



kakadu[®]
NATIONAL PARK

FREE
WITH YOUR
PARK PASS

Visitor guide

Welcome to the
Aboriginal lands of
Kakadu National Park,
a jointly managed
Commonwealth
reserve



kakadu.gov.au

© Parks Australia



Australian Government
Parks Australia





Our land has a big story. Sometimes we tell a little bit at a time. Come and hear our stories, see our land. A little bit might stay in your hearts. If you want more, you can come back.

Jacob Nayinggul, Manilakarr clan



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Welcome to Country

Aboriginal traditional owners welcome you to Kakadu National Park.

We are proud and happy to share this special place with you. Please take the time to look, listen, and feel the country, to experience the true essence of this land. Take care and return safely to your family and friends, and share the memories and stories you will learn.

PARK PASSES

Visitors are required to purchase a park pass to enter Kakadu National Park. The pass includes entry to the park, ranger guided activities, and information. By purchasing a park pass, you contribute to the management of Kakadu and this helps us maintain tourism services and infrastructure. A large portion of this money goes to Kakadu's Bininj/Mungguy traditional owners, supporting their homelands, training, and business development. Northern Territory residents with proof of residency do not require a park pass, however checks take place throughout the park penalties apply for non-compliance.

Purchase your park pass online, or from the Bowali Visitor Centre, and other locations on arrival.

For more information visit kakadu.gov.au

THE PARK

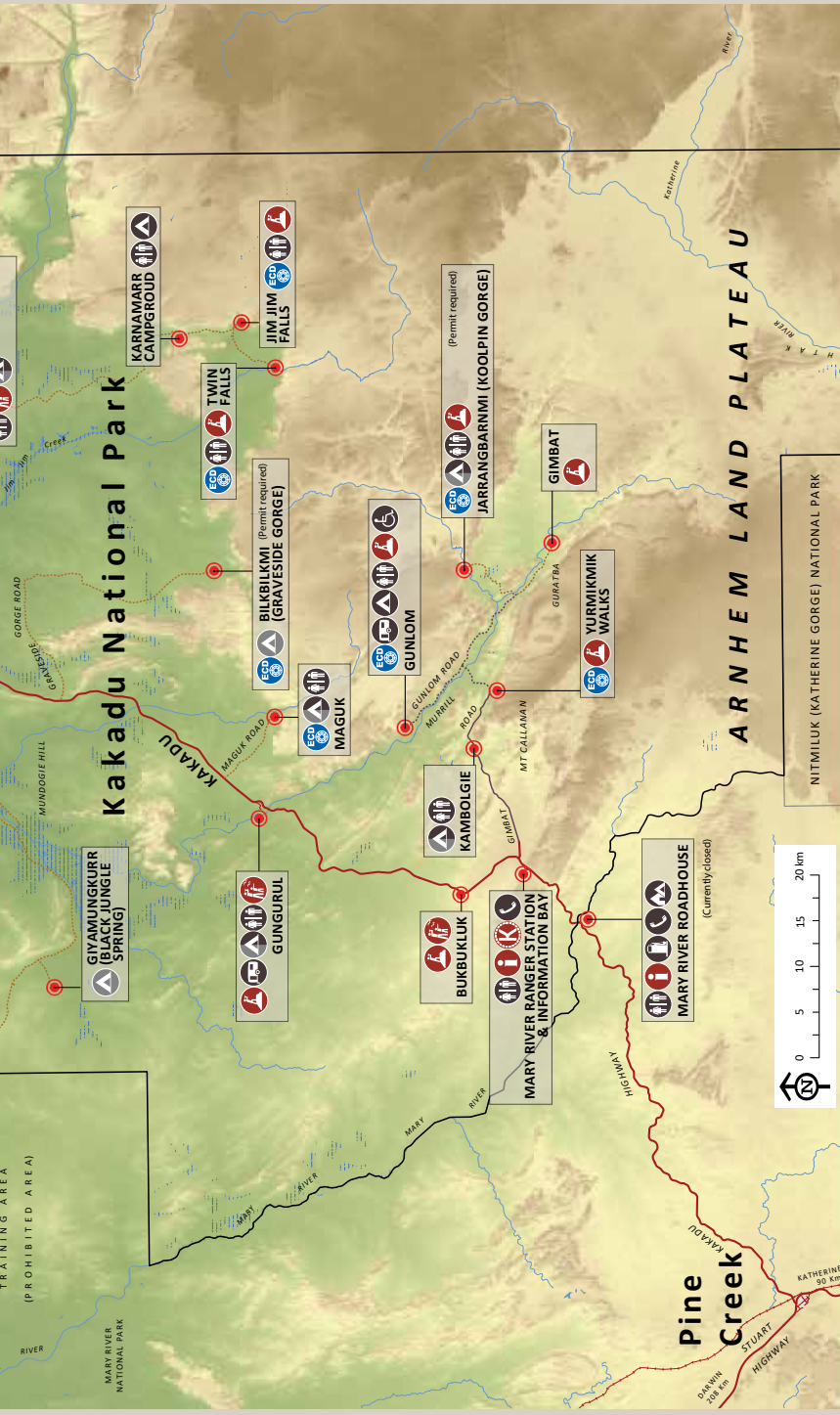
Kakadu National Park covers an enormous 20,000 square-kilometres, and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage place in recognition of its outstanding natural values and as a living cultural landscape. Aboriginal people have inhabited Kakadu continuously for more than 65,000 years, tracing back in time to before the last ice age. Ancient rock art showcasing long-extinct animals is combined with abundant wildlife and spectacular landscapes, to deliver visitors a profound and visual spiritual experience. Kakadu's complex ecosystem is habitat for a wide range of plant and animal species with one-third of Australia's bird species found within the park.


