Welcome to the Swan Valley

Welcome to the Bush Tucker and Beyond Trail

The Swan Valley has always enjoyed a rich tradition as a food bowl. Aboriginal people have always lived a life governed by their own six seasons. Djeran (autumn) would see them return to tend their gardens, hold ceremonies and prepare for the long winter nights ahead.

The first grape vines were planted in 1829 at Olive Farm by botanist Thomas Waters. Many Aboriginal people worked as seasonal grape pickers, campers on properties along the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) as far as the site of All Saints Church. He explored the local area and deemed the alluvial soil worthy of supporting a new settlement.

Location of the Swan Valley

The Swan Valley is located a short 25 minute drive from the Perth CBD and 20 minutes from Perth Airport.

One of the best ways to explore the Bush Tucker & Beyond Trail is to self-drive.

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit Maalinup, an Aboriginal owned and operated enterprise where you can taste and buy bush food products. Explore other businesses that have embraced bush food ingredients as part of their everyday offering.

Location of the Swan Valley

If you know where to look, there is still plenty of bush tucker to be found in the Swan Valley. Follow the trail.

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

1. MAAILINGUP GALLERY & BUSH FOOD PROPRIORITORE

Shaded by towering gum and lemon-scented gums, Maalingup offers a bush Tucker garden, emus and a gallery full of surprising finds: bush Tucker, gifts and authentic, Aboriginal art. Drop in to sample the amazing range of jams, sauces, chutneys, nuts, fruits, infused oils and dukkhas featuring Australian native species. Sniff, touch and taste intriguing bush herbs, spices and peppers. Be inspired to take them home for yourself or as gifts. Arm yourself with a bush Tucker cookbook and free information sheets and recipes. Want to dig deeper? Book a bush Tucker experience.

1. MAAILINGUP GALLERY & BUSH FOOD PROPRIORITORE

2. OLD YOUNG’S DISTILLERY

Two-time Australian Champion Distiller, Old Young’s brings tradition together with a flair for the unusual. Handcrafted spirits are distilled using locally-sourced produce and a wide range of native Australian ingredients, including the gold-medal winning Six Seasons Gin developed in conjunction with Maalingup Gallery. Botanicals such as desert lime, bush mint, sea parsley and lemon myrtle make for a unique gin impossible to create outside of Australia.

2. OLD YOUNG’S DISTILLERY

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

2. OLD YOUNG’S DISTILLERY

3. ALL SAINTS CHURCH

A welcome sanctuary on the Swan River. This land where Captain Stirling camped in 1827 was later assigned to build a church. The first service was held in 1841. It was the site of a huge garden tilled by the local Noongar women. This staple food harvested in the Djerran and Kambarring seasons was critically important for the Aboriginal people. Stirling believed the fertility of the alluvial soil could help support the future colony. Losing access to their vegetable gardens and upland lands caused hardship to the local Noongar peoples. Plaques at All Saints today recognise both cultures.

3. ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

3. ALL SAINTS CHURCH

4. EDGECOMBE BROTHERS WINERY & CAFE

Edgecombe Brothers is nestled among the vines with views of Lake Yarke, a beautiful wetland named by a local elder for the critically endangered Western Swamp Tortoise (Yarke or Yagan). Yarke are not present in the lake but Booby, the long neck tortoise, abounds. Settle under the vine-covered pergola overlooking the lake to enjoy simple and delicious signature food platters with bush Tucker touches such as bush Tucker relish. From September to March, savour asparagus harvested fresh from the field paired with lemon myrtle mayonnaise.

4. EDGECOMBE BROTHERS WINERY & CAFE

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

4. EDGECOMBE BROTHERS WINERY & CAFE

5. YAGAN MEMORIAL PARK

A unique place has been created to commemorate the life, death and spirit of the great Noongar leader and warrior (c1795-July 11, 1833) and as a burial site for Yagan’s repatriated head.

The collaborative work of artist Peter Farfar, Sandra Hill and Jenny Dawson interprets and narrates the life story of Yagan in a meandering silk screened porcelain piece inset into a sand gathered earth wall. Striking entrance pieces represent female and male Star Trees. The mosaic markings on the male Star Tree represent the Noongar shield, while the female Star Tree represents the Coolamon.

