Day-trip checklist

Packing ticks, Perth → McNess order of stops, fee systems kept separate, and "don't get this wrong" notes. Print this page or save as PDF. No email wall.

Verify before you go. Fees, McNess hours, cave tickets, koala-talk status and closures change. Always check Explore Parks WA — Yanchep and alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au. Independent unofficial checklist — not DBCA. Not walked as a field diary.

1. Before you leave home

Status & bookings

- ☐ Explore Parks WA park page checked this morning
- ☐ alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au checked
- ☐ emergency.wa.gov.au if fire / smoke is in the news
- ☐ McNess House hours (usually 9.15 am–4.30 pm daily) [VERIFY]
- ☐ Crystal Cave and/or cultural tour booked if that's the reason you came
- ☐ Henry White booked on Park Stay if camping (never via this site)
- ☐ Walk Safe plan if doing Ghost House / Coastal Plain

Packing (day pack)

- ☐ Water — more than a Perth CBD day; Ghost House needs lunch + litres
- ☐ Sun hat + high SPF
- ☐ Closed-toe shoes (sand + limestone)
- ☐ Tick / mosquito repellent near wetlands
- ☐ Phone + offline map / alert screenshots
- ☐ Emergency+ app (000 needs reception)
- ☐ Cash/card for WA park entry (we do not sell fees)
- ☐ Cave: closed shoes; expect bending (~1.23 m low point) [VERIFY]

2. Perth day-trip skeleton (~45–60 min each way)

- **Night before** — Agree the hero: koala + picnic, or Caves Walk + booked cave, or Ghost House all day. Do not stack all three plus Treetops.
- **Drive** — Sealed 2WD. Entry: Indian Ocean Drive / Yanchep Beach Road. Pay or show a Parks Pass at the entrance / McNess as directed.
- **McNess first** — Toilets, map, Walk Safe for longer trails, confirm cave time.
- **Leave with buffer** — Weekend koala boardwalk and cave tours get busy. Plan B if cave is full: wetlands + koala + picnic. Plan B if boardwalk is a zoo: Loch McNess wetlands or Caves Walk without pretending you "did the colony."

3. Fees — keep them separate (planning figures [VERIFY])

- **A. Vehicle entry** — Around Perth table: $17 standard vehicle ≤12; concession $10; motorcycle $10; large vehicle >12 occupants $8 / person. Walk-in / cycle-in typically no vehicle fee. 13+ occupant private vehicles pay at *both* Yanchep and Nambung if visiting both the same day.
- **B. Camping** — Henry White is a different system (Park Stay). Showers = additional-facilities band: adult $20 / concession $15 / child 6–15 $5 per person per night (Explore Parks camping-fees page last updated 24 Jun 2026, re-checked 26 Aug 2026) plus vehicle entry. [VERIFY] Park Stay checkout. Not a day-entry substitute.
- **C. Walks** — No general day-walk permit. Register Walk Safe at McNess for Ghost House / long trails.
- **D. Cave / cultural / golf** — Extra to vehicle entry. Parks Pass does not cover Crystal Cave.

4. Order-of-stops cheat sheet

Family / first visit (~3–5 hours on site)

1. McNess House
2. Koala boardwalk (~240 m) — viewing hours [VERIFY]; talk may be suspended
3. Short wetlands or Dwerta Mia / Boomerang Gorge loop
4. Picnic oval — kangaroos often early/late; keep distance

Skip if short / heat / crowds

- Ghost House 12.4 km on a late start or January afternoon
- Coastal Plain multi-day as a "stretch the day"
- Unbooked cave tour at peak weekend without a Plan B
- Dogs — not permitted

5. Don't get this wrong

- Koalas here are a managed colony (since 1938), not proof they are wild-native in today's WA bush.
- Crystal Cave is guided only. Cabaret Cave is a function venue — not a self-guided tourist cave.
- Yanchep Inn is commercial accommodation, not Henry White camping.
- No 4WD, ferry, tides, snow or crocodiles on a standard visit. Heat and bushfire are the real hazards.
- 000 needs mobile reception. Coverage is usually usable near McNess / ovals and can drop on Ghost House / Coastal Plain. We do not publish carrier maps.
- Statewide H5 bird-flu banner on Explore Parks (26 Aug 2026 snapshot) is not a Yanchep closure. Keep distance from sick or dead birds; report 1800 675 888.

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www.yanchepnationalpark.com.au

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