Follow the Furneaux GeoTrail. Read the stories written in the landscapes across Flinders Island and its surrounding archipelago.

Tasmanian Government
TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FUND
Furneaux Museum
FLINDERS COUNCIL
FRRR Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

For more information on the GeoTrail visit furneauxgeotrail.flinders.tas.gov.au

What is the Furneaux GeoTrail?

The diverse and picturesque landscape of the Furneaux Group includes unspoilt beaches, rugged rocky coasts, impressive mountains, remote islands, bush tracks and trails, rich agricultural land, lagoons, wetlands, conservation areas and national parks.

It also possesses spectacular and significant geological features, which developed over the last 420 million years.

The Furneaux GeoTrail consists of 26 geosites which provide an opportunity to learn about the geology and important geological events that have shaped the current landscape. It also takes you to the most beautiful locations on Flinders Island. Some of the geosites are marked with Interpretation signage, others are 'virtual' geosites.

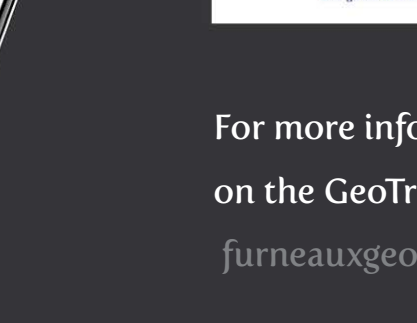
The GeoTrail webapp allows you to visit all of the geosites on your smartphone, ipad or computer. It contains additional information and photos about each of the geosites. Just use the QR code here or search for 'Furneaux GeoTrail' on your phone internet browser.

Rocks to look out for ... (arranged youngest to oldest)

CALCARENITE: This rock type is common on the west coast of Flinders Island. It was deposited as subaerial dunes prior to the flooding of Bass Strait at the end of the last ice age. It contains millions of tiny shells of marine foraminiferas.

LIMESTONE: This rock type is common on the east coast of Flinders Island. It was deposited in a shallow marine environment and commonly contains fossils.

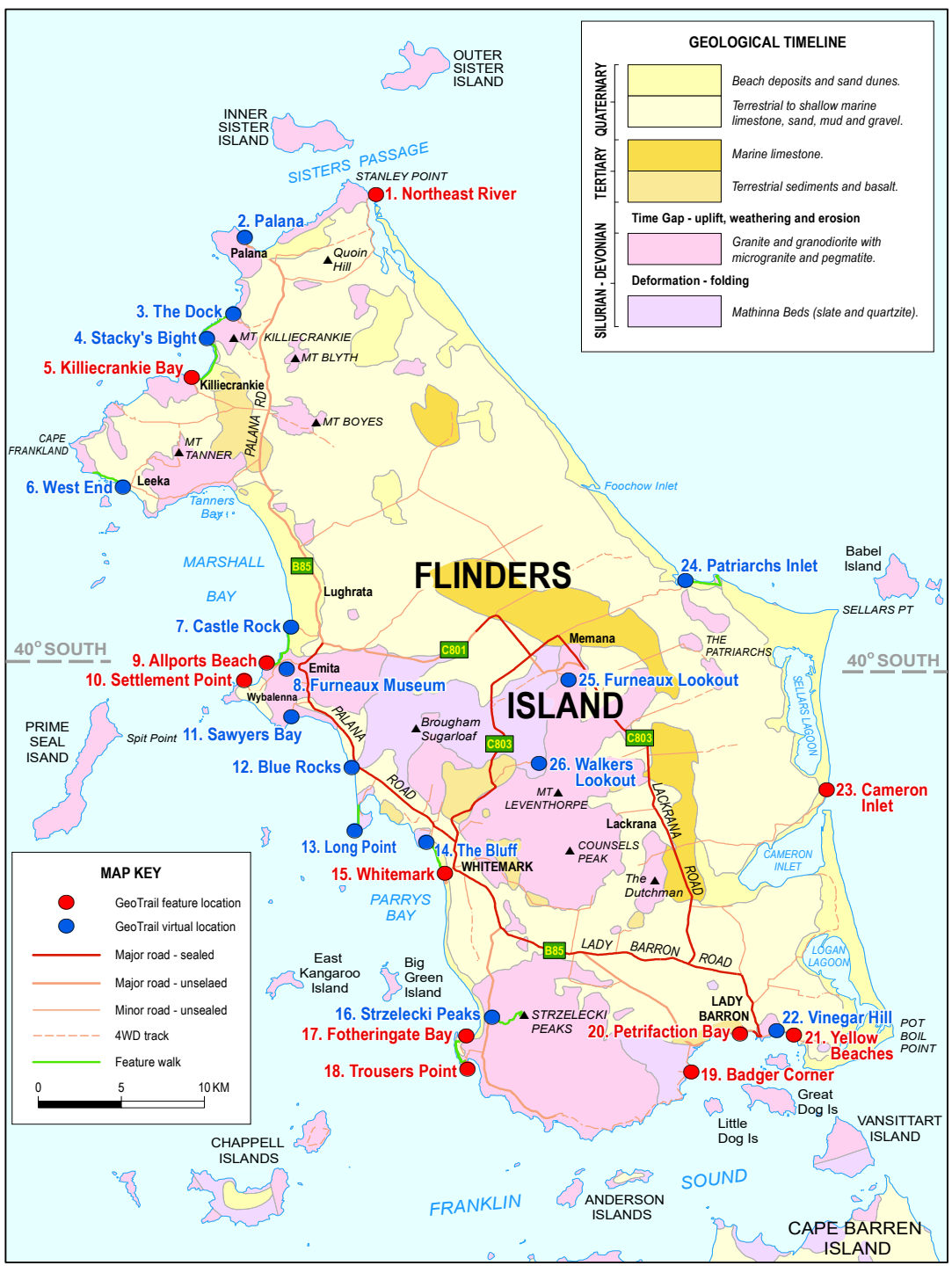
BASALT: This fine-grained dark igneous rock erupted as a lava about 20 million years ago. Outcrops at Petrifaction Bay offer a rare chance to walk amongst these rocks.



