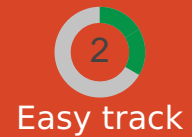
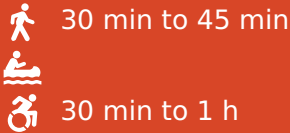
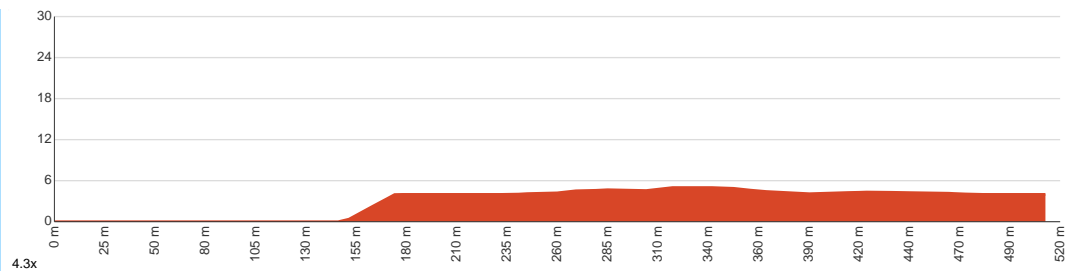




# Penguin Island



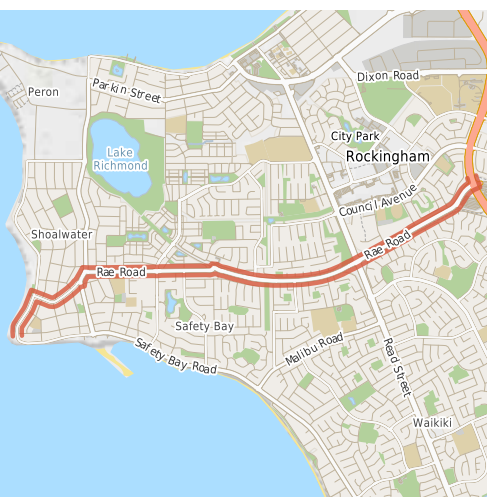
Starting from the Penguin Island Jetty off Arcadia Drive, Rockingham, this walk explores Penguin Island via the Penguin Island Boardwalk and Walk Trail. Surrounded by crystal clear waters and blessed with sparkling white sandy beaches, Penguin Island lies in the heart of the spectacular Shoalwater Islands Marine Park and is reachable by a short ferry ride from the mainland. When the ferry arrives, there is a boardwalk, short jetty and ramp to access the ferry, making it suitable for prams/strollers and fully wheelchair accessible. Home to a host of wildlife, including the world's smallest penguins, this island offers a plethora of activities that can take visitors closer to the marine animals. The natural resources of the area are important both educationally and scientifically, along with the wildlife. Penguin Island also has a fascinating history, and there are many plaques that give insight and facts into the history of the island and its inhabitants. Take your time to swim, snorkel, picnic and explore the nature trails and beaches before catching a return ferry at your leisure. It's also possible to walk to Penguin Island from the beach at Shoalwater Bay along the sandbar, although this is not recommended due to changing tide and ocean conditions. When making your way around the island, it's important to stay on the boardwalks or beaches to ensure that the vegetation, birds nests and penguin burrows are not disturbed. Penguin Island closes for the winter penguin nesting season, the day after the WA public holiday. Rockingham Wild Encounters --which offers guided walks-- is not affected by this closure. Let us begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 2 of 6 Clear and well formed track or trail	
Quality of track	Smooth and hardened path (1/6)
Gradient	Gentle hills with occasional steps (2/6)
Signage	Clearly signposted (1/6)
Infrastructure	Generally useful facilities (such as fenced cliffs and seats) (2/6)
Experience Required	No experience required (1/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

