Walk trails around Hyden Rock

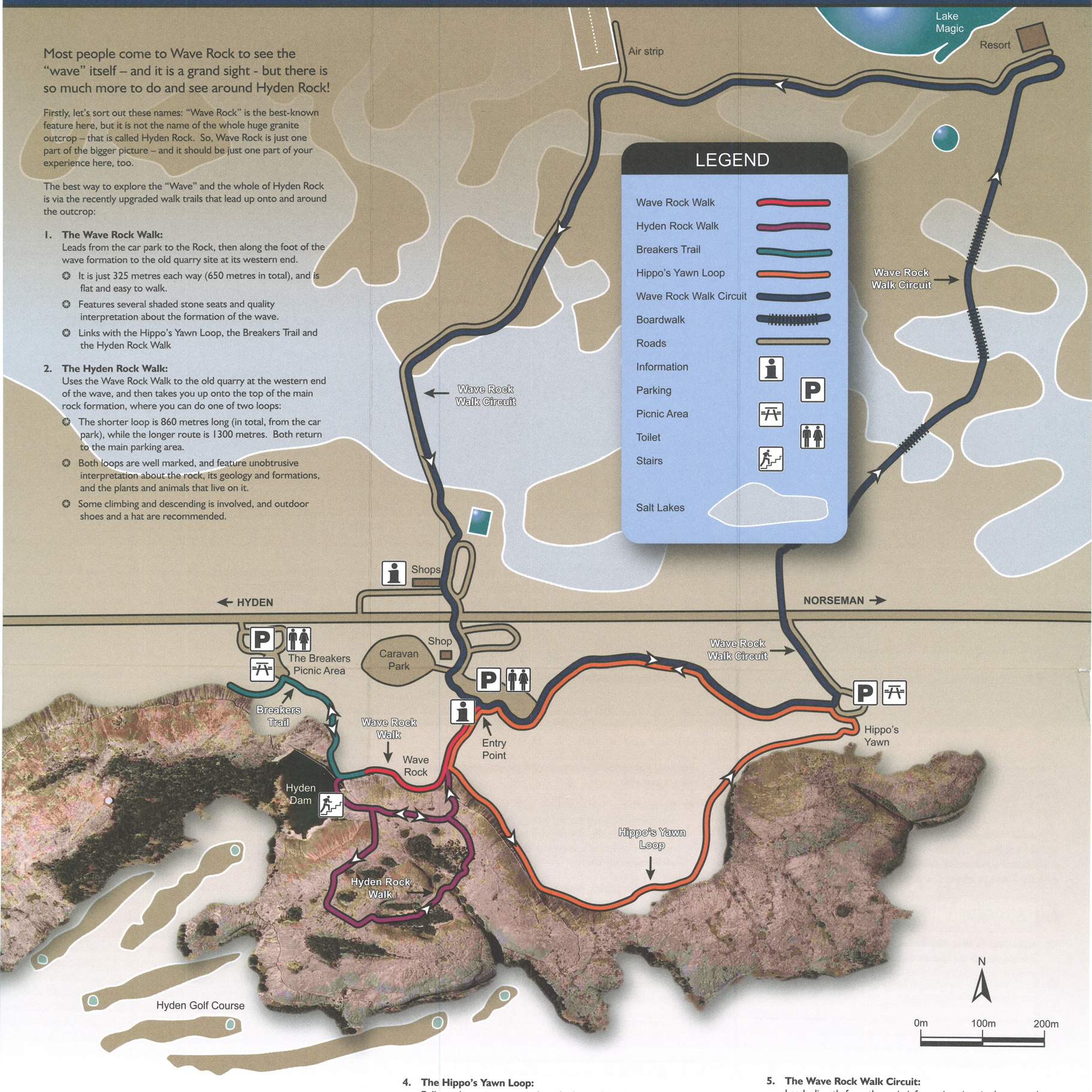
Most people come to Wave Rock to see the "wave" itself – and it is a grand sight - but there is so much more to do and see around Hyden Rock!

Firstly, let's sort out these names: "Wave Rock" is the best-known feature here, but it is not the name of the whole huge granite outcrop – that is called Hyden Rock. So, Wave Rock is just one part of the bigger picture – and it should be just one part of your experience here, too.

The best way to explore the "Wave" and the whole of Hyden Rock is via the recently upgraded walk trails that lead up onto and around the outcrop:

1. **The Wave Rock Walk:**
   Leads from the car park to the Rock, then along the foot of the wave formation to the old quarry site at its western end.
   - It is just 325 metres each way (650 metres in total), and is flat and easy to walk.
   - Features several shaded stone seats and quality interpretation about the formation of the wave.
   - Links with the Hippo's Yawn Loop, the Breakers Trail and the Hyden Rock Walk

2. **The Hyden Rock Walk:**
   Uses the Wave Rock Walk to the old quarry at the western end of the wave, and then takes you up onto the top of the main rock formation, where you can do one of two loops:
   - The shorter loop is 860 metres long (in total, from the car park), while the longer route is 1300 metres. Both return to the main parking area.
   - Both loops are well marked, and feature unobtrusive interpretation about the rock, its geology and formations, and the plants and animals that live on it.
   - Some climbing and descending is involved, and outdoor shoes and a hat are recommended.



