

Welcome to Boodjamulla National Park

Pack your 4WD and escape to a true outback oasis. Hidden deep in Queensland's savanna country, Boodjamulla is a welcome sight at the end of a long, dusty road.

Here, **Lawn Hill Gorge** carves a magnificent ribbon of green through the surrounding dry, expansive plains. Savour your first glimpse—sandstone cliffs lining the gorge, tower above its emerald-green waters and fringing rainforest.

Hike the rocky plateaus, relax by the creek or paddle your canoe alongside fish and freshwater crocodiles. Take some time to appreciate the Waanyi Aboriginal people's connection with this land. Journey back 25 million years at **Riversleigh World Heritage Area**—one of the richest fossil mammal sites in the world.

The Waanyi people know this region as their spiritual and sacred *Boodjamulla* (Rainbow Serpent) country. This sacred Ancestral Being created many of the region's striking landscape features. Archaeological deposits and artefacts in this area have established Aboriginal occupation at 30,000 years ago and today, the Waanyi people continue to feel a deep sense of personal responsibility for the safekeeping of the place. The Waanyi people's connection to the landscape is maintained through cultural practice on their traditional homeland.

“ We the Waanyi Aboriginal people, Traditional Owners of Boodjamulla National Park, welcome you to our country and ask that you respect our special place.

When we come into the gorge we feel at home; we feel so safe; we are visiting our old people.

Waanyi Elders

“ I am still amazed and awed by how complex and diverse Boodjamulla and its inhabitants have become over eons of time. The environment is so harsh in appearance to us, but it is also fragile, intricate and complex in the unity of plants, animals and geology. Sitting on top of Constance Range, as the silence of the bush evening descends upon you and the full moon transforms the open plain country to a ghost-like moonscape, is just one example of how Boodjamulla gives me a sense of place on this planet.

Ranger Jason

Start your journey

Situated in the remote north-west highlands of Queensland, Boodjamulla National Park encompasses **Lawn Hill Gorge** and the **Riversleigh World Heritage Area**. Your best way to travel in this expansive country is with a well-prepared and equipped 4WD.

Start your visit walking the **Rainbow Serpent track** ① which leads to informative displays and maps to help you learn everything you need before exploring Boodjamulla. All of Lawn Hill Gorge's walking tracks start from here, so take some time to plan your perfect day by checking out the helpful information panels.

If it's canoeing you have in mind, continue towards the creek to the **canoe hire and launching area** ② to begin your adventure on water.



📷 (Above) View of Indarri Falls from lookout; (left) Duwadarri lookout track; (right) Island Stack lookout. (Above and right) © Tamara Vallance; (left) © Fiona O'Grady

Camping

Pitch a tent and fall asleep under the starry outback skies at one of two camping areas in the park.

Set up your camp at **Lawn Hill Gorge camping area** .

This camping area is very popular during peak season (April to October) so make sure you book well in advance. Or stay at peaceful **Miyumba camping area**,  approximately 55km south-east of Lawn Hill Gorge near the Riversleigh World Heritage Area. This is camping in the rough, so you'll need to bring everything you need to make sure your stay is comfortable. Fires or generators are not permitted at either of these camping areas.

You'll need to obtain your camping permit before you arrive. You can book and pay for your camping permit at queensland.gov.au/camping

Camping and other accommodation are also available at nearby **Adels Grove**, 10km from the park entrance. Adels Grove is also a booking agent for national park camping. Find out more at adelsgrove.com.au

Camping at a glance

Lawn Hill Gorge camping area



Camping area beside Lawn Hill Creek. Twenty separate unnumbered sites. Cold showers. Flushing toilets.

Miyumba camping area



Bush camping area. Six separate unnumbered sites. Non-flush toilets.

Bushwalking

Explore the gorge and surrounding landscapes on one of the park's many walking tracks. Some careful planning will make sure you experience the best sites at the best time of day. See over to plan your journey.

Make an early start and walk the short but strenuous **Island Stack** to welcome first light over the gorge. In the afternoon, hike the **Constance Range track** for sunset views that stretch over the rolling hills.

Follow *Boodjamulla* (Rainbow Serpent) on the **Rainbow Serpent track** and learn Lawn Hill Gorge's creation story, as told by the Waanyi Aboriginal people. Marvel at rock art and engravings on the **Wild Dog Dreaming track**.

