



The Parks and Wildlife Commission and members of the Oliver, Ryder and Williams families (Aboriginal custodians for the site) welcome you to N'Dhala Gorge. N'Dhala Gorge is an important site for the Eastern Arrernte people known as Irlwentye (pronounced *eel-oon-ja*).

The Gorge is a cultural treasure house containing over 5,900 individual petroglyphs (rock engravings), several art sites, shelter areas and other sites of cultural significance.

The petroglyphs in this shady gorge are relicts of the art and stories of an ancient, but still living culture.

The petroglyphs are of two styles, the finely pecked and the pounded. They possibly represent two time periods. It is difficult to estimate the age of the art. Most were probably done within the past 2,000 years, but some could be as old as 10,000 years.

Aboriginal custodians for the site, now living in Santa Teresa, indicate that some of the designs are connected with a Caterpillar Dreaming story.

In addition to the cultural significance of the Gorge, it is also an important site for fire sensitive plants including Hayes Wattle *Acacia undoolyana* and White Cypress Pine *Callitris glaucophylla*.

When to Visit

The Park is generally accessible all year round, however the cooler months (April to September) are more pleasant.

Access



The Gorge is situated 90 km east of Alice Springs, off the Binns Track. The first part of the drive is along a sealed road to Ross River Resort. The turn-off to N'Dhala Gorge is 500 m before the Resort. After the homestead there is 11 km of 4WD track. The 4WD track crosses the Ross River several times and becomes impassable after heavy rain.

What to do



Walking - A 1.5 km (1 hour return) marked walking track leads into the gorge. Signs along the track interpret some of the petroglyphs and the rare *Acacia undoolyana*.



Camping - A small, simple bush camping area is located at the entrance to the Park. No water is provided and you should bring your own supplies. Camping fees are payable at the site.

Please report any incidents of interference to the petroglyphs by phoning the Rangers at Trephina Gorge on (08) 8956 9765.

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 park.
- Fires are only permitted in designated firepits.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted in this park.
- Generators are not permitted.

One way that Petroglyphs were created was by holding a sharp stone against the rock and striking it with a heavier stone.



Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

Trephina Gorge Ranger Station
Ph: (08) 8956 9765

Regional Office - Arid Zone Research Institute
South Stuart Highway ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870
PO Box 1120 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

www.parksandwildlife.nt.gov.au

Ph: (08) 8951 8250 Fax: (08) 8951 8290



N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park

