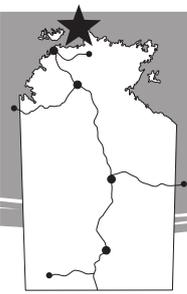


Garig Gunak Barlu National Park



Fact Sheet

Pristine white sandy beaches, colourful cliffs and sparkling blue waters teeming with life are just some of the drawcards of this magnificent Park.

Garig Gunak Barlu is pronounced *Gah-rig Goon-uk Bar-loo*. The National Park lies within the clan estates of the *Iwaidja* speaking Aboriginal people of the Cobourg Peninsula. It is jointly managed by a Board consisting of traditional land owners and representatives of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory.

Garig Gunak Barlu National Park includes the entire Cobourg Peninsula, the surrounding waters of the Arafura Sea and Van Diemen Gulf, and some of the neighbouring islands. It covers about 4,500 km². It is one of only two parks in the Northern Territory that contains adjoining land and marine parks.

The Park consists of a mosaic of sandy beaches, dunes and coastal grasslands, mangroves, rainforest patches, swamps, lagoons, coral reefs, sea grass meadows and rich marine life.

It protects rare species, including Dugongs and six marine turtle species (Green, Loggerhead, Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, Leatherback and Flatback Turtles). Garig Gunak Barlu is also home to the world's largest wild herd of Banteng, a species of cattle native to Southeast Asia. Banteng are endangered in their native habitat.

The area has an interesting ancient and contemporary history and the Park protects sites of national archeological significance.

Aboriginal people have lived in the area for more than 40,000 years, and have helped to maintain its natural and cultural values.

Macassan traders visited the area regularly for centuries, where they fished for trepang.

In 1838 the early British settlement of Victoria was established at Port Essington, but it was abandoned ten years later. The Peninsula has supported various industries over the years, including pastoralism and native forestry. Today pearling and tourism are the most successful.

Cobourg Peninsula was the first site to be recognised as a Wetland of International Importance under 'The Convention on Wetlands' commonly known as Ramsar. It was listed on 8 May 1974.

There are currently 67 Australian Ramsar wetlands, including Kakadu National Park.

Traditional Land Owners

The Park contains cultural landscapes that have been shaped and managed by cultural traditions. Custodianship of the Park is shared between Aboriginal clan groups that have continual spiritual links with the land and sea. Their ancestors created the land and all it contains.

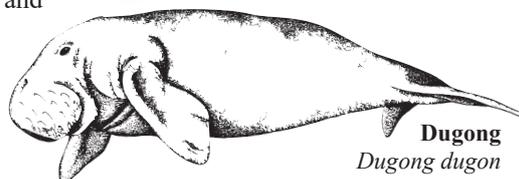
The name of the Park is translated as Garig (a local language name for the central areas of the Peninsula), Gunak (land) and Barlu (deep water).

Safety and Comfort

- Observe Park safety signs and permit conditions.
- No swimming anywhere in the Park due to Saltwater Crocodiles.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Ensure your vehicle and boat are well maintained and equipped.
- Carry sufficient food and fuel.

Please Remember

- Off road driving is not permitted. Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- A permit is required for Drone use - conditions apply and it must be obtained prior to your arrival in the Park.
- Rubbish bins only available for Smith Point campers. Be prepared to burn paper and carry out recyclable materials.
- All cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Pets are not permitted.
- Nets, traps and firearms are not permitted unless a permit has been obtained. Cast nets and hand spears are permitted.
- Take care with fire, light fires only in fireplaces provided. Keep camp fires small.
- Collect firewood before arriving at your picnic or campsite. Firewood may be collected within the Park only - not within Arnhem Land. Collect fallen timber only.
- Generator camping area provided at campground 2.
- Shells are recycled by marine wildlife - look, photograph, identify - leave on the beach.
- Check that your vehicle is not transporting pests like weeds and Cane Toads.



Dugong
Dugong dugon

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

nt.gov.au/parks

PO Box 496
PALMERSTON NT 0831

Regional Office - 4th floor Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace,
Palmerston, NT, 0830
Ph: (08) 8999 4555



Access - you need a permit to stay in the Park overnight. See the last page for further information.

By Road - the Park is located about 560 km northeast of Darwin. Access is via an unsealed road (4WD only) through Arnhem Land. The roads are only open in the dry season (May - October), depending on the rains. Roads can be closed for ceremonial reasons with little notice. If you are driving, there are several things to remember:

- Caravans, motor bikes and ATVs are not permitted. Off road vans/trailers are permitted but at your own risk.
- There is no mechanical service in the Park.
- Permits do not allow for stops between the East Alligator River (Cahills Crossing) and the Park boundary.
- Alcohol may be carried but not consumed while travelling through Arnhem Land to Garig Gunak Barlu National Park.
- Check tide charts before setting out. The tides at Cahills Crossing are about six

hours later than Darwin tides. Some tides may prevent you crossing the river.

