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PURNULULU NATIONAL PARK

The Bungle Bungle Range is renowned for its striking sandstone domes striped with orange and grey bands. The sandstone and conglomerate forming the range were deposited about 360 million years ago in the Devonian period. Erosion by creeks and rivers in the last 20 million years has carved out spectacular gorges and surreal landscapes. The banding of the domes is due to differences in clay content and porosity of the sandstone layers. The dark grey banding on the domes is cyanobacteria (formerly known as 'blue-green algae'), which grows on layers where moisture accumulates. The orange bands are due to the colour of oxidised iron compounds in layers that dry out too quickly for the cyanobacteria to grow.

Purnululu is the name given to the sandstone area of the Bungle Bungle Range by the Kija Aboriginal people. *Bungle Bungle* is thought to be a corruption of this name or that of the bundle grass found in the Kimberley. The 239,723 hectare national park and adjoining 79,602 hectare conservation reserve were declared in 1987.

Where is it?

It is 160 kilometres south of Kununurra and 100 kilometres north-east of Halls Creek by air. Vehicle access from the Great Northern Highway is signposted 250 kilometres south of Kununurra or 109 kilometres north of Halls Creek. From the highway the 53 kilometre Spring Creek

Track leads to the visitor centre and ranger station in the park. Spring Creek Track is suitable only for 4WDs with good clearance and off-road trailers. Caravans won't survive the trip in.

Travelling times

It is five hours from Kununurra and four hours from Halls Creek. Please stay on designated tracks, engage 4WD at all times and observe the 50 kilometre per hour speed limit in the park.

Park closure

There is no vehicle access to the park during the wet season from January 1 to March 31. At this time roads and tracks may be impassable and are extremely susceptible to damage from vehicle use. Unseasonal rains may also result in temporary closure of the park at other times. Contact the Kununurra office for information about aerial access for day trips and remote camping and walking during the wet season

Facilities

- ❖ Toilets, water, walk trails.
- ❖ Pay phone (card only) at visitor centre.
- ❖ A shop at the visitor centre sells cool drinks, books and souvenirs. Check with rangers for shop opening hours.
- ❖ Food, fuel and mechanical services are not available in the park.



Camping

Camping areas at Kurrajong and Walardi have toilets, water, and firewood. It is advisable to boil or treat water before drinking. Fires may be lit only in the fireplaces provided. Fire bans apply on days of very high and extreme fire danger, so gas stoves are recommended for cooking. Portable generators can be used in the designated areas. Please take away whatever you bring in as there is no rubbish collection facility.

Camping is permitted only at the established camping areas in the park. Bellburn camping area has been set aside for licensed fly/drive operators. Camping along Spring Creek Track on Mabel Downs Station is not permitted.

Fees

There is an entry fee of \$9 per vehicle (\$3 for Seniors/Aged Pension card holders) or \$3 per motorcycle. Camping fees are \$9 per person per night (\$2 for children under 16). Register and pay at the visitor centre. Department of Conservation and Land Management Park Passes do not cover camping fees. Pets are not allowed in the park.

Rangers

Rangers may be contacted at the park's visitor centre. Although on duty most of the year, they are absent from January 1 to March 31.

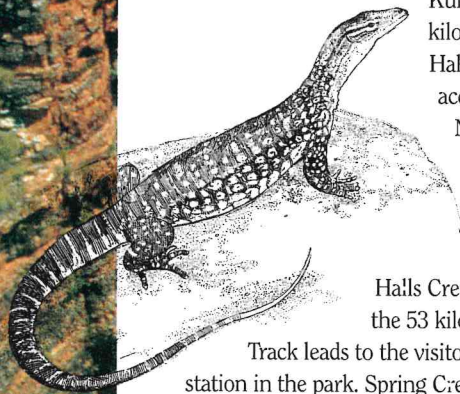
Nearest Department of Conservation and Land Management office

Kimberley Regional Office,
Messmate Way,
PO Box 942

Kununurra, WA 6743.

Phone (08) 9168 4200 or (08) 9168 7300

Office Hours: 8am to 4.30pm



What to do

Camping, sightseeing, walking (access to gorges is only along creek beds; climbing the domes is not permitted) photography, nature observation, scenic helicopter flights (bookings at airstrip or phone 9168 7335 from the visitor centre). Visitor activities such as slide nights are held periodically. Check with staff for details.

Echidna Chasm walk trail

An easy to moderate two kilometre return walk through a narrow chasm with some large boulders to be scrambled over.

This takes between one and two hours for the return walk.

Frog Hole walk trail

This moderate to hard 1.4 kilometres return walk leads to a small seasonal pool at the base of the range, taking between one and two hours for the return walk.

Mini Palms walk trail

A 5 kilometre return walk leading to a scenic amphitheatre with many young palms. Easy at the start but progressively becomes more difficult. Allow approximately three hours return.

Walanginjddji lookout

This easy 500 kilometre return walk provides panoramic views of the western side of the Bungle Bungle Range. Allow approximately 30 minutes to walk.

Cathedral Gorge walk trail

An easy to moderate two kilometre return walk from the Piccaninny Gorge carpark to a spectacular gorge. There are rock ledges to be negotiated. Allow one to two hours for the walk.

Domes walk trail

A short, easy one kilometre circuit walk amongst the domes beginning at Piccaninny Gorge carpark.

Piccaninny Gorge walk trail

A moderate to difficult 30 kilometre return walk requiring overnight camping.

Bushwalkers planning to camp overnight must register at the visitor centre before setting out and on their return.

Please sign on return to avoid unnecessary searches. Carry plenty of water as water supplies in the gorge are unreliable.

Carry a fuel stove for cooking as campfires are not permitted.

