

The wide expanses of Mary River National Park protects part of the Mary River catchment, where floodplains, billabongs, woodlands, paperbark and monsoon forests provide visitors with excellent opportunities for wildlife watching, fishing, four-wheel driving, bushwalking and photography.

The Mary River is one of eight rivers in the Top End which have large floodplains in their catchments. The Arnhem Highway takes you across five of the eight rivers as you travel between Darwin and Jabiru.

Access (see map)

Located 150 km east of Darwin along the Arnhem Highway.


In the dry season (May to September) most areas are accessible to all vehicles, however, many roads are unsealed. During the wet season (October - April) flooding causes road closures.

When to Visit


Commercial tours and accommodation are available all year. For more information, contact Tourism Top End. The most comfortable time to visit is during the dry season (May - September)


What to See and Do


 **Mary River Crossing** - on the Arnhem Highway 3km west of the Bark Hut Inn. A picnic area, toilets and boat ramp make this an ideal site to access the Mary.


 **Hardies 4WD Track** - is accessible from the Arnhem

Highway, about 5 km west of the Mary River or from Rockhole road. A separate information sheet is available.

 **Rockhole** - a popular access point to the waterways of the Mary River. A boat ramp and picnic facilities are located here. Barramundi fishing is popular.

 **Couzen's Lookout Camping Area** - offers secluded camping beside the Mary River. It is only a short walk to the lookout where the sunsets are stunning.

 **Wildman 4WD Track** - links the Rockhole and Wildman roads. You can start at either end and explore the wetlands. A separate information sheet is available.

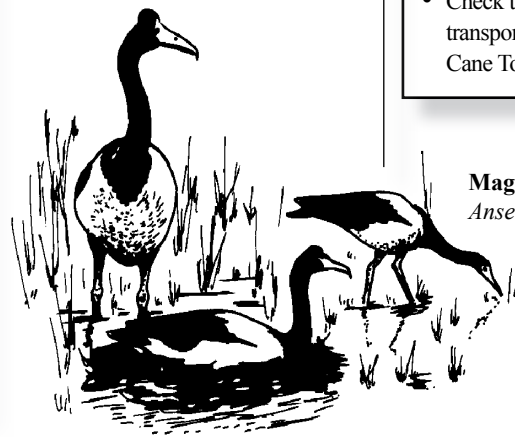
 **Shady Camp** - a popular fishing spot with boat ramps, picnic areas, camping and toilets. A shaded viewing platform offers excellent views of the river and floodplain along with its many saltwater and freshwater crocodiles. A barrage helps prevent saltwater entering the freshwater wetlands.

Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Observe Crocodile warning signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Ensure your boat and vehicle is well maintained and equipped.
- Beware of theft, lock vehicles and secure valuables.

Please Remember

- Put your rubbish in the bin or take it away with you.
- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Pets are not permitted in this Park.
- Nets, traps and firearms are not permitted.
- Take care with fire, light fires only in fireplaces provided.
- Camp only in designated camping areas.
- Wash away from water courses.
- Collect firewood before arriving at your picnic or campsite.
- Collect fallen timber only.
- Observe all fishing and boating regulations.
- Check that your vehicle is not transporting pests like weeds and Cane Toads.



Magpie Geese
Anseranas semipalmata

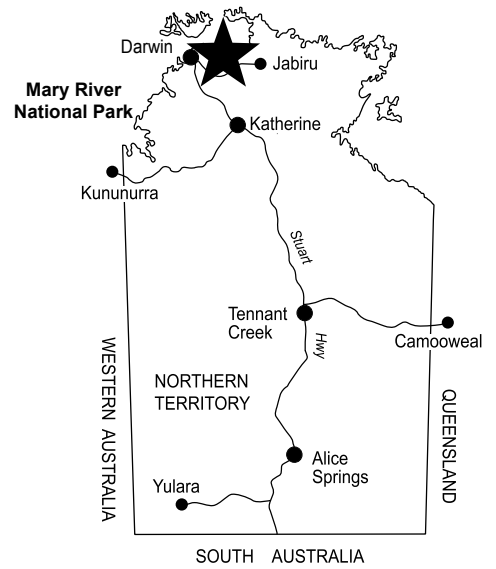
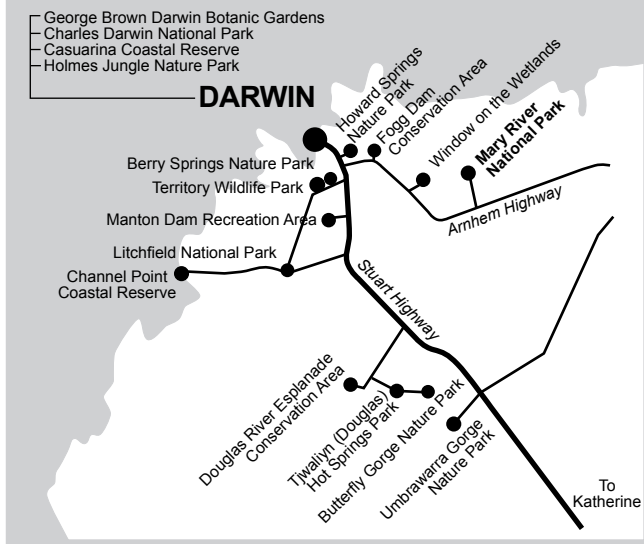
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Mary River National Park



