

Kalbarri National Park
PO Box 37 Kalbarri 6536
Phone: (08) 9937 1140
Fax: (08) 9937 1437
E-Mail: mikep@calm.wa.gov.au

Code of Conduct for Hiking, Canoeing and Rafting

Registration Criteria

- **Group Leader:** Each party shall be under the control of a competent and experienced adult.
- **Registration:** Each party shall register their intentions with National Park staff a minimum of 6 weeks in advance of proposed activity. CALM registration proforma should be used to complete registration. Rescheduling of activities may become necessary in order to ensure adequate group separation and to minimise environmental impacts. *First in best dressed.*
- **Notification:** Group leader to notify Park staff immediately prior to activity commencement and upon completion of activity. If an excursion is curtailed, postponed or otherwise changed, the party leader must notify ranger of revised plans.
- **Group Size:** A maximum group size of 18. One adult supervisor/leader for every 5 students.

Safety

- **Water:** A minimum of 4 to 6 litres per person per day is recommended (depending upon weather conditions). The river water is not suitable for drinking.
- **River Levels:** Levels fluctuate seasonally and sharp rises have been known to occur. The gorge may be closed to hiking at times when river levels are excessively high.
- **Communication:** All parties are urged to carry a satellite telephone for emergency contact. A hand held GPS is also recommended. Mobile phones are ineffective throughout the park.
- **Swimming:** Extreme care should be exercised. Jumping or diving in the river is highly dangerous and serious accidents have occurred.

- **River Crossing:** Extreme care should be exercised when negotiating river crossing when river levels are high and currents strong.
- **Steep Terrain:** Steep, awkward terrain occurs between Z-Bend and 4 Ways - if in doubt, this section should be detoured (see map).
- **Action if Lost:** You can reduce the search area by staying in the main gorge. Exiting the gorge can be difficult and dangerous due to steep terrain and thick scrub.

Minimal Impact Practices

- **Exclusion Zone:** No camping is permitted within one kilometre of Lookout sites and day-use areas.
- **Rubbish:** All rubbish (including food scraps ect..) must be carried out of the National Park; cans and tins must not be left in fireplaces.
- **Toilet:** All toilet waste must be buried - minimum 30cm.
- **Fires:** Spirit or solid fuel stoves are preferred. Fires should be extinguished and made safe before leaving the site. Fires should be confined to existing fireplaces (where possible) and limited to one fire per party. Firewood must be limited to dead limbs and sticks at ground level-branches must not be broken or cut from standing or living trees.
- **Flora and Fauna:** All flora and fauna are protected. Leaders must ensure that vegetation is not disturbed or damaged-practically when setting up camps.

Failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct may result in future activity registration being rejected by CALM.

Contact Senior Ranger:

Kalbarri National Park Office
Kalbarri/Ajana Rd.
P.O. Box 37, Kalbarri. 6526.

Phone: 08 9937 1140
Fax: 08 9937 1437
E-mail; mikep@calm.wa.gov.au

After Hours: Senior Ranger: 08 9937 1192, 0417181314 (mob)
Assistant Ranger: 08 9937 1424, 0427199518 (mob)

Approximate Distances

Ross Graham Lookout-Hawks Head. 5km.

A relatively easy section of the gorge for hiking with some spring fed pools of water suitable for canoeing/kayaking.

Approximate walk time 2 hours.

Hawks Head - Z Bend. 19km.

A slightly more difficult section where river crossings may be necessary to continue, depending on river levels. Some spring fed pools also occur but the levels fluctuate seasonally. The river water quality is generally poor and brackish and should be sterilised by boiling or chemical methods before drinking. There is no vehicle access to this section of the gorge. Nearest access is located at the Z Bend.

Approximate walk time 18 hours Hawks Head-Z Bend.

Z Bend-4 Ways. 6km Via Gorge-4km Via Road.

This section is regarded as the most difficult in the gorge system and should only be undertaken by experienced hikers. The difficulty eases when the river levels are extremely low. This section can be avoided by leaving the gorge at the Z Bend and following the access road approximately 1km north to where an old vehicle track adjoins the main access road. The track leaves in a north-easterly direction, following this track will leave you back to the gorge arriving at the area known as 4 Ways. (Pedestrian access only along this track).

Approximate walk time 5 hours via gorge, 2 hours via road.

4 Ways-Loop. 11km.

Generally similar to the other less difficult sections with some river crossings required to continue. A large pool of water has formed along a portion of this section that is suitable for all year canoeing/kayaking, but because of the inaccessibility of the area to vehicles this makes transportation of suitable craft difficult. Some canoes are in place on this pool but remain the property of a Kalbarri tour group and any usage of the canoes outside this group's activities is prohibited.

Look for Natures Window (south side) to indicate your arrival at the loop.

Approximate walk time. 7 hours.

Around the Loop. 8km.

This 4 hour walk begins and ends at Natures Window at the Loop. This Trail is marked and the easiest route is as follows.

From Nature Window walk east, following the markers along the cliff top to the first river bend, then down along the ledges and floodplain at waterlevel to return to Natures Window, keeping the river on your right at all times. Two-wheel drive access is provided to the Loop carpark, which is approximately 500m from Natures Window.

Approximate walk time 4 hours.

Guidelines For Abseiling And Rockclimbing

1. Participants please notify the Senior Ranger prior to commencing abseiling or rockclimbing activities.
2. All abseilers should be experienced or under the direct supervision of a qualified instructor.
3. All climbers should comply with the Climbing Association of WA code ethics.
4. There should be a trained First Aider (St Johns Senior First Aid Certificate or Equivalent) and an appropriate first aid kit with the party.
5. All participants should use Standards Association of Australia approved ropes, helmets, harnesses, boots and gloves (if abseiling).
6. All participants, while either climbing or abseiling, or when within 2 metres of any height, should be belayed or braked, and a rescue rope shall be available.
7. Exclusive use of any part of the National Park is not available; participants must therefore respect the rights of all other visitors.
8. Commercial operators must hold an appropriate Tour Operators Licence issued by CALM.

Activity Registration

Please discuss your plans with Park Staff prior to commencing activity.

Report your return or cancellation upon completion of activity-either in person or by phone/fax.

| GROUP LEADER | GROUP SIZE |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Full Name: | No. Of Adults: |
| Address: | No: of Minors: |
| | |
| Contact Phone No.: | |

INTENDED ACTIVITY: HIKE CLIMB or ABSEIL CANOE or KAYAK

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| From: | To: |
| Starting Date: | Finishing Date: |

OVERNIGHT STOPS

| Location | Dates |
|----------|-------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

VEHICLE PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

| Make/Model | Colour | Reg. No. | Location |
|------------|--------|----------|----------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Signed: _____ Date: _____.

Provide any further details over page. Example names, addresses and contact numbers for all party members may be helpful in the event of an emergency.

I fully understand the requirements that at least 5 people should comprise any group trekking in the Murchison Gorges.

I am taking a group of only _____ people myself included and I am making the trip contrary to the advice of the Park Rangers.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SIGNED _____

DATE _____

WITNESSED BY _____

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____