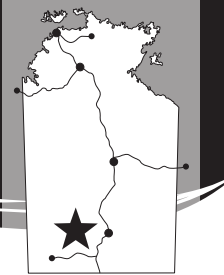


Ormiston Gorge and Pound

Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park



Fact Sheet

Ormiston Gorge showcases the spectacular geology and landforms of the MacDonnell Ranges. The Gorge has a 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

Park entry fees - Parks Pass applies (NT residents exempt). Ormiston Gorge is located 135 km west of Alice Springs. Access is via Larapinta and Namatjira Drives. The Visitor Centre / Kiosk 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. Gas barbecues, toilets and showers are provided. **Camping fees apply and campsites must be booked online before you arrive.**

There are separate campgrounds for schools and large groups and Larapinta Trail walkers. Contact the kiosk for information on how to book. Additional camping areas are provided at Redbank Gorge and Ellery Creek (**camping fees apply and campsites must be booked online before you arrive**).



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.



The kiosk is currently closed and due to reopen in March 2024.



Swimming - The Gorge has a 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 or dive into the water.



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

Waterhole Walk - 300 m 5 minutes (one way), Grade 1 Easy with wheelchair access to the end of the paved path.

Ghost Gum Lookout 1.2 km 45 minutes return, Grade 3 moderate.

Ghost Gum Walk 2.5km loop walk 1.5 hours, Grade 3 moderate. After climbing up to the Ghost Gum Lookout, continue by following the path around the western side of the Gorge and return via the main waterhole.

Ormiston Pound 8.5km 3-4 hour loop, Grade 3 moderate, completes a full 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.

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.
- Camp only in designated areas and check if you are required to pre-book online.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Fires are not permitted, use the gas barbecues provided.
- Only recycling bins are provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted.
- Generators are not permitted.
- A permit is required for Drone use – conditions apply and it must be obtained prior to your arrival in the Park.



For the keen walker there are two overnight walks to Bowmans Gap and Mt Giles, and the **Larapinta Trail** also passes through the area. These are challenging long distance walks and careful preparation and planning is required. For more details visit nt.gov.au/larapinta. **Walking and camping fees apply and must be pre-booked online before you arrive.**

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

nt.gov.au/parks
nt.gov.au/park-bookings
PO Box 1120
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Regional Office - Arid Zone Research Institute
South Stuart Highway
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
Ph: (08) 8951 8250



Ormiston Gorge and Pound - Part of Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park

