

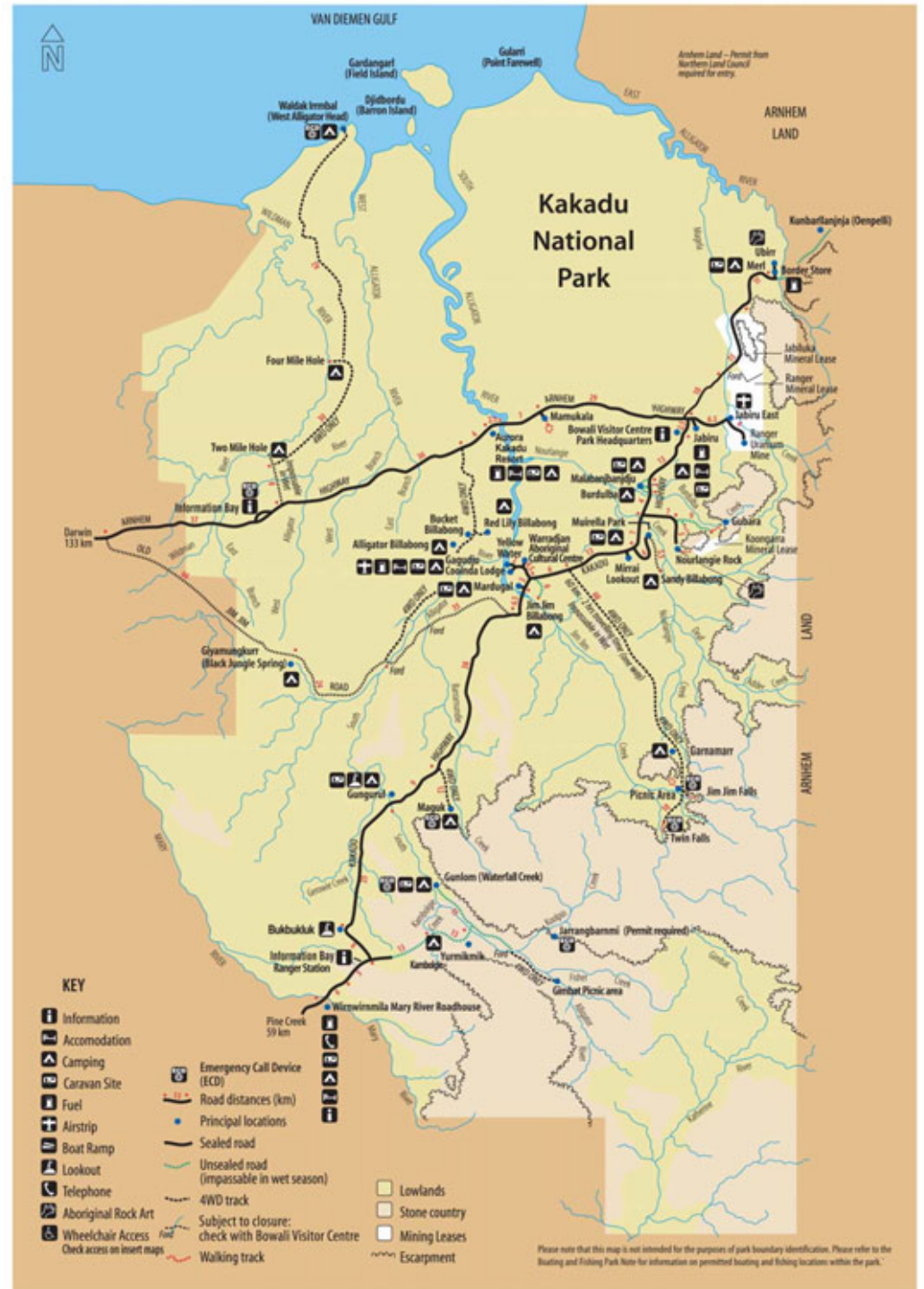
Welcome to the Aboriginal Lands of

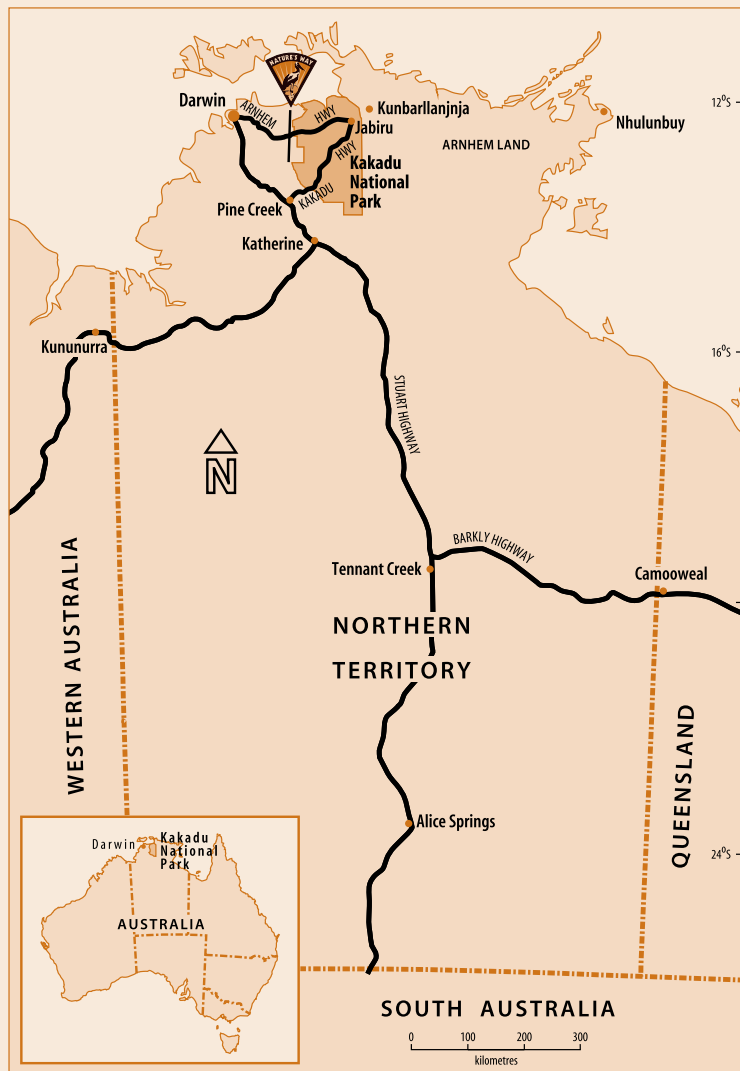
Kakadu National Park

Visitor Guide and Maps



Australian Government





Park Laws

Kakadu National Park is a Commonwealth Reserve under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. As a result, the laws in Kakadu differ in some ways from other areas within the Northern Territory. For more information please call the Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120.

Welcome to Kakadu

The Board of Management and park staff welcome you to Kakadu. On behalf of the Aboriginal traditional owners, we hope you will enjoy learning about culture, land management and caring for country.

Kakadu is a cultural landscape. It was shaped by the spiritual ancestors of Aboriginal people during the Creation Time. These ancestors or ‘first people’ journeyed across the country creating the landforms, plants, animals and Bininj/Munggyu (Aboriginal people). They brought with them laws to live by: ceremony, language, kinship and ecological knowledge. They taught Bininj/Munggyu how to live with the land and look after the country.

The name ‘Kakadu’ comes from an Aboriginal floodplain language called Gagudju which was one of the languages spoken in the north of the park at the beginning of the twentieth century. Although languages such as Gagudju and Limilngan are no longer regularly spoken, descendants of these language groups are still living in Kakadu. Aboriginal languages used in the park today include Kunwinjku from the north-eastern region, Gun-djeihmi from the central region and Jawoyn from the southern region.

