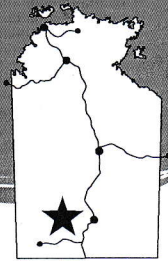




Northern
Territory
Government

West MacDonnell National Park



Fact Sheet



This vast and spectacular section of the MacDonnell Ranges is an outstanding example of an ancient landscape sculptured over time by climatic elements. The West MacDonnell (*Tyurretye*) National Park stretches for 161 km west of Alice Springs. Cool scenic gorges are important refuges for plants and animals, many of which are found only here and some are relicts of a bygone era of tropical forests. There are many opportunities for visitors to explore and appreciate the scenic beauty and history of the area. Features of the landscape are significant in the stories of Arrernte Aboriginal culture, and have existed for many thousands of years.

Access


From Alice Springs vehicle access to the Park is via Larapinta Drive and Namatjira Drive. From Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon) the unsealed Red Centre Way (4WD recommended) connects to West MacDonnell National Park. Simpsons Gap is also accessible via a 17 km sealed bicycle track which starts opposite Flynn's Grave, 7 km from Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive.


When to visit

The Park is accessible all year round. The cooler months (April to September) are the most pleasant. All roads can be impassible for short periods after heavy rain.

Mount Sonder (Rwetyepme) is a landmark and icon for the West MacDonnell Ranges


What to do

 **Camping** - Ellery Creek Big Hole and Redbank Gorge provide basic facilities. Serpentine Chalet and 2-Mile (4WD only) provide camping sites with no facilities. Ormiston Gorge provides camping facilities including showers and flush toilets. Camping fees apply and are payable at each camping area.

 **Overnight visitors** to the West MacDonnell National Park are required to bring their own water supplies. All tank water in the park should be treated before drinking.

Fireplaces are provided at some sites, however most sites offer free gas BBQs to replace open fireplaces (refer to map).

At Serpentine Gorge all fires are prohibited in this special zone. Commercial facilities are available at Glen Helen Resort, including caravan sites and motel accommodation.

 **Swimming** - the Park has a number of permanent waterholes ideal for swimming during summer. The larger water holes include Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge, Redbank Gorge and Glen Helen Gorge. Swimmers should be aware that most swimming holes are extremely cold. Prolonged exposure, even during summer, can result in hypothermia. Beware of submerged logs and rocks. Do not jump, dive or swing into the water.

Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Consider your health and fitness when choosing a walk.
- Swim only where recommended.

Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Use the gas barbecues provided and fuel stoves where possible.
- Put your rubbish in bins where provided or take it with you.
- Pets are not permitted in this park.
- Generators are not permitted.



Walking - a good way to experience the spectacular views in this Park is by walking. There are numerous marked tracks ranging from leisurely to adventurous.

Information about the natural and cultural environment of the NT is available at each site.



The 223 km **Larapinta Trail** stretches through the Park and offers extended and overnight bushwalks for fit, experienced and well prepared walkers. Contact Parks and Wildlife or Tourism Central Australia for more information.



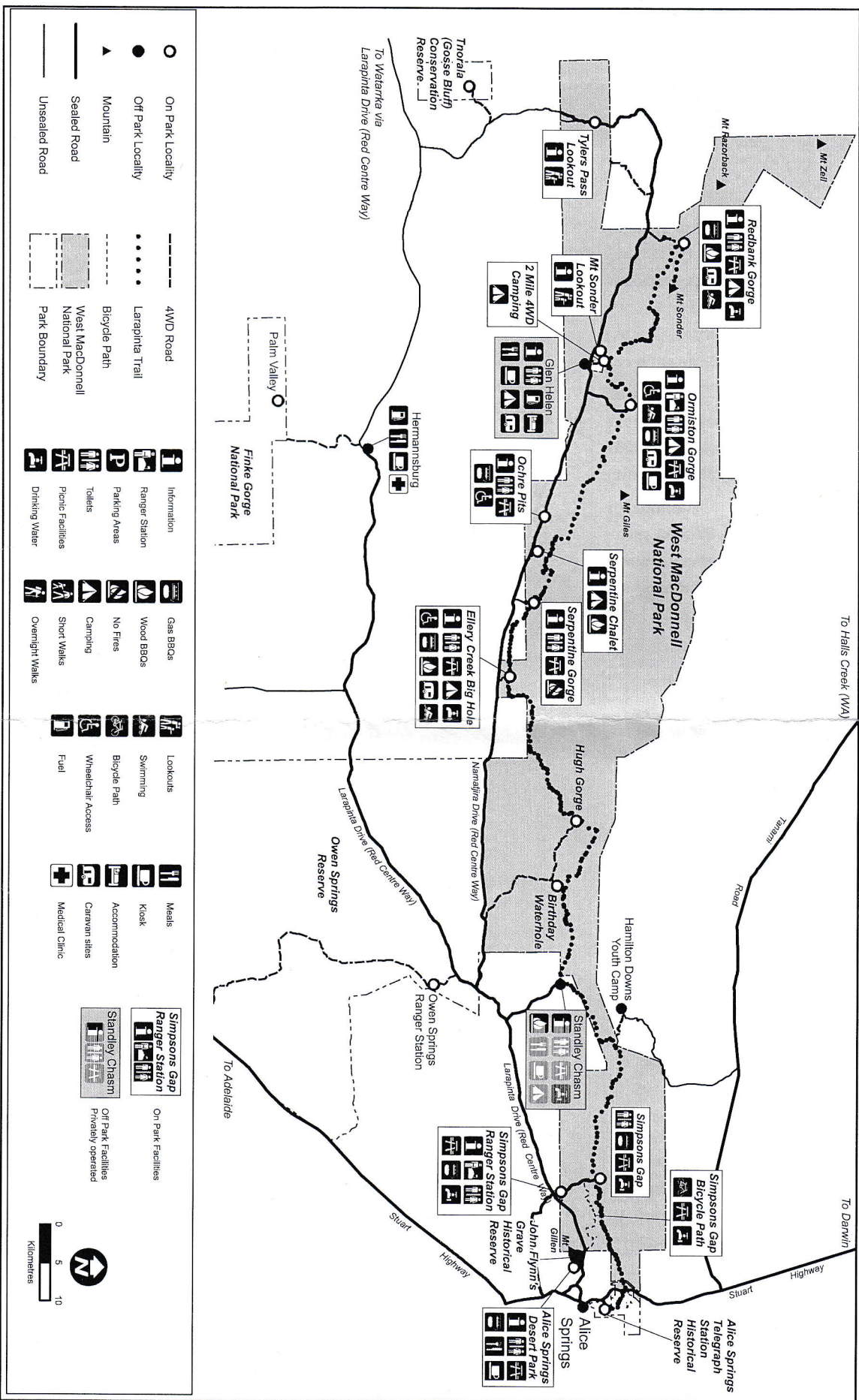
Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Ormiston Gorge Ranger Station
Ph: (08) 8956 7799
Fax: (08) 8956 7794
www.nt.gov.au/parks

