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Conservation and Attractions

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How to get there: The track to Mandu Mandu Gorge is 15 km south of the Milyering Visitor Centre along the Yardie Creek Road.



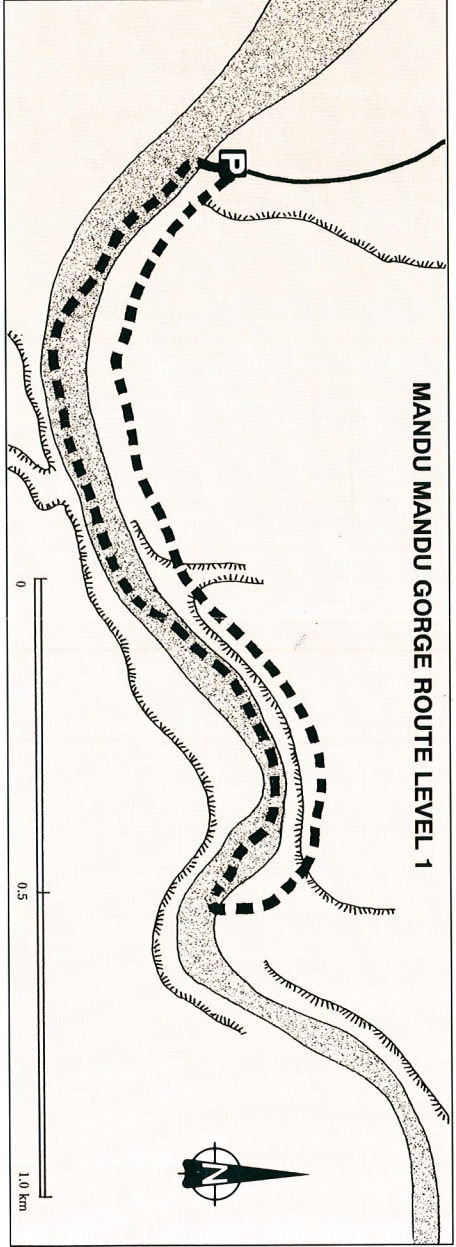
MANDU MANDU GORGE ROUTE LEVEL 1

3 kilometres - 2 hours return

This trail starts from the end of the Mandu Mandu Track and follows the northern ridge of Mandu Mandu Gorge, offering a splendid panoramic view of the gorge carved by an ancient river. Near the start of this route the trail crosses a deep, steep-sided creek, so please take care.

A variety of birds can be seen from the trail. The birdlife in the Cape Range National Park reflects the variety of habitats on the cape. The sheltered woodland in the valleys and gorges gives way to country with uniform low relief to the south and east. Birds found on the cape tend to be smaller than the same species found in the Barlee and Hamersley Ranges, more than 200 km to the east.

This trail is marked by numbered metal posts with arrows on top, the last finishing in the gorge bed. From here, make your way along the base of the gorge through shady clumps of bloodwood trees back to the carpark.



TRAIL GRADES

WALKS are short, easy and well formed. They are suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels. Some improvements have been made to the terrain.

TRACKS are suitable for people with a moderate level of fitness. They have some short, uneven stretches that may be loose or slippery underfoot.

ROUTES (LEVEL 1) are for experienced, fit walkers. Trails may be unmarked and go over steep, slippery and unstable surfaces. Few, if any, improvements have been made.

