

Nitmiluk National Park

Southern Walks & Trails

Nitmiluk is a beautiful landscape that gets very hot. It can be 10°C hotter on the rocky plateau than down by the river, and the heat can kill.

Please look after yourself - your safety is your responsibility and our concern.

Follow all Walk Safety advice.

Walk Safety



- It can get very hot on the plateau. Avoid walking during the hottest part of the day.
- Drink water regularly. Refill your drinking water at tanks along the trail.
- Wear sturdy shoes, a hat and protective clothing when walking.
- Stay on marked walks and trails and always keep markers in sight.
- Use the Avenza Maps App to help you stay on track.
- In an emergency, dial 000 on your phone. If no reception go to the nearest Emergency Call Device - see map.
- Be aware of other users on shared walk/mountain bike trails.

BEAT THE HEAT

Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Alive!

Check the weather before you go

The Top End experiences hot and humid conditions from October to March.

- If walking during these months of extreme weather, make sure you are prepared.
- Some walks are closed when temperatures are considered too high.
- Check the temperature before your walk and consider postponing if it is more than 32°C / 90°F.

STAY COOL

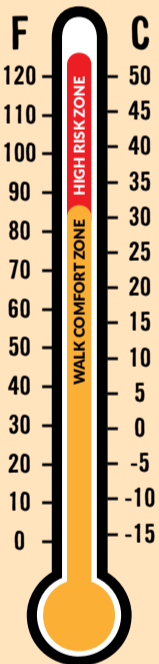
Walk early in the day, wear protective clothing and take rests in the shade.

STAY HYDRATED

Drink plenty of water and don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.

STAY INFORMED

Stay updated on local weather forecasts and don't walk in extreme heat.



Check all signage and note trails which are **shared with riders** - those to the Butterfly Gorge junction. Note some are **bike only**. Separate MTB signage is provided for riders using the trail network.

NT Maps on the Go

Download the **Avenza Maps App** on your device whilst you are still in range to find the FREE local park map you need.