**Getting to the start:** From Ennis Avenue, 1

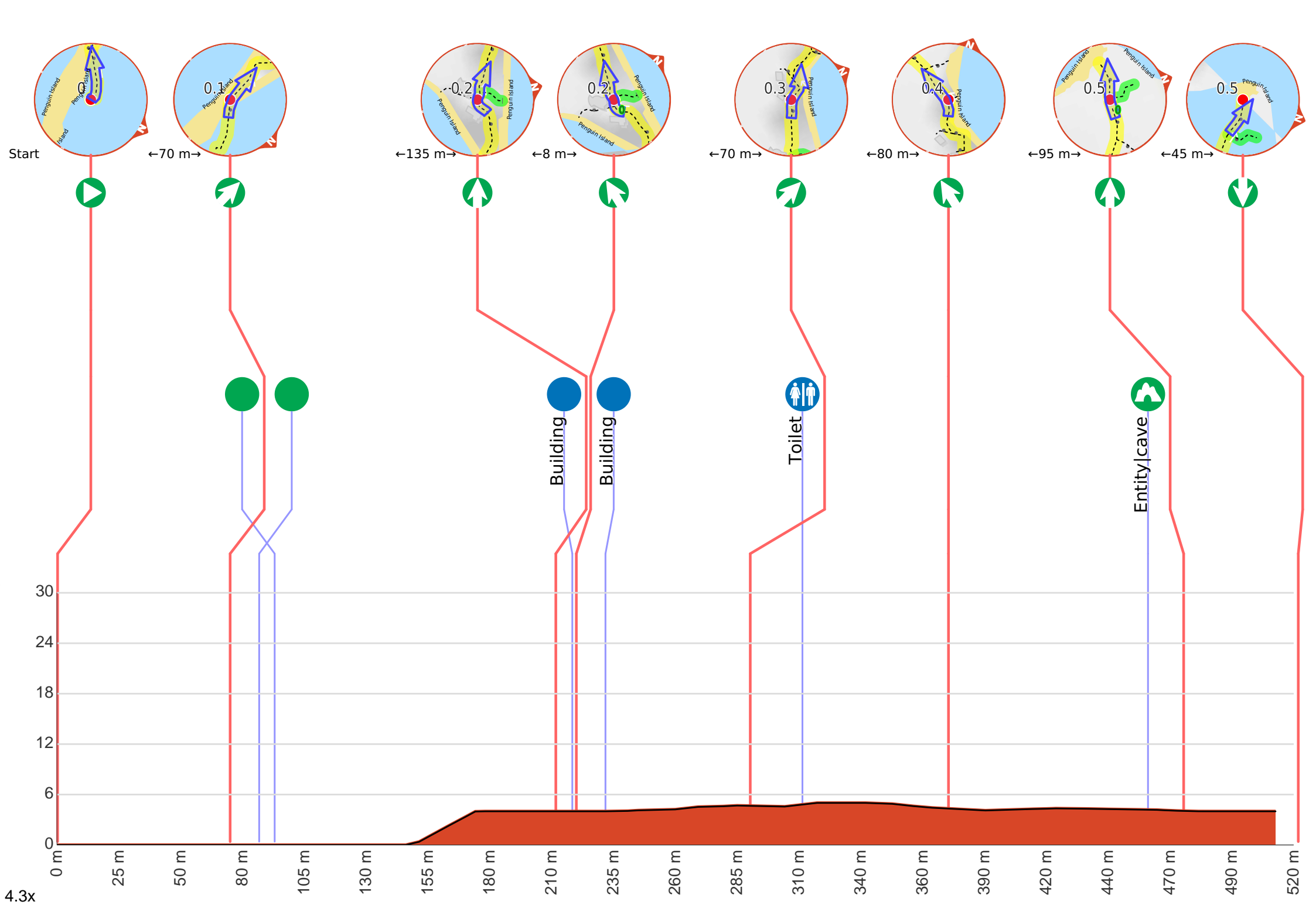
- Turn on to Rae Road then drive for 3.4 km
- At roundabout, take exit 1 onto Rae Road and drive for another 670 m
- At roundabout, take exit 2 onto Rae Road and drive for another 840 m
- Turn left onto Safety Bay Road and drive for another 135 m
- Turn right onto McLarty Road and drive for another 640 m
- Turn left onto Arcadia Drive, 202 and drive for another 520 m



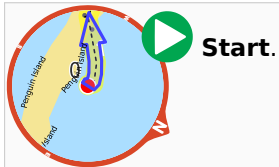
Share  
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com/j/DLHB0G)  
[/j/DLHB0G](https://bushwalk.com/j/DLHB0G)







**Getting started:** From the jetty on Penguin Island, head along the said jetty as it veers right in the distance. Keep right as you pass by two buildings (to your left), then turn right to head towards the swimming beach through the picnic area. After you make your way back to the same track, turn right and pass by the toilets (to your left) shortly after to continue along the Penguin Island Track.

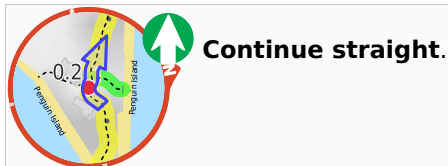


After 90 m find the "Tombolo" (60 m on your left). The sandbar (or tombolo) that connects Penguin Island with the mainland was fully vegetated in 1837 when the area was first surveyed. It is hazardous to attempt to cross to and from the mainland via this sandbar. Please stay safe and wait for the ferry.

