



EXPLORING

A unique experience

Christmas Island National Park is like nowhere else on earth. It protects the world's most abundant and diverse populations of land crabs and is home to endemic wildlife only found on Christmas Island, including the golden bosun and forest birds like the goshawk and emerald dove. Explore the park's spectacular landscapes, rainforest and wetlands including the Dales, which is a wetland of international importance.

The park has a series of walks and viewing platforms to help you to explore its natural attractions.

Walks in the park

The Dales walks

Hugh's Dale waterfall - (a)

4WD Access: Easy to moderate walk. Natural surface and elevated walkway with some steep steps:

750 m each way | 30 min each way

2WD Access: Stop at the 2WD car park (marked before the steep hill) and walk 600 m down to the start of the elevated walkway.

This iconic walking track leads through majestic rainforests and wetlands, ending at Hugh's Dale Waterfall. The elevated walkway has seating and viewing areas, so take the time to enjoy this peaceful area.

Anderson's Dale - (b)

4WD Access: Moderate to difficult walk. Rough natural surface: 1.5 km each way | 1 hr each way

This marked trail starts at the Dales elevated walkway carpark. It passes through the rainforest, ending at a freshwater stream that has carved a small gorge through the limestone cliffs to meet the ocean.

The gorge is rough and slippery, so take care. Large unpredictable waves are common in the gorge. Do not swim, turn your back to the ocean or venture onto shoreline rock platforms.

West White Beach

2WD Access: Difficult walk. Rough natural surface with steep sections: 1.5 km each way | 1 hr each way

This marked trail descends down to the coast through tall rainforest. It includes short scrambles over trees and rocks and a steep climb down a rock face. The rocky beach has stunning coral reefs off the shore and views of the north coast. The walk back is particularly strenuous.



Winifred Beach

4WD Access: Moderate walk. Rough natural surface with steep sections: 550 m | 30 minutes each way (if walking from the gate along the 4WD track, add an extra 2 hours each way | 5 km each way)

This marked trail goes through scenic rugged coastal terrace rainforest, reaching a cliff face with a steep staircase that leads to a rocky shoreline and picturesque cove, with turquoise water. The beach can be dangerous, particularly at high tide.

Dolly Beach

4WD Access: Moderate walk. Boardwalk with sections of natural surface: 1.8 km each way | 1 hr each way

This trail goes through shore terrace rainforest. The last part of the trail is through the national park, and leads to an isolated and picturesque sandy beach, with rock pools, robber crabs and sometimes green turtles. Please do not disturb turtles and only watch them and other wildlife from a distance.

Viewing platforms in the park

You can also explore the park using its viewing platforms, which have short walks and provide panoramic coastal views, often with seabirds.

The Blowholes

4WD Access: The Blowholes has a viewing platform with seating close to the car park. Enjoy spectacular views of the panoramic southern coastline, including views of several ‘blowholes’ which spray seawater high into the air when waves pound against the rugged cliffs. It’s a perfect place to sit and relax or to have a picnic in the afternoon. For your safety please remain on the viewing platform.

Martin Point

4WD Access: Martin Point is located in the Dales area. A short walk of 150 m from Martin Point car park leads to a viewing platform on the edge of a sea cliff. It is a great place to sit down and watch the sunset and waves breaking over the park’s western shoreline and fringing reefs. For your safety, please remain on the viewing platform and take extra care to avoid robber crabs if driving on the road in the dark.

Margaret Knoll

2WD Access: A 50 m walk from the car park, which includes some steps, leads to the Margaret Knoll viewing platform. The lookout provides panoramic views of the island’s forests and the ocean, about 200 m below.

It is one of the best locations to watch seabirds, including frigate birds, red footed and brown boobies, and the golden bosun as they soar above and below you. It is also a good place to watch endangered flying foxes in the late afternoon and early evening.

Visitor maps and the Christmas Island Visitor Guide are available from the Christmas Island Tourism Association and the national park.

