

kakadu™

NATIONAL PARK



Australian Government



VISITOR GUIDE

Welcome to the Aboriginal Lands of Kakadu National Park, a jointly managed Commonwealth Reserve.

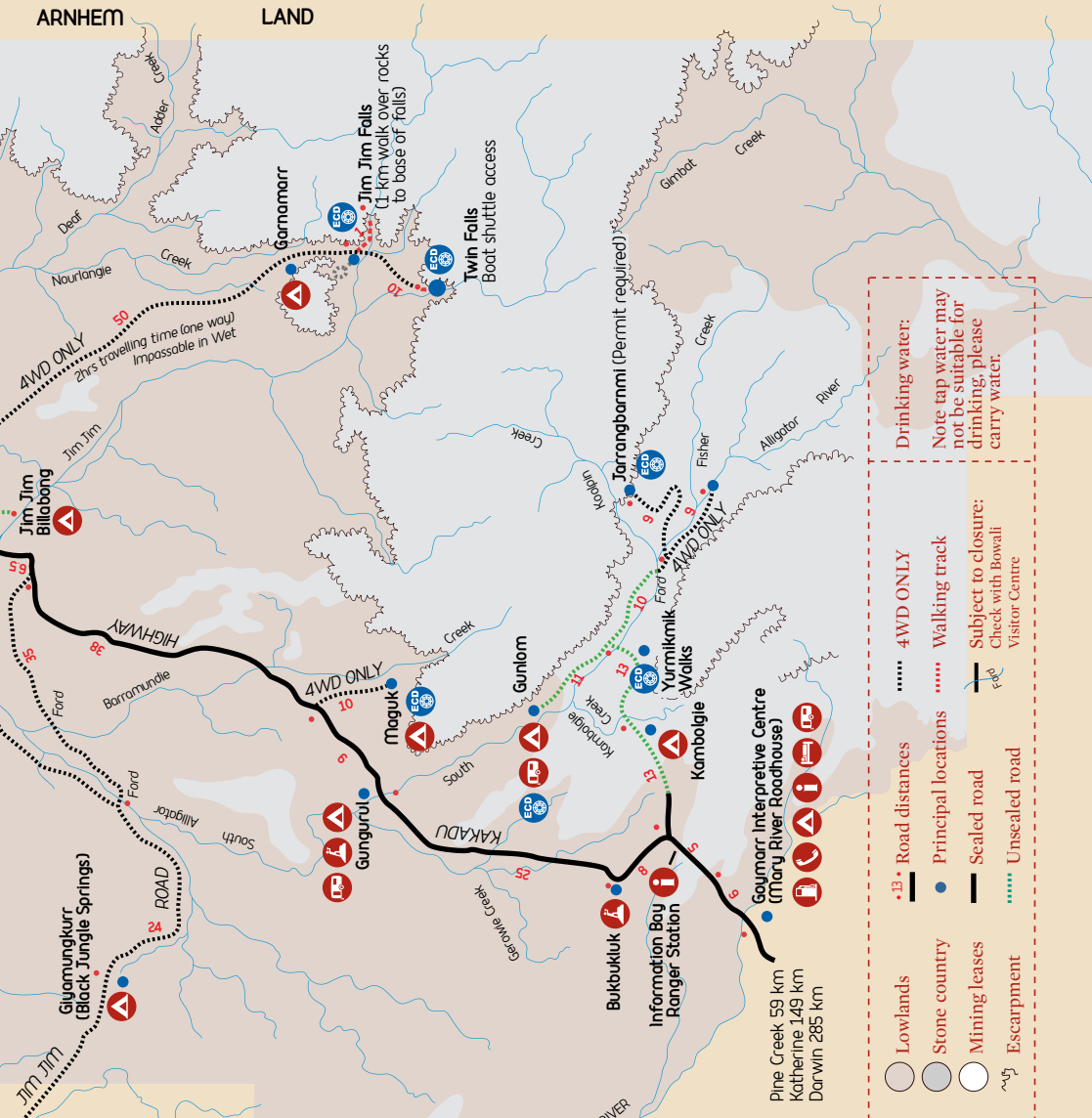
Arnhem Land – Permit
 from Northern Land Council
 required for entry
 Tel: 08 8938 3000



Kakadu National Park



ARNHEM LAND



Unless otherwise stated, access is 2WD.

For access information refer to the Road and Access Report available at Bowali Visitor Centre and all accommodation providers in Kakadu, or visit the virtual ranger station at www.kakadu.com.au.

Please note this map is not intended for the purposes of park boundary identification. Refer to detailed site information and maps on pages 34–47.

- Information
 - Accommodation
 - Camping (Camping fees)
 - Caravan site
 - Fuel
 - Airstrip
 - Boat ramp
 - Lookout
 - Telephone
 - Aboriginal rock art
 - Emergency call device
 - Sewerage dump point
 - Toilet block
 - Wheelchair access
- Check access on insert maps

- Lowlands
- Stone country
- Mining leases
- Escarpment
- 13 • Road distances
- 4WD ONLY
- Principal locations
- Walking track
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Fording
- Subject to closure: Check with Bowali Visitor Centre
- Drinking water: Note tap water may not be suitable for drinking, please carry water.

Pine Creek 59 km
Katherine 149 km
Darwin 285 km

Goyarr Interpretive Centre
(Mary River Roadhouse)

MARY RIVER

KAKADU

HIGHWAY

Gulamungkurr (Block Jungle Springs)

Jim Jim Billabong

Garnamarr

Jim Jim Falls
(1 km walk over rocks to base of falls)

Twin Falls
Boat shuttle access

Jarrongbarimi (Permit required)

Kambolgie

Yurimikmik Walks

Gunlom

Maguk

Gunguru

Bukbukluk

Information Bay
Ranger Station

Kambolgie

Yurimikmik Walks

Yurimikmik Walks

Ford

Ford

Ford

Ford

Ford

Ford

Ford

Ford

Ford

4WD ONLY
2hrs travelling time (one way)
Impossible in Wet

4WD ONLY

4WD ONLY

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

Abdel Creek

Deaf Creek

Nourlangie Creek

Jim Jim Creek

Barramundie Creek

South Alligator Creek

South Alligator Creek

South Alligator Creek

South Alligator Creek

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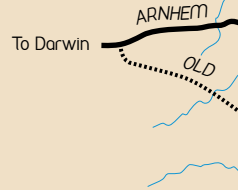
Jim Jim Creek

Barramundie Creek

South Alligator Creek


South Alligator Creek

South Alligator Creek



Finding your way

Kakadu is divided into seven main visitor areas. Detailed information about these areas, including accommodation, services and attractions, is located on pages 33–47.

1	South Alligator Region	34	Wheelchair access 
2	Jabiru Region	36	Tracks and toilets suitable for wheelchair access are provided at the Bowali Visitor Centre and Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre; Merl, 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.
3	East Alligator Region	38	
4	Nourlangie Region	40	
5	Yellow Water Region	42	
6	Jim Jim and Twin Falls Gorge Region	44	
7	Mary River Region	46	

Park use fees: \$25 per person

Park use fees of \$25 per person 16 years and over apply from 1 April 2010. Entry will be valid for 14 days. Northern Territory residents are exempt on presentation of suitable identification. Fees may be payable online and at selected outlets.

The Aboriginal people of Kakadu are known as Bininj/Mungguy. Bininj (pronounced bin-ing) is a Kunwinjku and Gun-djeihmi word; Mungguy (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. Balanda means non-Aboriginal people.

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 still live 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.

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“Our land has a big story. Sometimes we tell a little bit at a time. Come and hear our stories, see our land. A little bit might stay in your hearts. If you want more, you can come back...”

JACOB NAYINGGUL
MANILAKARR CLAN





Welcome to Country

The Aboriginal traditional owners welcome you to Kakadu National Park. We are happy and proud to share this special place with you. We hope you take the time to look, listen and feel the country, to experience the true essence of this land. Take care and return safely to your family and friends and share the memories and stories you will learn from our country.

Culture



A living cultural landscape

Kakadu is a living cultural landscape. Generations of Bininj/Munggyu have lived on and cared for this country for tens of thousands of years. Their spiritual connection with the land is globally recognised in Kakadu's World Heritage listing, which honours one of the oldest living societies on earth.

Language, ceremonies, kinship and caring for country are all aspects of cultural responsibility that have passed from one generation to the next, from the Creation time.

Bininj/Munggyu believe that during the Creation time important ancestral beings, known as the first people or *Nayuhyunggi*, journeyed across the landscape creating the features and landforms, plants, animals and the generations of Bininj/Munggyu we see today. The land and its people have always been linked.



Fallen *kalalajorn* pandanus nuts



“People need to come here and relax, sit on the country, feel the spirits of this country, and go home and feel the same way.”

NATASHA NADJI BUNIDJ CLAN



The Rainbow Serpent

The Rainbow Serpent was a major creator being. She created passages through rocks and formed waterholes in the Kakadu landscape. She split rock faces and created ranges of hills, helping form the habitat for all beings.

2



3



The Kakadu National Park logo is a traditional image used to depict the Rainbow Serpent. This cultural design was chosen to represent the local Aboriginal traditional owners and the broader Aboriginal community. It symbolises cultural unity across many clans and many languages throughout the region. The serpent's image is a constant reminder of her power and presence in the landscape. More importantly, she is a reminder to Bininj/Mungguy custodians and the next generations about their obligations to care for country.

1

Artwork by Gabriel Maralngurra

2

Artwork by Gershon Garingarr

3

Artwork by Abel Naborlhborlh

The Rainbow Serpent is a powerful ancestor, known by many Aboriginal groups throughout Australia. The Rainbow Serpent played an important role in the conception of Bininj/Mungguy and their cultural obligations to care for country. She is also part of the life cycle of plants and animals and the seasonal changes.

The many stories and sites associated with the Rainbow Serpent are often linked to water and places where she travelled across country, leaving behind features in the landscape. Bininj/Mungguy believe she is still present today, resting, and should never be disturbed.

Along with the Rainbow Serpent, Creation Ancestors came in many different forms. Other important beings include Bula (Jawoyn Ancestor), Namarrgon (Lightning Man) and Warramurrungudji (Earth Mother).