Kakadu National Park is a Commonwealth Reserve covering almost 20 000 square kilometres, and includes the traditional lands of a number of Aboriginal clan groups. Kakadu is managed jointly by its Aboriginal traditional owners and the Australia Government Department of Environment and Heritage.

*'If you respect the land,
then you will feel the land.
Your experience will be one that you
cannot get anywhere else in the world.'*

*Brian Baruwei - Wurrkbarbar clan.
Aboriginal traditional owner.*

Bininj (pronounced Bin-ing) is a Kunwinjku and Gun-djeihmi word, Munggyu (pronounced Moong-gooy) is a Jawoyn word. Both are similar to the English word man and depending on the context can mean man, male, person or Aboriginal people.

Finding your way

This guide is divided into seven visitor areas. Each area is illustrated with a small map and a brief description about the places of interest. Unless otherwise stated, access is 2WD and generally open all year.

Refer to the South Alligator area for a description of attractions between here and the Bowali Visitor Centre.

Refer to the Gunlom, Jim Jim and Yellow Water areas for a description of attractions between here and the Bowali Visitor Centre.

Wheelchair access

Tracks and toilets suitable for wheelchair access are provided at the Bowali Visitor Centre and Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre; Meri, Muirella Park, Mardugal and Gunlom camping areas; and at Ubirr and Nourlangie art sites. Mamukala and Yellow Water have wheelchair access tracks but no toilet facilities.

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Kakadu, a World Heritage Area

Kakadu National Park is one of the few World Heritage Areas that have been listed for both their cultural and natural heritage. The park protects one of the finest and most extensive collections of rock art in the world, a tangible reminder of Aboriginal people's long and continuing association with the area.

Kakadu protects examples of most of Australia's Top End habitats, including the entire catchment of a large tropical river, the South Alligator. From this range of habitats stems a remarkable abundance and variety of plants and animals. Many are rare or not found anywhere else and new species continue to be discovered.



This World Heritage emblem symbolises the interdependence of cultural and natural properties: the central square is a form created by people and the circle represents nature. The two are intimately linked.



You can help care for yourself and Kakadu by following these guidelines:

- Walk only on marked tracks.
- Avoid damaging Aboriginal rock paintings by staying behind the barriers.
- Protect plants and do not use tree branches as fly swats.
- Do not feed or disturb wildlife.
- Light fires only in fireplaces provided.
- Use as little firewood as possible or use fuel stoves.
- Camp only in designated camping areas.
- Drive carefully and keep to the roads and carparks.
- Obey warning signs.

Introduction to Bininj/Munggy (Aboriginal) ways

Kakadu National Park is home to many Aboriginal people. As in most cultures, Bininj/Munggy culture has its own set of social behaviours and customs, which are considered good manners. Please consider these while visiting Kakadu.

- Religion and ceremony are very important parts of Bininj/Munggy life. Show respect by not entering restricted areas such as sacred sites, ceremonial sites or burial grounds.
- Traditionally Bininj/Munggy do not greet each other every time they meet. However, most Bininj/Munggy are used to non-Aboriginal people doing so and may expect a 'hello'.
- Many Bininj/Munggy do not use personal names as freely as non-Aboriginal people do and often address each other by kinship terms.
- Bininj/Munggy appreciate privacy. It is good manners not to enter living areas and not to take photographs of Bininj/Munggy without permission.
- Some Bininj/Munggy find constant eye contact uncomfortable.
- In Bininj/Munggy culture, it is important to pay attention, and to consider your questions carefully.
- It is polite to say 'good bye' when leaving. In this area the Bininj/Munggy word for good bye is boh boh (pronounced bor bor).
- In Bininj/Munggy culture, it is often not appropriate to use the names or display images of deceased people.
- Areas may close at short notice for cultural purposes at the request of traditional owners.

Pronouncing Bininj/Munggy names

Unlike English, the spelling system used to record local Aboriginal languages is very consistent. So once you have learnt the alphabet, it is quite easy to pronounce words by sounding them out.

The Aboriginal Language Park Note details the Gun-djeihmi alphabet. It is available from the Bowali Visitor Centre. In this guide, English approximations for some names are given in brackets.

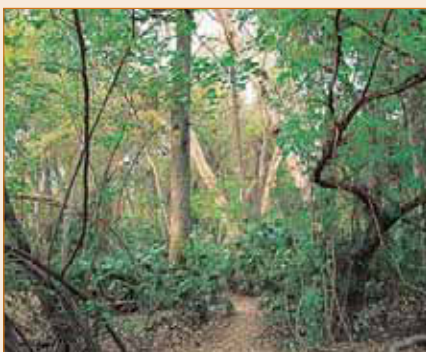
Kakadu's habitats

Savanna woodlands

Travelling anywhere in Kakadu, you can't help but notice the woodlands which make up nearly eighty percent of the park. Consisting mostly of eucalypts and tall grasses, at first glance they might seem lifeless and monotonous. However, the woodlands support a greater variety of plants and animals than any other habitat in the park.



Road side, South Alligator Area, dry season.



Manngarre walk, East Alligator Area, dry season.

Southern hills and ridges

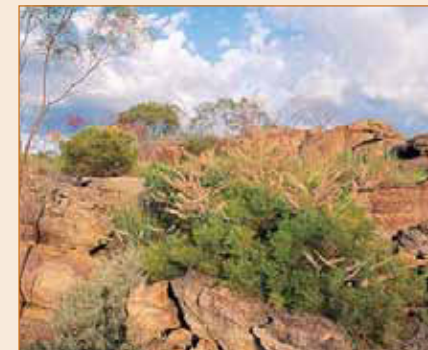
In the south of the park, hills and broken ridge lines are the result of millions of years of erosion. The unusual geology of this area is reflected in the diversity of habitats and the presence of plants and animals that do not occur anywhere else in the world.



Gimbat road side, Mary River Area, dry season.

Stone country

To the east of the Kakadu Highway is the dominating sandstone escarpment of the Arnhem Land Plateau. It ranges in height from 30 metres to 300 metres. In some areas the escarpment is eroding by up to one metre every thousand years, leaving behind rock shelters and outliers like Ubirr and Nourlangie.



Nawurlandja lookout, Nourlangie Area, wet season.

Floodplains and billabongs

Floodplains such as the South Alligator floodplain visible from the Arnhem Highway undergo dramatic seasonal changes. Following wet season rains, a sea of shallow freshwater spreads over the plains for hundreds of square kilometres. As the floodplains start to dry, waterbirds and crocodiles seek refuge in the remaining wet areas such as Yellow Water Billabong.



Ngurrungurudjba (Yellow Water), dry season.

Tidal flats and coast

Kakadu protects almost 500 square kilometres of coastal and estuarine areas, as well as two islands. Most of these areas are lined with mangrove forests which form an important nursery for many fish including barramundi. Kakadu's wetlands, which include floodplains, billabongs, rivers, coastal and estuarine areas, are recognised internationally as being significant for migratory birds.



Waldak Irrmbal, West Alligator Head, dry season.

The role of fire

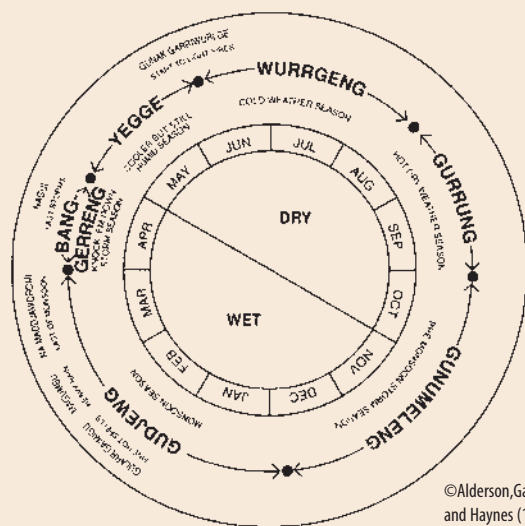
Fire has a major influence on the Australian environment and has shaped many of the plant communities we see today.