'**Kakadu**' comes from Gagudju language, which is one of the languages spoken in the north of the park and was established at the beginning of the twentieth century. Other languages used in the park today include Kunwinjku and Kundjeyhmi.

1 Enjoy sunsets at Nawurlandja.
Credit: Tourism NT

1







kakadu[®]

NATIONAL PARK

BE CROCWISE!
Crocodiles inhabit Kakadu's waterways.
Stay alert near all bodies of water, and
obey all signs.

Principal location

- Sealed road
- Unsealed 2WD (may only be 4WD accessible during wet season)
- Unsealed 2WD (closed during wet season)
- 4WD (closed during wet season)
- Railway
- Wellhead
- Waterbody

Elevation

High: 555 metres
Low: 0 metres

Kakadu park pass sales

- Information
- Recreation site
- Bird watching
- Lookout
- Boat ramp
- Scenic flights
- Commercial accommodation (Koolpin Roadhouse only)
- Camping (fee apply, collected)

Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) National Park

- Camping (fee apply, boat)
- Camping (free)
- Caravan site
- Emergency call device
- Telephone
- Fuel (Diesel & Opal fuel only)
- Toilets
- Sewage dump point
- Wheelchair access

A living cultural landscape

Kakadu is a living cultural landscape.

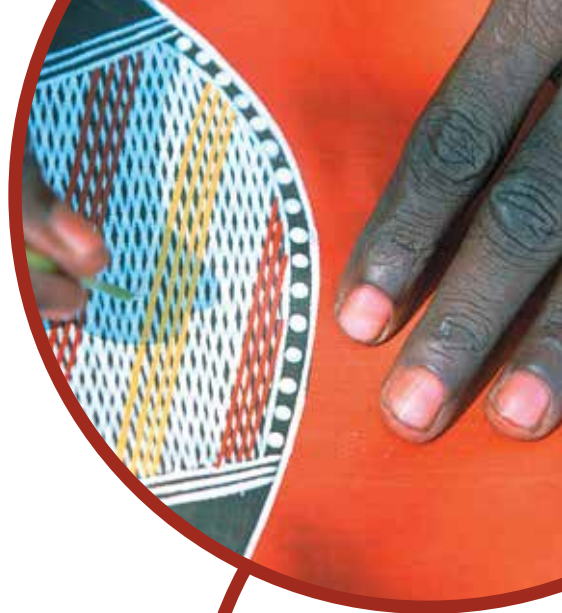
Generations of Bininj/Munggy have lived on and cared for this country for tens of thousands of years. Their spiritual connection with the land is globally recognised in Kakadu's World Heritage listing, which honours one of the oldest living societies on earth.

Language, ceremonies, kinship and caring for country are all aspects of cultural responsibility that have passed from one generation to the next since the creation of time.

