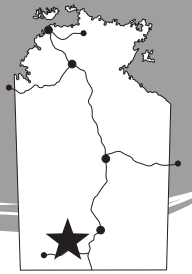


Illamurta Springs Conservation Reserve



Fact Sheet

This Reserve is one of the most peaceful and isolated reserves in the Parks and Wildlife Service estate. Its natural values are due to the impressive southern foothills of the James Range and the presence of a permanent natural spring. The 129 hectare Reserve provides a moist habitat for several relict aquatic plant species, and also protects the ruins of the Illamurta Springs Police Camp which was operational between 1893 and 1912.

The Police Station functioned for a time as an administrative centre and as a distribution point of rations to Aboriginal people.

This is an important cultural site for the Southern Arrernte (Pertame) Aboriginal people as it forms part of the extensive 'Kuniya-Snake' (Python)

Dreaming. A large number of stone artefacts, including fragments of grindstones, occur in the Reserve providing evidence of Aboriginal occupation.

Access

Located 192 km from Alice Springs, access to the Reserve is via the Stuart Highway and Ernest Giles Road, or from Palm Valley via the Finke River 4WD Route. All roads leading to the Reserve are unsealed, sandy and occasionally inaccessible following heavy rain. The tracks are recommended 4WD only due to their unstable and changing road surfaces.



If you are planning to drive the Finke River 4WD Route ensure you are well equipped and prepared with a satellite phone or personal locator beacon, extra water and spare tyres. An information sheet is available from Parks and Wildlife (contact details at the bottom of the page).

For a safe trip carry an EPIRB, Personal Locator Beacon or Satellite Phone. Inform a reliable person of your travel plans and intended day of return.

When to visit

The Reserve is accessible all year round. The cooler months (April to September) are the most pleasant times to visit.

What to do



This Reserve offers visitors recreational activities including: walking, nature appreciation and photography. The Reserve also provides the opportunity for appreciation of Aboriginal culture and European history.



Picnicking - Currently there are no visitor facilities provided at Illamurta Springs and the use of fire is prohibited.

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.

Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Firewood collection is not permitted in the reserve.
- Fires are not permitted in the reserve.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted in this reserve.



Camping - Camping is not permitted on the Reserve.

Fragments of grindstones like this, provide evidence of Aboriginal occupation at Illamurta.



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Northern Territory Government



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