

LORELLA SPRINGS STATION/ WILDERNESS PARK



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Frequently Asked Questions – General Information Letter

MENU.....	PAGE
Lorella Springs Wilderness Park – introduction	02
Access and Directions	04
Accommodation	04
Airstrip	06
Amenities/ bathroom facilities	06
Bakery	06
Bar	06
Bird watching	07
Bookings	07
Books and magazines	07
Bush Walking	08
Canoes and Boats	08
Connectivity – mobile reception, Internet	09
Deposit and Payments	09
Fires	09
Fishing	10
Four-Wheel drive (4WD)	12
Fuel	12
Generators	12
Helicopter Scenic Flights	12
Homestead	13
Human Resources – Volunteering & Wet Season vacancies	13
Hunting	14
Laundry	14
Meals	14
Maps	15
Mechanical	15
Nudist facilities	16
Office hours	16
Pets	16
Power sites	16
Price list	17
Supplies	18
Swimming	18
Water	18
Weather conditions	19
Wildlife and other dangers warning	19

Lorella Springs Station/ Wilderness Park - INTRODUCTION

Fronting the Gulf of Carpentaria, located 15 degrees south of the Equator, in one of the most remote and isolated areas of Australia or even Planet Earth, Lorella Springs Station is a virtually untouched one million acre (4,000 square kilometer) property. Move away from the idyllic, un-spoilt beaches on its 25 kilometres of ocean frontage, past the bird filled lakes, past rivers, hills, forests and savannah lands, climb past chasms, past waterfalls and thermal springs, up the towering glittering crystalline escarpments, surveying this majestic massive country, and, as far as possible in every direction, all you can see is LORELLA.

With some of the best fishing in the Top End of Australia, this is one of the few properties in the Northern Territory Gulf that allows drive in and access through to the remote coast, making Lorella a unique place in the world. **It is that unique environment and ecosystem that we aim to protect and therefore Lorella has a strict CATCH & RELEASE fishing policy (only eating what you intend on eating that night), and a very strict NO HUNTING policy (all flora and fauna protected).**

A small part of Lorella operates as a cattle station, harvesting wild cattle from wherever accessible, but on most of it, until now, no white man has ever trod. You may be the first person to ever explore that piece of the world. The general area is known to have massive mineral riches including gold and diamonds. Giant prehistoric fossils have been found nearby. Perhaps you may have the next dinosaur named after you. Around it is wilderness reserve land, Aboriginal Land and Ocean frontage to the barely investigated Gulf of Carpentaria. There are hundreds of kilometres of untouched rivers, creeks and billabongs. There are hundreds, maybe thousands of bird, animal and plant species across Lorella... some may never have been recorded.

To give you some idea of the magnitude of Lorella: if it had the same population density as New York City, then you would be sharing it with 40 million others. When we are there, there will only be you, and a small handful of other adventurers.

By comparison, Lorella is twenty times the size of the country of Liechtenstein, two thousand times the size of Monaco, twice the size of the Australian Capital Territory, and for the locals in the NT, across Lorella would be the same in distance as Darwin to Adelaide River!

Lorella Springs Wilderness Park is 29 kilometres north of the Savannah Way, located 180 km along the road between Borroloola and Roper Bar. The road is well signposted; however, road conditions vary depending on which time of year travelled and when the grader has gone through. The road is dirt only and classed as 4WD drive, however, taking it slowly and with care most vehicles and caravans should have no problem being able to travel through. A phone call to the Station for a road update is always a good idea (08 8975 9917). Due to heavy monsoonal rains Lorella generally reopens around the beginning of April through till the rain kicks in around October or November.

With a caravan park, 4WD tracks, pristine fishing and remote wilderness adventures, Lorella offers a superb tourism escape experience in an outstanding natural environment – a dream retreat with a magical atmosphere of solitude and serenity. There are so many destinations to see and things to do - whether you just would like to do some scenic driving, checking out swimming holes and waterfalls, fishing spots, bird watching, exploring bat caves and even the old Historical ruins. Or perhaps you are a little keener and would like to test out your recovery gear? Then maybe you should make a trip to our *Rosie Fishing Camp* or the recently blazed track out to the river mouth to our northwest *The Secret Fishing Spot* for the ultimate in remote, raw, pristine fishing, or simply to experience this magnificent remote untouched stretch of coastline with one of the only few only access points to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Lorella's **Caravan Park and Campground** is huddled at the base of the Tawallah range where a beautiful natural hot thermal spring is bubbling and pushing its way out from underground, cascading thousands of litres of water from a pretty Pandanus lined rock hole in the gap of the ranges. Flowing straight past our picturesque campground, this is the head waters of the unspoiled Rosie River, which winds and turns about one hundred kilometres through rugged and spectacular terrain to eventually flow through to the coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The camp ground spreads extensively with the creek meandering along the lush paperbark lined banks. There are acres of green grassy sites running down to the water's edge, so that you can select your own

camp and relax to the gentle sounds of flowing water trickling past. With basic amenities, we have flushing toilets and “Donkeys” heated by fire for hot water showers.

When you arrive you will be surprised at how friendly and hospitable we are. Head to our Information area and speak to one of our team member to get help, advice and maps on where a good fishing spot may be, where to set your Cherubin and red claw traps for a feed, or get details about our unique 4WD trails, safe swimming locations, walking trails and up to date information on what is about in the region. Not to mention the historic pictures and stories of eras gone past on this huge remote property.