Walk the easy **Botanical walk** to discover extraordinary tufa (limestone) formations, shaped by creek water over thousands of years. Be rewarded with bird's eye views over Lawn Hill Gorge from one of many vantage points along the **Duwadarri lookout**, **Indarri Falls** and **Upper Gorge lookout tracks**.

Canoeing

Experience the true magnificence of the gorge by canoe or kayak. Dip a paddle into the emerald-green waters on the **Lawn Hill Gorge canoe trail**  and explore the Middle and Upper gorges. You can hire a canoe or bring your own. See over for more information.



Discover Riversleigh World Heritage Area

Unearth Australia's prehistoric past at the Riversleigh Australian Fossil Mammal World Heritage Site. This area is thought to be one of the world's richest fossil mammal sites, containing fossils dating back 25 million years.

Imagine this area 35 million years ago, when Australia broke away from Antarctica—a lush rainforest filled with lakes and waterways. Marvel at the rich record of life that palaeontologists have revealed at D Site , including giant snakes, tree-climbing crocodiles and carnivorous kangaroos.

Riversleigh fossil trail

800m return, easy to moderate, allow 1 hour.

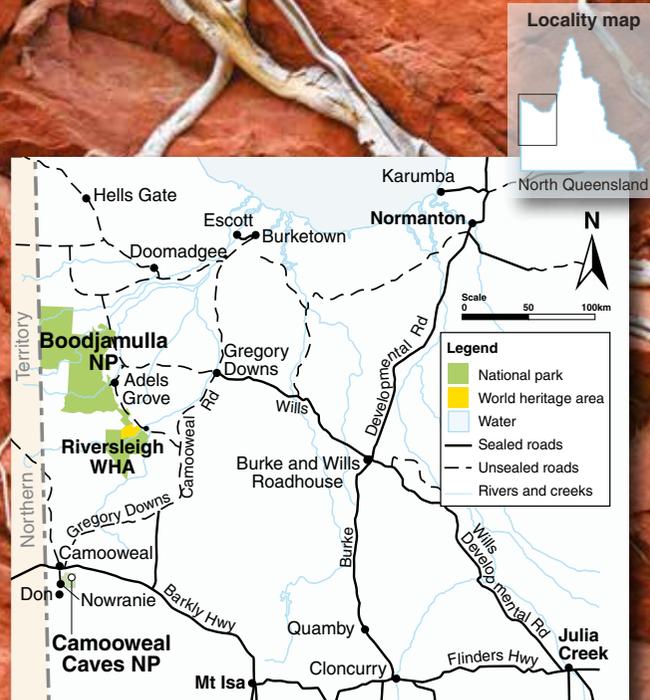
Immerse yourself in an ancient landscape and experience part of the record of life—see fossilised limb bones of towering flightless birds and the remains of the largest known freshwater crocodile. The trail has many steps, is steep in places and there is little shelter along the way.

 (Left) *Wakeleo oldfieldi* was a tree-climbing carnivore.
© Jane Jehne —JungleNook Studio
(background) Mark Nemeth © Qld Govt

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Explore a natural oasis

Once covered in wet tropical rainforest, dotted with freshwater pools, the landscape of Boodjamulla has eroded over millions of years, leaving behind rugged escarpments, deep gorges and sheer sandstone walls.

Spinifex and Mitchell grass now stretch across the dry plains, and eucalypts, acacias and grevilleas cling to rugged red sandstone hills. Cabbage palm, pandanus and fig trees grow along the river and creek—a remaining oasis of lush green in a semi-arid landscape.

Lawn Hill Creek and the Gregory and O'Shanassy rivers flow all year round, providing a sanctuary for resident and migratory wildlife and help make Boodjamulla a birdwatchers' paradise. Listen out for the raucous call of channel-billed cuckoos. The gorge is one of the few places in Australia where these birds live year-round, attracted by the warm winters and the bountiful supply of figs in the gorge. Watch the lively antics of purple-crowned fairy-wrens building nests in the thick vegetation lining the creek. In the camping areas, spot the erect crest of a spinifex pigeon and listen for distinctive

barking owls calling to one another in the night.

The rocky escarpments are home to olive pythons, ring-tailed dragons, wallaroos and the little arm-waving Gilberts or 'ta-ta' lizard. Along the creek, spy freshwater crocodiles lazing on the banks and fish and turtles bubbling inquisitively to the surface. You may be lucky to spot the vulnerable Gulf snapping turtle, as well as more common barramundi, sleepy cod and catfish.



