

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## BUSHWALKING

Signs mark short walks from the car parks 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 circular walk linking Mushroom Rock and Rainbow Valley. Trailside signs explain some of the botanical and geological features of the area.

### LOOP WALK TRAIL

This three to four-hour walk begins and ends at Nature's Window at The Loop. The distance is eight kilometres and the difficulty level is moderate.

### RIVER GORGE HIKES

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

Short 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 Office before making the trip.

### 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 Office before making the trip.
- ❖ All rubbish must be carried out of the gorge.

### RAFTING AND CANOEING

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.

## CARING FOR KALBARRI

### 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.

### PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS

Firearms and pets are not permitted in the park.

### VISITOR FEES

Thank you—your fee will help protect the park and improve its facilities. Fees can be paid at the park registration station on the road to The Loop and Z Bend. Some fee exemptions apply.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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

### Kalbarri National Park

PO Box 37 Kalbarri  
Western Australia 6536  
Telephone (08) 9937 1140  
Fax (08) 9937 1437

Ranger in Charge (08) 9937 1192  
Assistant Ranger in Charge (08) 9937 1178

### Midwest Regional Office

Department of Conservation and Land Management  
PO Box 72  
Geraldton  
Western Australia 6530  
Telephone (08) 9921 5955

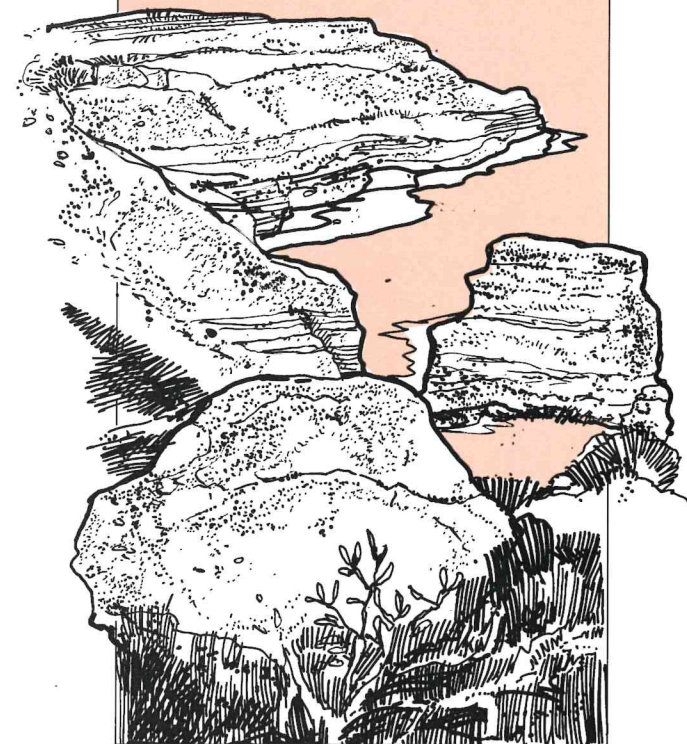
### State Headquarters

Department of Conservation and Land Management  
Locked Bag 104  
Bentley Delivery Centre  
Western Australia 6983

Visit NatureBase at <http://www.naturebase.net>

# KALBARRI

## National Park





## KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK

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

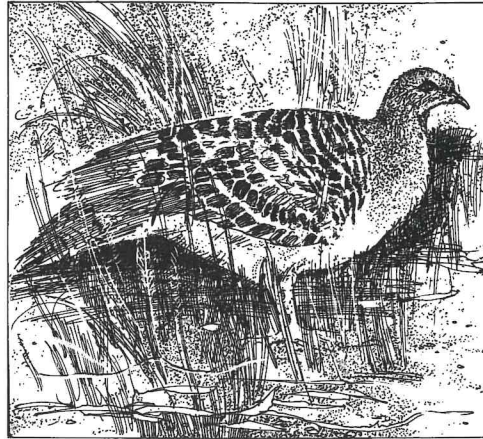
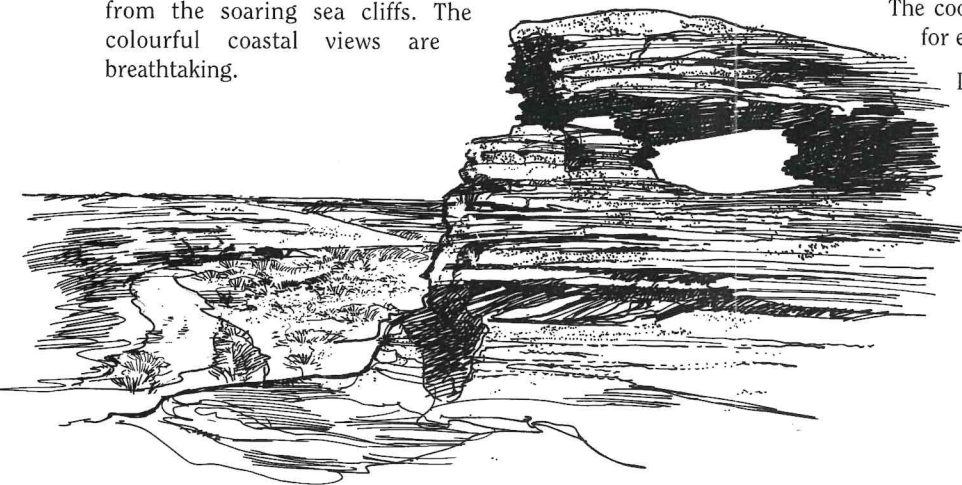
Marvel at nature's ability to carve the landscape. Explore the depths and heights of the river gorges and sea cliffs. Admire the floral beauty of the vast, rolling sandplains. Discover the intriguing cultural history of the area.

