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Purnululu National Park
World Heritage since 2003



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Piccaninny Gorge

The Piccaninny Gorge Trek exceeds standard walk trail classification and is suitable only for extremely experienced hikers. You must be self-sufficient, have a high level of fitness, and have advanced navigation and GPS tracking skills. Preparation is vital.

This multi-day trek has no facilities or designated camping areas, and natural hazards should be expected. The trail is unmarked, with no directional signage, and follows an uneven, stony, and sandy creek bed. Please follow Piccaninny Creek and then Piccaninny Gorge as your primary navigation route—do not go off this route.

Expect to encounter large boulders to climb over and around, steep and narrow edges, sudden drop-offs and pools of extremely cold water that you may need to wade through. Rockfalls can occur without warning, and safety and navigation may be compromised by storms, flooding and other extreme weather events.

This trek takes considerable preparation, high physical fitness and a minimum of two days walking and supplies. High temperatures and limited access to freshwater can make this hike very dangerous for those who are unprepared.

Bookings

Bookings are essential and numbers are restricted. Please book and pay your Piccaninny Gorge Trek camping fees online via purnululunationalpark.rezdy.com well in advance. Ensure you have read all terms and conditions associated with your booking.

Kurrajong campground, Walardi campground and park entry fees can be booked and paid online via parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au.

Registration and deregistration

Registration is required at Purnululu Visitor Centre (during office hours 08:00–12:00 and 13:00–16:00) prior to commencing the Piccaninny Gorge Trek. It is recommended that registration be completed the day before departure to allow for an early start.

All hikers must deregister at the Purnululu Visitor Centre before 4:00pm on their nominated return date. Failure to deregister by 4:00pm may result in a costly and unnecessary search and rescue operation, for which you may be held financially liable.

In the event of non-deregistration DBCA will initiate an emergency response by contacting 000 and reporting the matter to WA Police, who will then coordinate further action.

Communications

There is no mobile phone reception within the gorge. Satellite and UHF radios have limited signal due to the gorge walls and cannot be relied upon in the event of an emergency.

It is compulsory to carry an in-date, AMSA-registered Personal Location Beacon (PLB 406/121.5MHz). The PLB must be sighted and recorded by DBCA staff at the time of registration.

PLB's can be hired from the Purnululu Visitor Centre. Hire fees are:

- \$20 Non-refundable hire cost
- \$200 Refundable deposit (payable at the Visitor Centre)

Satellite devices such as satellite phones, spot trackers, EPIRBs and Starlink are not acceptable substitutes for a PLB.

Water

There is no treated water available on this hike. Water must be carried in or collected from Black Rock Pool which is the only reliable source of non-potable water. All water must be filtered or treated before use.

To protect water quality, the following are strictly prohibited at Black Rock Pool and all water sources

- Swimming or bathing
- Use of soaps or detergents
- Washing of cooking utensils

Temperature

Temperatures can fluctuate from -2°C overnight and can exceed 40°C during the day. Radiant heat may increase temperatures to 50°C (122F).

Camping

Camping is permitted in suitable areas near The Elbow and along Piccaninny Gorge. Camping is not permitted on the sandy section close to Black Rock Pool or near any water source to help sustain water quality. Never camp directly beneath the gorge walls due to the risk of falling rocks.

Open fires are not permitted anywhere along the walk—use lightweight fuel stoves for cooking.

Waste management

There are no toilets or rubbish bins along this trek. All waste including toilet paper and personal hygiene products must be carried out with you. For human waste, we strongly recommend 'packing out your poo'. WAG bag's are available for purchase at the Purnululu Visitor Centre.

Seasonal access

The Piccaninny Gorge Trek is open from May–September, subject to weather and road access.

The trek can close at any time and without notice at the discretion of management due to weather extremes or emergency reasons.

Caring for Country

Please respect this place of spiritual and cultural importance to the Traditional Owners—the Gija and Jaru people.

To help preserve this fragile land now and for the future please:

- Leave everything as you find it including plants, animals and geological formations.
- Do not attempt to climb the gorge walls—the sandstone is extremely fragile.
- Take only photos—leave only footprints. Leave No Trace.

For your safety

- Take regular rest stops in the shade to cool down and walk in the cooler parts of the day.
- Avoid dehydration. Sip plenty of water—one litre per person, per hour.
- Wear sturdy footwear, a long-sleeved shirt, hat and apply sunscreen.
- Be prepared and know your limits. Recognise early signs of hypothermia and dehydration.
- Natural hazards such as rockfalls are common—stay alert.
- It is recommended to carry a first aid kit and do not walk alone.

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.