Bininj/Munggy believe that during the creation time important ancestral beings, known as the first people or Nayuhungki, journeyed across the landscape creating the features and landforms, plants, animals, and generations of Bininj/Munggy who are living here today.

The land and its people have always been linked. Discover more about the local traditions and culture at the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre (*see page 23*).

The Aboriginal people of Kakadu are known as Bininj/Munggy. Bininj (pronounced Bining) is a Kunwinjku and Kundjeyhmi word; Munggy (pronounced Moong-gooy) is a Jawoyn word. Both are similar to the English word 'man' and, depending on the context, can mean man, male, person, or Aboriginal people. Balanda means non-Aboriginal people.



1



2

1 Modern art uses both acrylic and ochre paints.
Credit: Tourism NT

2 Ancient rock art tells the cultural stories such as *Namarrkon* (Lightning man)

3 Traditional Owner
Connie Nayinggul

People need to come here and relax, sit on the country, feel the spirits of this country, and go home and feel the same way.

Natasha Nadjji, Bunidj clan





4 Artwork
by Abel
Naborliborlh

Rainbow Serpent

The Rainbow Serpent is a major creator being.

She created passages through rocks and formed waterholes in the Kakadu landscape. She split rock faces and created ranges of hills, helping form the habitat for all beings.

Rainbow Serpent is a powerful ancestor, known by many Aboriginal groups throughout Australia. Rainbow Serpent played an important role in the conception of Bininj/Mungguy and their cultural obligations to care for country. She is also part of the lifecycle of plants and animals, and the seasonal changes.

The many stories and sites associated with the Rainbow Serpent are often linked to water and places where she travelled across country, leaving behind features in the landscape. Bininj/Mungguy believe she is still present today, resting, and should never be disturbed.

Along with the Rainbow Serpent, creation ancestors came in many different forms. Other important beings include Bula (Jawoyn Ancestor), Namarrkon (Lightning Man), and Warramurrungundji (Earth Mother).

In Kakadu region alone, Rainbow Serpent has many different language names. In the north she is known in Kundjeyhmi as Almudj, and in Kunwinjku she is Ngalyod. In Gagudju, Rainbow Serpent is referred to as Nama'rdeedjurr, while further south Jawoyn speakers say Bolung. Go north-west, Limilngan people say Rainbow Serpent is Lulydjudjan.



1



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1 Rainbow Serpent
rock art at Ubirr

2 Artwork by Gershom
Garingarr

3 Kakadu National Park
logo artwork by
Gabriel Maralngurra

Rock art

Mimih spirits were the first of the creation ancestors to paint on rock.

They taught some Bininj how to paint, and other Bininj learned by copying Mimih art. At the end of their journeys, some creation ancestors put themselves on rock walls as paintings and became djang (dreaming places). Some of these paintings are andjamun (sacred and dangerous) and can be seen only by senior men or women; others can be seen by all people.

Bininj/Munggay artists continue to paint on bark, paper, canvas and fabric. In some cases, the act of painting puts artists in touch with their creation ancestors — a powerful experience.

Kakadu's rock art (kunbim) represents one of the longest historical records of any group of people in the world.

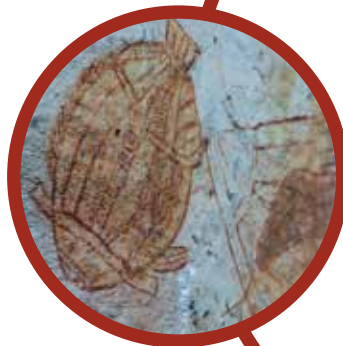
More than 5000 art sites tell of the creation ancestors and the changes in the landscape over thousands of years. Look for naturalistic paintings of animals, for traditional x-ray art, and for paintings of the first European contact.

The act of painting is generally more important than the painting itself, so many older paintings are covered by younger ones.

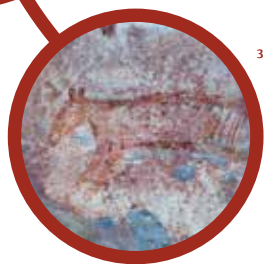
The best examples can be seen in the rock art galleries at Ubirr and Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) (see pages 36 & 38).



1



2



3

1 First contact painting at Nanguluwurr

2 Traditional x-ray art painting at Ubirr

3 A naturalistic style painting of the thylacine

In Dreaming painting, use special paint, ochre, blood. Come back with that feeling. Ceremony painting is not for everyone to see. Top business you can't see it. Go through your body and give you knowledge, Dreaming. You might dream. Good one.

