the visitor centre and loops back along the beach. A 5km return spur leads to picturesque Little Beach.

*Verticordia plumosa*.

Two Peoples Bay Visitor Centre.

## Visitor guide



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



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Fairy Rocks, Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.



Gull Rock National Park.



Waychinicup River.

## Threatened species recovery

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve protects mature coastal vegetation, the type of habitat needed by the noisy scrub-bird, western bristlebird, Australasian bittern, western ringtail possum, quokka and Gilbert's potoroo, all of which are threatened species.

Three threatened species of cockatoo (Baudin's, Carnaby's and forest red-tailed black cockatoo) also use habitat in the reserve.

The danger of bushfire is extreme for species that live in small, isolated areas of habitat, making the establishment of new colonies an important priority.

The department's research scientists and volunteers regularly monitor the 'wild' populations of noisy scrub-birds and potoroos. Successful translocation projects for both species have established new colonies in suitable habitat along the south coast.

It is unlikely that you will see either a noisy scrub-bird or a potoroo, although they are present in the reserve. The Gilbert's potoroo is a nocturnal animal that lives in dense vegetation on the slopes and in the gullies between peaks.

The noisy scrub-bird, often described as elusive, is rarely seen. During the breeding season from May to October, you may hear the loud 'pipping' call of a male noisy scrub-bird loudly proclaiming his territory and availability. The female noisy scrub-bird is usually quiet.

Noisy scrub-bird.



Gilbert's potoroo. Photo - Dick Walker/ Gilbert's Potoroo Action Group.



## Gull Rock National Park and Mt Martin Botanical Reserve

Positioned on the outskirts of Albany's residential area, Gull Rock National Park and the adjacent Mt Martin Botanical Reserve provide a beautiful coastal setting for recreation and enjoyment of natural beauty.

High vista points in the landscape offer outstanding views of Breaksea and Michaelmas islands, Albany's harbours and Torndirrup Peninsula.

The diverse landforms and soils found within these two protected areas support an exceptional botanical richness. The largest known stand of Albany's floral symbol, *Banksia coccinea*, exists within a priority ecological community found in the park, which unfortunately is threatened by *Phytophthora* dieback.

A complex patchwork of forest, woodlands, wetlands, sedges, granite shrublands and coastal heath covers the landscape. The wetlands and sedgelands are of special importance to bird species, including noisy scrub-birds, which have been reintroduced to this area.

Waychinicup River Inlet.



## Waychinicup National Park

Located 65km east of Albany, Waychinicup National Park includes the lower reaches and beautiful rocky inlet of the Waychinicup River. Unlike other south coast estuaries, this inlet does not form a sand bar and remains open throughout the year.

Deeply incised gullies descend from boulder-strewn hilltops to the sea. Within these gullies, nearly impenetrable vegetation provides habitat for threatened plants and animals including noisy scrub-birds, western bristlebirds and whipbirds. The granite slopes support plant species that are found nowhere else.

Quendas (bandicoots) can often be seen digging during the day while quokkas travel through hidden 'runnels' (tunnels in dense vegetation).

Nocturnal western ringtail possums are rarely seen but their dreys (basketball-sized nests made of sticks) can sometimes be spotted in trees.

Waychinicup National Park's snug inlet and camping area is popular with family groups for swimming, canoeing and fishing. Facilities are basic.

## Things to do

### Bushwalking

Interlacing Class 4 trails traverse over the coastal hills of Mt Martin Botanical Reserve offering up-close viewing of wildflowers and remarkable vistas of Albany's coastline.

At Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, Class 4 trails start from the visitor centre and from Little Beach, offering expansive views of the bay and of Mt Manypeaks.

### Trail classifications



**Class 4:** Limited directional signage and difficult sections. You may encounter natural hazards such as long steep sections, water crossings, and unstable or slippery surfaces. A good level of fitness and bushwalking experience is recommended.

### Picnic and barbecue

Cooking fires are not allowed in any national parks or nature reserves. Gas barbecues are provided for use free of charge at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.

### Camping

Limited tent camping sites, not suitable for caravans, are located at Waychinicup National Park. Camping fees apply. Caravan parks are located in Albany and at Cheynes Beach.

