

Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve



Fact Sheet

Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) is a place of great cultural significance to the Western Aranda Aboriginal people, as well as one of international scientific interest. The Reserve is a registered sacred site and Traditional Owners welcome visitors to experience Tnorala's magic, but ask you to respect the area and obey signs where access is not permitted.

According to Aboriginal belief, Tnorala was formed in the creation time, when a group of women danced across the sky as the Milky Way. During this dance, a mother put her baby aside, resting in its wooden baby-carrier (*tarne* - pronounced *tar-na*). The carrier toppled over the edge of the dancing area and crashed to earth where it was transformed into the circular rock walls of Tnorala.

The Aboriginal and scientific interpretation of the Bluff are similar in that both have a celestial origin. Scientists believe that around 142.5 million years ago an object from space, believed to be a comet about 600 metres wide, crashed to earth, blasting a crater some 20 km across. Today's land surface is about 2 km lower than the original impact surface and the bluff is about 5 km in diameter, reduced over time by erosion.

The remnant crater was named Gosses Range by the explorer Ernest Giles in 1872 after H. Gosse, a fellow of the Royal Society.

The Title for the Reserve was granted to traditional owners and it is now jointly managed with the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Access

The Reserve is about 175 km west of Alice Springs. Access is via Larapinta Drive or via Namatjira Drive. A 4WD is recommended for the last 5 km drive to the Reserve. A Mereenie Tour Pass is only required if visitors continue along the Red Centre Way to Watarrka National Park. All roads can be impassible after heavy rain.

When to visit

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

What to do



A visit to Tnorala offers views into the interior of the crater.



There is a short walk to a lookout on an adjacent ridge and a longer loop walk which provides a higher vantage point and superior views of the crater.

Access within Tnorala is restricted in accordance with the wishes of traditional owners. Walking along the crater rim is not permitted.

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.
- Fires are not permitted in the reserve.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted.
- Generators are not permitted.
- Drones are not permitted.

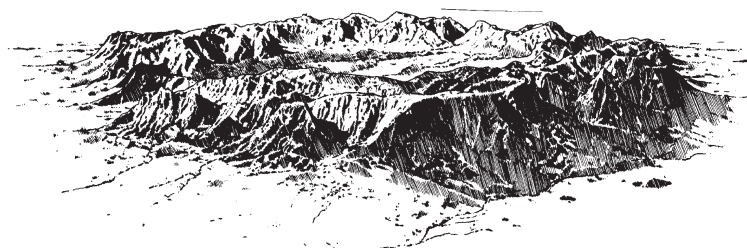


A picnic area is situated a short distance inside the Bluff, which includes tables, pit toilet and a shade shelter with information about the area. There are no barbeque facilities and fires are not permitted.



Camping is not permitted in the Reserve.

The impact from a celestial body, features in the creation of Tnorala in both the Aboriginal and scientific interpretation of the site.



Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Ormiston Gorge Ranger Station
Ph: (08) 8956 7799

Regional Office - Arid Zone Research Institute
South Stuart Highway ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
PO Box 1120 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph: (08) 8951 8250 Fax: (08) 8951 8290

www.nt.gov.au/parks



