



Australian Government
Parks Australia



kakadu[®]
NATIONAL PARK

GUNUMELENG SEASON

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE # 7

19 December 2014



Storms on the South Alligator floodplain

TAKE CARE WHILE YOUR ARE TRAVELLING THIS FESTIVE SEASON

At this time of year, site access can be affected by severe storms associated with flash flooding and significant stream rises. Please travel safely and take any changing weather conditions into account.

Sign up to our road report to receive up-to-date information on site access and road conditions:

<http://kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com/>



KAKADU DURING THE CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR BREAK

All the team in Kakadu would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas! Kakadu is a magic place to celebrate and spend time with family and friends – there are many exciting places to visit in the park if you happen to be spending time with us during this period – stormy Ubirr sunsets, cascades off Nourlangie rock and carpets of native ginger, Namarrgon sunsets at Nawurlandja, the magical Yellow Water Billabong as the water levels swell and walks to Boulder Creek and Motor Car Falls along the Yurmikmik trail.



Please note **Bowali and Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centres will be closed on Christmas Day 25 December 2014**. Bowali's information board with road conditions and access notes will be up to date over Christmas – rangers will be on duty throughout the festive period to respond to any emergencies via the Emergency Call Devices (ECD) – for all other emergencies we recommend calling the emergency services on 000. Bowali will remain open as usual 8am – 5pm for the remainder of the festive period.

Warradjan's opening hours have changed for the season. The centre will be open from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm daily until 16 March 2015.

To help plan your travel ahead of Christmas Day why not contact our Bowali team on (08) 8938 1120 or email Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au?

Additionally, please note that Kakadu's office staff will not be available from Friday 25 December 2014 to Friday 2 January 2015. Please keep this in mind if you have any permit enquiries. Otherwise, be sure to take care of yourself and the people around you while enjoying the festive season.

A MILESTONE FOR THE NEW DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN



Louise Harrison & Zoe Cozens of the planning team

Congratulations to the Natural and Cultural Programs planning team this week, who celebrated the release of Kakadu's draft management plan for public comment. The release of the draft plan wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated work of the planning team who have kept the drafting of the plan on track.

The draft plan is available for public comment until 30 January 2015, and will be finalised by the Board of Management after all of the comments received have been carefully considered. It is hoped that the final plan will be sent to the Minister for approval in late 2015.

In addition to this, a 'mini plan' has been prepared for Binini/Munguy – the traditional owners of Kakadu. It summarises in plain English the draft management plan for Kakadu and, with the assistance of Violet Lawson and Murray Garde (pictured), has also been translated into the local Gundjeihmi Aboriginal language. The mini plan is available at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/kakadu-draft-management-plan>



For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 89 381120 or visit our websites: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu for visitor information or www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators for useful forms and info

UBIRR WET SEASON PERMITS

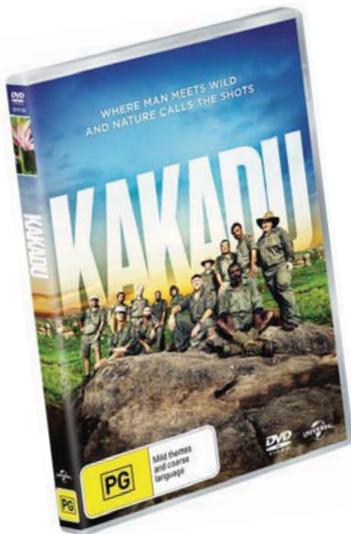
From 1 December 2014 tour operators and their guides have only been able to access Ubirr between 8.30 am and sunset if they hold a special Ubirr wet season access permit.

Most permits have already been issued, but a few Tour Guide Agreements are still outstanding. We would like to remind everyone that forms cannot be completed on behalf of another person and guides must return the signed forms if they wish to access Ubirr prior to 2:00 pm. Please check condition 21 of your Ubirr wet season access permit. Return your form to staff at Bowali Visitor Centre or emailed to Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au.

Those who are yet to lodge an Ubirr wet season access permit are still welcome to apply, but may have to wait until the new year for their applications to be processed. Please contact the email address above or the Permits Officer on 08 8938 1140 if you have any questions.

KAKADU MERCHANDISE CAN MAKE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

If you are stuck for ideas for a great Christmas gift for your friends and family, come and visit us at the Bowali front counter. As you already know, we are selling a range of Kakadu branded merchandise. These consist of:



T-shirts	\$30
Kids T-shirts	\$25
Backpacks	\$25
Caps	\$20
Water bottles	\$15
Croc stickers and magnets	
Kakadu series DVD	\$29.95
Kakadu Blu-ray	\$31.25

NEW LOOK INDUSTRY UPDATE IN THE NEW YEAR

Prepare yourselves for a new-look industry update in the New Year. The park will be launching a fresh, new-look industry update that will align with Kakadu's iconic branding. In addition to having a face lift, we would like to add some new content into each update, so if you have any ideas for stories/articles, please contact the Project and Communications Officer on 08 8938 1176 or by email at Kakadu.Permits@environment.gov.au.

After all, this is newsletter designed to keep you informed, so we would like to provide you with the information you want/need to hear. We look forward to hearing your ideas.

CHANGES TO KAKADU FEE STRUCTURE

You would have received an email from us on Wednesday morning, announcing our plan to update Kakadu's pricing structure from 1 April 2016. You might also have caught some of the media coverage this week.

Until 1 April 2016, Kakadu's fees remain unchanged (an adult ticket costs \$25 per person, children and Territorians are free). For information on current prices visit:

www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/plan-your-trip/passes-and-permits.html

From 1 April 2016, international and interstate visitors to Kakadu will be asked to make a greater contribution to the development and upkeep of visitor facilities and experiences. The new fee structure will include differential wet and dry season rates.

