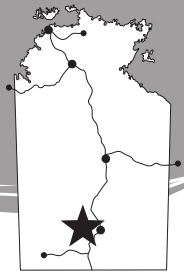


Simpsons Gap

West MacDonnell National Park



Fact Sheet

Located in the West MacDonnell (*Tyurretye*) National Park, Simpsons Gap is one of the most prominent gaps in the West MacDonnell Ranges. At dawn and dusk it is renowned as a place to see Black-footed Rock-wallabies along the short walking track into the Gap.

The Simpsons Gap area incorporates large areas of Mulga and is a major stronghold for over 40 rare and relict plants. The area is an important spiritual site to the Arrernte Aboriginal people, where several dreaming trails and stories cross.


Access

The turn off to Simpsons Gap is 18km west of Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive. From the turn-off there is a Ranger Station 1km towards the Gap which provides an introduction to the Park. Simpsons Gap is a further 6 km drive. The Gap can also be reached by cycling along the Simpsons Gap Bike Path from Alice Springs.

When to visit

The Park is accessible all year round. The cooler months (April to September) are the most pleasant.


What to do


 **Walking** - There are numerous walking opportunities within the area, all well marked with directional signs.


Ghost Gum Walk - 15 minutes return. Starting at the Ranger Station, this walk illustrates the native plants of the area including an ancient Ghost Gum.

Cassia Hill - 1.5 km, 1 hour return. Gives excellent elevated views of the range and Simpsons Gap area. The walk illustrates local plants and a self-guided walk sheet is available.

Woodland Trail - To Bond Gap, a return distance of 17 km. The Gap has a narrow cleft with icy cold water (seasonal). This walk displays excellent examples of Mulga woodland.

 **Larapinta Trail** - An exciting long distance walking track through the West MacDonnell Ranges. From Simpsons Gap you can walk Sections 1 or 2. The Trail is suitable for fit people with previous bushwalking experience. Careful planning and preparation is required. For more information contact Parks and Wildlife or Tourism Central Australia. Notify a reliable person of your intended walk 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.

 **Picnicking** - Free gas barbecues are available in the shady picnic areas near Simpsons Gap and adjacent to the Ranger Station.


 **Cycling** - A sealed bicycle path begins opposite Flynn's Grave (7 km from Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive), providing a pleasant ride suitable for the whole family. Take plenty of water and use the coolest part of the day to complete the 17 km one-way ride to Simpsons Gap.

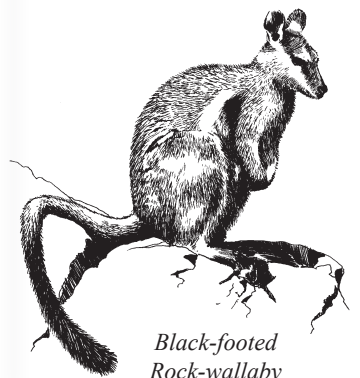
Safety and Comfort

- 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.

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 this park.
- Swimming is prohibited in Simpsons Gap.

 Camping is not permitted at Simpsons Gap, unless you are walking the Larapinta Trail.



*Black-footed
Rock-wallaby*

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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Simpsons Gap - Part of the West MacDonnell National Park

