

Tarkine Values summary

The Tarkine is a beautiful remote part of Tasmania which supports Australia's largest tract of cool temperate rainforest. It ranges from wild windswept beaches through extensive buttongrass plains with stunning vistas to impressive rainforests. These rainforests are important for their flora which has links to the ancient continent of Gondwana, and for their lichens and fossils which help tell the story of Australia's ancient flora and its evolution. The Tarkine also contains an extensive area of high quality wilderness and rare magnesite karst systems. Dotted along the wind-swept coastline are the remains of numerous hut depressions found in Aboriginal middens. These huts and middens are the remnants of an unusual specialised and more sedentary Aboriginal way of life which was based on the hunting of seals and land mammals, and the gathering of shellfish.

Criterion A	Value
The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern of Australia's natural or cultural history	The cool temperate rainforests of The Tarkine are a refuge for plants with ancient lineages. These plants have demonstrated a remarkable ability to survive and are related to plants that were present before the break-up of the ancient continent of Gondwana. The fossil record for the direct ancestors of some species of trees exceeds 40 million years.
	Thirty-five million year old fossils are found in The Tarkine at Little Rapid River. These fossils, along with the ancient flora, help in our understanding of the evolution of the Australian flora.
	The exceptional development of a specialised exploitation of marine resources along the northwest coast by Aboriginal people during the late Holocene allowed them to use and occupy the coast in a more sedentary way. This coastline contains the largest concentration of preserved hut depression sites which is unique in Australia.
Criterion B	
The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.	The Tarkine contains extensive high-quality wilderness as well as extensive, largely undisturbed tracts of cool temperate rainforest which are extremely rare.
	Tarkine rainforests are a centre of distribution of rare and unusual lichen species.
	Magnesite karst found in The Tarkine is both rare and the best developed in Australia.
Criterion E	
The place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics values by a community or cultural group.	The Tarkine contains areas of a wild, undisturbed character that are remote and highly natural and are highly valued by the Tasmanian community.
	Wilderness is important to the community as a place of reflection and a source of inspiration.
	The Tarkine has inspired artworks since the late nineteenth century and is a place of great beauty.