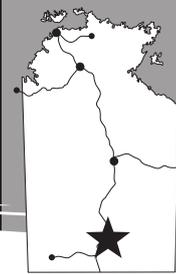


# Napwerte / Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve



## Fact Sheet

This small, six hectare Reserve protects rock engravings (petroglyphs) which are a valuable link to the activities of early *Arrernte* Aboriginal people. Here outcrops of sandstone beside a small claypan form natural galleries for petroglyphs featuring a great variety of symbols or motifs. Much of the meaning of the petroglyphs, according to senior *Arrernte* custodians, is sacred and too dangerous to reveal to people not initiated into Aboriginal law.

It is easy to imagine the small claypan as a natural bowl, trapping and holding scarce rains and making this a favourite site for longer stays by Aboriginal people. For a while after rain, there would be ample water, game animals and time to patiently peck a record of their important beliefs into the sandstone. It is not known exactly how old the petroglyphs are.

*Arrernte* custodians are happy for people to visit the site but ask that they don't climb over the rocks, touch or interfere with the petroglyphs in any way. Any interference can attract heavy fines. The Aboriginal custodians ask that *Arrernte* women do not enter this site.

### Access

Napwerte / Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve is 35 kilometres south of Alice Springs on the unsealed Old South Road (see map overleaf). The road is generally suitable for conventional 2WD vehicles, however it can become impassable after rain.

### When to visit

The Reserve is generally accessible all year round.

The cooler months (April to September) are the most pleasant times of the year to visit.

The petroglyphs are best viewed in early morning and late afternoon, when shadow effects make the shallow engravings more obvious. These times of the day also offer the best conditions for walking during the summer months.

### What to do



**Picnicking** - Picnic tables and a pit toilet are available.



**Walking** - A marked 680 m walking track will help you view the best petroglyph sites.



**Camping** - Camping is not permitted in the Reserve. There are opportunities for camping in the MacDonnell Ranges and further south at Chambers Pillar.

### 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 in this reserve.



### Traditional Owners -

The petroglyphs at the Reserve are sacred. Traditional Owners request that visitors do not take photographs of the rock art.

*Petroglyphs at Napwerte / Ewaninga are a valuable link to the activities of early Arrernte Aboriginal people.*

### Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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