



EMMA GORGE

TRAIL FACT SHEET

GRADE GRADE 4 	DISTANCE 3.2 KM TIME 2 HRS Return without swim	GRADIENT Mostly flat with some short steep sections. QUALITY Rough track with many obstacles, loose and slippery rocks. Track is well signposted.	EXPERIENCE Some bushwalking experience recommended. WATER  1.5 - 2L
CHECKLIST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sturdy and enclosed footwear (thongs are not suitable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swimming attire <input checked="" 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

Emma Gorge is part of the Cockburn Ranges. A scenic trail takes you along changing vegetation to crystal clear pools and waterfalls.

The gorge is characterised by scree slopes and cliff face escarpments reaching up to 120m on both sides of the trail. The bulk of these cliff faces are made up of Cockburn sandstone and large quartz sandstone. The strata remain largely horizontal as they were laid down 1700 million years ago.

Ripple patterns on the rocks were created when sediment was deposited under shallow tidal waters millions of years ago.

USEFUL INFORMATION

The trail is very rocky and uneven, please take care negotiating creek beds and steep sections as these can be slippery.

Toilets are located at the Emma Gorge bar and the laundry block near the start of the trail.

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. 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

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 gorge at your own risk.

Animals: Dangerous animals like snakes, bulls and crocodiles can be found throughout 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.

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.

11. Emma Gorge Pool and Falls

Enjoy a refreshing swim in the impressive and icy plunge pool or simple relax on the pebble beach. Water temperatures vary between 15°C to 25°C. At the far side of the pool, thermal spring water seeps through a crack at the base of the cliff.

10. Turquoise Pool

An alternative swimming area to the main Emma Gorge Pool. The next 200m of the trail is steep in some sections and can be difficult to negotiate. Notice the varied tones of lichen on both the rocks and trees.

9. Fern Pool

Renamed NO FERN POOL in 2005 after we lost all the ferns to the cyclone). The next 100m involves negotiating sections of Emma Creek and very large and slippery boulders.

8. Rainforest Section

Enter the remaining rainforest section of the gorge where the vegetation changed dramatically from savanna woodland to Kimberley rainforest. From this point on the trail is considerably shadier and cooler due to the changes in vegetation and the closeness of the 70-90m cliff faces on either side.

7. Ripple Rock

Notice the ripple patterns as you move over this large boulder. This was formed by sediment deposited in flowing water millions of years ago.

6. Rising Difficulty

From this point onwards the trail will mainly consist of large boulders and rocky terrain. You will need to use both your arms and legs to negotiate many upcoming sections of the trail. Be careful and watch your footing.

5. The Old Track

Some sections of the walk now lead along the old track, established in the mid 90's.

4. Flagstaff Falls Lookout

Rewards you with a good view of the Flagstaff Falls. During heavy rain fall it becomes a raging torrent plunging down the sheer 112m cliff.

3. Rising Difficulty

The trail becomes rockier and broken. Catch your breath and enjoy the surroundings. Early morning walkers might catch a glimpse of the shy rock wallabies living in the area.

2. Grassland Walk Way

The next section takes you through a small forest of swamp bloodwood and various grasses. This is the easiest section of the trail. Emma Creek to your right used to be a small water course winding its way through Pandanus palms and thick vegetation. This all changed when Cyclone Ingrid brought almost 500mm of rain in March 2005. A raging torrent of water devastated Emma Gorge and buried the resort under tonnes of sand and debris.

1. Start Point

Ensure you have a valid Emma Gorge Day Pass or Wilderness Park Permit displayed on the windscreen of your vehicle. The track commences near the amenities and continues along the fire break.

LEGEND

- Trail
- Creek
- Sheer cliff face
- Pool
- Car park
- No Dogs
- Falls
- Swimming
- Look out
- Toilets
- Discovery Resorts - El Questro Emma Gorge