 (Background) View of the gorge from the Constance Range track; (left) Freshwater crocodile; (top) Gulf snapping turtle; (right) Turkey bush *Calytrix exstipulata* flower; Spinifex pigeon; Purple-crowned fairy-wren
 (Background) © Chris Whitelaw; (fairy-wren) © Coral Ross; (spinifex pigeon) © Daryn Storch; (all other images) © Qld Govt

 (This page) Courtesy of Outback Pics, Longreach; (front cover) Mark Nemeth © Queensland Government

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Ranger tips and favourites

“ Even during winter, it can get quite hot here, so make sure to start the walking tracks early in the morning or late afternoon so you are not out walking in the heat of the day.

You can just sit by the green waters of Lawn Hill Creek, under a cluster fig that could be hundreds of years old and watch all the amazing birdlife around you.

If you want some spectacular views and outstanding sunset shots check out Island Stack or Duwadarri lookout. Just remember to take a good torch or headlamp so you can make your way back safely in the dark.

Ranger Carly

 (Background) Ring-tailed dragon; (above right) Wallaroo; (right) Olive python
(Background and right) Tamara Vallance © Qld Govt; (above right) © Daryn Storch

“ Despite having worked here for two decades or more, I have only seen about two percent of the park—it really is a big place. While the focus tends to be on Lawn Hill Gorge, there is so much more that makes this place the awe-inspiring area that it is.

You're in snake country now! So, stick to the tracks and wear boots.

There's no shade in the middle of the creek. So take your own.

Ranger Gaf



“ Boodjamulla National Park is better known as “Mumbaleeya Country” (rainbow serpent country) by our proud Waanyi people, past and present.

Whether enjoyed by canoe or foot, be captivated by the fiery-red sandstone gorges and emerald-green healing water (Boulgi waters).

The walking tracks and land features hold many mesmerising relics of the past that will transport you back in time.

Ranger Jarrod

“ When you are here exploring, remember you are in the Aussie outback. Though spectacular, it can also be harsh. You can really enhance your visit with a little preparation and planning, so sturdy footwear, a good hat and plenty of water is a necessity.

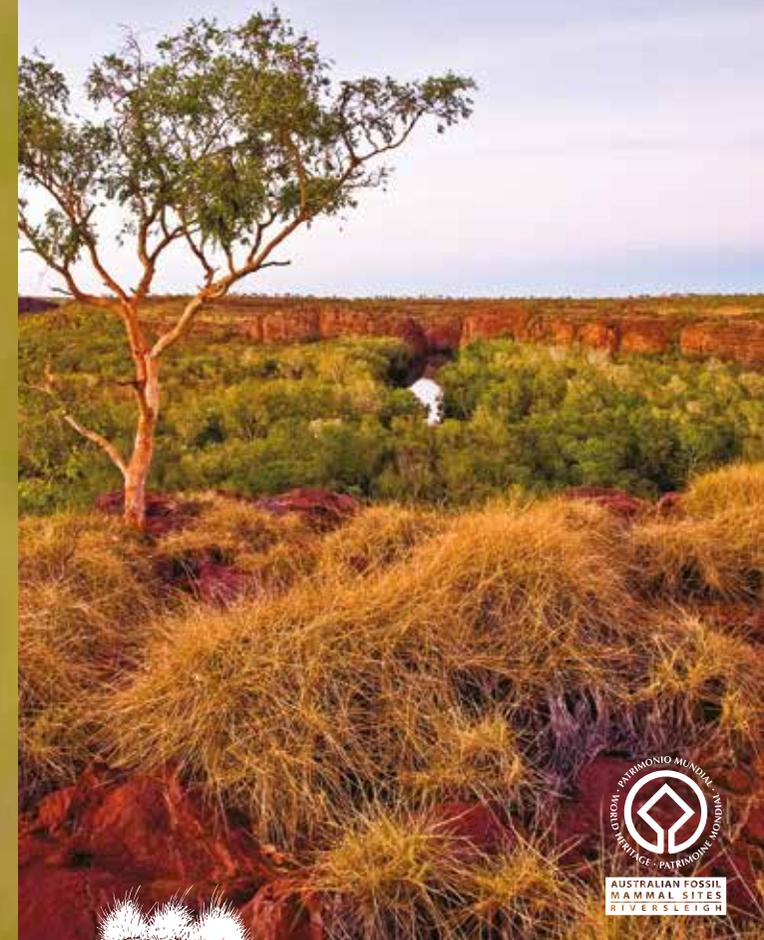
Some things here at Boodjamulla make you feel part of something iconic and exceptional. Watch the sun rise from Duwadarri lookout as the rays hit the crystal green water and bounce off the red rock in the gorge. And feel captivated and amused by the antics of our “Boodjamulla pixies”—the purple-crown fairy-wrens flitting along the water's edge.

