

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

For thousands of years, Indigenous people of the Dampier Peninsula and wider west Kimberley have had strong cultural connections with dinosaur tracks. Three-toed dinosaur tracks trace the journey of a Bugarrigarra (Dreamtime) creator-being called Marala, also known as Emu man.

The song cycle that includes stories of Marala extends along the length of the Dinosaur Coast from Bunginygun (Swan Point, Cape Leveque) to Wabana (Cape Bossut, near La Grange) and then inland to the south-east, over a distance of approximately 450kms.

DINOSAUR COAST 130 MILLION YEARS AGO

During the Early Cretaceous Period, Australia formed the eastern peninsula of the fragmenting super-continent of Gondwana. It was connected to eastern Antarctica and New Zealand, with a vast seaway covering much of present-day Queensland and central Australia.

From mountains to the north rivers flowed into the Canning Basin, with the Dampier Peninsula forming part of a vast delta system. The climate was warm but seasonal, supporting fern-dominated coastal marshes and swamp forests. Monkey-puzzle trees and podocarps were the only large trees and the understorey was dominated by ferns and primitive cycads.

Occasionally dinosaurs would emerge from the forest to cross the sandy tidal flats or abandoned river channels, leaving tracks that would persist for millions of years.



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WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO

Along most of the Dinosaur Coast dinosaur tracks occur in Broome Sandstone, in the intertidal zone. Because of this the best time to see most of the tracks is at low tide, when they are exposed. Sand along the Dinosaur Coast beaches is very mobile, so some tracks may be temporarily buried or new ones exposed. Each time you go tracking it is a journey of discovery.

The easiest places to find tracks are:

Maralagun on Cable Beach – sand frequently covers this area

Minyirr (Gantheaume Point) – only at extremely low tides, rocks very slippery

Yinara (Reddell Beach south) – north of Reddell Point, beach can be accessed via Kavite Road (if the road is open).

Entrance Point – abutting the car park and north of the second boat ramp to Reddell Point.

Between Binggaja and Gabunyanya – east of the Crab Creek Road T-junction & also at **Gulbanwila** near the boat-launching ramp close to the Broome Bird Observatory.

When exploring for dinosaur tracks please take care – the weathered and exposed rock layers break off easily.

The tracks have been around for 130 million years and we want future generations to continue to enjoy them.

Do not step on edges or drive over the tracks.

Do not remove sand from tracks.

The rocks are very slippery and sharp – wear proper footwear at all times.

If you see any suspicious activity, such as people digging or trying to remove tracks, immediately ring the **Dinosaur Coast Management Group on 0400 769 019 and Broome Police on 9194 0200.**

DINOSAURCOAST

DAMPIER PENINSULA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

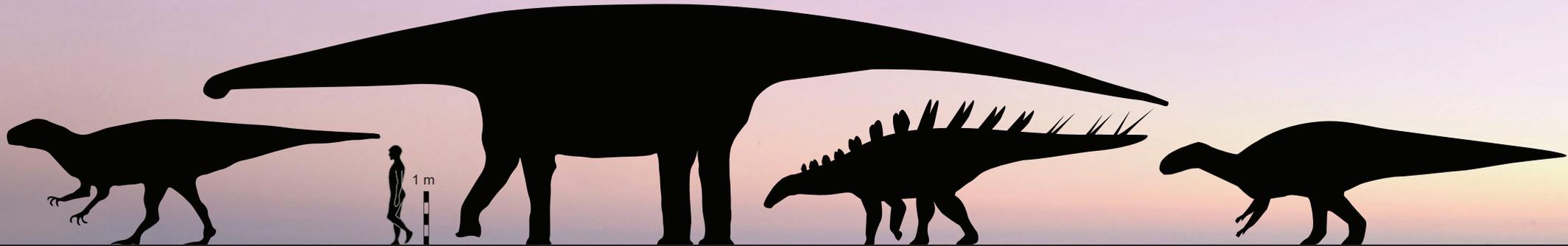
The National Heritage listed coastline of the Dampier Peninsula preserves one of the most diverse assemblages of dinosaur tracks in the world.



Tracks of more than 20 different types of dinosaurs occur in the 130 million year old rocks of the Broome Sandstone, at tracksites scattered over 100km of coastline.



THE 20+ DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRACKS CAN BE ASSIGNED TO 4 MAIN GROUPS OF DINOSAURS



THEROPODS



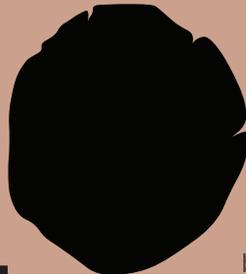
back foot



SAUROPODS



front foot



back foot



THYREOPHORANS



front foot



back foot



ORNITHOMORPHS



back foot



Medium-sized bipedal carnivorous predatory dinosaurs such as *Allosaurus*, *Megalosaurus* and, in Australia, *Australovenator*.

Hip heights of 1.3 – 2m and estimated lengths of 3.5 - 7m.

Track length x 4 = hip height (rest of body & neck extends beyond this)

Some of these tracks are named *Megalosauropus broomensis*, meaning 'Big lizard-foot of Broome'

Gigantic long-necked quadrupedal herbivores such as *Apatosaurus*, *Brachiosaurus*, and in Australia, *Diamantinasaurus*.

Hip heights of 2 – 5.5m and lengths of 10.5 - 28m

Track length x 3.1 = hip height (rest of body & neck extends beyond this)

Medium-sized quadrupedal herbivores with armoured plates and spikes such as *Ankylosaurus*, *Stegosaurus* and, in Australia, *Kunbarrasaurus*.

Hip heights of 0.7 – 3m and estimated lengths of 3.5 - 8.5m

Track width x 6 = hip height (rest of body & neck extends beyond this)

Small to medium-sized bipedal herbivores such as *Iguanodon*, and in Australia, *Leaellynasaura* and *Muttaburrasaurus*.

Hip heights of 0.5 – 2.5m and estimated lengths of 2 - 12m.

Track length x 4 or 5 = hip height (rest of body & neck extends beyond this)

