

# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

## Caring for the park and your safety

**Plan ahead and prepare** – your safety is our concern but your responsibility. Always carry ample drinking water.



**No camping in the park** – camping is available at the nearby Mount Augustus Tourist Park.

**Hiking trails** – stay on the marked trails.

**Dispose of waste properly** – please take your rubbish out of the park when you leave.

**Leave what you find** – such as rocks, plants and other natural objects.

**No campfires** – fires are not permitted in the park.

**Respect wildlife** – do not disturb animals and plants.

No firearms or pets are permitted in the park.

**Be considerate of your hosts and other visitors** –

Petroglyph sites in the park are culturally significant to the Wajarri people. Please enjoy the privilege of visiting these sites and treat them with respect.

## Visitor information

### Access

Mount Augustus is 465km from Carnarvon via Gascoyne Junction and 345km from Meekatharra. Roads are gravel but suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. Roads are often closed after rainfall. Seek advice from the local shires.

Carry extra fuel, water and supplies in case of unforeseen events/delays.

Always stay on signposted tracks and stay with your vehicle if you break down.

### Overnight

Mount Augustus Tourist Park provides accommodation, powered caravan sites, camping facilities, food items (no prepared meals), barbecue area and fuel.

Ph: (08) 9943 0527

[mtaugustustouristpark@skymesh.com.au](mailto:mtaugustustouristpark@skymesh.com.au)

[mtaugustustouristpark.com](http://mtaugustustouristpark.com)

*Note: this is a privately operated business.*



Above Hikers admiring the view from the Summit Trail.  
Photo – Sue Hancock/DBCA

## More information

Visitor information is available at the Mount Augustus Tourist Park shop.

**Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
Parks and Wildlife Service  
Gascoyne District**

Knight Terrace, Denham WA 6537

Phone: (08) 9948 2226

**Shire of Upper Gascoyne** Ph: (08) 9943 0988

**Shire of Meekatharra** Ph: (08) 9981 1002



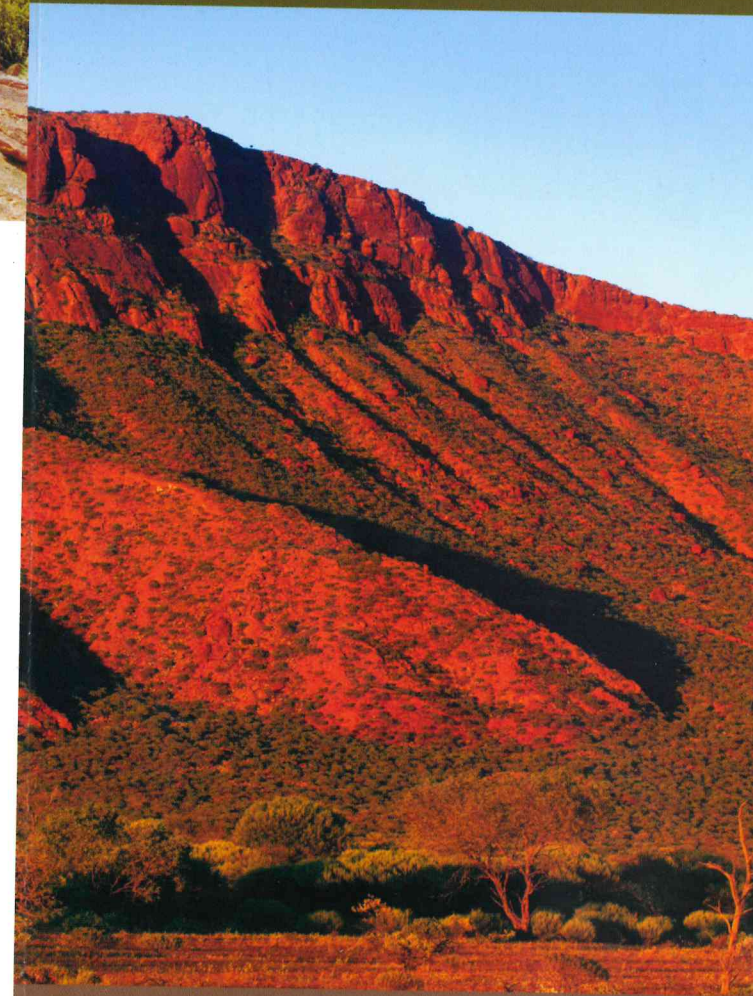
**Save the  
app that  
could save  
your life**



[emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au](http://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au)

Download the free Emergency+ app before your visit which can be used in the event of any emergency to call for assistance. If there is no mobile phone coverage you **WILL NOT** be able to call 000 but the app will provide you with GPS location details.