- The roads are narrow, dusty and corrugated with blind corners and dangerous bends. Beware of oncoming traffic. Drive slowly with extreme care, especially between Murgendela and Black Point.

By Air Charter - there is an airstrip at Smith Point, 2 km from the campground and 5 km from Black Point. There is no public transport within the Park.

By Sea - the Park is two days sailing from Darwin (150 nautical miles). The best time to visit is between August and October when moderating east to southeast winds prevail. Cyclones can occur between November and April. There are coral reefs and scenic anchorage for all types of boats. Do not anchor on coral reefs.

Fuel - fuel may be purchased at Jabiru during normal business hours. No fuel is available at Murgendela or in the Park.

Visitors need to carry sufficient fuel from

Jabiru for their return journey, as well as fuel to cover recreational activities within the Park. Please consider your vehicle fuel capacity and consumption according to the following:

Darwin - Jabiru	250 km
Jabiru - East Alligator	40 km
East Alligator - Murgendela turn off	40 km
Murgendela turn off - Murgendela	95 km
Murgendela - Black Point	135 km
Jabiru - Black Point Ranger Station	310 km
Darwin - Black Point Ranger Station	560 km

What to Bring

Come well equipped with food, water, first-aid kit, tool kit, spare tyres, fuel and vehicle parts, shade awning, fishing gear, camera and binoculars. A boat is handy too.



Limited bore water is available. Bring as much water as you can into the Park.



Use silent pack generators (65 decibel at 7m). Only permitted at Campground 2. Turn off by 9 pm.

Getting There



What to See and Do

Walking tracks, photography, beachcombing, boating, fishing, bird watching, exploring Victoria Settlement, self-drive vehicle tours, commercial tours (from Darwin) and safari hunting with licensed operators.

Black Point Cultural Centre - features a display of the Aboriginal, Macassan and European histories of the area. The Ranger Station is located here. *Note: there is no mobile reception in the Park - a free public phone is located at the Cultural Centre.*

Wuwurdi Walk - this walk takes you around a small coastal wetland a short distance from the cultural centre.

Distance: 2 km

Time: 1 hour

Grade: 2 (easy)

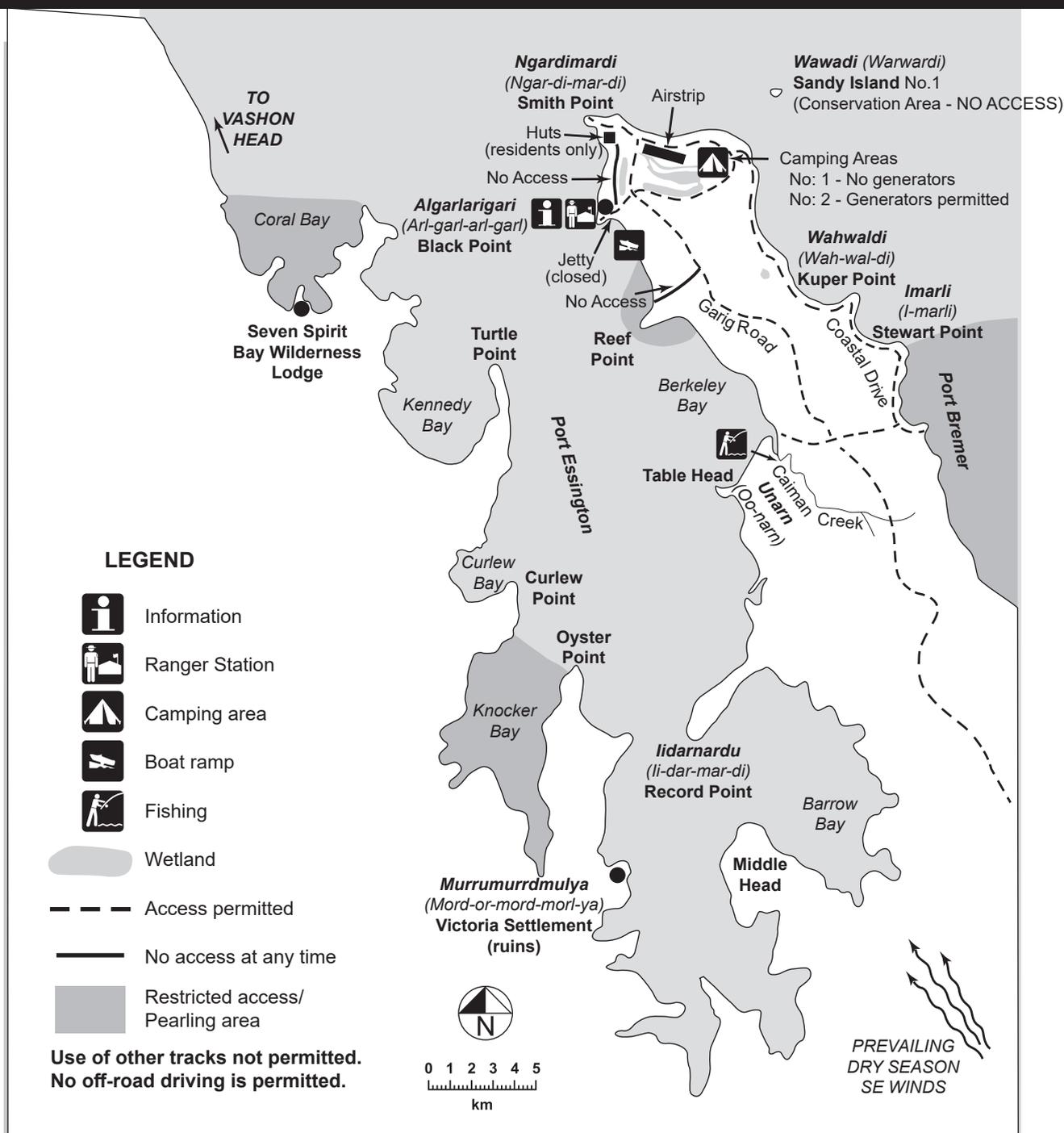
Scenic Views - beautiful remote coastlines with sandy beaches, and clear blue seas can be enjoyed. Check which beaches are accessible by car or boat at the Ranger Station.

