



EL QUESTRO GORGE HALFWAY POOL & MAC MICKING POOL TRAIL FACT SHEET

	Halfway Pool 1 TO 10	Mac Micking Pool 1 TO 16
GRADE	Grade: 4 	Grade: 5 
DISTANCE	3.2km (return)	6.8km (return)
TIME	2 hours (return)	5 hours (return)
GRADIENT	Short steep sections.	Arduous climbs and steep sections.
QUALITY	Rough track with obstacles, loose rocks and wet crossings. Track is sign posted.	Rough unformed track with large boulders, loose rocks and other natural obstacles. Limited directional markers.
EXPERIENCE	Some bushwalking experience recommended.	Experienced bushwalkers.
WATER	2 litres	3+ Litres

CHECKLIST				
<input type="checkbox"/> Sturdy and enclosed footwear (thongs are not suitable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swimming attire	<input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Widebrim hat/sun protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A small backpack for items

PERMIT
Permit Required: Please note a valid El Questro Day Pass or Park Permit is required to walk this gorge. Permits are available at all El Questro outlets, including the Emma Gorge reception at the entry to the walk. The El Questro Day Pass or Park Permit entitles you to access this walk and utilise toilets and showers located at the beginning of the trail.

OVERVIEW

In comparison with the surrounding woodland, El Questro Gorge shows a dramatic difference in vegetation and climate. The trail passes along a deep and narrow gorge flanked by sheer cliffs. It features crystal clear pools and lush tropical vegetation. Under the rainforest canopy a diverse ecosystem thrives in favourable conditions. The surrounding cliff faces, and scree slopes are up to 1800 million years old and known as Wunaamin Miluwundi Sandstone. Erosional forces, such as the watercourse, have carved out El Questro Gorge by following a geological fault line.

USEFUL INFORMATION

The El Questro Gorge Trail offers both a short and long walk. The short walk (Halfway Pool) ends at Point 10, the long walk (Micking Pool) continues from there up to Point 17. The longer walk is difficult and challenging, including climbing large boulders. It must not be attempted after 1pm and only by physically fit and capable walkers. An eco toilet is located at El Questro Gorge car park.

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. Sunscreen pollutes our natural environment. Please minimise use before swimming. Wear protective clothing instead. 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 rock art. 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

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

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. These waterholes contain submerged logs and rocks. Please do not jump off the gorge walls into the water for risk of severe personal injury.

Falling Rocks: There is a risk of falling rocks from the sandstone gorge walls. Please be aware of this and walk the gorge at your own risk.

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

Trail Signage: This trail is signed to guide you safely to the attractions and back. Follow the blue diamond shaped markers. Watch for small blue markers and ribbons between main points. Past the halfway point the trail is marked with red ribbon and diamonds. Please pick your trail to suit your physical capabilities.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY (SELF-GUIDED)

If you or a member of your group suffer an injury, set up and stay put. Stay in-site of the path but move to a dry, shaded spot if possible. Keep yourself (or injured person) as comfortable as possible and remain calm. If in a larger group and confident with the trail path, someone may return to reception to notify staff of an issue.

6. Rest and Caution Point
A pool to the left offers a place to cool down and rest. The trail hugs an elevated steep slope. Watch your step.

7. Flora
The cliffs to the left are covered with bracken ferns (*Lygodium* and *Nephrolepis* species)

8. Flora
Notice the excellent example of rock fig (*Ficus leucotricha*) hugging the cliff.

9. Soggy Squeeze
A very narrow and low section now widened by the wet season waters.

10. Halfway Pool (End of Short Wall)
This is a wet section of the trail and the main turn around point. Halfway Pool offers an excellent swim and rest area. The trail classification turns challenging and continues over the large boulder. The rest of the trail is much more challenging and dangerous. Do not put yourself or others at risk if not experienced.

16. Mac Micking Pool
This is the end of the trail. Enjoy a refreshing swim before making the return journey. This pool receives little sun throughout the day making this a very cool area.