Ranger Jason

Boodjamulla

National Park

Lawn Hill Gorge
Riversleigh World Heritage Area



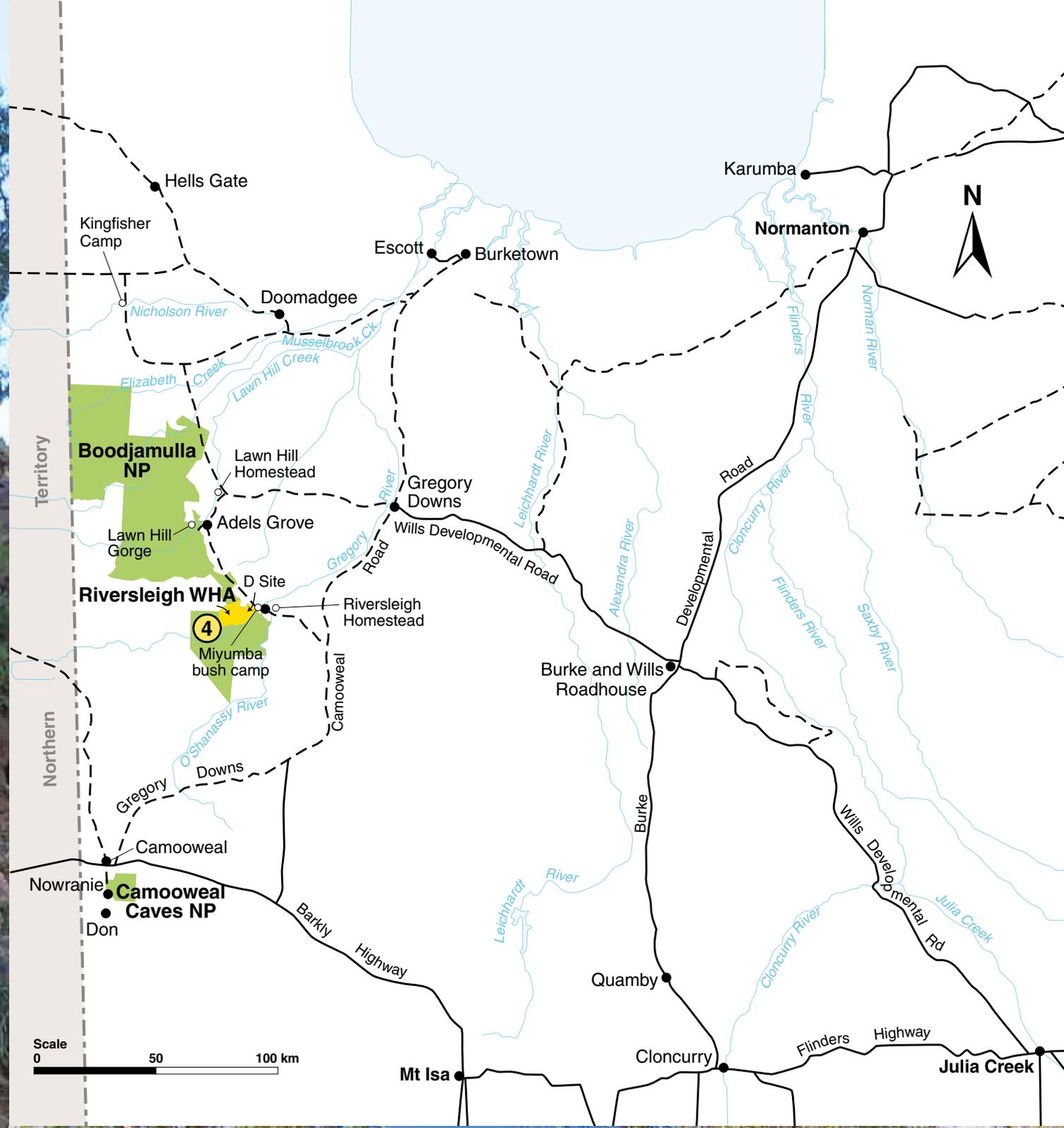
Life's best moments



Queensland
Government

Caring for Boodjamulla

- Everything in the park is protected. Please leave everything as you found it.
- Fires are not permitted. Use a fuel or gas stove for cooking.
- The use of generators is not permitted.
- Fishing is prohibited in Lawn Hill Creek.
- Do not feed the wildlife, including fish. It can affect their health and alter the natural population balance.
- For cultural reasons, the Lower Gorge is not accessible by water.
- To ensure that the waterways are kept unspoilt, motorised boats are not permitted in the park.
- Take your rubbish with you when you leave—what you bring in, you take out.



Walking tracks

Legend

-  National park
-  World Heritage area
-  Vegetation
-  Waterway
-  Sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  Walking track
-  Floating bridge
-  Information shelter
-  Camping area
-  Toilet
-  Canoe trail
-  Viewpoint
-  Lookout
-  Island Stack track
-  Botanical walk track
-  Wild Dog Dreaming track
-  Constance Range track
-  Indarri Falls track
-  Duwadarri lookout track
-  Upper Gorge lookout track



Scale
0 200 400m



 (Above) Bowerbird bower; (above right) sandstone shrike-thrush; (right) Cluster fig, *Ficus racemosa*. (Above) Mark Nemeth © Qld Govt; (above right) Tamara Vallance © Qld Govt; (right) Mandy Heales © Qld Govt

Arrive and explore safely

Make your visit to Boodjamulla memorable for the right reasons.

Before you leave home:

- make sure you have packed ample fresh water and food in case of delays caused by bad weather, flat tyres or breakdowns.
- pack a minimum of two spare tyres in good condition.
- make sure someone knows your destination and route and never leave your vehicle if it breaks down.
- travel with a UHF radio (channels one and six are local repeaters), or satellite phone.
- check with your service provider where mobile phone reception is available. Depending on your provider, some coverage may be available at sites within the national park.

At Boodjamulla:

- wear sunscreen, particularly when walking and canoeing, as the sun's reflection off the water can cause sunburn.
- keep to the walking tracks at all times, take note of safety signs, walking distances, return times and track grades.
- rest often in the shade as heat exhaustion can affect even the fit and experienced.
