

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 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 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 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.



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 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 circuit from the Visitor Centre, meandering around scenic slopes, dropping into the flat expanse of the Pound and returning along

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.

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 or contact Tourism Central Australia or Parks and Wildlife.

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

Regional 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


Northern
Territory
Government



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