In the Kakadu region alone, the Rainbow Serpent has many different language names. To the north of the park she is known in Gun-djeihmi as 'almudj', in Kunwinjku she is 'ngalyod', in Gagudju she is referred to as 'nama'rdeedjurr', further south Jawoyn speakers say 'bolung', and to the north-west she is known in Limilngan as 'lulydjudjan'.

1

Creation Ancestors feature prominently at the Ubirr rock art galleries

Rock art

Mimi spirits were the first of the Creation Ancestors to paint on rock. They taught some Bininj how to paint and other Bininj learned by copying Mimi art. At the end of their journeys, some Creation Ancestors put themselves on rock walls as paintings and became djang (dreaming places). Some of these paintings are andjamun (sacred and dangerous) and can be seen only by senior men or women; others can be seen by all people.

Bininj/Mungguy artists continue to paint on bark, paper, canvas and fabric. In some cases, the act of painting puts artists in touch with their Creation Ancestors — a powerful experience.

Kakadu's rock art (gunbim) represents one of the longest historical records of any group of people in the world.

More than 5,000 art sites tell of the Creation Ancestors and the changes in the landscape over thousands of years. Look for naturalistic paintings of animals, for traditional X-ray art, and for paintings of the first European contact.

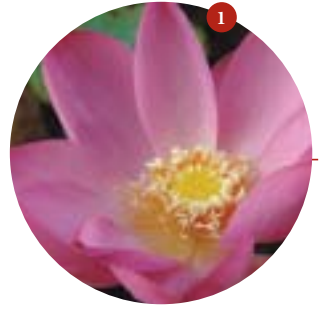
The act of painting is generally more important than the painting itself, so many older paintings are covered by younger ones.

"In Dreaming painting, use special paint, ochre, blood. Come back with that feeling. Ceremony painting is not for everyone to see. Top business you can't see it. Go through your body and give you knowledge, Dreaming. You might dream. Good one."

BILL NEIDTJE BUNIDJ CLAN



Environment



Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of life – the different plants, animals, insects and all other life forms, and the ecosystems of which they are a part. Kakadu's stunning biodiversity is internationally recognised in its listing as a World Heritage Area.

Covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres, Kakadu is one of very few places World Heritage listed for both its cultural and its natural values. Its enduring natural values stem from its exceptional beauty and unique biodiversity, its variety of landforms, habitats and wildlife.

The protection and conservation of biodiversity is an important part of the management of this special place.

Kakadu is home to 68 mammals (almost one-fifth of Australia's mammals), more than 120 reptiles, 26 frogs, over 300 tidal and freshwater fish species, more than 2,000 plants and over 10,000 species of insects. It provides habitat for more than 290 bird species (over one-third of Australia's birds). Its internationally important wetlands are a major staging point for migratory birds.

Some of these species are threatened or endangered. Many are found nowhere else in the world and there are still others yet to be discovered.

The Creation Ancestors gave Bininj/Mungguy a kinship system linking people to all things and the cultural responsibility to look after them all. They have always understood the biodiversity of country and their traditional ancestral knowledge is a vital part of managing Kakadu's rich environment.



1

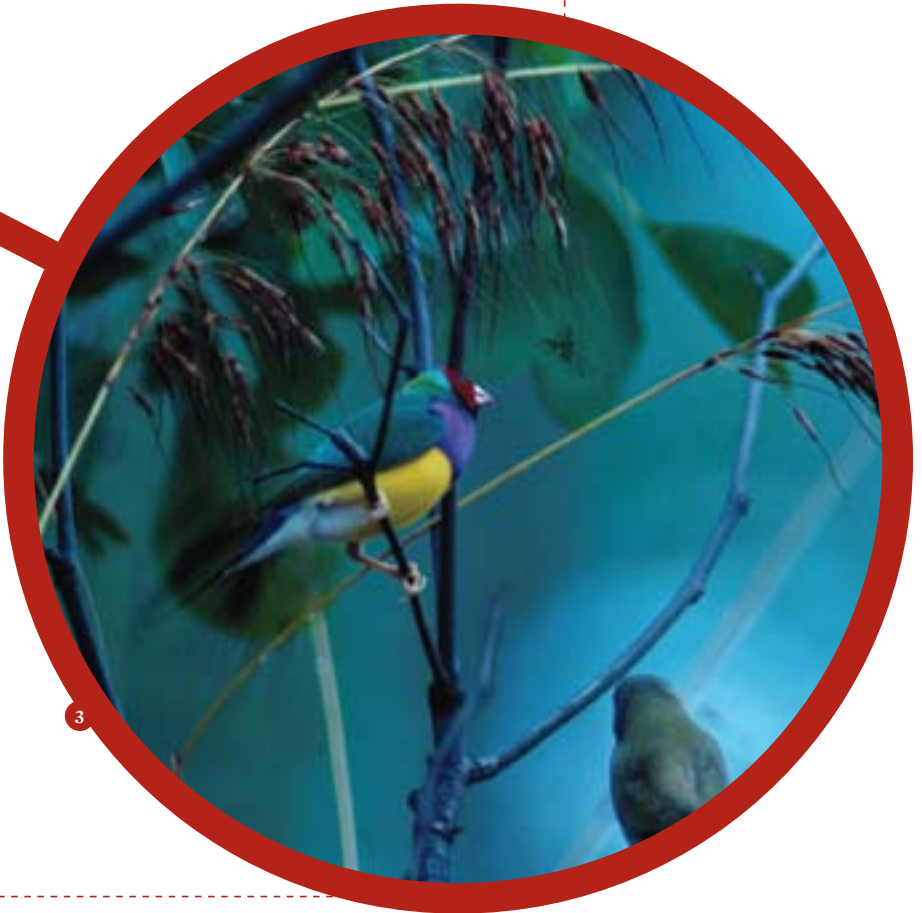
The beautiful pink blooms of the *Wurrmarninj* lotus lily

2

Galawan Yellow-spotted monitor seeks refuge from the floodwaters

3

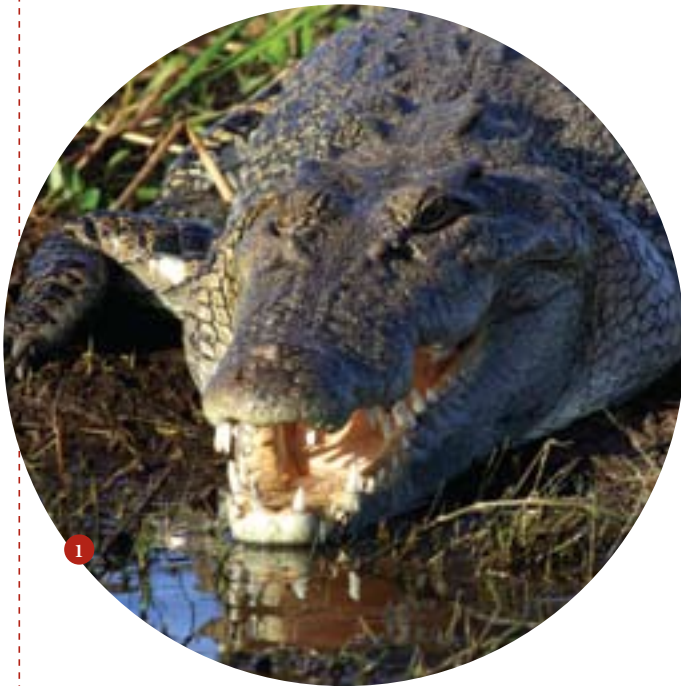
Ngalmaykorlo male Gouldian finch





Crocodiles

Crocodiles are the world's largest living reptiles. They are also one of the most ancient, having existed unchanged for nearly 200 million years. There are more than 20 types of crocodylians in the world. Two species occur in Australia: the freshwater and the estuarine or saltwater crocodile.



“We still hunt our turtle, goanna or file snake. We used to swim in the water, but not this time because the croc’s everywhere, ginga.”

YVONNE MARGARULU
MIRARR CLAN

1

Ginga Estuarine crocodile

2

Madjarrki Freshwater crocodile



FRESHWATER CROCODILES

Freshwater crocodiles (Madjarrki, *Crocodylus johnstoni*) are only found in Australia, where 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.

ESTUARINE (SALTWATER) CROCODILES

Estuarine crocodiles (Ginga, *Crocodylus porosus*) are also found in India, South East Asia and Papua New Guinea. Often called ‘salties’, 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 obey all crocodile warning signs – do not enter the water and keep away from the water’s edge.

INCREASING CROCODILE NUMBERS

Between the 1940s and 1960s, crocodiles were hunted to near extinction for their skins. By 1971, both species were fully protected. The estuarine crocodile population has recovered dramatically and they continue to move further inland into freshwater rivers, billabongs and creeks in search of new territory. This has changed how Bininj/Mungguy live on country and has also increased the risk of visitors interacting with a crocodile. In some visitor areas access is only available after park staff have trapped and removed any estuarine crocodiles that have moved in during the wet season. These areas, known as crocodile management zones, are extensively surveyed at the start of each dry season to ensure the risk for visitors is reduced. Traps remain in place for the entire dry season as estuarine crocodiles may move in at any time. Detailed crocodile safety information is on page 48. Please read the crocodile warning signs and consider their information carefully.

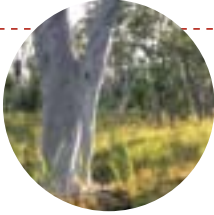


Landscapes and habitats

Within the vast landscapes of Kakadu, there are 6 main landforms. Each landform and the habitats it contains has a range of plants and animals. As you move through Kakadu, take the time to explore and appreciate the diversity of the areas you visit – each one is truly unique.

1

A towering cathedral termite mound



SAVANNA WOODLANDS

Woodlands make up nearly 80 per cent of Kakadu. Appearing to consist mostly of eucalypts and tall grasses, they may seem lifeless at first glance. However, the woodlands support a greater variety of plants and animals than any other habitat in Kakadu.



MONSOON FORESTS

Monsoon forests occur in small, isolated patches. Fruit-eating birds and flying foxes link the plants in these isolated pockets by dispersing pollen and seeds as they move around.



SOUTHERN HILLS AND RIDGES

The hills and broken ridge lines in the south of Kakadu are the result of millions of years of erosion, creating a diversity of habitats and the presence of plants and animals that do not occur anywhere else.