DOLERITE: This medium-grained dark igneous rock was intruded as a hot magma into both the granites and the Mathinna Beds. Dolerite may be seen at Badger Corner.

GRANITES: Flinders Island is renowned for its spectacular granite coastline and mountains. You can explore the special features of a variety of granitic rock types along the GeoTrail.

MATHINNA BEDS: These remarkable metamorphic rocks – quartzite (grey) and slate (black) – originally formed as marine sedimentary rocks – sandstone and shale – along the edge of the Gondwana continent about 420 million years ago.



Furneaux GeoTrail Geosites

Geosites are numbered anticlockwise from the North. Red = Interpretive sign, Blue = virtual

1. North East River

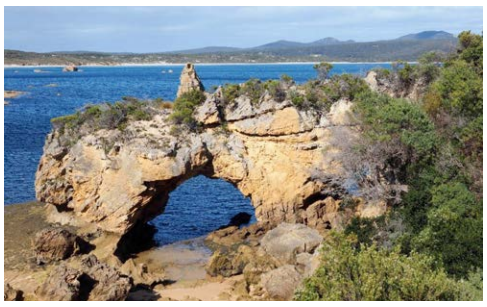
View the local coastal landscape shaped by sea and wind.

2. Palana

Look to the north across the water and imagine a time when the ice age land bridge extended across to Victoria. Use the app to learn about the sand dunes behind the beach.

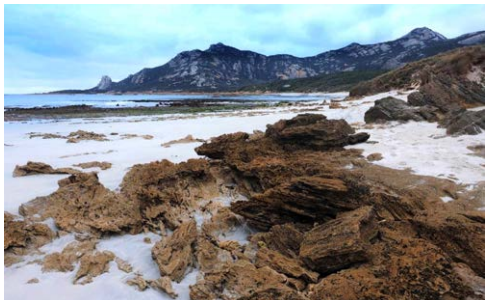
3. The Dock

Follow the indistinct track, southwest from the lower carpark, along the scenic rocky shoreline beneath the impressive sculptured cliff of Mt Killiecrankie.



4. Stackys Bight

A spectacular arch developed in calcarenite. Stackys Bight can be accessed via the coastal walk from the Killiecrankie Geosite (3 hs return, 8 km).



5. Killiecrankie

This Geosite features the local granite and source of the Killiecrankie diamonds [topaz].

6. West End

Walk along the beautiful West End Beach or explore the granite coastline near the boat ramp. The more adventurous should visit the nearby spectacular Egg Beach (4 km return along rocky coast to northwest, 1-2 hr).

