### Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
Nitmiluk National Park  Katherine Regional Office
Ph: (08) 8972 1886
Email: parks.desk@nitmiluktours.com.au

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### Nitmiluk National Park
Southern Walks

**Explore the Katherine Gorge system and surrounding escarpment via the Southern Walks:**
where you can enjoy spectacular views, swimming and camping away from the crowds.

- The network of tracks begin near the Nitmiluk Visitor Centre with a climb, high onto the rocky escarpment. All are return walks.
- Be aware that it is hot and rugged up on the escarpment so choose a walk that suits your level of fitness and follow the guidelines here for a safe and enjoyable walk.

**Permits and Fees**
For overnight walks, all walkers must obtain a permit at the Nitmiluk Visitor Centre between 8am and 1pm. The Parks Information Desk is located in the Centre and is open from 8am to 4pm.

- All walks are return walks.
- Water available at the Nitmiluk Centre or from tanks at the top of the hill.

**Trail Conditions**
The walking trails vary in difficulty and length.

- Be aware that there are some sections that are steep and very rough, very steep and unmarked.
- Walks may be limited.

- All walks are marked by coloured triangles on a white background.

- Nitmiluk Visitor Centre for the availability of drinking water.

**Emergency Contact**
Emergency Call Devices (ECDs) are located at various locations, as shown on the map.

**Checkpoints**
For your safety please register your passing in the check point book at Dunlop Swamp. This can help Rangers locate you in an emergency.

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### Australian Walking Track Grading System - User Guide for Northern Territory Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1</th>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Grade 3</th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
<th>Grade 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easy (unpaced access)</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Moderate to Difficult</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **No bushwalking experience required.**
  - Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. Walks no greater than 5 km.

- **No bushwalking experience required.**
  - The track is a hardened or compacted surface, and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. Walks up to 10 km.

- **Suitable for most ages and fitness levels.**
  - Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surfaced and many steps. Walks up to 20 km.

- **Bushwalking experience recommended.**
  - Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.

- **Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid.**
  - Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20 km.

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### Information Sheet

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For more information see our website: [www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au](http://www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au)

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**NAME OF WALK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF WALK</th>
<th>RETURN DISTANCE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>FEATURES SUMMARY</th>
<th>WATER AVAILABLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barawel Walk, (via Lookout)</td>
<td>1.8 km</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Views of the picnic area, Katherine Gorge &amp; 17 Mile Valley.</td>
<td>Water available at the Nitmiluk Centre or from tanks at the top of the hill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.8 km</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Continue walk from lookout along escarpment and back down towards the visitor centre.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waleka Walk</td>
<td>16.5 km one way - Pat’s Lookout to 8th Gorge Walk</td>
<td>2-3 days</td>
<td>Spectacular views of the second gorge from Saldan Rock and the upper gorge area.</td>
<td>From the various water tanks along the Yambi Walk and at the river. Boil river water before use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.4 km</td>
<td>3.5 hours</td>
<td>Views of the First Gorge from Pat’s Lookout.</td>
<td>From the water tank at the Windslip Walk junction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 km</td>
<td>4.5 hours</td>
<td>Shaded gorge with butterflies and rainforest leading into Katherine Gorge. Deep water, seasonal swimming.</td>
<td>From the water tank at the Butterfly Gorge trail junction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19.8 km</td>
<td>6.5 hours</td>
<td>Creek side walk with views of the Third Gorge. Seasonal Lily Pond Falls and seasonal swimming in the river.</td>
<td>From the water tank at the Lily Ponds junction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23.6 km</td>
<td>8.5 hours</td>
<td>Seasonal swimming below Dunlop swamp and at Smitt Rock. Gorge views. Emergency Call Devices (Dunlop Swamp and Smitt Rock).</td>
<td>From the water tank at Lily Ponds or Smitt Rock junction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>From the water tank at the Lily Ponds junction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33.2 km</td>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>Good view of the upper gorge area. Large valley with extensive rock outcrops. Emergency Call Device. Seasonal swimming in river and at campsite.</td>
<td>From the water tank at the Eight Gorge trail head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>From the water tank at Smitt Rock and Eight Gorge junctions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39 km</td>
<td>2-3 days</td>
<td>Galleries of Jawoyn paintings. Large valley with extensive rock outcrops.</td>
<td>From the water tanks at the top of the hill.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Trail Rating**

- **Grade 1 - Easy**
- **Grade 2 - Moderate**
- **Grade 3 - Moderate to Difficult**
- **Grade 4 - Difficult**

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**Trail Conditions**

- **Easy (unpaced access).**
  - Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. Walks no greater than 5 km.

- **Easy.**
  - The track is a hardened or compacted surface, and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. Walks up to 10 km.

- **Suitable for most ages and fitness levels.**
  - Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surfaced and many steps. Walks up to 20 km.

- **Bushwalking experience recommended.**
  - Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.

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- Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20 km.

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**IN AN EMERGENCY**

- Call 112 - mobile reception can be poor to unavailable on the walks.

- Nitmiluk Visitor Centre for the availability of drinking water.

- Emergency Call Devices (ECDs) are located at various locations, as shown on the map.

- ECDs are for:
  - contacting a Ranger in an emergency

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**For more information see our website: [www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au](http://www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au)**

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**For long term parking is located at the Nitmiluk Centre.**

- All walkers should let Rangers know where they are going and when they will be back.

- As a minimum, all walkers should carry:
  - 3 litres of water per person per day
  - a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or satellite phone on longer walks
  - sturdy footwear and thick socks
  - broad-brimmed hat and sunscreen
  - basic first aid kit
  - pocket knife
  - insect repellent and mosquito net
  - matches or lighter
  - gas or fuel stove - open fires are not permitted.

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**Trail Conditions**
- The walking trails vary in difficulty and length.

- Refer to the list of walks on the back of this sheet for a summary of the conditions you can expect on each trail.

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**Stay on the marked trails at all times.**

- Trail markers are usually located every 20-50 metres.

- Intersections are marked by sign posts. If you have walked for 100 metres without seeing a marker, go back to the last marker and find the next marker. Be aware that often worn paths through the bush are animal tracks, not the walking trail.

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**It can be extremely hot between September and December.**
- Temperatures on the escarpment are often 10°C hotter than near the river.
- Walk in the cool of the day and drink plenty of water. Check at the river.

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**Southern Rockhole.**
Nitmiluk National Park
Southern Walks

View of the Gorge from Pat’s Lookout, on the Waleka Walk.

Legend
- Key Location
- Tourist Information
- Toilets
- Caravan Park
- Camping
- Emergency Contact
- Check Point
- BBQ Facilities
- Swimming
- Meals
- Drinking Water
- Lookout
- Aboriginal Art
- Rock Bars

Look after yourself and the Park
- Carry and drink at least three litres of water each day.
- Wear sturdy shoes, a hat and sunscreen.
- Take care on the steep tracks and loose rocks.
- Open fires are not permitted in the Park.
- Please take all your rubbish out with you.

Southern Walks map located here.
Please check carefully that you are headed in the right direction at this point.

DO NOT COMMENCE THE SOUTHERN WALKS UNLESS WELL PREPARED TO DO SO.