5. YAGAN MEMORIAL PARK

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

5. YAGAN MEMORIAL PARK

6. WALYUNGA NATIONAL PARK

The Syd’s Rapids and Aboriginal Heritage walk trails are located where the Walyunga National Park joins the Swan River, 40 kilometres north east of Perth.

The easy 1.2 kilometre family-friendly Aboriginal Heritage Trail meanders along the river bank between Walyunga Pool and Boongaree Pool. It allows people to learn about Aboriginal myths and legends and to see the park’s plants and animals through the eyes of the original inhabitants who met in this area for more than 6,000 years.

6. WALYUNGA NATIONAL PARK

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

6. WALYUNGA NATIONAL PARK

7. BELLS RAPIDS PARK

The area around Bells Rapids provided ideal camping areas for Noongar people because of the presence of food and water. The Swan River was a thoroughfare from the scarp to the coastal plain. Fish, shellfish, kangaroos, goannas, emus and water birds were in abundance and formed a large part of the bush Tucker diet in the region.

Bells Rapids is the place to enjoy a picnic, bush walk, bird life and the beauty of the Australian Bush. The 2.5 kilometre trail and a bridge that spans the Swan River allows walkers to enjoy scenic views of the rapids, surrounding countryside and grey kangaroos.

7. BELLS RAPIDS PARK

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

7. BELLS RAPIDS PARK

8. MONDO NOUGAT

Producers of the world’s finest nougat using traditional family recipes that date back generations. The Romeo family pride themselves on sourcing the very best ingredients. The Romeo family pride themselves on sourcing the very best ingredients. The Romeo family pride themselves on sourcing the very best ingredients.

The Romeo family pride themselves on sourcing the very best ingredients.

8. MONDO NOUGAT

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

8. MONDO NOUGAT

9. JUDE TAYLOR STUDIO

This Western Australian wildflower artist conjures vibrancy and beauty, drawing inspiration from our native flora; from banksias and kangaroo paws to desert peas and bottlebrush. Jude Taylor’s designs wrap the bold and beautiful Western Australian wildflowers and unique local flowers. Jude Taylor’s designs wrap the bold and beautiful Western Australian wildflowers and unique local flowers.

Jude Taylor’s designs wrap the bold and beautiful Western Australian wildflowers and unique local flowers.

9. JUDE TAYLOR STUDIO

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

9. JUDE TAYLOR STUDIO

10. GREAT NORTHERN DISTILLERY

Producers of the internationally-acclaimed Canefire Rum presents Maiden Voyage Spiced Gold.

A select barrel of Baxlevum is spiced with Australian botanicals including Wattleseed and Lemon Myrtle. This unique blend represents the bold and beautiful Western Australian coastline with traditional maritime ties; The Maiden embraces the journey and sense of adventure.

Stop in for a tasting in the fully air-conditioned tasting room. Please phone or check the business website.

10. GREAT NORTHERN DISTILLERY

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

10. GREAT NORTHERN DISTILLERY

Location of the Swan Valley

Visit the Trails WA website at trails.wa.gov.au and download the TrailsWA app from the App Store to find more trails to explore.

Location of the Swan Valley

Produced with the support of Tourism WA

Location of the Swan Valley

10. GREAT NORTHERN DISTILLERY

Published days open are subject to change.

Published days open are subject to change.

Published days open are subject to change.

Published days open are subject to change.

Published days open are subject to change.
The bush tucker story in the Swan Valley

The Swan Valley is home to the Wadjuk Noongar (Bibbulmun) people. The land west of the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) was the domain of the Mooro Clan and the eastern side, the Beeloo Clan.

Before European settlement, the alluvial soil lining the meandering course of the Derbal Yerrigan (Swan River) was covered in Warrine gardens. Warrine are long thin white yams (diac sorea hastifolia) cultivated by Noongar people, from Wadjuk country and north into Yuat country and all the way to Shark Bay. The site of All Saints Church in the Swan Valley was a huge Warrine garden.

A remnant of a Noongar yam garden can be seen at Walyunga National Park, marked by the banks lined with stones placed there by generations of women as they dug out the gardens to create the aerated, fertile humps and hillocks (as the Europeans referred to them). These humps and hillocks captured water and leaf litter to nourish the garden and the uneven ground kept out animals such as kangaroos.