STONE COUNTRY

The dominant sandstone escarpment of the Arnhem Land Plateau ranges in height from 30 metres to 300 metres, and includes the rock shelters and outliers of Ubirr and Nourlangie. In some areas the escarpment is eroding by up to 1 metre every thousand years.



TIDAL FLATS AND COAST

Almost 500 square kilometres of coastal and estuarine areas, most lined with mangrove forests, form important nurseries for many fish including barramundi. Kakadu's wetlands, including floodplains, billabongs, rivers, coastal and estuarine areas, are recognised internationally as being significant for migratory birds.



FLOODPLAINS AND BILLABONGS

Floodplains 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.



Seasons

Six seasons of Kakadu

Throughout the year, Kakadu's landscapes undergo spectacular changes. Bininj/Mungguy recognise up to six different seasons, as well as subtle variations that signpost the transition from one season to another. This knowledge of nature is fundamental to the culture of Kakadu and its people. Bininj/Mungguy have lived with the changing landscape for tens of thousands of years, adapting and using the land for food, shelter and general well-being.

SIX SEASONS OF KAKADU

To experience the real essence of Kakadu please slow down, take your time, absorb our relationship with the land, and embrace nature the way we do.



Yegge:

Cool weather time, May to June

The wetlands are carpeted with water lilies. Drying winds and flowering Darwin woolly butt tell Bininj/Mungguy to patchwork burn the woodlands to encourage new growth.



Banggerreng:

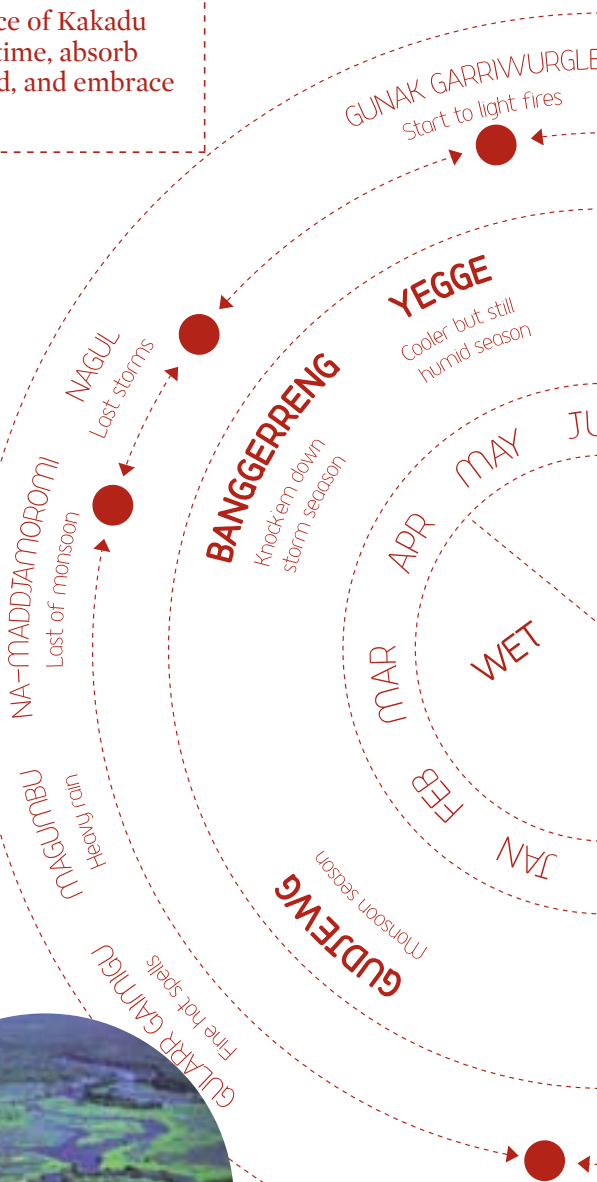
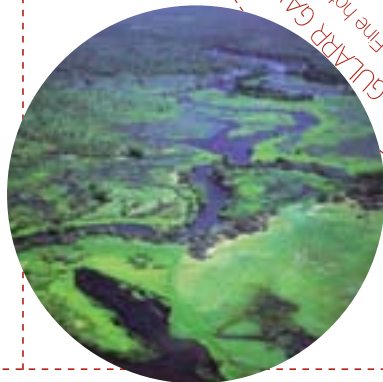
Harvest time, April

Clear skies prevail. The vast expanses of floodwater recede and streams start to run clear. Most plants are fruiting and animals are caring for their young.

Gudjewg:

Monsoon, December to March

The heat and humidity generate an explosion of plant and animal life. Spear grass grows to over 2 metres tall and creates a silvery-green hue throughout the woodlands.



WURRGENG
Cold weather season

JUN JUL AUG
SEP
OCT
NOV
DEC
DRY

GURRUNG
Hot dry weather season

GUNUMELENG
Pre-monsoon storm season



Wurrng:

Early dry season, June to August
Most creeks stop flowing and the floodplains quickly dry out. Magpie geese, fat and heavy after weeks of abundant food, crowd the shrinking billabongs.



Gurrung:

Hot dry season, August to October
Hunting time for file snakes and long-necked turtles. White-breasted wood swallows arrive as thunderclouds build, signalling the return of Gunumeleng.

Gunumeleng:

Pre-monsoon, October to December
Streams begin to run, water birds spread out as surface water and new growth becomes widespread. Barramundi move from the waterholes downstream to the estuaries to breed.



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 ensure it is fully extinguished before you leave. Use fuel stoves to cook.

The role of fire

Aboriginal people have burned country for tens of thousands of years. The ancestors gave them a cultural obligation to look after and clean up country, a duty handed down from generation to generation. Signs in nature told them of the time to burn, a time when minimal harm would be done to country but huge benefits would be gained.

Their ongoing traditional management of country is recognised in Kakadu's World Heritage listing.

Balanda (non-Aboriginal people) are now starting to realise the value of this age-old Aboriginal knowledge. In some areas where no burning took place, noticeable harm was done. Now that traditional burning is back, the landscape is once again abundant with native flora and fauna. These days, conservation managers across the top of Australia are using traditional patch burning in the cooler weather to prevent wildfires, to repair country and to encourage biodiversity to recover.

"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





Activities



Bowali

VISITOR CENTRE

Bowali (Bor-warl-ee) is a Gun-djeihmi name for the local area and creek on land owned by the Mirrar clan. The building's design was inspired by an Aboriginal rock shelter.

Information staff are available to help you plan your Kakadu visit. Every half hour, there is an audio-visual presentation, giving different perspectives on Kakadu. The habitat display and library have detailed information about Kakadu and how much there is to see and do.

The Marrawuddi Gallery promotes Aboriginal fine art by artists from Kakadu and the wider region. Refreshments are available from the Anmak An-me Café. Bowali Visitor Centre is open from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm daily.

Tel: (08) 8938 1120

Email: kakadunationalpark@environment.gov.au

See area map on page 5.





1

Warradjan

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE

The shape of this building represents a Warradjan, which is a Gun-djehmi name for pig-nosed turtle. This cultural centre is on land owned by the Murumburr clan. Developed by Bininj/Mungguy, the display provides detailed information about local Aboriginal culture to help you gain an understanding of the connection Bininj/Mungguy have with their families and their land. Traditional owners ask that you do not take photographs while you are inside Warradjan.

During the dry season, cultural activities are scheduled here. Contact Bowali Visitor Centre for further information.

The Warradjan Gift Shop has a selection of arts, crafts, books, clothing, cards and light refreshments. Warradjan is open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm every day. See area map page 5.

Arts and crafts

For Bininj/Mungguy, art is an expression of cultural identity and connection to country. Traditional paintings with ochres are commonly done on paper and canvas – a more sustainable practice than on bark, which is used less often now. Didgeridoos, clap sticks, carvings and hunting tools are made from different bush timbers. Women have a long tradition of collecting plant fibres and bush dyes which are woven into ornaments such as baskets, mats and jewellery pieces. Another increasingly popular art form is screen printing traditional and contemporary designs onto fabrics.

Visitors can buy arts, crafts and artefacts made in Kakadu or neighbouring Arnhem Land from a number of different outlets within the region.



1

Bowali Visitor Centre

Ranger talks and cultural tours

Kakadu offers visitors a unique opportunity to connect with Aboriginal culture through a range of tours designed to enlighten and inform.

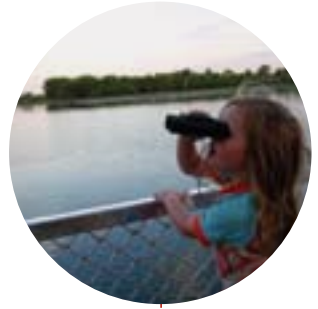
RANGER GUIDED WALKS AND TALKS

During the dry season visitors can join rangers for free activities throughout Kakadu, including daily art site talks, walks, cultural activities and night-time slide shows. These activities provide you with a chance to gain an insight into Kakadu's diverse natural life and the culture and traditions of Bininj/Mungguy.

Attending talks: Please respect the experiences of others by moving through or passing by talks very quietly. Commercial tours and their clients are most welcome to join talks; however, we would encourage checking with the ranger guide on site as space is limited at some sites.

What's On Guide: To find out more, pick up a Guide from the Bowali Visitor Centre or from Kakadu's hotels and commercial camping grounds; from Tourism Top End outlets in Darwin city; or from services en route to Kakadu on the Arnhem and Kakadu Highways, such as the Bark Hut Inn or the Mary River Roadhouse.

