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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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**The Loop** Several lookouts and walks around The Loop give different perspectives on the switchback course of the Murchison River. Nature's Window is a natural rock arch that frames the upstream view, a 400-m walk from the carpark. **Z Bend** It is a moderately easy 500-m walk to the rock lookout that overlooks the Murchison. Visitors should take extreme care in this gorge risk area.

**Hawks Head** Enjoy gorge views from the sheltered picnic area or follow the short path to the lookout above the river. **Ross Graham** This site provides the easiest place in the park to access the river, with a short walk to the tranquility of the shaded river's edge.

## River gorges

**Cliff risk** The edges of the cliffs and gorges are unstable and undercut. Stay clear of cliff edges and overhangs. Keep to the paths, lookouts and trails. Wear sturdy footwear.

**Waves risk** Massive wave surges have claimed lives. Keep well clear of the water's edge near coastal cliffs.

**Drinking water** is not available in the park so always carry your own supply.

Three litres per person per day. Walk in the cooler times of the day and loose protective clothes, and carry plenty of water. Allow

extremely hot, particularly in the river gorge. Wear a hat

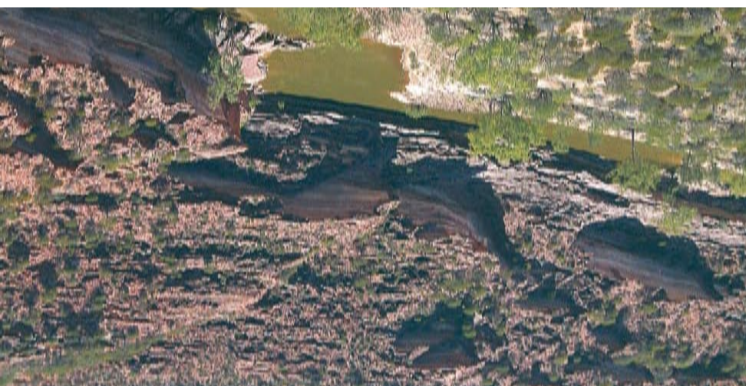
Heat stroke can kill Summer temperatures are

beyond that, walkers need to be prepared and very aware of the natural hazards and their safety.

Easy access is provided to many stunning lookouts but

## Comfort and safety

Above The Murchison River Gorge. Photo - CALM



## Coastal cliffs

**Red Bluff** View the notoriously rugged Zuytdorp Cliffs to the north, which extend more than 200 km to Shark Bay.

**Mushroom Rock** See how the natural forces of wind, water and even worms have created weird and delicate shapes.

**Rainbow Valley** Sands and silts containing an assortment of minerals have layered, compacted and weathered to form this spectrum in stone.

**Pot Alley** The view south from the carpark truly captures the splendour and beauty of this coast. Rock steps lead to the secluded beach below.

**Eagle Gorge** Enjoy the panorama from the crest or wander down into the tranquil depths of the gorge, where you will discover a delightful beach.

**Shellhouse and Grandstand** The continual pounding of the Indian Ocean claims massive chunks of this soft limestone coast, leaving remnant cliff formations.

**Island Rock** The resilient Island Rock was once part of the shoreline, but now stands as a solitary 'sea stack'.

**Natural Bridge and Castle Cove** As the coastline slowly yields to the force of the ocean, the fracturing and decaying of the cliffs has created interesting erosional rock formations. Spectacular views can be enjoyed from the safety of lookout platforms.

Below Island Rock. Photo - CALM



There are no camping areas in the national park, but the township offers a full range of accommodation, shops, fuel outlets, entertainment and services, including a medical centre, police station, post office and banking facilities. A range of local tours is available, including scenic flights, guided safaris, abseiling, river gorge canoeing, boat charters and cruises. Contact the Kalbarri Visitor Centre for information and bookings.

Toilets and picnic facilities are provided within the national park, at places shown on the map.

## Services and facilities

the national park.

Located at the mouth of the Murchison River, the charming township of Kalbarri provides the tourist base for visitors to

park.

The cooler months are the most comfortable for exploring the famous for its wildflowers, which begin to bloom after July.

often dry and windy. Winter temperatures range from 10°C to 20°C and most rain falls during June and July. Kalbarri is

Summer temperatures may reach 40°C and the weather is commercial aircraft and coaches.

Kalbarri is about 590 km north of Perth and is serviced by

Bend remain unsealed but are suitable for all traffic.

The roads to the township and the park's coastal sites are sealed. The roads to the river gorge sites at Hawks Head and

## Planning your visit

## Caring for country

The Nanda Aboriginal People welcome visitors who respect the park's cultural and natural heritage.

