



# kakadu<sup>®</sup>

NATIONAL PARK

**Garri-djarrkdurrkmirri**  
Working together

# TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE

WURRGENG SEASON

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## It's starting to get cool in Kakadu – Wurrheng must be here.

This is the 'cold weather' time. Humidity is low, daytime temperatures are around 30°C and night-time temperatures are around 17°C. Most creeks stop flowing and the floodplains dry out over the season. Burning continues, extinguished by the dew at night. By day, birds of prey patrol the fire lines as insects and small animals try to escape the flames.

- **4 Mile Hole is now open.**
- **The Red Lily Track is now open, 4WD access only.**
- **The gravel road to Jim Jim and Twin Falls has just been graded.**  
**Please exercise caution and adhere to all speed limits and all traffic signage.**

Sign up to our road report to receive up-to-date information on site access and road conditions: [kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com](http://kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com)

## Facebook

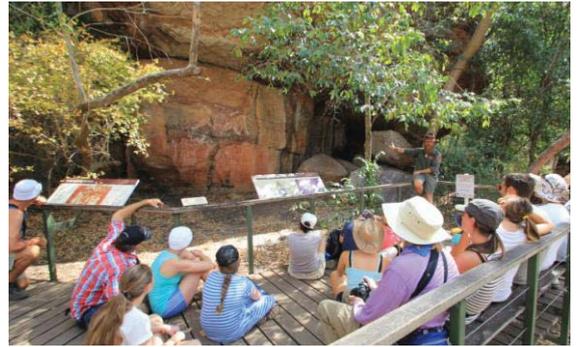
Check out our Facebook page to see the latest info on the park

[https://www.facebook.com/  
KakaduNationalPark](https://www.facebook.com/KakaduNationalPark)

## Avoid the Crowds by Planning Your Trip around Ranger and Cultural Activities

Right now in Kakadu, there is plenty on offer for visitors:

- Join Indigenous Njanjma rangers as they share stories and cultural knowledge at Ubirr.
- Painting or weaving demonstrations with master artists from Injalak Art Centre at Merl campground.
- Slideshows with a ranger in Jabiru and Gunlom campground.
- Guided walks to the top of the escarpment at Gunlom and art site talks at Burrungkuy (Nourlangie Rock).



These free activities are typically designed for FITs who don't have the benefit of travelling with a knowledgeable tour guide. So, if you are bringing a large tour group into the park, please try to avoid these free activities so that both your group and the ranger-guided group can enjoy these sites without congestion. It would be a shame to get stuck in a crowd Australia's largest terrestrial national park.

As the season progresses, we will be adding new activities to the current program, so stay tuned for updates via our road report, our facebook page, email (get on the mailing list by emailing [lia.arcioni@environment.gov.au](mailto:lia.arcioni@environment.gov.au)), visit the website <http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/do/tours.html> or call Bowali Visitor Centre.

## Signage Project is a go!

We are pleased to announce that we have engaged signage company Armsign to upgrade our park entry, orientation, directional and interpretation signage across the Park! This project has been a long time coming, and we are well on our way!

Armsign has lots of experience creating signage in national parks, Indigenous sites and remote areas, including Uluru, Booderee, Boodjamulla National Park, Carnarvon Gorge, and other QLD and NSW national parks. Check out some of their great work at: <http://www.armsign.com.au/>.



Armsign will start by finalising the general style design for the Kakadu Signage 'family' - all the different sign types. The general designs will be approved by the Signage Project Steering Committee, traditional owner representatives and parks executive. Designs for individual signs will be created with local Indigenous artists and with content input from traditional owners. This is the time to get the interpretation right, to communicate stories and meanings in a beautiful visual manner. We hope to have an opportunity for broad input into choosing the final park entry designs- watch this space for exciting news!

Expect to see the first signs being installed by November this year.

You will also start seeing 're-branded' regulatory signs around the park, as the final signage audit has been completed, all signs accounted and re-designed. There are about 500 of these and standard road signage to go up, so this will happen over the next few months.

Please contact [Kate.McMahon@environment.gov.au](mailto:Kate.McMahon@environment.gov.au) for any information or comments.

## Have you got your Park Passes?

Recently several operators have been caught bringing tour groups into Kakadu without Park Passes. As you are aware your permit for commercial tours was issued by the Director of National Parks on the provision that the holder understands and agrees to comply with permit conditions.

