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HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK

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HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK

The magnificent Hamersley Range National Park of 617,606 ha in area, was declared an "A" Class reserve in October 1969. The park, set in the heart of the Pilbara region, is the second largest national park in the State, exceeded in area only by the Rudall River National Park — several hundred kilometres to the east.

Hamersley Range National Park encompasses spectacular mountains, gorges, watercourses and plateaux. In this ancient area of the Earth's surface, erosion processes have created the landscape out of rocks 2,000 million years old.

Probably the most dramatic features are the gorges in the northern section of the park. Small creeks hidden in the rolling hillsides and dry for most of the year, suddenly plunge into sheer-sided chasms up to 100 metres deep. Further down stream the gorges become wider and their sides change from sheer cliffs to steep scree slopes (loose rock). In most gorges you will find permanent pools of clear fresh water, some are deep, shaded and very cold, while others, exposed to the sun, are very pleasant places to visit BUT BEWARE — wet rocks are slippery.

Prickly hummocks of spinifex grass blanket most of the rolling hills but there are many other characteristic plants. These include a diverse range of trees with white-barked Snappy Gums on the hillsides, giant River Gums and Cajeputs (Northern Paperbarks) in the gorges and Mulga trees throughout, making varied habitats which are rewarding for the bird watcher.

Wildflowers vary in abundance with the seasons and from year to year, but there is always something spectacular in bloom. Many flowering plants in the park bloom in profusion following rains. The cooler months are best when the numerous yellow flowering cassias and acacias, the Northern Bluebells and the purple mulla mullas abound.



DINGO

WILDLIFE



EURO

Birdlife is particularly diverse (see list) but other animals are less often seen. If you seek them out, you may discover Euros (the common kangaroos of the rocky country), the very shy Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, Echidna or at least seven species of bats.

Reptiles such as geckoes, goannas, dragon and legless lizards and pythons haunt the nooks and crannies of the rugged terrain.


Two interesting features are the huge termite nests and the rock piles of the Pebble-mound Mouse (both are common on the walk to the junction of Knox and Red Gorges) PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB THEM.

CLIMATE

The average rainfall for the Park is 250 to 300 mm, most of which occurs in the northern summer (approx. November to April). The days during this time of the year are very hot with temperatures frequently topping 38°C. The ideal time to visit the park is late winter and spring (July - October). Winter days are warm and clear, but cold at night.

FACILITIES

All the main gorges in the north of the park have facilities (see map).

The camping areas are marked on the map thus  and it is required that visitors camp ONLY in these areas.

Good gravel roads lead to all the facilitated sites and most areas have walking paths, barbecues, tables, seats, rubbish bins and bush toilets.

The more popular entrance to the park is, from the Wittenoom/Newman road through Yampire Gorge. As shown on the map overleaf, Hamersley Gorge is quite separate but easily found west of Wittenoom, off the Wittenoom/Tom Price road.

One of the most attractive places to walk in is Kalamina Gorge, which is not very deep, but is picturesque and easily accessible. Easy foot access is available to Dales Gorge at Fortescue Falls and

GOANNA



Weano and Hamersley Gorges. Dales Gorge has attractive pools and a camping area, as does Weano Gorge.

West from the Park Ranger headquarters is the State's second highest peak — Mt. Bruce. Visitors can drive to the foot of the mountain and climb a path to the top (2 hours approximately).

PLEASE NOTE — there is no permanent water in the Range except in the gorges. PLEASE do not use soap in the pools as it kills aquatic life. Also do not throw rocks in the gorges as there may be people below.

The National Park is serviced regularly by Rangers. Should you require additional information or assistance, they will be glad to help you.

PLEASE take particular note of the following points that apply to ALL NATIONAL PARKS in Western Australia.

- 1 Please exercise caution in natural environments — your safety is your responsibility.
- 2 Fire should be confined to the use of portable stoves or the barbecues provided. Open fires are dangerous. Always keep an eye on any fire or stove when it is alight.
- 3 All vehicles are required to remain on approved tracks, as shown on this brochure, or indicated by directional signs. All vehicles in the park are required to be licensed and to comply with the requirements of the Road Traffic Act.
- 4 All native plants and wildlife are protected, and therefore no firearms or domestic animals are permitted in the park, so please, no dogs.

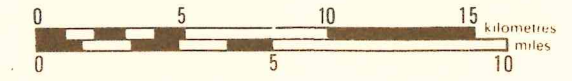
For further information
Regional Superintendent North
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NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 6009

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THE GORGES OF
HAMERSLEY RANGE NATIONAL PARK



The Ranger in Charge P.O. Box 73, WITTENOOM 6752

