



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Dales Recreation Area

Karijini National Park offers a variety of hiking trails that are classified according to Australian standards. Please select those that suit your level of ability. Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility. See overleaf for trail classification descriptions.

Visitor safety

Warning! Flash floods can occur. Do not enter the gorges if there is significant rain in the area. If you are already in the gorges, leave promptly.

- **Do not enter these gorges two hours before sunset. You cannot follow these trails in the dark.**
- Be prepared. Wear sturdy hiking shoes to get in and out of the gorges. Before hiking through water change your shoes to those that can grip slippery wet rocks.
- As a minimum carry and drink 1 litre of water per hour of walking per person, there is no drinking water in the park.
- Keep your gear on your back and keep your hands free.
- Stay on established trails and stand well back from cliff edges.
- Take care in the gorges. Rocks are smooth and slippery, particularly when wet.
- Hike with a companion.
- Water in the gorges can be very cold, especially between April and September, and hypothermia can occur. During this time, the middle of the day is the best time to hike.
- Do not dive or jump into water.
- Do not take glass or alcohol into the gorges.
- Unauthorised drone use is prohibited

From the Fortescue Falls carpark, access the following trails:



Fortescue Falls Lookout

Class 1 – 150m – 15 minutes return

From the car park, follow the concrete path to the Fortescue Falls Lookout, where you can see one of the best views in the park.



Gorge Rim

Class 3 – 2.4km - 1 hour 45 minutes return

Begin the Gorge Rim trail from the Fortescue Falls Lookout, or from the Circular Pool lookout. A vehicle can meet hikers at the other end or hikers can follow the trail back again. The formed trail is signposted and some hiking experience is recommended. There are short steep sections and occasional steps. Enjoy wonderful views into Dales Gorge. Interesting plants grow along the rim, many unique to the Pilbara.



Jubula (Fortescue Falls)

Class 3 – 800m – 1 hour return

From the lookout follow the steps down the gorge wall to Fortescue Falls. Seats allow you to rest and take in the views.



Jubura (Fern Pool)

Class 4 – 600m – 30 minutes return

From the bottom of the steps take a short trail to Fern Pool. This is a significant cultural site for local Aboriginal People.

WARNING! the pool is very deep. You must swim within your ability.



Ngirribungunha (Dales Gorge Trail)

Class 4 – 1km - 1 hour 45 minutes one way

This trail links Fortescue Falls with Three Ways Lookout. Experienced hikers can observe gorge environments up close as they negotiate the bottom of the gorge. The trail is rough with many obstacles. It crosses back and forth across the bottom of the gorge, often negotiating pools. Turn left when you reach the sign to Three Ways Lookout. Negotiate a ladder and steep steps as you make your way to the top. Join the Gorge Rim Trail back to Fortescue Falls Lookout and carpark.

From the Dales picnic area carpark, access the following trails:



Circular Pool lookout

Class 2 – 150m – 15 minutes return

A flat, formed trail leads from the car park to the lookout. The lookout experience offers spectacular views down into Circular Pool. Water from the gorge walls seeps into the pool and maidenhair ferns flourish in the shade.



Gorge Rim

Class 3 – 2.4kms - 1 hour 45 minutes return

Please refer to previous notes for details.

Plan ahead and prepare.

Leave No Trace



Carry sufficient drinking water at all times. Wear suitable shoes.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces. To protect the park, drive, hike and camp only on designated roads, tracks and camping areas. Wet roads can be hazardous and may be damaged by vehicles. Washouts can occur during heavy rain, resulting in road closures at short notice. Check travel conditions with Parks and Wildlife Service on (08) 9182 2000 or the Shire of Ashburton on (08) 9188 4444.

Dispose of waste properly. Go to the toilet before entering the gorges. Carry a rubbish bag and leave nothing but your footprints.

Leave what you find. This area is home to many species. Respect this unique environment and leave it as you found it.

Minimise campfire impacts. Ground fires and solid fuel fires are not permitted. Use the gas barbecues when provided, or your own portable cooking appliance.

Respect wildlife. Do not disturb any animals. Do not contaminate pools with soap, detergents or sunscreen, as they can impact aquatic life. Pets and firearms are not permitted.