More information on a variety of subjects including language, geology, rock art and walks is available in the Kakadu National Park Notes. Park Notes are available from the Bowali Visitor Centre and on the web at www.kakadu.com.au



INDIGENOUS CULTURAL TOURS

Animal Tracks Safari: Aboriginal culture and wildlife, featuring bush food gathering and cooking. Tel: (08) 8979 0145 Email: kakadu@animaltracks.com.au
www.animaltracks.com.au

Ayal Aboriginal Tours Kakadu: Experience wildlife and Aboriginal rock art with a local Aboriginal guide. Email: bookings@ayalkakadu.com.au
www.ayalkakadu.com.au

Djabulukgu Association cultural 4WD & Boat Tours: Experience culture and scenery aboard the **Arnhemlander 4WD Tour** and the **Magela Cultural and Heritage Tour**. Cruise the East Alligator River aboard the **Guluyambi Boat Tour** for breathtaking views of the surrounding area. Tel: 1800 089 113 Email: info@kakadutours.com.au
www.kakadutours.com.au

Kakadu Culture Camp: Experience Aboriginal culture and a unique night wildlife boat cruise, stay in luxury safari tents, dine bush bistro. Book **Trek Arnhem Land** or a **Luxury 4WD Private Charter** for a unique wilderness tour. Tel: 1800 811 633, Tour operations 0428 792 048 Email: bininj@kakaduculturecamp.com
www.kakaduculturecamp.com

Kakadu Gorge and Waterfall Tours: Spectacular adventure taking you off road to see the best of Kakadu. Tel: (08) 8979 0145 Email: reservations@gagudjulodgecooinda.com.au
www.gagudju-dreaming.com

Murdudjurl: A living cultural experience with a local traditional owner family. Tel: (08) 8979 0145 Email: reservations@gagudjulodgecooinda.com.au

Wurrng Cultural Walk: Intimate guided walking tours with one of Kakadu's traditional owners. Tel: 08 8979 0145 Email: reservations@gagudjulodgecooinda.com.au

Yellow Water Cruise: Nature and culture cruise on Yellow Water wetlands. Tel: (08) 8979 0145 Email: reservations@gagudjulodgecooinda.com.au
www.gagudju-dreaming.com

OTHER TOURS BASED IN KAKADU

Kakadu Air: Scenic flights over Kakadu. Tel: 1800 089 113 Email: info@kakadutours.com.au
www.kakaduair.com.au

Kakadu Fishing Tours: Fishing tours on some of Kakadu's most breathtaking waterways. Tel: (08) 8979 2025 Email: ssummerton@dodo.com.au

Lords Kakadu & Arnhemland Safaris: Day tours to Arnhem Land and private touring in Kakadu. Tel: (08) 8948 2200 Email: lordssafaris@bigpond.com
www.lords-safaris.com

The Scenic Flight Company: Scenic flights over Kakadu. Tel: (08) 8979 3432 Email: info@aaacharter.com.au
www.scenicflight.com.au

Top End Explorer Tours: 4WD day tours to Jim Jim Falls and Twin Falls. Tel: (08) 8979 3615 Email: explorertours@bigpond.com
www.topendexplorertours.com

Yellow Water Fishing Safaris: Fishing tours on Yellow Water wetlands. Tel: (08) 8979 0145 Email: reservations@gagudjulodgecooinda.com.au

Bushwalking

Walking is a great way to experience Kakadu. There are many walks throughout the park, including a wide variety of short and easy day walks as well as some longer, more challenging full-day walks for those who are fit. Check seasonal conditions and access.

Extended overnight bushwalks are also available. However, these require a high level of experience and can be far more physically demanding. For these reasons, a permit is required for anyone wishing to do an overnight bushwalk. Advance planning is essential, as is the ability to navigate using a topographic map and a compass. The routes are unmarked, and extend through remote and rugged country with variable climatic conditions.

It is important to prevent dehydration. Make sure you always take plenty of water and make sure you read the visitor safety information on pages 48 and 49. You can get further information on permits by contacting the Permits Officer on (08) 8938 1140 or by emailing kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au. Permits may take up to one week to process.

“Walking is good.
You follow track...
you sleep, wake in
morning to birds,
maybe kookaburra.
You feel country.”

BILL NEIDJIE BUNITJ CLAN



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.

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 the Bowali Visitor Centre for details.

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.

Always remember, crocodiles occur near boat ramps.

For your safety, be alert for crocodiles at all times.

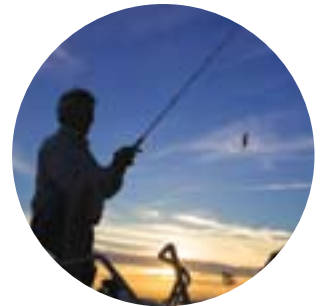
- Keep away from the water's edge and do not enter the water.
- Take extreme care when launching and retrieving boats.
- Do not reach into the water to bring up a fish; use a landing net.
- Do not clean fish or bleed fish in or near the water's edge, as this may attract crocodiles.
- Remove all fish and food waste, which attract crocodiles. See pages 16, 17 and 48 for more information on crocodiles in Kakadu.

Avoid spread of salvinia

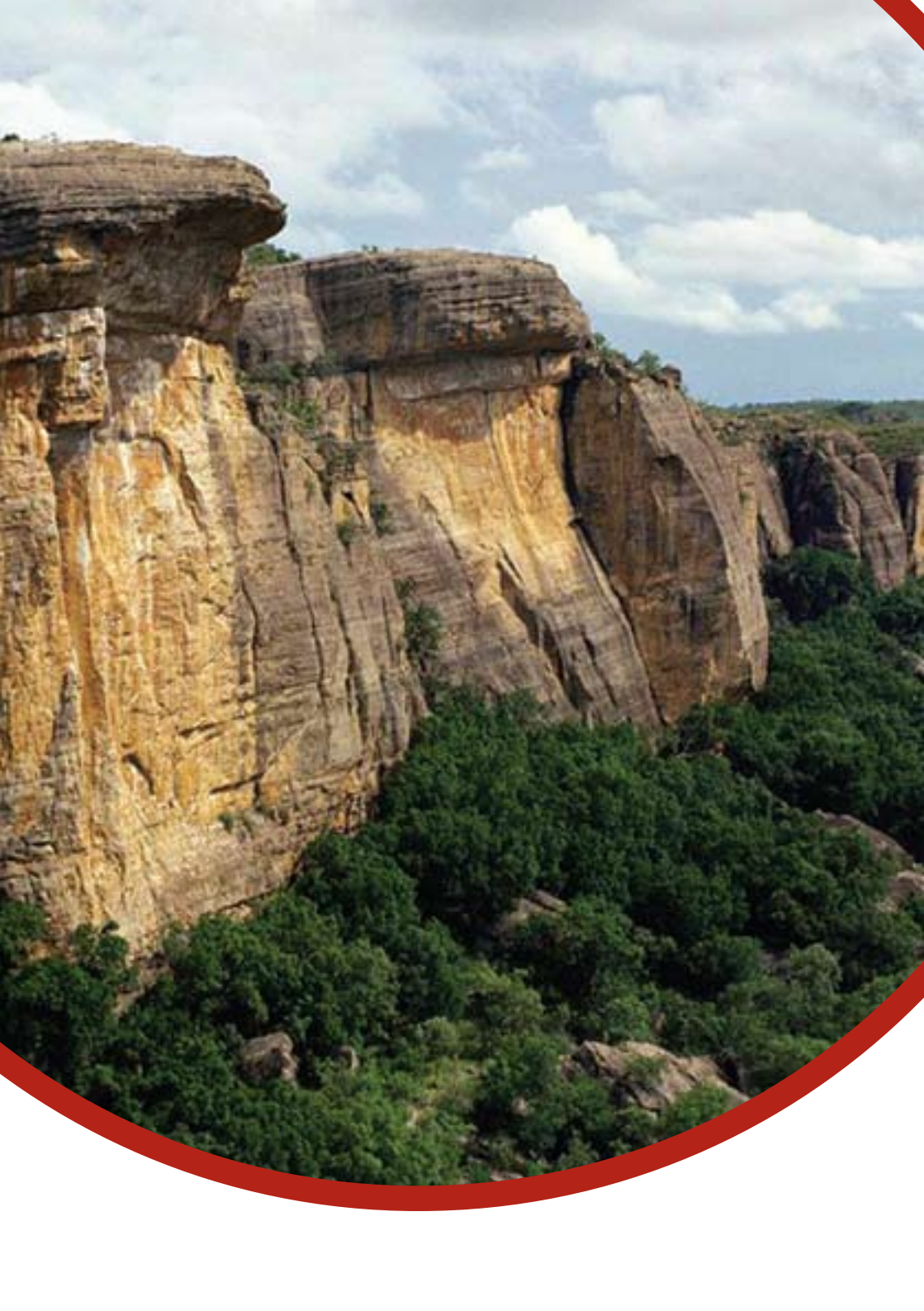
Salvinia is a free-floating aquatic fern native to South America. It was originally imported as an aquarium plant. It reproduces very rapidly by growing from small fragments. The areas between Yellow Water north to the South Alligator River, and the Magela Creek from Mudginberri to Nankeen Billabongs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

Fishing:

Live bait fishing is not permitted in Kakadu. 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. A landing net may be used to land hooked fish. 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. Crab pots and taking crabs, firearms, traps, nets, spearguns and spears are prohibited in any Commonwealth Reserve. Contact the Bowali Visitor Centre, telephone (08) 8938 1120 for latest information.



Salvinia





Regions

The seven regions of Kakadu

"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



South Alligator region

Central to this area is the South Alligator River. The entire river and its catchment are contained and protected in Kakadu National Park.

ACCOMMODATION

Aurora Kakadu Resort: Motel rooms, tent sites, powered and unpowered van sites, restaurant, café, store and guest pool. Reservations recommended.

Tel: (08) 8979 0166

Bush Camping Areas: Check seasonal access. Drinking water is not available. Rubbish bins are not provided, so please bring rubbish out with you.

\$5 fee (adults) collection box. Basic toilet facilities at Waldak Irrmbal (West Alligator Head). Free: Two Mile, Four Mile Hole, Red Lily Billabong, Bucket Billabong and Alligator Billabong. No toilet available.

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

South Alligator River and picnic area: Picnic tables and barbecue areas near the South Alligator bridge on the Arnhem Highway and boat ramp at the northern end of the carpark (See page 31 for more boating information).

Off the highway: (Dry season only) There are 2 major four-wheel drive tracks in the area: the Waldak Irrmbal (West Alligator Head) track (which accesses Two Mile Hole, and Four Mile Hole) and the Red Lily Billabong, Bucket Billabong and Alligator Billabong track. Both tracks lead to destinations suitable for boating, bird watching and camping. *Please read the crocodile information on page 48.*

SERVICES

Aurora Kakadu Resort store: Sells petrol, LPG gas (LPG bottle refills only), diesel, food and souvenirs.

