WELCOME TO
CARNARVON GORGE

Take an unforgettable journey deep into a spectacular steep-sided gorge, where towering white sandstone cliffs envelop a creek-side oasis. Let every twist and turn of boulder-strewn Carnarvon Creek reveal a splendid scene, new plant or amazing animal. Venture deep into cool, lush side-gorges, their subtly-coloured walls carved by water and time. Awaken your senses and nurture your spirit discovering the wealth of cultural and natural treasures of this very special park.

Hasten slowly in this wild place. Let the feeling of peace and tranquility enter the spirit. Breathe deeply and enjoy the scents of the bush.

Photographer Duncan McDermant, 1978

We acknowledge the long and ongoing connection Aboriginal people have with this significant cultural heritage place and ask that you explore the country with care and respect.

Living and working on a remote national park is not without its challenges. However, the opportunity to protect and conserve one of Queensland’s most spectacular national parks is a privilege that I, and my fellow rangers, appreciate every day.

Ranger Mark

GETTING TO THE GORGE

Feel the excitement build as you drive across plains towards cliffs rising above the distant tree-line. Carnarvon Gorge is approximately 740km north-west of Brisbane, 450km south-west of Rockhampton, 246km north of Roma and 241km south-east of Emerald.

Carnarvon Gorge is remote so expect some challenging conditions along the way. There are unsealed sections of road within the national park and Carnarvon Creek rises rapidly after rain, cutting access roads. If it’s flooded, forget it! Before you set out, check road conditions at 131940.qld.gov.au or phone 13 19 40.

STAY A WHILE

Enjoy Carnarvon Gorge your way. Tackle an adventurous walk, relax over a picnic or explore along the creek—this is a special place that will entice, inspire and recharge you. Spend a few days exploring Carnarvon Gorge and discover its many secrets.

Set up your home away from home in the leafy Carnarvon Gorge camping area during the Easter, winter and spring Queensland school holidays or hike your gear into Big Bend for a bush camping experience. Book your camp site well in advance at qld.gov.au/camping.

At any time of year you can stay just outside the park at Takarakka Bush Resort, a 4km drive from the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Centre. The Carnarvon Gorge Wilderness Lodge, 3km from the visitor centre, is open from 1 March to 31 October. Both resorts have cabins and Takarakka also offers camping facilities with powered sites and communal kitchens.
VENTURE ON FOOT

Take your time exploring deep into Carnarvon Gorge on foot. Delight in the dazzling colours reflected in the sparkling waters of Carnarvon Creek as you stroll along its shady banks on short walks or discover hidden wonders tucked beneath towering sandstone walls and deep inside cool narrow side gorges on longer walks. Soak up the magnificent views over the luscious green gorge below a lookout or answer the call of adventure and trek some or all of the 87km Carnarvon Great Walk. Wind up towering slopes and out onto the rugged plateaus of the Great Dividing Range—the aptly-named ‘Roof of Queensland’, the source of many great rivers.

SHORT WALKS

• Mickey Creek Gorge
  3km return from Mickey Creek car park
  Wander along Mickey Creek and into narrow side-gorges where walking changes to an off-track adventure. Here you can look for swamp wallabies resting from the heat. Rocky sections of the track are slippery and caution is needed on creek crossings. The formed track ends 1.5km from the Mickey Creek car park.

• Balloon Cave
  1km return from Balloon Cave car park
  Stroll among Carnarvon fan palms and ancient cycads to a fine example of stencilled Aboriginal rock art. Balloon Cave is located within a gap in Clematis Ridge, used by Aboriginal people as an entry point to the gorge for thousands of years. This track is suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.

• Rock Pool
  600m return from Rock Pool car park or 3.6km from the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area
  Linger in the shade of fig and casuarina trees watching for fish and turtles, or take a refreshing dip on a hot day. Carved from the bed of Carnarvon Creek by the turbulent water of past floods, the Rock Pool is the only place in Carnarvon Gorge where you can go swimming.

REST AND RELAX

Rejuvenate in a green oasis beneath tall eucalypts and palms amid grazing kangaroos and chattering birds after your long hot day on the road or after exploring the gorge’s many sites. The lush and inviting Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area has plenty of cool shady spots where you can rest and refresh.

Enjoy a picnic or cook up a storm on a gas barbecue. You might see whiptail wallabies grazing, apostle birds squabbling, busy fairy-wrens snapping up insects or a rummaging echidna.

What was that bird you saw or the little orchid you spied beside the track? Satisfy your curiosity by exploring the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Centre.
LONGER WALKS

The main gorge walking track
Criss-cross Carnarvon Creek as it winds 9.7km to the tranquil waters of Big Bend. Explore side-tracks leading to narrow, hidden gorges and timeless rock art sites. This track is mostly flat, although you must step from rock to rock across the creek and some side-tracks are steep.

