

SADDLEBACK RIDGE

4WD FACT SHEET

TOPOGRAPHY

The Track traverses the Pentecost River valley and climbs up two very steep ridges.

DISTANCE

7KM Round Trip

TIME

1 HR Return

GRADIENT

Some narrow and steep hairpin bends are difficult to navigate.

QUALITY

Passing is not possible in several steep sections. Shared track with limited shade.

EXPERIENCE

Difficult. Experienced 4x4 drivers only.

WATER

 **2L** Minimum

CHECKLIST

- 4WD equipped car. Check fuel.
- First Aid Kit
- Spare tyres and jack
- Water bottles
- Widebrim hat/sun protection
- Sturdy and enclosed footwear (thongs, crocs and flats are not suitable)

PERMIT

Please note a valid El Questro Park Permit is required. Permits are available at all El Questro outlets, including The Station, Emma Gorge, Kununurra Visitor Centre and our Website.

OVERVIEW

The viewing platform at Saddleback Ridge is one of the most spectacular lookout points in El Questro. It offers a spectacular 360° view over the Wilderness Park escarpments, The Station and the Homestead in the distance.

Getting there is an adventure in itself. Experienced 4x4 drivers only should brave the steep and winding road by vehicle.

The Saddleback Ridge escarpment starts close to The Station and parallels the Pentecost River in a north westerly direction.

The vegetation is quite diverse along the track. From the well watered Pentecost Valley with its abundance of pandanus, cluster figs and fresh water mangroves, it quickly changes to the arid and rocky scree slopes sparsely covered with spinifex, a few stands of snappy gums, grevilleas and acacias.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Toilet facilities are not provided along this trail. Please use facilities at The Station.

The 7km round trip takes about 40 minutes by vehicle. The track is very steep and narrow with loose stones and hairpin bends. Drive slowly and use low range 4 wheel drive. Before crossing the Pentecost, engage the 4WD on your vehicle.

The trail is exposed, and some sections are very steep. Additional trail information is on the back of this sheet.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Please help us protect our park and our environment. Follow the trail signage and keep to the track at all times. Moving off the trail will damage this sensitive environment.

Don't litter. Please take all your rubbish with you. This includes cigarette butts, fruit peel and toilet paper.

It is a criminal offence to disturb or destroy local flora and fauna. Never touch or tamper with Aboriginal Rockart. Memorabilia collection of Aboriginal artefacts is strictly forbidden.

Firearms are strictly prohibited. Alcohol, illegal drugs and pets are not allowed along the trail.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Car Preparation: Make sure your car is mechanically sound and carries enough fuel, water, and a first aid kit. Check your spare tyres and the jack.

