LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK · UNOFFICIAL GUIDE

Day planner

Three fee systems · sealed-road icons vs 4WD · heat and crocodile checks · packing · official links. Print this page or save as PDF from your browser. No email required.

Verify before you go. Fees, swimming status, track conditions and road closures change. Always check NT Parks — Litchfield, Darwin-region park-open (Litchfield) and roadreport.nt.gov.au. This planner is independent and unofficial — not Parks and Wildlife NT, not the Northern Territory Government. Emergency: **000**.

Swim only where today's signs say open after ranger crocodile surveys. Florence and Wangi have separate signs — one open pool is not a permit for the other. Closed tape wins over last year's photo. Be Crocwise. No dawn or dusk swimming.

1. Before you leave

Status & roads

- ☐ Darwin-region Litchfield park-open page checked this morning
- ☐ roadreport.nt.gov.au · 1800 246 199
- ☐ BOM Darwin forecast — not a southern-winter guess
- ☐ Swim signs / Be Crocwise understood
- ☐ Fuel in Batchelor (or Berry Springs / Darwin) — none in the park
- ☐ Someone at home knows the plan — 000 needs reception

Packing (day pack)

- ☐ Water 3 L+ per person on walks
- ☐ Electrolytes · snacks
- ☐ Wide-brim hat · UPF shirt · SPF 50
- ☐ Insect sense — do not sit on bare grass (scrub typhus mites)
- ☐ Grip shoes (rock gets slick when wet)
- ☐ Phone + offline map / Avenza screenshot
- ☐ Screenshots of bookings (poor reception)
- ☐ Basic first aid

2. Fees — three official systems, not one ticket

Visitor Pass

- Interstate / overseas visitors
- NT residents usually exempt (carry proof)

Camping

- Park sites: book and pay online before arrival
- No on-site payment
- Display the camping tag

Tabletop + extras

- Overnight Tabletop walk fee is extra
- Track camps still booked separately

- Buy only on parkbookings.nt.gov.au
- Does not cover camping or Tabletop
- Does not cover Kakadu or Uluru

- Florence / Wangi: Category A
- Walker / Tjaynera / Surprise: Category B

- Day walks on sealed tracks do not need this fee
- This site never takes commission on official fees

Published dollar figures change. Confirm the live tables on nt.gov.au before you pay.

3. Which day shape today?

Sealed-road icons (2WD)

- Batchelor → Litchfield Park Road
- Magnetic termite mounds
- Florence Falls + Buley, *or* Wangi
- Not Lost City. Not Tabletop.

4WD / overnight (only if equipped)

- Lost City sandstone pillars
- Reynolds Track → Tjaynera / Surprise Creek
- Central Valley: Category D + collected key
- Tabletop: booked walk fee + camps first

☐ One day shape today — do not stack Florence, Wangi and Lost City

☐ No public transport. Fuel was in Batchelor.

4. One-day sealed (order of stops)

1. **Night before** — Visitor Pass if needed. Fuel. Pack 3 L+. Agree: mounds + Florence + Buley *or* Wangi. Lost City is off this plan.
2. **Early** — Darwin 90–120 minutes, or wake in Batchelor (15–20 minutes to the entrance). Check park-open and roadreport with coffee, not at the mound car park.
3. **Cool morning** — Magnetic termite mounds (five minutes). Then Florence lookout, then 160 stairs *or* Shady Creek. Swim only if signed open.
4. **Middle of the day** — Buley Rockhole *or* Wangi — not both at peak heat. Shade, food, lock the car.
5. **Afternoon** — Back toward Batchelor / Darwin. Do not invent Tolmer as a swim or Lost City as a "quick look".

5. Two-day sealed icons then Wangi

- **Day 1** — Sealed icons as above (mounds + Florence + Buley). Sleep in Batchelor or a booked Florence / Wangi Category A camp.
- **Day 2** — Wangi Falls (lookout + signed-open swim). Optional Greenant Creek, Cascades, or Walker Creek — not Lost City.
- A Darwin return the same night as Day 1 is a 14-hour day. Two mornings is the plan that usually works.

6. Heat, crocodiles, comms

- Heat is the main day-to-day risk. Start early. Rest in shade. 3 L+ on walks. Reverse the clock if anyone is fading.
- Swim only where today's signs say open after ranger surveys. Florence and Wangi are separate decisions. Closed tape wins.

- Never swim at dawn or dusk in closed water. Supervise children at the waterline. Do not clean fish at the edge.
- Official guidance is limited phone signal. 000 needs reception. Emergency+ app + offline maps. Wangi café Wi-Fi is reported free — verify on the day; it is not a comms plan. Satellite messenger / PLB is optional planning for Tabletop or remote 4WD.

7. 4WD and Tabletop (only if already booked)

☐ High-clearance 4WD and a dry-season roadreport that actually matches the vehicle

☐ Lost City and Reynolds are a day of their own — not an add-on after Florence stairs

☐ Reynolds crossings: walk them first if that is your rule; loop tracks may close — return via the main track

☐ Central Valley: book Category D, then collect the key (Palmerston, Territory Wildlife Park, or Katherine by arrangement)

☐ Tabletop: Visitor Pass if required + overnight walk fee + each night's camp on parkbookings.nt.gov.au

☐ Tabletop is not a day walk. If the bookings feel like too much paperwork, choose sealed-road days.

Usual Tabletop window is June–September. Northern Campground has no water on published notes. Group of at least three, log books, Avenza: official safety, not optional colour.

8. Official links

- **This guide:** https://www.litchfieldguide.com.au/ — visit, walks, itineraries
- NT Parks Litchfield: https://nt.gov.au/parks/find-a-park/litchfield-national-park
- Park open (Litchfield / Darwin region): https://nt.gov.au/parks/regions/darwin/check-park-open-darwin/litchfield-national-park
- Swimming: https://nt.gov.au/parks/find-a-park/litchfield-national-park/swimming
- Bookings / pass: https://parkbookings.nt.gov.au/
- Visitor Pass fees: https://nt.gov.au/parks/visitor-pass
- Camping fees: https://nt.gov.au/parks/camping/fees
- Walking fees: https://nt.gov.au/parks/bushwalking-hiking/multi-day-walking-trail-fees
- Tabletop notes: https://nt.gov.au/parks/find-a-park/litchfield-national-park/litchfield-national-park-tabletop-track
- Reynolds Track: https://nt.gov.au/parks/find-a-park/litchfield-national-park/reynolds-track
- Roads: https://roadreport.nt.gov.au/ · 1800 246 199
- Palmerston parks office: 08 8999 4555
- parkbookings phone: 1300 281 121
- Emergency: 000
- BOM Darwin: https://www.bom.gov.au/nt/forecasts/darwin.shtml
- Be Crocwise: https://nt.gov.au/emergency/community-safety/be-crocwise

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