Traditional burning

Fire has been an important part of Aboriginal life for thousands of years. It was used to signal others and is still used for cooking, to make hunting easier, to attract animals, to protect foods such as yams and to 'clean the country' before the hot dry weather comes.

This earth, I never damage.
I look after. Fire is nothing, just clean up.
When you burn, new grass coming up.
That means good animal soon,
might be goanna, possum, wallaby.
Burn him off, new grass coming up, new life all over.

*Bill Neidjie - Bunitj clan.
Aboriginal traditional owner.*



©Alderson, Gangali and Haynes (1979)

The Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Calendar shows lighting fires is part of the yearly cycle.

Changes to traditional burning

Fires lit by Bininj/Mungguy as they travelled to different parts of the country created a patchwork of burnt and unburnt areas. With the arrival of non-Aboriginal people, the Bininj/Mungguy population decreased. Many people died of disease, others moved off their land to towns and settlements. With fewer people on the land, less burning was carried out, so hot, late dry season wildfires became more common. These hot fires were often large and destructive, changing the distribution of plants and animals.



Burning around pandanus palms.

Planned burning

Since the 1980s, Bininj/Mungguy and park managers have worked together to reduce the number of hot fires at the end of the dry season.

Most burning takes place in the early dry season (May to July) when conditions are relatively cool. These fires are generally of low intensity, and of little risk to humans and most animals. Damp areas, left over from the wet season, help to break up fires and create a patchwork pattern of burnt and unburnt areas.

Although late dry season fires (September to November) are generally avoided, some floodplain burning, often by Bininj/Mungguy hunting goannas and turtles, does occur. Fires are also lit by lightning strikes at this time of the year. Wet season burning is used to reduce the amount of flammable spear grass (*Sorghum spp*) before the dry season.

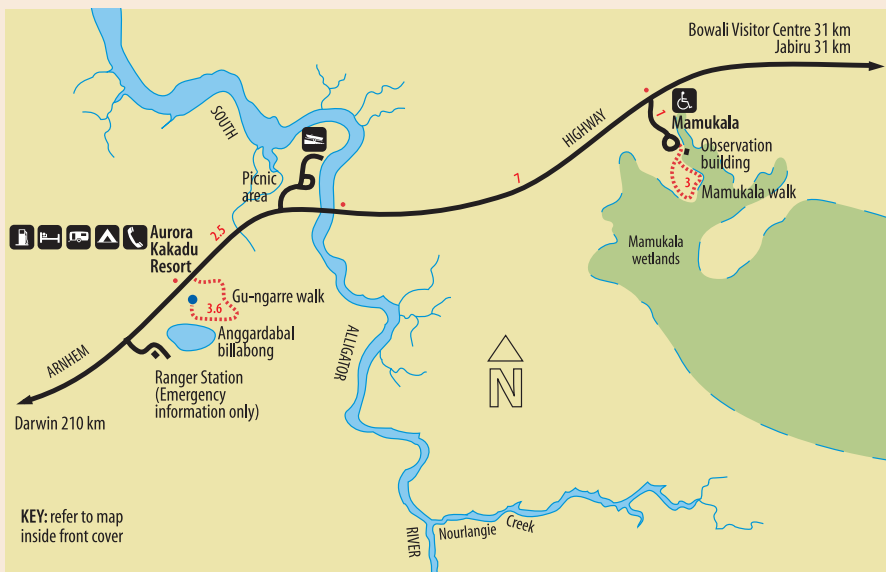
Reducing the risk of wildfires

Please help prevent wildfires. Make sure your cigarette butts and matches are out and put them in rubbish bins, not on the ground. Clear the area around your campfire and put it out before you leave.

Fire as part of our environment

Using fire wisely, for the right purposes at the right time, will ensure Australia's unique environment is maintained for present and future generations.

1. South Alligator Area



Places to stay

Aurora Kakadu Resort

Motel rooms, tent sites, powered and unpowered van sites, restaurant, cafe and store. Pool for guests only. Reservations recommended, telephone (08) 8979 0166.

Bush camping areas (check wet season access)

Free camping with basic or no toilet facilities is available at Two Mile, Four Mile Hole, Red Lily Billabong, Bucket Billabong, Alligator Billabong and Waldak Irrmbal (West Alligator Head). See inside cover map for road access. Drinking water is not available. Rubbish bins are not provided, bring rubbish out with you.

Services

The Kakadu Resort store sells petrol, LPG gas (LPG bottle refills only), diesel, food and souvenirs.

Main Attraction

Mamukala (Mar-moo-car-lar) wetlands

Where: Turn south off the Arnhem Highway 7 km east of the South Alligator River.

Features: Mamukala is beautiful all year but at its most dramatic in the late dry season (Sept - Oct) when thousands of magpie geese congregate to feed. An observation platform allows you to view the birdlife while a mural illustrates the seasonal changes that occur through the year. There is also a 3 km walk adjacent to the wetlands. Allow 1 to 2 hours for the full walk.

If you have more time

Gu-ngarre (Goong-narr-ee) walk

Where: Starts at the large banyan fig tree near the Aurora Kakadu Resort.

Features: A 3.6 km circular walk through monsoon forest and woodlands and along the margins of a billabong. Allow 2 hours.

South Alligator River and picnic area

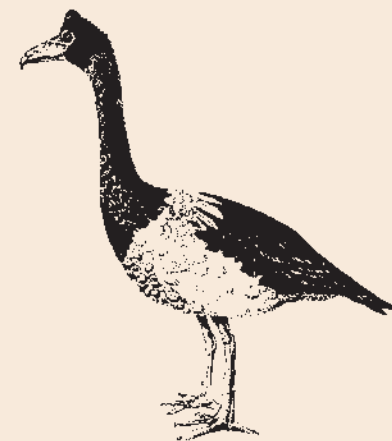
Where: Near the South Alligator Bridge on the Arnhem Highway.

Features: Picnic tables and barbeque areas.

Boat ramps: At the northern end of the carpark (see page 29 for more boating information).

Off the highway (dry season only, 4WD)

Where: There are two major four wheel drive tracks in this area: the Waldak Irrmbal (West Alligator Head)



Magpie goose (Anseranas smipalmata)

track (which accesses Two Mile Hole, and Four Mile Hole) and the Red Lily, Bucket Billabong and Alligator Billabong track (see inside cover map).

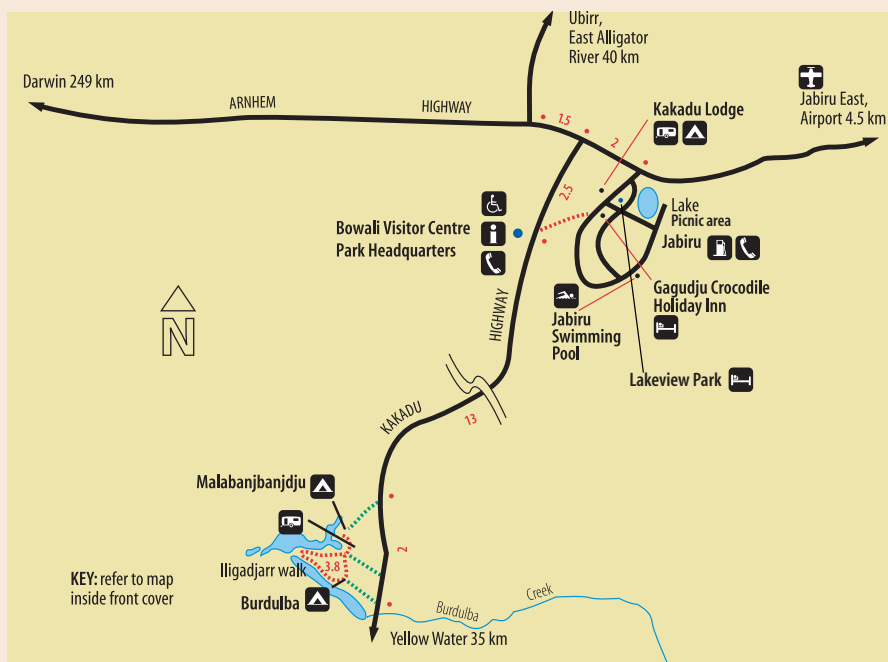
Features: Both tracks take you to destinations suitable for boating, bird watching and camping.