12. Staircase Boulders
A 130m section of large boulders. Very rugged and slippery, take great care.

15. Mac Micking Gorge
Head slightly left from this point and parallel the narrow ledge to make your way into the gorge.

5. Turn Point
Turn right and cross the creek to continue your way along the trail.

4. Left Turn
The trail turns left across the creek. Watch the stepping rocks as they can be slippery and wobbly.

3. Rising Difficulty
The trail starts to become more elevated, rockier and thicker vegetation.

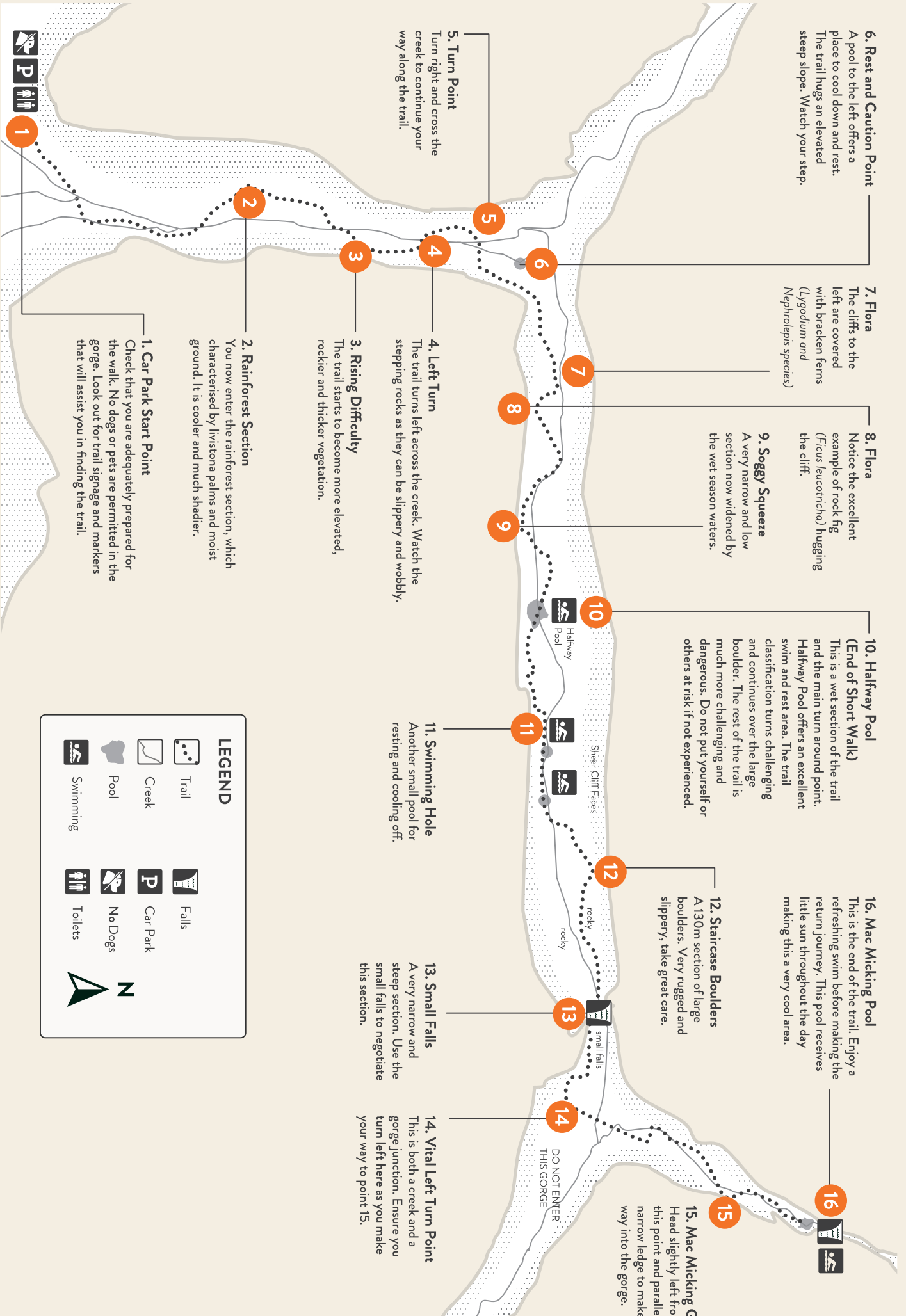
11. Swimming Hole
Another small pool for resting and cooling off.

13. Small Falls
A very narrow and steep section. Use the small falls to negotiate this section.

14. Vital Left Turn Point
This is both a creek and a gorge junction. Ensure you turn left here as you make your way to point 15.

2. Rainforest Section
You now enter the rainforest section, which characterised by Livistona palms and moist ground. It is cooler and much shadier.

1. Car Park Start Point
Check that you are adequately prepared for the walk. No dogs or pets are permitted in the gorge. Look out for trail signage and markers that will assist you in finding the trail.



LEGEND

	Trail		Falls
	Creek		Car Park
	Pool		No Dogs
	Swimming		Toilets