Note: Sandy Islands I and II are Conservation Areas and are NOT ACCESSIBLE or to be approached within 500 m.

Victoria Settlement - ruins of an early northern Australian settlement. Access by boat or commercial tour. You are required to notify Rangers if you intend to visit.

Camping - is only permitted within the designated camping areas at Smith Point. Facilities include showers, composting toilets, BBQs and tables. No powered sites are available.

Visitor Access



Fishing - a wide variety of fish species inhabit these coastal waters. Visitors are only permitted to access, use and conduct activities within the Cobourg Marine Park in accordance with the Cobourg Marine Park Plan of Management. All activities must also be in accordance with the *Fisheries Act (1988)*.

No Swimming - Saltwater crocodiles cruise the beaches, and sharks, box jellyfish, blue-ringed octopus, stonefish and sea snakes also live in these waters.

Boating - check local conditions. Register details of your boating trips at the Black Point Ranger Station before you set out. Launching and retrieval of boats is only permitted at the boat ramp at Black Point Ranger Station. Beach launching is not permitted. Please note, the jetty is closed and unsafe for use.

Ensure your boat meets NT Marine regulations and carries adequate spare parts and emergency equipment. Reefs are often unmarked and uncharted, and easily covered by the tides. Open waters can be rough.

Permits, Fees, Registration

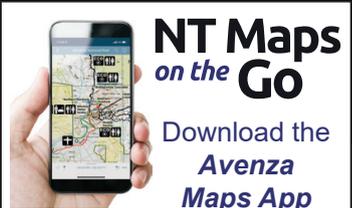
You need a permit to stay in the Park overnight on the Peninsula, whether you arrive by road, air or sea. Book well in advance especially during dry season school holiday periods. In quieter times, allow two days to process permits. Supply alternative dates if you can. It is not possible to reserve campsites.

Permit Application: Contact the **Permit and Concessions Unit**
PO Box 496, Palmerston, NT 0831
Ph (08) 8999 4814
Fax (08) 8999 4524
pwpermits@nt.gov.au

Camping/Road Entry Fees - \$232.10* per vehicle (Camping Fee \$220 plus Transit Fee \$12.10*). This covers up to 5 adult passengers for up to 7 nights. Extra adult passengers - \$11.00*. A daily rate of \$31.00* applies per vehicle for persons who wish to extend their visit. Children under 16 years - free.

Air and Sea Entry Fees - camping permits are required if staying on the Peninsula overnight. Camping fees are \$16.50* per person per night. Camp in designated camping areas only. If you are staying overnight on your vessel, please register at the Black Point Ranger Station on arrival. Skippers of large vessels, please notify Rangers of your location via VHF Channel 16.

**All fees inclusive of GST.*



on your device whilst you are still in range to find the FREE local park map you need. Once downloaded, the maps can be used without a network connection. Your device's built in GPS will plot your real-time location within the park onto the map. These GPS enabled maps will assist you to stay on track.

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