Please read the crocodile information on page 25.



Magpie geese in flight.

2. Jabiru Area



Places to stay

Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn

Hotel rooms, restaurant, gift shop and bookings for commercial tours. Pool for hotel guests only. Reservations recommended, telephone (08) 8979 2800.

Kakadu Lodge

Budget accommodation, cabins, tent sites, powered van sites, barbeque facilities and campers kitchen. Pool for guests only. Bar/bistro for guests and visitors. Telephone (08) 8979 2422.

Lakeview Park

Bush bungalows, cabins and air-conditioned rooms. Reservations recommended, telephone (08) 8979 3144.

Bush camping areas (check wet season road access)

Free camping with basic toilet facilities is available at Malabanjbanjdju and Burdulba. Drinking water is not available.

Please read the crocodile information on page 25.

Services

In Jabiru there are many services including: service station, supermarket, newsagent and post office (Commonwealth Bank agency), Westpac Bank, travel agent, medical centre and chemist, police, public telephones, swimming pool, library (internet), hairdresser, golf course, restaurant and café.

Main Attraction

Bowali (Bor-warl-ee) Visitor Centre

Where: Turn west off the Kakadu Highway, 5 km from Jabiru.

Features: Named after the Bowali Creek which flows nearby, the centre's long linear design was inspired by an Aboriginal rock shelter. The Bowali Visitor Centre contains a wealth of information about Kakadu including videos, library and a display. Information staff are available to help plan your visit.

Open: 8.00 am to 5.00 pm.

The Marrawuddi Gallery stocks Aboriginal arts and crafts, books and gifts. Refreshments are available from the Anmak An-me Café.

The Gallery and café are open from 9.00am to 5pm. Allow a few hours to explore the centre and learn more about Kakadu.

If you have more time

Bowali bike and walking track

Where: Starts opposite the Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn in Jabiru.

Features: A 4 km return rammed earth path winds its way through woodlands to the Bowali Visitor Centre. Allow 30 to 45 minutes each way.

Iligadjarr (Illy-gar-jarr) walk

(dry season only)

Where: Starts at the Malabanjbanjdju or Burdulba Camping Areas.

Features: A 3.8 km circular walk across a small grassy floodplain and along Burdulba Billabong. Allow 2 hours.



Partridge pigeon.

Scenic flights

Where: Available from Jabiru East and Cooinda Airstrips. Bookings can be made through the Jabiru Travel Centre, telephone (08)-8979 2548.

Features: Commercial flights provide a bird's eye view of Kakadu and its many and varied habitats.

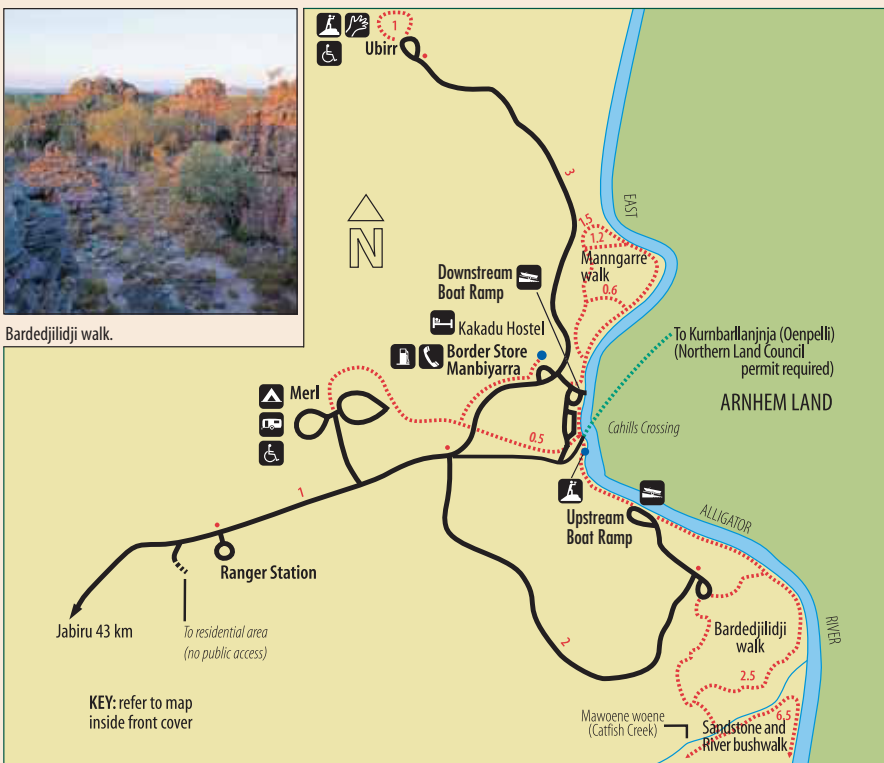
Commercial tours

Commercial 4WD tours, boat tours and neighbouring Arnhem Land tours can be booked at the Jabiru Travel Centre, telephone (08) 8979 2548, or at commercial accommodation centres, or by phoning the tour operators direct.



Management section of Bowali Visitor Centre display.

3. East Alligator Area



Please be alert at all times as crocodiles can be found near the waters edge and sometimes near walking tracks by the river.

Places to stay

Kakadu Hostel (check wet season access)

Budget double, twin share and dormitory accommodation located behind the Border Store. Full kitchen and barbecue facilities. Pool for guests only. Bookings recommended, telephone (08) 8979 2232.

Merl Camping Area (check wet season access)

Showers, toilets and generator zone. Camping fees (adults only) are collected on site.

Services

The Border Store sells unleaded petrol, diesel, food, fishing gear and souvenirs and takes bookings for commercial tours, telephone (08) 8979 2474.

Note: Fuel and other services may not be available from December to April.

Please read the crocodile information on page 25.

Main Attractions

Ubirr (Oo-beerr)

(check wet season access and opening times)

Where: Turn north off the Arnhem Highway 1 km west of the Kakadu Highway intersection and travel a further 39 km.

Features: A 1 km circular track takes you past several fascinating Aboriginal rock art sites. An additional 250 m moderately steep climb takes you to the top of a rocky lookout that gives superb views over the Nardab floodplain. The views at sunset are particularly beautiful. Allow at least 1-hour.

Ubirr Open:

April 1 to Nov 30 from 8.30am – sunset.
Dec 1 to March 31 from 2.00pm – sunset.

Talks: During the dry season, rangers provide informative talks about Aboriginal art and culture several times a day. See the What's On guide for details.

Note: Traditional owners request that you don't drink alcohol at Ubirr.

East Alligator River (check wet season access)

Where: Just east of Merl Camping Area and the Border Store.

Features: An attractive tidal river which forms the boundary between Kakadu and Arnhem Land.



Boat tours: Commercial boat cruises operate on the East Alligator River during the dry season and on Magela Creek during the wet season. Guides explain aspects of local Aboriginal culture while

you travel slowly along the waterways. Bookings required (08) 8979 2411.

