Geology

Mount Augustus is an asymmetrical anticline (rock layers that have been folded into an arch-like structure), which is steeper on its north-eastern side than the south-west. The layers have been folded into an arch-like structure (potato/potato) and encountered a variety of wildlife. Groves of white-barked gum trees indicate water seepage - so precious to the local ecology. Mulga, gidgee and other wattles are dispersed across the plain. Likewise for spinifex, pines, eucalyptus, black wattle, red wattle and gum arbores are common on the plain, while euros and birds of prey are found closer to the inselberg.

Aboriginal history

Mount Augustus and surrounds are the traditional lands of the Wajarri people. Burringurrah is the Wajarri name for Mount Augustus. In times of plenty, the Wajarri people would roam over a wide area of the Gascoyne. In times of drought, they would return to areas where water was available, such as the natural springs along the base of Mount Augustus. Aboriginal occupation is evident by engravings on rock walls at Mundool, Daramoo and Beedoboondu visitor sites, and by numerous stone tools discovered in these areas. Burringurrah continues to be a significant site for the Wajarri people.

Mount Augustus Tourist Park provides accommodation, powered caravan sites, camping facilities, food items (no prepared meals), barbecue area and fuel. Park and Wildlife Service Carnarvon Office Phone: (08) 9941 3754
Shire of Meekatharra Phone: (08) 9943 0988
Shire of Meekatharra Phone: (08) 9981 1002
In an emergency, dial 000

Caring for the park and your safety

Plan ahead and prepare – your safety is our concern but your responsibility. Always carry ample drinking water.

Travel and camp on durable surfaces – There is no camping in the park. Camping is available at the nearby Mount Augustus Tourist Park. Follow signs in the park and stay on marked trails.

Dispose of waste properly – please take your rubbish out of the park when you leave.

Leave what you find – such as rocks, plants and other natural objects.

Minimise campfire impacts – Fires are not permitted in the park. Use your portable gas stove. Dead wood is habitat for wildlife.

Respect wildlife – do not disturb animals and plants. No firearms or pets are permitted in the park.

Be considerate of your hosts and other visitors – Potentially, sites in the park are culturally significant to the Wajarri people. Please enjoy the privilege of visiting these sites and treat them with respect.

Visitor information

Access

Mount Augustus is 465km from Carnarvon via Gascoyne Junction and 345km from Meekatharra. Roads are gravel but suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. Roads may be closed or substantially damaged after rainfall. Seek advice from the local shires.

Carry ample fuel, water and supplies to cope with all possible occurrences. Always stay on signposted tracks and stay with your vehicle if you break down.

Overnight

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Ph: (08) 9943 0527
mtaugustus@skymesh.com.au
mtaugustustouristpark.com

Note: this is a privately operated business.

More information

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Walking in Mount Augustus National Park

From the climb to the summit to short walks visiting Aboriginal sites, there are a wide variety of trails to choose from. All trails in the park are essentially unmodified with only basic marking. Walkers should read the accompanying information on each trail, and take particular note of the difficulty rating.

These walk trails have been graded in difficulty according to Australian Standards for Walking Tracks. The following three classes apply to the walks described here:

- **Class 1**: Users rely on basic directional information. The trail is well marked, and can include unstable surfaces.
- **Class 2**: Users require a low level of fitness. Trails are in relatively undisturbed environments and are often rough with few, if any, modifications. A moderate to high level of fitness is required. Users should be prepared and self-reliant. Weather can affect safety.
- **Class 3**: Mostly indistinct trails through undisturbed natural environments. Terrain is rough. A high level of fitness is required. Users must be prepared and self-reliant. Weather can affect safety.
- **Class 4**: Trails are in relatively undisturbed environments and are often rough with few, if any, modifications. A moderate to high level of fitness is required. Users should be prepared and self-reliant. Weather can affect safety.
- **Class 5**: Mostly indistinct trails through undisturbed natural environments. Terrain is rough. A high level of fitness is required. Users must be prepared and self-reliant. Weather can affect safety.