- stay clear of cliff edges and steep rock faces and take care on uneven slippery track surfaces, especially when wet.
- carry plenty of drinking water to avoid dehydration—drinking water straight from Lawn Hill Creek can make you very thirsty because of the high levels of calcium carbonate.
- freshwater crocodiles live in the park and are often seen in Lawn Hill Creek. They can become aggressive if disturbed and can cause injury. Do not approach or interfere with these animals and take care if swimming.

© Fiona O'Grady



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Getting there

Boodjamulla National Park lies on ancient sandstone of the Constance Range, between Barkly Tablelands to the south-west and the black soils of the Gulf Savanna Plains to the east. The Lawn Hill Gorge section of the park is 340km north-west of Mount Isa. Riversleigh World Heritage Area is 285km north-west of Mount Isa.

You can access the park from the south, via Mount Isa or Camooweal, from the east via Gregory Downs, or from the north via Hell's Gate or Doomadgee.

The road from Mount Isa is only sealed part of the way and is unsuitable for conventional vehicles and caravans. All routes from the north are via rough, unsealed roads suitable for 4WD only.

The road from Gregory Downs is unsealed and 4WDs are recommended; however, this is the only route suitable for conventional vehicles and off-road caravans (dependent on road conditions).

Be aware that unsealed sections of road can be rough, with patches of bulldust and corrugations. Sections of the roads can also be impassable for extended periods after rain. Always check road conditions before travelling to the area.

During the wet season (October–April), we recommend visitors travel by 4WD and carry an over-supply of food. Creek levels rise dramatically within a short time and with little warning, cutting off road access and leaving you stranded.

Plan your walk

Island Stack 2.6km return, 2hrs return

Start with an easy creek-side stroll then take a deep breath and prepare to tackle the steep climb up the sandstone 'stack'. Follow the circuit around the top of the stack to enjoy panoramic views.

The best time to walk is early morning, before the heat of the day starts. Or alternatively, late afternoon, when you can watch the changing red hues of the gorge as the sun sinks into the horizon (bring a torch for the return trip).