Lorella is quite unique in the fact that when you have set up your camp, if you wish, you are invited to join everyone up at our Bar, where you can have a cook up in our undercover communal barbeque area, or a station cooked meal. It is a very good place to sit around the fire, which always has the Billy boiling for a cuppa, or grab a cold beer and yarn into the night with the owners, the helpers and other visitors. There are separate BBQ areas if you wish to be on your own.

There are sections of the spring which have been cleared out and transformed to beautiful natural hot water swimming pools. Once you get in, you will not want to get out. Some people even say it has healing remedies! After getting to know your newly found friends, you may decide to light the Bon fire by the spring, peel off your clothes and soak the night away.

ACCESS AND DIRECTIONS

Arriving by car

You will find Lorella Springs Station 29 kilometres north of the Savannah Way, between Borroloola and Roper Bar in the Northern Territory.

Lorella Springs is:
130 km from Cape Crawford,
180 km from Borroloola,
275 km from Roper Bar.

Access to Lorella's homestead and station is getting easier every year, thanks to continued upgrades and improvements to the Government maintained gravel/ earth road which links the Savannah Way to the Lorella homestead. Having said that, road conditions will always vary depending on which time of year traveled, for example after the wet and for the first few weeks that we are open (early April) you should definitely expect some mud and water crossings.

Although the road is classed as 4WD drive, when taking it slowly and with care most vehicles and caravans should have no problem being able to travel through. A phone call to the Station for a road update is always a good idea (08 8975 9917).

Arriving from the air

If you have your own aircraft, feel free to use our airstrip, which is located only a short distance from the homestead campground. We can arrange for our team to pick you up from the airstrip. Please make sure you contact us in advance. See the "Airstrip" section further below for more details.

When flying to the Northern Territory you can hire a 4WD car from Darwin and make your way down to Lorella.

On-site directions

Once on-site, you will be greeted and looked after by our friendly staff who will give you all the information in regard to directions you may need to make the most of your stay and your adventures at Lorella, with a choice of hundreds of kilometres of 4WD tracks ranging from basic to more extreme tracks with creek crossings, boggy and treacherous conditions.

ACCOMMODATION

Lorella is all about the wild, nature and adventure. But over the years our numbers and dynamics have changed and increased and we appreciate that not everyone requires the same level of comfort or choice of bugs when staying with us ☺.

In order to allow all our lovely guests to enjoy the remote wilderness without it becoming an endurance test, we have developed several types of accommodation to offer at Lorella's homestead main campground: camping sites, safari tents, bedrooms or self-contained cabins.

Camping/ caravanning on the homestead main campground

With a property so big that you could fit 5 times the city of New York, you can only imagine how extensive our campground is.

With bathroom facilities including flushing toilets and hot showers, shady trees and good drinking water in the taps throughout the campground, you will feel just like at home on our campground!

There is no need to book your camping or caravan space at Lorella. Just drive in, stop by the office for registration and to receive some information about what's been happening at Lorella and the latest must do's for your stay, then head across the creek and find your perfect spot. Once you're all set up, why not have a taste of our Magical Springs before heading to the bar and enjoying the company of our friendly hosts at happy hour (5:00 – 6:00 pm).

We suggest spending a night or two in the main campground to get a feel of this majestic land during small day trips, before becoming more adventurous and enjoying some remote camping.

Camping on remote locations across the property

Over the years, as we have been opening new tracks and beautiful destinations for you to discover and explore, we've tried to clear some areas for our guests to be able to enjoy their day fully and camp at those amazing locations that we have across the property. This is remote camping and very basic with just a cleared area but no bathroom facilities.

In addition you are allowed to camp almost anywhere on the property. All we ask is that you take care not to leave any rubbish behind, that you are extremely careful with fire, and that you do not camp too close to rivers due to salt water crocodiles, or too close to the water on the beach (because of sharks and crocodiles). And remember, NO HUNTING!

And just as important, please make sure you have completed our Sign Out form before leaving the homestead so that we know who is going where and coming back when.

Self-contained air-conditioned cabins

At the homestead campground, we now have four self-contained cabins to offer you. Each cabin includes a Queen-size bed and a bunk bed (2 singles) and offers air-conditioning as well as a private bathroom, satellite TV, mini fridge, a private BBQ. Bedding and linen are provided.

Our cabins start at \$230 per night room only, or \$250 including a light (continental) breakfast for two at the homestead. Discounts apply for stays of minimum 4 nights. Booking is essential and full pre-payment is required at time of booking.

Safari tents

Our campground also includes three spacious safari tents, each containing either a queen-size bed or two singles and the possibility to have a single bed added in one tent. Bedding and linen are provided, and tents include en-suite shower and toilets as well as a communal BBQ.

Overnight stay in a safari tent start at \$165 room only or \$185 including light (continental) breakfast, but as with all our accommodations you will receive a discount when staying a minimum 4 nights. Booking is essential and full pre-payment is required at time of booking

Bedroom Accommodation - NEW in 2015!!!

As of this year we will have 8 brand new bedrooms with ceiling fan, mini fridge, TV. Shared bathrooms with toilet and shower facilities are only just outside of your room. Rooms' setup is either with Queen Beds, Twin singles, or Single bed.

Do contact us to check availability well in advance for our Bedrooms as most of our rooms are already booked and confirmed for the season of 2015!

