



# kakadu™

NATIONAL PARK

## WALKS

# Bubba

Bubba wetlands feature billabongs and swamps dotted with lilies and fringed with paperbarks and freshwater mangroves.



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Jabiru hunting the shallows

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Stop to feel the soft bark of a paperbark during your walk

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Pandanus leaves are used for weaving and the seeds inside the orange fruits are eaten

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## BUBBA WETLAND WALK (DRY SEASON ONLY)

**Distance:** 4 km loop

**Time:** 2 hours

**Grade:** Easy

**Start:** Muirella Park camping area

The best time for the Bubba wetland walk is from the mid to late dry season. Turn right at the beginning of the Bubba wetland walk to follow the yellow-tipped posts in an anti-clockwise direction.



Australian Government



# PARK NOTE

## KAKADU WETLANDS

Along the Bubba walk you can see plants and animals typical of Kakadu's wetlands. These paperbark swamps, fringing woodlands and stands of freshwater mangroves and pandanus all provide resources important to Bininj.

## PAPERBARK SWAMP

When crossing the first creek you will be surrounded by tall paperbarks. These trees are flooded during the wet season. Look for the brown watermark on the trunks to see wet season water levels.

Take a deep breath as you stand among the broad-leaved paperbarks (*Melaleuca viridiflora*). These trees provide nectar for many animals, including various honeyeaters and flying-foxes.

Bininj use the thick papery bark for bedding, bandages, shelter, rafts, temporary containers, and cooking. The bark and trunks make excellent canoes.

## FRINGING WOODLAND

Ghost gums (*Eucalyptus papuana*) and bloodwoods (*Corymbia latifolia*) favour sandy soils on the edge of wetlands. Look closely at the trees for termite tracks and nests.

Mistletoes often grow in the branches of eucalypts and bloodwoods. These semi-parasitic plants have distinctly different leaves to their host plants.

## FRESHWATER MANGROVES

Freshwater mangroves (*Barringtonia acutangula*) line the edges of permanent waterways.

Bininj pound the bark of freshwater mangroves to make a poison to stun fish. Its red flowers signal the time to collect freshwater mussels.

## PANDANUS

Pandanus (*Pandanus spiralis*) are common along the margins of creeks and swamps. Their long prickly leaves grow spirally up the trunk.

Aboriginal women use pandanus leaves to weave baskets and mats. Many of the local woven artefacts are made from these leaves. Seeds are eaten raw and roasted.

## LOOK AFTER YOURSELF

Do not swim or enter the water

Protect yourself from the sun - wear a hat and cover up with loose, light clothing

Protect yourself from biting insects - cover up with loose clothing

## WHEN WALKING

Keep to marked tracks

Wear sturdy footwear

Carry and drink plenty of water

Carry a First Aid Kit

Avoid walking in the heat of the day

## LOOK AFTER THE PARK

Carry out your rubbish, including cigarette butts, fruit peel and tissues

Do not approach, feed or interfere with any wildlife

## CROCODILE SAFETY

These wetlands are known estuarine (saltwater) crocodile habitat. Do not enter the water under any circumstances.

For more information contact:  
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The darter uses its long, pointed bill to spear fish as it swims under water. Like cormorants, darters are often seen with their wings spread out to dry because their feathers lack waterproof oils

## Legend

 Lookout

 Camping

 Walk