Boat ramps: Are located upstream and downstream of Cahills Crossing (see page-29 for more boating information).

If you have more time

Bardedjilidji (Bar-ded-jill-id-gee) walk (check wet season access)

Where: Starts at a small carpark 500 m from the upstream boat ramp.

Features: A 2.5 km walk through layered sandstone outliers. This is one of Kakadu's most interesting short walks. Allow 2 hours.

Manngarre (Marn-narr-ay) rainforest walk (dry season only)

Three circular walks, from 0.6 km to 1.5 km, through monsoon rainforest beside the East Alligator River. Allow 1 hour for the 1.5 km walk.

Cahills Crossing picnic area (check wet season access)

Where: Near the carpark across the road from the Border Store.

Features: Riverside picnic tables and a viewing platform over the East Alligator River.

Sandstone and river bushwalk (dry season only)

Where: Starts off the Bardedjilidji walk located in the Ubirr Area.

Features: A 6.5 km marked circular walk which takes you past Catfish Creek, floodplains, billabongs, sandstone outliers and the East Alligator River. Allow 4 hours.

4. Nourlangie Area



Burrunggui (Boor-oon-goy) is the Gun-djeihmi name for the upper section of Nourlangie Rock. Anbangbang is the name for the lower section of the rock and surrounding area.

Places to stay

Muirella Park Camping Area (check wet season access)

Showers, toilets and generator zone. Camping fees (adults only) are collected on site during the dry season. Please pay at the Bowali Visitor Centre during the wet season.

Bush Camping Area (dry season only, 4WD recommended)

A free camping area with basic toilet facilities is available beyond Muirella Park at Sandy Billabong.

Services

None.

Main Attraction

Nourlangie

Where: Turn off the Kakadu Highway 19 km south of the Bowali Visitor Centre and travel a further 12 km. Please note speed limits. Take care and drive safely.

Features: A 1.5 km circular walk takes you past an ancient Aboriginal shelter and several outstanding art sites. A moderately steep climb to Gun-warddehwardde Lookout



Alyurr (Leichhardt's grasshopper).

provides impressive views of Kakadu's escarpment and Nourlangie Rock.

Talks: During the dry season, rangers provide informative talks several times a day. See the What's On guide for details.

If you have more time

Anbangbang (Arn-barng-barng) Billabong (check wet season access)

Where: After leaving the Nourlangie carpark, take the first road to the left.

Features: Several picnic tables and a 2.5-km dry season circular walk. With Nourlangie Rock forming an impressive backdrop, this is one of Kakadu's most attractive billabongs. Allow 1 hour.

Nawurlandja (Now-oo-larn-ja) Lookout walk

Where: After leaving the Nourlangie carpark, take the second road to the left.

Features: A 600 m climb up a moderately steep slope offers good views of the escarpment, Nourlangie and Anbangbang Billabong. Allow 40 minutes.

Nanguluwur (Narng-oo-loo-war) art site walk

Where: After leaving the Nourlangie carpark, take the first road to the right.

Features: A 3.4 km return walk through woodlands leads to a quiet art site with some interesting Aboriginal rock art. Allow 2 hours.

Gubara (Goo-bar-rar) Pools walk (check wet season access)

Where: After leaving the Nourlangie carpark, take the first road to the right and travel a further 9 km.

Features: A 6 km return walk past sandstone cliffs to shady monsoon forest pools. A pleasant place to spend the heat of the day. Allow 4 hours.

Bubba (Boop-bar) walk (dry season only)

Where: Starts at the Muirella Park Camping Area.

Features: A 3.5 km circular walk through several wetland habitats. Allow 2 hours.

Please read the crocodile information on page 25.

Mirrai (Mirr-eye) Lookout walk

Where: Turn south-east off the Kakadu Highway 30 km south of the Bowali Visitor Centre.

Features: A moderately difficult 3.6 km return walk to a platform lookout on top of Mount Cahill. It is a steep climb. Allow 1.5 hours.

Barrk bushwalk

Where: This marked walk branches off the Nourlangie Rock lookout track, just past the Main Gallery.

Features: A difficult 12 km walk through the sandstone country of Nourlangie, past the Nanguluwur art gallery and back to the car park. See the Barrk Walk Park Note. Allow 6 to 8 hours.

5. Yellow Water Area



The local Aboriginal name for the Yellow Water Area is *Ngurrungurrudjba* (Noor-roon-goo-rooj-bar).

Places to stay

Gagudju Lodge Cooida

Motel rooms, budget accommodation, tent sites, powered van sites, bistro, restaurant, pool and store. Reservations recommended, telephone (08) 8979 0145.

Mardugal Camping Area

(check wet season access)

Showers, toilets and generator zone. Camping fees (adults only) are collected

on site during the dry season. Please pay at the Bowali Visitor Centre during the wet season.

Bush Camping Areas (check wet season access)

Free camping with basic or no toilet facilities is available at Jim Jim Billabong. Drinking water not available.

Services

The Gagudju Lodge Cooida Store sells petrol, LPG gas, diesel, food and souvenirs, and takes bookings for commercial tours.

Main Attractions

Yellow Water Wetlands (check wet season access)

Where: Turn north-west off the Kakadu Highway 50 km south of the Bowali Visitor Centre.

Features: Yellow Water is part of the South Alligator River floodplain. During the early dry season, a boardwalk provides good views of Yellow Water's wildlife. When the waters recede, a 1 km return walk takes you across the floodplains to a viewing platform on Home Billabong.

Boat tours: Commercial boat cruises operate on Yellow Water throughout the year and provide a marvellous opportunity to see the varied birdlife of Kakadu's World Heritage wetlands. Bookings required, telephone (08) 8979 0111.

Warradjian (Warr-ar-jarn) Aboriginal Cultural Centre

Where: On the Yellow Water and Cooida road.

Features: The circular design of this cultural centre represents a warradjian (pig-nosed turtle). The Centre's large display, developed by Bininj/Mungguy, provides detailed information about Aboriginal culture in Kakadu. There is also a video room and a gallery that sells Aboriginal arts and crafts, books and cards. Open daily: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If you have more time

Mardugal (Mar-doo-garl) Billabong walk (dry season only)

Where: Starts at the caravan section of the Mardugal Camping Area.

Features: A 1 km return walk follows the edge of Mardugal Billabong. Allow 30 minutes.

Gun-gardun (Goong-gar-don) walk

Where: Starts near the entrance of the Mardugal Camping Area.

Features: A 2 km circular walk through woodlands, Kakadu's most widespread habitat. Allow 1 hour.



Jacana.

Boating

Where: Boat ramps are located at Jim Jim Billabong, Yellow Water and Mardugal Billabong (see page 29 for more boating information).

Features: During the height of the wet season these billabongs join up and it is possible to boat between them.