Prices for a double occupancy in a Bedroom start from \$120 per night or \$140 including light breakfast at the homestead. But once again, you will receive a discount when staying 4 nights or more.



All our accommodation (cabins, safari tents and bedrooms) are strictly **NO SMOKING**. We also ask that no pets go on the bedding.



Check-in is from 12 pm and check out at 10:00 am. Any late check-out must be confirmed with our office staff first, as your room may already be booked again for that day.



Booking is essential and full pre-payment is required at time of booking, for all stays in our cabins, safari tents or bedrooms. To make a reservation, please email your booking request to Rhett.walker@lorellasprings.com, or give us a call in advance on 08 8975 9917.



Light Breakfast = continental = choice of tea or coffee, cereals, milk, piece of fruit, toasted bread, butter, jams, peanut butter etc.

AIRSTRIP

A few years ago we opened an airstrip, 800 meters long and located 4 kilometres north of the homestead main campground. This airstrip is still usable, however, not certified.

Now with new cabins in operation, meals and bar facilities, the beautiful Magical hot water spring and so many beautiful places to visit locally within a short distance of the main campground, a **new airstrip** is underway at a more convenient location near the homestead campground. We plan to have this airstrip operational later in the season.

AMENITIES/ BATHROOM FACILITIES

We might be in the bush; however we do have **flushing toilets** and **hot showers!**

There are several bathrooms facilities across the campground, all with flushing toilets and “Donkeys” heated with fire to make hot water. But how hot the water will be could depend on you... so make sure you check the fire is burning before you jump in, and it is always a good idea to collect extra firewood while you are out on your travels across the property!

B

BAKERY

For years, we have been talking of how great it would be to be as remote as we are and still have beautiful **hot crusty fresh bread** straight out of the **wood fire oven**. My friend Dick has been helping me for a few years at Lorella now, and when I have not been making him work too hard ☺ he has been perfecting his bread and building the Bake house: CRUSTY DICK'S Bakery. While you are at Lorella you should see how good it really is!

BAR

It is true that Lorella is a bit remote, actually it is very remote, but that's no need to worry, you will not die from dehydration ☺.

Yes we do have a **licensed bar** and some very friendly hosts to make it more fun, along with other interesting personalities to keep you company and share your days adventures.

There are also **meals available**, or if you would like to give it a go there is a communal campfire, where, by the way, most of us end up sitting and chatting into the night. Or feel free to use our camp ovens to make something yourself. We have basic food supplies, tea and coffee, big flat screen TV for the footy... or Home and Away ☺

You will hear the bell sounding around the campground. Yep... along comes five O'clock. Our **Happy Hour**, at the bar or around the fire seems like a good place to watch the setting sun, maybe have a coldie and chat to part of the family, or a regular... or maybe get some updated info from our office while watching Lorella Film clips. We also have **movie nights**, and our famous **big cook ups**, where we get the whole campground involved. When it gets later, it is not unusual for people to make their way down the hill and swim in our lovely hot water springs and watch the stars, to finish off the perfect day.

BIRD WATCHING

With so many remote and diverse landscapes, it is no wonder that Lorella has so many varieties of wild birds.

From the unexplored and wild gulf coastline, hundreds of kilometres of fresh water creeks estuaries and rivers, thick scrub, open savannah, swamps, billabongs and lagoons through to the more rocky mountainous country with remote escarpment and hidden springs abundant with life where possibly no white man has ever set foot.

In the past 15 years since we have opened Lorella to the public, **145 different species of birds** have been spotted and recorded – during our 2014 season alone, 10 new species were found and added to our list!

However, I am still waiting with fingers crossed for someone to find me a Carpentaria Grass Wren ☺

So take your chance at finding new species or just enjoy the diversity of those we have with the help of our mud maps and directions supplied by our staff as well as our very comprehensive Lorella Springs Bird Watching list which is also available for download from our website www.lorellasprings.com

BOOKINGS

With a million acres of space to camp, there is **no need to book your camping or caravan site** in advance at Lorella.

Just drive in, stop by the office and we will help you out with directions, information and getting you started on your adventure.

For **cabins, safari tents and bedrooms, however, we do require bookings**. To book one of our four cabins, one of three safari tents or one of our eight bedrooms, please email your booking request to Rhett.walker@lorellasprings.com, or give us a call in advance on 08 8975 9917.

Please note that full pre-payment is required at time of booking for cabins, safari tents and bedrooms.

See our price list further down for details about our accommodation pricing.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES

For those of you who are passionate readers – Lorella offers a book swap library in the office. Bring your own and exchange it for free with our selection of novels, biographies and other genre available.

BUSH WALKING

As Lorella is so large, with over 4,000 square kilometres of wilderness and with such a lack of accessibility, most of the destinations accessible to the public to date I have originally discovered during a walk. Then with the help of my family and helpers like yourselves, at a later stage, we have managed to get access with a track.

With maps and directions, there are **many walks to hike starting basic with easy access** close to the homestead campground with basic fitness levels, through to some more advanced **half-day and full day walks** which will require fitness and a knowledge of the bush.

Then, there are the parts of Lorella where no man has set foot before, to explore, discover and maybe have a new location named after you 😊



Your safety is our first priority. While walking we remind you of the dangers of being in such an area i.e. crocodiles, buffalos, scrub cattle, wild pigs, dingoes, lack of water and disorientation to name a few.



