

Media Release:

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Larapinta Trail One of the Worlds Best Long Distance Treks

The Larapinta Trail, situated in the heart of Central Australia and extending over 223 kilometres along the West MacDonnell Ranges, is fast becoming recognised as one of the best long distance treks in the world.

Parks and Wildlife Service chief district ranger Chris Day said the Larapinta Trail in its entirety is a 14 to 20 day trek, which is comparable to some other treks around the world, such as Mont Blanc Ascent, a seven day trek, Mt Kilimanjaro, a 10 day trek and the Inca Trail Trek which takes around 12 days.

“Recent upgrades of a new shelter at Ormiston Gorge and Trailhead signs along the Larapinta Trail have been a great addition to the area,” Mr Day said.

“The interpretation shelter valued at more than \$28,000 at Ormiston Gorge not only provides updated park information to visitors to Ormiston Gorge, but also provides valuable information for Larapinta Trail walkers, and is a great shady sanctuary for bushwalkers,” Mr Day said.

The trail has 12 sections, each section accessible to vehicles (some by high clearance 4WD only) and is a one to two day walk with varying degrees of difficulty, so visitors can join or leave the trail at any of the trailheads.

Mr Day said all sections require a reasonable level of fitness, although some are suited to active families.

“Most of the sections are more suited to people used to walking long distances and carrying a heavy pack but for those wishing to take an easier option, there are a number of commercial tour operators providing guided and fully supported walks, reducing the need to carry heavy pack,” he said.

“The new trailhead signs occur at each of the trailheads and feature information on the sections level of difficulty, its distance, campsites, water supplies and a map giving walkers an overview of the section.

“The biggest priority for Parks and Wildlife is visitor safety, so each trailhead details important safety information so that walkers are well prepared for their walk, preparation is the key to a safe and enjoyable walk.”

Trailhead signage is located at Alice Springs Telegraph Station, Simpsons Gap, Jay Creek, Standley Chasm, Birthday Waterhole, Hugh Gorge, Ellery Creek, Serpentine Gorge, Serpentine Chalet Dam, Ormiston Gorge, Finke River and Redbank Gorge.

The Larapinta Trail was a finalist for Best Eco/Wilderness Experience in the Travel and Tourism Awards 2007 run by *The Australian*.

Visitors intending to walk the Larapinta Trail should contact Parks and Wildlife Service for detailed information prior to setting out.

For more information go to www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks

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**Media Note – for more information contact Chris Day on 8955 1119
Images – Larapinta Trail and Signage**

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