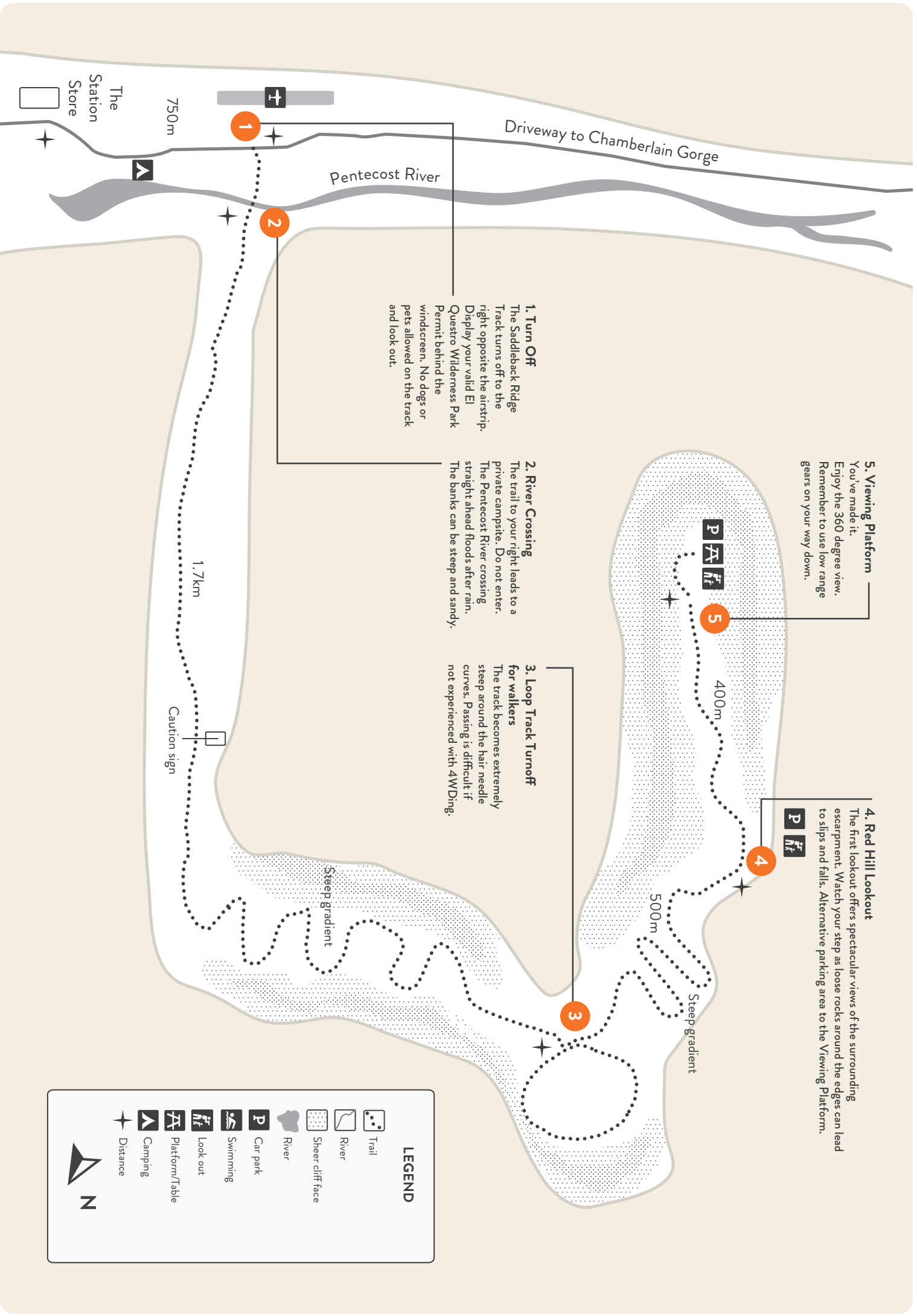
Slips and Falls: Sections along trail are rocky, slippery and challenging. Take care when negotiating large rocks, creek beds and steep sections. By following the trail signs, wearing suitable footwear and employing common sense, you will minimise the chances of injury.

Falling Rocks: There is a risk of falling or moving rocks.

Heat Illness: Review weather forecast, drink plenty of water, wear a hat and rest in the shade to minimise heat related issues.

Animals: Dangerous animals like snakes, bulls and crocodiles can be found throughout the Kimberley. If seen, do not approach, intimidate or harm them. Withdraw and alert others in the area.

Trail Signage: This trail is signed to guide you safely to the attractions and back. Red square numbers are for the drivers. Before crossing the Pentecost, engage the 4WD on your vehicle.



5. Viewing Platform
 You've made it. Enjoy the 360 degree view. Remember to use low range gears on your way down.

4. Red Hill Lookout
 The first lookout offers spectacular views of the surrounding escarpment. Watch your step as loose rocks around the edges can lead to slips and falls. Alternative parking area to the Viewing Platform.

1. Turn Off
 The Saddleback Ridge Track turns off to the right opposite the airstrip. Display your valid EI Questro Wilderness Park Permit behind the windscreen. No dogs or pets allowed on the track and look out.

2. River Crossing
 The trail to your right leads to a private campsite. Do not enter. The Pentecost River crossing straight ahead floods after rain. The banks can be steep and sandy.

3. Loop Track Turnoff for walkers
 The track becomes extremely steep around the hair needle curves. Passing is difficult if not experienced with 4WDing.

750m

1.7km

400m

500m

Caution sign

Steep gradient

Steep gradient

LEGEND

- Trail
- River
- Sheer cliff face
- Car park
- Swimming
- Look out
- Camping
- Platform/Table
- Distance

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