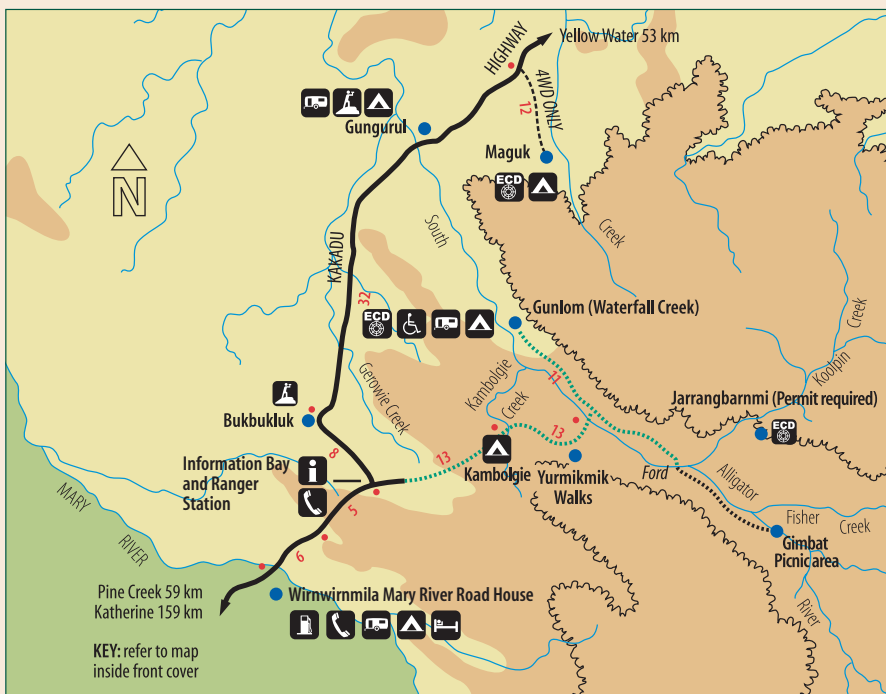
Please read the crocodile information on page 25.

Scenic flights

Where: Available from Jabiru East and Cooida Airstrips, bookings are required, telephone 1800 089 113.

Features: Flights provide the only means of seeing the spectacular Jim Jim and Twin Falls when they are in full flood, during the wet season.

6. Mary River Area



A large part of southern Kakadu is known by the Jawoyn people as 'sickness country'. Within it rest a number of powerful creation ancestors who must not be disturbed.

Places to stay

Wirnwirnmila Mary River Road House

(just outside Kakadu)

Motel rooms, backpacker accommodation, powered van sites and camping. Phone (08)8975 4564. The Wirnwirnmila Mary River Roadhouse is owned by Jawoyn, the Traditional Owners of the southern section of the park.

Gunlom Camping Area

(gravel road; dry season only)

Showers, toilets and generator zone. Gunlom plunge pool is located nearby. Camping fees (adults only) are collected on site.

Bush Camping Areas

Free camping with basic toilet facilities, BBQ areas and picnic tables is available at Maguk, Gungurul and Kambolgie. Drinking water is not available. Please check wet season access for Maguk and Kambolgie.

Services

The Wirnwirnmila Mary River Roadhouse provides meals / morning and afternoon teas, takeaway food, stores and fuel.

Main Attraction

Gunlom (Goon-lom)

(gravel road; check wet season access)

Where: Turn east off the Kakadu Highway 5 km north of the Information Bay and

Mary River Ranger Station. Travel 26 km, turn left at the Gunlom Y junction and travel a further 11 km.

Features: A popular camping area located near a clear plunge pool and waterfall. A 2 km return steep climb takes you to the top of the waterfall and a lookout with great views over southern Kakadu. There is also a 2 km return walk to Murrill Billabong from the camping area.

If you have more time

Yurmikmik Walks

(gravel road; check wet season access)

Where: Turn east off the Kakadu Highway onto the Gunlom road and travel 21 km.

Features: A series of interconnected walking tracks which provide an excellent wet season experience. The individual walks are: Boulder Creek Walk (2 km return); Yurmikmik Lookout Walk (5 km return); Motor Car Falls (7.5 km return) and Kurrundie Creek Walk (11 km return).

Gimbat picnic area (dry season only, 4WD)

Where: Travel 26 km east on the Gunlom road, turn right at the Y junction and travel a further 19 km.

Features: A shady picnic area situated near Guratba (Coronation Hill) and the South Alligator River.

Gungurul (Goong-gu-rool) Picnic and Camping Area

Where: Turn west off the Kakadu Highway 40 km north of the Southern Entry Station.

Features: Gungurul is accessible all year by 2WD vehicles, caravans, campervans and coaches. There are picnic tables and basic toilet facilities. A 4 km return walk leads you to a branch of the South Alligator River and up a moderate climb to a lookout with views over the South Alligator Valley. Allow 2 to 3 hours.

Maguk (Mar-gook) Plunge Pool *

(gravel road, dry season only, 4WD recommended)

Where: Turn south off the Kakadu Highway 44 km north of the Southern Entry Station or 92 km south of the Bowali Visitor Centre. Travel a further 12 km.

Features: A 2 km return walk through monsoon forest and along a sandy and rocky creek leads to a small waterfall and clear plunge pool. Allow 1 to 2 hours.

* *Estuarine crocodiles have been known to move into Maguk. Please read the crocodile information on page 25.*

Bukbukluk Lookout

Where: Turn west off the Kakadu Highway 8 km north of the Southern Entry Station or 124 km south of the Bowali Visitor Centre. Travel a further 600 m on an unsealed road.

Features: Picnic tables and a 400 m return walk to a lookout with views over the old Goodparla Station.

Jarrangbarnmi (dry season only, 4WD)

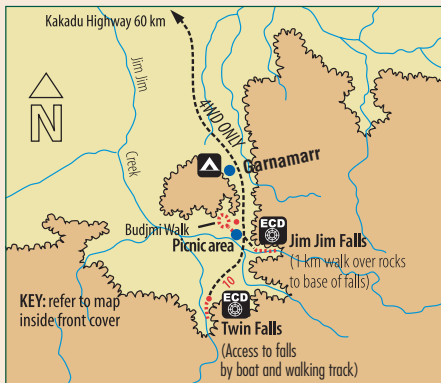
Bush camping beside Koolpin Creek. Access by permit only. Permits can be organised through the Permits Officer, Kakadu National Park (08) 8938 1140.

Please read the crocodile information on page 25.



Great bower bird.

7. Jim Jim Falls Area (dry season only, 4WD)



Place to stay

Garnamarr Camping Area (dry season only, 4WD)

Showers, toilets and gas BBQs. Camping fees (adults only) are collected on site. No generators.

Note: During July to September please check campsite availability with Bowali Visitor Centre on 8938 1120.

Please read the crocodile information on page 25.

Main Attractions

Jim Jim Falls Plunge Pool (dry season only, 4WD)

Where: Turn east off the Kakadu Highway 43 km south of the Bowali Centre. Engage 4WD, travel 60 km. Allow 2 hours one way. Please note speed limits and drive safely.

Features: A 2 km return walk through monsoon forest and over boulders to a deep plunge pool surrounded by spectacular 150 m high cliffs. **During the dry season the waterfall stops flowing.** Allow 1 to 2 hours.

Note: Estuarine crocodiles have been known to move into the Jim Jim Falls area.

Twin Falls Gorge

(dry season only, 4WD, snorkel recommended)

Where: Engage 4WD, travel 60 km along the Jim Jim track, turn right and travel a further 10-km to Twin Falls. The last section involves crossing approximately 1 m of water at Jim Jim Creek. Allow 2.5 hours one way. Please note speed limits and drive safely.

Features: Access to Twin Falls is by boat shuttle service; tickets can be purchased at the Bowali Visitor Centre or commercial outlets. A walking track over boulders and sand, and a boardwalk. Allow 2 hours.

Note: **Swimming is prohibited in Twin Falls Gorge as estuarine crocodiles may occur here.**

If you have more time

Plateau above Twin Falls

Where: Starts at the Twin Falls carpark.

Features: A steep, 6km return walk to the plateau above Twin Falls, with good views on the way and pools along Twin Falls Creek above the falls. For further information see Jim Jim and Twin Falls Park Note or Bowali Visitor Centre.

Budjimi (Bood-me) Lookout (dry season only)

Where: Starts at the Jim Jim Creek Picnic Area.

Features: A moderately steep 1 km return walk to the top of a rocky outcrop which provides great views of the escarpment cliffs. Allow 45-minutes.

