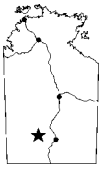


# Ormiston Gorge and Pound - Part of the West MacDonnell National Park



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 highlights the Park as an important fauna refuge.


## Access

Ormiston Gorge is located 135 km west of Alice Springs. Access is via Larapinta and Namatjira Drives. The Visitor Centre is approximately 8kms 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 October) are the most pleasant.

## What to do

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

Commercial facilities are available at Glen Helen Resort.



**Swimming** - The Gorge has a near-permanent waterhole situated 500 metres from the Visitor Centre. The water hole is ideal for swimming, especially in the warmer months. Swimmers should be aware that most water holes are extremely cold. Prolonged exposure, even during summer, can result in hypothermia. Beware of submerged logs and rocks.



**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** and the 20 minute **Ghost Gum Lookout walk** are the most popular with visitors. The 3-4 hour **Ormiston Pound walk** completes a full circuit from the Visitor Centre, 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 (see Parks and Wildlife Regional Office or the Ormiston Gorge Visitor Centre for details).

*Walkers planning extended and overnight walks are strongly advised to register with the **Walker Registration Scheme** (Phone: 1300 650 730).*

## 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.

Alternatively notify a friend or reliable person of your intended route and plans.



There is a limited supply of drinking water at Ormiston Gorge. People planning to stay should carry their drinking water requirements with them.



*The Long-tailed Dunnart is a small carnivorous marsupial, active only at night and rarely seen.*

## Parks & Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory

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