The stone-covered banks slowed the passage of water so the gardens were not washed away in a heavy deluge. The gardens occupied the alluvial soil, so they were soon overrun by European settlement. Long thin allotments of land were allocated so that each had access to the river which was the transport artery for the new settlement. In the streams and tributaries joining the Derba Yerrigan, Yanget (bulrushes) grew. These were burnt to the waterline in Boonooroo (hot season) to create the aerated, fertile humps and hillocks (as the Europeans referred to them). These humps and hillocks captured water and leaf litter to nourish the garden and the uneven ground kept out animals such as kangaroos.

In the sandy soils, Kar (milkmaid), Nollamara (kangaroo paws) and Bohn (bloodroot) grew and were harvested in Kambarang (late spring) and Birak (first summer). Kar gave a handful of juicy tubers, Nollamara an edible rhizome and Bohn, a bright orange, spicy onion like bulb. Edible wattles yielded gums and fine seeds that were roasted and ground. The flour was mixed with water and again baked in the ashes to make the little cakes called Mandyjele. Berries grew in the foothills above Bells Rapids. Tjungur (twining fringe lillies) also grew at Walyunga and the fleshy tubers were eaten raw or roasted. Roots and tubers were the staple food of the Bibbulmun people of the South West of Western Australia.

Yonga (kangaroo), Wet (emu), Karda (goanna), Djidjift (fish) and Djerpap Kep-ak (waterbirds) were plentiful. The fish and waterbirds along with Marron, Gilgie (fresh water crustaceans) and Kooboolong (frogs) were collected from the abundant waterways in Makooroo (winter). Yonga and smaller marsupials were hunted during Makaroo. People stayed near their camps in Makaroo and started venturing further afield and connecting with other family groups in Djibja (early spring).

This was a land providing substantial seasonal food sources for Wadjuk people. Today you can still search for these foods, but the great harvests are no longer there. Instead, European viticulture and market gardens have replaced the traditional foods. But, led by Maalinup, offerings of bush tucker can still be found in the Swan Valley today.

BUSH TUCKER & BEYOND TRAIL MAP
Discover the locations on the Swan Valley Bush Tucker & Beyond Trail here.

KEY
- Winery
- Distillery
- Local Produce
- Restaurant/Café
- Barbeque
- Toilets
- Heritage
- Bush Tucker Trail

1. MAalinup Gallery & Bush Food Providore
10071 W Swan Rd, Henley Brook
Open Sat-Sun, Public Holidays, other days by appointment.
08 9296 0771 | maalinup.com.au | daileenbrookesexperiences.com.au

2. Old Young’s Distillery
1058/1 C West Swan Rd, Henley Brook
Open 7 days
08 9296 6656 | oldyoungs.com.au

3. All Saints Church
30 Henry St, Henley Brook
Open 7 days
08 9274 5661 | swananglicans.org.au

4. Edgcombe Brothers Winery & Cafe
1733 Shangara Rd, Henley Brook
Open Wed-Sun
08 9246 4307 | edgcombebrothers.com.au

5. Yagan Memorial Park
Lot 39 West Swan Rd, Belhus
Open 7 days
swan.wa.gov.au/ParksRecreation/YaganMemorialPark

6. Walyunga National Park
Great Northern Hwy, Bullbrook
Open 7 days
parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/walyunga

7. Bells Rapids Park
Cathedral Ave, Brigadoon
Open 7 days
swan.wa.gov.au/ParksRecreation/Bells-Rapids

8. Mondouga
5640 Great Northern Hwy, Herne Hill
Open Wed-Sun
08 9296 0111 | mondouga.com.au

9. Jude Taylor Studio
510 Great Northern Hwy, Middle Swan
Open 7 days
0438 443 222 | judentaylor.com

10. Great Northern Distillery
496 Great Northern Hwy, Middle Swan
Open 7 days
08 9330 5422 | casefive.net/visitors/

Swan Valley Visitor Centre
For visitor information, maps, souvenirs, accommodation and tour bookings:
Guildford Courthouse
Corner Meadow and Swan Streets, Guildford
Open 7 days, 9am - 6pm
08 9207 8899
swanvalley.com.au
@theswanvalley /theswanvalley