

Media Release:

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## Larapinta Trail nominated for Best Eco/Wilderness Experience

The Larapinta Trail has been nominated for the national 'Best Eco/Wilderness Adventure Experience' award, in the third annual *The Australian* Travel and Tourism Awards for 2007.

The Trail which was short listed by an independent panel, is managed by the Northern Territory Government's Parks and Wildlife Service.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Chief District Ranger Chris Day said it was a fantastic achievement and urged Territorians and tourists who had done the trail to vote for it.

"The Larapinta Trail, situated in the heart of Central Australia, extends over 223 kilometres along the backbone of the West MacDonnell Ranges," Mr Day said.

"The long distance walking track is divided into 12 sections, each a one to two day walk and encompasses some of the key attractions of the Ranges, including Simpsons Gap, Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge and Glen Helen.

"It's a really exciting trail, beginning at the old Alice Springs Telegraph Station it meanders through many gaps and sheltered gorges, climbs steeply over the rugged ranges, and has many stunning views, with walkers being rewarded 360° vistas from Mt Sonder – the highest point at the end of the Trail.

"Visitors can tailor their trip to suit themselves with each section accessible to vehicles you can join or leave the Trail at any of the Trailheads, and the trail itself is made up of a range of grades catering for hikers of varying abilities, although all walkers need to have a good level of fitness and be well prepared and equipped."

Whatever your motivation for walking the Trail...the spectacular sunrises and sunsets, the inspiration, the challenge or the window it provides to the varied and fragile ecology...the beauty and grandeur of the Larapinta Trail will leave a lasting impression long after your visit to Central Australia.

To vote for the trail go to *The Australian's* Travel and Tourism award website <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/tandtawards> or send in an original voting coupon from *The Weekend Australian Travel & Indulgence* section.

For more information on the Larrapinta Trail go to <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/walks/larapinta/>

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Chris Day on 0427 601 237**

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