

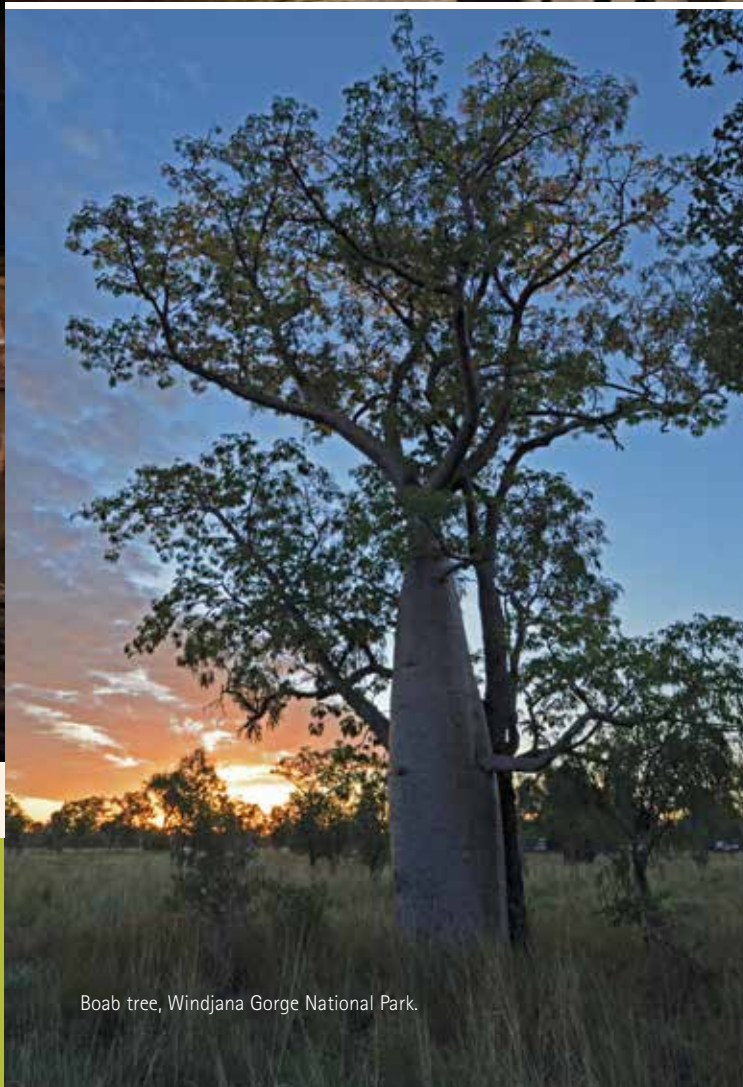
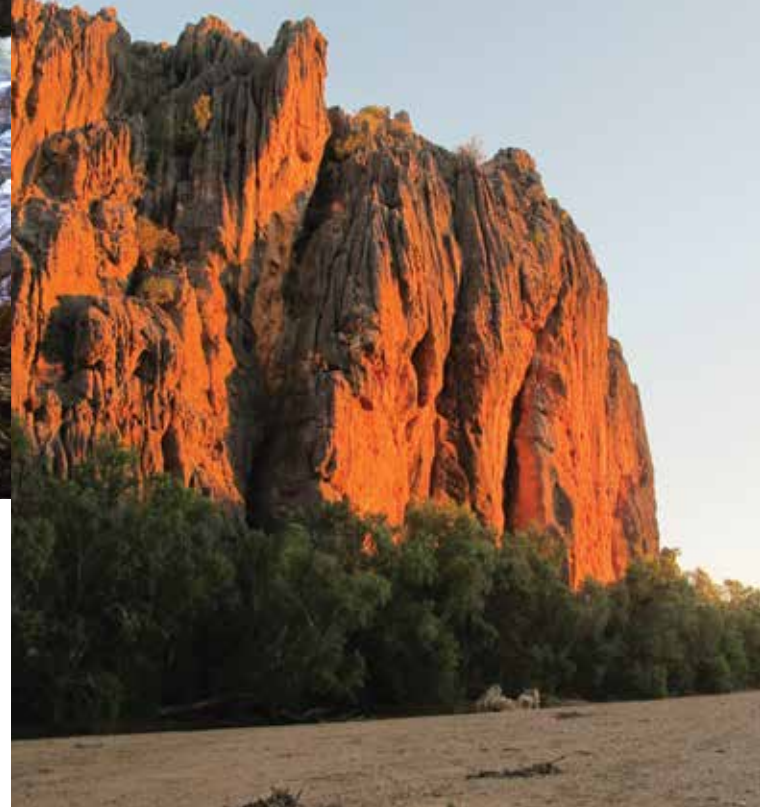
# Windjana Gorge and Tunnel Creek national parks



## Visitor guide



Above Tunnel Creek. Right Windjana Gorge National Park.