Brian Creek Monsoon

Forest Walk - a patch of diverse monsoon forest which contrasts strongly with the surrounding woodlands. This is quite an easy walk and a picnic table at the start of the track provides a quiet spot to rest and enjoy your surrounds.

Length: 2 km return

Time: 45 minutes

Grade: easy



Mistake Billabong - a

viewing platform provides shade while you observe a billabong fed by run off, a small creek and from underground. It is actually one of the few permanent water bodies for many animals in the dry season. Visitors can expect to see different species of bird and plant life and perhaps animals such as wallabies and floodplain monitors, all of which rely on this precious water source until the first rains of 'the Wet' arrive (Nov/Dec).

Length: 200 metres

Time: 10 mins

Grade: easy



Jimmy Creek Monsoon Forest

walk - a formed track and boardwalk provide easy, shaded and cool access to this dense monsoon forest. Teeming with life, this monsoon forest is home to the unique Orange-footed Scrub fowl, that create enormous nesting mounds purely by scratching at the litter on the forest floor. A variety of small fish can be spotted as you cross the footbridge over Jimmy Creek and the many 'fruit-

eating' bird species can be seen and heard in the forest canopy above. Located behind the Point Stuart Wilderness Lodge.

Length: 1.6 km loop walk

Time: 30 minutes

Grade: easy.



Bird Billabong walk

- a walking track and viewing platform provide access to a billabong situated between the Mount Bunday Hills and the Mary River channel. Birdlife gather and many species such as Radjah Shelducks breed in the billabong as waters recede on the wetlands. The shallow depth of the billabong results in vast changes to the area between seasons; from fully flooded (February/March) to parched dry (usually by October).

Length: 4.5 km

Time: 2 hrs

Grade: easy



Point Stuart Coastal

Reserve and Stuart's

Memorial Cairn - only

accessible from May to October via a 4WD track.

The 6 km return walk to Stuart's Memorial and the coast from the Day Use Area takes you through a range of different environments. The track takes you across hot and exposed floodplains, please ensure you carry and drink plenty of water. From dry woodland it leads out over the floodplains, through a coastal vine thicket and eventually to coastal mangroves and Finkel Bay. The track takes you past Stuart's Memorial Cairn, the site where John McDouall Stuarth's journey over the Australian continent ended. A separate information sheet is available.

Length: to Coast - 3 km (6 km return)

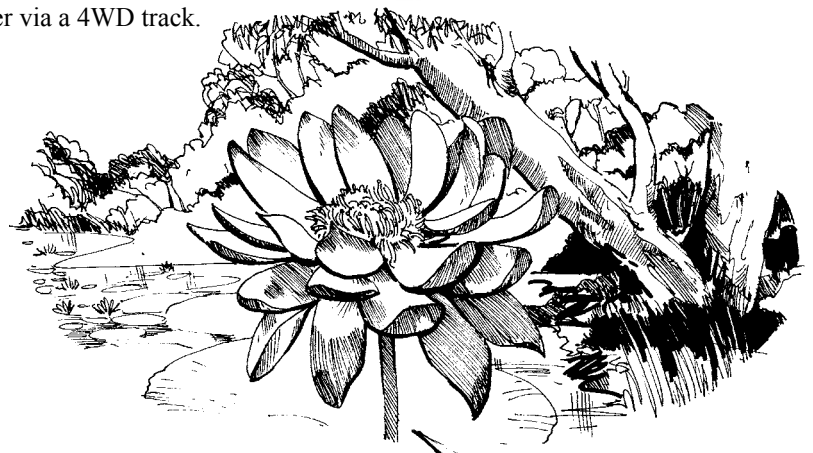
Time: 3 hrs

Grade: Strenuous - flat, uneven ground - hot and exposed.



No swimming - Estuarine

(Saltwater) Crocodiles inhabit these waters.



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