

Pine Creek Miners Park

ENJOY THE PINE CREEK MINERS PARK AND THE STORY OF THE SITES, PEOPLE AND MACHINERY THAT WERE PART OF THE TOP END GOLDRUSH IN THE PINE CREEK OROGEN FROM 1871 TO THE PRESENT DAY.

The Pine Creek Miners Park, only two hours drive from Darwin, tells of the early mining history in the Top End of Northern Australia.

For thousands of years, these lands were a meeting place for Aboriginal people. The region rose to prominence as a gold field from 1871 through a chance discovery during the construction of the overland telegraph line (OTL).

Within a few months, many operations were started throughout the goldfields and the massive influx of people into the region lead to the formation of many small short-term mining towns, most of which were later abandoned. *Pine Creek is a surviving community from those times.*

The Pine Creek Miners Park tells this story and the characters, operations and equipment used to extract gold, copper and other minerals from the goldfields, and the progressive development of the region.

The exhibits, sourced from former operations across the Top End up to 200km away, are located on the grounds of the heritage listed Pine Creek Railway and describe a fascinating period in history and the important role that mining played in developing Northern Australia.

We hope you you enjoy your Pine Creek Miners Park experience.

LOCATION



Map source: ArcGIS Online with data contributions from:
Northern Territory Government | Esri | TomTom | Garmin | FAO | NOAA | USGS

Pine Creek Miners Park is presented by



Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Sponsors and Contributors

The following sponsors and supporters of the Miners Park are appreciated.



1. Welcome and entry

Start at the carpark near the Station Masters house.

2. The South Alligator Valley Gazebo

South Alligator Valley was a short-term mining hub for post-World War II and a primary source of strategic minerals of that era.

3. Trig Point

Gandys Hill, Pine Creek.

Surveyors' monument for accurate location.

4. Roll Crushers

Mount Shoobridge Mine, Tin, Copper.

Used to crush ore until superseded by stamp batteries.

5. Cornish Lift Pump

John Bull Mine, Brocks Creek.

This pump, and its use of reciprocating rods help relocate water from underground to the surface.

6. Portable American Firetube Boiler

Coronet Hills, east of Pine Creek

Boilers produced the steam which provided the power to run machinery and equipment for the mines.

7. Single Cylinder Horizontal Steam Engine

Northern Hercules Mine, Moline

The horizontal steam engine was transportable and compact, allowing easy installation at mining sites.

8. Headframe and De-watering Bucket

Fletchers Gully + Fountain Head + Enterprise Mine Pit

Used for vertical entry/exit of people and material from underground mines.

9. Twin Steamer and Winder

Iron Blow Mine, Grove Hill, northwest of Pine Creek.

Used steam to drive pistons in cylinders. The energy produced was then transferred to turn a drive wheel via the pistons. Energy from the drive wheel was transferred to the winding drum.

10. Steam Winder

Bridge Creek, north of Pine Creek

Used to raise and lower men and equipment into the mineshaft.

11. Horse Drawn Power take off assembly

Bridge Creek goldfield, 70km northwest of Pine Creek

Used to drive flywheels and other machinery.

12. Small Portable Boiler and Arraste

Bridge Creek goldfield, 70km northwest of Pine Creek

Used to crush ore by mechanical or horse-drawn methods.

13. Stamp Battery & Twin Cylinder Portable Engine

Bridge Creek goldfield, 70km northwest of Pine Creek.

Used to crush ore using steam power

14. Berden Pan

Mount Wells, north of Pine Creek.

Used to crush ore and recover fines.

15. Boab Trees

Timber Creek and the Kimberley's, west of Pine Creek.

Believed to be planted by railway workers, Boab are not native to this area but common further to the west.

16. Pagoda and Information Bay

Information panels on life in Pine Creek at the height of the gold rush. Also, a shady place to rest.

17. Rock Sample

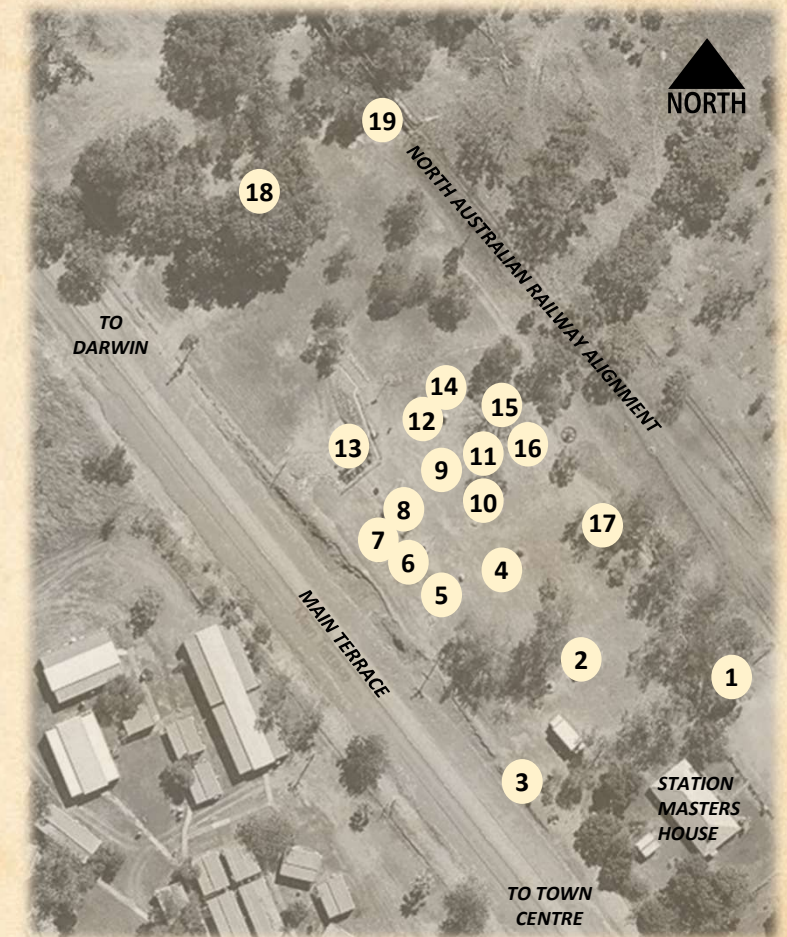
Iron Blow mine, 30km north of Pine Creek.

This rock shows the typical iron-rich host which is intruded by quartz veins and shows different types of mineralisation including Pyrite, Copper Sulphide (a potential indicator of gold), Galena and Sphalerite, and Iron Oxides.

18. Boiler and Pan

Undisclosed location within the Pine Creek region.

You can see these in action during the Gold Rush Festival.



Map source: Strike with data contributions from Northern Territory Government | Google Earth mosaic with captured aerial imagery

19. North Australian Railway Bridge

Pine Creek.

Part of the Pine Creek Railway Heritage Reserve.

Want to know more?

A visit to the Pine Creek Miners Park website provides more detail about the equipment and is available through the following link:

<https://arcg.is/0Wy1iK0>

The Pine Creek Geotrail website offers more information on attractions around the town and can be accessed at the following link:

<https://arcg.is/1b5a090>