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Brief history

Wunambal people have lived in the vicinity of Ngauwudu (Mitchell Plateau) for thousands of years. Wunambal people refer to the creative spirit, Wanjina, as 'Gulingi'.

They believe that 'Gulingi' and 'Wunggurr' (the Rainbow serpent) travelled the land making the earth, seas, mountains, rivers, waterholes and all living things.

The 'Gulingi' and 'Wunggurr' then gave the Wunambal people the land and passed on the law for living in the land. Wunambal people welcome visitors to their country but ask that they respect the land and the Wanjina-Wunggurr law.

Mitchell River National Park was gazetted in 2000 and seeks to protect cultural and natural heritage values of the area.

Caring for country

- Bins are not provided in this park. Take all rubbish out with you and dispose of it correctly.
- Fires are not permitted at any time within the park except at designated sites at Mitchell Falls campground.
- It is an offence to feed native animals or pick wildflowers.
- Pets, shooting and trapping are not permitted in the park.
- To avoid polluting our creeks and rivers, soaps and detergents are not to be used within 10m of any water course.

Emergencies

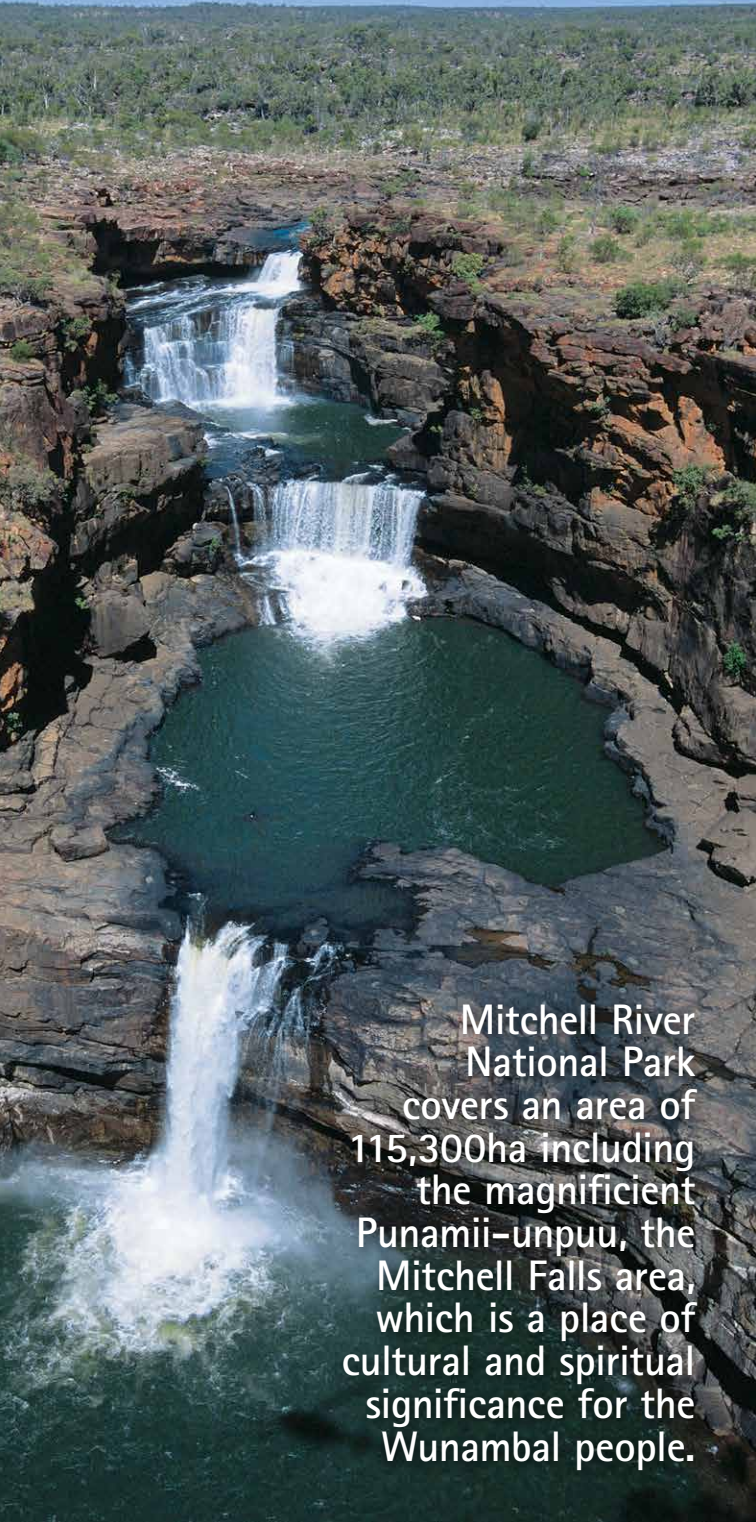
Rangers can be contacted at Mitchell Falls campground, or by UHF radio channel 7.

