

MOORRINYA NATIONAL PARK

Location:



About 386km south-west of Townsville. 180km north of Aramac on the Aramac Torrens Creek Road.

Getting there and getting around

From Townsville, travel south-west for 296km to Torrens Creek on the Flinders Highway. Moorrinya National Park is about 90km south of Torrens Creek on the Aramac Torrens Creek Road. If travelling from the south, the park is 180km north of Aramac, on the Aramac Torrens Creek Road. A directional sign marks the entrance to the park.

Access to the Shirley Shearing Shed camping area is marked by directional signs. From the entrance on the Aramac Torrens Creek Road, the track crosses Bullock Creek and travels for 6.5km through acacia and bluegrass communities. Turn right, just past the Shirley Homestead and travel 4.5km to a Y intersection. The camping area is 4.3km along the right-hand side road.

Four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended to access the camping area as the tracks are rough and become impassable to conventional vehicles after rain. Vehicle access is not maintained within the stock route. The park may be closed during the wet season (November to April). Check with the Department of Transport and Main Roads for road conditions and the Bureau of Meteorology for local weather information.

Park features

Moorrinya National Park protects 32,607 ha and is located in the heart of the Desert Uplands, protecting 18 vegetation communities in the Lake Eyre Basin, one of Australia's most important catchments.

This remote park has dry, flat plains criss-crossed by watercourses and covered in open eucalypt, paperbark and acacia woodlands and grasslands. Moorrinya is a wildlife refuge, protecting Australian icons such as kangaroos, koalas, emus and dingoes, as well as threatened species such as the square-tailed kite, squatter pigeon (southern subspecies) and the Julia Creek Dunnart.

Moorrinya National Park was initially established as the sheep grazing property, Shirley Station. In the late 1970s, cattle replaced sheep and grazing continued until the park was established in 1993. Much of the sheep station infrastructure, dating back to the late 1940s, remains as a reminder of the spirit and hard work of the people who lived in this remote part of Queensland.

Camping at Moorrinya National Park

Seven camp sites have been established near the old Shirley shearing shed and a composting toilet is the only facility. A camping permit is required and fees apply. A tag with your booking number must be displayed at your camp site.

- **Bookings:** book online, over-the-counter at the Flinders Discovery Centre or by phone on 13 74 68.
- **Campground features:** Bush camp near an old shearing shed. Discover the farming history of the park.
- **Location:** Access to the Shirley Shearing Shed camping area is marked by directional signs. From the entrance on the Aramac Torrens Creek Road, the track crosses Bullock Creek and travels for 6.5km through acacia and bluegrass communities. Turn right, just past the Shirley Homestead and travel 4.5km to a Y intersection. The camping area is 4.3km along the right-hand side road.
- **Access:** the camping area can be reached by four-wheel-drive only. It is accessible for four-wheel-drive caravans, buses and camper trailers driven with care.
- **Number of sites:** seven separate and numbered sites.
- **Campsites are suitable for:** tent camping beside your car, camper trailers and large groups.
- **Campsite surface:** Dirt.
- **Facilities:** Composting toilets.
- **Open fires:** Prohibited. Bring a gas or fuel stove.
- **Generators:** Not permitted.
- **Essentials to bring:** Drinking water, rubbish bags, insect repellent and a fuel stove.
- **Mobile phone coverage:** Not available.

Things to do

Walking

Bullock Creek walk—200 m return (15 mins) Grade: easy

Take this short stroll from the camping area to Bullock Creek. At the creek look for native fish including spangled perch *Leiopotherapon unicolor*, glassfish *Ambassis* sp. and silver catfish *Plotosus argenteus*. Waterbirds, such as the hoary-headed grebe *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*, Australasian darter *Anhinga novaehollandiae* and marsh sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* may be seen searching for food amongst the reeds. Shade is limited so try to walk in the cooler parts of the day.

Driving

Ride trail bikes and drive four-wheel-drives on Moorrinya's internal roads and firebreaks. Riders and drivers must be licensed and trail bikes and vehicles must be fully registered. Normal road rules apply and penalties will be enforced. Vehicle access is not maintained within the stock route. Expect to share the roads with pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles.

Stay on formed roads—trail bikes and vehicles are not permitted off-road or on the walking track.

Mountain Biking

Mountain bike on Moorrinya's internal roads and firebreaks. Expect to share the roads with wildlife, pedestrians and vehicles.

