

Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park



Fact Sheet

This vast and spectacular section of the MacDonnell Ranges is an outstanding example of an ancient landscape sculptured over time by climatic elements. Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park stretches for 161 km west of Alice Springs. Cool, scenic gorges are important refuges for plants and animals, many of which are found only here and some are relicts of a bygone era of tropical forests.

There are many opportunities for visitors to explore and appreciate the scenic beauty and history of the area. Features of the landscape are significant in the stories of Western Aranda and Arrente Aboriginal culture, and have existed for many thousands of years.

Access

Park entry fees - Parks Pass applies (NT residents exempt). From Alice Springs, vehicle access to the Park is via Larapinta Drive and Namatjira Drive. From Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon) the unsealed Red Centre Way (4WD recommended) connects to Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park. Simpsons Gap is also accessible via a 17 km sealed bicycle track which starts opposite Flynn's Grave, 7 km from Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive.

When to visit


The Park is accessible all year round. The cooler months (April to September) are the most pleasant. All roads can be impassible for short periods after heavy rain.


Mount Sonder (Rutjupma) is a landmark and icon at the western end of Tjoritja.



What to do

 **Camping** - Ellery Creek Big Hole and Redbank Gorge provide basic facilities. Serpentine Chalet and 2-Mile (4WD only) provide camping sites with no facilities. **Camping fees apply and campsites must be booked online before you arrive.** Ormiston Gorge provides camping facilities including showers and flush toilets and has a privately managed kiosk where food and drinks are available. Commercial facilities at Glen Helen Discovery Parks are temporarily closed.

 Overnight visitors to Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park are required to bring their own water supplies. All tank water in the park should be treated before drinking.

 Fireplaces are provided at some sites, however most sites offer free gas BBQs to replace open fireplaces (refer to map). At Serpentine Gorge all fires are prohibited in this special zone.


 **Swimming** - the Park has a number of permanent waterholes ideal for swimming during summer. The larger water holes include Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge, Redbank Gorge and Glen Helen Gorge. **Swimmers should be aware that most swimming holes are extremely cold.** Prolonged exposure, even during summer, can result in hypothermia. Beware of submerged logs and rocks. Do not jump, dive or swing into the water.

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 your pre-booked site in designated camping areas.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Use the gas barbecues provided and fuel stoves where possible.
- Put your rubbish in bins where provided or take it 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.

 **Walking** - a good way to experience the spectacular views in this Park is by walking. There are numerous marked tracks ranging from leisurely to adventurous.

Information about the natural and cultural environment of the NT is available at each site.

 The 231 km **Larapinta Trail** stretches through the Park and offers extended and overnight bushwalks for fit, experienced and well prepared walkers. Contact Parks and Wildlife or Tourism Central Australia for more information.

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

nt.gov.au/parks
nt.gov.au/park-bookings
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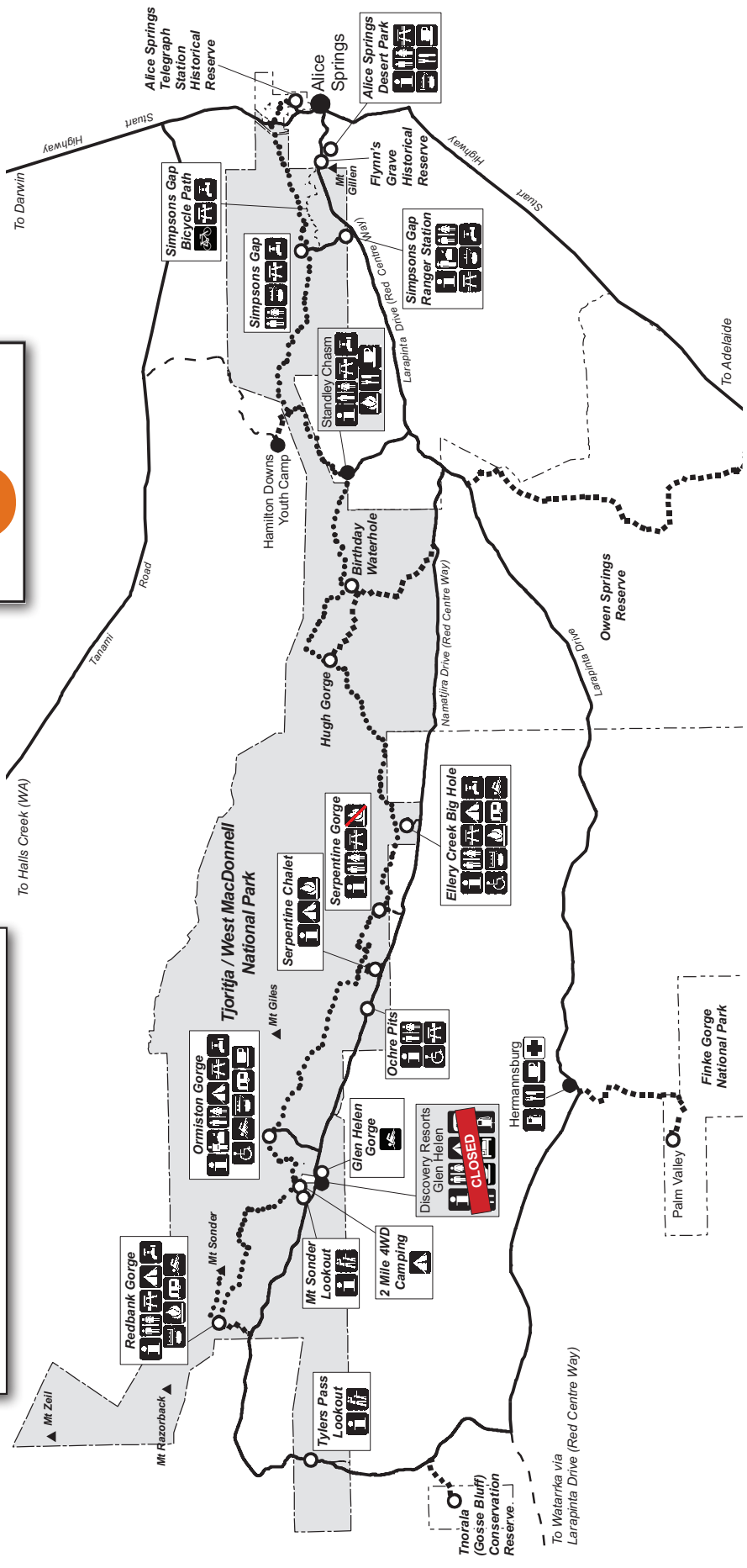


BOOK YOUR CAMPSITES & MULTI-DAY WALKS ONLINE BEFORE YOU VISIT

NT Maps on the Go

Download the **Avenza Maps App** on your device whilst you are still in range to find the **FREE** local park map you need.

Once downloaded, the maps can be used without a network connection. Your device's built-in GPS will plot your real-time location within the park onto the map. These GPS enabled maps will assist you to stay on track.



	On Park Locality		4WD Road		Information		Gas barbecues		Lookouts		Simpsons Gap Ranger Station		Meals		On Park Facilities
	Off Park Locality		Larapinta Trail		Ranger Station		Fireplace		Swimming		Standley Chasm		Drinks		Off Park Facilities Privately operated
	Mountain		Bicycle Path		Parking Areas		No Fires		Bicycle Path		Accommodation		Accommodation		Caravan Sites
	Sealed Road		Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park		Toilets		Camping		Wheelchair Access		Caravan Sites		Medical Clinic		
	Unsealed Road		Park Boundary		Picnic Facilities		Short Walks		Fuel						