Head Office - Arid Zone Research Institute
South Stuart Highway ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
PO Box 1120 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8951 8250 Fax: (08) 8951 8290



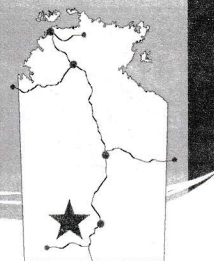
West Macdonnell National Park





Northern
Territory
Government

Ormiston Gorge and Pound West MacDonnell National Park



Fact Sheet



Ormiston Gorge showcases the spectacular geology and landforms of the MacDonnell Ranges. The Gorge has a near-permanent waterhole, estimated to be up to 14 metres deep at its southern end.

The area contains an interesting variety of native fauna and flora including a number of relict plant species remaining from a tropical past. The rediscovery of the Long-tailed Dunnart and the Central Rock Rat in 1997 highlights the Park as an important fauna refuge.


Access

Ormiston Gorge is located 135km west of Alice Springs. Access is via Larapinta and Namatjira Drives. The Visitor Centre is approximately 8 km from the Ormiston Gorge turn-off on Namatjira Drive. Sealed roads provide access by conventional vehicles. All roads can be impassable for a short period after heavy rain.

When to visit

The Park is accessible all year round. The cooler months (April to September) are the most pleasant.

What to do

 **Camping** - Camping facilities are available. Spaces are limited and operate on a first come, first served basis. Gas barbecues, toilets and showers are provided. Camping fees are payable at the site and camping is only permitted in designated areas.

There is a separate camp ground for schools and large groups. Bookings are required.

Commercial facilities are available at Glen Helen Resort and additional camping areas are provided at Redbank Gorge and Ellery Creek Big Hole (fees apply).



There is a limited supply of drinking water at Ormiston Gorge. People planning to stay should carry their drinking water requirements with them. It is recommended that all tank and surface water at Ormiston Gorge be treated before drinking.



Visitors can purchase basic supplies, food and drinks from the commercially operated kiosk. Phone (08) 8954 6196 for opening times (hours may vary).



Swimming - The Gorge has a near-permanent waterhole situated 500 metres from the Walks Information Shelter. The waterhole is ideal for swimming, especially in the warmer months. Swimmers should be aware that most waterholes are extremely cold. Prolonged exposure, even during summer, can result in hypothermia. Beware of submerged logs and rocks and do not jump, dive or swing into the water.



Walking - The best way to appreciate the scenery of Ormiston Gorge and Pound is to follow one of the many marked walking tracks.

The 5 minute **Waterhole walk** (wheelchair access to the end of the paved path) and the 20 minute (one way) **Ghost Gum Lookout** walk are the most popular with visitors. The 3-4 hour **Ormiston Pound** walk completes a full

Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Consider your health and fitness when choosing a walk.
- Swim only where recommended.

Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Fires are not permitted, use the gas barbecues provided.
- Put your rubbish in the bins provided or take it with you.
- Pets are not permitted in the park.
- Generators are not permitted in this Park.

circuit from the Walks Information Shelter, meandering around scenic slopes, dropping into the flat expanse of the Pound and returning along Ormiston Gorge via the main waterhole.



For the keen walker the **Larapinta Trail** also passes through the area. This is a challenging long distance walk and careful preparation and planning is required. For more details visit www.nt.gov.au/parks

Have an Emergency Plan:

Notify a reliable person of your intended route and plans. Ensure they know to contact police if you do not return by the arranged date. Walkers should carry a satellite phone or personal locator beacon.

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Ormiston Gorge Ranger Station
Ph: (08) 8956 7799
Fax: (08) 8956 7794
www.nt.gov.au/parks

Head Office - Arid Zone Research Institute
South Stuart Highway ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
PO Box 1120 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8951 8250 Fax: (08) 8951 8290



Ormiston Gorge and Pound - Part of the West MacDonnell National Park

