

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Unremarkable to look at in the heat of summer, this is the area which contains the greatest profusion of flowering plants, and which puts on the most brilliant display in spring.

Few other places in W.A. contain as many species of plant per square kilometre as does Kalbarri National Park, and W.A. has one of the most diverse populations of plants in the world. Many of the plant species in the Park are restricted to the neighbouring area, but nearly all are related to those of south-west W.A. Kalbarri is the furthest north that many of these plants will grow.



ANIMALS

With patience and by careful observation you may encounter some of the shy wildlife. Most mammals are nocturnal, but during the early morning or late afternoon you may see red and western grey kangaroos, rock wallabies, or euros. Emus are often seen on the sandplains, and over 170 other species of bird have been identified in the Park. An information shelter near the ranger's residence will tell you more about the Park.

Feral animals such as goats, pigs and foxes may be seen. Efforts are constantly made to control their numbers.

REMEMBER

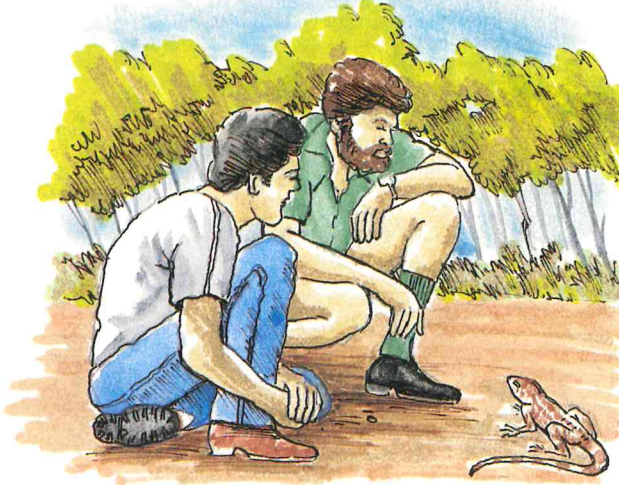
BE CAREFUL: Your enjoyment and safety in natural environments is our concern, but your responsibility.

BE CLEAN: Put your litter in bins, or better still, take it with you.

STAY COOL: Don't light fires. Bring your own portable gas stove.

PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS: Firearms and pets are not permitted in the Park.

STAY ON THE ROAD: Follow signs in the Park, and stay on the roads marked in this brochure. Normal road rules apply. Other tracks in the Park are not open for public use.



FURTHER INFORMATION

National Park Rangers are always glad to help you. Do not hesitate to contact them if you require any information or assistance.

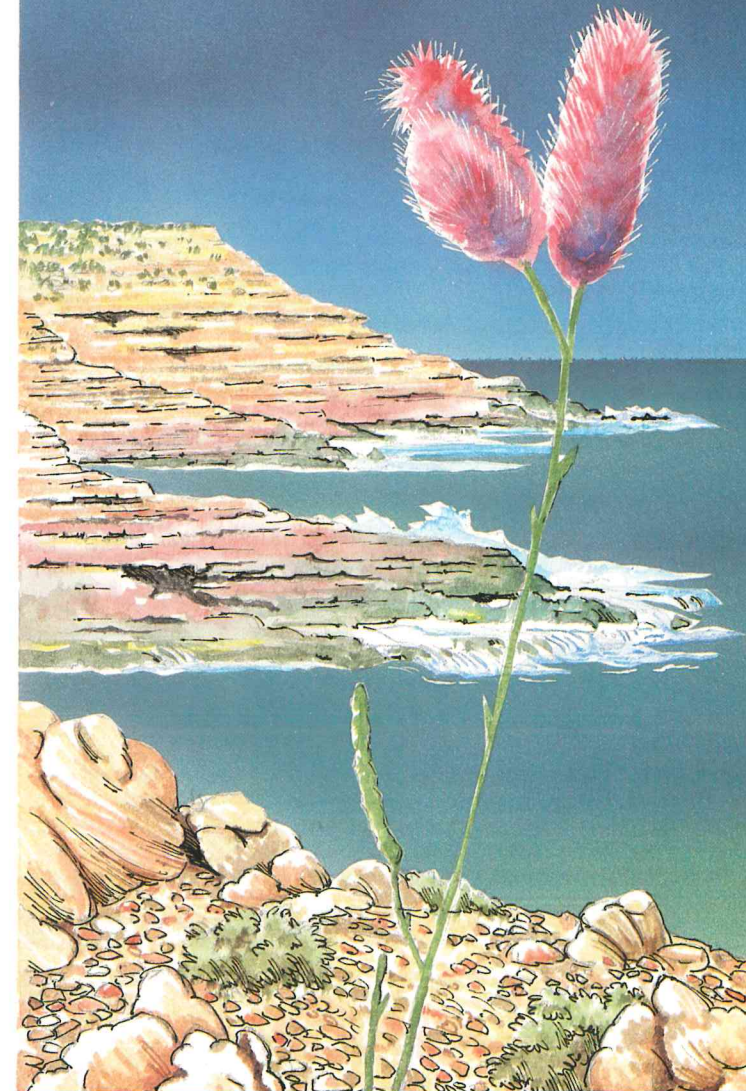
Department of Conservation and Land Management,

