

Mary River National Park

Wildman 4WD Track



Come and enjoy the Wildman 4WD (4 wheel drive) Track. As you follow the track through Mary River National Park, this information Sheet will describe some of the features you may encounter along the way.

The 32 kilometre Wildman 4WD Track links the Rockhole and Wildman Roads, which run parallel across this section of the Park. It enables you to explore the beautiful wetlands, monsoon forests, majestic fig trees and stands of bamboo and pandanus, which are part of the character of the Mary River catchment. A Park Fact Sheet provides a map of the entire park.

Dry Season Only

The Wildman Track is only open in the dry season (May - October) when conditions permit. During the wet season sections of the track are flooded with more than a metre of water. Opening dates will vary from year to year depending on the rains and condition of the track. For more information, contact the Wildman Ranger Station (see below).

The track is well defined, signposted and marked with blue arrows. Please stay on the designated track.

Access (see map overleaf)

There are two entrances to the Wildman Track, the southern entrance from the Rockhole Road and the northern entrance from the Wildman Road (see map).

Features along the track are described as you travel from the southern entrance.

1 Mary River is made up of many channels that dry up into a series of disconnected billabongs. The river channel is immediately

visible on your left as you leave the Rockhole Road.

2 Bamboo and Banyan Figs are a familiar site on the Mary River wetlands. After 6 km you can leave your vehicle and enjoy the short walking track to majestic Banyan Figs *Ficus virens*, surrounded by stands of Native Bamboo *Bambus arnhemica*.

3 White-bellied Sea-eagle nests are visible perched high in the branches of paperbark trees giving the birds a commanding view over the floodplain.

4 Floodplain views - as you continue to travel north the floodplain is clearly visible to your left. Large flocks of waterbirds, particularly Magpie Geese, Brolga, and whistle ducks, can be seen throughout the dry season. The numbers vary greatly with the seasonal water levels.

5 Olga's Waterhole is located at the northern most point of this track. Sometimes left high and dry as the wet season floodwaters recede, it will generally continue to hold water throughout the year.

6 As you turn your vehicle back to the east the **woodland** begins to close in around the track. Paperbarks, figs, palms and grasses provide good cover for animal life. Drive slowly and stay alert for crossing wildlife traffic.

7 Connellan Lagoon (19 km north along the track) is prolific with wildlife and a lovely stop for a picnic. Water lilies, water birds and crocodiles are easily spotted from the banks. Approach banks with caution and observe crocodiles warnings.

8 As you move on from Connellan Lagoon you will continue east toward the Wildman

Road. Looking to the right you will notice the vegetation thinning out to reveal an open stretch of **shallow billabongs** surrounded by paperbarks. Often these will be totally dry by the time the track is open to vehicles.

9 The track continues on through the paperbarks and then turns north taking you through a pandanus forest. They look like **Pandanus Warriors** standing tall and straight with their thick grass skirts rustling in the breeze. These 'warriors' remind visitors to take care with fire when travelling in the Park. The dry leaves of their 'skirts' when burnt, create floating embers that can be carried on the wind for kilometres spreading the fire.

10 Brian Creek crosses the track a little further north. It is the life source of a small patch of monsoon forest which can be accessible from the Wildman Road. Cross with care.

11 The track ends at the **Wildman Road**. Turn right to reach the Point Stuart Road.

Please Remember

- Carry plenty of drinking water
- Protect yourself from biting insects at dusk and dawn, use repellent containing DEET
- Keep to the designated track so that your vehicle does not transport pests like weeds and cane toads
- Take your rubbish away with you
- All cultural items and wildlife are protected
- Pets are not permitted
- Nets, traps and firearms are not permitted.
- Light fires only in fireplaces provided and collect wood before you arrive at your picnic area
- Camp in designated campsites only.

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Park Office
Ph: (08) 8978 8986
Fax: (08) 8978 8976
www.nt.gov.au/nretas/parks

Head Office - Goyder Centre
25 Chung Wah Tee PALMERSTON NT 0830
PO Box 496 PALMERSTON NT 0831
Ph: (08) 8999 4555