**CAUTION** – Wear sturdy footwear and protective clothing. There is no drinking water in the park. Do not expect to find water in natural watercourses, even in winter, so always carry enough for your own needs. Heat stroke can kill. Summer temperatures are extremely hot. Carry and drink 3–4 litres per person per day. Walk in the cooler times of the day. There is no drinking water in the national park.

**Advisory** – Take care on escarpment slopes and cliff edges as the rock surface can be crumbly and unstable. Hosts do not walk in flood waters. Summer temperatures are extremely hot. Take care of your safety.

**Visitors site and trails Loop Drive**

A 4km circuit provides views of the changing faces of the rock and access to all feature sites. This road is suitable for conventional two-wheel-drive vehicles.

- **Emu Hill Lookout**
  - Turn north about 6km north-west of the park boundary on the Cobra-Mount Augustus Road, and drive 1.5km along a track suitable for two-wheel-drive vehicles. The lookout is a good location to take photographs of the inselberg; at sunset it is usually most colourful. This site is a good location to take photographs of the inselberg; at sunset it is usually most colourful. This site is a good location to take photographs of the inselberg; at sunset it is usually most colourful.

**Goobina–Cattle Pool**

A permanent pool on the Lyons River. This site is particularly picturesque after rains have filled the pool to capacity.

- **Corella Trail (Class 3)** 1.2km return, 30 minutes–1 hour 15 minutes
  - This easy trail begins mid-way along the south bank of Cattle Pool. Quiet and observant walkers are rewarded with tranquil scenes of waterbirds, Corellas and other species forage in the river gums. Goodgeedia

**Goobinda**

Corella Trail (Class 3) 1.2km return, 30 minutes–1 hour 15 minutes

- **Saddle Trail (Class 3)** 1km return, 20 minutes–1 hour
  - This trail follows a rocky creek for part of the way, becoming steeper as walkers approach the lookout. From the lookout there are views of the Lyons River meandering through the plain and the Godfrey Range to the north.

- **Steady Trail (Class 4)** 1km return, 1 hour
  - This trail begins at the Gully Trail and continues through the Wajarri culture.

- **Mundie**
  - Edney’s Lookout (Aboriginal engravings)
  - Ooramboo Trail (Class 3) 500m return, 15–30 minutes
  - This easy walk to view Aboriginal engravings along an escarpment. An extra walk of 100m will bring you to Edney’s Lookout.

- **Mundie**
  - Petroglyph Trail (Class 3) 300m return, 10–20 minutes
  - This easy walk to an engraved wall is a place to quietly ponder the Wajarri culture.

- **Edney’s–Ooramboo**
  - Ooramboo Trail (Class 3) 500m return, 15–30 minutes
  - An easy walk to view Aboriginal engravings along an escarpment. An extra walk of 100m will bring you to Edney Spring.

- **Edney’s Trail (Class 4) 6km return, 2–5 hours
  - This well-defined trail will lead you to Edney’s Lookout (a peak that is visible from the tourist park). The trail is suitable for people seeking elevated views but who don’t want to tackle the more strenuous Summit Trail.

- **Gum Grove–Warralga**
  - Gum Grove Trail (Class 3) 1km return, 20 minutes–1 hour
  - This easy trail takes walkers through a shady grove of river red gums. The return point for this trail is at the Kotka Gorge sign.

- **Kotka Gorge**
  - Gum Grove Trail (Class 4) 4km return, 1.5–3 hours
  - This trail incorporates the Gum Grove Trail. Walkers then continue along a dry, rocky creek bed before moving above the creek line until just before the main opening of Kotka Gorge. This marks the end of the trail. There are views to the east of Mount Augustus from this point.

- **Emu Hill Lookout**
  - Gum Grove Trail (Class 3) 1.5km return, 30 minutes–1 hour
  - This easy trail takes walkers through a shady grove of river red gums. The return point for this trail is at the Kotka Gorge sign.