

The picturesque Casuarina Coastal Reserve protects about 1500 ha of coastal habitats between the estuaries of Rapid Creek and Buffalo Creek. It features 8 km of sandy beaches, dramatic cliffs and shady casuarina trees.

Behind the dunes lie typical Top End coastal plant communities including patches of woodlands, monsoon forests, mangroves and paperbarks.

The Larrakia people speak for this area and maintain links with the land. Its sacred and significant sites include *Darriba Nungalinya* (Old Man Rock), visible at low tide from Dripstone Cliffs lookout. Although fishing is permitted, disturbing the rock in any way or the removal of shellfish at this site is prohibited.

The ruins of War II heritage listed buildings in the Reserve remind us of the beach fortifications that were part of the military infrastructure that supported Darwin in 1940s when it was Australia's northern defence and staging post for allied troops fighting in the Pacific against Japan.

Access (see map)

Enter the Reserve through Darwin's northern suburbs at Casuarina Drive, Trower Road (Brinkin), Lee Point or Buffalo Creek Roads.

When to Visit

Accessible all year.

What to See and Do



Picnicking - There are designated picnic areas at Dripstone Cliffs, Dripstone Park, Lee Point and Buffalo Creek with free

barbecues, tables, lawns and shade.



Alcohol can only be consumed in designated picnic areas between 4 pm - 10.30 pm Mon - Fri, and 12 noon - 10.30 pm weekends and public holidays.



Walking - Beach walks are made even more enjoyable by the cool breezes, the calm turquoise sea, and stunning sunsets. There's usually plenty of beach space except at the peak of very high tides. Other walking tracks take you through through the forest patches behind the dunes. See map for details.



Cycling - There are shared walking and cycle paths from Rapid Creek to Dripstone Cliffs. There are also cycle paths beside main roads.



Box Jellyfish are common between October and May, but have been recorded throughout the year. Their stings can be deadly.



Saltwater (Estuarine) Crocodiles - are removed from the Darwin Harbour through an ongoing crocodile management program, however they may enter the area undetected.

Nudist Area - There is a nudist zone on the beach north of Daribah Road. Nudity outside the markers is an offence.

Wildlife - The area is typical of the Top End coastline. The beach areas, especially near Buffalo Creek, are important resting and feeding areas for wading birds including migratory birds. Marine turtles, mainly Flatbacks, nest on the beach. Turtle release events occur during the year. Ring (8999 4555) for details.

Safety and Comfort

- Observe park regulatory and safety signs.
- Carry vinegar in case of stings.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Wear suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Beware of theft, lock vehicles and secure valuables.

Please Remember

- Dogs and horses are permitted only in some areas, see signs for details. By-laws apply.
- Alcohol may only be consumed in designated picnic areas at specific times, see signs on site for details.
- Put your rubbish in the bin or take it away with you.
- Fires are not permitted.
- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Nets, traps and firearms are not permitted.
- Camping is not permitted.
- Observe all fishing regulations.
- Check that your vehicle is not transporting pests like weeds and Cane Toads.

You can also see tropical marine life in the Lee Point rockpools at low tide.



Ruins of World War II Observation Post can be seen on the walk between Trower Road and Lee Point.

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

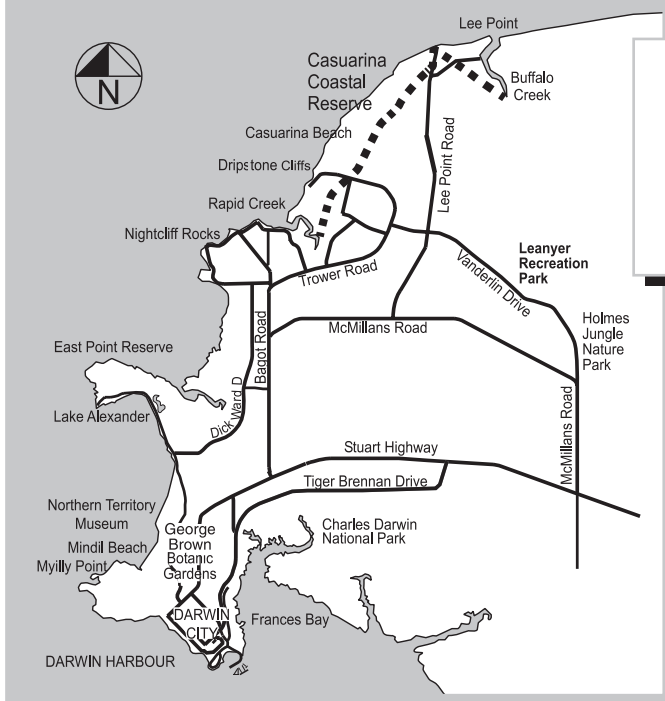
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Ph: (08) 8946 5126