Please ensure that you take plenty of water with you as well as food and snacks, a hat and sunscreen. And just as important, please make sure you have completed our Sign Out form before leaving the homestead so that we know who is going where and coming back when.

C

CANOES AND BOATS

With the diversity of customers that travel through Lorella, not everyone is arriving with the same (if any!) equipment to make the best of all the adventure available. Some bring their boats, canoes, quad bikes, fishing gear etc. But some people travel light, not knowing how much fun and adventure Lorella has to offer.

Over the years, we have opened more and more places for people to enjoy and see as well as more and more things to do and toys to play with.

Even though Lorella can be a very dangerous place and you must be Croc Aware, there are some amazing places where you will be able to swim. Always check with our team first and make sure you have a mud map with you before you leave the campground. Also before any trip outside of the homestead campground, we ask that every party completes our **Sign Out form** so that we know who to look for should you require assistance during your day or overnight trips. Don't forget to **sign back in** when you are back to the homestead!

On some of the waterholes, creeks and billabongs, we have made available for your use some small boats and canoes. All we ask is that you put things back so that the next person can enjoy as well.

Boats

There is a small punt with paddles on the **Eagles nest Billabong** as well as at **Crocodile Spring** – beautiful for a fish and to catch a Barra, or for a sunset paddle down the billabong enjoying nature. But be sure not to fall in the water... yes it definitely has some 'Freshies' 😊

There is also a small boat on **Snapping Handbag Billabong**... No, this one is not for a swim either 😊 but the fishing is pretty good.

Take a boat ride upstream from the main campground, and only 200 metres up to the **Magical Bubbling hot water spring**, where the water is bubbling out thousands of litres of water an hour, meandering for almost 100 km to make its way to the mouth of the Rosie and the coast.

Canoes

There is a canoe at **Rosie Rapids** – fun to swim in the shallows, or paddle quietly along the Little Rosie Creek enjoying the tranquillity.

At **Gate Way Gap Gorge**, there is a two-man Kayak where you can paddle up into this picturesque landscape and Rocky gorge. Enjoy the little freshwater crocodiles as they bob down as you paddle past.

If you are a Bird watcher you will enjoy paddling around **Flying fox Swamp**.

CONNECTIVITY – MOBILE RECEPTION, INTERNET- PUBLIC PHONE

“One million acres of extremely remote, outback, untouched wilderness”... These are not the words that would suggest that we offer any form of communication with the outside world – and yet, yes we do have Internet connection at Lorella Springs! ...

Unfortunately **NO mobile network** has made it as far as our location yet, but please note that we offer a **guest landline available** from the office/ bar at the cost of \$1 a minute.

Once in the wilderness of Lorella, outside of the main homestead campground, you will have no contact with the outside world at all. Therefore, we recommend carrying a **satellite telephone** with you.

D

DEPOSIT & PAYMENT

Booking pre-payment

All reservations for cabins, safari tents and bedrooms require pre-payment at time of booking. Payment can be made by bank transfer or contact us for alternatives if you are travelling from abroad.

Payment on departure

All accounts are to be settled on departure, including accommodation (except for pre-paid accommodation), bar tabs and other expenses (fuel, grocery etc.). We take cash or have EFTPOS available in the office.

For **early departure** (before 7 am) please visit our office on the night prior to settle your account and get your ID deposit back.

F

FIRES

You will discover that our **communal fire pit** in the front of the bar is always burning. This is to encourage everyone to come together and gather around in the evening and share memories talking and laughing the night away. There are camp ovens available, and we always love camp oven cook offs ... as long as we get a taste ☺

In the **main campground** we have fire places available to use with care and respect for those around. Please gather fire wood while out and about on your travels.

With **remote camping** when selecting an area for a fire, please take care and clean around the area beforehand. Please put out fire when leaving and be aware at the dangers and damages that a wild bush fire can create.

FISHING

So you want to do some fishing in Australia's Outback N.T.? You have come to the right place!!

With a spectacular and vast coastline, kilometres of rivers and creeks, Lorella Springs offers a huge range of fishing opportunities – from the Pandanus lined fresh water billabongs through to the Gulf and its tropical offshore reefs, estuaries and creeks, mangroves and rock outcrops, which attract a vast range of reef fish, game fish, crabbing, prawn and red claw.

There are several fishing spots close to the springs and general camping area.

The campground at the homestead is situated on a beautiful natural hot water spring, just perfect for relaxing in. Travellers with caravans or trailers may choose to unhitch here before making their way to the Rosie fishing camp and boat ramp, then down the river by boat to the open sea.

Travelling from the homestead, you will require a well prepared 4 Wheel Drive. If towing a trailer or off road camper or van, it is suggested to take it easy on the tracks to the fishing camps. Allow between 2 to 4 hours to either the Rosie fishing camp or to the Secret Fishing Spot on our northern river. Both destinations are about 80 km from the camp ground at the homestead.

Roof toppers and shallow draft boats under 4.75 meters would be more suited, due to the shallow waters, many rock bar as well as sand flats that make up our rivers, creeks and coastline.

Following the Rosie Track you will eventually travel through to the banks of the Rosie. The track runs along the edge of the river for about 6 kilometres. This is a beautiful drive and you can stop, fish or camp anywhere along the way.