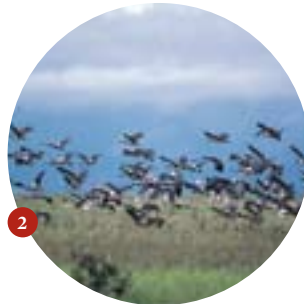
MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Mamukala (Mar-moo-car-lar) wetlands: Check wet season access. Mamukala is beautiful all year but at its most dramatic in the late dry season (September – October) when thousands of magpie geese congregate to feed. An observation platform allows you to view the birdlife and 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.

Gu-ngarre (Goong-narr-ee) walk: Check wet season access. Starts at the large banyan fig tree near the Aurora Kakadu Resort and features a 3.6 km circular walk through monsoon forest, woodlands and along the margins of Anggardabal Billabong. Allow 2 hours.



1



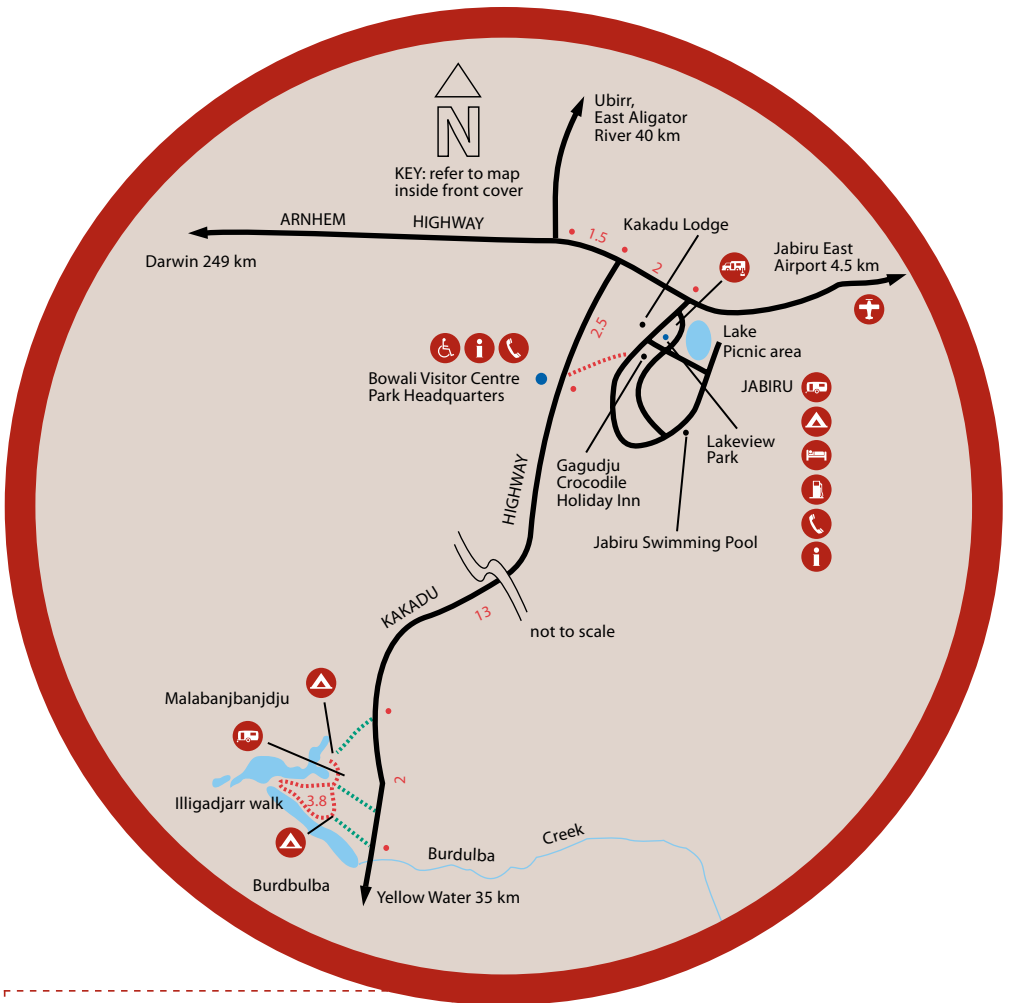
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1

Mamukala wetlands

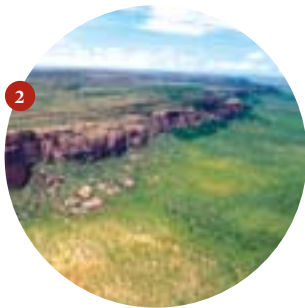
2

Bamurru magpie geese mass on the floodplain



Jabiru region

Jabiru is the main township in Kakadu, providing a range of essential services for visitors, and a gateway to all parts of the park and Arnhem Land.



1

Bowali Visitor Centre

2

Experience Kakadu from the air

ACCOMMODATION

Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn: Hotel rooms (air conditioned), restaurant, gift shop, guest pool and bookings for commercial tours. Reservations recommended. Tel: (08) 8979 2800

Kakadu Lodge: Budget accommodation, cabins, tent sites, powered van sites, barbeque facilities, camper's kitchen. Bar/bistro for guests and visitors. Reservations recommended.

Tel: (08) 8979 2422

Lakeview Park: Bush bungalows, cabins and air-conditioned rooms. Reservations recommended. Tel: (08) 8979 3144

Bush Camping Areas: Check seasonal access. \$5 fee (adults) collection box. Basic toilet facilities at Malabanjbandju and Burdulba. Drinking water is not available.

Please read the crocodile information on page 48.

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Bowali bike and walking track:

Starts opposite the Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn in Jabiru. A 4 km return rammed earth path winds through woodlands to the Bowali Visitor Centre. Allow 30 to 45 minutes each way.

Iligadjarr (Illy-gar-jarr) walk:

(Dry season only.) Starts at the Malabanjbandju or Burdulba Camping Areas and features a 3.8 km circular walk across a small grassy floodplain and along Burdulba Billabong. Allow 2 hours.

Tours: Several land-based tours depart from Jabiru. Scenic flights, which depart from both Jabiru East and Cooinda, provide an awe-inspiring bird's eye view of Kakadu and its many and varied habitats. See page 29 for tour booking information.

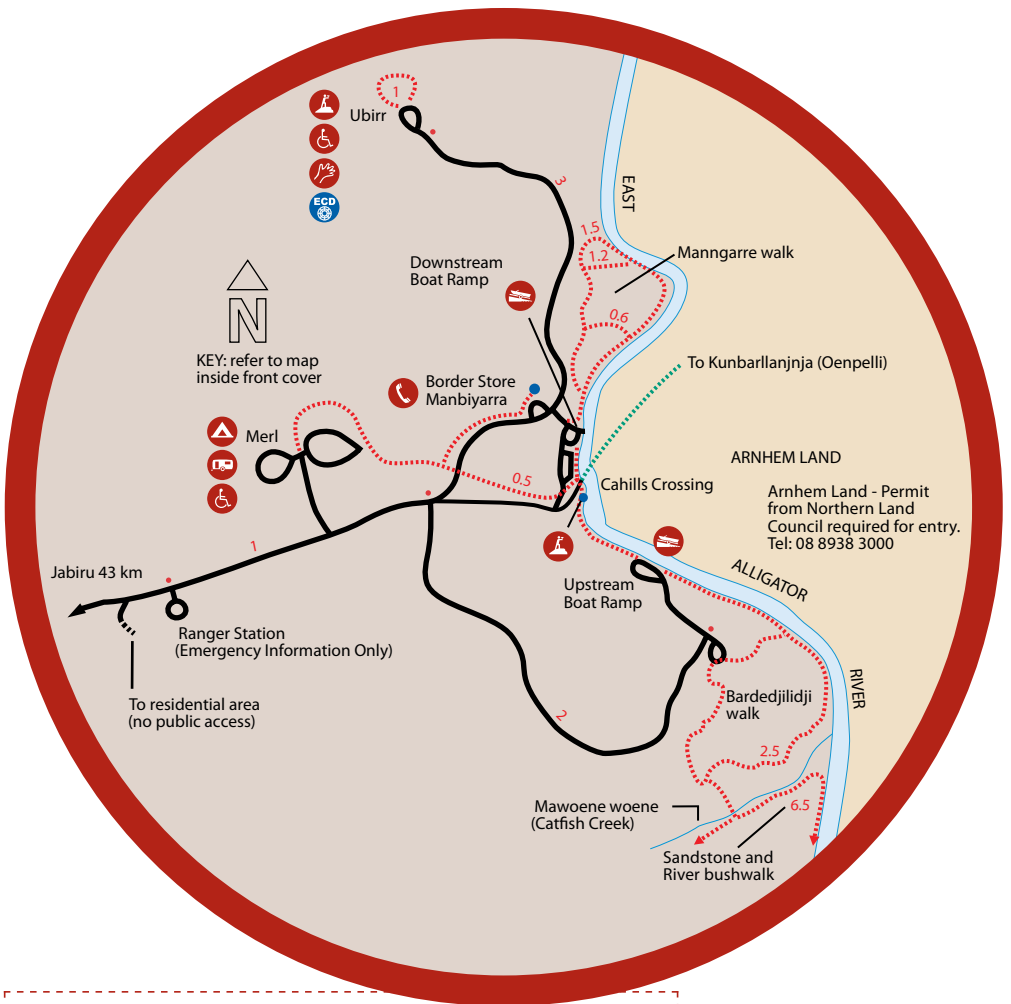
SERVICES

In Jabiru there is a service station, supermarket, newsagent and post office (Commonwealth Bank agency), Westpac Bank, travel agent, medical centre and chemist (Tel: (08) 8979 2018), police, public telephones, swimming pool, library (internet), hairdresser, golf course, restaurant, café and bakery.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

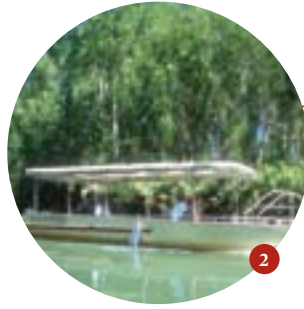
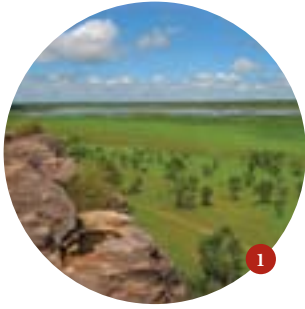
Bowali (Bor-warl-ee) Visitor Centre: The Bowali Visitor Centre contains a wealth of information about Kakadu including videos, a library and a display. Information staff available to help plan your visit. Open: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The Marrawuddi Gallery: Stocks Aboriginal arts and crafts, books and gifts. Refreshments available from the Anmak An-me Café. Gallery and café open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.