# Mount Augustus National Park Burringurrah



Visitor guide



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



Front cover Mount Augustus National Park. Photo – Janine Guenther

Information current as at September 2021.

This publication is available in alternative formats on request.

**RECYCLE** Please return unwanted brochures to distribution points





Above View from Goordgeela Lookout. Photo – Scott Godley/DBCA

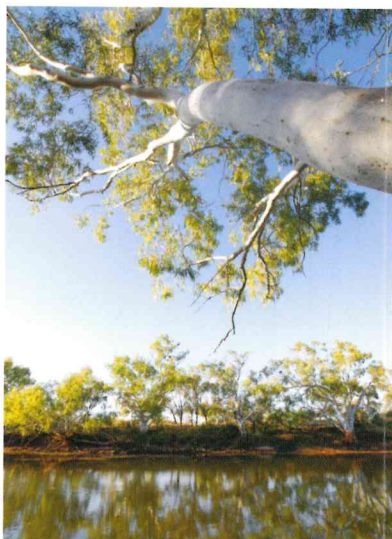
## Mount Augustus National Park

Mount Augustus is an 'inselberg', meaning 'island mountain', which rises 715m out of the surrounding alluvial plain. Arid shrubland dominated by wattles, cassias and eremophilas covers the inselberg and the surrounding plain.

Take the 49-kilometre drive around Mount Augustus to access the seven day-use sites. You will encounter rocky creeks, gorges, open plains, Aboriginal rock engravings (petroglyphs) and encounter a variety of wildlife.

Groves of white-barked river gums indicate water seepage - so precious to the local ecology. Mulga, gidgee and other wattles are dispersed across the plain. Likewise for spinifex pigeons, crimson chats, mulga parrots, babblers, emus and bustards (or wild turkey) - often found foraging for food resources. Bungarras (goannas) and red kangaroos are common on the plain, while euros and birds of prey are found closer to the inselberg.

At Cattle Pool on the Lyons River, a tributary of the Gascoyne River, permanent pools attract waterbirds such as black cormorants, ibis, heron, and a variety of ducks. In the trees are blue-winged kookaburras, sacred kingfishers and corellas.



Right Cattle Pool. Photo – Tourism WA

Far right Geological giant - Mount Augustus in the morning light. Photo – Tourism WA

## Aboriginal history

Mount Augustus and surrounds are the traditional lands of the Wajarri people. Burringurrah is the Wajarri name for Mount Augustus.

In times of plenty, the Wajarri people would roam over a wide area of the Gascoyne. In times of drought, they would return to areas where water was available, such as the natural springs along the base of Mount Augustus. Aboriginal occupation is evident by engravings on rock walls at Mundee, Ooramboo and Beedobooundu visitor sites, and by numerous stone tools discovered in these areas. Burringurrah continues to be a significant site for the Wajarri people.



Above Mount Augustus foxglove and jewel beetle. Above right Wedge-tailed eagle. Photos - Janine Guenther

Burringurrah was undergoing his initiation into manhood. The rigours of this process so distressed him that he ran away, thereby breaking Aboriginal law. Tribesmen pursued the boy, finally catching up with him and spearing him in the upper right leg as his punishment. Burringurrah fell to the ground; the spearhead broke from its shaft and protruded from his leg. The boy tried to crawl away but was hit with a mulgurrah (fighting stick).

Burringurrah collapsed and died, lying on his belly with his left leg bent up beside his body. You can see his final resting pose when you approach Mount Augustus from the south. The geological fracture lines at the western end of the inselberg indicate the wounds inflicted by the mulgurrah. Look for the spear stump in his leg that today is called Edney's Lookout.



Above Edney's Spring. Photo – DBCA

## Geology

Mount Augustus is an asymmetrical anticline (rock layers that have been folded into an arch-like structure), which is steeper on its north-eastern side than the south-west.

The rocks consist of sand and gravel deposited by an ancient, south-easterly flowing river system that drained the region about 1600 million years ago. This river system flowed over a faulted and eroded surface of 1800–1620 million-year-old granitic and metamorphic rocks. The river deposits consolidated to form sandstone and conglomerate, and were then buried beneath younger marine sediments, which were laid down when shallow seas covered the region between 1600–1070 million years ago.