Common fish you would likely catch across the property are: fresh and saltwater Barramundi, Mangrove Jacks, Salmon, Queen-fish, GT's, Trevally, Barracuda, and most of the fish caught in the Top End of Australia.

Suggested fishing tackle would include poppers, soft plastics, bombers or anything silver for the Queenies.



Take only what you can eat while on the property. Environmental "Catch and Release" must be STRICTLY adhered to in order to keep this unspoilt sanctuary in its pristine state.



Help us keep this place unique and unspoilt for others to enjoy – take your rubbish with you and back to the homestead when leaving the remote campgrounds.



Be croc aware! There are many saltwater crocodiles at Lorella. Do not clean fish on banks of boat ramps. Do not swim in waters you are unsure of.



There may not be suitable drinking water available on the track to the fishing camps, so please make sure you take plenty of drinking water with you (you can fill up from any water points at the homestead) and travel with enough food as well as safety gear, spare prop and pin and basic medical supplies.



Your safety is very important to us. As with all stays at Lorella, please ensure you complete our Sign Out form before you begin your adventure from the homestead, so that we know who and where to look for should you not have returned to the homestead 24 hours after your estimated return date. Don't forget to sign back in when you do come back from each trip!



Watch for the rock bars and sand flats at low tide. Tide timings are available from the homestead. Watch out for the tides!

BOAT RAMPS

If you have a small boat there will be no shortage of places to slide your tinny down the bank and into the water. There is a launching area on the Rosie River about 13 kilometres from the mouth of the river. Watch out for the nasty rock bars along the Rosie River!

Along the Wuraliwuntya (Secret Fishing Spot) there is a natural landing where you can launch your boat. You can also launch on the beach at the mouth of the river.

ROSIE RIVER FISHING CAMP – For the serious adventurer!

Nearly 20 years ago my family pushed the Rosie Track through to the beautiful, unfished and pristine Rosie Creek and up until recently it has always been our most popular (and successful!) fishing spot. The Rosie Fishing Camp and boat ramp is located about thirteen kilometres upstream from the mouth where the Rosie meets the sea.

The spectacular River Rosie is boiling with life offering a huge range of fishing from the spectacular Pandanus lined fresh water billabongs right through to the Gulf of Carpentaria's tropical offshore reefs and rock outcrops that attract a vast range of reef and game fish.

SECRET FISHING SPOT (WURALIWUNTYA) – For the explorer fisherman!

After owning Lorella for nearly thirty years, we have, at last, forged a track to probably the most remote piece of coastline in Australia.

Up until recently we had only been there once in a helicopter, and a few brave souls half carried their small boats down the crocodile infested Wuraliwuntya creek to its mouth at the coast, on the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Now when we say "creek" you might envisage a water course just a meter or two wide, but by the time you get to the coast, it is over 200 meters wide and an anchorage for quite large vessels, and beautiful sandy beaches.

The track splits from the Rosie Track and heads north where it will eventually join and run along a river. This area is untouched and Mangrove Jack heaven!

Travelling along the river you will find some beautiful camp spots, places to slide your boat in and eventually make your way out to the mouth of the river and its pristine coastline and beautiful sandy beaches. There are sections of this river and the Gulf that on a low tide will require difficulty in navigating due the shallow water and exposed rock bars and sand flats.

OTHER FISHING SPOTS AT LORELLA

Freshwater fishing is popular at Lorella and there is a huge choice of fishing opportunities within the hundreds of kilometres of creeks and freshwater ways. Snapping Handbag, Drum flat, Eagles Nest, Spot x are just a few to mention. Some of the fish you are likely to catch in the fresh water include Barra, Mangrove Jack, Black Brim, ox eye hearing, perch as well as Redclaw and Cherabin.

FOUR-WHEEL DRIVING (4WD)

4WD driving on Lorella Springs Station, a huge one million acres, surrounded on two sides with National Park: one side with Aboriginal land, and backing out onto the Gulf of Carpentaria. There are so many destinations on this beautiful property to see and things to do.

With the Costello, Tawallah and Yiyinti ranges vastly scattering across Lorella's 4,000 square kilometres this makes for a huge contrast in country variation – from beautiful escarpment ranges through to the coastal wetlands and salt flats.

4WD driving on Lorella will be putting you to the test, and we suggest you come prepared with **spare tyres, tools for breakdowns, GPS or compass, water and fuel**, and always let someone know which direction you are going and when we can expect to see you back.

A permit will be required included in your camping fee which will allow you to travel across our property. This will be given to you to complete when you first arrive at Lorella, and we will also give you maps and friendly advice and directions.

FUEL

With 1 million acres of remote wilderness to discover and hundreds of kilometres of 4WD tracks accessible on Lorella, it has become essential for us to stock Diesel and Unleaded fuel at the homestead.

We do stock fuel... as emergency only and top up only to allow for our customers to make the most of exploring Lorella while you are in the region. But we are expensive due to the fact that we have to buy it retail meaning we pay bowser prices and then have to transport fuel in 1,000 kilometres... So although it is virtually at cost, the price is reflected accordingly.

G

GENERATORS

Lorella Springs runs the entire campground and operations on solar batteries and a small silenced generator, for a few hours a day. We have chosen this to keep the campground pristine and peaceful for everyone to enjoy Nature and her surrounds.

In the main homestead campground we have a NO generator policy. However, we realise that people need power. This is why we offer a separate area on the campground where people may run quiet generators – with a policy that all generators on the **Generator Area** must be off by 7:00 pm.