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PO Box 496 PALMERSTON NT 0831
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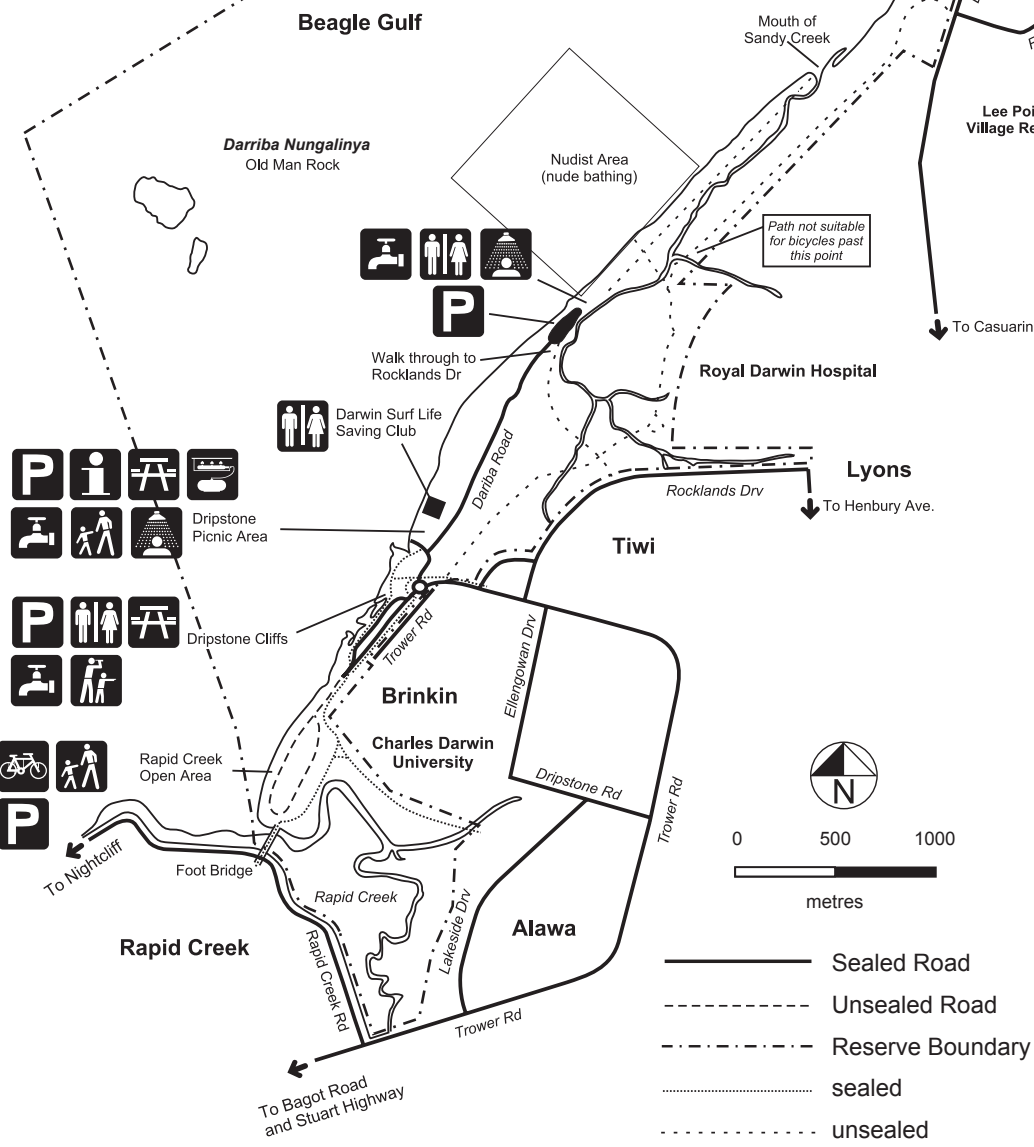
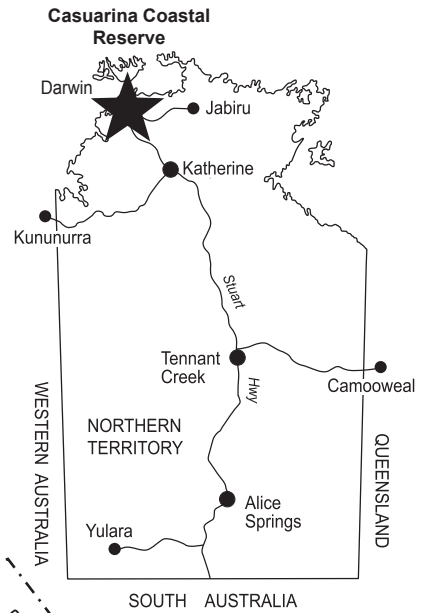


Casuarina Coastal Reserve

















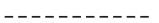


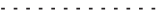
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LEGEND

-  Walking Track
-  Lookout
-  Cycle Path
-  Shared Walking Track and Bicycle Path
-  Historical ruins
-  Information
-  Toilets
-  Picnic Area
-  Barbeque
-  Parking
-  Shower
-  Drinking Water
-  Boat ramp

-  Sealed Road
-  Unsealed Road
-  Reserve Boundary
-  sealed
-  unsealed