

The Larapinta Trail

West MacDonnell National Park



Situated in the heart of Central Australia, the Larapinta Trail extends over 223 kilometres along the backbone of the West MacDonnell Ranges.

The Trail is divided into 12 sections, each a 1-2 day walk. The Trail encompasses some of the key attractions of the Ranges including Simpsons Gap, Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge and Glen Helen.

The Larapinta Trail begins at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station, climbs over the ranges and through the many gaps and gorges of the West MacDonnell National Park, taking in a variety of desert habitats before arriving at Mt Sonder – the highest point and end of the Trail.

Access

Each section is accessible to vehicles (some by high clearance 4WD only), so you can join or leave the Trail at any of the Trailheads.

Camping and fees

Most camp sites offer picnic tables and hardened tent sites – all Trailheads have a water supply and some have free gas barbecues.

Some campgrounds within the West MacDonnell National Park attract camping fees: Ellery Creek Big Hole (\$3.30 per person), Ormiston Gorge (\$6.60 per person) and Redbank Gorge (\$3.30 per person). It is a good idea to carry the correct amount of money as change is not available.

Other campsites along the Larapinta Trail are free.

No entry fee applies to the West MacDonnell National Park or for walking the Trail, however

Standley Chasm is privately owned and operated and an entry fee applies.

More Information

Comprehensive maps, Trail notes and fact sheets can be found in the *'Larapinta Trail Package'* available through Parks and Wildlife for \$44.

Before you begin your walk be sure to visit our website: www.nt.gov.au/parks for information about water, food drops, grades, groups on the trail, suggested itineraries and current conditions.

If you would like any further information contact Parks and Wildlife (details below) or email: larapinta.trail@nt.gov.au

Section Overview

Free fact sheets and maps are available from our website.

Section 1: Alice Springs Telegraph Station to Simpsons Gap - 23.8km / 9 hours (allow 2 days). Medium

Section 2: Simpsons Gap to Jay Creek - 24.5 / 8 hours (allow 2 days). Medium

Section 3: Jay Creek to Standley Chasm - 13.6km / 5.5 hours (allow 1 full day). Hard

Section 4: Standley Chasm to Birthday Waterhole - 17.7km / 9 hours (allow 2 days). Very hard

Section 5: Birthday Waterhole to Hugh Gorge - 16km / 10 hours (allow 2 days). Very hard

Section 6: Hugh Gorge to Ellery Creek - 31.2km / 11 hours (allow 2 days). Medium

Section 7: Ellery Creek to Serpentine Gorge - 13.8km / 5.5 hours (allow 1 day). Hard

Section 8: Serpentine Gorge to

Safety and Comfort

- Do not attempt long walks in hot weather (November to March).
- Take warm clothing, a sleeping bag and shelter if you are camping during the freezing winter nights (May to Sept)
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Record your details clearly and accurately in logbooks provided.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Walk with 2 or 3 other people.
- Carry some form of emergency communication such as satellite phone or personal locator beacon (PLB).

Please Remember

- The Larapinta Trail has a 'fuel stove only' policy.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- All surface and tank water should be treated. Tank water supplied is for drinking only.
- Mountain Bikes are not permitted on the Trail.

Serpentine Chalet Dam - 13.4km / 5.5 hours (allow 1 day). Hard

Section 9: Serpentine Chalet Dam to Ormiston Gorge - 28.6km / 12 hours (allow 2 days). Hard

Section 10: Ormiston Gorge to Finke River - 9.1km / 4 hours (allow 1 day). Medium

Section 11: Finke River to Redbank Gorge - 26km / 9.5 hours (allow 2 days). Hard

Section 12: Redbank Gorge to Mt Sonder and back - 15.8km / 6 hours (allow 1 day). Hard

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

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Email: larapinta.trail@nt.gov.au
Ph: (08) 8951 8250
Fax: (08) 8951 8290
www.nt.gov.au/parks

Regional Office - Arid Zone Research Centre
South Stuart Highway ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
PO Box 1120 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8951 8211



Northern Territory Government



