

DISCOVER... Fire Lookouts



Department of
Environment and Conservation
Our environment, our future

Pemberton Parks

The first karri fire lookout tower, called the Big Tree, was constructed 1938. By 1952, eight tree towers had been constructed. A trilogy of karri tree towers remain and are open to the public.



Must see

Tree Towers dotted throughout the jarrah and karri forests were established in the late 1930s by the Forests Department so that forest fires could be rapidly detected.

Gloucester Tree

The Gloucester Tree lookout was built in 1947, in the highest of the tall karri trees near Pemberton. The floor of its cabin sits 58 metres above the ground from which you will have a commanding view of the surrounding countryside.

Dave Evans Bicentennial tree

The Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree lookout was first pegged in 1988 as part of Australia's bicentennial celebrations. Towering 68 metres above the ground, it is the tallest climbing tree open to the public. You will be rewarded with 360-degree views of old growth karri forest.

Diamond tree

The Diamond Tree is a 51 metre karri tree on which a wooden cabin was built and used as a fire lookout tower from 1941 to 1974. It is the only wooden tree top tower in the world.

Where are they?

Gloucester Tree - 3km from Pemberton (5 mins)

Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree - 11km south of Pemberton, Old Vasse Rd (15 mins)

Diamond Tree - 20km north of Pemberton, South Western Hwy (20 mins)

What to See and Do:

Climb the trees, bushwalking, picnic, BBQ, photography

Best Season:

All year

Fees:

Entry fees apply to Gloucester and Dave Evans Bicentennial Trees. There is no charge at Diamond Tree.



Diamond Tree



TREE CLIMBING RISK

Wet and/or windy conditions can be hazardous. Pegs can be slippery when wet.

For your safety:

- Do not climb if you are unfit, have a heart condition or fear heights
- Avoid climbing the trees in wet and windy conditions
- There should be no more than 6 people up the tree at any one time
- Wear sturdy footwear - no thongs/sandals

Climbing is at your own risk.
THESE TREE CLIMBS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN
Your safety is our concern but your responsibility.

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Frequently asked questions

How old are the trees?

Karri trees grow to about 350 years old. Some individuals may live longer. They are at their best between 150-200 years. They reach their full height after about 75 years. The three fire lookout trees are probably 250+ years.

Where is the big tree you can drive your car into?

This was a red tingle tree near the Valley of the Giants. Vehicles and the footsteps of hundreds of people damaged the shallow and fragile root system of this tree and it died and fell down in 1990. You could say that it was loved to death. The death of this tree led to the development of the Tree Top Walk which allows people to enjoy the tingle forest with minimal impact.

Where is the Valley of the Giants?

About 14km past Walpole towards Albany. It is about one and a half hours drive from Pemberton.

Have the climbing pegs changed?

The Gloucester tree was originally pegged with wooden pegs. All the trees are now pegged with metal pegs which are easier to grip. They are regularly checked for any faults.

Has anyone ever died climbing the trees?

No one has died climbing the trees, however two people have suffered heart attacks after climbing the trees.

How many pegs are in each of the trees?

The Gloucester Tree has 153 pegs.

The Diamond Tree has 130 Pegs.

The Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree has 165 pegs.

How do you get people down if they freeze up the top of the trees?

Usually you can talk them down. Sometimes they need to be guided down.