Failure to comply with permit requirements is in breach of the following condition:

*Section 35: The permittee's clients must not include a person aged 16 years or over unless:*

- a) *the person is a Northern Territory resident; or*
- b) *the park entry fee has been paid by the person and they are in possession of a Park Pass that shows:*
  - (i) *the person's name and*
  - (ii) *the "entry" and "valid to" dates completed, with the 'valid to' date being no more than 14 days after the 'entry' date.*

Please keep in mind that failure to adhere to this conditions can result in a criminal fine of **\$8,500** under *Regulation 17.08 (contravene condition of permit) of the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation (EPBC) Regulations 1999.*

In the future, any report of a breach of legislation may result in on-the-spot fines or the matter being referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. Severe penalties may apply. In addition, the Director of National Parks may suspend or cancel your permit to conduct a commercial activity in the park.

For more information on how to purchase Park Passes for upcoming trips, please visit

<http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/plan-your-trip/passes-and-permits.html>

## Entering Closed Areas

As the dry season progresses and Wurrngeng is upon us with beautiful crisp mornings, dry conditions and pleasant days of low humidity, more and more sites become accessible to visitors of the park. However, a few areas will remain closed for a little longer.

Tempting as it may be to go off the beaten track, remember it is an offence to enter a closed area. Please familiarise yourself with condition 9 of your commercial tour permit which states that a *'permittee must not walk off track or use any road, track or area that is permanently, temporarily or seasonally closed or restricted by fences, gates or signs, unless specifically authorised by this or another permit'*.



Don't get caught out. Our compliance team is regularly out and about conducting random checks and may issue fines for those breaching the permit conditions.

## The Border Store is Now Open

After another long wait over the wet season, the Border Store has finally opened its doors for basic supplies, such as drinks and ice creams. Michael and the family will start meal service from tomorrow, 1 July. with a great assortment of the Thai classics we have all come to enjoy on our trips to the East Alligator region of the park.

Please make sure you call ahead if you are planning on stopping in for a meal in the evening. Otherwise, see you there.

Border Store: 08 8979 2474

## Park Passes Now on Sale at Mary River

Spread the word – Park Passes are now available from the Mary River ranger station!

Make sure you get down to the south of the park during your next trip, as passes and information are now available from 8:30 to 4:30, Monday – Friday.

While Park Pass sales are currently not available on weekends, we will be sure to keep everyone posted if anything changes.

## Know Your Kakadu - Bobo Gundjeihmi dja yi-bebmen Kundjeyhmi

We have an important announcement. After recent language planning and consultation work in Kakadu National Park, the Gundjeihmi-speaking community has decided to switch its orthography or spelling system to the same one used by all the other Bininj Kunwok varieties. This means that now there will only be one spelling system for the Bininj Kunwok dialects Kunwinjku, Kundjeyhmi, Kune, Kuninjku and Kundedjnjenghmi. "Gundjeihmi" was how the language was spelt in the "old" spelling system. Now it will be "Kundjeyhmi". This change is a response to recent language teaching programs in Kakadu National Park where the existence of two orthographies was inconvenient and confusing for both teachers and students involved in literacy work.

We expect that where the old spelling has been "frozen" in proper names such as "Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation" there will be no change and the old spelling will remain. But elsewhere it's "bobo Gundjeihmi dja yi-bebmen Kundjeyhmi". The differences between the two spelling systems were minimal and involved use of both g and k in "Gundjeihmi" whereas the Kunwinjku spelling system uses only k. Also, diphthongs in the "Gundjeihmi" orthography were spelt with a sequence of two vowels (ai, ei, oi, ui, au, eu, iu, ou) whilst Kunwinjku uses vowel+semi vowel (ay, ey, oy, uy, aw, ew, iw, ow). You can refresh your knowledge of the spelling system at:

<http://bininjgunwok.org.au/information/orthography/>

This story was taken from the Bininj Kunwok site.

## Croc Spotted at Anbangbang

Check out this great photo of a croc spotted at Anbangbang Billabong recently! This salty was estimated to be around 2.5 - 3 metres in length, so certainly nothing you would like to bump into while taking a stroll.

Please use this as a reminder to exercise caution when planning activities around all water bodies in Kakadu.



We would like to know what you are interested in learning about regarding Kakadu.

If you have any suggestions as to what you would like included in a future edition of the Industry Update, please forward your suggestion to [Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au](mailto:Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au)

For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit our websites.

Visitor Information

[www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu)

Useful forms and information

[www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators](http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators)