

DARWIN FESTIVAL

7-24 AUGUST 2025

Festival Park Access Guide

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Introduction



Image Description: Nighttime outdoor festival with string lights, bamboo poles, grassy ground, and people gathered around illuminated stalls.

Festival Park is our festival hub. It's where you'll find our main stage, INPEX Sunset Stage, as well as Brown's Mart Theatre and Studio. There are free gigs at Darwin Port Bandstand and delicious food and drinks from on-site vendors and our bars, and seating areas.

Festival Park is open from 5pm until late, 7-24 August (excluding Mondays)

Children are welcome at Festival Park, but must be with a guardian.

Arriving at Festival Park



Image Description: Tree-lined street with parked cars, grassy areas, and buildings in the background under a clear sky.

Festival Park is located at Civic Park, near the corner of Smith St and Harry Chan Ave in the Darwin CBD.

The main entrance is via Smith Street.

Street parking is available throughout the city, but limited.

The closest multi-storey car park is the State Square Underground Car Park, located approximately 250 metres from the Smith Street entrance.

The closest designated accessible parking is on Harry Chan Avenue, adjacent to the bus terminal. An accessible drop-off point is available outside the main entrance on Smith Street.

Festival Park is conveniently located next to the Darwin Bus Interchange, which provides services to various locations across Darwin.

You don't need a ticket to enter Festival Park.

There may be lots of people and loud music.



Image Description: A sunny street scene featuring a tall streetlight pole, palm trees near a building on the left, and two parked buses near a pedestrian crossing on the right.

There is a second entrance at the other side of the park, located where Cavenagh St meets Harry Chan Avenue. This entrance is in front of the City of Darwin building, and next to the bus interchange.

There are two accessible car parks to the left of this entrance.

There are steps and a ramp to access the park.

This guide will show you around Festival Park from the perspective of entering via Smith Street.

Brown's Mart Theatre



Image Description: A park pathway lined with trees and bamboo structures, featuring people walking, three screens near a white fence, and street lamps

As you enter from Smith Street, to your left you will see Brown's Mart Theatre, Studio and courtyard. You don't need a ticket to enter the courtyard, where there is a bar, toilets and seating.

You need a ticket to enter Brown's Mart Theatre or Studio.

Box Office



Image Description: Nighttime festival scene with people, lights, and a box office booth.

As you continue into Festival Park, on your left you will see the Box Office. There you can buy tickets to Darwin Festival shows, and pick up a free Festival Program.

You can also buy festival merchandise, such as t-shirts and stubby holders.

INPEX Sunset Stage



Image Description: Crowd lining up outside the INPEX Sunset Stage under festive lights.

To the right, you'll see the outside of the INPEX Sunset Stage. You can only enter if you have a ticket for a show.

There may be people lining up to enter before a show, or lots of people exiting after a show.

There may be loud music coming from inside.

Toilets



Image Description: Restroom building with a red roof in a park-like setting.

There are two public, accessible toilets within Festival Park.



Image Description: Portable toilets set up in a shaded outdoor area.

During the Festival, there are lots of portaloos available behind these public toilets.

Eating and drinking



Image Description 1: An outdoor sunset event with people lounging on cushions and benches, surrounded by string lights and food stalls in a relaxed, festive setting.

Image Description 2: Outdoor sunset gathering with people seated on blankets and chairs, surrounded by string lights and a warm park atmosphere.

There are tables that anyone can sit at. There is also floor seating.

You are welcome to bring your own picnic blanket and sit in the ground seating area.
You can bring your own food.

This whole area can get very busy, and there are lots of people moving around.

Bar



Image Description: Nighttime outdoor event with people gathered around a brightly lit bar, surrounded by string lights and nearby stalls.

There is a bar where alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks can be purchased by cash or card (card preferred). BYO alcohol is strictly prohibited.

When purchasing a drink with a cup, you need to purchase a Bettercup, which you can keep and reuse. This can be swapped for a fresh cup if you buy another drink. You can take it home if you want to keep it, or leave it in the Bettercup bin for recycling. There are no refunds on cups.

You may have to queue for the bar.

Food stalls



Image Description: Evening festival scene with people gathered around food stalls under string lights and illuminated trees.

There are many food stalls to choose from, where you can purchase food by cash or card (card preferred).

Each stall has a menu placed at the front of the stall.

You may have to queue to purchase food.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Darwin Port Bandstand



Image Description: Nighttime crowd enjoying live performances at the Darwin Port Bandstand, with string lights and palm trees adding to the festive vibe.

Darwin Port Bandstand is located at the end of Festival Park near the City of Darwin Civic Centre.

It is close to the food stalls, with tables nearby.

Each night, there will be free music performances, which may be loud.

Kolsen Twilight Playground



Image Description: Colorful illuminated inflatables at the “Lost Dogs’ Disco” installation, with people exploring the playful outdoor display.

In front of the City of Darwin building is the Kolsen Twilight Playground, a family area with an interactive experience.

This activity is free.

You can take food and drinks to this area.

This picture was taken at last year’s event. This year there will be a different interactive activity, called Trumpet Flowers.

Smoking

Festival Park is a smoke-free zone, but there is a designated smoking area located in the North East corner of Festival Park by the civic centre, behind Moonlight Lounge.

There is a sign that says 'Smoking Area.'

Bins



Image Description: Waste sorting station at Darwin Festival encouraging rubbish separation, with labeled bins and people seated nearby.

There are plenty of bins provided where you can dispose of any rubbish.

We're here to help!



Image Description: A group of festival-goers near a decorated structure, with a Darwin Festival volunteer in a bright green t-shirt standing in the foreground.

If you have any questions whilst at Festival Park, or need help finding anything, you can ask one of the many friendly Darwin Festival Volunteers, who are there to help.

This year, Festival volunteers will wear a light green/teal shirt with 'volunteer' written on the back.

Enjoy your time at Festival Park!

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