

# Pedal the Park

## Simpsons Gap Bicycle Path



### The Path

Experience the arid Central Australian landscape in an enjoyable and different way along the Simpsons Gap Bicycle Path. This sealed path meanders for 17 km cross-country through attractive bushland between Flynn's Grave and Simpsons Gap. With generally easy grades, it is a relaxing and scenic ride for visitors of all ages.

Easily accessible on the western outskirts of Alice Springs, the path is great for residents seeking a short ride after school or work or as a long weekend exploration. For tourists, it is a unique way to safely explore and enjoy the natural environment around the town.

### For your enjoyment

Vantage points provide panoramic views of the hills and ranges encircling Alice Springs. The path winds from creek-side woodlands of River Red Gums, through Mulga and Witchetty Bush groves, to exposed rocky hills.

Cycling slowly and quietly enables close encounters with wildlife, particularly lizards and birds, usually seen in the early morning or late afternoon. The low light during these times also provides the best opportunity to appreciate and photograph the changing colours of the MacDonnell Ranges.

Information signs along the path explain aspects of the area's fascinating natural and scenic features. They are a great place to rest your legs and discover more about the surroundings. The path is open during daylight hours

only, as Simpsons Gap closes at 8 pm. Camping is not permitted in the Park.

### Getting there

Opposite Flynn's Grave the path connects into the town bicycle path network, which is a 7 km ride from the centre of Alice Springs. You can 'drive and ride', using the car parks at either end of the path.

### How long does it take?

Adult cyclists of average fitness should be able to complete the one-way 17 km trip between Flynn's Grave and Simpsons Gap in one to two hours. Family groups or people seeking a more relaxed exploration should allow three to four hours for a full one-way journey. Plan your ride to suit your abilities, needs and available time.

Four small rest areas (with minimal facilities) located along the path are pleasant picnic stops or places to pause and appreciate the bush.

*Detailed route information is on the map overleaf.*

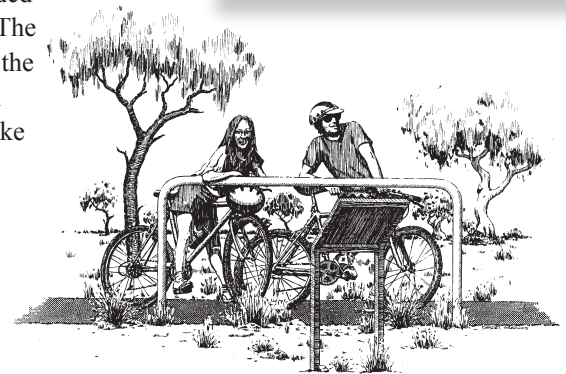
You can combine the path, Simpsons Gap and Larapinta Drive for a round trip. Larapinta Drive is a busy, high-speed road and not recommended for family groups. The total distance from the Alice Springs town centre, along the bike path and the return trip to town along Larapinta Drive is 41 km.

### Safety and Comfort

- The cooler months from April to October are more pleasant for cycling. Do not cycle in hot weather as heat stress can be dangerous, even fatal.
- Wear sunscreen, a hat and loose-fitting cotton clothing.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- A helmet and sturdy footwear is essential for safe cycling.
- Please pass other visitors with care and warn them of your approach.
- Children should be closely supervised at all times.
- Sharp bends, floodways, dips, crests and possible obstacles such as fallen branches or gravel make speeding dangerous, so go slow!
- Take a bike pump and puncture repair kit.

### Please Remember

- Keep to the path. This helps limit soil disturbance and environmental damage. 'Off-path' riding is dangerous, and you are assured of punctures from sharp sticks and large prickles.
- Bins are not provided. Please take your rubbish with you.
- Fires are not permitted
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Pets are not permitted in the Park.



### Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Simpsons Gap Ranger Station  
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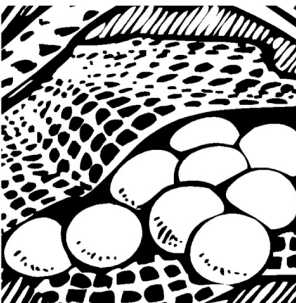
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Northern Territory Government



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