

Watarrka National Park



Fact Sheet

Watarrka National Park, synonymous with Kings Canyon, contains the western end of the George Gill Range. This scenic landscape of rugged ranges, rockholes and moist gorges acts as a refuge for many plants and animals. This makes the Park an important conservation area and a major visitor attraction in Central Australia.


Access

The Park is located southwest of Alice Springs and can be reached via a number of routes:

- via the Stuart Highway, Lasseter Highway and Luritja Road (sealed roads).
- via Larapinta Drive through the West MacDonnell National Park. A Mereenie Loop pass is required to travel this route and is available from the Alice Springs Tourist Information Centre, Glen Helen Resort and Kings Canyon Resort.
- via the Stuart Highway, Ernest Giles Road (4WD essential) and Luritja Road.

When to visit

The Park is accessible all year round. The cooler months (April to September) are the most pleasant.

 Overnight camping in tents or campervans is not permitted in the National Park.

Commercial motel and camping accommodation is the only option available for visitors wishing to stay overnight at Watarrka. *Kings Canyon Resort* Ph: (08) 8956 7442. *Kings Creek Station* Ph: (08) 8956 7474.

What to do



Walking - Before undertaking any of the following walks, consider your personal health, fitness and available time.

Check the temperature gauge at the start of the Canyon walks.

The Kings Creek Walk (2.6 kms, one hour return). The gentle slope of the track meanders up Kings Creek to a lookout point. This walk is suitable for families. Wheelchairs can access the first 700 metres.

The Kings Canyon Rim Walk (6 kms loop, 3-4 hours). After an initial steep climb the walk offers spectacular views from the Canyon rim.

Along the way are the weathered, buttressed domes of the 'Lost City' and the 'Garden of Eden', a sheltered valley with permanent waterholes and lush vegetation. This walk is suitable for fit and experienced walkers. For safety reasons, the track must be walked in a clockwise direction. This minimises traffic congestion, track erosion and vegetation degradation.

Kathleen Springs Walk (2.6 kms, 1.5 hour return) leads to a delightful spring-fed waterhole, suitable for families and accessible to wheelchairs.



The Giles Track (22 km, 2 days) traverses the top of the range from Kathleen Springs to Kings Canyon with a halfway entrance/exit point at Reedy Creek/Lilla.

Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Consider your health and fitness when choosing a walk.

Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Firewood collection is not permitted in the park.
- Fires are not permitted in the park.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are permitted on a leash in the Kings Canyon carpark only.
- Please do not throw rocks over cliff edges, as there may be people below.



Emergencies - Emergency

Call Devices are located on the Kings Canyon Walk and at the Canyon car park. Please use them to contact the Rangers in an emergency only. Two first aid boxes are located at the top of the Canyon. Refer to the map on the 'Be prepared for walking' sign in the shelter at the Canyon carpark.

Walkers planning extended and overnight walks are strongly advised to register with the Walker Registration Scheme (Phone: 1300 650 730).

Parks & Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory

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Northern Territory Government
Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts



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