Bill Neidjie, Bunidj clan



4 While we don't touch the paintings, you can still connect with ancient cultures

4 **Leichhardt's grasshopper** survives in a small pocket of Kakadu, on one species of plant.
Credit: Lords Safaris.com



Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of life. The plants, animals, insects, and all other life forms are part of vast ecosystems.

Kakadu's stunning biodiversity is internationally recognised in its listing as a World Heritage area.

Covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres, Kakadu is one of very few places World Heritage listed for both its cultural and natural values. Its enduring natural values stem from its exceptional beauty, unique biodiversity and variety of landforms, habitats and wildlife.

The protection and conservation of biodiversity is an important part of the management of this special place.

Kakadu is home to 68 mammals (almost one-fifth of Australia's mammals), more than 120 reptiles, 26 frogs, more than 300 tidal and freshwater fish species, more than 2,000 plants and more than 10,000 species of insects. It provides habitat for 290 bird species — that's roughly one-third of Australia's birds. Its internationally important wetlands are a major staging point for migratory birds.

Some species are threatened or endangered, and many are found nowhere else in the world with others still yet to be discovered.

The creation ancestors gave Bininj/ Mungguy a kinship system linking people to all things and the cultural responsibility to look after them all. They have always understood the biodiversity of country and their traditional ancestral knowledge is a vital part of managing Kakadu's rich environment.



1



2



3

1 Waterlilies of many colours attract birds and insects. *Credit: Tourism Australia*

2 Dwarf tree frogs are a common sight but only one of many species of amphibian. *Credit: Peter Eve, Tourism NT*

3 Black-necked storks use their long legs and sharp beak to stab their prey. *Credit: Tourism Australia*



Crocodiles

Crocodiles are the world's largest living reptiles. They are also one of the most ancient, having existed unchanged for nearly 200 million years.

2



- 1 Crocodile safety signs provide detailed information about what you can and cannot do in the area
- 2 Kinga, estuarine (saltwater) crocodile
- 3 Modjarrki or goymarr, freshwater crocodile

There are more than 20 species of crocodilians in the world. Two species occur in Australia: the freshwater crocodile (*crocodylus johnstonii*) and the estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles (*crocodylus porosus*). (see crocodile safety information, page 46).

Please read the crocodile warning signs, consider their information carefully and obey all safety directions. The creation ancestors gave Bininj/Mungguy a kinship system linking people to all things and the cultural responsibility to look after them all. They have always understood the biodiversity of country and their traditional ancestral knowledge is a vital part of managing Kakadu's rich environment.



3



FRESHWATER CROCODILES

Freshwater crocodiles — Modjarrkki, (*crocodylus johnstonii*) are only found in Australia, where they live in freshwater rivers, creeks and plunge pools, such as Maguk and Gunlom. Freshwater crocodiles are usually shy animals but can become aggressive if disturbed, so do not approach them.

ESTUARINE (SALTWATER) CROCODILES

Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles — Kinga, (*crocodylus porosus*) are also found in India, South East Asia and Papua New Guinea. Often called 'salties', they live in freshwater and estuarine areas such as floodplains, billabongs, gorges, rivers and coastal waters. Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles are aggressive. They have attacked and killed people in Kakadu. For your safety, please obey all crocodile warning signs — **do not** enter the water and keep away from the water's edge.

We still hunt our turtle, goanna or file snake. We used to swim in the water, but not this time because the crocs everywhere, kinga.

Yvonne Margarula, Mirarr clan

INCREASING CROCODILE NUMBERS

Between the 1940s and 1960s, crocodiles were hunted to near extinction for their skins. By 1971, both species were fully protected. The estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles population has recovered dramatically and they continue to move further inland into freshwater rivers, billabongs and creeks in search of new territory. This has changed how Bininj/ Munggyu live on country and has also increased the risk of visitors interacting with a crocodile. In some visitor areas access is only available after park staff have trapped and removed any estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles that have moved in during the summer floods. These areas, known as crocodile management zones, are extensively surveyed at the start of each dry season to ensure the risk for visitors is reduced. Traps remain in place for the entire dry season as estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles may move in at any time.

Landscapes and habitats

Within the vast landscapes of Kakadu, there are six main landforms.

