Elsey National Park

Fact Sheet

Elsey National Park has warm, crystal-clear pools for swimmers, long stretches of river for anglers and scenic walking tracks and historic sites for landlubbers.

The Roper River begins its journey to the Gulf of Carpentaria in this 13,840 ha Park. It flows gently in the dry season (May to September), but swells, floods and rages during the wet season (November to April).

Access (see map overleaf)

Park entry fees - Parks Pass applies. NT residents exempt.

Three roads lead to the Park. All are sealed but flooding may affect access during the wet season.

Bitter Springs is reached via Martin Road by turning east off the Stuart Highway at the northern end of Mataranka.

Mataranka Thermal Pool is at the end of Homestead Road, which is accessed by turning east off the Stuart Highway 1.5 km south of Mataranka.

All other sites are located along John Hauser Drive, reached by turning off Homestead Road about 4 km from the Highway.

When to Visit

May to September is the most comfortable time to visit Elsey.

Camping

Jalmurark Campground has showers, barbecues and picnic tables. There are no powered sites and generators are not permitted. **Sites must be booked online before you arrive.**

Alternative camping and accommodation is available at various commercial establishments in the area.

What to See and Do

Boating

There are concrete boat ramps at 4 Mile and 12 Mile Yards. Observe wet season closures.

Fishing - is popular at sites along John Hauser Drive. Fishing regulations apply and traps, nets and spears are prohibited.

Swimming - The Park offers excellent swimming opportunities - ONLY at Bitter Springs and Mataranka Thermal Pool. ***Please note - swimming and canoeing are no longer permitted in the Roper and Waterhouse Rivers - observe all signage.***

Walking - There are a variety of walks in the Park, including the 16 km Riverside Walk, providing access to the river and some great picnic spots.

Bitter Springs, 500 m loop, 20 minutes, easy. Encircles the Livistona-lined thermal pool and provides easy access to the pool.

Mataranka Thermal Pool, 500 m loop, 20 minutes, easy. Meanders among towering Livistonas to the Thermal Pool providing swimming access.

Stevie's Hole 1.2 km one way, 45 minutes, easy. Follow the Waterhouse River from Mataranka Homestead to link through to the Riverside Walk.

Botanic Walk, 1.5 km loop, 45 minutes, easy. Discover the Park's riverine and rainforest species. Links to the Riverside Walk and Stevie's Hole.

Korowan (Mataranka Falls), 8 kms return, 4 hours, moderate. Follow the Roper River down to the tufa dams that cross it and form the gentle rapids; these are created by calcium carbonate depositing on the rock bars.

Sheep Dip, 365 m return, 20 minutes, easy. Discover a small part of the region's rich pastoral history.

WWII Aboriginal Army Camp, 650 m return, 30 minutes, easy. Explore part of the World War II history of this region.

Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Saltwater Crocodiles may inhabit the Roper River, swim only where recommended, observe warning signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, suitable clothing and footwear, sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Beat the Heat - avoid strenuous activity in the heat of the day.

Please Remember

- Bins are not provided, please take rubbish away with you.
- A permit is required for Drone use - conditions apply - obtain prior to your arrival in the Park.
- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Pets are not permitted in the Park.
- Nets, traps and firearms are not permitted.
- Take care with fire, light fires only in fireplaces provided.
- Camp only in your pre-booked site in designated camping areas.
- Collect firewood before you arrive at a picnic or campsite.
- Generators are not permitted in the campground.
- Observe all fishing regulations.
- Check that your vehicle is not transporting pests like weeds.

Thermal pools in the Park

Spring water rises from under the ground at a rate of 30.5 million litres per day. The 34° C water is then contained in pools surrounded by paperbark and palm forests.

