



kakadu[®]
NATIONAL PARK

WALKS

ART
SITES

Ubirr

Welcome to Ubirr, where kunbim (rock art) depicts traditional foods and tells stories about law and creation.

At Ubirr you can see a range of different art styles and how new paintings are often superimposed over older ones. Stories about behaviour and law are told at the Mabuyu, Namarrkan sisters and Rainbow Serpent paintings. Known at Ubirr by her Gagudju name, Garranga'rreli, the Rainbow Serpent travelled through this area in human form and painted her image on a rock here to remind people of her presence. She also left traces of her passing in the nearby Manngararre rainforest.

Traditionally, groups of people camped under Ubirr's cool rock shelters and utilise the rich resources of the nearby East Alligator River and Nadab floodplain. Ubirr is now looked after by neighbouring clans, the Bunidj, Manilakarr, and Mandjurlkung people.

MAIN GALLERY

Most of the x-ray paintings in this gallery are from the freshwater period, within the past 1500 years.

X-ray paintings depict the internal features of a subject, developing into an elaborate form where the animal was subdivided for purely decorative purpose. They show the abundant food available in the area surrounding Ubirr including fish, waterfowl, mussels, wallabies, goannas, echidnas, and yams. The main gallery also has interesting examples of contact art which features new subjects appearing with influences of European and Macassan themes.

A 'white fella' shown wearing a shirt, boots and with his hands in his trouser pockets, was probably an early buffalo hunter painted in the 1880s. Close to the main gallery is a painting of a thylacine (Tasmanian tiger), believed to have become extinct on the Australian mainland 2000 to 3000 years ago.

For more information or to plan your trip visit

kakadu.gov.au



1

2



- 1 View from Nadab lookout
- 2 Freshwater period rock art painting of a fish in the x-ray style
- 3 Mabuyu, hunting figure

3



Australian Government
Parks Australia





4

5



LEGEND

- Walking track
- Walk: easy
- Walk: moderate
- Walk: difficult
- Parking
- Lookout
- Art site
- Toilets
- Wheelchair access
- Emergency Call Device

MORE INFORMATION

- See the Kunbim (Rock art) fact sheet for more information about rock art.
- From May to October, rangers give talks at Ubirr, Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) and other areas.

For more information on ranger guided activities, please contact the Bowali Visitor Centre.

CONSERVATION

Rock art is extremely important to the Aboriginal owners of Kakadu. It is also an important historic and scientific record of human occupation of the region.

Rock art can be damaged by many natural processes.

Boardwalks and handrails prevent both people and animals from touching and rubbing the paintings. Boardwalks also prevent dust from being stirred up and coating the paintings.

Pruning, clearing and controlled burning help reduce risks from wildfire and plants rubbing against the rocks. Rangers regularly remove nests and tunnels made by wasps and other insects.

OPENING HOURS

From 1 April to 30 November

Ubirr is open from 8.30 am to sunset.

From 1 December to 31 March

Ubirr is open from 2.00 pm to sunset. However, the road to Ubirr may be closed due to flooding at this time. Please check the Access Report first.

You go to lookout, see floodplain, bird, sunset. Don't take any alcohol up there with you. Too dangerous on top of rock, might fall over. Water and camera better. No matter you or Aborigine...Same thing, same law. No drinking at Ubirr.

Bill Neidjie Bunitj clan

4 Ubirr is one of Kakadu's must-see sites and has one of the most stunning sunset lookouts in the world

5 Ubirr site map and walking track

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The thousands of people who visit Ubirr each year pose the greatest, although unintentional threat to the rock art.

To help protect the paintings please:

- Do not touch the paintings or interfere with the silicon drip lines which are installed to divert water away from the painting so they last longer.
- Keep to the walking tracks and behind the fences and barriers.
- Do not enter prohibited areas.
- Penalties apply to anyone defacing or damaging an archaeological site or artefact.
- Alcohol is not permitted at Ubirr, or anywhere on park.

For more information contact

Bowali Visitor Centre, Kakadu National Park,
GPO Box 3090, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Tel: 08 8938 1120 • kakadunationalpark@awe.gov.au

© Director of National Parks | Updated JAN/2021 • kakadu.gov.au

@KakaduNationalPark

@SeeKakadu

@KakaduNationalP



SHARE YOUR
KAKADU
ADVENTURES!