Each landform and the habitat it contains has a range of plants and animals. As you move through Kakadu, take the time to explore and appreciate the diversity of the areas you visit - each one is truly unique.

STONE COUNTRY

The dominant sandstone escarpment of the Arnhem Land plateau ranges from 30 to 300 metres high. In some areas the escarpment erodes by up to one metre every thousand years. Visit the rock shelters and outliers around Ubirr and Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) for spectacular stone country.

SAVANNA WOODLANDS

Woodlands make up nearly 80 per cent of Kakadu. Appearing to consist mostly of eucalypts and tall grasses, they may seem lifeless at first glance. However, the woodlands support a greater variety of plants and animals than any other habitat in Kakadu. See the giant termite mounds in the Jim Jim or Mary River regions.

MONSOON VINE FORESTS

Monsoon vine forests occur in small, isolated patches such as the Manngarre walk or Kubara. Fruit-eating birds and flying foxes connect the plants in these pockets by dispersing pollen and seeds as they move from pocket to pocket.

SOUTHERN HILLS AND RIDGES

The hills and broken ridge lines in the south of Kakadu are the result of millions of years of erosion, creating a diversity of habitats and the presence of plants and animals that do not occur anywhere else. Head to the Mary River region to see these landscapes.

TIDAL FLATS, MANGROVES AND COASTLINE

Almost 500 square kilometres of coastal and estuarine areas, most lined with mangroves, form important nurseries for many fish including barramundi. These wetlands, including floodplains, billabongs, rivers, coasts and estuarine areas, are recognised internationally as being significant for migratory birds. The South Alligator region is the best location to see this habitat.

FLOODPLAINS, RIVERS AND BILLABONGS

Floodplains undergo dramatic seasonal changes. After summer rains, a sea of shallow freshwater spreads out for hundreds of square kilometres. As the floodplains start to dry, waterbirds and crocodiles seek refuge in the remaining wet areas such as Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) and Mamukala wetlands. A boat cruise is the best way to experience these areas.

6 Floodplains,
rivers and
billabongs



1



2



3



4



5

1 Stone country.
*Credit: Oswald
Jacobs*

2 Savanna
woodlands.
*Credit: Tourism
NT*

3 Monsoon vine
forests

4 Southern hills
and ridges.
*Credit: Tourism
Australia*

5 Tidal flats,
mangroves
and coastline

- 1 Seasonal flooding brings life to the plains and savanna
- 2 Kunumeleng, the pre-monsoon, brings storm clouds and rains from October to December
- 3 Kapok flowers and seeds indicate different bush tuckers availability



To experience the
real essence of Kakadu
please slow down.
take your time. absorb
our relationship with the land.
and embrace nature
the way we do.

