



Guthook Guides Australia and New Zealand



Larapinta Blog. Hiked Sept 2017

Hiking the Larapinta Trail is the true Australian Outback experience!

On the Larapinta you will see and understand why Central Australia is called the Red Centre.

The Larapinta Trail, in the heart of Central Australia runs 223km along the spine of the West MacDonnell Ranges covering some of the most spectacular ranges and gorges within the vast Australian outback desert.

The deep red gorges and cool waterholes offer an oasis for a refreshing swim in a very hot and arid land. On the rugged rocky ridges, formed millions of years ago by the rock layers being pushed on edge, you can see forever - to far off ranges without any sign of human development.

At night, the sky is full of bright stars because there are no lights anywhere around. Look out for satellites zooming across the sky and the flash of meteors as they burn up entering our atmosphere.



The Larapinta Trail is a challenging hike and requires a high level of fitness, experience and preparation. It can be completed in 15 to 16 days. If you have limited time then you can do sections between the trail heads.



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The Larapinta long distance walking track is divided into 12 sections that each take one or two days to walk. The trail has many highlights including Simpsons Gap, Ellery Creek Big Hole, Ormiston Gorge, Glen Helen and Mount Sonder. The trail also links in with other walking tracks in the Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park, so you can take side trips to explore further.

You have a range of options available to discover the Larapinta.

Companies based in the Alice Springs region offer services from transport of you and your food - right through to a fully supported hike for a few days to hiking the whole Trail.

Food drops can be made to Standley Chasm, Ellery Creek and Ormiston Gorge.

Each trail section has vehicle access, though some need a four-wheel drive with high clearance, so you can join or leave the trail at any of the trailheads.

This hike goes through very dry land and water tanks are provided generally every 10 to 20 km. There is often very little water in the creeks so always start out with at least 3 litre and carry at least 8 litres if you are camping away from the tanks. Do not attempt this hike between October and March as you will be unable to carry enough water when the temperatures exceed 40 C.

Three of the campsites charge cash fees and change is not available.

Ref: <https://nt.gov.au/leisure/recreation/bushwalking-hiking/larapinta-trail/about-larapinta-trail>

<http://www.larapintatrail.com.au/larapinta-trail-end-to-end.html>



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