

Mary River National Park



Hardies 4WD Track

Come and enjoy the Hardies 4WD (4 wheel drive) Track. This Information Sheet describes some of the features you may encounter as you follow the track through Mary River National Park.

The Hardies 4WD Track provides access to the fertile heart of the Mary River catchment. It gives you an insight into some of the beautiful wetlands, and the character of the Mary River floodplains. A Park Fact Sheet provides a map of the entire Park.

Dry Season Only

Hardies Track is only open in the dry season (May - October) when conditions allow. During the wet season, sections of the track are flooded with more than a metre of water. Opening dates vary from year to year depending on the rains and condition of the track. Check road conditions on 1800 246 199 or roadreport.nt.gov.au

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

Access (see map overleaf)

Park entry fees - Parks Pass applies. (NT residents exempt).

The Hardies Track is a single track in and out to the Mary Delta Blocks. There is no access from the Rockhole Road, with the Annaburroo section now closed.

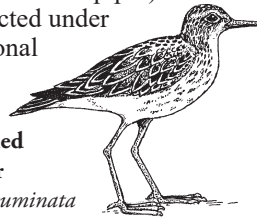
Features described along the track are as you travel north.

1 Mary River is made up of many channels that dry up into a series of disconnected billabongs during the dry season. It is not far along the track until you see signs of these billabongs, with the river itself lying beyond the line of vegetation that forms its levee banks. Billabong is an Aboriginal word used to describe an open body of water that has been cut off from the main river channel and is reconnected during times of flooding.

2 Bird Billabong is just 3 km along the track. Please park in the clearing on your left and walk into the billabong. Bird Billabong supports large numbers of water birds, especially in the late dry season. Some of these birds (such as the Red-necked Stint and the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper) are protected under international treaties.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Calidris acuminata



3 Views of the Mary River - some 4.8 km along the track, a secondary track leads off to your right towards a line of Paperbarks and Bamboo. From here you can catch your first views of the mighty Mary River.

4 Mount Bunday Hills to the west are very important to the *Limilngan-Wulna* people who speak for this country. The journeys of their ancestors from the Creation Era (Dreamtime) are recorded in the landscape.

5 Bamboo becomes a common sight along the track from now on. It grows in clumps along rivers and creeks. The NT species *Bambusa arnhemica* lives for approximately 30 years, flowers once then dies. This flowering phenomenon was recorded here on the Mary River in 2005.

You will then pass through a couple of rocky creek crossings before you reach Hardies Crossing.

6 Hardies Crossing is named after Frank Hardie who was the first leaseholder to build in this area. Large Saltwater Crocodiles frequent the crossing - please take care when fishing.

7 Inland Delta - marks the transition between the river channel and the floodplain, when

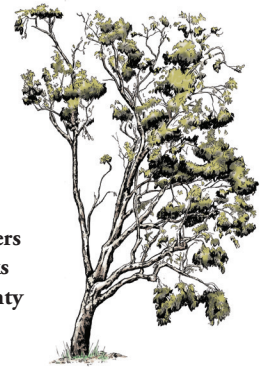
the horizon widens giving you sweeping views.

8 T Junction - at this point you can continue to head north to Hardies Lagoon and Corroboree Billabong, you will return on this same track. Or head east to Clarkes Crossing for a picnic or fishing. Access through the neighbouring Annaburroo Station is no longer available.

9 Hardies Lagoon is a great opportunity to try the fishing.

10 Corroboree Billabong - a lovely spot for a picnic, accompanied by lotus lilies and flocks of Magpie Geese.

Once you reach the Hardies or Corroboree Billabong accesses at the edge of the Delta Blocks you will need to turn around and return to the Arnhem Highway on the same track.



Large numbers of paperbarks line the mighty Mary River.