## Caring for the park

**Stay cool** Don't light fires. Free gas barbecues are available at some picnic areas and visitors may use their own gas appliances anywhere in the park.

**Be clean** Put your litter in bins or take it with you. Discarded scraps attract feral pigs and goats, which destroy the habitats of native animals.

**Pets** are not allowed in Kalbarri National Park. They can disturb wildlife and are also at risk of poisoning from fox baits which are laid throughout the park as part of CALM's Western Shield wildlife recovery program.

**Visitor fees** Thank you—your fee will help protect the park and improve its facilities. Day passes can be purchased at park registration stations on the river gorge roads. Four-week and annual passes are available at CALM offices and visitor centres.

## Further information

Department of Conservation and Land Management officers will gladly help if you require information or assistance.

### Kalbarri National Park

Ajana-Kalbarri Road  
Kalbarri WA 6536  
Telephone (08) 9937 1140 Fax (08) 9937 1437

### Kalbarri Visitor Centre

Grey Street  
Kalbarri WA 6536  
Telephone (08) 9937 1104 Free call 1800 639 468

### CALM Midwest Regional Office

First floor, The Foreshore Centre  
201 Foreshore Drive  
Geraldton WA 6530  
Telephone (08) 9921 5955

### CALM Headquarters

17 Dick Perry Avenue  
Kensington WA 6151  
Telephone (08) 9334 0333

Visit NatureBase at [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)

Front cover The Z Bend, Kalbarri National Park. Photo - CALM



Far right The Loop lookout. This is the start of the trail to Nature's Window. Photos - CALM

Right Red Bluff.

Along the coast, the tireless processes of erosion have fashioned bewildering formations from the soaring sea cliffs. The colourful coastal views are breathtaking.

These gorges meander 80 km through the 186,000-ha park. red and white banded gorges have been cut by the flow. As the Murchison River carves its way to the sea, magnificent

formation is called the Tumbliagooda Sandstone. 400 million years ago. The resultant sedimentary rock bands of multicoloured sands that were deposited in layers this countryside, the geology consists of deep, horizontal of many millions of years of geological formation. Beneath the spectacular scenery of Kalbarri National Park is the result

## Dramatic landscapes

the reintroduction and protection of threatened species. Marvel at nature's ability to carve the landscape. Explore the depths and heights of the river gorges and sea cliffs. Admire the floral beauty of the vast, rolling sandplains. Learn about

The many and varied features of Kalbarri National Park provide visitors with an array of things to see and do.

## Kalbarri National Park

Above Eagle Gorge. Photo - CALM



# Kalbarri National Park



## Information and walk trail guide



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## Bushwalking

Signs mark short walks from the carparks to the best view points. Longer hikes are more difficult and include the following:

### Mushroom Rock Nature Trail

Allow one to two hours to explore this three-km return loop walk linking Mushroom Rock and Rainbow Valley. Trailside signs explain some of the botanical and geological features of the area.

### Coastal Cliffs Trail

An eight-km three hour hike from Eagle Gorge to Natural Bridge. Moderate to easy with some loose and uneven surfaces.

### Loop Walk Trail

This eight-km three to four-hour hike begins and ends at Nature's Window at The Loop. The difficulty is moderate with steep sections and uneven surfaces. Parts of the track are unmarked because of changing river levels.

### River Gorge hikes

Allow four days of strenuous hiking to cover the 38-km route through the gorge from Ross Graham Lookout to The Loop. There are no marked trails and river crossings will be necessary.

Two-day gorge hikes may be made from Ross Graham Lookout to Z Bend or from Z Bend to The Loop.

Further information should be obtained from the park headquarters before making the trip.

**Right** The terrain of the Murchison Gorge.

**Above right** The Murchison rose.

**Above far right** Kalbarri feather flowers.  
Photos - CALM



## PLEASE NOTE

- Due to the hazardous terrain, groups undertaking long hikes should consist of at least five experienced people. This is the smallest group considered self-sufficient in an emergency.
- Overnight groups must register at the park headquarters before making the trip.
- All rubbish must be carried out of the gorge.

## Rafting and canoeing

**DANGER** Soon after heavy rains, the Murchison River becomes deep enough to navigate. Only the experienced and well-equipped should attempt this hazardous journey and park rangers should be contacted for advice about making this trip.

## Warning!

**DANGER** **Heat stroke can kill.** During summer it is much hotter inland than it is on the coast. Please remember to wear a hat and sturdy footwear. Carry plenty of water—at least three litres per person per day.

Avoid the heat of the midday sun and hike during the cool of the morning or late afternoon.

