



# kakadu™

NATIONAL PARK

CAMP SITE WALKS

## Gunlom area

Jawoyn traditional custodians welcome you and hope you enjoy your stay at Gunlom.

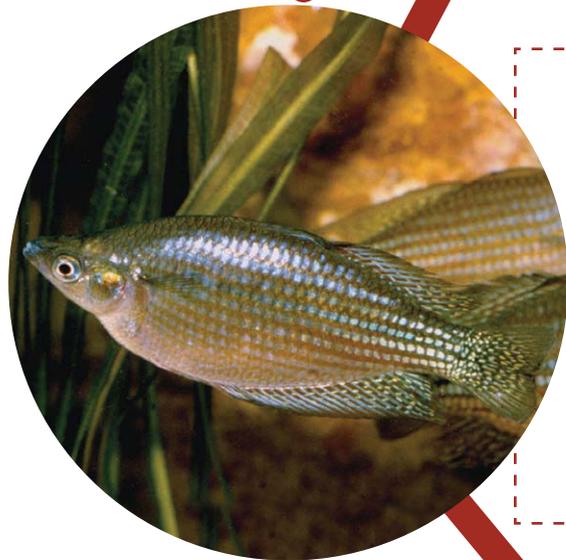
Gurnjin nu-ny-jawurritj-mar lerr-nyirrang-luk nabay leku. Yanganbo na-jawoyn njirri-m-budiyay niwula. Nabay ngan-gukiyak nu-ng-gan.gan. Nu-m-burruyu nen ngan-garlayak-jatgorrang. nu-welang-goyindin lerr-nurrang-luk.

Today you've come to our country, that's good. Long ago we Jawoyn lived here. The old people have passed on. It's okay for you to go around here. You stay maybe two nights, then you go back to your country.

Violet Smith, Wurrkbarbar clan  
Jawoyn traditional custodian



1



2

1 Enjoy cool rock pools and views of the southern hills and ridges from the top of Gunlom

2 Rainbow fish inhabit Arnhem Land escarpment rock pools

3 From the top of Gunlom you have views of three habitats of the southern hills and ridges - stone country, woodland and riparian (riverine)

3



A steep lookout walk leads to rock pools and views of the southern hills and ridges. The flat, easy walk to Murrill Billabong is great for bird watching, as is the short walk to the main pool below the seasonal waterfall. There is a grassed, shady picnic area and camping facilities include solar-powered hot showers.



Australian Government



## PARK NOTE

# Gunlom

## GUNLOM PLUNGE POOL

**Features:** Seasonal waterfall and a large plunge pool  
**Distance:** 200 metres return  
**Grade:** Disabled access

## GUNLOM LOOKOUT WALK

**Features:** Rock pools and superb views at the top of the falls  
**Distance:** 1km return  
**Grade:** Difficult climb, marked track

## MURRILL BILLABONG WALK

**Features:** A small seasonal billabong and the South Alligator River  
**Distance:** Billabong 1km return  
 River 2.5km return  
**Grade:** Easy, marked track

# Beyond Gunlom

## YURMIKMIK

**Features:** A network of walking tracks which take in the plunge pools and wet season waterfalls of the Marrawal Plateau  
**Access:** 2WD  
 See the Yurmikmik Park Note for more information.

## GIMBAT AND GURATBA

(CORONATION HILL)  
**Features:** A scenic drive to a shady picnic area by the South Alligator River  
**Access:** 4WD only, day use only