### Campfires and cooking fires are not allowed.

Camping is not permitted at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, Gull Rock National Park or Mt Martin Botanical Reserve.

### Fishing

Many fishing sites are found along the south coast. Fishing regulations apply, visit [fish.wa.gov.au](http://fish.wa.gov.au). Keep safety in mind when choosing a site. Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous. Some local sporting goods suppliers loan out safety vests provided by Recfishwest. More information is available at [recfishwest.org.au](http://recfishwest.org.au).

### Swimming

These locations are popular with visitors; however, local conditions, waves, swell, rips and personal ability must be considered before choosing to swim.

- Gull Rock National Park – Boiler Bay at the eastern end of Ledge Beach
- Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve – Little Beach
- Waychinicup National Park – Waychinicup River inlet

### Boat launching

Boats can be launched from the beach at Two Peoples Bay and at Cheynes Beach, located to the east of Waychinicup National Park.

### Four-wheel driving

Limited opportunities for four-wheel driving exist. Be aware that tracks can be very rough and sandy. High-clearance vehicles and experienced off-road drivers are required. Follow vehicle manufacturer's guidelines for tyre pressure.

### Fighting dieback

*Phytophthora* dieback is a major problem on the State's south coast. Caused by a microscopic water mould that dwells in the soil, this plant pathogen kills plants by rotting their roots.

More than 2,300 plant species in south-western Australia are susceptible to dieback. Unfortunately, the moist conditions on the south coast create perfect conditions for the spread of the disease.

Machinery, humans and animals spread the disease by moving infested soils to healthy areas. Once present in the landscape, the dieback water mould can move in soil and water or by root-to-root contact between plants.

Dieback threatens biodiversity by not only killing plants but also by destroying wildlife habitat, placing the health and survival of whole ecosystems at risk.

### You can help prevent further spread of dieback.

- Stay on designated tracks and trails.
- Avoid walking and driving on tracks in wet soil conditions.
- Abide by management signs and do not enter restricted areas.
- Clean soil from footwear at the start and finish of any walks in natural areas. A small spray bottle of 70–100 per cent methylated spirits is ideal for cleaning footwear.
- Clean vehicle (tyres and undercarriage) before entering national parks.

### Protecting habitat and wildlife

Leave rocks and plants undisturbed. Please take your rubbish out with you. Bins are not provided.

Pets are not permitted in national parks and nature reserves, including within cars and parking areas.

Poison baits are used in national parks and nature reserves to kill foxes and feral cats under Parks and Wildlife Service's wildlife recovery program *Western Shield*. These small chunks of dried meat or pinkish-brown sausages will kill dogs and should not be handled.

## Protecting yourself

### The Southern Ocean is very unpredictable.

- Huge waves and extreme swells can suddenly occur even on calm days.
- Waves can sweep over rocky headlands.
- Powerful rips and undertows can occur.
- Fishing from rocks is extremely dangerous. Always tell someone where you are going and your expected return, and never fish alone. Wear appropriate clothing, cleats and a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times, and take note of safety equipment and know how to use them e.g. anchor points, angel rings.



### Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility.

- Carry plenty of drinking water for each person.
- Wear sun protection, boots or sturdy footwear and clothing that is weatherproof and scratchproof.
- Be prepared for sudden changes in the weather.
- Sloping, rough and uneven surfaces exist throughout the parks and reserves.
- Granite rocks can be extremely slippery when wet.
- Cliff edges can crumble without warning.

Visitor fees apply at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve. Fees are used to improve and maintain facilities.