Botanical walk 1.6km, 1hr return

Take this easy walk below the Island Stack and then continue along the Botanical walk. Where the track ends, snap photos of the imposing Lower Gorge sandstone cliffs and fascinating tufa (limestone) formations shaped by lime-laden creek waters. Return the way you came.

Wild Dog Dreaming 2.2km return, 1.5hrs return

For a fascinating insight into Waanyi Aboriginal culture, follow this partly-shaded walking track alongside Lawn Hill Creek, to this important cultural site. Discover ancient rock engravings known as 'peckings', extensive rock art in a rock shelter and a large midden, remnants of long-ago meals. As you explore the Wild Dog Dreaming site and witness tangible evidence of its past inhabitants, feel a strong sense of the connection between the Waanyi people and their land.

The Waanyi people ask that you respect their culture by not taking photographs at this site. Remember not to touch the rock paintings or engravings.

Continue on to the **Lower Gorge lookout** (575m return, 30mins) and rest beside the creek before returning.

Track classifications

Class	Symbol	Suits	Track description
2		Families with young children	No bushwalking experience required. Track has a compacted surface with gentle incline sections.
3		People with some bushwalking experience	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections and many steps. Caution is needed at lookouts and ankle-supporting footwear is required.
4		Experienced bushwalkers	Tracks may be rough and very steep. Caution is needed on loose surfaces, at cliff edges and exposed naturally-occurring outlooks. Ankle-supporting footwear required.

Constance Range track 3.7km, 3hrs return

Your reward after climbing up the ancient sandstone ridge and up onto the ridge top of the Constance Range is spectacular, panoramic views. Sit down to catch your breath, enjoy the silence and gaze at dramatic views over the black soils of the Gulf Savanna Plains.

This challenging walk is suited to experienced bushwalkers and best at sunrise, or sunset when you can also watch the moon rise (bring a torch for the return trip).

Indarri Falls track 1.5km*, 1hr one way

Walk alongside Lawn Hill Creek and past the camping area before heading inland. A short climb gets the blood pumping just a little, before descending down to **Indarri Falls**. Take a cooling dip in the creek at the base of the tufa-formed falls and rejuvenate before continuing to Indarri lookout and then Duwadarri lookout.

Capture a bird's eye view of Indarri Falls from Indarri Falls lookout (340m from Indarri Falls).

Duwadarri lookout 2.5km* one way (long way), 1.5hrs, OR 920m* one way (steep way) 1hr

To reach Duwadarri lookout, it is recommended to take the long way and walk the tracks in a clockwise direction, visiting Indarri Falls and Indarri Falls lookout before continuing along the rim of the gorge to Duwadarri lookout. Savour views over Middle Gorge along the way before stopping to take a well-earned rest and take in the views over **Duwadarri waterhole** contrasting with the dry savanna landscape.

Alternatively, you can take the steep way and tackle the track to Duwadarri lookout in an anti-clockwise direction. This route includes a very steep 100m climb up an uneven surface.

Upper Gorge lookout 3.6km* one way, 2hrs

Be rewarded with splendid views over the Upper and Middle gorges after completing this challenging walk. You can choose to visit Indarri Falls first, then walk alongside the creek to reach the Upper Gorge lookout. This option involves walking up steep switchbacks prior to reaching the lookout.

Alternatively, take the less strenuous 'back' track through changing outback landscapes and return along Lawn Hill Creek stopping at Indarri Falls for a refreshing swim.

This challenging walk is suited to experienced bushwalkers and best walked in the early morning.

**Track distances are dependent on route taken.*

Plan your paddle

Lawn Hill Creek canoe trail

Glide along Lawn Hill Creek in a canoe to experience the Middle and Upper gorges in a very different way. You can hire a canoe from the canoe hire and launching area , and private canoes are also welcome. For cultural reasons, canoeing is not permitted in the Lower Gorge.

Indarri Falls

3km return, allow 1hr paddling time

Paddle upstream and let the spectacular orange sandstone walls of the Middle Gorge guide you to Indarri Falls. Here you can stop, rest and swim before returning.

Upper Gorge

6km return, allow 3hrs paddling time

From Indarri Falls, use the canoe portage track to carry your canoe around the falls to continue upstream. Paddle a further 1.3km to reach the Upper Gorge. Here the creek starts to dwindle into a series of channels and rapids, thick with pandanus and not suitable for canoes. Return the way you came.



 Canoeing
Middle Gorge
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