At Big Bend the graded track system ends and the remote hiking trail of the Carnarvon Great Walk begins.

Boolimba Bluff
6.4km return
Discover what lies above the cliff line. Scale the steep slopes and be rewarded with views out towards distant ranges at Boolimba Bluff, towering zoom above Carnarvon Creek. Walk through spotted gum woodland, rainforest scrub and stands of budgeroo in the early morning rays to best enjoy the gorge’s most diverse and only lookout track.

Moss Garden
7km return
Beneath tree ferns straining for sunlight, a small waterfall tumbles over a rock ledge into an icy pool, a perfect place to seek refuge from the heat. Here water dripping constantly from the sandstone sustains a lush, green carpet of mosses, ferns and liverworts.

Boolimba Bluff is the perfect spot to capture a great photo of the rising sun splashing colour along the gorge’s white cliffs.

Ranger Tony

Amphitheatre
8.6km return
Discover a secret oasis. Hidden inside the gorge walls is a 6m deep chamber gouged from the rock by running water. This is a place for quiet contemplation—the towering stone walls and natural skylight create an awe-inspiring atmosphere within.

Wards Canyon
9.2km return
Be enticed into cool and inviting Wards Canyon on a hot day. Climb the short, steep track winding through spotted gums, past a small waterfall and into a beautiful side-gorge, sheltering the world’s largest fern, the king fern Angiopteris evecta. These impressive green ‘dinosaurs’ have strong links with the ancient flora of Gondwanan origin.

Art Gallery
10.8km return
Nurture your spirit gazing at over 2000 engravings, ochre stencils and free-hand paintings adorning the 62m long sandstone walls of this significant Aboriginal site. The Art Gallery contains some of the best examples of stencil art in Australia.

Cathedral Cave
18.2km return
This massive wind-eroded overhang sheltered Aboriginal people for thousands of years. Admire the panorama of rock imagery adorning its walls—reflecting the rich cultural life of those who gathered here.

Boowinda Gorge
18.4km return
Rock-hop into a sculpted side-gorge 100m upstream of Cathedral Cave. The first kilometre of this boulder-strewn gorge is the most spectacular with its sculpted walls of moss covered sandstone.

Big Bend—end of main walking track
19.4km return
Visit a natural pool nested beneath looming sandstone walls in Carnarvon Creek. Rest here in the shade of large spotted gums and watch catfish and turtles swim in the calm waters of the upper reaches of Carnarvon Creek. A composting toilet and picnic table are provided. You can camp here all year round.
Remote hiking

Pack your hiking gear and take on the remote sections of the Carnarvon Great Walk linking the Carnarvon Gorge and Mount Moffatt sections of Carnarvon National Park. You’ll need 6–7 days, good preparation and high-level bushwalking experience to complete this amazing journey through spectacular and remote sandstone country. Organise your camping permit at qld.gov.au/camping and purchase a map before you head out. Complete a bushwalking advice form and leave a copy with someone responsible before you depart.

Guided adventures

Treat yourself and enhance your Carnarvon Gorge adventure. Guided tours are offered by commercial operators—just search on the Internet for Carnarvon Gorge guided tours.

Other top spots to visit

If you enjoy Carnarvon Gorge, why not visit some other wonders in Carnarvon National Park—it covers nearly 3000km² of some of Central Queensland’s wildest scenery.

Dip your toes into the spring-fed waters of Nogoa River, winding its way through a broad, picturesque valley beneath craggy sandstone outcrops at Salvator Rosa. Drive 168km from Springsure or 135km from Tambo via Mount Playfair Road. 4WD is required.

Relax at the peaceful camping spot near Bunbuncundoo Springs in Ka Ka Mundi where more than 30km of remote sandstone escarpments and plateaus dominate the skyline. Drive 130km south-west of Springsure. 4WD is recommended.

Venture by 4WD to explore Mount Moffatt where sandstone monoliths tower above a carpet of open woodland. Basalt-crested plateaus form a backdrop to this subtle but spectacular landscape at the headwaters of the Maranoa River. Drive 220km north of Mitchell.

Access roads to all sections of Carnarvon National Park have unsealed sections which are slippery when wet and can become impassable after heavy rain. Take care to avoid stock on unfenced roads and leave gates as you find them.

Explore respectfully

Unfortunately, some cultural sites within national parks have been damaged through deliberate or natural means, with some rock art ruined or even completely destroyed. Help us work with the local Aboriginal people to protect this precious heritage. When visiting rock art sites please remember the art is very fragile and can be permanently damaged if touched—even by accident. Enjoy a close look, but please remain on boardwalks where provided.