Commercial tours and flights

4WD tours are available to the area in the dry season. During the wet season Jim Jim & Twin Falls can be viewed via a scenic flight. For further information on tours please call Jabiru Travel Centre on telephone (08) 8979 2548.

Crocodiles

Crocodiles are the world's largest living reptiles. They are also one of the most ancient, having existed unchanged for nearly two hundred million years. There are 26 types of crocodilians in the world. Two species occur in Australia, the freshwater and the estuarine crocodile. Between the 1940s and 1960s, these crocodiles were hunted to near extinction for their skins. By 1971, both species were fully protected. Their numbers have increased allowing protection measures to be relaxed. Crocodile eggs are harvested commercially outside the park, to provide animals for crocodile farms.

Freshwater crocodiles

Freshwater crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) is only found in Australia. They live in freshwater rivers, creeks and plunge pools such as Maguk and Gunlom. Freshwater crocodiles are usually shy animals but can become aggressive if disturbed, so do not approach them.



Freshwater crocodile.



Estuarine (saltwater) crocodile.

Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles

Estuarine crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) is also found in India, South East Asia and Papua New Guinea. They live in freshwater and estuarine areas, such as floodplains, billabongs, rivers and coastal waters.

Estuarine crocodiles are aggressive. They have attacked and killed people in Kakadu. For your safety, please read all estuarine crocodile signs and obey the 'No Swimming' warnings.

Crocodiles, plunge pools and gorge areas

Due to the risk of estuarine crocodiles in the park, the only public place we recommend you swim in is the Jabiru swimming pool.

Some visitors choose to swim at their own risk, in selected natural plunge pools and gorge areas such as Gubara, Maguk, Jim Jim Falls, Gunlom, Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin Gorge) and in creeks on the plateau above Twin Falls and Gunlom. These areas are surveyed for estuarine crocodiles prior to opening each dry season. There remains some risk that estuarine crocodiles may move into gorges and plunge pools during the dry season.

Please read the crocodile warning signs in each plunge pool and gorge area and consider their information carefully.

Visitor Safety

What to wear

During the heat of the day, you will be most comfortable in loose covering clothing which is cool but protects you from sunburn and insect bites. Use sunscreen and wear a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses. Mosquitoes can carry viruses such as the Ross River virus, so if they are biting, use a repellent.



Preventing dehydration

Limit your activity to the cooler parts of the day (mornings and late afternoons) and drink plenty of water. Most people need between 4 to 8 litres of water per day so start drinking water early (coffee, tea and alcohol don't count!). Remember, if you're feeling thirsty, you're already partially dehydrated.

Dehydration signs and symptoms

Early symptoms include feeling thirsty, excess sweating, headache, dizziness and nausea. If dehydration continues, it can result in seizures, a loss of consciousness and even death.

First aid

- Lie the person down in a cool shaded area.
- Give them water in small quantities at a time (creek water is alright if you have no other water).
- If the person cannot keep the water down, or does not recover quickly, seek medical assistance.
- For further medical assistance and advice please contact the medical centre at Jabiru on 8979 2018.
- Emergency Call Device's [ECD] are available in remote locations throughout the park. Instructions on use are written on the ECD. These are for emergency calls only. See maps for locations.



Flash Flooding

Please be aware of possible sudden rises in the water levels of waterways, which can quickly cut off the return route from the top of waterfalls such as Gunlom and Jim Jim. Fast flowing water contained within a flash flood can be deceptively strong causing strong currents and dangerous swimming conditions.

Driving hints

Top End roads can be hazardous. Plan ahead and allow sufficient time for travel. Here are some other hints to reduce the risk of accident.

Dirt and Gravel Roads: Unsealed roads are often corrugated with soft edges. During the dry season, dust from other vehicles can obscure your vision. During the wet season, unsealed roads become slippery. Drive carefully. If you accidentally drift off the edge, correct your direction carefully and brake evenly.

Check wet season road access: For up-to-date information on road conditions contact the Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120.



Animals: Large feral animals such as horses and buffaloes, and native animals such as wallabies and birds live in Kakadu. Drive slowly, look out for animals on the road, and try to avoid driving at night.

Flooded crossings: Read the signs, look at depth markers and observe how quickly the water is flowing, before deciding whether to cross a flooded crossing. Sometimes it is safer to wait until the water recedes. Remember crocodiles may be present.

Four Wheel Driving (4WD): When using 4WD tracks, put your vehicle into 4WD. This is easier on your car and easier on the track. If you're unfamiliar with your vehicle, follow the instructions to engage 4WD. Many vehicles need their front wheel hubs physically turned to the locked position, before engaging 4WD from the driver's seat.

Fires: Make sure you park your vehicle in cleared areas rather than in flammable long grass. Use vehicle headlights if driving through areas with heavy smoke, and drive slowly.

Road side viewing: Park your vehicle well off the road and use your hazard lights to alert other drivers that you have stopped. Do not park on bridges or causeways at any time.

Warning: Don't leave valuables in your vehicle-vehicles have been broken into.

Exploring Aboriginal culture

Traditional owners would like you to learn about Aboriginal culture during your visit to Kakadu and neighbouring areas.

Aboriginal rock art sites

Bininj/Munggy and their creation ancestors have painted in rock shelters for thousands of years. Signs at Ubirr, Nourlangie and Nanguluwur explain some of these paintings. The Rock Art Park Note available at the Bowali Visitor Centre explains the main rock art styles found in the area.

Ranger guided walks and talks

During the dry season, rangers provide daily art site talks at Ubirr and Nourlangie. They also provide a number of guided walks and slide shows throughout the park. Check the What's On guide for details.

Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre

Bininj/Munggy have explained aspects of their culture at the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Ngad Bininj ngarri-djare ngudda wurrim-ire
wurrih-nan ngad gun-bolk dja ngad culture.
We Aboriginal people want you to come,
see our country and share our culture.
Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Aboriginal arts and crafts

Bininj/Munggy artistic expression continues on paper, bark and other materials, often using traditional ochres and brushes. Introduced techniques such as screen printing are used to reproduce detailed designs on fabric. Baskets, dilly bags and woven mats are made from local plant fibres, such as pandanus, and coloured using natural dyes.

Arts and crafts can be viewed or bought at the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Marrawuddi Gallery (Bowali Visitor Centre), and Injalak Arts and Crafts (Kunbarllanjna, Arnhem Land).

A permit to visit Injalak in Arnhem Land can be arranged through the Northern Land Council in Jabiru, telephone (08) 8979 2410. 4WD tours to Arnhem Land are also available (see page 13 for details).

Katherine region

The Nitmiluk Visitor Centre situated 30 km north-east of Katherine provides information about Jawoyn culture. Aboriginal cultural tours to Manyallaluk Community depart regularly from Katherine. Bookings required, telephone (08) 8975 4727.

Boating and fishing

Boating on Kakadu's waterways can be dangerous due to strong currents, sand bars, submerged logs and crocodiles. For this reason use of non-motorised vessels (canoes) is prohibited. If using a motorised vessel please let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to be back. In tidal areas always carry life jackets, water, oars, flares, torch, tool kit, extra fuel and a satellite phone. Refer to the Northern Territory Marine Act signs for more detailed safety information. Boating is prohibited in certain areas - check at Bowali Visitor Centre for details.

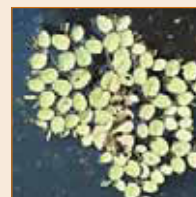
Boat ramps

Concrete boat ramps are located at the South Alligator River near the Arnhem Highway, the East Alligator River, Yellow Water, Mardugal and Jim Jim Billabong. Unsealed boat ramps are located at Waldak Irrmbal and Muirella Park.

Warning: Crocodiles occur near boat ramps.

