



# Charles Darwin Reserve, WA Camping Guide

Photo: Charles Darwin Reserve

## Quick facts

**Traditional Owners** Badimia People

**Area:** 68,481 hectares

**Acquired:** 2003

**Former name:** White Wells Station

**Climate:** Semi-desert Mediterranean

**Annual rainfall:** 282mm (variable)

**Temperature averages:** Winter 5°-19°C Summer 20°-37°C

**Location:** Southwest WA, northern edge of Wheatbelt region. Approx 80km north of Wubin

**Camp site open:** 1 June to mid September 2020.

Minimum two-night stay, maximum 1 week - **bookings**

**essential:** as sites are limited and need to fit around other activities and management requirements.

To register please fill out the online registration form or for enquiries contact Katrina Blake phone: 03 8610

9124 email: [visits@bushheritage.org.au](mailto:visits@bushheritage.org.au)



**Essential: Emergency communication equipment:** Satellite phone or EPIRB or SPOT or HF radio.

**Vehicle** Best suited to 4WD or AWD/SUV with high clearance.

## Camping fees



While there is no camping fee, we ask instead for people make a tax-deductible donation. This helps us undertake our work and maintain the visitor opportunities on this reserve. [Donations](#) can be made anytime online or by scanning the QR code with your mobile device (mobile reception required).

## Location

Charles Darwin Reserve is in SW Western Australia, approximately 300 km NE (4 to 5 hrs drive) from Perth. The closest towns are Wubin (83km S), Dalwallinu (125km SW), and Perenjori (65km W). Homestead co-ordinates

Lat long decimal degrees	-29.61577. 117.00460
Lat long degrees min sec	-29°36'56" 117°0'16"
UTM	E 500430.299 N 6723812.957

## Come prepared

Charles Darwin Reserve is remote with minimal services at hand. Roads around the property are unsealed and vary from clay and sand to rugged rocky surfaces. Following rain, access on the reserve may be restricted until tracks are dry enough to travel on. It is essential visitors come well stocked with supplies of food, water, fuel, camping and safety equipment. Your vehicle needs to be in excellent working order.

## Emergency communication

Bush Heritage requires all camping parties to carry at least one form of emergency communication equipment with them – either a **satellite phone, SPOT device, EPIRB or HF radio**.

There is no reliable mobile phone reception across the property. Satellite mobile reception for Telstra users may be picked up from the camping check in area.

In addition to the required equipment above, a UHF radio is optional but can be a useful form of communication on site, especially between vehicles. Charles Darwin Reserve uses **channel 1 duplex** although it has limited range and is not monitored 24hrs. It therefore cannot be relied upon as a form of emergency communication.

## Visitor Safety

Visitors are responsible for their own safety and need to be prepared for travel in remote bushland settings. You should have in place an emergency response plan. This means nominating a responsible person (usually family or friend) who will know of your travel and communication plan and expected date of safe return from the reserve. They will activate your emergency response plan should you fail to return ie contact police.

Medical and emergency services are **not** close at hand so think carefully about your actions and your safety.

We recommend all visitors have a current ambulance membership. Costs associated with evacuation or search and rescue is not the responsibility of Bush Heritage.

## COVID safety

Bush Heritage and all visitors are asked to comply with the relevant State and Territory COVID requirements. Please do not attend if you are unwell or likely to be positive for COVID at the time of your camp booking.

## Vehicle Requirements

This reserve is best suited to 4WD or high clearance AWD/SUV vehicles. Only in good conditions can robust 2WD be permitted but will be restricted to where it can travel. **All vehicles must carry a spare tyre (ideally two or a puncture repair kit), as well as basic recovery gear.** Trailers and small off road vans are ok to bring in with you but large motor homes or caravans are not suitable.



### **Fuel**

Fuel is not available at the Reserve so please ensure you fill up at Wubin or Perenjori prior to your arrival. For vehicles with single fuel tanks you may wish to consider bringing in extra supplies depending on your length of stay and your onward travel plans. As a guide if you were to complete the two self-guided tour loops it would be approximately 70km without any extra travel or detours. Remember fuel consumption can increase when travelling on unsealed roads

### **Travelling around**

Bush Heritage requires safety belts to be worn by all occupants of a vehicle when travelling around the reserve.

Drive only on the designated visitor tracks and take care when parking or turning around to help minimise impacts. You will be provided information on where you can and can't travel.

Travel to the conditions and avoid driving following rain—road maintenance is costly. Drive at appropriate speeds—we request 10km around the homestead and campground and maximum 40km on tracks if conditions allow it.

- Remember, wildlife has right of way, and tends to be active at dawn and dusk but be prepared at all times.

### **Other requirements**

No fires, pets, animals or firearms to be brought onto the reserve. No use of drones permitted.

Please follow directions from Bush Heritage staff.

### **Daily Trip Intentions Book**

At the campground there is a daily trip intentions book. Campers are requested to fill this out on a daily basis. This information is not used as a daily safety check but will help us to find you if required or in the case of an emergency.

### **Reserve staff**

A full-time reserve manager lives on Charles Darwin Reserve and throughout the year we have many workers including volunteers, researchers and contractors living on site. You may or may not see reserve staff during your stay, although they will make attempts to catch up with you. While staff are happy to provide you with information and assistance, they are unable to guide you around the property. We ask all visitors to be mindful of staff's time and privacy. The reserve is not only their workplace but also their home.

# Campground and facilities

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Samphire campground is a small, simple bush camp located about 3km from the homestead complex. There are 3 campsites and you will be informed of your allocated site/s on arrival. The camp is set amongst stunning Melaleuca trees providing protection for campers and is only a short stroll to a salt pan lake which is a lovely spot to sit and relax after a day exploring.

## Fires

Sorry we don't allow campfires due to the impact on the property from wood collection and potential fire risks.

## Washing & showers

Visitors will have to bring their own water and equipment for washing as there are no kitchen or laundry facilities at the campground. A rustic bush shower has been constructed for use with your own solar shower or bucket of water.

Please do not use soap in or near water bodies including creeks or dams.

## Toilet

A pit toilet is located at the camp. You will need to bring your own toilet paper supplies and hand soap.

## Food & Water

Ensure you have enough food and water for your stay as well as some emergency supplies. Dalwallinu is the closest town with a small supermarket and bakery should you wish to shop locally. Perenjori no longer has a supermarket, but the roadhouse does have some very basic supplies.

## Power

There is no power on site. We ask that generators are not used if other campers are on site.

## Rubbish

Please take all rubbish out with you. There is no rubbish service to this property and therefore Bush Heritage asks for your assistance with minimising your impact on the reserve and our resources.

## Insects

On occasions Sandflies can be present at the reserve. We recommend you bring insect repellent with you and a good mozzie net if you have one.

## Weed Seed Quarantine

Please help us to stop the introduction or spread of weeds on Charles Darwin Reserve. If you, or your camping gear has been in weed infected areas in other parts of the state or Australia, please take time to clean your equipment before travelling into the reserve.

Double G's are found at various locations on the reserve. Please check your boots and tyres at regular intervals and place any seeds in a plastic bag or container and leave at the office for staff to dispose of. We appreciate your help with this.



# Enjoying the reserve

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## **What to see and do**

We recommend a minimum of 2 full days at the reserve. Several self-guided driving tours have been established, taking you to places of interest and a diversity of environments. There is also plenty of exploring you can do on foot although we request you stick to tracks unless you are an experienced navigator and walker. A detailed visitor information folder including tour notes and maps will be issued to campers once on site.