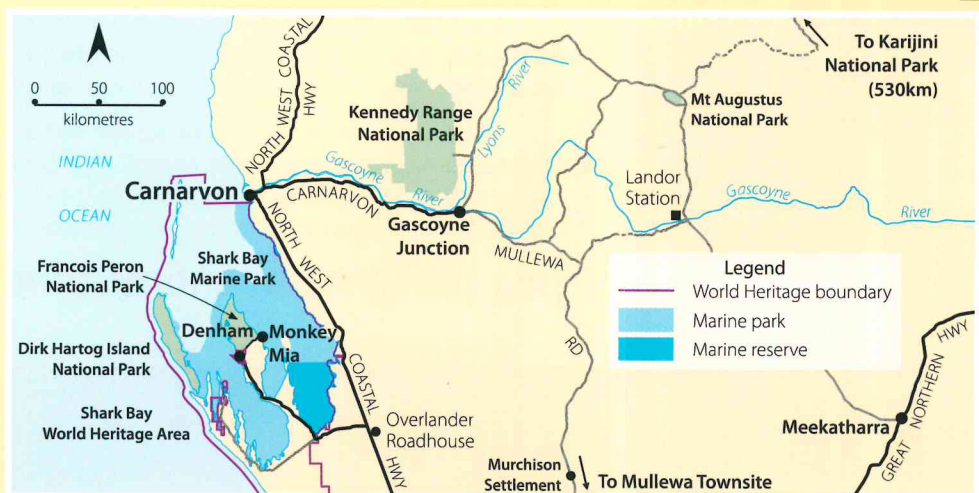
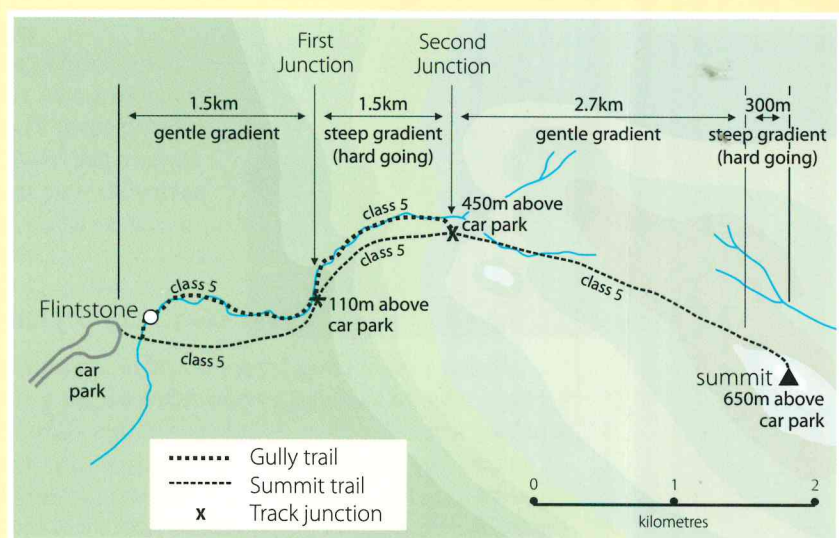
The rocks were buckled into their present-day structure about 900 million years ago when movement along faults in the underlying granitic and metamorphic rocks caused localised, strong, north-east directed compression.

The marine sedimentary rocks that overlay the sandstone and conglomerate have since been eroded from Mount Augustus, but now form the hills around Cobra and Mount Augustus homesteads. Erosion has also removed sandstone and conglomerate from the north-western end of Mount Augustus to expose the underlying granitic rocks at The Pound.

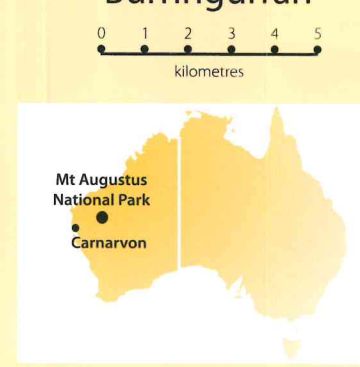




Enlargement of summit trail with shaded areas showing variation in contours in greater detail



### Mount Augustus National Park Burringurrah



Legend			
	National park		Hiking trail
	Sealed road		Information
	Unsealed road		Picnic tables
	Walk trail		Scenic vistas
	Accommodation		Store supplies
	Camping		Telephone
	Caravan park		Toilets
	Fuel station		

**DANGER** Advice to hikers - Take care on escarpment slopes and cliff edges as the rock surface can be crumbly and unstable. Heat stroke can kill. Temperatures are extremely high from Sept to April. To minimise the risk of dehydration, carry and drink 3-4 litres of water per person per day. Walk in the cooler times of the day. There is no drinking water in the national park.

## Hiking in Mount Augustus National Park

From the climb to the summit to short hikes visiting Aboriginal artwork, there are a wide variety of trails to choose from. All trails in the park are essentially unmodified with only basic marking. Walkers should read the accompanying information on each trail, and take particular note of the difficulty rating.

These walk trails have been graded in difficulty according to *Australian Standards for Walking Tracks*. The following three classes apply to the walks described here.