## BUKBUKLUK

**Features:** A lookout with escarpment views and a shady picnic area  
**Access:** 2WD, day use only

## MAGUK (BARRAMUNDI GORGE)

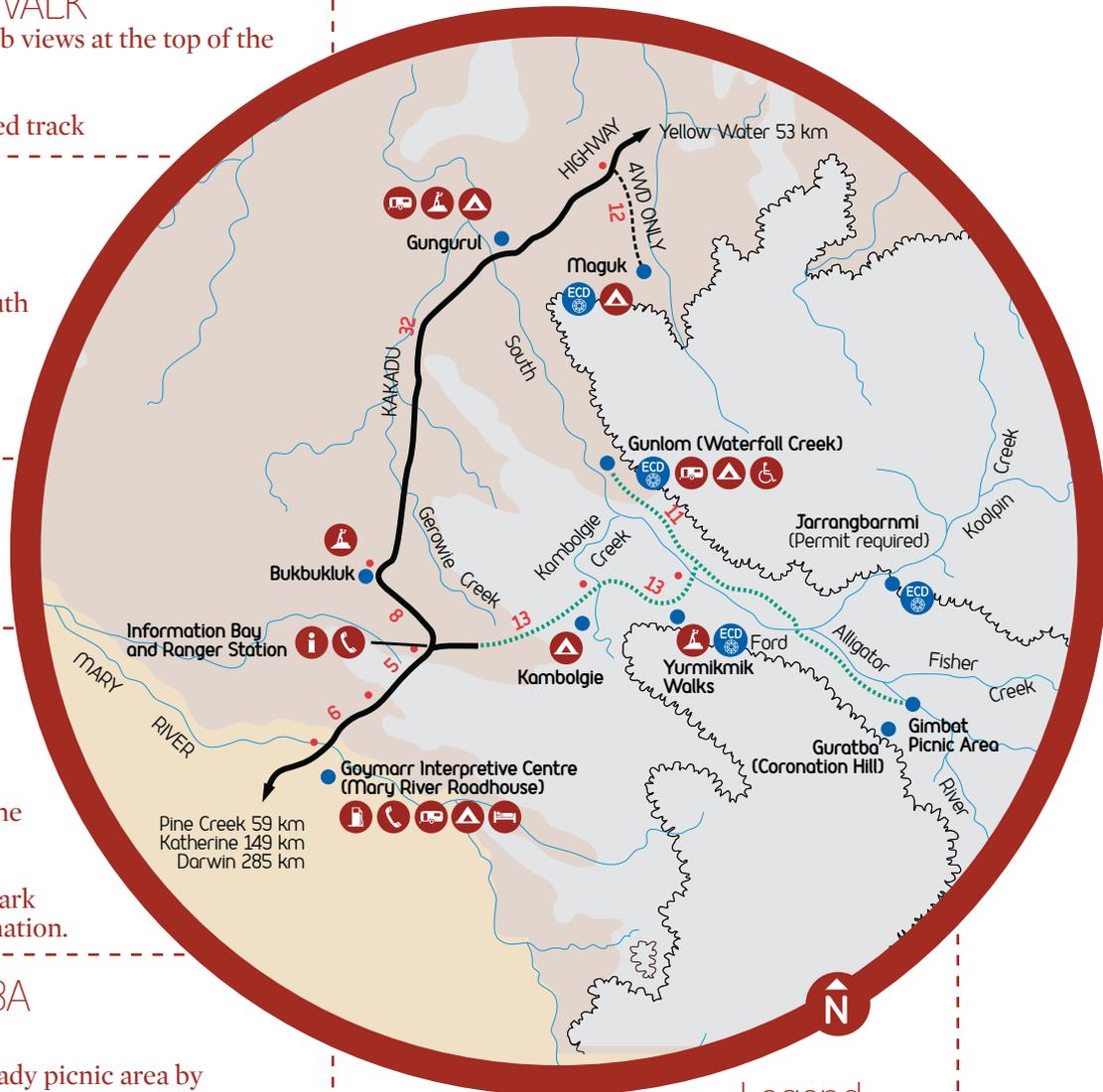
**Features:** A plunge pool and seasonal waterfall  
**Access:** 4WD, camping area

## GUNGURUL

**Features:** A rest stop with picnic tables, toilets, lookout walk and short walk to South Alligator River.  
**Access:** 2WD, camping area.

# BULADJANG, SICKNESS COUNTRY

Much of this region is known to Jawoyn as Buladjang, or sickness country. Jawoyn say that if people disturb Buladjang country they will become unwell. Scientists have made a correlation between the location of potentially harmful mineral deposits such as uranium and the location of major Bula sites.



	Toilets		Emergency Call Devise
	Carpark		Walking Track
	Lookout		Unsealed Road
	Aboriginal Rock Art		Disabled



4 Rock pools at the top of Maguk

## JAWOYN CREATION ANCESTORS

Bula, the most important Jawoyn creation ancestor, came from the northern saltwater country with his wives, the Ngalenjelenje.

As Bula hunted across the country, he created the features of the landscape and left his image as paintings in rock shelters. Bula then went underground in the upper South Alligator River valley where his ngan-mol (spirit) lies today.

Jawoyn are responsible for looking after this country and preventing disturbances which could upset Bula and cause universal destruction.