Pack the essentials

- Plenty of drinking water—walking up the exposed gorge can be hot and thirsty work.
- First-aid kit—you never know when you might need it.
- Sunscreen, hat, appropriate clothing and good walking shoes.
- Strong plastic bags or containers to remove your rubbish. No bins are provided.
- Satellite phone, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), topographic map, navigation equipment and sterilisation tablets if taking on the remote sections of the Carnarvon Great Walk.
- Camera for recording the wonderful memories of your unforgettable visit to this awesome park.

Emergency!

There is no mobile phone reception at Carnarvon Gorge. A pay phone is provided near the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Centre. Call (Triple Zero) 000 on the pay phone or your satellite mobile phone.
Carnarvon Gorge is remote with many natural hazards, so be careful and don’t take risks. Rescue and medical help can be hours away.

Make your visit memorable for all the right reasons. Adventure safely.

• Enjoy nature, but take nothing away. Leave no trace of your visit.

• Graffiti is not ‘leaving your mark’—it’s vandalism. Leave it alone.

• Never feed wildlife. This upsets the balance of nature and harms the animals in the long term. They can also become aggressive to humans.

• Pack it in, pack it out. Take all rubbish (including food scraps, waste, garbage and cigarette butts) out of the park and dispose of it properly.

• Wash away from streams, gullies and watercourses.

• Bush hygiene—keep it clean! Use toilets at the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area, the Moss Garden turn-off and at Big Bend camping area.

• Take care on the many rocky creek crossings. Stepping stones can be slippery or unstable. Serious injury has occurred to visitors as a result of falling on the rocks.

• Keep to tracks and boardwalks to avoid damaging fragile naturally-occurring outlooks. Ankle-supporting footwear required.

• No bushwalking experience required. The track has a compacted surface and is suitable for people with some walking experience.

• Beginners, families with young children and experienced bushwalkers can enjoy Class 2 tracks.

• Very experienced bushwalkers can enjoy Class 4 tracks.

• High level of physical fitness and map reading skills required. Track has sections and many steps. Caution is needed on creek crossings, ladders and river levels.

• No fires

• No diving

• Swimming

• Caravan site

• Car camping

• Rock art

• General store

• Accommodation

• Barbecue

• Lookout

• Parking

• Wifi access

• Waterways

• Road

• Private land

• QPWS estate

• Track classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Suits</th>
<th>Track description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock Pool from</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Pool car park</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.6km 2hrs Rock Pool from Rock Pool car park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baloon Cave from</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1km 45 mins Baloon Cave from Baloon Cave car park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mickey Creek Gorge</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3km 1.5hrs Mickey Creek Gorge from Mickey Creek car park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Bend camping</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19.4km 7–8hrs Big Bend camping area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wards Canyon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>18.4km 5–6hrs Wards Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathedral Cave</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10.8km 3–4hrs Cathedral Cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wards Canyon</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9.2km 3–4hrs Wards Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moss Garden</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7km 2–3hrs Moss Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphitheatre</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8.6km 3–4hrs Amphitheatre</td>
</tr>
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<td>Big Bend camping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ampitheatre</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>7km 2–3hrs Amphitheatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boowinda Gorge</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6.4km 2–3hrs Boowinda Gorge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature Trail</td>
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<td>5.2km 1.5hrs Nature Trail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main walking track</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19.4km 7–8hrs Main walking track</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tracks may be extensively overgrown, rough and very steep. Caution is required. High-quality, ankle-supporting footwear required.

Purchase a Carnarvon Great Walk topographic map before you head out.

Landscapes typical of the Sandstone Wilderness on the 6–7 day, 87km Carnarvon Great Walk.

Head out on a hiking adventure along the rugged trails of the spectacular and remote Carnarvon Great Walk.
Carnarvon Great Walk

Head out on a hiking adventure along the rugged trails of the spectacular and remote landscapes typical of the Sandstone Wilderness on the 6–7 day, 87km Carnarvon Great Walk. Purchase a Carnarvon Great Walk topographic map before you head out.

