

Visiting Edel Land (Steep Point)

The landscape at Edel Land is in stark contrast with the red sand dune landscapes found on neighbouring Peron Peninsula. Rugged 200 metre high cliffs, sweeping white sand dunes and secluded beaches are features of the area. For many people the attraction is fishing which is regarded by some as the best shore-based fishing in the world.

The greater area surrounding Steep Point, including Shelter Bay and False Entrance is known as Edel Land and has been purchased by the state government for conservation purposes. Management is undertaken by the Department of Environment and Conservation with rangers based at Shelter Bay.



Shelter Bay camping area

Access

Vehicle access to Steep Point can be difficult and a high clearance 4WD is required. It is approximately 185km by road from the Northwest Coastal Highway to Steep Point; the first 41km is sealed, followed by 114km of a formed but unsealed road and the last 30km of the trip is over very soft sand. You will need to reduce your tyre pressure to get through. You can also visit by boat from Denham – a journey of around 50km to South Passage adjacent to Steep Point.

Facilities

Facilities are very basic and you will therefore need to be self-sufficient. No fresh water, food, fuel or other supplies are available in the area. There are pit toilets and a small number of bins at Steep Point and Shelter Bay. Please take your rubbish out with you. Pets are not allowed and fires are permitted under certain conditions only (see permit for details). Collecting of firewood is not permitted.

Activities and Highlights

Fishing

Some of the best land based fishing in Australia occurs at Steep Point. Huge mackerel, trevally and even sailfish are caught off Steep Point's cliffs especially during summer. Special equipment is required however including helium balloons and special cliff gaffs to haul fish up the cliffs. Boat based fishing is also popular around Steep Point and many people launch their boats from Shelter Bay to fish inside South Passage or outside along the Zuytdorp Cliffs and Dirk Hartog Island.

The Zuytdorp Cliffs

The Zuytdorp Cliffs are some of Australia's least known yet most spectacular cliffs, forming an almost unbroken arc between Steep Point and Kalbarri, a distance of some 200 kilometres. The cliffs rise ominously out of the Indian Ocean to heights of up to 200 metres.

Camping

All campsites have very basic facilities including a limited number of pit toilets. Take all supplies and equipment with you including water and sufficient fuel. Camping is controlled by a permit system (see over for more details) and sites must be booked in advance.

The majority of camp sites are located around Shelter Bay which, as its name suggests, is sheltered from southerly swells. Sites here are very popular so book well in advance. Camp sites at the Steep Point cliffs are very exposed and rocky though they are popular with people cliff fishing. Camping is also possible at False Entrance.



Zuytdorp Cliffs

South Passage and Shelter Bay

In stark contrast to the dramatic cliff-lined western side of Edel Land, the leeward side features crescent shaped beaches and tranquil camping spots. At Shelter Bay boats can be launched from the beach providing access to South Passage for fishing and diving. The winter months from May to October are the most popular months as the lighter winds and calmer conditions are more amenable to camping, swimming and boating.

False Entrance

A number of bays, including False Entrance, provide the only break in the seemingly endless cliffs between Kalbarri and Steep Point. Access is via 4WD and permits are required just as at Steep Point.

Camping Permit

A camping permit is required for all overnight stays in Edel Land including Steep Point, False Entrance and Shelter Bay. The permit is available from the website listed below.

Hazards and Risks

The Edel Land area is remote and potentially dangerous if you are not prepared. Extreme weather conditions - especially in summer when it is hot, dry and windy - a hazardous coastline with large surf, high cliffs, blowholes and dangerous marine animals in surrounding waters are hazards to be aware of. Your safety is your responsibility so be prepared. Visit www.sharbay.org/steepoint.aspx for a recommended equipment list and safety advice.

Fees

Entry fees apply for all people entering the Edel Land area. Note that you must obtain a camping permit **before** entry if you intend to stay overnight. Full payment is payable upon booking. Details are on the permit.