Beware of Salvinia

Salvinia is a free floating aquatic fern native to South America. It was originally imported as an aquarium plant. It reproduces very rapidly by growing from small fragments. The areas between Yellow Water north to the South Alligator River, and the Magela Creek from Mudginberri to Nankeen Billabongs have been closed to boating as a quarantine measure. If boating near salvinia please help stop this weed from choking Kakadu's wetland areas by checking and removing any salvinia from your boat, trailer and car before moving on.



Immature salvinia.



Covered billabong.



Mature salvinia.

Fishing (live bait is not permitted)

Recreational fishing, using a line with a single hook or lure, is permitted in waters west of the Kakadu Highway except in the West Alligator River system. To provide refuge areas, fishing is not permitted in waters east of the Kakadu Highway except at the camping areas of Muirella Park (Djarradjin and Sandy Billabongs) and Jim Jim Billabong. Firearms, nets, traps, spear guns, spears and crab pots are not permitted in any Commonwealth Reserve. A landing net may be used to land hooked fish. Contact the Bowali Visitor Centre, telephone (08) 8938 1120 for up-to-date information.

Bushwalking

“Walking is good.
You follow track.....
you sleep,
wake in morning to birds,
maybe kookaburra.
You feel country.”
*Bill Neidjie - Bunitj clan,
Aboriginal traditional owner.*

If you're well prepared and physically fit, then bushwalking is a great way to experience Kakadu. The Bushwalking in Kakadu booklet provides important information on safe bushwalking. It is available from the Bowali Visitor Centre. To assist in caring for the Park, please stay on the marked tracks.

Day walks

If you'd like to do a half-day or full-day walk, try the Sandstone and River bushwalk (described on page 17), the Barrk bushwalk (page 19), the Yurmikmik walks (page 23) or the Barrk Malam walk (described below).

Barrk Marlam bushwalk (dry season only)

Where: This marked day walk branches off the Jim Jim Falls Plunge Pool track (see page 24).

Features: A very steep, difficult 6 km return walk through the rugged stone country typical of the Arnhem Land Plateau. Allow 4 to 6 hours.

Overnight bushwalking

If you plan to camp overnight on a bushwalk you will need a permit. To obtain a permit, you must submit an application and provide a copy of a topographic map showing your proposed route and camping sites for approval. Permits can be organised through the Permits Officer Kakadu National Park telephone (08) 89381140 or the Bowali Visitor Centre in Kakadu (see page 33). Please allow at least one week for processing. Make sure you read and understand the permit conditions.

Please note: Good navigational skills are essential. You must stick to the bushwalking route and camping sites approved in your permit.



Sandstone antechinus.

Viewing the wildlife

Kakadu is one of the few places in Australia where there have been limited, if any, extinctions of plants or animals over the last 200 years. Kakadu is a stronghold for animals such as magpie geese which once occurred throughout eastern and southern Australia. The park also protects the habitats of animals that only occur in the Kakadu/Arnhem Land region such as the black wallaroo (right), chestnut-quilled rock pigeon (directly below) and the white-throated grass wren (bottom).



Black Wallaroo (Female: *Macropus bernardus*)

Some hints

- The mornings and evenings are good times to see animals such as birds and wallabies. During the hotter times of the day, animals tend to be less active.
- Waterholes along creeklines attract animals, especially small birds. Sit quietly as animals in need of water can frighten easily.
- Use binoculars during the day or a torch at night.
- Look for animals such as lizards, snakes, bandicoots and dingoes crossing the road. Slow down so that you see the wildlife rather than run over it!
- Please don't feed the wildlife. Animals such as dingoes and kites can be dangerous if they become used to people.



Rock Pigeon.



Northern Fantail.

Suggested Itineraries

If you have reached the end of this guide and are still undecided about where to go, here are a couple of itineraries that might help!

One day rush around

Dry season

Mamukala wetlands
Bowali Visitor Centre
Nourlangie art site
Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre
Yellow Water boat cruise or walk

Wet season

Bowali Visitor Centre
Nourlangie art site
Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre
Yellow Water boat cruise

Two day glimpse or three day stay

Dry season

Day 1
Mamukala wetlands
Bowali Visitor Centre
Manngarre rainforest walk
East Alligator boat cruise
or Cahills Crossing picnic area
Ubirr art site and sunset lookout

Day 2
Scenic flight from Coinda or Jabiru Airstrips
Nourlangie art site
Anbangbang Billabong walk
Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre
Yellow Water boat cruise or walk

Day 3
Gunlom Plunge Pool and Lookout or
Jim Jim Falls & Twin Falls
(self drive or commercial tour)

Wet season

Day 1
Bowali Visitor Centre
Nourlangie art site
Nawurlandja Lookout walk
Nanguluwur art site walk

Day 2
Mirrai Lookout walk
Scenic flights from Jabiru Airstrip
Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre
Yellow Water boat cruise

Day 3
Yurmikmik walks or
Barrk Sandstone bushwalk or
Gubara Pools walk

Note: Visitors entering the park from the south are advised to follow these itineraries in reverse order. Please check wet season access for suggested sites.

Further information

Paying for the Park

Conserving Kakadu's World Heritage values and presenting them to the public costs several million dollars each year. The Australian Government provides nearly all of the funds needed, as the requirement for visitor's to pay Park Entry fees was removed in December 2004. The collection of other fees and charges, such as camping fees at major campgrounds, also helps to pay for these important services.

Bowali Visitor Centre Library

Read more about Kakadu in air conditioned comfort.

Other reference materials

Press T, Lea D., Webb A, and Graham A. (eds).
1995. *Kakadu: Natural and Cultural Heritage and Management*. Australian Nature Conservation Agency, The Australian National University, Darwin.

Park publications such as *Kakadu by Foot*, *Kakadu National Park Tour Operators Handbook* and Park Notes on animals, Aboriginal rock art, Aboriginal languages, fishing, geology and selected walking tracks. These park-publications are available from:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bowali Visitor Centre | Parks Australia North |
| PO Box 71 | GPO Box 1260 |
| Jabiru NT 0886 | Darwin NT 0801 |
| Phone: (08) 8938 1120 | Phone: (08) 8920 1300 |
| Fax: (08) 8938 1123 | Fax: (08) 8920 1315 |
| Email: KakaduNationalPark@deh.gov.au | |
| Website: www.deh.gov.au/parks/kakadu | |

Boh boh (good bye).

Remember boh boh is not the finish, it's just the beginning.

Kakadu Board of Management and park staff.

Most Aboriginal artwork provided by Daluk Daluk Screen Printing. Photos by C. Totterdell, G. Miles, D. Lucas, M. Hatt, M. Storrs and J. Golling. Illustrations by S. Gerrie, P. Shaughnessy and cartoons by J. van Os.
07/05 180 000

Your Health & Safety

Kakadu National Park is a beautiful place but can be dangerous if you do not look after yourself.

Read and obey all warning signs, notices and safety directions.

Please remember these important points:



Crocodiles

Estuarine crocodiles are dangerous. They have attacked and killed people.

Estuarine crocodiles inhabit most areas of water in Kakadu National Park including freshwater billabongs and creeks as well as rivers and saltwater areas.

In most locations, crocodile warning signs tell you not to enter the water and to keep away from the water's edge.

Obey signs warning of crocodiles.

If you do not see a warning sign you should assume that crocodiles are present. **Do not enter the water unless you are sure it is safe to do so.** See page 25 for more information about crocodiles.



Cliffs

Walking or standing near cliff edges can lead to serious injury or death, especially when rock surfaces are wet.

Keep well away from all cliff edges.



Driving

Please drive carefully!

See page 27 for more information.

Please take care! Don't risk your life.

For more safety information, please read pages 25, 26, 27 and 30 inside this Visitor Guide. Information is also available from the Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120.