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Piccaninny Gorge Trek quick information:

Unauthorised drone use prohibited

No fires permitted, please bring portable gas cooking equipment

Rubbish bins are not provided. Please take all rubbish with you

No domestic animals

Extreme care must be taken

Do not attempt to climb the gorge walls as the sandstone is extremely fragile

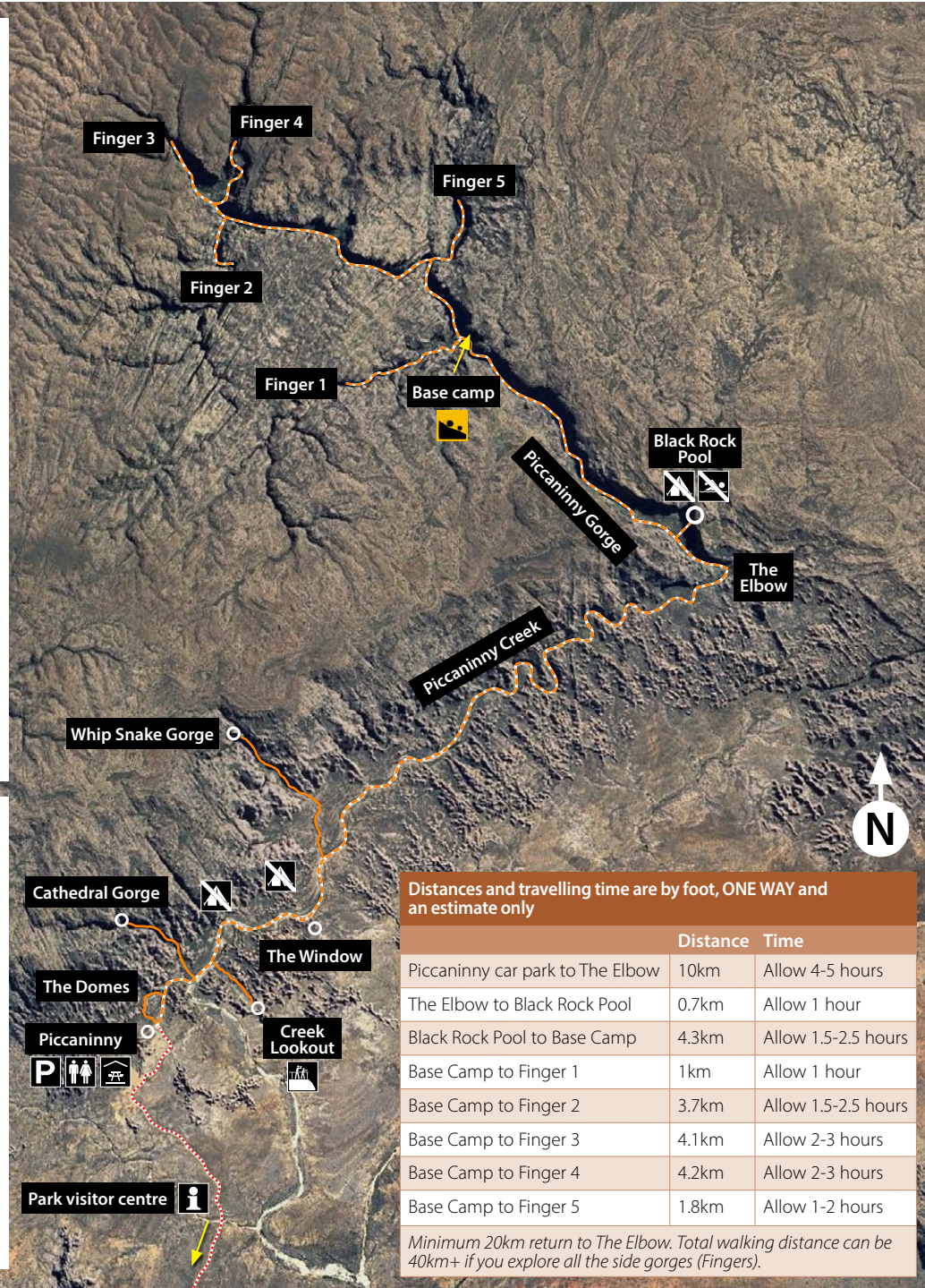
Rock falls occur in the gorge system. Be aware

Heat stress can kill

Kimberley heat can be extreme and temperatures can rise sharply in the gorge. Carry and drink one litre per person, per hour when hiking and more in hotter weather. There is no drinking water available on walk trails. Wear loose long sleeved clothes and a hat. Avoid the heat of the day and hike early in the morning.

Legend

- 4WD track
- Piccaninny Gorge Trek
- Walk trail
- Parking area
- Toilets
- Information centre
- Sheltered picnic facilities
- Lookout
- No camping
- No swimming



Distances and travelling time are by foot, ONE WAY and an estimate only

	Distance	Time
Piccaninny car park to The Elbow	10km	Allow 4-5 hours
The Elbow to Black Rock Pool	0.7km	Allow 1 hour
Black Rock Pool to Base Camp	4.3km	Allow 1.5-2.5 hours
Base Camp to Finger 1	1km	Allow 1 hour
Base Camp to Finger 2	3.7km	Allow 1.5-2.5 hours
Base Camp to Finger 3	4.1km	Allow 2-3 hours
Base Camp to Finger 4	4.2km	Allow 2-3 hours
Base Camp to Finger 5	1.8km	Allow 1-2 hours

Minimum 20km return to The Elbow. Total walking distance can be 40km+ if you explore all the side gorges (Fingers).



Save the app that could save your life



emergencyplus.com.au

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

Warmun Police Facility
Ph: (08) 9167 8437

Halls Creek Police Station
Ph: (08) 9168 9777

Purnululu Visitor Centre
UHF Channel 1 DUPLEX – Northern end
UHF Channel 4 DUPLEX – Southern end
Ph: (08) 9168 4295
Email: purnululuvisitorcentre@dbca.wa.gov.au

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Parks and Wildlife Service Kununurra Office
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