Entry fees (per visit)

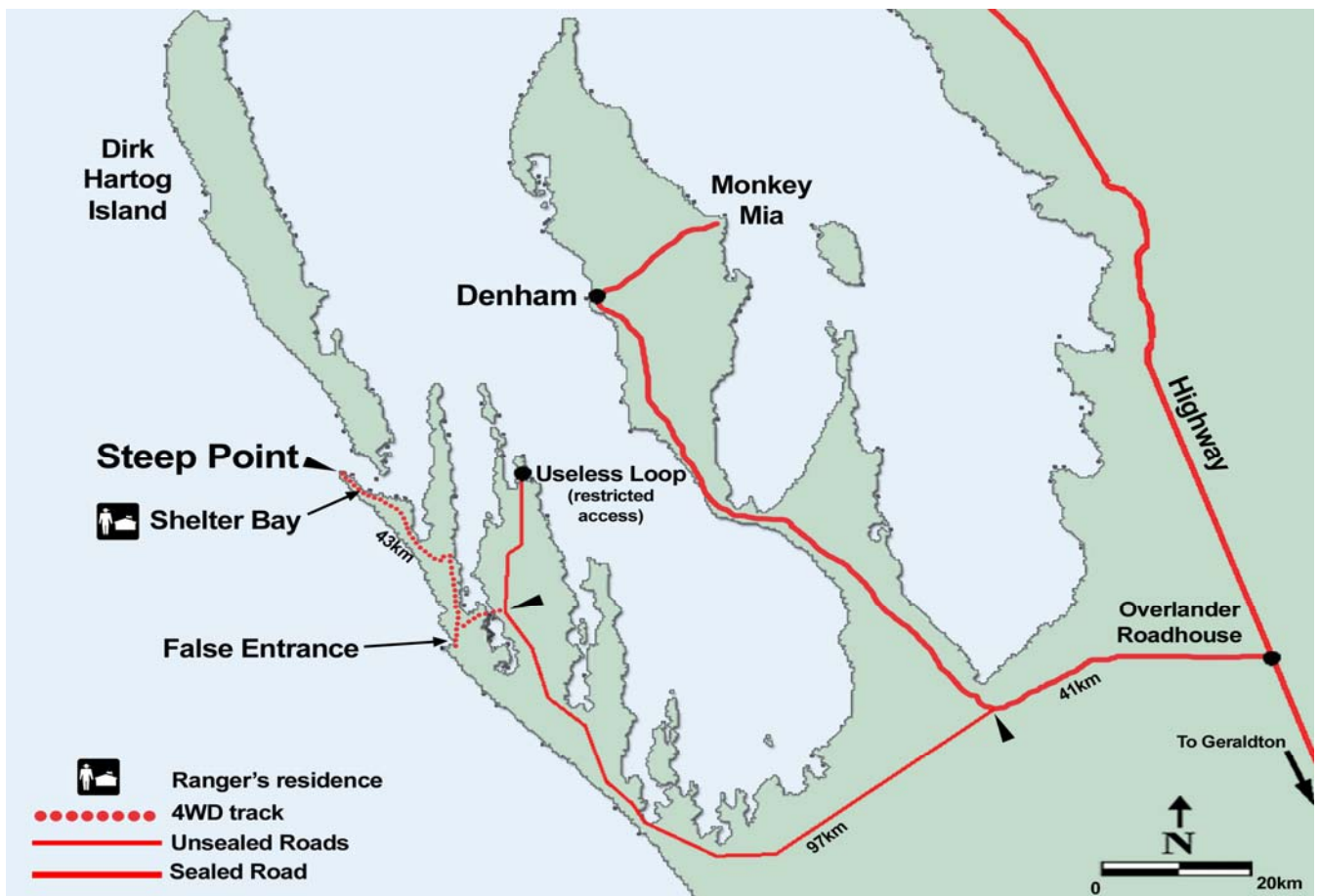
- \$11 per car (up to 8 people)

Camping fees per night (payable in advance)

- \$7 per adult
- \$5 for concession* cardholders
- \$2 for school aged children (Under 16)



False Entrance



Contacts

Steep Point Ranger
 PMB Useless Loop WA 6537
 Ph: 08 9948 3993 Fax: 08 9948 3963
 Email: ranger@steepoint.com.au
 Permit available at www.sharbay.org/steepoint.aspx

DEC's Holiday, Annual Local Park, Annual All Park and Goldstar passes cover entry into Steep Point. They are available at DEC offices or by phoning (08) 9219 8000.

(*Concessions include Seniors' Card, Disability Support, Carer Payment, Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), Age Pension, Disability Support (Blind), Carer Allowance & Companion Card).