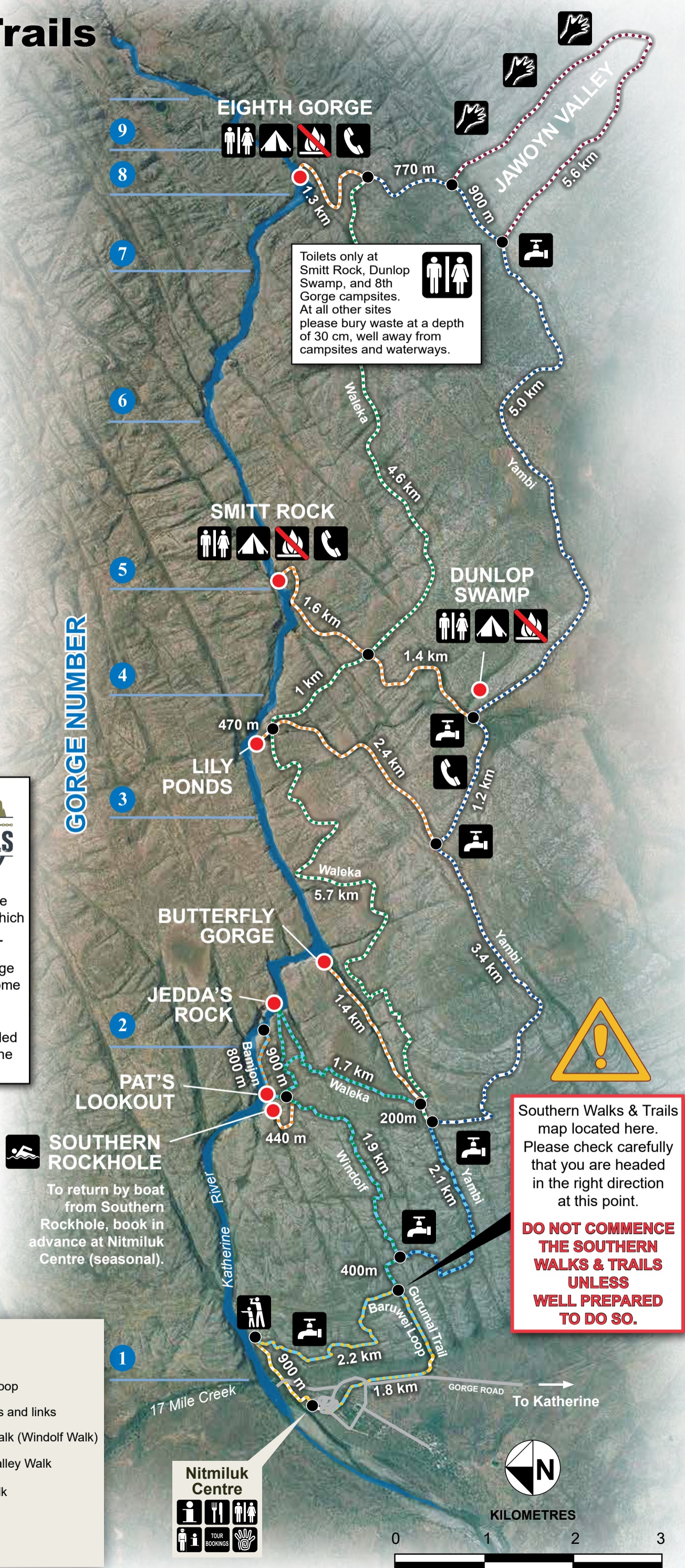


Once downloaded, the maps can be used without a network connection. Your device's built in GPS will plot your real-time location within the park onto the map. These GPS enabled maps will assist you to stay on track.

Legend

- | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | Information | | Drinking Water | | Baruwei Loop |
| | Toilet | | Lookout | | Side tracks and links |
| | Camping | | Aboriginal Art | | Waleka Walk (Windolf Walk) |
| | Emergency Contact | | Key Location | | Jawoyn Valley Walk |
| | Park Information | | Intersections / distance markers | | Yambi Walk |
| | No open fires | | Walking Trail | | |
| | Swimming | | Shared Trail (MTB and Walking) | | |

GORGE NUMBER



Toilets only at Smitt Rock, Dunlop Swamp, and 8th Gorge campsites. At all other sites please bury waste at a depth of 30 cm, well away from campsites and waterways.

Southern Walks & Trails map located here. Please check carefully that you are headed in the right direction at this point.

DO NOT COMMENCE THE SOUTHERN WALKS & TRAILS UNLESS WELL PREPARED TO DO SO.

Nitmiluk Centre



KILOMETRES





Nitmiluk National Park



Southern Walks & Trails

INFORMATION SHEET



Explore the Nitmiluk Gorge system and surrounding escarpment via the Southern Walks & Trails; where you can enjoy spectacular views, swimming and camping away from the crowds.

The network of trails begin near the Nitmiluk Centre with a climb, high onto the rocky escarpment via the Baruwei Loop. All are return walks.

Be aware that it is hot and rugged up on the plateau so choose a walk that suits your level of fitness and follow the guidelines here for a safe and enjoyable walk.

Permits and Fees

Walkers *must obtain a permit* for all overnight walks. Camping is only permitted at Dunlop Swamp, Smitt Rock and 8th Gorge and there is a limit of 10 campers at each site per night. Campsite bookings can be made in advance (recommended) through the Nitmiluk Parks Information Desk on 08 8973 8821 or parks.desk@nt.gov.au, or onsite at Nitmiluk between 7.30 am and 4.00 pm daily.

Camping fees of \$4.00 per person per night apply, payable when you obtain your permit at the Nitmiluk Centre prior to departure. The desk is open between 7.30 am and 1.00 pm to collect your permit and receive a pre-departure briefing. Payment is by correct cash or credit card. All walkers should let

someone responsible know where they are going and when they will be back. Long term parking is located at the Ranger Station.

All walks are marked by coloured triangles on a white reflective backing plate.



As a minimum, all walkers should carry:

- 3 litres of water per person per day
- energy snacks and meals
- a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or satellite phone on longer walks
- a GPS enabled Avenza park map on your phone
- sturdy footwear and thick socks
- broad-brimmed hat and sunscreen
- basic first aid kit
- pocket knife
- insect repellent and mosquito net
- matches or lighter
- gas or fuel stove - open fires are not permitted.

Trail Conditions

The walking trails vary in difficulty and length. Refer to the list of walks on the back of this sheet for a summary of the conditions you can expect on each trail.

Stay on the marked trails at all times.

Trail markers are usually located every 20-50 metres. Intersections are marked by sign posts. If you have walked for 100 m without seeing a marker, return to the last marker and find the next marker. Be aware that worn paths through

Walk with Care

Sections of these trails are shared-use with Mountain bikes and some are **MTB ONLY**.



the bush are often animal tracks, not the walking trail.

It can be extremely hot between September and April.

Temperatures on the escarpment are often 10°C hotter than near the river. Walk in the cool of the day and drink plenty of water. Check at the Nitmiluk Centre for the availability of drinking water.