Lorella Springs does not supply power sites. However, if there is a problem requiring health please let us know and we will try and help if we can.

H

SCENIC HELICOPTER FLIGHTS

We trialled it last year, and it was a total success! So this year again, we will have a Chopper based at Lorella Springs. Scenic Joy flights are available. Enjoy spectacular escarpment landscape from the skies, through sheer and deep chasms and gorges as well as the spiralling ancient pillars of the breath-taking "Valley of the Mazes" and the popular Lost City rock formations. Or take a chopper and discover estuaries, creeks and some of the most remote untouched coast line and fishing in Northern Australia. Check our Helicopter Flyer for flight options, from our website www.lorellasprings.com

HOMESTEAD, OFFICE & BAR

The homestead at Lorella is located at the entrance to the campground, and you will be surprised by the number and quality of our facilities available at the main campground, including:

- ✓ **Accommodation:** several options are available: unpowered camping and caravan sites, bedrooms, safari tents, air-conditioned cabins.
- ✓ **Bar and meals:** yes we do have a licensed bar which is open all day from 10:00 am, and we serve yummy meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- ✓ **Books and magazines swap,**
- ✓ **Camp fire and camp kitchen:** our campfire pit is always on and available for you to use with our camp ovens. Alternatively, feel free to use the camp kitchen, which include running water, a BBQ and table/ chairs.
- ✓ **Kids' area:** for our younger guests we have the Jungle Pool and include inflatable pool toys. Other children toys are available in the office on request.
- ✓ **Laundry,**
- ✓ **Magical warm water pool** (please do not leave children unattended by the spring. We also have a No Dog policy for the Magical Spring)
- ✓ **Shower facilities,**
- ✓ **Television:** whether you want to watch the latest footy game (or the latest episode of *Home and Away!*), yes we do have a big flat screen TV available in our communal area under the shed. We also screen movies every now and then, which everyone is welcome to join for free.
- ✓ **Workshop:** for basic or minor repairs. Minimum workshop charge applies.

See the relevant sections in this booklet for further details about 'Accommodation', 'Bar', 'Books', 'Bathroom facilities', 'Laundry', 'Meals', 'Swimming' and also 'Mechanical' for use of our workshop.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Volunteers and Wet season Caretaker

Volunteering

If you have thought about changing your lifestyle for a little while and would like to try something different maybe Lorella could be for you work-wise too! With such a large property, there is always something happening and we are always pleased to have some extra help.

Whether you like or are good at **cooking, building, mechanical, electrical or maintenance work, gardening, meet and greet, entertaining at the bar or general rouse about**, as well as **cattle work**, we could do with your skills and experience.

So if you're up for trying the Lorella lifestyle and doing some volunteering during your holidays, send an email to Rhett.Walker@lorellasprings.com and let us know how you think you can help. In return for the hard effort put in, we are willing to offer some attractive discounts on accommodation prices.

Wet Season Caretaker

By now you would be aware that Lorella Springs Wilderness Park operates between the months of April and October included. This means that for 5 months of the year, Lorella is shut to the public while the rain takes over and the property can become cut off from the outside world.

But that does not mean that Lorella is left by itself for that period of time. For the last few years, just before our doors shut in November and all the way until we reopen in April the following year, we've been lucky to have some wonderful Wet Season Caretakers looking after the place during our absence.

In all honesty this position will not suit all. But for the right candidate/s, this will be a once in a life time opportunity. Lorella Springs will be hot, very wet, and at this point in the year would possibly be up there as one of the remotest places on earth.

The person or persons interested must be capable of spending long periods of time on their own and in isolation and would be able to handle extreme remoteness and being cut from the rest of the world for up to 5 months straight.

It is essential that the person/s will have a very mechanical knowledge with the resourcefulness to be able to fix things and keep operations flowing until the dry.

Also ideally, we are looking for a mature, independent and self-motivated man or couple to look after Lorella for the whole of the Wet season – preferably candidates that have been to Lorella in the past, or will be spending some time there during this Dry, in order to get to know the place and the owners.

The main objective is to maintain and keep a general eye over the main camp ground. Some of the duties that would be required is keeping the campground slashed and mowed, keep the machinery working, repairs and maintenance to fences and buildings and be available in the office to take enquiries over the station phone.as well as liaise with management.

This may suit a couple solid in their relationship ☺ as it may be put to the test.

Through the wet season Lorella is very basic and RAW, running completely on solar and a small 2kva generator when there is no sun. Accommodation is very basic and may well be better suited to someone with their own van or accommodation. Included is phone and Internet access, basic electricity, television, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and laundry facilities.

Should you be interested and willing to hear more about our Wet Season Caretaker position, please contact Rhett Walker on 0421 660 216 or email Rhett.walker@lorellasprings.com

HUNTING



There is STRICTLY NO hunting at Lorella, as all our wildlife and flora is protected. Strict penalties will apply.

L

LAUNDRY

We have washing machines at the homestead which are only available to be used while our generator is running (usually throughout afternoon). The cost is \$10 a load. Please see us in the office to get you started.

MEALS

Meals are available in our communal area by the office. The kitchen opening hours are as follow:

Breakfast	07:00 am – 08:30 am
Lunch	11:30 am – 01:30 pm
Dinner	06:30 pm – 07:30 pm

Menus vary depending on the time of the year and on our supplies. Please book your dinner meal in advance with our office team.