Parks & Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory

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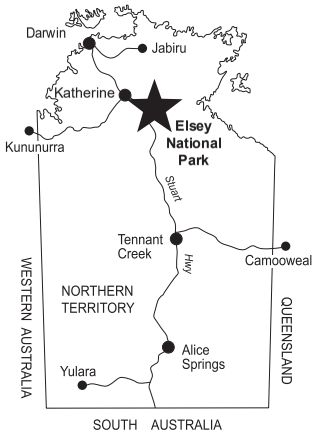
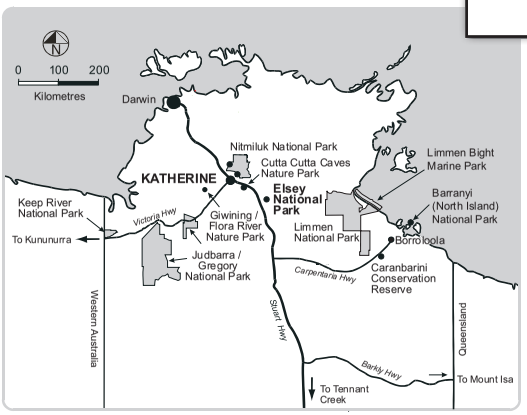
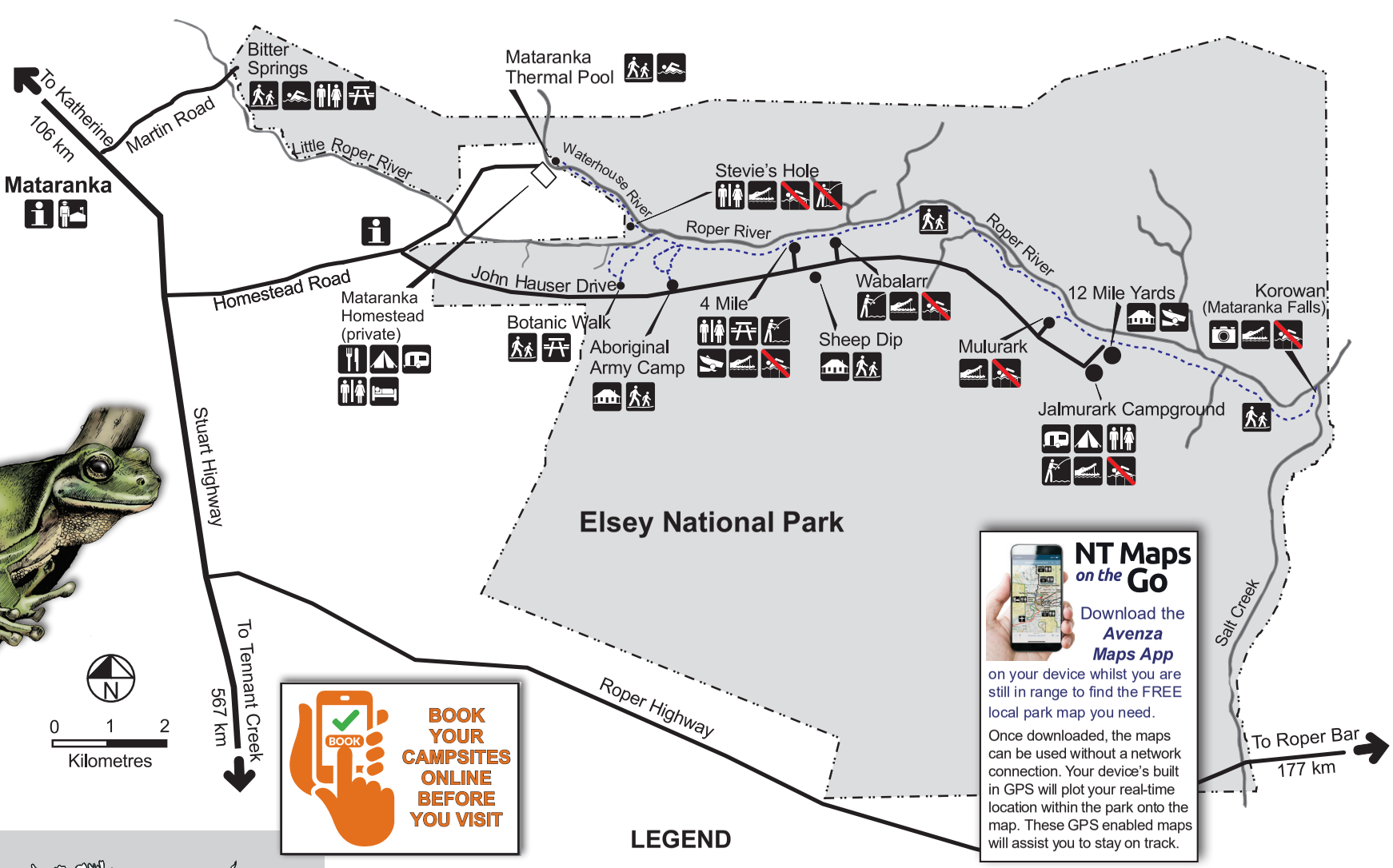
PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION NORTHERN TERRITORY

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

Elsey National Park







BOOK YOUR CAMPSITES ONLINE BEFORE YOU VISIT

NT Maps on the Go

Download the ***Avenza Maps App*** on your device whilst you are still in range to find the FREE local park map you need.

Once downloaded, the maps can be used without a network connection. Your device's built in GPS will plot your real-time location within the park onto the map. These GPS enabled maps will assist you to stay on track.

LEGEND

- Information
- Ranger Station
- Toilets
- Camping
- Caravan camping
- Accommodation
- Kiosk
- Picnic
- Swimming
- Boat ramp
- Walking
- Fishing
- Historic site
- Crocodiles - No swimming
- Park Boundary
- Watercourse
- Walking Track
- Sealed Road
- Highway

Fact Sheet

D/05/2024PWCNT

For more information - nt.gov.au/parks or Katherine Visitor Information Centre on 1800 653 142