

Native Gap Conservation Reserve



Fact Sheet

This Reserve is the largest of several small roadside parks adjacent to the Stuart Highway between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

The Reserve area is of great importance to Aboriginal people. It is a registered sacred site and the intersection of several dreaming trails. The Aboriginal name for the place is Arulta Atwarte (pronounced *ar-all-ta art-wa-cha*) which means “back of the shoulder – gap” (as the ridge of the Hann Range appears when seen from the south).

The first recorded use of the name “Native Gap” was by W.W. Mills in his 1872 report to Charles Todd regarding construction of the Overland Telegraph Line. The Line was constructed through Native Gap.

Mills referred to “*the Native Well*” which was “*situated in a gap in Hann’s Range*”. Presumably the gap took its name from the native well it contained.

The rocky sandstone outcrop of the Hann Range reaches a height of 30 meters above the surrounding plain. It contains a variety of plant species including the Native Fig (*Ficus brachypoda*), Ironwood (*Acacia estrophiolata*), the White Cypress Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) and the Ghost Gum (*Corymbia aparrerinja*). It also provides a good habitat for the Black-footed Rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*) as well as the Euro (*Macropus robustus*).

The Reserve’s sandy flat is open woodland dominated by Ironwood (*Acacia estrophiolata*) and Desert Bloodwood (*Corymbia opaca*). These trees provide shade and shelter for visitors using the Reserve’s facilities. The understorey is generally sparse and characterised by spinifex (*Triodia* spp.) and other grass species. The Short-beaked Echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), is known to inhabit the sandy flats.

Access

Native Gap Conservation Reserve is approximately 115 km north of Alice Springs on the western side of the Stuart Highway.

Access is via a service track to a nearby Telecom repeater tower on the Hann Range. The track within the Reserve is unsealed and forms a loop around the facilities area.

When to visit

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

What to do

The open woodland and sandstone ridge provides an attractive setting for picnicking, short walks, photography and Aboriginal cultural appreciation.



Picnic tables, barbeques & a pit toilet are available.

There is no drinking water in the area so you must carry your own supplies.



Camping is not permitted in the Reserve.

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.
- Firewood collection is not permitted in the reserve.
- Fires are only permitted in designated firepits.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted.
- Drones are not permitted.



White Cypress Pine
Callitris glaucophylla

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