Boab tree, Windjana Gorge National Park.

## Fees and park passes

Visitor fees apply at Windjana Gorge National Park, which help maintain and enhance the park. Please pay entry fees at the entrance station, by either paying a ranger or depositing the fee in the collection box if the area is unattended. A range of park passes are available online at [shop.dbca.wa.gov.au/park-passes](http://shop.dbca.wa.gov.au/park-passes), and at the Parks and Wildlife Service office and Derby and Fitzroy Crossing visitor centres.

## Take care

Your safety is our concern but your responsibility.

**BE CAUTIOUS** Stay on the roads and tracks to protect the park.

**BE KIND** Do not disturb or take any animals, plants or rocks. Pets, firearms and fishing are not permitted.

**BE WISE** Do not contaminate water with soaps or sunscreen as they can affect aquatic life.

**BE CAREFUL** Avoid the risk of bushfire. Use your own portable cooking appliance. Only light fires in the fire rings located at Windjana Gorge campground.

**BE CLEAN** Please take your rubbish with you and dispose of it appropriately in the next town. No bins are provided in the park.

**LEAVE NO TRACE** Leave things as you find them for all to enjoy.



## For further information

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
Parks and Wildlife Service Broome Office

111 Herbert Street, Broome  
Ph: (08) 9195 5500  
[dbca.wa.gov.au](http://dbca.wa.gov.au)

Fitzroy Crossing Visitors Centre  
Ph: (08) 9191 5355

Photos – Tourism WA and DBCA  
Front cover Tunnel Creek.



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



Information current at April 2018  
Publication available in alternative format on request.







# Windjana Gorge National Park

## The legend of Jandamarra

Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek, Lillimooloora Station and the surrounding lands are the setting for the legend of Jandamarra and the resistance of the Bunuba people against European settlers.

For three years, Jandamarra led a guerrilla war against the malngarri (European settlers) and police. He frequently ambushed cattleman and police camps to gain arms and supplies for the remaining Bunuba people. The Bunuba people's raids and ambushes were so effective that it kept the settlers at bay and became a major issue for the colony, eliciting bloody massacres of Bunuba and other Aboriginal people in the region.

"To police troopers, he became almost ghostlike. His tracks were often sighted but nowhere was he seen. It was as though the land itself had swallowed him. And in a sense it had, for Jandamarra and the Bunuba people knew every cave, every secret tunnel and crevice that riddled the rocky ranges," Banjo Woorunmurra and Howard Pedersen.

We remember Jandamarra as a great warrior, and as a clever and courageous leader who defended our country against overwhelming odds. We also remember him as a Jalgangurru, a man bestowed with spiritual powers that flowed from the timeless law of our country, who could disappear, transform into a bird and shield himself from deadly weapons. (Excerpt from *Jalangurru Muwayi – Bunuba Healthy Country Plan, 2017-2027*).

The ruins of the Lillimooloora police outpost are accessible to visitors and located 3km from Windjana Gorge on the way to Tunnel Creek.

Lillimilura police outpost ruins.



The Gorge Trail.

## Walk trails

Several walk trails provide opportunities to view the Gorge and other park features. Be sure to take adequate drinking water and sun protection.

### The Time Walk

(Class 3 – 2km return. 1 hour)

This is a relatively easy walk over undulating ground with some rocky and sandy sections. Take a journey back in time through the Age of Fishes; discover relics of the super continent Gondwana and descendants of the dinosaurs and the mega fauna.

### The Savannah Walk

(Class 3 – 1km return. 30 minutes)

An easy walk over mostly even ground helps you to get to know some of the plants and associated animals of the savannah woodland community outside the gorge.

### The Gorge Trail

(Class 4 – 7km return. 2 to 3 hours)

Walk through the gorge during the dry season between April and October.