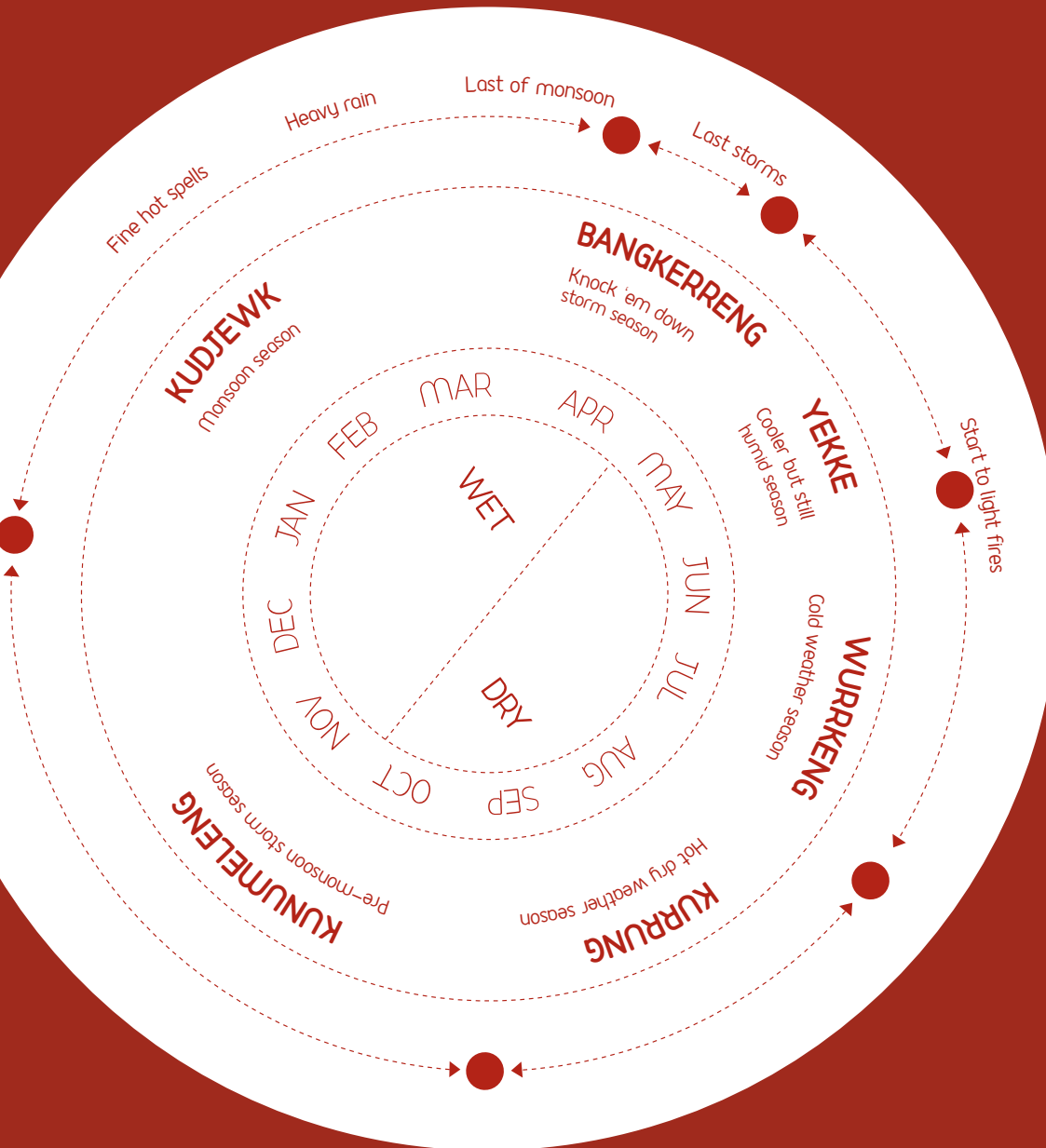


Six seasons of Kakadu

Throughout the year, Kakadu's landscapes undergo spectacular changes.

Bininj/Mungguy recognise up to six different seasons, as well as subtle variations that signpost the transition from one season to another. This knowledge of nature is fundamental to the culture of Kakadu and its people. Bininj/Mungguy have lived with the changing landscape for tens of thousands of years, adapting and using the land for food, shelter and general well-being.

The six seasons





1

YEKKE**Cool weather time, May to June**

The wetlands are carpeted with water lilies. Drying winds and flowering Darwin woollybutt tell Bininj/Mungguy to patchwork burn the woodlands to encourage new growth.



2

BANGKERRENG**Harvest time, April**

Clear skies prevail. The vast expanses of floodwater recede and streams start to run clear. Most plants are fruiting and animals are caring for their young.



3

KUDJEWK**Monsoon, December to March**

The heat and humidity generate an explosion of plant and animal life. Spear grass grows to over two metres tall and creates a silvery-green hue throughout the woodlands.



4

WURRKENG**Early dry season, June to August**

Most creeks stop flowing and the floodplains quickly dry out. Magpie geese, fat and heavy after weeks of abundant food, crowd the shrinking billabongs.



5

KURRUNG**Hot dry season, August to October**

Hunting time for file snakes and long-necked turtles. White-breasted wood swallows arrive as thunderclouds build, signalling the return of Kunumeleng.



6

KUNUMELENG**Pre-monsoon, October to December**

Streams begin to run, waterbirds spread out as surface water and new growth becomes widespread. Barramundi move from the waterholes downstream to the estuaries to breed.

The role of fire

Aboriginal people have burned country for tens of thousands of years.

The ancestors gave them a cultural obligation to look after and clean up country, a duty handed down from generation to generation. Signs in nature told them of the time to burn, a time when minimal harm would be done to country but huge benefits would be gained.

Their ongoing traditional management of country is recognised in Kakadu's World Heritage listing.

