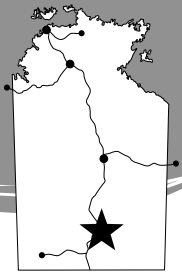


Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park



Fact Sheet

These small Gaps in the Heavytree Range are the first features you come to on your trip into the East MacDonnells. They contain interesting Aboriginal paintings and are important spiritual sites to the Eastern *Arrernte* Aboriginal people.

Many places in the landscape are associated with the same dreamtime story. Together these places form a 'dreaming trail'. Emily and Jessie Gaps are associated with the caterpillar trail. Emily Gap is probably the most significant, as this is where the caterpillar beings of *Mparntwe* (Alice Springs) originated. These caterpillars formed Emily Gap and many of the topographic features around Alice Springs, then radiated out to the edge of the Simpson Desert.

Emily Gap is a registered sacred site. A large rock painting depicts the caterpillar dreaming. In recent years the art has been severely damaged by vandals. We ask that you respect the site and do not touch any Aboriginal art.

The first European sighting of Emily and Jessie Gap was in 1871. It was thought that 'Emily' and 'Jessie' were the daughters of Sir Charles Todd, but this was found to be untrue. The basis on which the names are derived is unknown.


Access


Located 10 km east of Alice Springs, the Park is an easy 15 minute drive along the sealed Ross Highway.


When to visit

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

What to do

 **Picnics** - This Park offers recreational activities such as picnicking and nature observation. There are picnic tables and firepits at Jessie Gap.

 **Walks** - There are short walking tracks leading into both Emily and Jessie Gap.

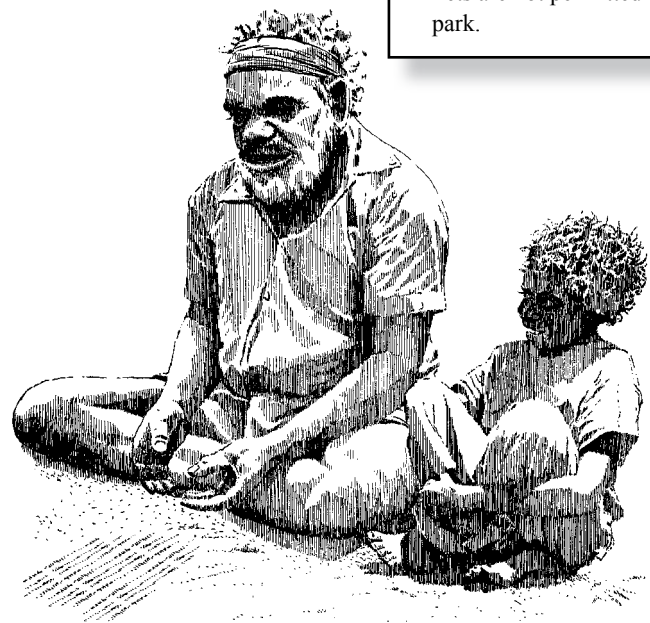
 **Camping** - Camping is not permitted on the Park. There are many opportunities for camping in Alice Springs and further east at Trephina and N'Dhala Gorge.

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.
- Swim only where recommended.

Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Traditional Owners ask that visitors do not climb the rocks in and around the Gaps, and do not take photos of rock art.
- 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.



*Telling the story of the
Caterpillar Dreaming*

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