

Media Release:

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Parks to visit this Easter long weekend

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) encourages locals and visitors to explore some of the Territory's stunning natural sights and parks this Easter long weekend, commencing this Friday, 22 April 2011.

Many of the popular picnic and camping spots throughout the Territory will be open this Easter long weekend, however it is important for locals and visitors to stay up to date on park closures before heading out this long weekend in case of any last minute changes.

Upper Cascades, Florence Falls and Buley Rock Hole within Litchfield National Park are open for swimming, and Florence Falls 2WD, Buley Rock Hole and Wangi Falls campgrounds are also open.

Mary River is closed except for access to Shady Camp. Point Stuart is open however a weight limit of 4.5 tonnes applies. Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve is open for bird watching, but walking tracks remain closed at this time.

Channel Point, Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs Park, Butterfly Gorge Nature Park, Keep River National Park and parts of Gregory National Park remain closed as they are currently inaccessible.

Douglas River / Daly River Esplanade Conservation area is open and 4WD is recommended as only the first campsites are 2WD accessible. Umbrawarra Gorge Nature Park has been reopened but is only accessible by 4WD.

Casuarina Coastal Reserve and Charles Darwin National Park are open however Holmes Jungle Nature Park remains closed.

Manton Dam Recreation Reserve is open for land and boat based fishing and picnics only, swimming and water-based activities including water-skiing, jet-skiing and wakeboarding remain prohibited due to the likely presence of estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles.

The Parks and Wildlife Service want visitors to have safe and enjoyable experiences in our national parks and trust they will do the right thing and be considerate of other visitors.

Rangers will be on patrol over the Easter long weekend. If anyone knows of, or witnesses, irresponsible or dangerous behaviour, they are encouraged to pass on any details to Parks and Wildlife Service so that rangers and police can take action.

We remind people to be extremely cautious about any waterways in the Top End, because estuarine crocodiles can move around throughout the year.

BE CROCWISE and report estuarine (saltwater) crocodile sightings in the Darwin region to 0419 822 859 or in the Katherine region to 0407 958 405.

For the latest updates on parks and road closures throughout the Territory visit www.nt.gov.au/nreta/parks/ and www.ntlis.nt.gov.au/roadreport/.

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