The trail is along the river bank adjacent to the sandy riverbed and is mostly unmarked. There are occasionally obstacles washed down in previous floods. A sign indicates the end of the trail. Experience the profile of the Devonian Reef and see how shade and soil moisture affect where plants grow. Take plenty of drinking water (2L per person) and sun protection.



# Tunnel Creek National Park

Above Tunnel Creek. Left Black flying foxes. Below left Tunnel View Trail.

## Services and facilities

An information shelter, picnic tables and toilets are provided near the entrance.

Universal access is applicable to toilets only.

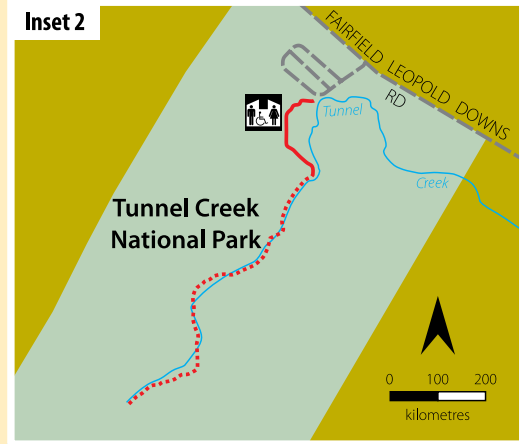
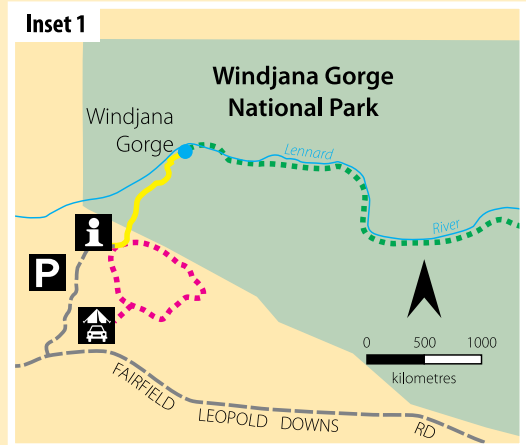
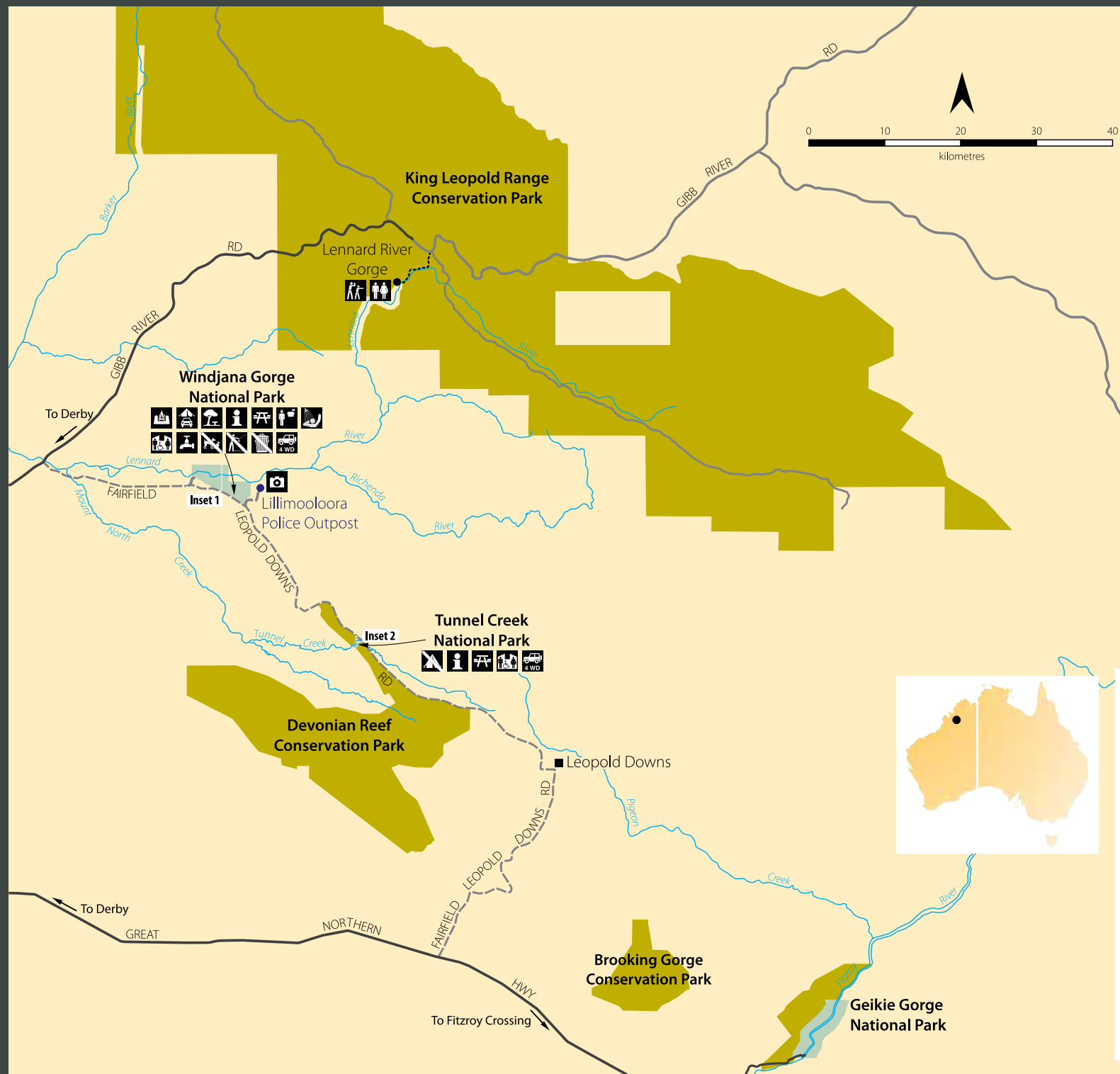
## Wildlife