KEY TO MAP SYMBOLS

	Route Level 1
	Track
	Walk
	Road
	Parking
	Picnic area
	Toilets
	Scarp

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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MILYERING VISITOR CENTRE
Cape Range National Park
Telephone: (099) 49 2808

CAPE RANGE

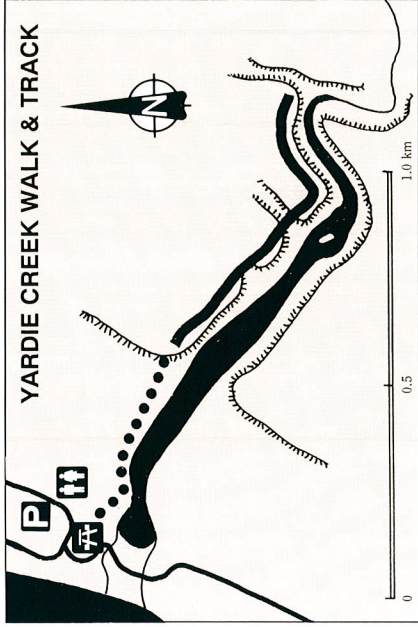


VISITOR AND WALK TRAIL GUIDE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

ADVENTURE OUT

CONSERVATION ANIMAL RESCUE RESEARCH AND MONITORING EDUCATION



YARDIE CREEK WALK

500 metres - ½ hour return

The trail starts from Yardie Creek picnic area and follows an old disused vehicle track to a limestone ledge. Here you may choose to return to the carpark or carry on along the Yardie Creek Track. The trail classification alters here as the track negotiates some-steep sided gullies.

How to get there: Yardie Creek is about 38 km south of the Milyering Visitor Centre along the Yardie Creek Road.

YARDIE CREEK TRACK

1.5 kilometres - 1½ hours return

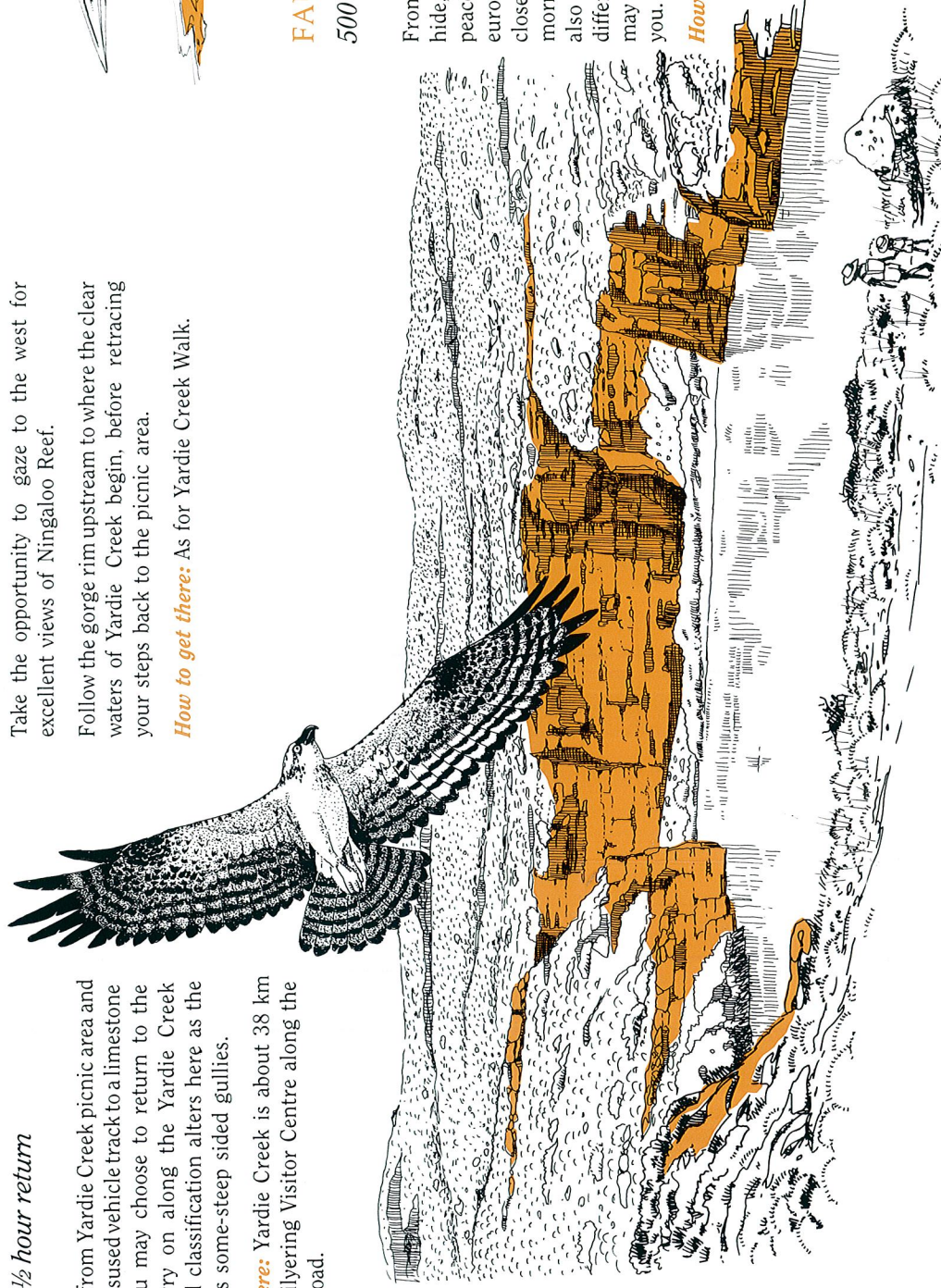
From the end of the Yardie Creek Walk, follow the track, remaining on the northern side of the gorge so as not to disturb the black-footed rock-wallabies (*Petrogale lateralis*). Look closely and you may be able to spot these animals as they seek the shelter of ledges along the southern cliff face, where they await evening before coming out to feed.