East Alligator region

In the shadow of the magnificent Arnhem Land escarpment, discover rainforest, stone country, rock art, extensive floodplains and the beautiful East Alligator River.



1

View from Ubirr over the Nadab floodplain in the dry

2

Guluyambi boat cruise on the East Alligator River

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Bardedjilidji (Bar-de-jill-eed-gee)

walk: (Check wet season access.)

Starts at a small carpark 500 m from the upstream boat ramp and features a 2.5 km walk through layered sandstone outliers. One of Kakadu's most interesting short walks. Allow 2 hours.

Manngarre (Marn-narr-ay)

rainforest walk: (Dry season only.)

3 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.) Features riverside picnic tables and a viewing platform over the East Alligator River.

Sandstone and river bushwalk:

(Dry season only.) Starts off the Bardedjilidji walk and 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.

ACCOMMODATION

Managed Camping Area: Check seasonal access. \$10 fee (adults) collected on site. Showers, toilets and generator zone at Merl.

SERVICES

The Border Store: Sells food, fishing gear and souvenirs and takes bookings for commercial tours.

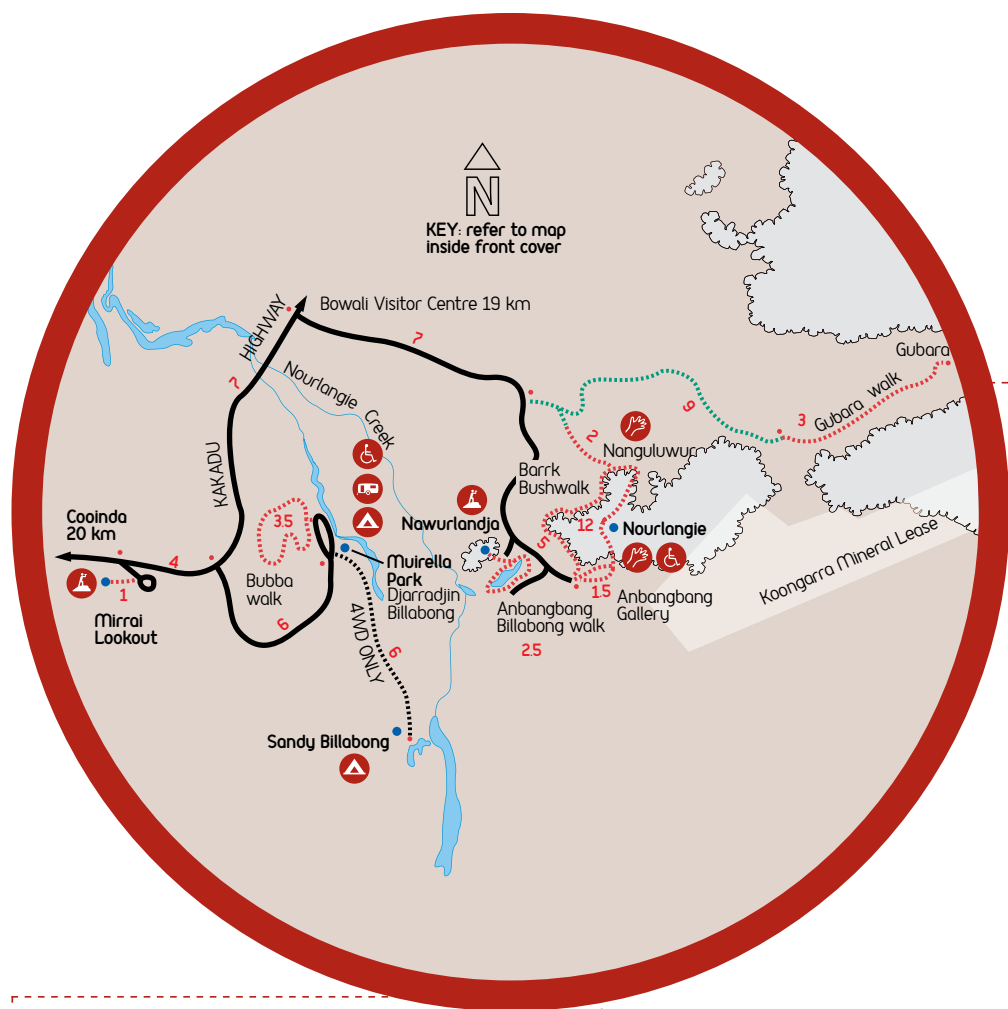
Tel: (08) 8979 2474

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Ubirr (Oo-beerr): (Check wet season access and opening times.) A 1 km circular track takes you past several fascinating Aboriginal rock art sites. A moderately steep, 250 m climb takes you to the top of a rocky lookout that offers superb views over the Nadab floodplain, particularly beautiful at sunset. Allow at least 1 hour. Open April 1 to Nov 30 from 8.30 am – sunset. Dec 1 to March 31 from 2.00 pm – sunset. 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.

East Alligator River: (Check wet season access.)

Just east of Merl Camping Area and the Border Store, a tidal river forms the boundary between Kakadu and Arnhem Land. The Guluyambi boat cruise operates 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. See page 29 for tour booking information. Boat ramps are located upstream and downstream of Cahills Crossing. See page 31 for more boating information.

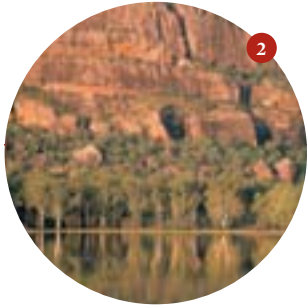


Nourlangie region

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



1



2

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Bubba (Boop-bar) walk: (Dry season only.) Starts at the Muirella Park Camping Area, featuring a 3.5 km circular walk through several wetland habitats. Allow 2 hours.

Mirrai (Mirr-eye) Lookout walk: A moderately difficult 2 km return walk to a platform lookout on top of Mount Cahill. A steep climb. Allow 1.5 hours.

Barrk bushwalk: Branching off the Nourlangie lookout track, just past the main gallery, this is a difficult 12 km walk through the sandstone country of Nourlangie, past the Nanguluwur art gallery and back to the Nourlangie car park. See the Barrk Walk Park Note available from Bowali Visitor Centre. Allow 6 to 8 hours.

Please read the crocodile information on page 48.

1

The rock art galleries of Nourlangie

2

Nourlangie and Anbangbang Billabong

ACCOMMODATION

Kakadu Culture Camp: Deluxe safari tent accommodation with local Aboriginal family at Muirella Park. Stay includes bush bistro, shared bathroom facilities. Reservations essential. See page 29 for booking information.

Managed Camping Area: Check seasonal access. \$10 fee (adults) collected on site during the dry season. Muirella Park has showers, toilets and is a no-generator zone.

Bush Camping Area: Check seasonal access. 4WD recommended. Drinking water is not available. \$5 fee (adults) collection box. Basic toilet facilities beyond Muirella Park at Sandy Billabong.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Nourlangie: Features a 1.5 km circular walk that takes you past an ancient Aboriginal shelter and several outstanding art sites. A moderately steep climb to Gun-warddehwardde Lookout provides impressive views of Kakadu's escarpment and Nourlangie. During the dry season, rangers provide informative talks several times a day. See the *What's On Guide* for details. Open 8.00 am until sunset.

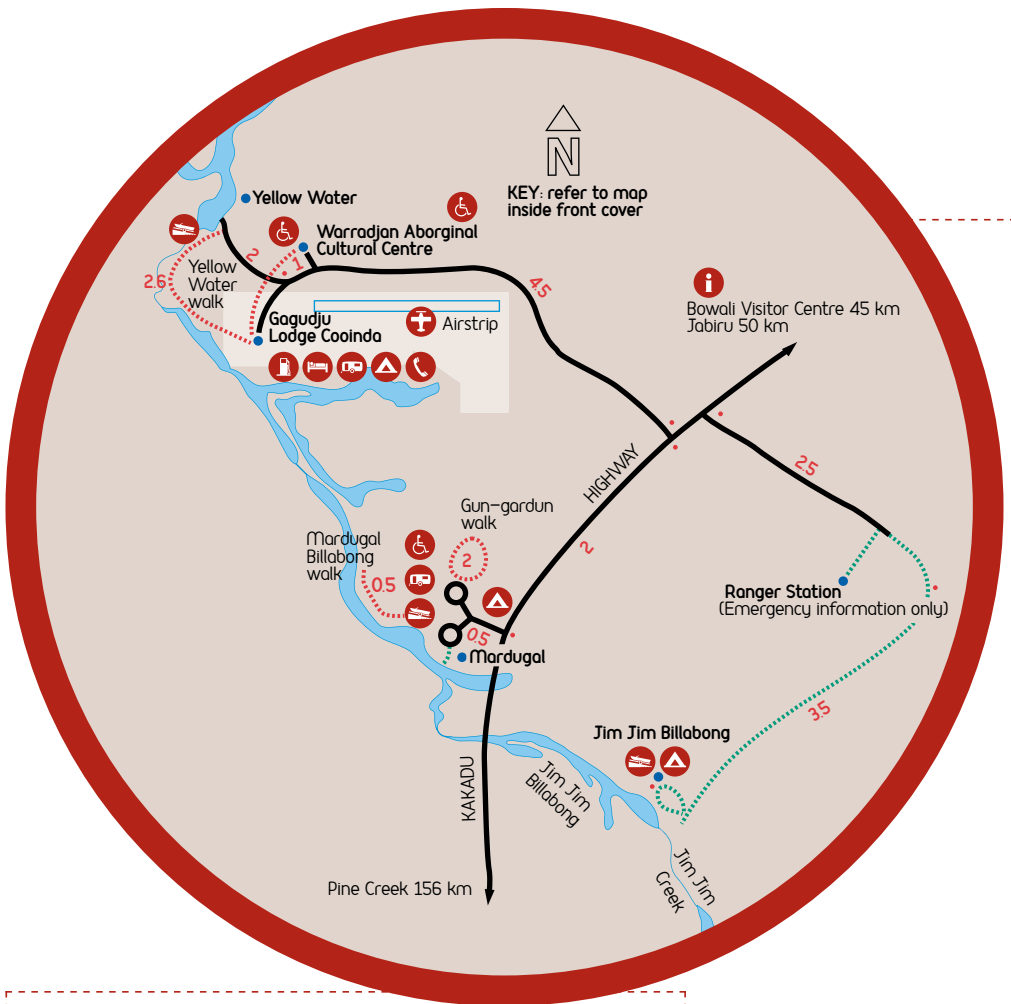
Kakadu Culture Camp: Operates during the dry season at Muirella Park. Night spotlight boat cruise on Djarradjin Billabong with interactive cultural activities. Bookings 1800 811 633.