Contact information

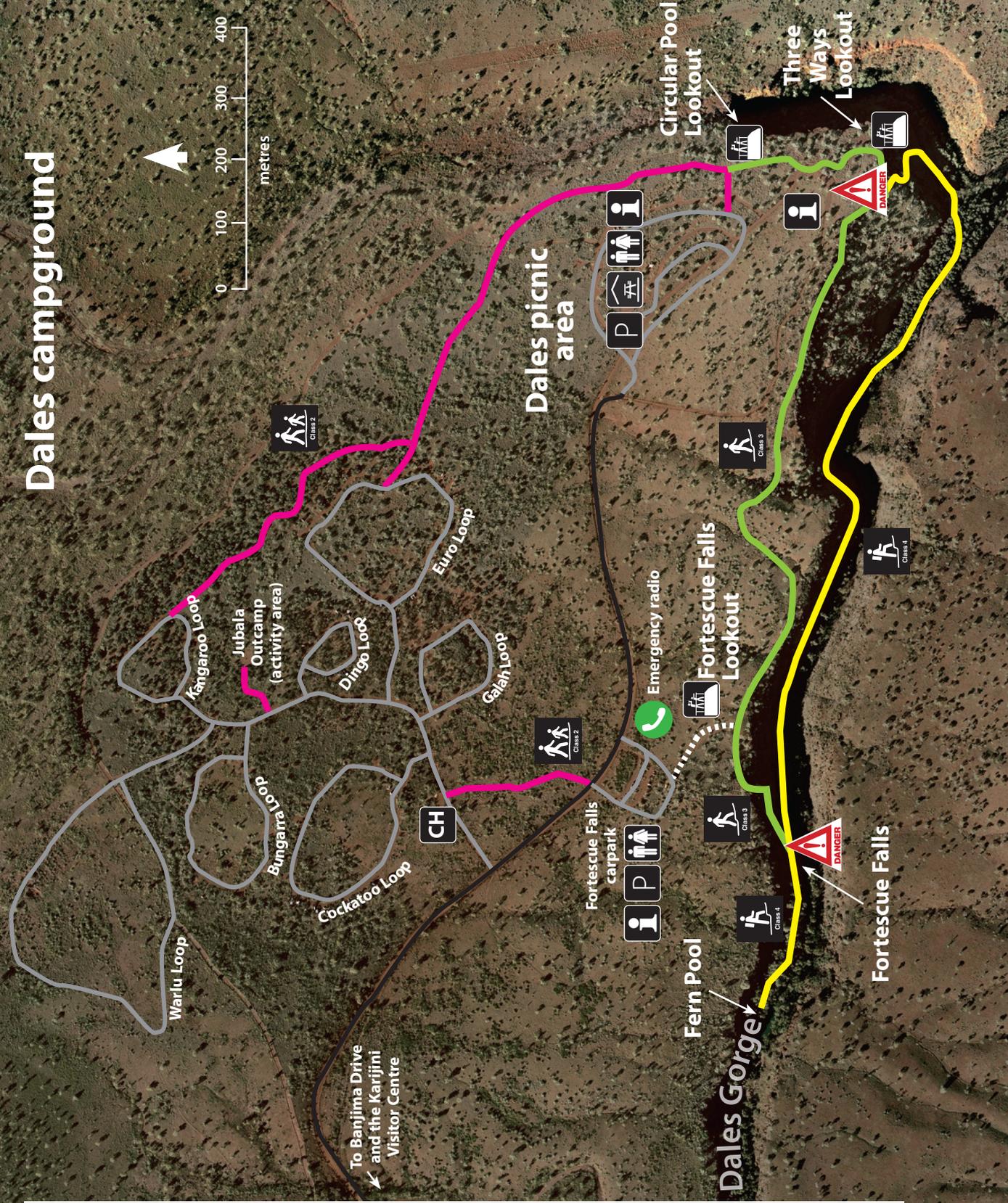
Karijini National Park Visitor Centre

Ph: (08) 9189 8121 Email: karijini-national-park@dbca.wa.gov.au
Ranger (emergency only) Ph: (08) 9189 8147

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Parks and Wildlife Service, Pilbara Regional Office
Mardie Rd, Karratha Industrial Estate. Ph: (08) 9182 2000
dbca.wa.gov.au

This information is available in alternative formats on request.
Information current at February 2023. Photos – DBCA and Tourism WA.

Dales campground



Key to symbols

- Lookout
- Information
- Toilets
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Parking
- Sheltered picnic table
- Emergency radio

Hiking trail classifications

Class 1 Universal access.



Class 2 These walks are well defined with some steps and generally gradients are gentle.



Class 3 These trails are defined and may include steps; loose surfaces; uneven ground; and short, steep sections.



Class 4 These trails are moderately difficult and over variable surfaces – they require a good level of fitness. Expect steep gradients and natural obstacles including rocks and shallow pools.



Safety information

Change in trail classification. Make sure you meet criteria.



Save the app that could save your life



[emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au](https://www.emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au)

Download the free Emergency+ app before your visit which can be used in the event of any emergency to call for assistance.

If there is no mobile phone coverage you **WILL NOT** be able to call 000 but the app will provide you with GPS location details.