The Cape Range is the only elevated limestone range on the north-west coast of WA. Cave-roosting bats and rock-wallabies favour the limestone country.

Take the opportunity to gaze to the west for excellent views of Ningaloo Reef.

Follow the gorge rim upstream to where the clear waters of Yardie Creek begin, before retracing your steps back to the picnic area.

How to get there: As for Yardie Creek Walk.

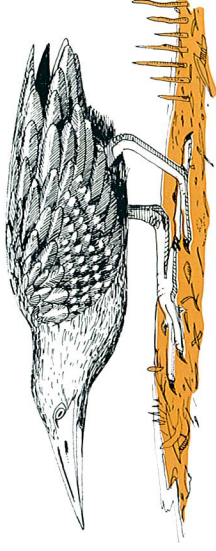


BIRD HIDE WALK

100 metres - 10 minutes return

From the Mangrove Bay carpark, follow the board walk **quietly** to the bird hide overlooking a shallow lagoon. Take advantage of the shaded seating and spend as much time as you like studying the variety of birds, including seabirds and waders, that frequent the Cape Range National Park and the adjacent Ningaloo Reef. You may like to take the binoculars and a bird book with you. Take precautions against mosquitoes.

How to get there: Take the turn off to Mangrove Bay, 8 km north of the Milyering Visitor Centre on the Yardie Creek Road.



FAUNA HIDE WALK

500 metres - 20 minutes return

From the carpark, follow the trail to the fauna hide, being as quiet as you possibly can. In this peaceful setting you will be able to view kangaroos, euros, emus, galahs, cockatoos and corellas at close quarters. The best viewing times are early morning and late afternoon. The permanent water also attracts a number of other birds, quite different from those seen at the bird hide. You may wish to take a bird book and binoculars with you. Take precautions against mosquitoes.

How to get there: As for the Bird Hide Walk.

BADJIRRAJIRRA ROUTE LEVEL 1

8 kilometres - 5 hours return

This circular route starts and finishes at the Thomas Carter Lookout carpark. The lookout is 311 metres above sea level and one of the highest points on the cape. It was named after a pioneer pastoralist and noted ornithologist.

