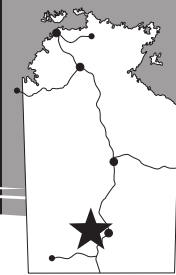


# Simpsons Gap - Part of the West MacDonnell National Park



## Fact Sheet

Located in the West MacDonnell (*Tyurretye*) National Park, Simpsons Gap is one of the most prominent gaps in the West MacDonnell Ranges. At dawn and dusk it is renowned as a place to see Black-footed Rock-wallabies along the short walking track into the Gap.

The Simpsons Gap area incorporates large areas of Mulga and is a major stronghold for over 40 rare and relict plants. The area is an important spiritual site to the Arrernte Aboriginal people, where several dreaming trails and stories cross.


### Access

The turn off to Simpsons Gap is 18km west of Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive. From the turn-off there is a Visitor Information Centre and Rangers Office 1km towards the Gap. Simpsons Gap is a further 6 km drive. The Gap can also be reached by cycling along the Simpsons Gap Bike Path from Alice Springs.

### When to visit

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

### What to do

 The Visitor Information Centre is just past the entrance gate and offers a good introduction for first time visitors. The display highlights points of interest within the West MacDonnell National Park and provides information on the area's natural and cultural history.



**Walking** - There are numerous walking opportunities within the area, all well marked with directional signs.

**Ghost Gum Walk** - 15 minutes return. Starting at the Visitor Centre, this walk illustrates the native plants of the area including an ancient Ghost Gum.

**Cassia Hill** - 1.5 kms, 1 hour return. Gives excellent elevated views of the range and Simpsons Gap area. The walk illustrates local plants and a self-guided walk sheet is available.

**Woodland Trail** - To Bond Gap, a return distance of 17 kms. The Gap has a narrow cleft with icy cold water (seasonal). This walk displays excellent examples of Mulga woodland.



**Larapinta Trail** - An exciting long distance walking track through the West MacDonnell Ranges. From Simpsons Gap you can walk Sections 1 or 2. The Trail is suitable for fit people with previous bushwalking experience. Careful planning and preparation is required. For more information contact Parks and Wildlife or Tourism Central Australia. Notify a reliable person of your intended walk plans. Ensure they know to contact police if you do not return by the arranged date. Walkers should carry a satellite phone or personal locator beacon.



**Picnicking** - Free gas barbecues are available in the shady picnic areas near Simpsons Gap and the Visitor Information Centre.

### 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.
- Fires are not permitted, use the gas barbecues provided.
- Put your rubbish in the bins provided or take it with you.
- Pets are not permitted in this park.
- Swimming is prohibited in Simpsons Gap.



**Cycling** - A sealed bicycle path begins opposite

Flynn's Grave (7 kms from Alice Springs along Larapinta Drive), providing a pleasant ride suitable for the whole family. Take plenty of water and use the coolest part of the day to complete the 17 km one-way ride to Simpsons Gap.



Camping is not permitted at Simpsons Gap, unless you are walking the Larapinta Trail.



*Black-footed  
Rock-wallaby*

### Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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