Kalbarri
National Park



Visitor guide

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of **Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

NANDA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

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Cover Kalbarri Skywalk (kaju yatka).
Photos – DBCA, Alice McGlashan/Sallyanne Cousans Photography, Tourism WA.

Kalbarri National Park

The many and varied features of the 186,000ha Kalbarri National Park provide visitors with an array of things to see and do. You can marvel at spectacular river gorges and sea cliffs, admire the unique beauty of the peak springtime wildflowers and learn how the park protects rare native animals.

River gorge

The spectacular scenery of the Murchison River gorge is the result of many millions of years of geological activity. Hidden beneath the vast sandplain lies the ancient Tumblagooda Sandstone that formed 400 million years ago. The river has worn away this sandstone over millions of years, and carved out a stunning 80km gorge, to reveal the magnificent 'layer cake' of red and white bands that make up this sandstone. Ancient fossils can be seen in these exposed layers throughout the park, making it one of the most accessible places in the world to see tracks of some of the earliest animals to walk on land.



Above Kalbarri Skywalk (kaju yatka).

Coastal cliffs

From the coastal cliffs you can see a bewildering array of limestone capped, sandstone formations created by the tireless process of erosion by wind and water. Experience these sensational panoramas at a variety of lookouts just a short, easy stroll from the carpark at Red Bluff, Eagle Gorge, Grandstand, Island Rock, Pot Alley and Natural Bridge. The colourful coastal vistas are particularly breathtaking on sunset. Enjoy the coastal views as you amble along the boardwalk between Natural Bridge and Island Rock. Learn about the fascinating fossils to be found along the walk between Mushroom Rock and Rainbow Valley or enjoy the serenity of a secluded beach at Pot Alley.

Caring for country

The Nanda Aboriginal people are the traditional owners of Kalbarri National Park. They welcome visitors who respect the park's cultural and natural heritage.

Skywalk (kaju yatka)

Located 37km from town, the Kalbarri Skywalk offers breathtaking views of the Murchison River gorge and its spectacular surrounding landscape. Float on air as you take a thrilling walk out along two cantilevered viewing platforms that hang in mid-air 100m above the gorge. Take some top holiday photos and enjoy refreshments from the environmentally friendly kiosk. Discover how the gorge formed millions of years ago and learn about the local Nanda Aboriginal people. See how many Australian native animal sculptures you can find and maybe discover a fossil or two at this world class tourism attraction.



Above Wildflowers, Kalbarri National Park.

Planning your visit

Located 590km north of Perth, the park is easily accessible and all roads are sealed. Situated at the mouth of the Murchison River, Kalbarri makes the perfect base for your visit. Spectacular wildflowers can be found all year, but for the best wildflower experience, plan your visit between August and October. Although Kalbarri winters are mild with temperatures ranging between 10°C to 20°C, summers can be hot, dry and windy. Be aware that when conditions are hot in Kalbarri town, temperatures can be much more extreme in the park, reaching up to 50°C. The cooler months are the most comfortable for exploring the park. In the warmer months, plan to visit the park early morning or late afternoon. Hiking in the river gorge is not recommended over the hotter months of November to March inclusive. During this period, the Loop Trail is closed from 7am and overnight hikes are not permitted.

Services and facilities

Toilets, lookouts, walk trails and picnic facilities are provided in the park. Bring adequate drinking water as none is available in the park and mobile phone reception can be variable. Although no camping is permitted, a range of accommodation is available in Kalbarri. See the Kalbarri Visitor Centre for more information and bookings.



Above Often seen at Hawks Head lookout, this rare black-flanked rock-wallaby is bouncing back from the brink with careful park management.

Caring for the park

Stay cool. Don't light fires. Visitors may use their own gas appliances anywhere in the park.

Be clean. Please take your rubbish with you, when you leave the park. Discarded scraps attract feral pigs and goats, which destroy the habitat of native animals.

Pets are not allowed in Kalbarri National Park. They can disturb wildlife and are also at risk of poisoning from fox baits, which are laid throughout the park as part of **Western Shield** wildlife recovery program.

Visitor fees help protect the park and maintain its facilities.

Day passes and five-day passes can be purchased at park entry stations and the Kalbarri Visitor Centre.

Two-week, four-week and annual passes are available at Parks and Wildlife Service offices, park entry stations and online at **shop.dbca.wa.gov.au**



Comfort and safety

Easy access is provided to many stunning lookouts but beyond that, walkers need to be prepared and very aware of the natural hazards and their safety.



Heat stress can kill.

- Summer heat can be extreme, particularly on the Loop Trail. Do not hike in hot weather.
- Carry and drink one litre per person, per hour when hiking and more in hotter weather.



1 litre per person, per hour

- Wear a hat and loose, long-sleeved clothing.
- Walk in the cooler times of day.
- Hike the longer walks in the cooler months (April to October).
- Begin to hike the Loop Trail before 7am (November to March).



Drinking water is not available in the park so always carry your own supply.



Wave risk. Massive wave surges have claimed lives. Keep well clear of the water's edge near coastal cliffs.



Cliff risk. The edges of the cliffs and gorges are unstable and undercut. Stay clear of cliff edges and overhangs. Keep to the paths, lookouts and trails. Wear sturdy footwear.