At least six species of bat are known to use the caves within Tunnel Creek. These include the northern cave bat, the common bent-wing bat and the rare ghost bat, Australia's only carnivorous bat that preys on frogs, lizards, small birds and mammals including other bats. The yellow-lipped bat, found only in the Kimberley, has been little studied but appears to be a strict cave dweller. The orange leaf-nosed bat named for its golden fur prefers limestone caves that provide warmth and humidity to help maintain its body temperature when resting. Unlike other bats, orange leaf-nosed bats do not huddle together to keep warm. A colony of black flying foxes is known to roost where the roof of the tunnel has collapsed. During the day, the tunnel provides a protected retreat. At dusk they leave en masse to seek out the blossoms of woodland trees.

Freshwater crocodiles are sometimes seen in the tunnel where they feed on small fish, cherabun (crustacean), frogs and insects. Rainbow fish, bony bream, spangled perch and fork-tailed catfish are found in the pools. Birds such as the black bittern and nankeen night heron are sometimes seen just inside the mouth of the cave, looking for small fish and cherabun. Nankeen kestrels are often seen and heard flying about the cliffs at the entrance to the cave. Tunnel Creek is also home to several python species.







Legend	
Sealed road	No domestic animals
Unsealed road	No rod fishing allowed
4WD track	Information
Walk Trails	Open fireplace
Subterranean Trail	Parking area
Tunnel View Trail	Photo opportunities
The Gorge Trail	Picnic tables
The Savannah Walk	Ranger station
The Time Walk	No rubbish bin provided
Lennard River Gorge Trail	Scenic vistas
Key to Symbols	Showers
Camping area	Accessible toilets
No camping	Toilets
Day use area	Water available
	4WD access

## Walk trails

### Tunnel View Trail (Class 2 – 400m return. 30 minute)

Take an easy stroll to the tunnel entrance to observe the patterns, textures and colours in the limestone at the rock face.

### Subterranean Trail (Class 4 – 2km return. 1.5 hours)

The adventurous can scramble over the rocks to take a sometimes chilly and occasionally deep wade through several permanent pools within the tunnel to the other side of the Napier Range. A torch and shoes are required to avoid hazards overhead and underfoot. Near the center of the cave the roof has collapsed and is an excellent place to observe the colony of flying foxes that roosts in the trees just inside the cave during the day.

### Lennard River Gorge Walk trail (Class 4 – 3km return. 2 hours)

Unlike the geology of Windjana Gorge and Tunnel Creek, Lennard River Gorge is part of the King Leopold Range. One side of the gorge is Leopold sandstone, and the other is dolorite. The 3km (return) walk from the car park takes you along a creek line and then up onto the King Leopold sandstone before culminating in a lookout where the falls can be viewed.

**Below** Agile wallaby. **Below right** Lennard River Gorge.