When Bula created the country, he brought with him other creation ancestors. These included garrkayn (brown goshawk) who created part of the landscape and brought the law with him; barrk (black wallaroo); belerrk (gecko lizard); ngarratj (white cockatoo); gupu (plains kangaroo or antilopine wallaroo); and bolung (rainbow serpent).

Bolung lives in the pool below the waterfall at Gunlom and is an important life-giving spirit. However, if disturbed, Bolung can also cause dangers such as lightning storms and big winds. Bolung is particularly dangerous during the wet season.

## NEWCOMERS

In 1845 Ludwig Leichhardt explored this area and recorded "a valley extending far ahead and through it meandered a large river, joined by many tributary creeks coming from the east, southeast, southwest and west".

This was the South Alligator River, named by coastal explorer Captain Phillip Parker King from his ship in 1818.

In 1862, John McDouall Stuart found an overland route from South Australia to the north coast. Stuart reported "the country gone over today... is good for pasturage purposes... of the finest

description... splendidly grassed... with all the water that could be desired... and beautiful alluvial soil."

A large pastoral lease was taken up in the Gunlom region in 1878, but proved unsuitable for grazing and was abandoned. In 1937 the Gimbat lease was taken up by Joseph Callanan who managed to make a living from cattle until he sold the lease in 1964. The new lessee moved buffalo here 1974, but this venture proved unsuccessful.

Following the discovery of gold near Pine Creek in 1871 many people came into the Katherine and Adelaide River region. In the 1940s Joseph Callanan began small-scale mining of silver, lead and zinc in this area.

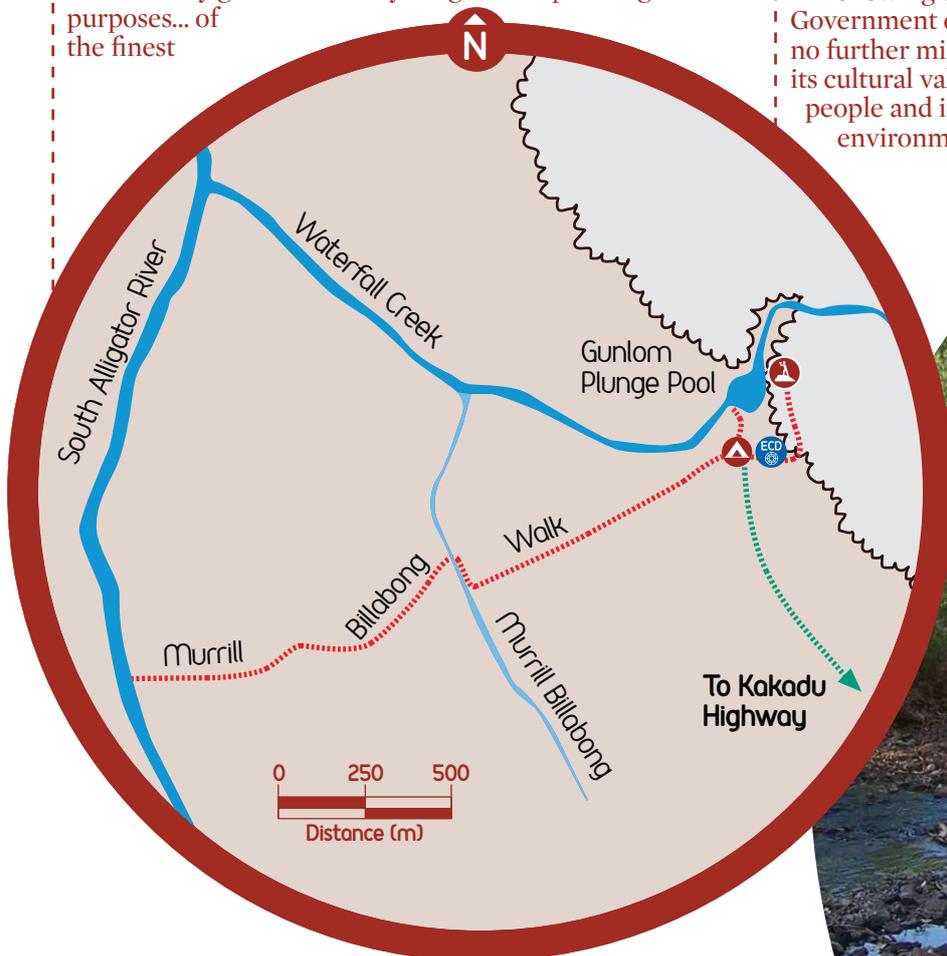
In 1953 Commonwealth Government surveys found a major deposit of uranium at Guratba and named the place Coronation Hill because the discovery coincided with the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The discovery of uranium focussed large-scale exploration and mining activity on the headwaters of the South Alligator River.

