



# TUTANNING NATURE RESERVE

- \* Biodiversity Hotspot
- \* Walk trail
- \* Camp style accommodation
- \* Autumn to Spring

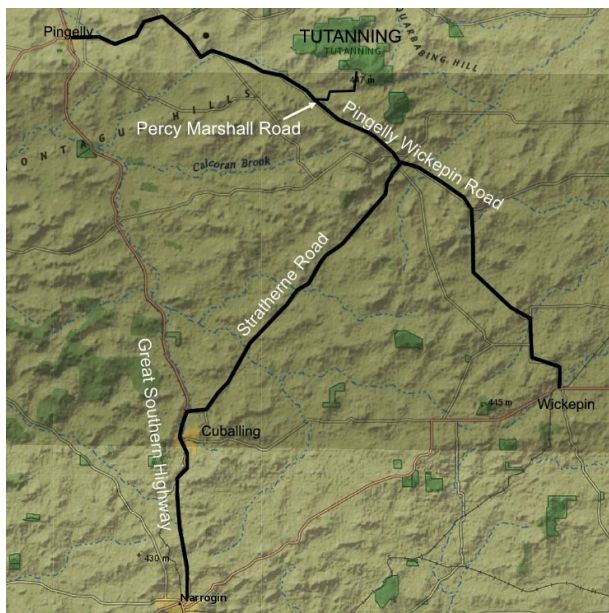
Tutanning Nature Reserve is a 2380 area of remnant vegetation on a broad ridge 25km east of Pingelly. Compared with Dryandra National Park, Tutanning offers a more diverse range of landscapes and wildflowers, with an amazing 750 species of native plants. This quiet reserve is also excellent for bird and animal lovers, but numbats are uncommon.



It is a great spot for day visits and short stays to enjoy the tranquillity of iconic bushland and the night sky. Camping and pets are not permitted, but there is camp style accommodation for limited numbers at the Percy Marshall Field Study Centre (PMFSC) can be booked online. Open this QR code for more information and booking details.

From Pingelly drive 22km along the Pingelly Wickepin Road and turn left on to Percy Marshall Road. The next 5km is gravel and then dirt road to the PMFSC. Access is too narrow for caravans and large RV campers. The 80 km total distance from Narrogin via Stratherne Road includes 13km of gravel road. Internal roads enable one to walk or mountain bike cycle through land surrounding the PMFSC. Some roads are suitable for cars (see blog), but as there are boggy and rocky spots, only drive 4WD vehicles and/or walk roads first.

Note. There is no local assistance, but TELSTRA smartphones have reception.



A **3km Class 3 walk trail** takes up to 2 hours to complete. You may encounter minor natural hazards such as short, steep sections, steps, shallow water crossings and unstable or slippery surfaces. A good level of

fitness is recommended. As the southern part of the trail is more difficult and has less wildflowers. The more scenic northern part of the trail (2.2km 1 hour plus) is shown below.



**1** The first 300 metre passes through sandy (granitic) and red-brown loamy soils (from dolerite a mafic rock) formed from fresh bedrock , with small granite outcrops. Trees are mainly Rock Sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*) with Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) in loamy areas.

This is a good area for orchids, everlastings, and poison pea plants but may be weedy.

**2** There is a sudden change to a gravelly slope, which marks the edge of an old lateritic upland. Note the change as dense poison peas and prickly shrubs on the steep slope, change to sparser shrub plants on a gently sloping plain containing kwongan sand and gravel soils. Later in the walk keep an eye out for other sudden slope changes, which vary from rocks, gravelly slopes and steep cliffs called breakaways.

**3** The sloping plain has many *Proteaceae* shrubs and other plants with attractive flowers, which grow on sandy laterite soils. Sparse trees with grass trees and shrubs on white sandy gravels change to tall kwongan shrubs on pale deep sand. Drummonds Mallee is often found on yellowish sands.

**4.** You are walking to very stony soils which mark the edge of the old lateritic plateau. Pale sandy-stony soils with scattered wandoo and powderbark trees with few shrubs (granitic ironstone), change to very stony red brown ironstone (formed on dolerite) with scattered powderbarks (*Eucalyptus accedens*).

**5** A change to large wandoo and rock sheoak trees and underlying wildflowers mark a change to loamy and sandy soils formed on basement rock. Good orchid and everlasting country.



**6** Large granite rock outcrops have many mosses, rock lichens, and prickly resurrection plants. Gnarled red-flowering *Kunzea pulchella* grows in rock cracks. Walk carefully to avoid crushing delicate plants and don't disturb loose rocks, which are homes for rock dragons. Look for sundews, everlastings on shallow soil spots and orchids in surrounding Rock Sheoak woodland. Caution – wet areas are slippery.

**7** As you walk back down Bandicoot Road note the line of steep breakaways on the left, which mark the edge of an ancient laterite mesa . The southern section of the walk trail goes up, around and down this mesa. Brown smooth bark trees on the breakaway slope are Brown Mallets (*Eucalyptus astringens*), which grow on clay breakaway slopes, and keep them bare.



[This blog](#) contains more information and other walks.