All information is supplied in good faith as at 1st February 2015. We reserve the right to change information and prices without notice. Please also see our Terms and Assumption of Risk conditions on the website <http://www.LorellaSprings.com>

M

MAPS

As Lorella is so large with close to 1,000 km of roads and tracks, like veins opening up this vast untouched frontier, it can be very easy to become disorientated or lost.

There is a lot of signage around our Wilderness Park, however, it is very important to pay attention and travel at your own abilities. It would be a good idea to travel with GPS, maps of the region, and a satellite telephone for example.

Not everyone is that well prepared – which is fine, because when you first arrive at Lorella you will be greeted by our friendly staff who will brief you about who we are and what we do, tell you about the latest To Do experiences and new places open for you to explore. We will also give you instructions as to where you can set up your camp and we will try to give you a vibe of our beautiful unique place by showing you a few pictures and videos of a few of the highlights of Lorella. And we will also give you some **Mud Maps** with a plan of the local area and directions to all the numerous places for you to explore during your stay.

We ask that you look over the maps and information provided and once you are ready to begin your adventure, **come and see us again in the office.** This time, we will give you very detailed instructions and directions about where you want to go and more maps as you travel into new regions.

Before you leave the main campground at the homestead, we will have you fill in our customer departure sheet (or "**Sign Out form**") with details of where you are heading, when you expect to be back and how many people are joining you. This is for your safety mainly, as we would hate to have you lost somewhere in the middle of our million acre property!

Make sure you also **sign back in** when you come back from your adventures and explorations, so that we don't send the rescue team to look for you in the bush!

MECHANICAL

In this harsh and extreme environment, things can and sometimes do go wrong. We suggest you travel well prepared with water, recovery gear, satellite telephone, shovel, tools, and lots of spares including at least 2 spare tyres.

Your safety is very important to us. As with all stays at Lorella, please ensure you complete our Sign Out form before you head out of the homestead, so that we know who and where to look for should you not be back to the homestead 24 hours after your estimated return date. Don't forget to sign back in when you do come back from each trip!

We do have a recovery service, however, it is expensive so please take care and do not put yourself in a situation you do not feel safe in – we do not need the money, but more importantly we just do not want to have to do recoveries ☺

There is also a basic workshop to help with little issues, just to try to keep you out of trouble and get you mobile again. Please note that there is a minimum workshop charge of \$50 for all workshop use.

N

NUDIST FACILITIES

Separate and secluded from the rest of the camp ground, our Nudie camp is for those not afraid to bare it all and take it all off ☺

Nudie camp includes big shady trees, a beautiful camping area, its own bathroom facilities, and a private part of the spring flowing past, with cascading pools and safe swimming.

By the way, we are still running a competition to come up with the best name for our new naturist camp. We have had some really good names suggested so far. Please keep on with your suggestions!

O

OFFICE HOURS

Our office is open throughout the day, from 07:00 am right until the bar closes at 10:00 pm

If no one is attending the office when you pop in, it's only because we might be at the back still working hard... or just eating ☺. Just ring the bell by the bar and someone will run to help you straight away!



Anyone wishing to leave the campground before 7:00 am – whether to go out for the day, or if you are ending your stay at Lorella – please make sure that you visit our office on the night prior, so that you can get directions and advice for your day trip, or to check out.

P

PETS

Lorella Springs is a pet friendly place and we allow dogs in the campground on a lead. We also ask that you keep your pet under control at all times, as you'll be sharing the park grounds with many other people, including those who also have dogs.

However, due to many issues with our hunting policy not being respected in our previous season, hunting dogs are no longer allowed at Lorella.



Please note that animals are not allowed on beds inside our accommodation (cabins, safari tents, bedrooms).
Swimming for dogs on the campground is not allowed except in allocated areas – see our office staff for details.

POWER SITES

Lorella does not offer power site on the main campground, as we operate everything with solar panels or our own generator, which only runs a few hours every day.

PRICE LIST

CAMPING		1 night	7 nights (= 1 night FREE)
Camping	Adult	\$ 20.00	\$ 120.00
Camping	Child – 5 to 15	\$ 5.00	\$ 30.00
Camping	Child – 0 to 4	FREE	FREE

DAY RATES		ADULT	CHILD (5 to 15 yrs old)
Day rate	Campground facilities only: Magical Spring, shower and toilet facilities. Price per person.	\$ 10.00	\$ 5.00
Day rate	Campground facilities + permit +mud maps, 4WD tracks, fishing places and swimming holes.	\$ 15.00	\$ 10.00

All following accommodation prices are **PER ROOM PER NIGHT**. Discounts apply when staying 4 nights or more.

