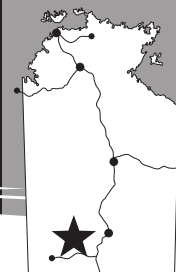


Watarrka National Park



Fact Sheet

Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon) lies within the traditional lands of the *Matutjara* people. The park is jointly managed by the local Traditional Owners and the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory, who work together, sharing cultural and scientific knowledge to manage the Park.

The Park includes the western end of the George Gill Range. This scenic landscape of rugged ranges, rockholes and moist gorges acts as a refuge to a rich diversity of 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 Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park (sealed and unsealed roads). A Mereenie Loop pass is required to travel this route and is available from the Alice Springs Visitor Information Centre and Kings Canyon Resort (4WD essential).
- via the Stuart Highway, Ernest Giles Road (unsealed - 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 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. 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' (swimming not permitted). This walk is suitable for fit, experienced walkers.

South Wall Return Walk

(4.8 km, 2 hours return).

Starts with a steep climb up to the south wall 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)

This walk leads to a delightful spring-fed waterhole (swimming not permitted), suitable for families. Wheelchair accessible.

Find out more with the **Walking Tracks of Watarrka information sheet** at www.nt.gov.au/parks.

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. Find out more with the **Giles Track information sheet** at www.nt.gov.au/parks.

Safety and Comfort

- Watch the video at the Safety Information Shelter and 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 2 m 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.
- Do not throw rocks over cliff edges, as there may be people below.
- A permit is required for Drone use – conditions apply and it must be obtained prior to your arrival in the Park.

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 Rim 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 **Kings Canyon Rim Walk** need to start their walk **before 9.00 am.**
- 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 Kings Canyon Rim walk.

* Based on Bureau of Meteorology forecasts for Watarrka at:
www.bom.gov.au/nt/forecasts/watarrka.shtml