Emergency Contact

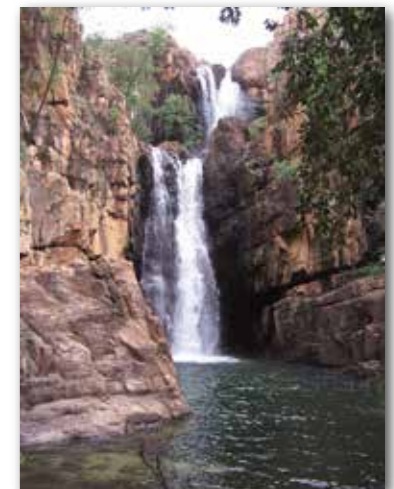
Emergency Call Devices (ECDs) are located at various locations, as shown on the map.

ECDs are for:

- contacting a Ranger in an emergency

IN AN EMERGENCY

Call 000 - mobile reception can be poor to unavailable on the walks.



Southern Rockhole

NAME OF WALK	RETURN		FEATURES SUMMARY	TRAIL RATING	WATER AVAILABLE (river water is not treated)
	DISTANCE	TIME			
Baruwei Loop (via Lookout)	1.8 km 	45 mins	Views of the picnic area, Katherine Gorge & 17 Mile Valley. Shared-used trail in places.	GRADE 3 - MODERATE Short, steep track. Condition varies. 	Water available at the Nitmiluk Centre or from tanks at the top of the hill.
	4.9 km 	2 hours	Continue walk from lookout along escarpment and back down towards the visitor centre.		
Waleka Walk	18 km one way - via Pat's Lookout to 8th Gorge Walk 	2-3 days	Spectacular views of the second gorge from Jeddas Rock and the upper gorge area. Traverses the sandstone escarpment via undulating rock platforms and shallow gullies. Shared-used trail in places.	GRADE 5 - DIFFICULT Wilderness trail with track markers. Extreme heat - Sept to April. 	From the various water tanks along the Yambi Walk and at the river. Boil river water before use.
Windolf (via Gurumal Trail)	9.1 km 	3.5 hours	Views of the First Gorge from Pat's Lookout. Seasonal swimming at Southern Rockhole (seasonal waterfall). Shared-used trail in places.	GRADE 3 - MODERATE 	From the water tank at the Windolf Walk junction.
Butterfly Gorge (via Yambi Walk & Gurumal Trail)	11.8 km 	4.5 hours	Shaded gorge with butterflies and rainforest leading into Katherine Gorge. Deep water, seasonal swimming.	GRADE 3 - MODERATE 	From the water tank at the Butterfly Gorge trail junction.
Lily Ponds (via Yambi Walk & Gurumal Trail)	21.1 km 	6.5 hours	Creek side walk with views of the Third Gorge. Seasonal Lily Pond Falls and seasonal swimming in the river.	GRADE 4 - MODERATE TO DIFFICULT last 1 km rough. 	From the water tank at the Lily Ponds junction.
Smitt Rock (via Yambi Walk & Gurumal Trail) (Dunlop Swamp camping)	23.8 km (17.8 km)	8.5 hours	Seasonal swimming below Dunlop swamp and at Smitt Rock. Gorge views. Emergency Call Devices (Dunlop Swamp and Smitt Rock).	GRADE 4 - MODERATE TO DIFFICULT last 2 km rough. 	From the water tank at Lily Ponds or Smitt Rock junction.
Eighth Gorge (via Yambi Walk & Gurumal Trail)	33.8 km 	2 days	Good view of the upper gorge area. Large valley with extensive rock outcrops. Emergency Call Device. Seasonal swimming in river and at campsite.	GRADE 4 - MODERATE TO DIFFICULT Wilderness trail with track markers. Extreme heat - Sept to April. 	From the water tank at Eighth Gorge trail head.
Eighth Gorge and Jawoyn Valley return (via Yambi Walk & Gurumal Trail)	38.5 km 	2 - 3 days	Galleries of Jawoyn paintings. Large valley with extensive rock outcrops.	GRADE 4 - MODERATE TO DIFFICULT Wilderness trail with track markers. Extreme heat - Sept to April. 	From the water tanks at Smitt Rock and Eighth Gorge junctions.

Australian Walking Track Grading System - User Guide for Northern Territory Parks				
Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Easy (disabled access)	Easy	Moderate	Moderate to Difficult	Difficult
No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them. Walks no greater than 5 km.	No bushwalking experience required. The track is a hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps. Walks not greater than 10 km.	Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections, a rough surface and many steps. Walks up to 20 km.	Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.	Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked. Walks may be more than 20 km.

