

Davenport Range National Park (proposed)



Fact Sheet

The Davenport Range National Park is located in the Davenport and Murchison Ranges within the Barkly Region. The Park protects the important environmental zone between the Top End and Central Australia. The proposed National Park encompasses 1120 km² situated mainly in the Davenport Range and is bordered by the pastoral leases of Elkedra, Kurundi, Murray Downs, Singleton and the land of the Anurrete Aboriginal Land Trust.

The area is an important refuge for fauna, especially water birds, due to an extensive network of waterholes. At least seven species of fish are present in the many permanent waterholes which are isolated from any other river system, giving the area considerable ecological importance.

The Davenport Ranges have a quiet beauty making them a relaxing and attractive place for intrepid tourists and local residents from Tennant Creek and Alice Springs who wish to get away from it all.

Aboriginal associations with the area are extensive and strong. The Davenport Ranges mark the boundary between the traditional lands of the Warumungu, Alyawarre and Kaytetye people. Artefacts relating to earlier occupancy remain and 'Dreamtime' or creation stories remain strong among Aboriginal people who retain traditional associations with the land.

Europeans settled the area at the turn of the 19th century. The area has a diverse history of mineral exploration and mining, pastoral development, missionary work and the establishment of Government services such as a police station.

Access

The Park is located south-east of Tennant Creek and can be reached by two main routes.

- via Stuart Highway, turn off at Bonney Well along Kurundi/Epenarra road.
- via Stuart Highway, turn off at Taylor Creek along Murray Downs/Hatches Creek road. This is a slower route, but still very scenic.

An alternative access to the Old Police Station Waterhole is via the 'Frew River Loop 4WD Track,' a demanding 17km (2hr) track that should only be attempted by experienced four wheel drivers.



At this stage visitors may only visit Whistleduck Creek and the Old Police Station Waterhole. A high clearance four wheel drive is essential.

What to Do



Camping - There are only basic camping facilities in the Park so come well prepared. Wood BBQs and Pit Toilets are available. Camping is only permitted in designated camping areas and fees are payable onsite.

Nature Observation - The area offers excellent opportunities for

Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Consider your health and fitness when choosing a walk.
- Swim only where recommended.

Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Firewood collection is not permitted in the park.
- Fires are only permitted in designated firepits.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted in this park.
- Permission from the relevant landowner is required before deviating from the public road.
- Generators are not permitted.

observing both flora and fauna.



Swimming - Old Police Station Waterhole is an ideal place for swimming during summer. Beware of submerged logs and rocks. Do not jump or dive into the water.

Safety

The area is subject to frequent flooding during the hotter months (December to March). To find out about local road and weather conditions phone the police station at Alekerenge (Ali Curung) on (08) 8964 1959.

Parks & Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory

Tennant Creek Office - Ph: (08) 8962 4599 Fax: (08) 8962 4388
 Alice Springs Office - Arid Zone Research Institute
 South Stuart Highway ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
 PO Box 1120 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
 Ph: (08) 8951 8211 Fax: (08) 8951 8290



