

Simpsons Gap

Part of West MacDonnell National Park



Fact Sheet

Located in the West MacDonnell National Park, Simpsons Gap is one of the most prominent gaps in the West MacDonnell Ranges. At dawn and dusk it is renowned as a place to see Black-footed Rock-wallabies along the short walking track into the Gap.

The Simpsons Gap area incorporates large areas of Mulga and is a major stronghold for over 40 rare and relict plants. The area is an important spiritual site to the Arrernte Aboriginal people, where several dreaming trails and stories cross.


Access

The turn off to Simpsons Gap is 18 kms west of Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive. From the turn-off there is a Visitor Information Centre and Rangers Office 2kms towards the Gap. Simpsons Gap is a further 6 km drive. The Gap can also be reached by cycling along the Simpsons Gap Bike Path from Alice Springs.

When to visit

The Park is open from 5.00 am to 8.00 pm daily. It is accessible all year round with the cooler months (April to September) being the most pleasant.

What to do

 The Visitor Information Centre is just past the entrance gate and offers a good introduction for first time visitors. The display highlights points of interest within the West MacDonnell National Park and provides information on the area's natural and cultural history.



Walking - There are numerous walking opportunities within the area, all well marked with directional signs.

Ghost Gum Walk - 15 minutes return. Starting at the Visitor Centre, this walk illustrates the native plants of the area including an ancient Ghost Gum.

Cassia Hill - 1.5 kms, 1 hour return. Gives excellent elevated views of the range and Simpsons Gap area. The walk illustrates local plants and a self-guided walk sheet is available.

Woodland Trail - To Bond Gap, a return distance of 17 kms. The Gap has a narrow cleft with icy cold water (seasonal). This walk displays excellent examples of Mulga woodland.



Larapinta Trail - An exciting long distance walking track through the West MacDonnell Ranges. From Simpsons Gap you can do sections 1 or 2. For more information about the trail contact the Parks and Wildlife Regional Office.



Picnicking - Free gas barbecues are available in the shady picnic areas near Simpsons Gap and the Ranger Station.



Cycling - A sealed bicycle path begins opposite Flynn's Grave (7 kms from Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive), providing a pleasant ride suitable for the whole family. Take plenty of water and use the coolest part of the day to complete the 17 km one-way ride to Simpsons Gap.

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.

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 this park.
- Swimming is prohibited in Simpsons Gap.



Camping is not permitted at Simpsons Gap, unless you are walking the Larapinta Trail.

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



Black-footed Rock-wallaby

Parks & Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory

Regional Office - Arid Zone Research Institute, Tom Hare Building
South Stuart Highway ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
PO Box 2130 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8951 8211 Fax: (08) 8951 8290



Northern Territory Government
Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts



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