Viewing wildlife

The park is popular with birdwatchers and nature lovers—165 bird, 40 reptile, 17 mammal, nine frog and seven fish species have been recorded in the park.

Red-winged parrots *Aprosmictus erythropterus*, pale headed rosellas *Platycercus adscitus* and sulphur-crested cockatoos *Cacatua galerita* are often seen near the camping area, especially at dawn and dusk.

During the day look for koalas *Phascolarctos cinereus* sleeping in the canopies of eucalypt trees, and eastern grey kangaroos *Macropus giganteus*, common wallaroos *Macropus robustus* and red kangaroos *Macropus rufus* seeking shade from the sun's heat. Double-barred finches *Taneropygia bichenovii* and chestnut-breasted mannikins *Lonchura castaneothorax* are often seen near the ground, as are squatter pigeons *Geophaps scripta*, which prefer to walk unless threatened.

At night listen for the 'woof woof' call of barking owls *Ninox connivens* and maybe see a sugar glider *Petaurus breviceps* soaring from tree to tree. During the wet season the park becomes alive with the sounds of frog calls. Listen for the ornate burrowing frog *Platyplectrum ornatum*, the greenstripe frog *Cyclorana alboguttata* and the northern laughing treefrog *Litoria rothi*.

Things to know before you go

Essentials to bring

- A first-aid kit.
- Fresh water, as water is not provided.
- A sealable container for rubbish. Bins are not provided.
- A fuel stove and fuel, as fires and generators are not permitted.
- A hat, sunscreen and sunglasses.

Opening Hours

Moorrinya National Park is open 24 hours a day and is generally accessible from May to September. During the wet season (between November and April) the road into the park may be inaccessible. Visitors should check with the Department of Transport and Main Roads for road conditions.

Permits and Fees

Camping permits are required and fees apply. Book your site online before arriving at the old woolshed. A tag with your booking number must be displayed at your camp site.

Large groups and commercial users will need to obtain a group activity or commercial activity permit.

Pets

Domestic animals are not permitted in Moorrinya National Park.

Climate and weather

Days can be very hot between October and March, reaching an average temperature of 31 to 35 degrees Celsius, and occasionally exceeding 40 degrees Celsius. Wet periods occur during this time which make access difficult to impossible. It is preferable to visit in the cooler months, from April to September, when daily temperatures average a more pleasant 27 degrees Celsius.

Fuel and Supplies

Fuel and basic supplies are available at Torrens Creek, about 90 km north of the park. Charters Towers (about 250 km north-east of Moorrinya) and Hughenden (about 178 km north-west of Moorrinya) have a wider range of supplies. For more information see the tourism information links.

Staying safe

- Carry adequate drinking water. Treat water collected from creeks.
- Protect yourself from the sun. Wear sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and a long-sleeved shirt, even on cloudy days.
- Wear insect repellent, clothing and sturdy footwear to protect yourself from stings, scratches and bites.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes.
- Detour around snakes. Never provoke them.
- Dingoes and wild dogs are potentially dangerous. Do not approach or feed dingoes and ensure to stay in groups when walking.
- Beware of other road users. Vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians use access road in this park.

Looking after the park

Parks and forests protect Queensland's wonderful natural diversity and scenery. Help keep these places special by following these guidelines.

- Use a fuel stove. Fires are not allowed.
- Leave domestic animals at home.
- Plants and animals are protected.
- Rubbish bins are not provided. Do not bury rubbish—take it with you when you leave.
- Do not use firearms or other weapons into the park.
- Do not fossick in or remove any historical artefacts.
- Unlicensed trail bike riders and drivers are not allowed in the parks. Riders and drivers must be licensed and vehicles must be fully registered.
- Stay on the formed roads—off-road trail bike riding and four-wheel-driving is not allowed.
- Avoiding driving and riding on unsealed roads during and after heavy rains.
- Respect park users—ensure the noise and dust from your riding and driving doesn't upset others.
- Obey signs and safety notices.

See the guidelines on caring for parks for more information about protecting our environment and heritage in parks.

Wheelchair accessibility

Moorrinya National Park has no wheelchair-accessible facilities.

Park management

Moorrinya National Park was gazetted in 1993. QPWS manages the protected area to conserve its natural, cultural and historic values.