Tracks at a glance

Distances and return times are measured from Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area unless otherwise stated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Distance (return)</th>
<th>Walking time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main walking track</td>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>19.4km</td>
<td>7–8hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Trail</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5km</td>
<td>1hr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolimba Bluff</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.4km</td>
<td>2–3hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moss Garden</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7km</td>
<td>2–3hrs</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Wards Canyon</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.2km</td>
<td>3–4hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Gallery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10.8km</td>
<td>3–4hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tread thoughtfully

Take up the challenge to leave no trace of your visit. It’s easy—here’s how:

- Pack it in, pack it out. Take all rubbish (including food scraps, cigarette butts and sanitary items) with you.
- Cook on a fuel stove. No open fires are allowed.
- Bush hygiene—keep it clean! Use toilets at the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area, the Moss Garden turn-off and at Big Bend. Take care not to pollute the natural water supplies.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Take all rubbish (including food scraps, cigarette butts and sanitary items) with you.
- Graffiti is not ‘leaving your mark’—it’s vandalism.
- Never feed wildlife. This upsets the balance of nature and harms the animals in the long term. They can also become a hazard to you.
- Aboriginal rock art, trampling sensitive vegetation, causing erosion or accidently caving in platypus burrows.
- Take care not to pollute the natural water supplies.
- Check Park Alerts online and obtain weather forecasts and river level information before heading to the park as conditions can change rapidly. Make your visit memorable for all the right reasons.
- Adventure safely
- Bush hygiene—keep it clean! Use toilets at the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area, the Moss Garden turn-off and at Big Bend. Take care not to pollute the natural water supplies.
- Tread thoughtfully
**Track and trail legend**

- Class 5 track
- Class 4 track
- Class 3 track
- Class 2 track
- No fires
- No swimming
- Rock art
- General store
- Restaurant
- Accommodation
- Barbecue
- Shower
- Camping
- Picnic table
- Toilets
- Parking
- Road
- Private land
- QPWS estate

**To Rolleston**

- Mickey Creek
- Baloon Cave
- Wilderness Lodge
- Bluff
- Warrumbah
- Mickey Creek
- Moss Garden
- Carnarvon Gorge
- Bush Resort
- Takarakka
- Visitor Area
- starts here
- Main walking track
- Amphitheatre
- Nature Trail
- R2
- E
- D
- C
- I
- F
- J
- Wards Canyon
- Big Bend
- Cabbage Tree walkers' camp
- R6
- Experienced bushwalkers
- Very experienced bushwalkers

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**Purchase a Carnarvon Great Walk topographic map before you head out.**

**Head out on a hiking adventure along the rugged trails of the spectacular and remote Carnarvon Great Walk.**

### Tracks at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track Name</th>
<th>Distance (return)</th>
<th>Walking time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock Pool from Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Area</td>
<td>3.6km</td>
<td>2hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rock Pool from Rock Pool car park</td>
<td>600m</td>
<td>30mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baloon Cave from Baloon Cave car park</td>
<td>1km</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mickey Creek Gorge from Mickey Creek car park</td>
<td>19.4km</td>
<td>7–8hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boowinda Gorge</td>
<td>18.4km</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Legend**

- **R1** Walk section
- **Walkers’ camp**
- **Great Walk**

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**Track classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Suits</th>
<th>Track description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Families with young children</td>
<td>No bushwalking experience required. The track has a compacted surface with gentle incline sections, some steps and a ramp. May be suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>People with some bushwalking experience</td>
<td>Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Tracks may have short steep hill sections and many steps. Caution is needed on creek crossings, ladders and lookouts. Ankle-supporting footwear required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Experienced bushwalkers</td>
<td>Tracks may be extensively overgrown, rough and very steep. Caution is needed on creek crossings, loose surfaces, cliff edges and exposed naturally-occurring outlooks. Ankle-supporting footwear required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Symbol" /></td>
<td>Very experienced bushwalkers</td>
<td>High level of physical fitness and map reading skills required. Track has very steep sections, irregular surface and loose stones. Directional signs limited. High-quality, ankle-supporting footwear required.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Adventure safely**

Make your visit memorable for all the right reasons.

Carnarvon Gorge is remote with many natural hazards, so be careful and don’t take risks. Rescue and medical help can be hours away.

- Check Park Alerts online and obtain weather forecasts and river level information before heading to the park as conditions can change rapidly.
- No matter what type of walk you intend to do, you should always plan ahead. Judge your ability and conditions carefully before setting out, even on short walks.
- Learn as much as you can about the terrain and local conditions and make sure that you carry appropriate clothing and reliable gear. Choose walks that suite the capabilities of your entire group. Stay together and keep to the walking tracks.
- Take care on the many rocky creek crossings. Stepping stones can be slippery or unstable. Serious injury has occurred to visitors as a result of falling on the rocks. Wear appropriate footwear with a good grip.
- Carry plenty of drinking water. Creek water is unsuitable for drinking. Treated drinking water is only available from taps in the visitor area.
- Failing trees and limbs, flash flooding and rock falls occur naturally at any time. Avoid walking in extreme weather. See the weatherboard at the Carnarvon Gorge Visitor Centre for current weather updates.
- Never dive or jump into any creek or waterhole. Shallow water and submerged objects present a serious risk. You may be severely injured or killed.

- [Image](image)