- Class 3** Users require a moderate level of fitness. Trails may be slightly modified, and can include unstable surfaces.
- Class 4** Trails are in relatively undisturbed environments and are often rough with few, if any, modifications. A moderate to high level of fitness is required. Users should be prepared and self-reliant. Weather can affect safety.
- Class 5** Mostly indistinct trails through undisturbed natural environments. Terrain is rough. A high level of fitness is required. Users must be prepared and self-reliant. Weather can affect safety.

### CAUTION

- Avoid hiking in hot weather** – the best months are May to August. Radiant heat from the rocky terrain increases temperature by 5-10 degrees Celsius.
- Hike during the coolest times of day.**
- Physical fitness** – match your fitness to the requirements of the trail class.
- Drink water regularly** – carry and drink 3 to 4 litres of water per person per day. There is no drinking water in the park.
- Wear a broad brimmed hat, loose clothing, long sleeves, sunscreen** – to minimise heat stress and sunburn.
- Sturdy footwear** – important for the rugged terrain and unstable surfaces.
- Personal Locator Beacon (PLB)** – in an emergency, a PLB could help save your life.

## Visitor sites and trails

**Loop Drive**  
A 49-kilometer circuit provides views of the changing faces of the rock and access to all feature sites. This road is suitable for conventional two-wheel-drive vehicles.

**Emu Hill Lookout**  
Turn north about 6km north-west of the park boundary on the Cobra-Mount Augustus Road, and drive 1.5km along a track suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. The lookout is a good location to take photographs of the inselberg; at sunset it is usually most colourful. This site is managed by the Shire of Upper Gascoyne.

- Goolinee-Cattle Pool**  
A permanent pool on the Lyons River. This site is particularly picturesque after rains have filled the pool to capacity.
- Corella Trail (Class 3) 1.2km return, 30 minutes-1 hour**  
This easy trail begins mid-way along the south bank of Cattle Pool. Quiet and observant walkers are rewarded with tranquil scenes of waterbirds. Corellas and other species forage in the river gums.
- Goordgeela**  
**Goordgeela Lookout Trail (Class 4) 3km return, 1-3 hours**  
This trail follows a rocky creek for part of the way, becoming steeper as walkers approach the lookout. From the lookout there are views of the Lyons River meandering through the plain and the Godfrey Range to the north.
- The Pound**  
Earlier last century, this natural basin was used for holding cattle before moving them on hoof to Meekatharra. Droving to Meekatharra would take 10-12 days.
- Saddle Trail (Class 3) 1km return, 30 minutes-1 hour**  
The saddle area has views back into The Pound and over the Lyons River valley to the north.
- Flintstone-Beedoboondou**  
**Flintstone Rock (Class 3) 500m return, 15-30 minutes**  
Following the first section of the Gully Trail, this short walk will bring you to Flintstone Rock. This large slab of rock bridges the rocky stream. Walkers can crawl under Flintstone Rock to view engravings by Aboriginal people.

- Summit Trail (Class 5) 12km return, 5-8 hours**  
This trail is the more direct and popular route to the summit. It is still a difficult hike and should only be considered by prepared and experienced hikers. The climb to the top of the inselberg provides extensive views over the vast surrounding plain and drainage basin to distant ranges. An early start is recommended, and please advise someone of your plans. Seek advice at the Mount Augustus Tourist Park. See inset map for a more detailed route description.
- Gully Trail (Class 5) 12km return, 5-9 hours**  
This more challenging trail links into the Summit Trail after 1.5km and again after 3km. This gives several alternate route options in the first half of the summit trail. The first junction of the Summit and Gully trails allows for a shorter loop walk. From Flintstone Rock, continue up the Gully Trail for 1.5km, then at the first junction, walk back down to the car park via the Summit Trail.
- Mundee**  
**Petroglyph Trail (Class 3) 300m return, 10-20 minutes**  
This easy walk to an engraved wall is a place to quietly ponder the Wajarri culture.
- Edneys-Ooramboo**  
**Ooramboo Trail (Class 3) 500m return, 15-30 minutes**  
An easy walk to view Aboriginal engravings along an escarpment. An extra walk of 100m will bring you to Edney Spring.
- Edney's Trail (Class 4) 6km return, 2.5-4 hours**  
This well-defined trail will lead you to Edney's Lookout (a peak that is visible from the tourist park). The trail is suitable for people seeking elevated views but who don't want to tackle the more strenuous Summit Trail.
- Gum Grove-Warrarla**  
**Gum Grove Trail (Class 3) 1km return, 20-40 minutes**  
This easy trail takes walkers through a shady grove of river red gums. The return point for this trail is at the Kotka Gorge sign.
- Kotka Gorge Trail (Class 4) 2km return, 1-1.5 hours**  
This trail incorporates the Gum Grove Trail. Walkers then continue along a dry, rocky creek bed before moving above the creek line until just before the main opening of Kotka Gorge. This marks the end of the trail. There are views to the east of Mount Augustus from this point.