

Charles Darwin National Park incorporates areas of natural significance and has wealth of cultural history. It protects part of the Port Darwin wetland, one of Australia's most significant.

Port Darwin is recognised as a nationally significant wetland because it is large (48 sq km) and diverse. Thirty-six of the N.T.'s 51 mangrove species occur in its convoluted system of inlets, islands and bays.

The Park lies on Frances Bay in Port Darwin, and includes the western bank of Sadgroves Creek, Reichardt Creek and part of Blessers Creek. Housing and industrial estates are its neighbours.

Although this Park is relatively new, this land has history. Shell middens in the area show that Aboriginal people have used the land for thousands of years. Today, the *Larrakia* people maintain their connections and speak for this land.

In more recent history the area was part of a network of World War II military sites established during the development of Darwin as Australia's northern defence line. The historic ammunition storage and testing areas were built in 1944.


Access (see map)


Travel east from Darwin city, along Tiger Brennan Drive. At Winnellie, opposite Bowen Rd, about 5.5 km from the city, highway signs identify the Park. Turn south through the gates.


Vehicle access is restricted to the main entry and exit roads, access to all other roads or tracks is prohibited.


The Park is available for day use only. The gates are open 8 am to 7 pm. Camping not permitted.


What to See and Do

 **WWII Display** - an overview of Darwin's role in the Pacific War. Free Entry, open 8 am - 7 pm daily.

 **Lookout platform** - there are wonderful views of the city, the harbour and its wetlands from the picnic ground.

 **Picnicking** - bring a picnic; gas barbecues, shade shelters, drinking water and toilets are available.

 **Walking** - a set of stairs lead from the picnic area to the mangroves below. Take a walk and enjoy the wildlife along the way.

 **Cycling** - please stay on marked trails and heed all markers and signage.

Biting Insects - beware; biting insects are part of the coastal web of life. Midges are tiny two-winged flies that breed in the intertidal zone. They can be a problem in the Park around sunrise and sunset. Wear protective clothing and apply insect repellent. Their numbers are highest around the full moons between August and October.

Safety and Comfort

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

Please Remember

- Put your rubbish in the bin or take it away with you.
- Drivers - keep to the main entry and exit roads.
- Walkers and cyclists - 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.
- Use only the gas barbecues provided - light no other fires.
- Camping is not permitted.
- Check that your vehicle is not transporting pests like weeds and Cane Toads.



Chestnut Rail
Eulabeornis castaneiventris

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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