Remotely piloted aircraft. Drone use should not create a danger or nuisance to visitors or disturb wildlife. Do not fly drones above people. CASA regulations apply - **casa.gov.au**



Rafting and canoeing

Canoeing the Murchison River after heavy rains is extremely hazardous. Contact park rangers for further advice.



Walk trail classification



Class 1 – Easiest All abilities access, flat, even, hardened surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for unassisted wheelchair users and prams. Clear directional signage. No bushwalking experience required.



Class 2 – Easy A trail with modified or hardened surface, and gentle hills or occasional steps. Clear directional signage. No bushwalking experience required. May be suitable for assisted wheelchair users (if ramps are provided at steps).



Class 3 – Moderate A trail that may have short steep hills, rough surface, many steps or some rock hopping. Directional signage. Some bushwalking experience and moderate fitness required.



Class 4 – Difficult A trail with rough surface that may have very steep hills or extensive rock hopping. Directional signage may be limited. Bushwalking experience, navigation and emergency first aid skills, and good fitness required.



Class 5 – Extreme A trail with very rough surface, and may have very steep hills, arduous rock hopping or rock scrambling. Limited or no directional signage. For very experienced bushwalkers with navigation and emergency first aid skills, and high level of fitness.

Walk trails of Kalbarri National Park

Malleefowl Trail



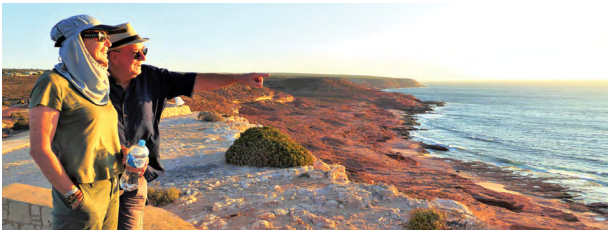
Class 3 – Moderate
Distance: 1.5km loop, Allow: 1 hour

Begins 100m along the walking path to the lookout at Meanarra Hill.

Red Bluff to Beach Trail *(Gaba Gaba Yina)*



Class 3 – Moderate
Distance: 700m one-way, Allow: 20 minutes



Steep in places with loose surfaces.

Mushroom Rock Trail

(Mushroom Rock to Rainbow Valley)



Class 3 – Moderate
Distance: 3km loop, Allow: 1 hour



Trailside botanical and geological information.

Pot Alley Beach



Class 3 – Moderate
Distance: 400m return, Allow: 20 minutes

Stepped trail from the carpark down a sandstone gully to the Pot Alley Beach.

Walk trails of Kalbarri National Park

Eagle Gorge Beach



Class 3 – Moderate
Distance: 1km return, Allow: 30–45 minutes

Steep trail down to the Eagle Gorge Beach.

Bigurda Trail *(Eagle Gorge to Natural Bridge)*



Class 3 – Moderate
Distance: 8km one-way, Allow: 3 hours



Trail can be rocky with loose and uneven surfaces. Join at Island Rock for a shorter route along a boardwalk to Natural Bridge.

Nature's Window



Class 3 – Moderate
Distance: 800m return, Allow: 30–45 minutes



Begins Loop carpark. Stunning views of the Murchison River Gorge can be seen through a natural rock 'window'.

Walk trails of Kalbarri National Park

The Loop Trail



Class 4 – Difficult
Distance: 9km loop, Allow: 3 to 5 hours



Begins Loop carpark. Steep in sections with uneven surfaces. Begin hike before 7am (November to March).

Four Ways Trail *(Idinggada Yina)*



Class 4 – Difficult
Distance: 6km return, Allow: 2 to 4 hours



Begins Z Bend carpark. Descends to the river from Z Bend

Z Bend Lookout



Class 3 – Moderate
Distance: 1.2km return, Allow: 1 hour



Begins Z Bend carpark. Leads to a spectacular lookout over the river gorge.

Walk trails of Kalbarri National Park

Z Bend River Trail



Class 4 – Difficult
Distance: 2.6km return, Allow: 2 hours

Begins Z Bend carpark. Expect loose rocks, steep descents and ladder climbs.

Ross Graham River Trail



Class 3 – Moderate
Distance: 700m return, Allow: 30 minutes



Begins Ross Graham carpark. Provides the easiest access to the river in the park

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Download the free Emergency+ app before your visit. Use the app in an 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 your GPS location.



More information

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Parks and Wildlife Service
Kalbarri National Park
Ajana-Kalbarri Road
Kalbarri WA 6536
Ph (08) 9937 1140

State Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Avenue
Kensington WA 6151
Ph (08) 9219 9000

Midwest Regional Office
First floor, The Foreshore Centre
201 Foreshore Drive
Geraldton WA 6530
Ph (08) 9964 0901

Kalbarri Visitor Centre
Grey Street
Kalbarri WA 6536
Ph (08) 9937 1104

dbca.wa.gov.au

Check for alerts and updates directly related to parks and major trails at **alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au** and for all emergency information in Western Australia at **emergency.wa.gov.au**

Find more park visitor information, book campsites and share your experiences at **exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au**

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