For further Information:

QPWS

Disraeli Street, Hughenden Q 4821

Ph: (07) 4741 1113

Fax (07) 4741 1046

<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/>

Flinders Discovery Centre

37 Gray Street, Hughenden Q 4821

PO Box 274, Hughenden Q 4821

Ph: (07) 4741 2970

Fax: (07) 4741 1029

Email: info@flinders.qld.gov.au

Website: www.flinders.qld.gov.au

Charters Towers Visitor Information Centre

12 Mosman Street, Charters Towers QLD 4820

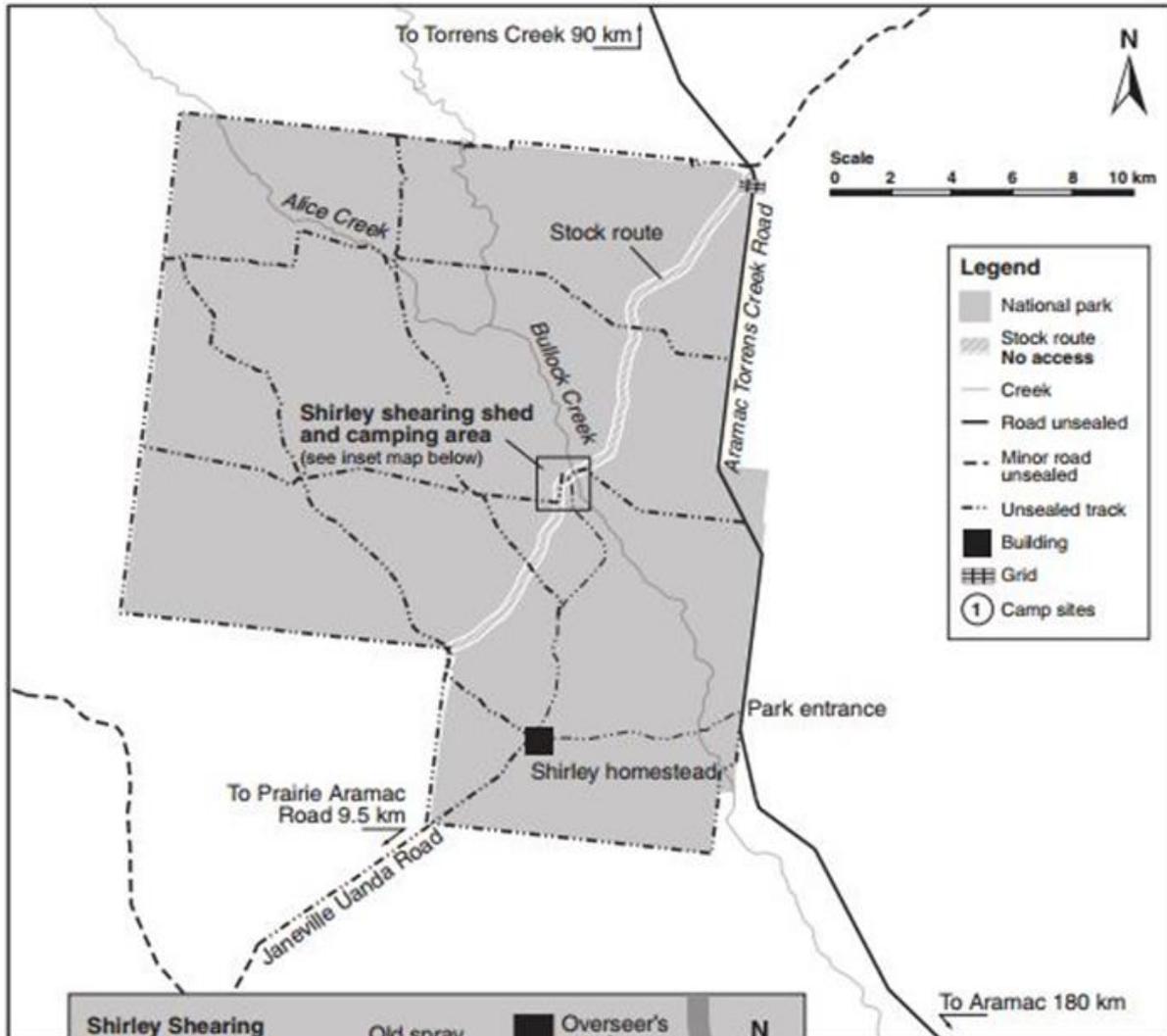
Ph: (07) 4761 5533

Email: tourinfo@charterstowers.qld.gov.au

Website: www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au



Moorrinya National Park map



© State of Queensland, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. 04/24/18 (May 2023)