ROOM TYPE	MINIMUM STAY = How long are you staying for?	ROOM OPTIONS = bedroom only, or bedroom plus breakfast	OCCUPANCY = How many people per room?			
			Single (1)	Double (2) Queen or Twin	Trip (3) Queen + Single	Quad (4) Queen + Bunk beds
BEDROOM	1 night	Room Only	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00	N/A	N/A
	1 night	Room + Light Breakfast	\$ 135.00	\$ 140.00	N/A	N/A
BEDROOM	4 nights	Room Only	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	N/A	N/A
	4 nights	Room + Light Breakfast	\$ 115.00	\$ 120.00	N/A	N/A
SAFARI TENT	1 night	Room Only	\$ 165.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 176.00	N/A
	1 night	Room + Light Breakfast	\$ 180.00	\$ 185.00	\$ 191.00	N/A
SAFARI TENT	4 nights	Room Only	\$ 145.00	\$ 145.00	\$ 156.00	N/A
	4 nights	Room + Light Breakfast	\$ 160.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 171.00	N/A
AIR-CON CABIN	1 night	Room Only	\$ 230.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 241.00	\$ 252.00
	1 night	Room + Light Breakfast	\$ 245.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 270.00
AIR-CON CABIN	4 nights	Room Only	\$ 210.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 221.00	\$ 232.00
	4 nights	Room + Light Breakfast	\$ 225.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 250.00

Note: Lorella does not offer further discounts such as senior or family discounts.

S

SUPPLIES

As you may have experience yourself during a previous visit to Lorella, a lot of our guests arrive to stay with us for one or a couple of days, and end up spending weeks sometimes exploring our property and enjoying the unique lifestyle of holidaying at Lorella!

To make sure you don't starve on our property once you have run out of supplies, we do offer a few food and general supplies in the office at the homestead. These are mainly basic with **frozen or tin food**, but also **bathroom items** as well as basic **fishing gear** such as lines and hooks.

We also now have a very successful and yummy bakery making fresh bread EVERY DAY. But make sure to order in advance as this is a very successful and popular place! Refer to the Bakery Section for details.

Alternatively you can head to the closest town of Borroloola for supplies... 3 hours away from us ☺

SWIMMING

As the name suggests, Lorella Springs was originally named because of its many beautiful natural water sources – with countless springs that bubble up from the ground, including some hot water springs.

Huddled at the base of the Tawallah Range is the beautiful natural, crystal clear, hot thermal spring, bubbling and pushing its way out from underground, cascading thousands of litres of water from this pretty Pandanus lined rock hole in the gap of the ranges and flowing straight through our picturesque campground.

If you are looking for something a little more challenging than soaking in hot water, how about some **waterfalls, rock pools or plunge pools, gorges, lakes, billabongs, creeks or swamps**? There is literally water everywhere at Lorella!

There are possibly more safe swimming holes here than across most parts of the Top End of Australia. However, don't think you can swim in all of them, especially rivers and in the sea along the Gulf coast or you might soon realise that you are sharing the water with the local wildlife... because yes, salt water crocodiles and sharks do inhabit this region of the world!

Therefore, it is very important that you pay attention to which of our Lorella water places are safe for swimming and that you **DO NOT** enter water that you are unsure of or have not been told are safe.

W

WATER

The water at the main Homestead campground is pumped from the head of a beautiful hot water spring. This water is very good for drinking and we also provide taps around the campground that are fine to use to fill in your water tanks. If doubtful, we suggest you boil the water for your own peace of mind.



Note: Please be considerate with your water consumption and help us preserve our water supply. Do not use any soap or chemicals in any of our water ways. Between the months of August and November, car washing is not permitted on the campground. Please wash your car at creek crossings – water only, no chemicals allowed.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Northern Territory only has two seasons: a wet and a dry. It is unpredictable, but usually we shut down Lorella on the 1st of November, which is when the Wet is moving in. We then re-open on the 1st of April. This will always depend on how the wet season has been and if it is dry enough to get into and about Lorella.

April – May:

From Easter time onwards it is always a beautiful time to get to Lorella as the weather is just drying up and cooling down. Waterfalls and swimming holes are flowing and looking stunning... and we are opening up our new tracks for the season, so you can help and experience the rugged Lorella.

June – July – August: The Dry season.

The weather is pleasant, no rain, the roads are all drying out allowing easier access. This is a popular time, with mid-year school holidays, people leaving the south of the country and heading north chasing the sun. This is a great time to sit around the communal fire, socialise around our great open bar, swim in our hot water springs all night long and really enjoy the outdoors.

September – October:

By now the weather is starting to warm up. Our waterways for swimming are not so pretty, but the fish are really starting to come back on the bite again after the cooler weather. This is a very popular time of the year for fishermen chasing the elusive Barra.

WILDLIFE AND OTHER DANGERS WARNING

Although we try hard to protect our clients from death, injury, maiming etc. ☺ you must be fully aware that Lorella is an extremely remote area and does not offer the normal safety and protection which is found in cities or even country towns. Any visit or undertaking here is not without its inherent risks, and YOU accept FULL responsibility and hold us safe from any actions by yourself or Third Parties on your behalf.

Lorella is such a big property that some of its local inhabitants may never have seen human beings before, therefore they might not be as welcoming as your friendly hosts ☺ when/ if you do encounter them on your travels.

These include in particular crocodiles, sharks, stingers, snakes, spiders, scorpions, insects, bulls, and buffaloes as well as wild animals such as horses, dingoes and pigs. All wildlife on Lorella is protected, so please do not put yourself in a dangerous situation and try to enjoy Lorella's wildlife through the lenses of your camera or binoculars!

In addition, You will be in an area that is known to have risks from cyclones, drowning from too much water, dying from lack of water, falling rocks, falling from rocks, falling from vehicles and many, many other dangers too numerous to mention. You will be 1,000 km from Darwin hospital, with little or no communication with the outside world.

That said, we hope you enjoy your stay with us and we look forward to welcoming you to Lorella Springs Wilderness Park ☺