

# Ellery Creek Big Hole - Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park



## Fact Sheet

Ellery Creek Big Hole is a spectacular waterhole in the mighty Ellery Creek which cuts through a gorge in the West MacDonnell Ranges. Thousands of years of massive floods have carved out this beautiful waterhole and unlocked some amazing geology.

Visitors to Ellery Creek Big Hole will be rewarded with excellent recreational opportunities - walking, swimming, picnicking and camping just to name a few.


### Access


Ellery Creek Big Hole is located 80 km west of Alice Springs. Access is via Larapinta and Namatjira Drives. Access is by conventional vehicle, however the last 2 km is unsealed. All roads can be impassable for a short period after heavy rain.


### When to Visit

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

### What to Do

 **Camping** - Camping facilities are available for tents, trailers and caravans. Spaces are limited and operate on a first come, first served basis. Gas barbecues and toilets are provided. Camping fees are payable at the site and camping is only permitted in designated areas.

 People planning to stay overnight should bring their own drinking water requirements with them.

 **Swimming** - The permanent waters of Ellery Creek are situated 160 metres (five minutes

walk) from the Carpark. The waterhole is ideal for swimming, especially in the warmer months. Swimmers should be aware that most water holes are extremely cold. Prolonged exposure, even during summer, can result in hypothermia. Beware of submerged logs and rocks. Do not jump, dive or swing into the water.



**Walking** - The walking tracks of Ellery Creek Big Hole offer opportunities for visitors to explore the site, no matter what their time limit.

The 5 minute **Ellery Creek** walk from the carpark along a wheelchair accessible path, will provide visitors with a picture perfect view of Ellery Creek Big Hole.

The **Dolomite Walk** (3 km loop walk - 1.5 hrs) is a great way to take in the fascinating geological processes of the site. The walk is along a marked, unsealed path with some steady inclines.



For the keen walker Sections 6 and 7 of the **Larapinta Trail** start or finish at Ellery Creek Big Hole. This walk requires careful planning and preparation and should only be attempted by fit people with previous bushwalking experience.

Visit [www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au](http://www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au) or contact the Parks and Wildlife Regional Office or Tourism Central Australia for more details.

### Have an Emergency Plan:

Notify a reliable person of your intended route and plans. Ensure they know to contact police if you

### 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.
- Swim only where recommended.
- Swing ropes are not permitted.

### Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Fires are permitted in communal fire pit only. Collect firewood before entering the park.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted in the park.
- Generators are not permitted.

do not return by the arranged date. Walkers should carry a satellite phone or personal locator beacon.



*If you are lucky you might see a Dingo taking a drink from Ellery's refreshing waters. Do not be tempted to feed them or they may become a risk to visitors and have to be removed from the Park.*

### Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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# Ellery Creek Big Hole - part of the Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park