Thirteen uranium and gold mines operated in this area between 1954 and 1964, including mines near Gunlom, El Sherana and Coronation Hill. Gunlom was known as UDP Falls because it was the early camp site of the Uranium Development and Prospecting Company. About 150 people lived in the area at the peak of this activity and in 1956 the company built a cricket pitch here. In 1964 mining stopped as uranium contracts finished due to a world oversupply.

Tourists started to visit in the mid 1950s. They used mining tracks around the South Alligator River to get to the rivers, creeks and waterfalls. With the attraction of buffalo and barramundi, by the 1960s the area had become a popular visitor destination.

During the 1980s proposals for mineral exploration in the area and a gold, platinum and palladium mine at Coronation Hill created a national debate.

Following extensive inquiries the Commonwealth Government decided that there should be no further mining here because of its cultural value to Jawoyn people and its significant environmental values.



5 Many people stop to look at Kombolgie Creek on their way to Gunlom



## CONSERVATION

In 1972 the falls were included in a 300 acre recreation reserve managed by the Northern Territory Reserves Board.

From the 1970s the Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry recommended that a national park be created to protect the natural and cultural values of the upper South Alligator River. This southern region was added progressively to Kakadu National Park in 1987 and 1992.

Today Kakadu National Park is managed jointly by its traditional custodians and Parks Australia.

## CHANGING TIMES

Munggy, as the Jawoyn Aboriginal people of the southern part of Kakadu call themselves, have experienced great changes since the arrival of Mam (non-Aboriginal people).

Munggy contributed to pastoral enterprises, buffalo hunting, prospecting and mining industries. The contact with other cultures altered their traditional lifestyles and led to a decline in the Munggy population through dislocation and disease.

During World War II many Munggy were moved to army control camps. Some returned to their country after the war while others settled in towns.

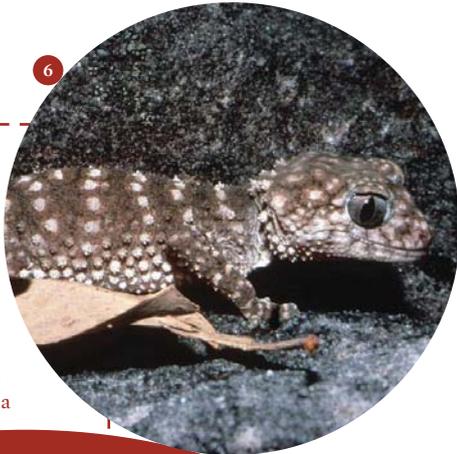
Today most Jawoyn live in towns and communities in the Katherine and Pine Creek areas. Jawoyn are represented on the Kakadu National Park Board of Management and are employed as cultural advisers and park staff.

6

Poywek (northern knob-tailed gecko) stalks the base of rock faces and caves for insects

7

As the dry season progresses, the waterfall at Gunlom is reduced to a trickle



7



## LOOK AFTER YOURSELF

Do not approach or interfere with any wildlife

Do not jump off rocks or cliffs as there are unseen dangers. Accidents have resulted in injury and death

The water at Gunlom suddenly becomes deep and cold

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

Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles inhabit Kakadu waters - observe and obey crocodile warning signs

## CROCODILE SAFETY

Park rangers check Gunlom for estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles at the end of each wet season. This pool is closed until rangers have completed surveys and are confident that there are no signs of estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles present. However, be aware that crocodiles can move into this area undetected at any stage.

Not all of the rock pools are checked by rangers for crocodiles. You enter the water at your own risk.

## 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

Fishing is not permitted in the southern part of Kakadu, including Gunlom

Put all of your rubbish in the bins provided, including extinguished cigarette butts, fruit peel and tissues

Use the toilets provided

Do not disturb or feed the wildlife

Use fuel stoves in preference to open fires

If lighting a fire, collect firewood on the way to your camp rather than at the campsite. Use firewood sparingly

## IN AN EMERGENCY

There is an Emergency Call Device near the start of the Gunlom lookout walk. This device is only for emergency requests for medical help, search and rescue, or to notify park staff of any other incident requiring an urgent response.

For more information contact:  
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