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

nt.gov.au/parks
nt.gov.au/park-bookings
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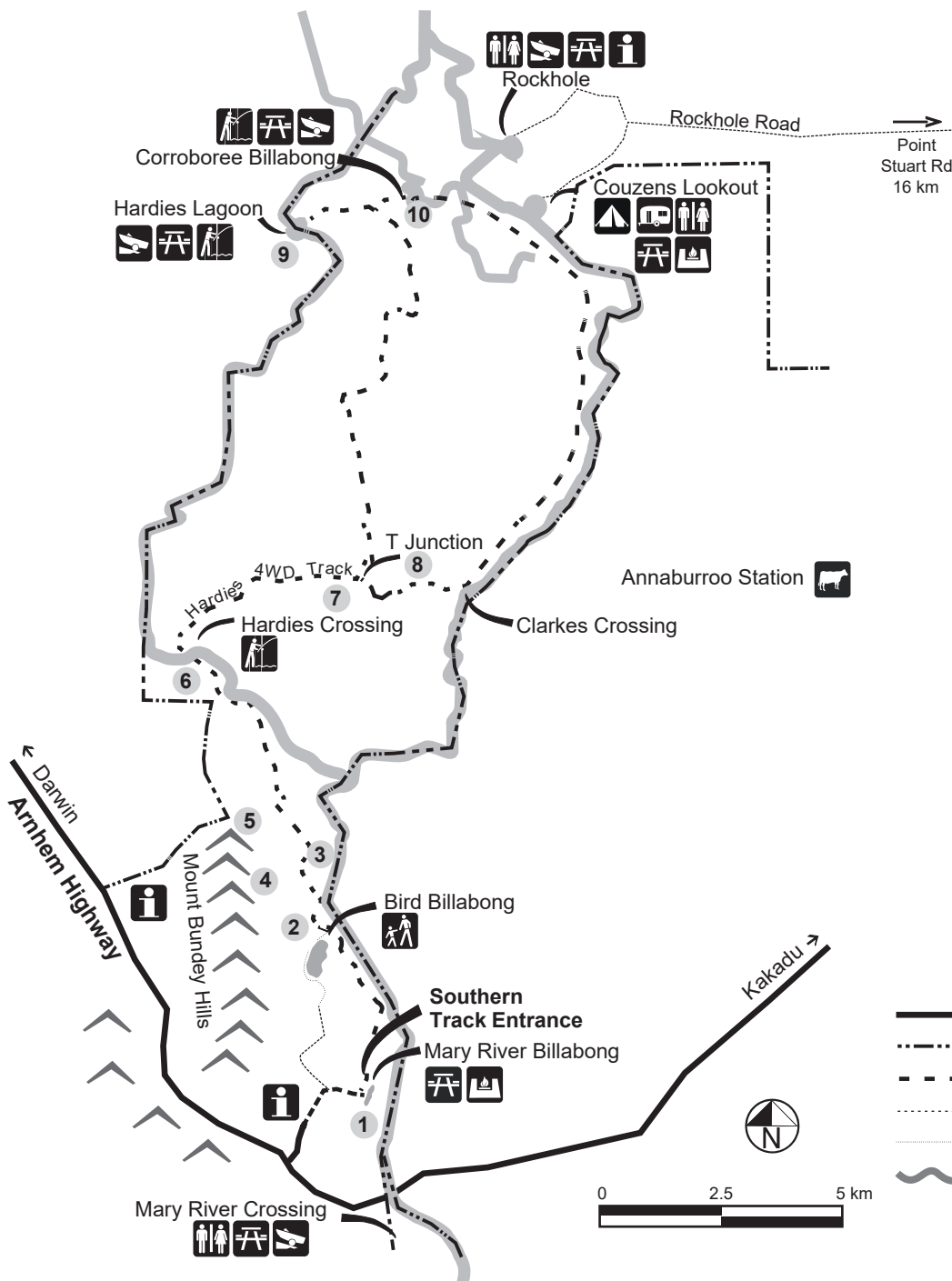
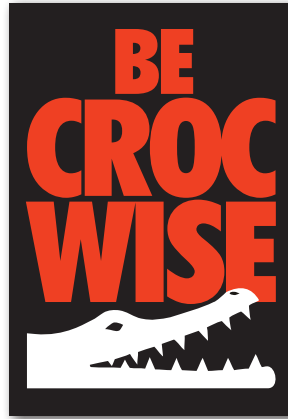
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Saltwater Crocodiles inhabit all these waters.

- **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








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.


 Pastoral Properties - Do not disturb stock.


 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 boat ramp, whilst those located at Hardies Lagoon and Corroboree Billabong are unsealed. The towing of trailers to these sites is not recommended.

 Picnic area - located throughout the Park.

 Barbecues - 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.

-  Highway
-  Park Boundary
-  4WD Track
-  Gravel Road
-  Walking Track
-  Watercourse