Walking in the park

Walking is the best way to explore this area and see the falls up close in all their splendour. Trails are defined by their difficulty, and care should be taken due to uneven surfaces, water crossings, cliffs and gorges.

When walking in the park, wear sturdy footwear and a hat, and use sunscreen. Walk with at least two other people and carry plenty of water (4L per person per day). Walking is more pleasant during the morning and late afternoon when it is cooler. For your own safety, please remain on existing trails.

Below Swimming hole at Little Mertens.



Mitchell River National Park covers an area of 115,300ha including the magnificent Punamii-unpuu, the Mitchell Falls area, which is a place of cultural and spiritual significance for the Wunambal people.

Entry Fees

Entry fees apply at Mitchell River National Park.
Non-commercial vehicles (carrying up to eight legally seated people): \$12
Concession: \$6

Camping fees

Punamii-unpuu (Mitchell Falls campground) is the only place to camp within the park.

Camping fees apply: \$10 per adult, \$6.60 per concession card holder and \$2.20 per child per night.

Payment can be made by self registering at the station near the campground. Rangers will monitor if fees have been paid. Fees are subject to change, please contact the Kununurra office on (08) 9168 4200 or visit parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au.

Camping facilities

There are toilet facilities situated around the campground and fire places installed in most camp sites.

There are no showers, although there is a swimming area further downstream near the start of the walk trail. Soaps and detergents are not permitted to be used in the creeks and rivers. There are water taps at all toilet facilities but it is recommended that water is boiled or treated before drinking.

When camping at Punamii-unpuu, please be aware that crows and dingoes may find your food and rubbish bags if they are not secure. They love to rip into plastic garbage bags and will create mayhem at your camp site if you're not diligent.

Campfires

It's preferable to use a portable gas or fuel stove. Dead wood provides a home for many animals, insects and plants and is an important ecological resource. It's imperative firewood is collected before entering the park.

Campfires are only permitted between 4pm and 8am at designated fireplaces. Outside these times, campfires must be extinguished with water only. If you don't require a campfire, please be considerate and choose a site without this facility to enable someone else who does.

Totally extinguish campfires with water and make sure they are safe before departing. On certain days, total fire bans apply.



Front cover Mitchell Falls. Photo – Tourism WA
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This document is available in alternative formats on request.

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Mitchell River National Park



Visitor guide



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Walks

Little Mertens Falls

1.6km – 30 minutes return – Class 3

This 1.6km return walk takes you to Little Mertens Falls. There are stunning views of the plateau from the top of the falls and you can enjoy a swim below the falls.

Allow 15 minutes each way, or you can continue on to Mitchell Falls.

Punamii-unpuu/Mitchell Falls

8.6km – 5 hours return – Class 5

The 7.5km walk from Little Mertens Falls will be the highlight of your stay. Allow 2.5 hours each way.

Take your bathers, camera, drinking water and lunch and enjoy the stunning scenic values this trail has to offer.

Wunambal people know the falls as a powerful place for their Wandjina-Wunggurr law and one of the main homes for the Wunggurr serpent. They ask visitors to show respect, approach the area quietly, and stop for a moment to think about where they are and not to walk down below the falls.

River View Walk

2km – 1.5 hours return – Class 4

This walk is 2km return that finishes at a lookout with a 360 degree view over the Mitchell River and the surrounding woodland of the Mitchell Plateau.

Aunauyu/Surveyors Pool

2km – 1 hours return – Class 4

This is an easy to moderate 2km return walk to small falls and a pool. The pool is surrounded by white bluffs of King Leopold sandstone. Aunauyu is also an important place for the Wunggurr people. The big white rocks found there are said to be the eggs of the snake.

