**TITLE PAGE**

**Accessible Nature**

**Serpentine Falls, Serpentine National Park**

**Before We Go**

We recognise and acknowledge the Binjareb/Pinjarup, Ganeang and Wilman people as the traditional owners of Serpentine National Park.

**Getting There**

Serpentine National Park is located on Falls Road in Serpentine, Western Australia.

GPS: -32.369148, 116.005685

See Google Map reference [here.](https://goo.gl/maps/tX3sofMCrkiZETBBA)

**Public Transport**

The closest train station to Serpentine National Park is Armadale Station, which is 25 kilometres away. There is no public transport directly to the park. Bus services operate in the area. For more information about the services, visit the [Transperth Journey Planner](https://www.transperth.wa.gov.au/Journey-Planner).

**Parking**

There are no marked parking bays at the picnic area. It is recommended that you park on the gravel section in between the picnic area and the toilets, as this is level and provides the easiest access to amenities.

Parking closest to the Serpentine Falls viewing area is a level bitumen space with one (1) designated accessible bay.

**What's There**

One of Perth’s most picturesque waterfalls, Serpentine Falls is located in Serpentine National Park, and features water flowing from a height of 15 metres over rocks to a series of pools below. The name “serpentine” refers to the winding, snake-like path that the river takes through the landscape. The waterfall cascades over rocks into a pool below, creating a refreshing and inviting spot for visitors to enjoy. The base of the falls is surrounded by lush vegetation and native plants, making it a popular destination for those seeking a peaceful escape into nature.

Visitors can hike along the trails, have a picnic, swim in the rock-lined pool, or simply relax in the natural beauty of the surroundings.

*Entry Fees*

**Private vehicle with up to 12 occupants**

* $15 per vehicle
* $8 per vehicle (concession)

**Private vehicle with more than 12 occupants**

* $7 per occupant 6 years or older
* $2.50 per occupant (concession)

**Motorcycle**

* $8 per vehicle

*Opening Times*

Serpentine Falls is open each day from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Serpentine Falls is very popular, and during peak times it often reaches capacity. We recommend you plan to arrive before 10:00am.

**Accessibility and Inclusion**
**Sensory Guide**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feel**Change in ground surface Cool waterNatureShared personal spaceUneven terrainWater resistance Weather | **Sounds**NaturePeopleTrees rustlingTrafficWater running Wildlife | **Sights**GlareNaturePeopleVaried natural lightWildlife | **Smells**DustNatureSunscreen |

* The surface is a mix of bitumen and loose gravel. A level pathway leads to major attractions from the car park areas, including the toilets and a walk trail leading to the falls.
* There is one (1) set of public toilets located close to the picnic area. You can access the toilet block following a level bitumen path.
* Key elements of the park are signposted, however there are no Braille translations or options for non-English-speaking visitors.
* There are numerous seating, picnic and barbecue options in the picnic area. These areas are mostly shaded by natural tree coverage.
* A 400-metre walk along a compacted gravel path leads to Serpentine Falls. It is mostly suitable for wheelchairs, other than some small steps leading into the pool of water at the bottom of the falls.
* The sound of the water flowing over the falls may be loud, especially in winter and spring.
* Food and drinks are not available for purchase on site. Please bring your own food and water when visiting.
* Serpentine Falls is home to an abundance of wildlife. This means there may be animal droppings on the grass and grounds. You might also spot some kangaroos who like to lounge in the picnic area.
* Dogs and other pets are not allowed onsite. Guide dogs are exempt from this.
* Serpentine Falls is a big, open space and is not fenced. There is an open body of water (Serpentine Falls), with no lifeguard on duty.
* In summer, and on the weekends, the park can quickly reach capacity. It is recommended that you arrive before 10:00am.

A communication board has been placed at the end of this document for your use at Serpentine Falls.

**When We Get There**

**Google map:** [**https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1hvaBmLLFYedNNcC8QxNaJ5e8HFNVLqs&usp=sharing**](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1hvaBmLLFYedNNcC8QxNaJ5e8HFNVLqs&usp=sharing)

**Nature Engagement and Recreational Activities**

**Sensory Guide**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feel**Change in ground surface Cool waterIncreased body temperatureNatureShared personal spaceUneven terrainWeather | **Sounds**NaturePeopleTrees rustlingTrafficWater running Wildlife | **Sights**GlareNaturePeopleVaried natural lightWildlife | **Smells**DustNatureSunscreen |

* Serpentine Falls is surrounded by lush vegetation and native plants including eucalyptus trees, banksias, grass trees, acacias, sedges and sheoaks.
* There are as many as 70 different species of birds including red-capped parrots, western rosellas, red-tailed black cockatoos, Carnaby’s black cockatoos and yellow robins.
* The park is home to a variety of wildlife including kangaroos, wallabies, possums, geckos, tiger snakes, and skinks.
* Baldwins Bluff and Kittys Gorge walk trails can be accessed from Serpentine Falls. For more information, visit the [Trails WA website.](https://trailswa.com.au/)
* Wildflowers are in bloom in spring, with the hills of Serpentine National Park dotted with spider orchids, greenhoods, trigger plants, and many more.
* The best time to see the wildflowers is from July to November. We suggest visiting in September when many of the flowers have fully bloomed.
* There are a variety of textures for children to interact with including plants, trees, grass and water.
* Wildlife can be viewed and heard throughout the park.