P.O. Box 37, Kalbarri, 6532.
Phone (099) 37 1140 Ranger in Charge
(099) 37 1178 or (099) 37 1192 Assistant rangers

Greenough Regional Office,
P.O. Box 72, Geraldton, 6530.
Phone (099) 21 5955

50 Hayman Road, Como, W.A. 6152
(09) 367 0333.
1987

KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT W.A.



Kalbarri National Park covers 186 096 ha of rolling sandplains, gorges cut deep into banded sandstone, and spectacular seacliffs.

Through the centre of the Park runs the course of the Murchison River. The river is usually a series of pools in a dry bed, but seasonal cyclones can cause heavy rain inland, creating a raging muddy torrent that may flood the gorges up to seven metres deep.

The Park is about 590 km north of Perth by sealed road, and embraces the town of Kalbarri on the mouth of the Murchison.

THE WEATHER

The climate is similar to that of Perth, with summer lasting between November and March, and the winter wet from April to August. Most rain falls between June and July. Kalbarri is famed for its wildflowers, and late in July the spring bloom starts, nearly a full month ahead of Perth's season. This is the best time of year to discover the Park and explore the gorges.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The most spectacular features of the Park are the gorges of the Murchison River. The red and banded Tumulagooda sandstone of the gorge walls formed between 400 and 500 million years ago on the tidal flats of an ancient sea. Fossil tracks from marine creatures which lived before the age of vertebrates have been found in the sandstone.

A large part of the Park is coastal sandplain, typical of this part of W.A.'s coastal strip, and a low woodland of banksias and acacias adapted to the heat and aridity covers much of the area.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

CAMPING

Camping is not permitted in the National Park, but excellent facilities are available in the town of Kalbarri nearby.

PICNIC AREAS

Picnic areas equipped with gas BBQs and toilets are situated at several attractive spots along the Murchison Gorge (see map).

BUSHWALKING

Short walktrails lead from most picnic areas down into the gorges. At Mushroom Rock, on the coast, a nature trail has been designed to help you explore an interesting part of this area. A guide brochure is available on site.

If you intend to leave the marked trails and walk the gorges, or back-pack camp, contact the ranger at Kalbarri (see map). There are things you need to find out from him.

Organised parties who wish to hike or canoe overnight down the river gorge should apply in writing to the Greenough Regional Office of CALM at Geraldton.

Because of the hazardous terrain overnight hiking parties must consist of at least five people. This is the smallest group considered self-sufficient in an emergency.

Some interesting long walks are:

- Ross Graham Lookout – The Loop 4 days
- Hawk's Head – Z bend 2 days
- Z Bend – The Loop 2 days. First day hard going
- Round the Loop 6 hours

ROADS

In the Park are passable to all traffic, but are unsealed, and may be rough going in places.

SUPPLIES

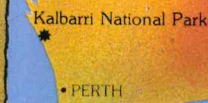
Kalbarri

FISHING

Normal fisheries regulations apply. Many spots on the coast are accessible for shore-fishing. Species caught include tailor, mullet, whiting, spanish mackerel, and bream.

WATER

Always carry your own water. No fresh water is provided in the Park.



LEGEND

Sealed Road	—————
Unsealed Road	—————
Track	- - - - -
Ranger Station	
Picnic Area	
Toilets	
Lookout	
Gas Barbecue	

