

Finke Gorge National Park



Fact Sheet

Finke Gorge National Park covers an area of 460km² including the impressive Palm Valley. Palm Valley is home to a diverse range of plant species, many of which are rare and unique to the area. This includes the Red Cabbage Palm for which the Park is well known. The Red Cabbage Palm is restricted to this area with a population of approximately 12,000 plants. The Park and nearby areas hold cultural significance to the Western Arrernte Aboriginal people. Evidence of early European settlement in Central Australia can also be seen.

Access

The Park lies 138 km (about 2 hrs) west of Alice Springs. Turn south off Larapinta Drive just west of Hermannsburg. Access along the last 16 km of track is limited to **high clearance 4WD (four wheel drive) vehicles only**. Part of this last 16km follows the sandy bed of the Finke River. Heavy rains may cause this section of the track to be impassable.

Obtain current road conditions by calling 1800 246 199 or contact the Parks and Wildlife Regional Office.

Commercial tour operators regularly visit the Park from Alice Springs.

When to visit

The Park is accessible all year round except when the Finke River is in flood. The cooler months (April to September) are the best time of the year to visit.

What to do



Camping - A campground with toilets, hot showers, wood and gas barbecues, and picnic areas is available. Camping fees are payable on site and camping is only permitted in designated areas. Remember to collect firewood before entering the park. Basic supplies are available from Hermannsburg.



Kalarranga Lookout (1.5 km, 45 min return) is an easy 20 minute climb with spectacular views of a rock amphitheatre encircled by rugged cliffs.



Walking - A number of walking possibilities exist within the Park.

The **Mpaara Walk** (5 km, 2 hrs return) begins at Kalarranga carpark and introduces some of the mythology of Western Arrernte Aboriginal culture. Walk in a clockwise direction to follow the Mpaara dreaming story. Walkers will be rewarded with beautiful views of the amphitheatre.

In Palm Valley, the **Arankaia Walk** (2 km, 1 hr) and the longer **Mpungkinya Walk** (5 km, 2 hrs return) meander among a lush oasis of slender palms and return to the carpark across the plateau. There is a problem with young palms being destroyed by visitors who unknowingly step on palm seedlings. The continual regeneration of the palms is necessary for the survival of this population. Be aware of where

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 only permitted in designated firepits.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted in this park.
- Generators are not permitted in this Park.

you are walking and keep to the marked tracks.



4 Wheel Driving - a 4WD route down the Finke River to Illamurta Springs and Watarrka National Park begins at Hermannsburg. This trip requires careful planning and preparation and is for experienced four wheel drivers only. Please talk with Rangers to obtain guidance and directions before heading down the Finke River. A Finke River 4WD Route information sheet is available from the Parks and Wildlife Regional Office in Alice Springs.

Parks & Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory

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Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts



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