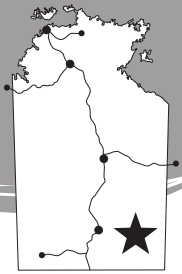


Ruby Gap Nature Park



Fact Sheet

Ruby Gap is linked to the first mining rush in Central Australia. In March 1886, explorer David Lindsay found what he thought were rubies in the bed of the Hale River. By May 1887 there were over 200 people in the area prospecting for rubies. By then gold had been discovered in the creek near Paddys Rockhole, 45 km to the west, which led to the establishment of the Arltunga Goldfield.

At the beginning of the 'ruby' rush European buyers were keen, but as the market was flooded, buyers began to question their quality. By June 1888, it was found that the stones were merely high grade garnets, not nearly as valuable as rubies. Central Australia's ruby boom quickly collapsed.

Today Ruby Gap retains its remoteness, providing some excellent opportunities for bush camping and viewing Central Australia's scenic rugged terrain.

Access

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



Situated 150 km east of Alice Springs, access to Ruby Gap is via Arltunga Historical Reserve and the Binns Track.

A high clearance 4WD is essential. Rain may cause the roads to become temporarily impassable.

For a safe trip carry an EPIRB, Personal Locator Beacon or Satellite Phone. Inform a reliable person of your travel plans and intended day of return.

From the park entrance there is a 5 km drive along the river bed and then a 2 km walk (one way) to reach Glen Annie Gorge.

When to Visit

The Park is generally accessible all year round, however the cooler months (April to September) are more pleasant. Allow a full day to visit Ruby Gap and two days if you plan to do any walking or visit Arltunga Historical Reserve.

What to Do



Camping - There are no facilities available but camping is permitted along the river between the park entrance and Ruby Gap. **Camping fees apply and campsites must be booked online before you arrive.**



Walking - Much of the Park's terrain is extremely rugged and is only suitable for the experienced walker. There are no marked trails. Visitors can follow the river bed and tracks upstream:

- 5 km, 2 hours return to Glen Annie Gorge
- 8 km, 4 hours return to Fox's Grave via Glen Annie Gorge

Driving - Do not enter the Hale River if the sand is soft and wet after recent heavy rain. In the event of mishap or breakdown stay with your vehicle. Do not attempt to walk back to Arltunga.

Glen Annie Gorge is a highlight for visitors who allow extra time to explore the park on foot



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.
- Pre-book your campsite online and camp only in designated camping areas.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Use gas barbecues or fuel stoves where possible.
- Firewood collection is not permitted in the park.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted.
- Generators are not permitted.
- A permit is required for Drone use – conditions apply and it must be obtained prior to your arrival in the Park.

Floods - The Hale River is susceptible to flash flooding after heavy rain. If it begins to rain heavily, leave the Park immediately. Do not attempt to cross flooded creeks. Wait on high ground.

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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