**Serpentine Falls**

**Sensory Guide**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feel**WaterWeather  | **Sounds**Children playing People Splashing Water running Wildlife  | **Sights**Glare Splashing Wildlife  | **Smells**Nature Sunscreen  |

A 400-metre walk along a compacted gravel path leads to Serpentine Falls.

It is mostly suitable for wheelchairs, other than some small steps leading into the pool of water at the bottom of the falls.

As you follow the path, read the signs to learn more about the falls and the significance to the traditional owners and custodians, the Noongar Aboriginal people.

Please show respect to Noongar culture and this site by not climbing on the rocks or going to the top of the falls.

**Public Toilets**

**Sensory Guide**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feel**Change in ground surface  | **Sounds**Door creaking Echo Toilet flushing Water running Wildlife  | **Sights**Dim lighting  | **Smells**Bathroom smells Disinfectant  |

Serpentine Falls has one (1) set of public toilets with separate unisex facilities.

The toilets are open from 8:30am to 5:00pm each day.

Location: Within a short walking distance from the picnic area following a level bitumen path.

**Picnic Area**

**Sensory Guide**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feel**Changed in ground surface Nature Shared personal space Weather  | **Sounds**Barbecue sizzling Children playingNaturePeople Water runningWildlife  | **Sights**Glare Wildlife  | **Smells**Food/drink Nature Sunscreen  |

The picnic area is a popular place to relax and unwind. It is a large, grassed area surrounded by lush vegetation, with native plants and trees providing shade. The area is equipped with picnic tables and benches with barbecue facilities available for public use. Toilets are located close-by following a flat and even surface.

Wildlife, including kangaroos, can be observed from the picnic area. Please do not feed the kangaroos or other wildlife while visiting Serpentine Falls and remember to follow the *Leave No Trace* principles. Take any rubbish with you or use the bins provided on site.

**Walk Trails**

**Sensory Guide**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Feel**Change in ground surface Increased body temperature Increased heart rate Perspiration Shared personal space Uneven terrain Weather  | **Sounds**Trees rustling Water runningWildlife Weather  | **Sights**Dust Glare People Varied natural light Wildlife  | **Smells**Nature  |

Two (2) walk trails can be accessed from Serpentine Falls. Both trails require reasonable fitness to complete and are not accessible to wheelchair users or prams.

**Baldwins Bluff Trail**

This is a six (6) kilometre walk offering great views over the Swan Coastal Plain and Serpentine Falls from the summit. Explore the gravel tracks through jarrah and marri woodlands, departing from the south side of the Serpentine Falls car park (close to the toilets).

**Kitty’s Gorge Trail**

This is a 14-kilometre return trail and is a popular trail in the Perth Hills. The trail follows the Serpentine River and Gooralong Brook through woodlands, granite outcrops and waterfalls. Wildflowers and fungi can be spotted in spring and autumn. The trail can be accessed from the Serpentine Falls carpark.

For more information on these and other trails please visit the [Trails WA website.](https://trailswa.com.au/)

**Communication Board**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **“QUESTION”** | **“I NEED HELP”** | **“WHERE IS”** | **“I WANT TO”** | **“TIME”** |
| **“YES”** | **“NO”** | **“I DON’T SPEAK ENGLISH”** | **“DEAF/HARD OF HEARING”** | **“TOILETS”** |
| **“WATER”** | **"TRAIL”**  | **"SWIM”** | **"TREES”** | **"ANIMALS”** |
| **"WILDFLOWERS”** | **"PICNIC”** | **"REST AREA”** | **“QUIET PLACE”** | **“SOCIAL STORY”** |

**About Every Kid in a Park**

This Accessible Nature guide has been developed for Serpentine Falls in Serpentine National Park. This document is available online to help you plan your visit.

Download the Every Kid in the Park app for more information on Serpentine National Park. The App is free to download and use, and is a tool developed for families to plan their visit and navigate their way through the park.

Every Kid in a Park is a project to support families of children of all abilities in accessing and enjoying the outdoors (like local parks, nature reserves, beaches, and national parks) around Western Australia.

**Statement of Language**

Nature Play WA supports the Social Model of Disability. We are proud to work with families and industry professionals within the disability community, who continue to assist us in our approach to access and inclusion.

For more information about the Social Model of Disability, visit [People With Disability Australia](http://pwd.org.au/resources/disability-info/social-model-of-disability/).

**About Nature Play WA**

Nature Play WA is an incorporated not-for-profit association and a registered charity, dedicated to supporting the mental and physical health of Western Australian children by growing their connection to nature and community through outdoor play.

For more information on what we do and who we are, visit the [Nature Play WA website.](http://www.natureplaywa.org.au)