

WINDFARM TO LITTLE GROVE

DESCRIPTION

This walk forms part of the iconic Bibbulmun track, which stretches from Kalamunda to Albany and is just over 1,000kms in length.

Starting at the Albany Windfarm with its 18 wind turbines, take some time to wander around the wind farm. Interpretive signage provides information about the wind turbines, the electricity produced and why the location was chosen. The track initially follows the path and boardwalk before it meanders over the sand dunes with many lookouts with views to Albany, Eclipse Island and Torbay to name a few.

The walk ends at the car park on the corner of Bay View Drive and Frenchman Bay Road. A car shuffle is needed for this walk, or arrange to be picked up about 3 hours after you start. Alternatively, walk as far as the Bibbulmun Track Sandpatch Shelter and return the same way to the Windfarm.

Part of the walk is in the Torndirrup National Park where dogs are not allowed.

To get to the start drive along Frenchman Bay Road from Albany to Princess Avenue and turn right. Follow this road for 6kms to the wind farm. At the prison the road veers to the left and its name changes to Sand Patch Road.

Toilets at the Wind Farm and the Sandpatch Shelter Refreshments at Little Grove Store and café at the Distillery on Frenchman Bay Road

Grade: Three (3)

Distance: 8.5km one way **Gradient:** Short steep hills

Quality of path: Formed track, some obstacles **Signs:** Bibbulmun Track Waugal

Experience: Some bushwalking experience

recommended

Time: 2 to 3 hours
Steps: Occasional Steps

WALK NOTES

Follow the yellow waugal signs which are placed approximately every 300m.

- Follow the track from the car park towards the ocean and descend to the wooden platform where there are magnificent views of the southern ocean. Dolphins are often seen surfing below and whales can be seen between June and September. Turn left (east) onto the board walk.
- 2. Reach the end of the boardwalk and cross through a gravel car park. Do not take the steps down to the ocean on the right. Pass through the barricade at the Bibbulmun Track sign.
- 3. At the next lookout the Bibbulmun Track leads off to the left on rubber belting.
- 4. There are many seats and lookouts along the track towards the Sandpatch Shelter, take time to enjoy the views which include the Porongurup Range, Albany town site, Torbay Head and Eclipse Island. Enjoy the birds, flora and fauna during the walk.
- 5. 3km from the start is the sign directing you to the Sandpatch Shelter. A good spot for a break with benches and tables and another magnificent lookout.
- 6. After leaving the Shelter turn right when you reach the junction of the track.
- 7. A sign acknowledges that you are entering the Torndirrup National Park. A short distance from this, ascend over a crest for more expansive views.
- 8. The track continues to meander, now mostly a slight downhill on varying track surfaces through peppermint thickets and coastal vegetation.
- 9. Be mindful to follow the track signs, as there are tracks and firebreaks crossing at several places.
- 10. Towards the end of the walk cross a 4WD track and follow the power lines. There is the water treatment plant on the left.
- 11. Cross Frenchman Bay Road and after a short length of board walk cross Bay View Drive and arrive at the car park and the end of the walk.



