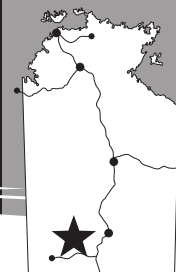


Watarrka National Park



Fact Sheet

Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon) includes 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 (4WD is essential).
- via the Stuart Highway, Ernest Giles Road (4WD essential) and Luritja Road.

When to visit

The Park is accessible all year round. **See overleaf for access information during hot weather.**

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 Canyon Wilderness Lodge
Ph: (08) 8955 8311

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. Visit the Safety Information Shelter and check the signs at the start of the walks.

The Kings Creek Walk (2.6 km, one hour return).

The gentle slope of the track meanders up Kings Creek. This walk is suitable for families. Wheelchairs can access the first 700 metres.

The Kings Canyon Rim Walk (6 km loop, 3-4 hours).

After an initial steep climb the walk offers spectacular views from the Canyon rim. Along the way are the weathered domes of the 'Lost City' and the lush vegetation of the 'Garden of Eden'. This walk is suitable for fit, experienced walkers.

South Wall Return Walk (4.8 km, 2 hours return).

Starts with a steep climb up the southern rim of Kings Canyon and offers stunning views of the Park's geological features. Suitable for fit, experienced walkers.

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



The Giles Track
(22 km, 2 days) traverses the top of the range from Kathleen Springs to Kings

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. Please read information about the **Heat Management Strategy** overleaf.
- Consider your health and fitness when choosing a walk.

Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- Stay at least 2m from cliff edges.
- 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.

Canyon with a halfway entrance/exit point at Reedy Creek/Lilla. Notify a reliable person of your intended walk plans and ensure they know to contact police if you do not return by the arranged date. Carry a satellite phone or personal locator beacon.



ECD 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.

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Watarrka Ranger Station
Ph: (08) 8956 7460

www.nt.gov.au/parks

Regional Office - Arid Zone Research Institute
South Stuart Highway ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
PO Box 1120 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8951 8250 Fax: (08) 8951 8290



Watarrka National Park

HEAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Parks and Wildlife Commission has introduced a strategy to improve visitor safety at Watarrka.

On days when the temperature is forecast to be 36°C or above*, visitors wishing to undertake the **Rim Walk** need to start their walk **before 9.00 am**.

On days when the temperature is forecast to be 36°C or above*, visitors wishing to undertake the **South Wall Return Walk** need to start their walk **before 11.00 am.**

Signs at the Park will be updated daily to indicate current access conditions.

There is **no drinking water** available on the Rim.

* Based on Bureau of Meteorology forecasts for Watarrka.