Anbangbang (Arn-barng-barng) Billabong: (Check wet season access.) A 2.5 km dry season circular walk with Nourlangie forming an impressive backdrop, this is one of Kakadu's most attractive billabongs. Allow 1 hour.

Nawurlandja (Now-oo-larn-ja) Lookout walk: A 600 m climb up a moderately steep slope offers views of the escarpment, Nourlangie and Anbangbang Billabong. Allow 40 minutes.

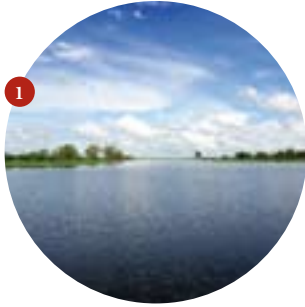
Nanguluwur (Narn-goo-loo-war) art site walk: A 3.4 km return walk through woodlands leads to a quiet Aboriginal rock art site. Allow 2 hours.

Gubara (Goo-bar-rar) Pools walk: (Check wet season access.) 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.



Yellow Water region

The local Aboriginal name for Yellow Water is Ngurrungurrudjba (Noor-roong-oo-rooj-bar). The world-famous wetlands are not to be missed.



IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Mardugal (Mar-doo-garl)

Billabong walk: (Dry season only.)

A 1 km return walk follows the edge of Mardugal Billabong.

Allow 30 minutes.

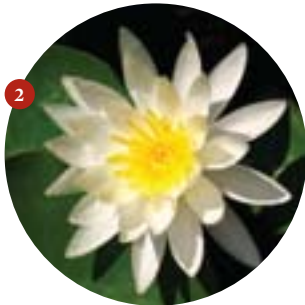
Gun-gardun (Goong-gar-doon)

walk: Starts near the entrance of the Mardugal Camping Area and features a 2 km circular walk through woodlands, Kakadu's most widespread habitat. Allow 1 hour.

Boating: Boat ramps are located at Jim Jim Billabong, Yellow Water and Mardugal Billabong (see page 31 for more boating information).

Please read the crocodile information on page 48.

Scenic flights provide the only means of seeing the spectacular Jim Jim and Twin Falls during the wet season when they are in flood. Scenic flights depart from Cooinda Airstrip. See page 29 for booking information.



1

Ngurrungurrudjba – Yellow Water

2

Andem – Water lily

ACCOMMODATION

Gagudju Lodge Cooinda: Motel rooms, budget accommodation, tent sites, powered van sites, bistro, restaurant, pool, store and internet café. Reservations recommended. Tel: (08) 8979 0145

Managed Camping Area: Check seasonal access. \$10 fee (adults) collected on site. Mardugal has showers, toilets and is a generator zone.

Note: Water not suitable for drinking.

Bush Camping Areas: Check seasonal access. Drinking water not available. Basic toilet facilities available at Jim Jim Billabong.

\$5 fee (adults) collection box.

SERVICES

Gagudju Lodge Cooinda store: Sells petrol, LPG gas, diesel, food and souvenirs, and takes bookings for commercial tours.

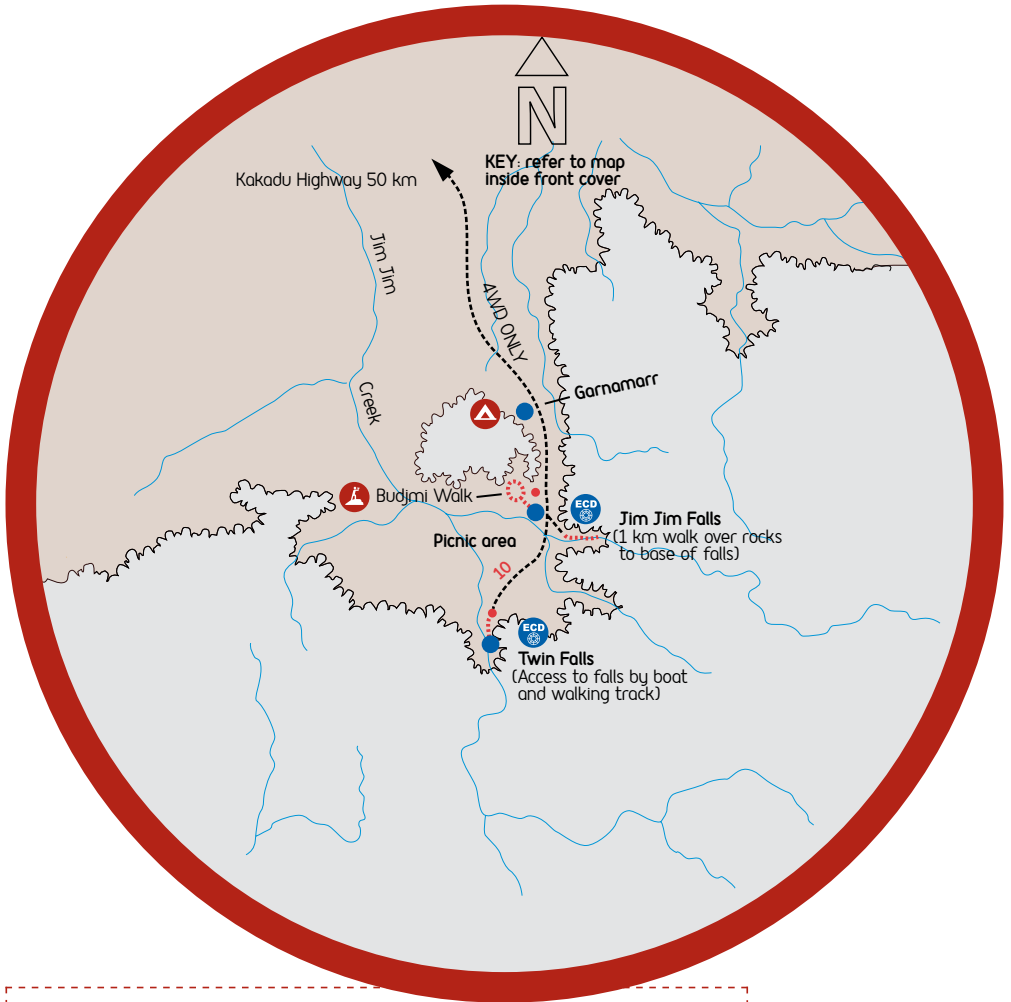
MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Yellow Water Wetlands: (Check wet season access.)

Yellow Water is part of the South Alligator River floodplain. A boardwalk provides good views of Yellow Water's wildlife. When the waters recede, a 2.6 km return walk takes you across the floodplains to a viewing platform on Home Billabong. The Yellow Water boat cruise operates throughout the year and provides a marvellous opportunity to see the varied birdlife of Kakadu's World Heritage wetlands. See page 29 for booking information.

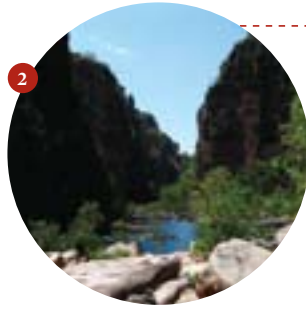
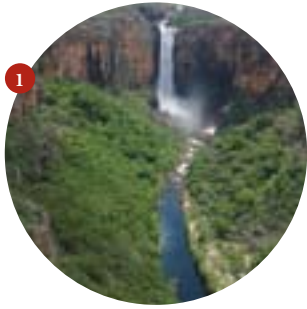
Warradjan (Warr-ar-jarn) Aboriginal Cultural

Centre: The circular design of this cultural centre represents a warradjan (pig-nosed turtle). The centre's large display, developed by Bininj/Munggyu, 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.



Jim Jim Falls and Twin Falls Gorge region

(DRY SEASON, 4WD ONLY). Spectacular all year – see this area from the ground in the dry season, and from the air in the wet season.



1

Jim Jim Falls in full wet season flow

2

Twin Falls Gorge

3

A four-wheel drive vehicle is essential

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Budjmi (Booj-me) Lookout:

(Dry season only.) 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.

Plateau above Twin Falls: A steep 6 km return walk to the plateau, with good views and pools along Twin Falls Creek above the falls. For further information contact Bowali Visitor Centre.

Barrk Marlam Bushwalk: This marked day walk branches off the Jim Jim Falls Plunge Pool track. It is a very steep, difficult 6 km return walk through the rugged stone country typical of the Arnhem Land Plateau. Allow 4 to 6 hours.

Commercial tours and flights: 4WD tours are available in the area during the dry season. During the wet season Jim Jim and Twin Falls can be viewed via a scenic flight. See page 29 for booking information.