7. Castle Rock

A spectacular tor developed on 400 million year old granodiorite. One of the iconic landforms on Flinders Island.

8. Furneaux Museum

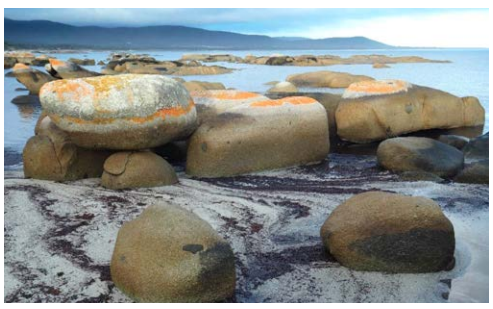
... houses a collection of the common rocks and fossils found along the GeoTrail. Check the Furneaux Museum website or the recorded message on 6359 8434 for opening times.

9. Allports Beach

Toilet and picnic facilities make this the perfect spot for lunch. Explore the beach or take one of Tasmania's 60 Great Short Walks to visit Castle Rock.

10. Settlement Point

The old wharf at Settlement Point provides excellent views of Marshall Bay and Cave Beach.



11. Sawyers Bay

Classic Flinders Island granite coastal scenery with striking views south across the sheltered waters of Arthurs Bay and beyond.

12. Blue Rocks

Scenic slabs of exfoliating granodiorite can be accessed via Long Point Beach (best at low tide) or via a short unmarked track off the Palana Road approximately 10 kilometres north of Whitemark.

13. Long Point

Outcrops of Mathinna Beds can be reached via a short walk along Long Point Beach (best at low tide).

14. The Bluff

Walk from the Whitemark Wharf, or drive to the end of Bluff Road. Great views and a unique sand spit. Go past the rocky headland (Mathinna Beds), to see the delta forming at the mouth of Pats River.

15. Whitemark

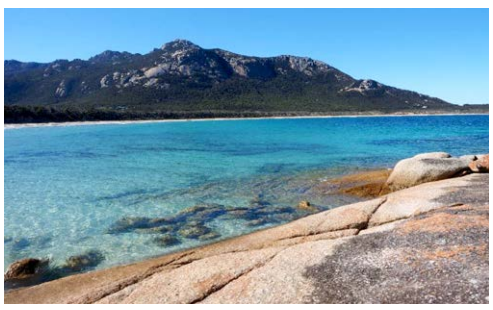
An interpretation sign outlines all the geological sites you can visit – travelling through millions of years, seeing the forces that have shaped the landscape.

16. Strzelecki Peaks

One of Tasmania's 60 Great Walks highlighting the importance of the 380-400 million year old Devonian granite to the region.

17. Fotheringate Bay

Fotheringate Bay offers a great view of nearby Strzelecki Peaks. Karst features have developed in the calcarenite at the west end of the beach.



18. Trousers Point

Another of Tasmania's 60 Great Walks, includes local granite outcrops, interesting limestone features and scenic views. This track provides an easy link with the Fotheringate Bay Geosite.

19. Badger Corner

The Mathinna Beds, some of the oldest rocks on the island, are best seen here at low tide.

20. Petrifaction Bay

Basalt boulders and lava features tell an intriguing part of the island's geohistory.

21. Yellow Beaches

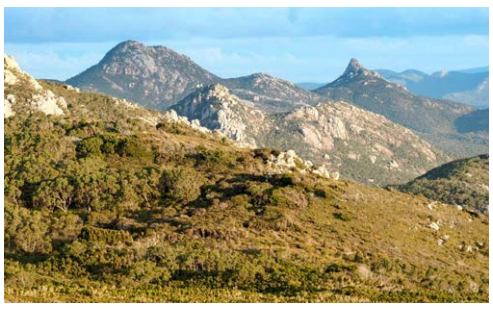
Walk along the beach to see sedimentary rock layers that were deposited between 10,000 and 100,000 years ago and local granite outcrops.

22. Vinegar Hill

A wonderful vantage point looking out over Franklin Sound to the islands.

23. Cameron Inlet / 24. Patriarch Inlet

23. Walk out onto the beach to look for giant megalodon shark teeth. 24. Explore the beach or visit Red Bluff (2-3 hr return, 7km).



25. Furneaux Lookout / 26. Walkers Lookout

Both lookouts provide panoramic views over much of Flinders Island.