

## Map 2: Meelup Beach to Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse – 10 km

### Access

- Eagle Bay – 3.0 km from Cape Naturaliste Road (sealed).
- Bunker Bay – 1.0 km from Cape Naturaliste Road (sealed).
- Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse – 13.3 km from Dunsborough commercial centre (sealed).

### Facilities

- Gypsy Street – drinking water, toilet, shower.
- Eagle Bay Fern Road Carpark – toilet
- Bunker Bay – accommodation, restaurant, cafe, toilet.
- Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse – toilets, small shop with drinks, ice-creams, souvenirs, and drinking water for sale.

### Description

#### Meelup Beach to Eagle Bay (2.7 km)

The Trail first follows the coast, passing through the Gannet Rock Carpark. The Lookout Rock Circuit rejoins the Trail about 200 m past this carpark. See the previous section about the Lookout Rock Circuit.

After 0.9 km the Trail enters the Point Piquet Carpark. This carpark has three vehicle access points. The Trail crosses the bitumen Eagle Bay – Meelup Road at the middle access point, and enters hilly granite country. Follow the green paint markings on the granite where the Trail is not obvious. After about 1 km the Trail comes particularly close to the road. Here the Trail bends to the left, but this bend is easy to miss if seeing the road ahead distracts you.

After 1.7 km there is a side-track to the Baudin Memorial on the coast.

1.8 km after the Point Piquet Carpark the trail enters the outskirts of Eagle Bay Township and joins a white limestone path. 10 m further the Trail branches. At this branch turn right into a narrow track towards the coast. This branch takes you over a bicycle track and the bitumen Eagle Bay – Meelup Road to wooden stairs to the beach. If you want to visit the Gypsy Street toilets then turn left along the Eagle Bay – Meelup Road for about 150 m.

#### Eagle Bay to Bunker Bay (4.7 km)

The Meelup Trail officially ends at Eagle Bay, but a path does continue, connecting

with the lighthouse walks. Walk north along the beach, and after about 600 m cut inland to a gravel public carpark. The trail leads from an opening in the northern fence of the carpark along a narrow public reserve around this section of coast to Bunker Bay. Be aware that the trail skirts the edge of private property, so do not stray further inland.

After two more openings in fences the path gently widens to an old 4WD track. Evidence of times of

Rocky Point Beach. The arrow shows where the ill-defined trail branches inland under overhanging peppermint trees



higher sea level are the boulder beds of the raised beaches that lie along the seaward edge of this track.

When you first sight a metal gate across the path, 0.90 km after the carpark, the Trail branches to your right as a white limestone path. Follow this track onto Rocky Point Beach.

Find the narrow footpath that follows

the inland edge of this beach. About 50 m along this footpath, under overhanging peppermint trees, it branches. Follow the inland branch for about 50 m till you come across a more clearly defined path leading north. Turn right along this path, heading past Rocky Point. After 470 m, there is a marker-post indicating the direction in which to scramble up a rocky scramble. The Trail becomes quite braided, but look out for some marker posts with blue tops, as shown in the photos. After quite an ill-defined scramble along the granite headland you descend onto Bunker Bay Beach for the 2.10 km walk along the sand to its western end. Bunker Bay Beach is a magnificent sight in most weather conditions despite the distraction of some of the buildings along the coast.

### **Bunker Bay to Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse (2.5 km)**

At the very northwestern end of Bunker Bay beach there is a track that leads up to the bitumen Bunker Bay Road. Watch out for traffic as you walk the 300 m along Bunker Bay Road to its end at Point Marchant Carpark. At the end of this carpark you leave the Meelup Regional Park and enter the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. The trail rises steeply up from the carpark up a rocky path on the limestone that forms the whole of the Cape Naturaliste headland. You are now on a branch of the Bunker Bay Loop, which is one of the walks of the lighthouse precinct. Green, fading to turquoise, markers on metal posts mark this walk. After 200 m there is a lookout that gives a



A walker heading east from the top of the first rocky scramble northwest of Rocky Point. In the far distance lies Point Piquet

The arrows show two blue-topped markers indicating the way around the granite headland east of Bunker Bay. Here you get your first glimpse of Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse



Carefully find your way along the uneven rocks along this stretch that leads to Bunker Bay. The arrow shows where you should be heading. King-waves can occur here so stay away from the water's edge on big wave days



Wildflowers near Rocky Point



Shelley Beach as seen from the lookout. In the background is Bunker Bay Beach

magnificent view of Shelly Beach, and a moment to get back your breath. Another 120 m uphill brings you to a junction. The path ahead is the shortest way to get to the lighthouse carpark, but the right-hand branch is well worth the extra effort. After about 600 m along the right-hand branch there is an excellent view of the dramatic limestone sea-cave to the west. A bit further along there is a short side-track to a viewing platform, Look for the seals who often rest besides or



bask on the rocky islets below. Whales also pass here at certain times of the year.

A further rocky, uphill 400 m brings you to a T-junction. Turn right, to the west, and enjoy views over the heath to the ocean and to the lighthouse peeping over the southern horizon. You are now on the Lighthouse Loop that encircles the lighthouse. Red markers on metal posts indicate this walk.

After 0.5 km keep left at the junctions unless you want to visit the Whale lookout. Continue south along this track to reach the northern end of the Cape to Cape Track.

**Eastbound:** *At Rocky Point the path takes you due south for about 200 m before there is a poorly-defined branch to the left. If you get to a small shed then backtrack about 40 m to this junction.*

*The southeastern beach exit off Eagle Bay beach is via the wooden staircase just east of the easternmost houses along this beach.*

### Suggested short walks

- If you can organise a car shuffle, the walk from the carpark off Fern Road, Eagle Bay to Bunker Bay (4.0 km) or return is good exercise.
- The Cape Naturaliste Walk Network connects with both Point Marchant Carpark and the carpark at the northern end of West Coast Road. These paths offer several walks of varying lengths.



The sea-caves north of Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse

Looking south to the lighthouse from the Lighthouse Loop. Being aware of your environment results in unexpected sights amongst the wildflowers