The trail is marked with white posts and cairns, and runs from the lookout to the lip of the canyon. Vantage points along the trail offer spectacular views of Exmouth Gulf. As you walk, you will notice how the vegetation alters with the landform patterns. On the top of the range, trees are small and often stunted. Growing conditions are severe, with erratic low rainfall, shallow lime-rich soils that drain rapidly through the limestone, and high summer temperatures. The vegetation consists of spinifex with scattered shrubs of acacias and sennas. Where the spinifex has been damaged by fire or animals, it is slow to regrow, and other more vigorous colonisers take over. Eucalypts are common in the creek lines, where soils are deeper and moisture is more readily retained. Fire-sensitive trees, such as the kurrajong and native fig, can often be seen clinging tentatively to cliff edges. One of the interesting features of the area is the transition of plant species. Some are at their northern-most distribution, while others, from arid areas, are at their southern-most distribution. There are also several species found nowhere else but on the cape.

At the end of the trail you can either return along the same route to the Thomas Carter Lookout, or exit via Shothole Canyon Route Level 1.

How to get there: Access is from Charles Knife Road, 23 km south of Exmouth along the Mimiya-Learmonth Road.

BADJIRRAJIRRA ROUTE TO SHOTHOLE CANYON CARPARK

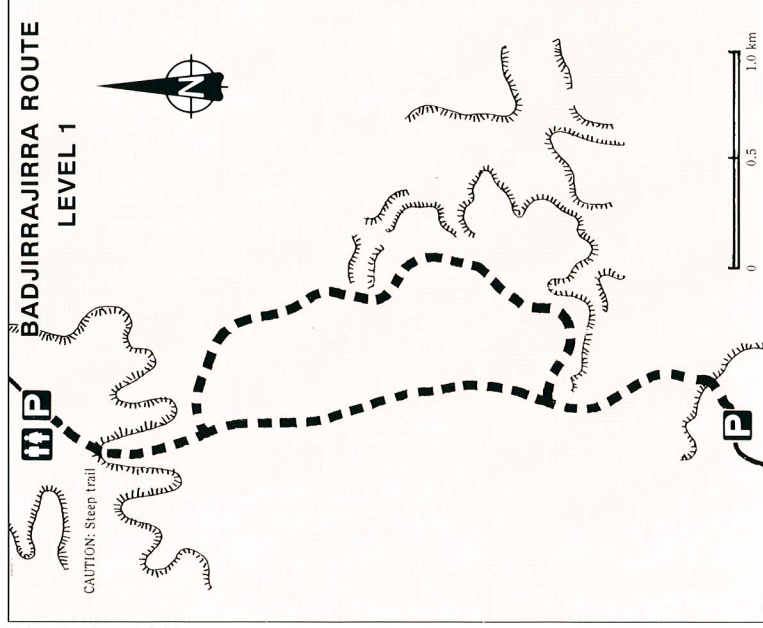
4 kilometres one-way - 2 ½ hours

Follow the Badjirrajirra Route from the Thomas Carter Lookout to the top of Shothole Canyon. From here, negotiate the trail down into the carpark.

WARNING: This trail is extremely steep and very narrow in some places. The gravelly surface can be very slippery underfoot.

PROCEED WITH EXTREME CAUTION

You will need to organise a vehicle to meet you at the Shothole Canyon carpark.



SHOTHOLE CANYON ROUTE LEVEL 1

250 metres - 1 hour return

WARNING: This trail is extremely steep and very narrow in some places. The gravelly surface can be very slippery underfoot.

PROCEED WITH EXTREME CAUTION

The trail takes you from the Shothole Canyon carpark to the lip of the canyon, returning along the same route. The trail up the side of the canyon is steep, climbing 120 metres along the ridge. From vantage points along the trail and from the lip of the canyon, you can see how erosion has shaped the gorges. Although the climate is now very dry, torrential downpours continue the process. Wind erosion also plays a part, eating into the soft layers of the canyon walls, undercutting hard layers above and eventually causing large blocks of material to break off and tumble to the bottom.

How to get there: Access is from the Shothole Canyon Road, 17 km south of Exmouth along the Mimiya-Learmonth Road.

