

# AUSTRALIA'S WORLD HERITAGE PLACES

## PURNULULU NATIONAL PARK INFORMATION SHEET



### Quick Facts

- Purnululu National Park is 300km from a small town in Western Australia called Kununurra.
- This national park is famous for the Bungle Bungles Range, a landscape of striped beehive-shaped rock towers.
- The area covered by the national park is also significant to Indigenous people.
- Each of Australia's 17 World Heritage Places are also on Australia's National Heritage List.

### Why is Purnululu National Park of World Heritage value?

Purnululu National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2003 for its natural values.

- **It helps scientists understand how the earth's landscapes form over long periods of time**  
The incredible beehive shapes of the Bungle Bungles Range are made of sandstone and conglomerates (individual rocks and pebbles cemented together) formed from twenty million years of erosion. The 'stripes' are formed from cyanobacteria. These are single cell organisms and some of the oldest life forms on earth.
- **It contains beautiful natural formations and features which are some of the best examples of their kind in the world**  
The Bungle Bungles Range is one of the most extensive and impressive occurrences of sandstone tower karst in the world. The Bungle Bungles Range can be experienced on foot or from the air. From the air, you will see a maze of beehive shaped domes striped orange and black rising up over gorges and pools. These amazing structures seem to change colour in different seasons. Purnululu National Park also contains incredible cliffs, gorges, seasonal waterfalls and pools.

### Challenges and Management

Purnululu National Park is managed by the Western Australian Government.

Challenges	Management
Introduced animals	Past grazing by both cattle and donkeys has caused extensive erosion to the land. In 1985, the removal of cattle and donkey began. The Ord River Regeneration Reserve was established to reduce stock numbers and stabilise and improve grasslands. Domestic pets including cats and dogs are not allowed to be brought in, reducing the risk to native animals.
Tourism	Growing tourist numbers increase erosion of fragile sandstone and cause wear and tear on walking tracks and trails. To counteract this, strategies are in place to allow tourist activities while preserving the natural values for future generations. For example, park facilities have been upgraded to support tourists. Camping grounds have been expanded and popular roads and walking tracks have been improved to protect plants, soil and sandstone landforms and avoid sensitive areas.



**Australian Government**  
Department of the Environment,  
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**Wildfires** Fires often occur during October and November in the build up to the wet season, and grasslands are particularly vulnerable. Modern fire management techniques are combined with traditional Indigenous techniques to manage wild fires. The aim is to use fire as a management tool to enhance diversity and ecological sustainability.

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### Read more

[www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/purnululu/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/purnululu/index.html)



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