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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## Dales Recreation Area

Karijini National Park offers a variety of walk trails that are classified according to Australian standards. Please select those that suit your level of ability. Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility.

### Visitor safety

**Warning!** Flash floods can occur. Do not enter the gorges if there is significant rain in the area. If you are already in the gorges, leave promptly.

- Be prepared. Wear sturdy walking shoes to get in and out of the gorges. Before walking through water change your shoes to those that can grip slippery wet rocks.
- Take enough water to keep you hydrated.
- Keep your gear on your back and keep your hands free.
- Stay on established trails and stand well back from cliff edges.
- Take care in the gorges. Rocks are smooth and slippery, particularly when wet.
- Walk with a companion. Do not enter these gorges after sunset. You cannot follow these trails in the dark.
- Water in the gorges can be very cold, especially between April and September, and hypothermia can occur. During this time, the middle of the day is the best time to walk.
- Do not dive or jump into water.
- Do not take glass or alcohol into the gorges.

### From the Fortescue Falls carpark, access the following trails:



#### Fortescue Falls viewing area

Class 2 – 150m – 15 minutes return

From the car park, follow the signposted track to the Fortescue Falls viewing area, where you can see one of very few permanent waterfalls in the park. There are a few small steps as you approach the viewing area.



#### Fortescue Falls

Class 3 – 800m – 1 hour return

From the viewing area, take the steps to Fortescue Falls. Some bushwalking experience is recommended.



#### Fern Pool

Class 4 – 300m – 30 minutes return

From Fortescue Falls walk upstream along the gorge floor, leading to Fern Pool. Bushwalking experience is recommended.



#### Dales Gorge

Class 4 – 2km – 3 hours return

This trail links one end of the gorge to the other. Experienced bushwalkers can observe gorge environments up close as they negotiate the bottom of the gorge. The trail is rough with obstacles and steep in sections. There is limited signage. Walkers will be required to cross from one side of the gorge to the other. Return the same way, or take the Circular Pool trail and return to Fortescue Falls along the Gorge Rim track.



#### Gorge Rim

Class 3 – 2km – 1.5 hours return

Begin the Gorge Rim track from the Fortescue Falls viewing area, or from the Circular Pool lookout. A vehicle can meet walkers

at the other end or walkers can follow the trail back again. The formed trail is signposted and some bushwalking experience is recommended. There are short steep sections and occasional steps. Enjoy wonderful views into Dales Gorge. Interesting plants grow along the rim, many unique to the Pilbara.

### From the Dales picnic area carpark, access the following trails:



#### Circular Pool lookout

Class 2 – 150m – 15 minutes return

A flat, formed trail leads from the car park to the trailhead sign. The short walk showcases gorge-top vegetation. The lookout offers spectacular views down into Circular Pool. Water from the gorge walls seeps into the pool and maidenhair ferns flourish in the shade.



#### Gorge Rim

Class 3 – 2km – 1.5 hours return

Please refer to previous notes for details.



#### Circular Pool

Class 4 – 800m – 2 hours return

A steep, rough trail descends into the gorge from near Three Ways Lookout. This trail is for experienced bushwalkers. There is limited signage and many obstacles. Walkers need to use a small ladder to make their way to the gorge bottom. From here, turn left and follow the gorge into Circular Pool.

### Leave No Trace

**Plan ahead and prepare.** Carry sufficient drinking water at all times. Wear suitable shoes.



**Travel and camp on durable surfaces.** To protect the park, drive, walk and camp only on designated roads, tracks and camping areas. Wet roads can be hazardous and may be damaged by vehicles. Washouts can occur during heavy rain, resulting in road closures at short notice. Check travel conditions with Parks and Wildlife Service on (08) 9182 2000 or the Shire of Ashburton on (08) 9188 4444.

**Dispose of waste properly.** Go to the toilet before entering the gorges. Carry a rubbish bag and leave nothing but your footprints.

**Leave what you find.** This area is home to many species. Respect this unique environment and leave it as you found it.

**Minimise campfire impacts.** Ground fires and solid fuel fires are not permitted. Use the gas barbecues provided, or your own portable cooking appliance.

**Respect wildlife.** Do not disturb any animals. Do not contaminate pools with soap, detergents or sunscreen, as they can impact aquatic life. Pets and firearms are not permitted.

### Contact information

Karijini National Park Visitor Centre  
Ph: (08) 9189 8121 Email: karijini-national-park@dbca.wa.gov.au  
Ranger (emergency only) Ph: (08) 9189 8147

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
Parks and Wildlife Service, Pilbara Regional Office  
Mardie Rd, Karratha Industrial Estate. Ph: (08) 9182 2000

### dbca.wa.gov.au


This information is available in alternative formats on request. Information current at February 2019. Photos – DBCA and Tourism WA


# Karijini National Park


## Key to symbols

 Lookout	 Parking
 Information	 Sheltered picnic table
 Toilets	 Gas BBQ
 Campground hosts (seasonal)	 Camping
 Sealed road  Unsealed road	


## Walk trail classifications

 **Class 2** These walks are well defined with some steps and generally gradients are gentle.

 **Class 3** These trails are defined and may include steps; loose surfaces; uneven ground; and short, steep sections.

 **Class 4** These trails are moderately difficult and over variable surfaces – they require a good level of fitness. Expect steep gradients and natural obstacles including rocks and shallow pools.

## Safety information

 **DANGER** Change in trail classification. Make sure you meet criteria.