The extra revenue will be reinvested directly back into the park, so Kakadu can keep rolling out fresh facilities and experiences and keep the park's landscapes healthy.

The Kakadu Board of Management and its Tourism Consultative Committee have been discussing the new approach with tourism operators and industry representatives for more than two years.

Please find attached at the back of this update a fact sheet on the changes from 1 April 2016. If you have any questions regarding the fee changes, please contact Tracey Diddams 08 8938 1107. If you would like to provide formal feedback, you can do so at parksonlinefeedback@environment.gov.au

KNOW YOUR KAKADU

Kakadu is home to an estimated 75 threatened species, probably more than any other Australian conservation reserve. Like most of northern Australia, the park has seen a worrying decline in threatened species over the last decade. In response to these worrying facts, Kakadu is ramping up action to bring threatened species back to Australia's largest national park with the release of Kakadu's Threatened Species Strategy.

Work on the strategy will start immediately, through a \$750,000 investment coordinated by the Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews. This is in addition to the significant conservation work funded through Kakadu's total \$17 million annual budget.

The \$750,000 will deliver four priority projects, in partnership with Indigenous ranger groups where possible, aimed at giving a kick start the work ahead.

Project 1 - Intensive work to target threats from fire, weeds and feral animals in crucial habitat, extending from the Stone Country to the lowland woodlands.

Project 2 - Creating a wildlife refuge on Gardangarl (Field Island) for species struggling on the mainland including small mammals and goannas.

Project 3 - Expanding the 'toad smart' quolls project, building on the highly successful research conducted in Kakadu since 2010.

Project 4 – Seed-banking and propagating threatened plant species, many of which occur nowhere else in the world.





Kakadu National Park

These changes will be introduced on 1 April 2016. Until then, Kakadu's fees remain unchanged (an adult ticket costs \$25 per person, children and Territorians are free).

The changes will generate extra revenue which will be reinvested back into the park, underpinning the roll out of fresh facilities and experiences, and caring for the landscapes that attract visitors from all over the world.

From 1 April 2016, Kakadu will have a new seasonal fee structure, with a higher cost in the dry season (peak time) and a lower price in the wet season.

- In the wet season (November to March), an adult pass will cost \$25.
- In the dry season (April to October), an adult pass will cost \$40.

Kakadu will remain free for Territorians, all year round.

A discount of 10 per cent will be introduced for anyone buying their ticket online.

A discount will be introduced for seniors, pensioners, disabled pensioners and their carers. It will offer a saving of around 25 per cent on the price of an adult ticket.

A pensioner pass will cost \$19 in the wet season (November to March) and \$30 in the dry season (April to October).

Children 5-15 years will pay half the adult entry fee. This will bring Kakadu into line with most other attractions around Australia. Children four years old and younger will remain free.

- In the wet season (November to March), a child pass will cost \$12.50.
- In the dry season (April to October), a child pass will cost \$20.

A new family pass will be introduced, which provides a discount for larger families.

- A family pass will cost \$65 in the wet season (November to March) and \$100 in the dry season (April to October).
- It will cover two adults and two or more children. This represents a discount of around 15 per cent, with additional children included at no extra cost.

Children travelling in school groups will remain free, all year round. New education presentations will be available at a small cost from 1 July 2015, for groups who would like a ranger-guided activity.

Passes will be valid for seven days (rather than the current 14 days), but can be extended for another seven days at no charge if required. This better reflects the usual length of stay.

Camping fees will increase slightly (the first increase since 2009).

- Camping fees for adults will increase (per night) from \$5 to \$6 at unmanaged campgrounds (with drop toilets) and from \$10 to \$15 at managed campgrounds (hot showers and toilets).
- Children (5-15 years) will pay half the adult price - \$3 per night for unmanaged campgrounds and \$7.50 per night for managed campgrounds. Children four and under remain free.
- A new family camping rate will be introduced, at \$15 for unmanaged campgrounds and \$38 for managed campgrounds (per night). This covers two adults and two or more children, offering around a 15 per cent discount.

Remote campgrounds remain free (no toilet facilities).

	CURRENT KAKADU PRICES	KAKADU PRICES FROM 1 APRIL 2016		
		(plus 10% discount for buying your park pass online)		
Visitor type	All year round	Wet season (Nov-March)	Dry season (April-Oct)	Family ticket (two adults and two or more children - 15% discount)
NT residents	Free	Free	Free	Free
Adult (16 years and over)	\$25	\$25	\$40	\$65 wet season
Child (5-15 years)	Free	\$12.50	\$20	\$100 dry season
Child (4 years and under)	Free	Free	Free	
Concession (25% discount)	\$25	\$19	\$30	-

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

These changes will be introduced on 1 April 2016. Until then, Uluru's fees remain unchanged (an adult ticket costs \$25 per person, children are free).

This will be the first change to Uluru's prices since 2004.

The adult park pass will remain unchanged at \$25 per visit. This gives you three days in the park.

Children 5-15 years will pay half the adult entry fee (\$12.50). This will bring Uluru into line with most other attractions around Australia. Children four years old and younger will remain free.

A new family pass will be introduced, which provides a discount for larger families.

- A family pass will cost \$65.
- It will cover two adults and two or more children. This represents a discount of around 15 per cent, with additional children included at no extra cost.

The annual pass for adults will remain unchanged at \$32.50.

An annual pass for children (5-15 years) will be introduced at half the adult rate (\$15).

The annual \$65 Territorian pass remains unchanged. This allows NT residents to bring a car load of friends and family into the park at any time throughout the year.

The Yulara resident pass remains unchanged at \$21.65 for six months.

For more information visit:

Kakadu - <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators>

Uluru - <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators-0>