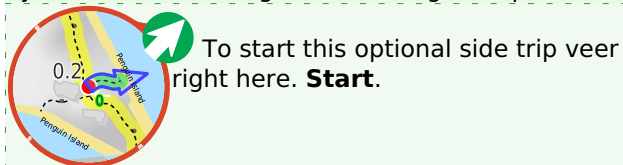


After another 10 m find the "Penguin Island Boardwalk" (on your right). A network of timber boardwalks from the Penguin Island Jetty leads to the Discovery Centre and all the main points of interest around the island. The Department of Parks and Wildlife constructed these boardwalks around the island to protect the fragile environment, natural vegetation, and many birds' nests, including fairy penguins.

After another 130 m find the "Western Mining Research and Management Centre" (10 m on your left). A research and management centre on Penguin island, built with funding from WMC Resources Ltd, provides accommodation and facilities for researchers to study the area's wildlife and landforms. This region is quite significant for scientific research.



**Start of an optional side trip:** This side trip takes you to the swimming beach through the picnic area.

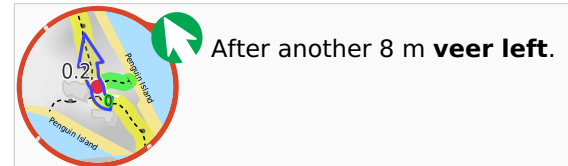


Find the Picnic Area - Penguin Island at the start. Located just in front of the Discovery Centre is a shady, grassed picnic area with tables and chairs overlooking the beach. Consider grabbing a bite here as it is a solid option for a stop. Unfortunately, you are unable to buy food or drinks on the island, so it's necessary to bring your own. Barbecues and kiosks are not present on the island. Also, cooking something with gas is forbidden. There are toilet facilities close by.

After another 25 m come to "Swimming Beach - Penguin Island". The safest swimming beach is located directly in front of the picnic area. It's shallow and protected from the sea breeze, making it a relatively safe place for children to snorkel under supervision.

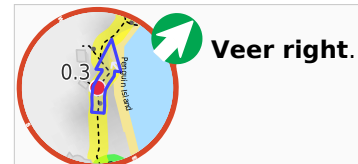


Turn around and retrace your steps back the 35 m to the main route. Back at the main route turn right and follow on from the 215 m waypoint.

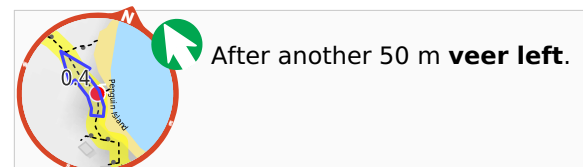


After another 10 m find the "Penguin Island Discovery Centre" (20 m on your left). Visitors can see fairy penguins up close in an environment similar to their natural habitat and learn about their intriguing lifestyle. Penguin commentaries and feeding times are at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm during the island's open season. The glass walls of the pool provide unrestricted underwater views of these delightful birds, and the centre has information panels and touch-tables to help you plan your day and learn more about the history and inhabitants of the island.

After another 80 m pass the "Toilets" (10 m on your left).



After another 35 m **veer right**.



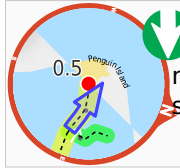


After another 80 m find the "Caves - Penguin Island" (40 m on your right).

The caves that fringe the beach have an interesting history but should be admired from a distance, as they have a rockfall risk area and access to them is not permitted.



**Continue straight.**



Turn around here and retrace the main route for 510 m to get back to the start.

**Start of an optional side trip:** This side trip takes you to the Northern Lookout.



To start this optional side trip veer right here. **Start.**



After another 45 m come to "Northern Lookout - Penguin Island".

From the lookout, you can clearly see Shag Rock and Seal Island behind it, which has a sandy beach used by Australian sea lions resting between their long fishing trips.

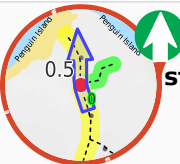


The end.



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 45 m to the main route.

Back at the main route ERROR >360 and follow on from the 470 m waypoint.



After another 50 m **continue straight.**



After another 45 m come to "Western Beach - Penguin Island".

At the beach, you can see the limestone rocks that form the core of Penguin Island. This area offers good snorkelling and swimming opportunities in calm conditions. Beware of the ocean swells that hit the western side of the island.