## DRAMATIC LANDSCAPES

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

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

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



Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)

## PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Kalbarri is about 590 kilometres north of Perth and is serviced by commercial aircraft and coaches. The roads to the township and the Park's coastal sites are sealed. Park roads to the inland river gorges are unsealed, but are suitable for all traffic.

Summer temperatures may reach 40°C and the weather is often dry and windy. Winter temperatures range from 10°C to 20°C and most rain falls during June and July. Kalbarri is famous for its wildflowers, which begin to bloom after July.

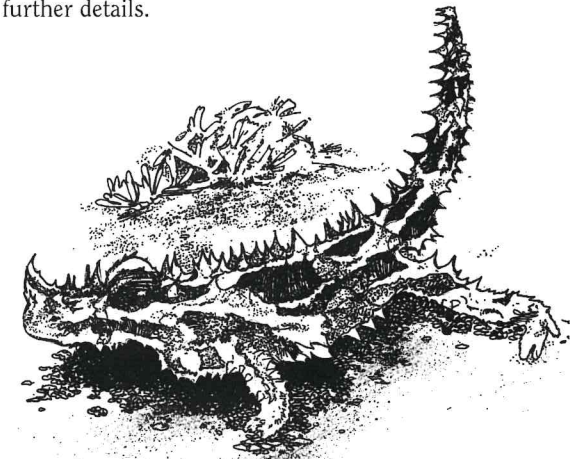
The cooler months are the most comfortable for exploring the park.

Located at the mouth of the Murchison River is the charming township of Kalbarri, which supports a thriving fishing industry and provides the tourist base for visitors to the national park.

## SERVICES AND FACILITIES

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

There are no camping areas in the national park, but a full range of accommodation is available in the township. Kalbarri also offers a selection of shops, fuel outlets, entertainments and services, including a bush nursing post, medical centre, police station, post office and banking facilities. Park tours and other visitor activities operate from the town. Accommodation and tourist agencies can be contacted for bookings and further details.



Thorny devil (*Moloch horridus*)

## COMFORT AND SAFETY



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



**COAST RISK AREA** Massive freak waves have claimed lives. Keep well clear of the water's edge.



**CLIFF RISK AREA** Stay clear of cliff edges and overhangs. Keep to the paths, use lookouts where provided and wear sturdy footwear.



**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.

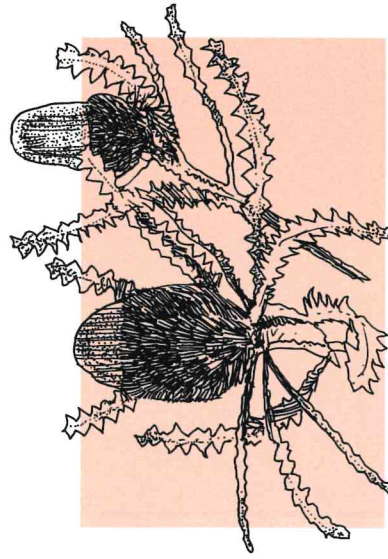
**SHELLHOUSE AND GRANDSTAND** – The continual pounding of the Indian Ocean claims massive chunks of this soft limestone coast, leaving remnant cliff formations.

**RED BLUFF** – The notoriously rugged coastal cliffs to the north extend more than 200 kilometres to Shark Bay.

**MUSHROOM ROCK** – See how the natural forces of wind, water and even worms have created weird yet delicate shapes.

**RAINBOW VALLEY** – Sands and silts containing an assortment of minerals have layered, compacted and weathered to form this spectrum in stone. Rainbows may be seen in the sea mist.

**POT ALLEY** – The view south from the carpark truly captures the splendour and beauty of this coast.



Woolly orange banksia (*Banksia victoriae*)

## RIVER GORGES

**THE LOOP** – Several lookouts are positioned around The Loop to give different perspectives on the switchback course of the Murchison River. Nature's Window is a natural rock arch that superbly frames the upstream view, a moderately easy 400-metre walk from the carpark.

**Z BEND** – It is a moderately easy 500-metre walk to the rock lookout that overhangs the Murchison. Visitors should take extreme care in this gorge risk area.

**HAWKS HEAD** – Enjoy the majestic gorge view from the picnic area.

**ROSS GRAHAM LOOKOUT** – This gorge is relatively shallow and it is an easy wander down to the river pools.