3. **The Breakers Trail:**
   Also follows the Wave Rock Walk initially, but then branches off at the old quarry site and traces the foot of the outcrop to the historic Breakers Picnic Area.
   - It is 675 metres each way (1350 metres in total), and is flat and easy to walk.
   - Interpretive signs deal with both social history and aspects of the rock outcrop and the surrounding vegetation.

4. **The Hippo's Yawn Loop:**
   Follows the main access path to the base of the Rock, then branches off to the east (left) to follow the foot of the outcrop to Hippo's Yawn. From there it returns to this car park via part of the Wave Rock Walk Circuit (see below):
   - It is 1030 metres to the Yawn and a further 680 metres back to the car park, making a total of 1710 metres. The trail is well marked, flat and easy to walk.
   - Interpretation focuses on "Life on the Fringe" (the "edge" between rock and earth), and explains the formation of the Yawn itself.

5. **The Wave Rock Walk Circuit:**
   Leads directly from the main information signs in the car park to Hippo's Yawn, and then loops out through the fascinating salt-lake landscape to the north of Hyden Rock, before returning to this car park via the shops and café:
   - It is 3600 metres long, and is virtually flat with a wide smooth surface.
   - 15 interpretive panels range from Aboriginal and early settlement stories to birds, the night sky and the weather!
   - Suitable for families with small children in pushers, or visitors with bicycles.



THE HUMPS AND MULKA'S CAVE

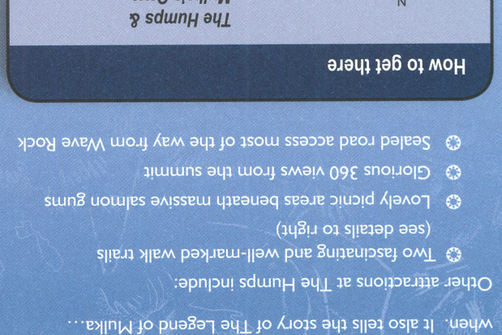
The Humps is another giant granite outcrop, approximately 16 km north of Wave Rock. Its best-known feature is Mulka's Cave, which holds one of the most significant Aboriginal rock art sites in Western Australia.

There are over 450 separate hand prints and images on the walls of the two main chambers. Extensive interpretive signage explains these paintings, and who might have done them and when. It also tells the story of The Legend of Mulka…

Other attractions at The Humps include:

- Two fascinating and well-marked walk trails (see details to right)
- Lovely picnic areas beneath massive salmon gums
- Glorious 360 views from the summit
- Sealed road access most of the way from Wave Rock

How to get there



1. Drive 1 km west from Wave Rock, as if you are going back to Hyden
2. At the T-junction turn right onto Lovering Road
3. 16 km later turn left onto Bates Road – follow the signs
4. Drive 1.5 km and turn left into the Reserve



WALK TRAILS AT THE HUMPS

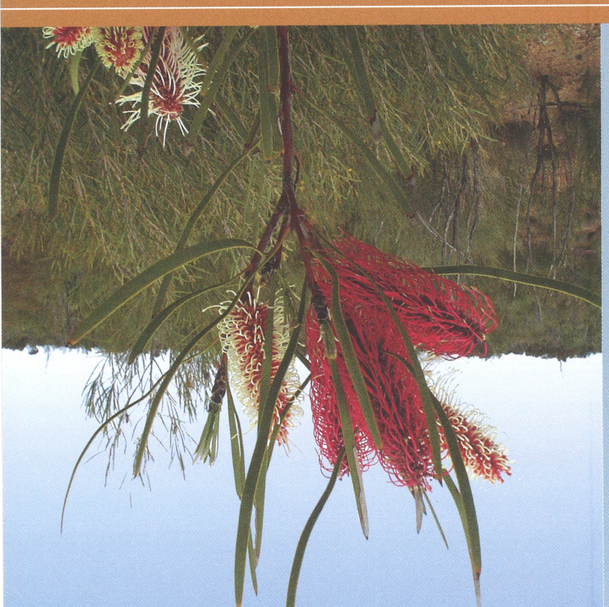
The two trails at The Humps have quite different but complementary focal points:

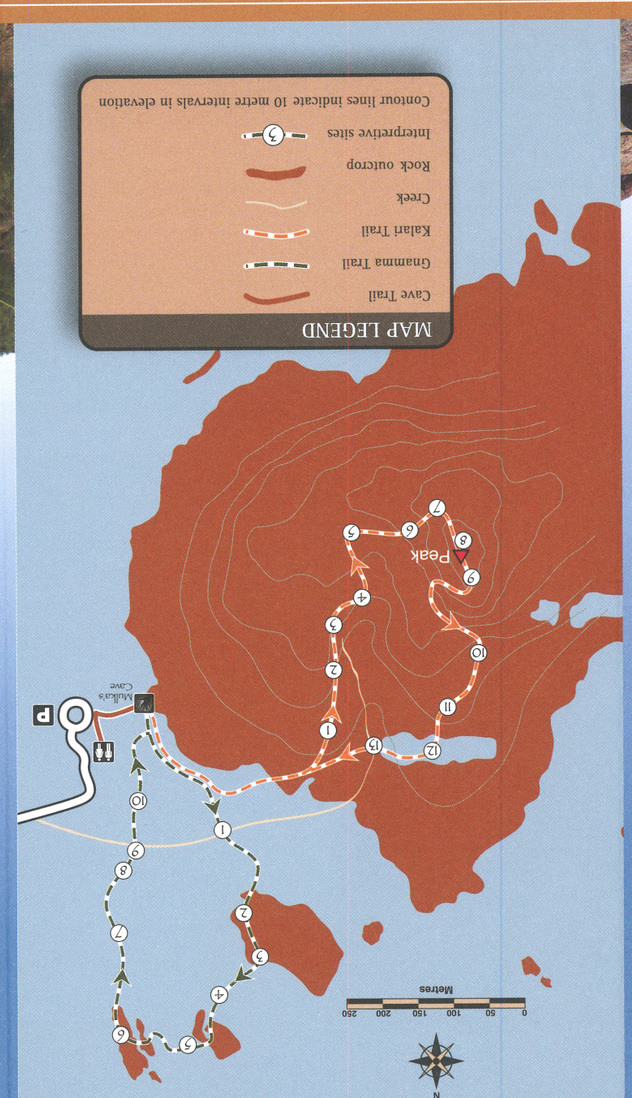
1) The Gnamma Trail: A flat easy walk of 1220 metres, the Gnamma Trail has a strong Noongar (aboriginal) focus to its interpretation.

Ten panels use the words and illustrations of local elders and artists to describe the landscape, its features and the birds, animals and plants that live in it.

2) The Kalari Trail: "Kalari" is the Noongar name for the small lizards that live on the rock – and you are likely to see many as this walk climbs steadily (but not steeply) to the summit of the outcrop.

Interpretation focuses on the intriguing geology of the rock, and the plants that grow on it. This walk is a circuit of some 1670 metres.





MAP LEGEND

- Cave Trail
- Gnamma Trail
- Kalari Trail
- Creek
- Rock outcrop
- Interpretive sites (7)
- Contour lines indicate 10 metre intervals in elevation

THE HUMPS AND MULKA'S CAVE

WALK TRAILS AT THE HUMPS

INTERESTED IN GEOLOGY?

There are 3 more walk trails at Wave Rock that are not shown on this map. They explore the geology of the rock from a scientific perspective (with supporting information about vegetation), and have their own guidebook.

Copies of "Walks on Hyden Rock" can be purchased at the Wave Rock Visitor Centre / Wildflower Shoppe. Walking these trails requires well-developed map-reading skills, as only the "sites of interest" are marked on the rock face.

Did you know…

- Wave Rock is over 100 metres long, and taller than a 3-storey building (15 metres)!
- It is believed to have begun forming underground as much as 60 million years ago.
- The Wave only became a national attraction when a photograph of it won the the 1963/64 Kodak International Colour Picture Competition at the New York International Fair.
- The Hyden Dam (up on the rock outcrop) was a major component of the town's water supply right through until 2000.
- Noongar aboriginal people are known to have been in this area for tens of thousands of years.
- Hand prints make up 69% of the 452 Aboriginal motifs found in Mulka's Cave – and left hands outnumber right hands 3 to 2!
- This rock outcrop – and the town – were named after a young sandalwood cutter who camped at Hippo's Yawn way back in the 1920s.

Fascinating facts indeed – but to learn more you'll have to walk the trails here at Wave Rock – and at The Humps, just 15 minutes drive to the north. So, put on your walking shoes and a hat, grab some water, and go and explore…



TRAIL ETIQUETTE AND WALKER SAFETY

For your comfort and safety, and for the enjoyment of others, we suggest you:

- **Be cautious:** Some of these trails cross potentially slippery slopes, and go close to dangerous cliffs. Please stay on the marked trail route – and keep children with you at all times!
- **Be comfortable:** Wear sensible shoes – high heels and smooth leather soles are not recommended if you plan to go onto the rock.
- **Be cool:** In warm weather wear a sunhat, long-sleeve shirt and sunscreen – and take some water with you! In winter you may need a rain jacket or umbrella.



- **Be clever:** Walk each trail in the direction shown on the map. Follow the trail markers for your trail!
- **Be courteous:** There may well be others on the trail too – please do not disrupt their experience by being noisy or by crowding them.
- **Be clean:** Carry all litter back with you. Smokers – please extinguish before you set out on our trails.



- **Be conscientious:** Small animals, lizards, birds and tiny plants all live along these trails – please do your best not to harm or frighten them.

Granite and Woodlands Discovery Trail

Walk trails at Wave Rock and The Humps

So much more to do after you have caught the Wave...