Northern Territory Government



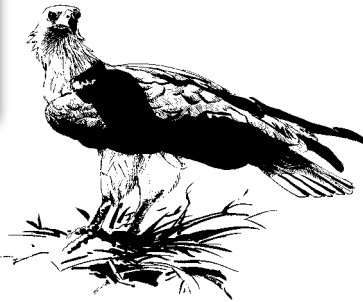
Wildman 4WD Track



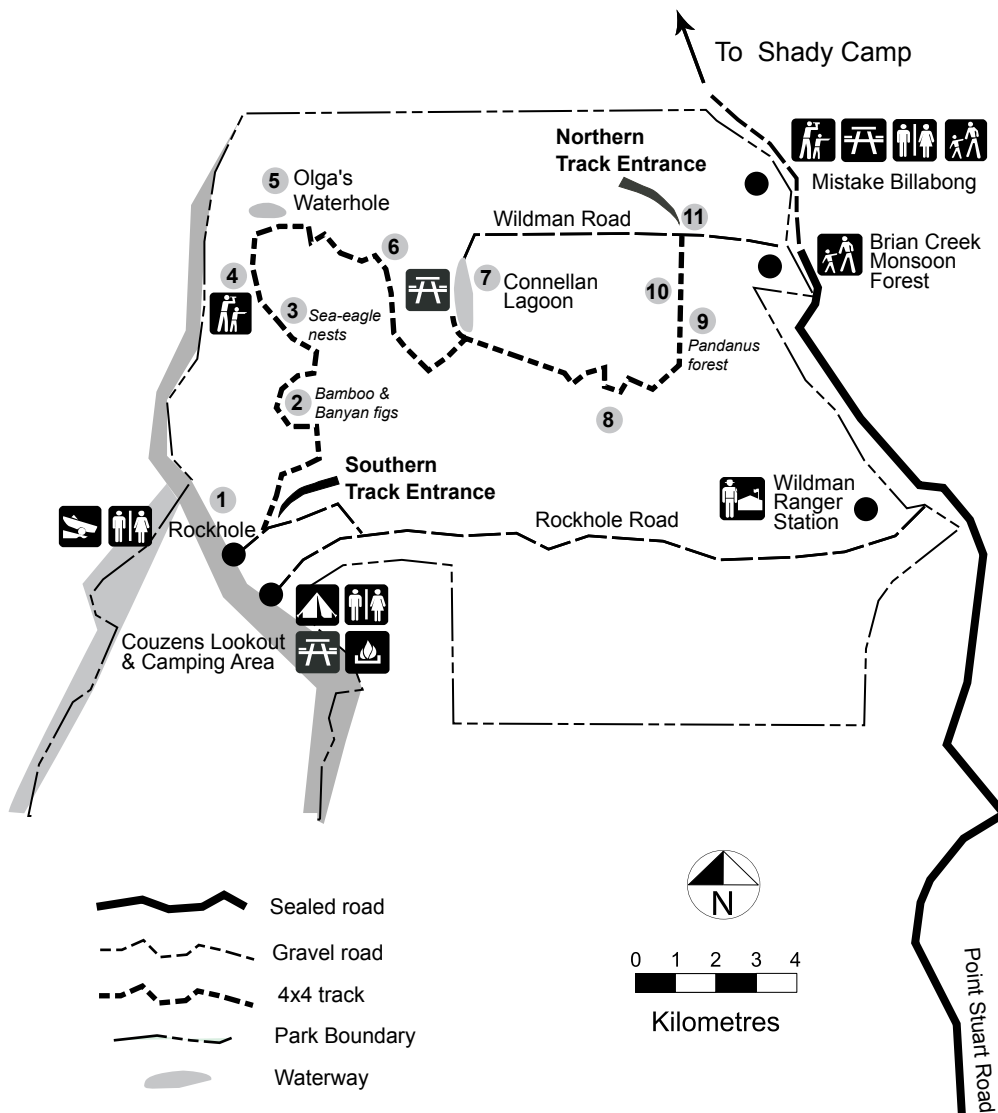
Estuarine (Saltwater) Crocodiles inhabit all these waters.



- Do not enter the water
- No swimming
- Do not leave food or fish scraps near boat ramps
- Wash away from watercourses
- Camp only in designated camping areas and never close to the edge of billabongs or river banks
- Do not attempt to get close to these animals for photographic purposes



White-bellied Sea-eagle
Haliaeetus leucogaster



Safety and Comfort



4WD Safety

- Ensure you have plenty of fuel and water.
- Always carry tools and spare tyres.
- Travel slowly and pull aside to pass oncoming vehicles.
- Pull over in cleared areas if you are travelling slower than a vehicle behind you.
- Drive in the existing wheel ruts to avoid getting bogged or causing erosion.
- Inform a reliable friend of your intended plans and route. Notify them of your safe return.



Drinking Water is not provided in the Park. Calculate your water needs at six litres per person per day. Carry substantial reserves of water in case of delays.



Information Shelters are located at the Park's western boundary on the Arnhem Highway, 200m along Bird Billabong Road and at Mistake Billabong.



Boat Ramps - Rockhole has a sealed boatramp, whilst those located at Hardies Lagoon and Corroborree Billabong are just slipways. The towing of trailers to these sites is not recommended.



Picnic Tables - located throughout the Park.



Barbeques - Mary River Billabong and Couzens Lookout



Fishing opportunities are available throughout the Park.



Camping - camp only at Couzens Camping Area, Shady Camp or commercial facilities in the area (see Fact Sheet)



Toilets - Mary River Crossing, Couzens Lookout and Rockhole.