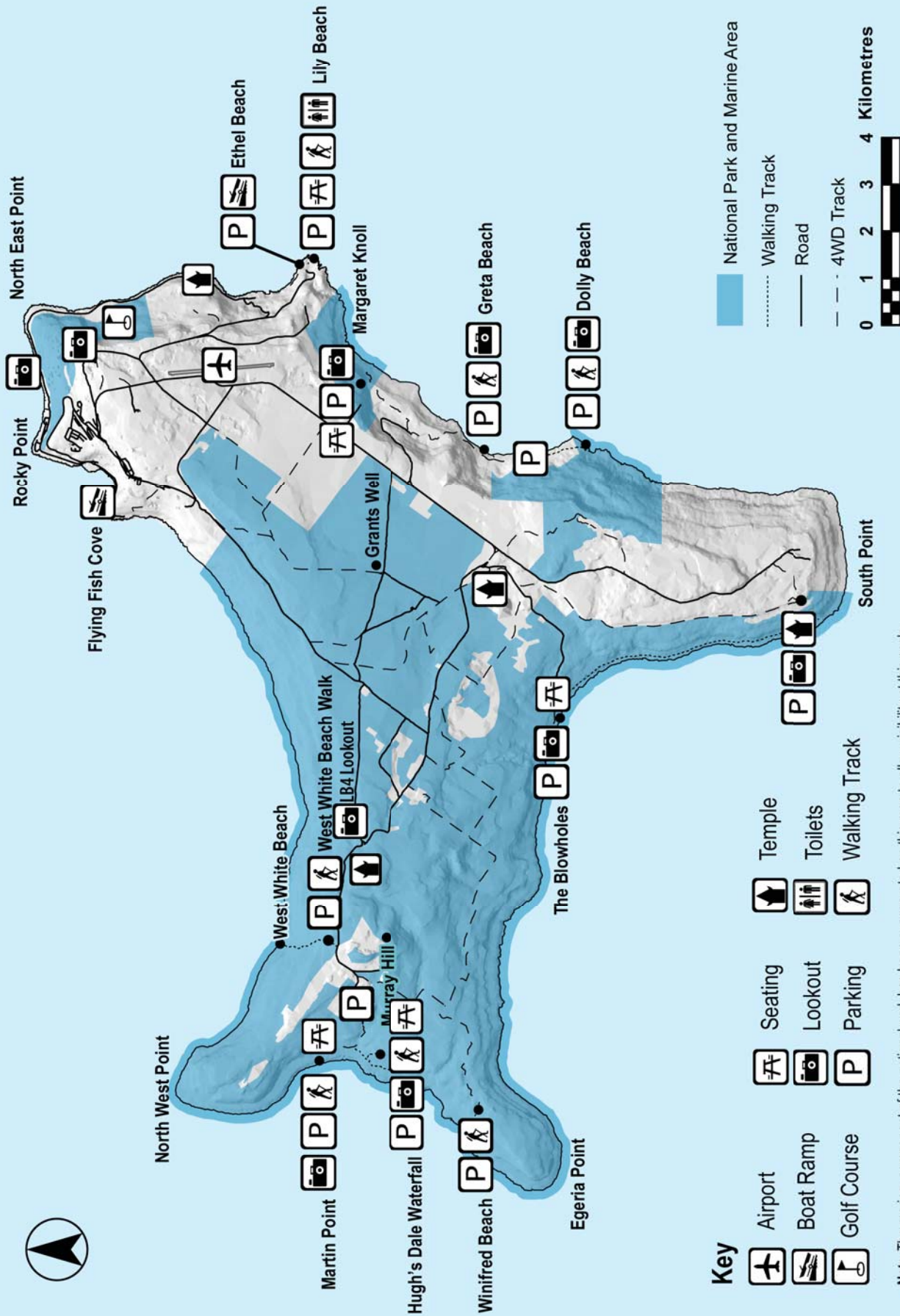
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Australian Government
Parks Australia



Fact Sheet Christmas Island National Park



Protecting the national park

The national park is established and managed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Act and its Regulations set out rules for what can and can't be done in the national park.

To help protect the park please:

- Keep to vehicle tracks, roads and walking tracks
- Camping is not allowed in the national park except at Dolly Beach, which requires a walk from the car park of about 1.5 km each way. If you wish to camp at Dolly Beach, please contact national park headquarters on T: 08 9164 8700
- Do not feed or disturb wildlife
- Do not light fires
- Do not spear fish in the park. The national park boundary extends 50 m from the low water mark of the land areas of the park
- All land crabs on Christmas Island are protected so please drive safely to avoid killing crabs. It is an offense to recklessly or deliberately kill crabs or interfere with wildlife

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Photos:

Christmas Island Tourism Association

May 2015

Safety info: don't risk your life

Please take extra care when you're visiting natural areas - we want you to have a great time and return home safely.



It is easy to become lost in the rainforest so keep to the walking tracks and roads



Walk with another person and tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return



Carry plenty of drinking water



When bushwalking wear sturdy shoes, a hat, sunscreen and loose and light breathable clothing



The seacliffs and inland cliffs on Christmas Island can be very treacherous, so please keep away from cliff edges and do not venture on to rock platforms on the shoreline



Please use commonsense when swimming or wading at any beach - they can be subject to large waves and swells, strong rips and undertows. No beach on the island is patrolled by lifesavers. Swimming from beaches is only recommended at Flying Fish Cove under calm sea conditions



Obey all safety directions, notices and warning signs



Some roads in and out of the national park are 4WD only and many sections are steep and narrow, becoming slippery when wet. Drive carefully and slowly. Take extra care when driving during wet periods, during the red crab migration or when robber crabs are out on the roads and tracks