ACCOMMODATION

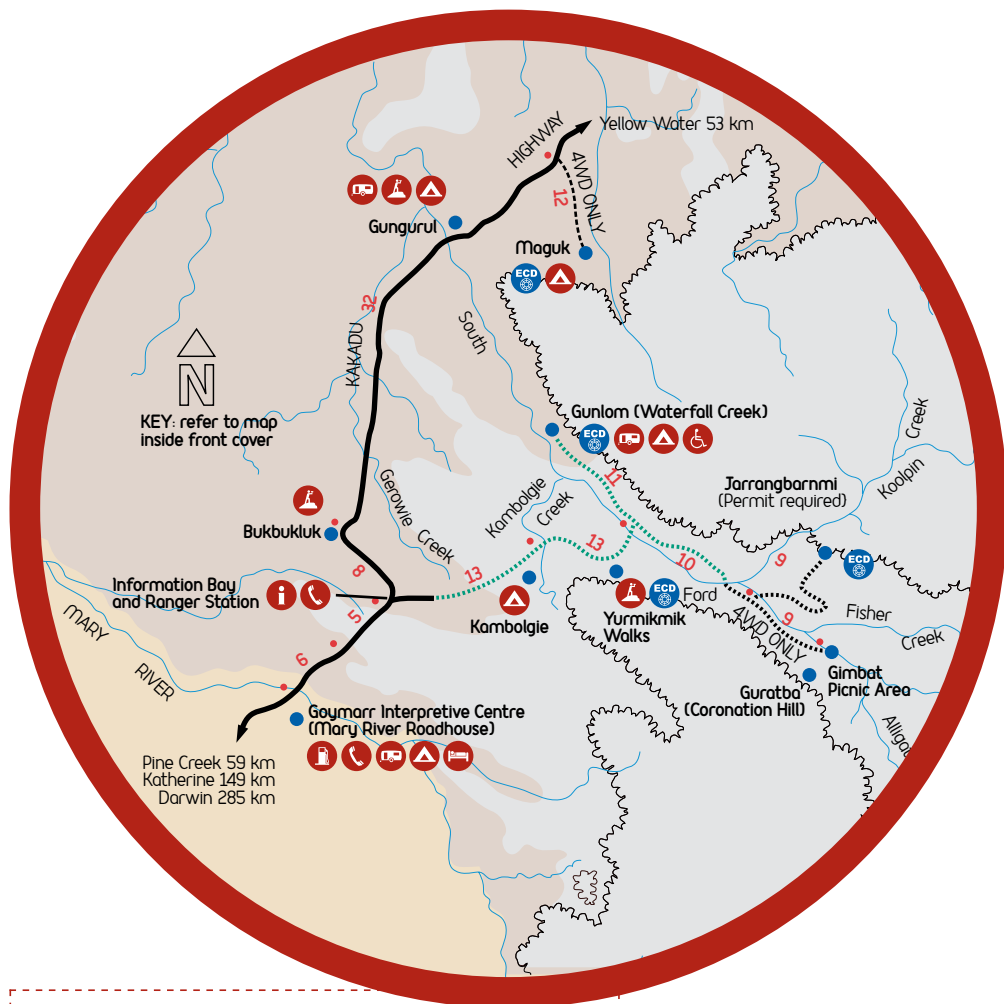
Managed Camping Area: Check seasonal access. \$10 fee (adults) collected on site. Showers, toilets. No generators at Garnamarr Camping Area.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Jim Jim Falls Plunge Pool: (Dry season only, 4WD.) 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. The last 10 km of track includes areas of soft sand. 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. *Estuarine crocodiles have been known to move into the Jim Jim Falls area. Please read the crocodile information on page 48.*

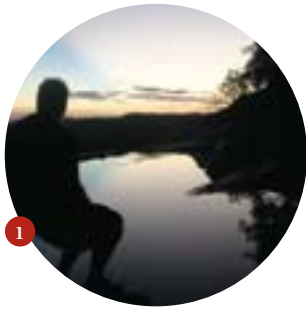
Twin Falls Gorge: (Dry season only, high clearance 4WD, snorkel recommended.) From Garnamarr travel 8 km towards Jim Jim Falls, turn right and travel a further 10 km to Twin Falls. Engage 4WD. The last section involves a deep water crossing at Jim Jim Creek. Allow half an hour from Jim Jim Falls, one way. Please note speed limits and drive safely. Access to Twin Falls is by a boat shuttle service and a walking track over boulders and sand, and a boardwalk. Tickets for the boat shuttle can be purchased at the Bowali Visitor Centre, Twin Falls or commercial outlets. Allow 2 hours. *Swimming is prohibited in Twin Falls Gorge as estuarine crocodiles may occur here.*





Mary River region

The Jawoyn people believe that powerful Creation Ancestors rest here and they should not be disturbed. This area offers spectacular bushwalks, with powerful waterfalls in the wet and sparkling waterholes in the dry.



1

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Maguk (Mar-gook) Plunge Pool*:

(Gravel road, dry season only, 4WD recommended.) 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 48.*

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

Jarrangbarntmi: (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 48.

Gimbat picnic area: (Dry season only, 4WD.) A shady picnic area situated near Guratba (Coronation Hill) and the South Alligator River.

Gungurul (Goong-u-rool) Picnic and Camping Area: 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.

1

Waterhole at the top of Gunlom

ACCOMMODATION

Goyarr Interpretive Centre (Mary River Roadhouse): (Just outside Kakadu.) The Mary River Roadhouse is owned by the Werenbun Aboriginal Corporation. Motel rooms, backpacker accommodation, powered van sites and camping. Telephone (08) 8975 4564

Managed Camping Area: Check seasonal access. \$10 fee (adults) collected on site. Showers, toilets and generator zone. BBQs in day use area at Gunlom. Gravel road.

Bush Camping Areas: Basic toilet facilities, BBQ areas and picnic tables. Drinking water is not available. \$5 fee (adults) collection box. Maguk, Gungurul and Kambolgie. Drinking water is not available. Check seasonal access for Maguk and Kambolgie.

SERVICES

Gunlom Kiosk: (Dry season only.) Light refreshments, cold drinks and icecreams.

Goyarr Interpretive Centre (Mary River Roadhouse): Visitor information, food, stores and fuel.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Gunlom (Goon-lom): (Gravel road; check wet season access). 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. A 2.5 km return walk leads to Murrill Billabong and South Alligator River from the camping area.

Yurmikmik Walks: (Gravel road; check wet season access.) A series of interconnected walking tracks, which provide a wonderful 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).

Visitor Safety

CROCODILES

Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles are dangerous. They have attacked and killed people.

They inhabit most areas of water in Kakadu National Park including floodplains, freshwater billabongs, creeks, rivers and coastal 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, assume that crocodiles are present.

CLIFFS

Climbing rock ledges and cliffs and 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.

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. Sunscreen and repellents may pollute our waterways.

PARK LAWS

Kakadu National Park is established and managed as a Commonwealth Reserve under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Act sets out rules for Commonwealth reserves. For example you must:

- Stay on public roads and marked walking tracks.
- Camp only in designated camping areas.

Other park rules and guidelines include:

- Stay behind the barriers to protect Aboriginal rock paintings.
- Protect plants – do not use tree branches as fly swats.
- Do not feed or disturb wildlife.
- Light fires only in fireplaces provided or use fuel stoves. Keep use of firewood to a minimum.
- Do not bring pets into Kakadu.



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!). For every hour you walk, carry at least 1 litre of water per person.

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. Contact the medical centre at Jabiru on (08) 8979 2018. Emergency Call Devices (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.

SWIMMING IN KAKADU

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, Jim Jim 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.***

DRIVING HINTS

Top End roads can be hazardous. Plan ahead and allow sufficient time for travel. Slow down!

Roads can become slippery in the wet. During the dry, dust from other vehicles can obscure your vision. When using 4WD tracks, put your vehicle into 4WD. Read your vehicle instructions: many vehicles need their front wheel hubs physically locked before engaging 4WD from the driver's seat. At flooded crossings read the signs, look at depth markers and observe how quickly the water is flowing, before deciding whether to cross. Sometimes it is safer to wait until the water recedes. Remember, crocodiles may be present.

In the event of fires, make sure you park your vehicle in cleared areas rather than in flammable long grass. Use vehicle headlights if driving through heavy smoke, and drive slowly. If stopping, park well off the road and use hazard lights. Do not park on bridges or causeways at any time.

Always check road access, by contacting the Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit www.kakadu.com.au/access.

Watch out for wildlife. Every year, hundreds of our native animals are killed or injured on our roads. Drive slowly, look well ahead for animals on the road, and try to avoid driving at night. Use your horn to alert wildlife on the road. Look carefully for large feral animals such as horses, pigs and buffalo.

FLASH FLOODING:

Please be aware of possible sudden rises in the 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 can be deceptive, creating strong currents and dangerous swimming conditions. Do not enter the water unless you are sure it is safe to do so.

Please observe all rules on park signs and brochures. For details call the Bowali Visitor Centre on Tel: (08) 8938 1120.

Itineraries

The secret to discovering Kakadu is taking your time. With time comes stories, secrets and sights never imagined. It is impossible to appreciate the full breadth and beauty of the park in a fleeting visit – plan to stay at least 3 to 5 days. If you can afford the time, spend a week or more.

DRY SEASON

Day 1: Mamukala wetlands/Bowali Visitor Centre/
Manngarre rainforest walk/commercial boat cruise/Cahills
Crossing picnic area/Ubirr art site and sunset lookout.

Day 2: Scenic flight from Cooinda or Jabiru Airstrips/
Nourlangie art site/Anbangbang Billabong walk/
Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre/commercial boat
cruise, cultural tour or guided bush tucker walk.
See page 29 for tour booking information.

Day 3: Gunlom Plunge Pool and Lookout or Jim Jim Falls
and 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/
commercial boat cruise.

Day 3: Yurmikmik walks or Barrk 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.

Cultural ways

Bininj/Munggyu culture has its own set of social behaviours and customs, which are considered good manners. Please consider these while you are in Kakadu.

- Show respect by not entering restricted areas. They may be sacred sites, ceremonial sites, burial grounds or even someone's home.
- Traditionally, Bininj/Munggyu do not greet each other every time they meet. However, most Bininj/Munggyu are used to non-Aboriginal people doing so and may expect a 'hello'.
- Many Bininj/Munggyu do not use personal names as freely as non-Aboriginal people do and often address each other by kinship terms.
- Bininj/Munggyu appreciate privacy. It is good manners not to enter living areas and not to take photographs of Bininj/Munggyu without permission.
- Some Bininj/Munggyu find constant eye contact uncomfortable.
- In Bininj/Munggyu culture it is important to listen carefully and consider the response carefully before giving an answer.
- It is polite to say goodbye when leaving. The Bininj/Munggyu word for goodbye is Boh Boh (pronounced bor bor).
- In Bininj/Munggyu culture it is often not appropriate to use the names or display images of deceased people.
- Areas in Kakadu may close at short notice for cultural purposes at the request of traditional owners.

Pronouncing Bininj/Munggyu

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 is jointly managed:

Kakadu's traditional owners have leased their land to the Director of National Parks to be jointly managed as a national park. Joint management is about Bininj and Balanda working together, solving problems, sharing decision making and exchanging knowledge, skills and information. Overall direction is provided by the Kakadu Board of Management which has an Aboriginal majority representing the traditional owners.

Kakadu National Park:

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**Boh boh
(goodbye)**

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