### More information

Department of Biodiversity,  
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[dbca.wa.gov.au](http://dbca.wa.gov.au)

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Albany WA 6330  
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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



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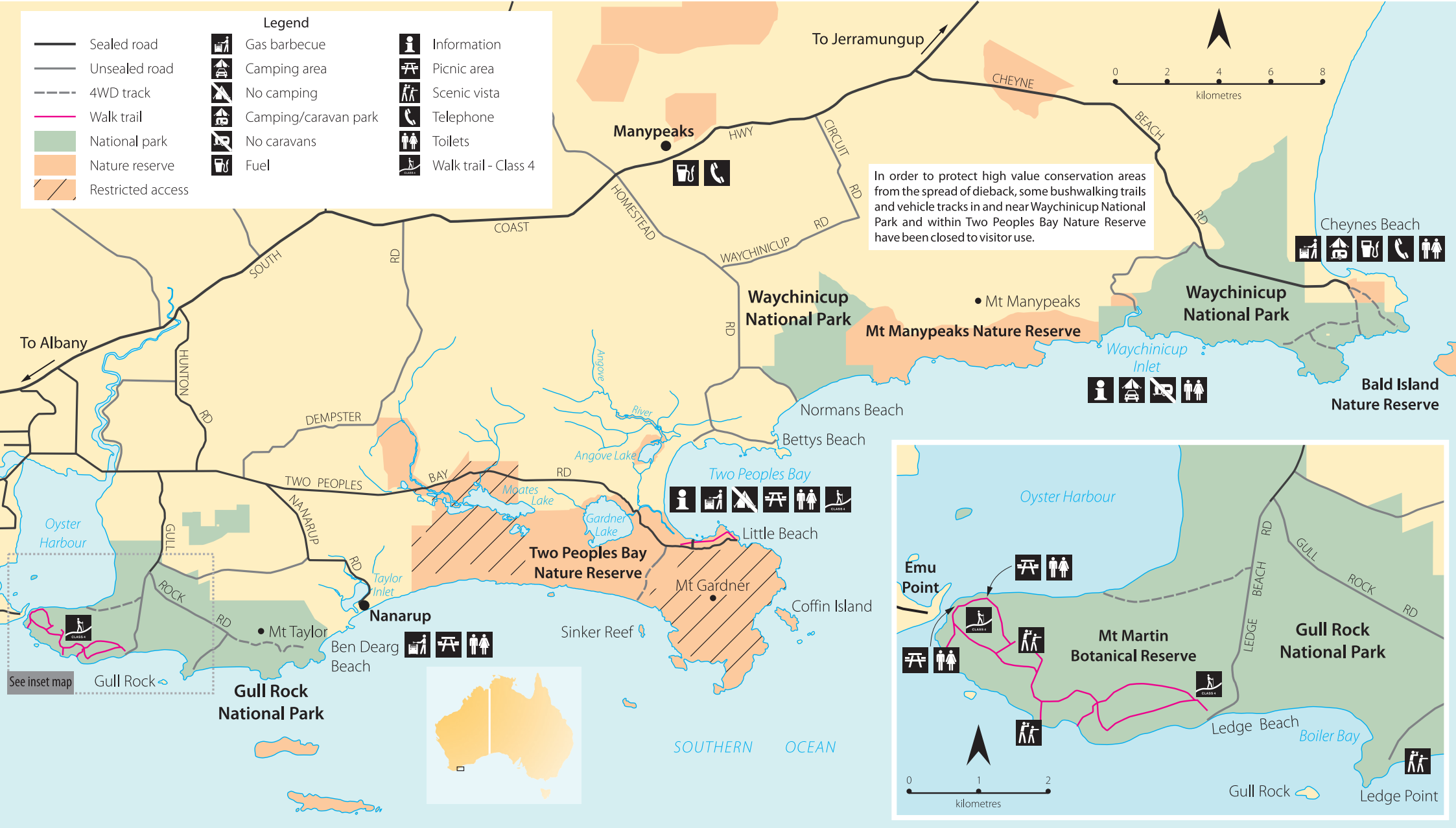
Front cover Two Peoples Bay.

Information current as at February 2018.

Available in alternative formats on request.

**Legend**

	Sealed road		Gas barbecue		Information
	Unsealed road		Camping area		Picnic area
	4WD track		No camping		Scenic vista
	Walk trail		Camping/caravan park		Telephone
	National park		No caravans		Toilets
	Nature reserve		Fuel		Walk trail - Class 4
	Restricted access				



**IN AN EMERGENCY**

Download the free Emergency+ app to call for emergency assistance if ever required. If there is no mobile phone coverage you **WILL NOT** be able to call 000 but the app will provide you with GPS location details.



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