Balanda (non-Aboriginal people) are now starting to realise the value of this age-old Aboriginal knowledge. In some areas where no burning took place, noticeable harm was done. Now that traditional burning is back, the landscape is once again abundant with native flora and fauna. These days, conservation managers across the north of Australia are using traditional patch burning in the cooler weather to prevent wildfires, to repair country and to encourage biodiversity to recover.

REDUCING THE RISK OF WILDFIRES

Please help prevent wildfires. Make sure your cigarette butts and matches are out and put them in rubbish bins, not on the ground. Clear the area around your campfire and ensure it is fully extinguished before you leave. Use fuel stoves to cook.



1



2


1 Controlled burning is necessary to reduce fire risks

2 Noticeable harm can be caused if no burning maintenance is implemented

3 Cool burns allow trees and plants to regenerate and recover after fire



3



This earth. I never damage. I look after.
Fire is nothing. just clean up.
When you burn. new grass coming up.
That means good animal soon.
Might be goanna. possum. wallaby.
Burn him off. new grass coming up.
New life all over.

Bill Neidjie, Bunidj clan

4 Even areas around water can contain huge fuel sources and need to be regularly managed



1 Staff at the
Bowali Visitor
Centre

Visitor information centres

BOWALI VISITOR CENTRE

Bowali is a Kundjeyhmi name for the local area and creek on land owned by the Mirarr clan. Located a short distance from the Jabiru township, the building's design was inspired by an Aboriginal rock shelter.

Friendly staff are available to help you plan your Kakadu visit. There is an air-conditioned theatre

screening documentaries, giving different perspectives on Kakadu. The habitat display and library have detailed information about Kakadu and how much there is to see and do. A recharging station is available in Bowali for your mobile devices.

Bowali Visitor

Centre open hours:

**8.00 am to 5.00 pm daily
(except Christmas Day)**

T: (08) 8938 1120

E: kakadunationalpark@awe.gov.au

(see region maps, page 28)

WARRADJAN ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE

The shape of this building represents a Warradjan, which is a Kundjeyhmi name for the pig-nosed turtle. This cultural centre is on land owned by the Murumburr clan. Developed by Bininj/Mungguy, the display provides detailed information about local Aboriginal culture to help you gain an understanding of the connection Bininj/Mungguy have with their families and their land. Traditional owners ask you do not take photographs while you are inside Warradjan. During the dry season, cultural activities are sometimes scheduled here. Contact Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre for more information.

The Warradjan Gift Shop has a selection of arts, crafts, books, clothing, cards and light refreshments.

Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Yellow Water region)

Open hours:
**9.00 am to 3.00 pm
daily (except
Christmas Day)**

T: (08) 8979 0525

E: kakadunationalpark@awe.gov.au

ARTS AND CRAFTS

For Bininj/Mungguy, art is an expression of cultural identity and connection to country.

Traditional paintings with ochres are commonly done on paper and canvas — a more sustainable practice than on bark, which is used less often now. Didgeridoos, clap sticks, carvings and hunting tools are made from different bush timbers. Women have a long tradition of collecting plant fibres and bush dyes which are woven into ornaments such as baskets, mats and jewellery pieces. Another increasingly popular art form is screen printing traditional and contemporary designs onto fabrics.

Visitors can buy arts, crafts and artefacts made in Kakadu or neighbouring Arnhem Land from a number of different outlets within the region.

Ranger talks and cultural tours

Kakadu offers visitors a unique opportunity to connect with country and culture through a range of tours designed to enlighten and inform.

RANGER GUIDED WALKS AND TALKS

During the dry season, visitors can join rangers and traditional owners for activities throughout Kakadu, including art site talks, walks, cultural activities and night-time slide shows. These activities provide an insight into Kakadu's diverse natural features and the culture and traditions of Bininj/Mungguy. More information is available from kakadu.gov.au or contact Bowali Visitor Centre.

Please respect any talks that you see or attend, by moving through or passing by quietly.

RANGER ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL AND OTHER GROUPS

Kakadu welcomes school and other groups. Our rangers can provide exclusive educational experiences to help students connect with country and can cater activities to students' ages and areas of interest. School groups can download information about education tours and activities, and a Kakadu study guide, from the schools page on our website. Other groups visiting Kakadu are also encouraged to book a private experience with our rangers, who can tailor these sessions to each group's interests. For more information, contact Bowali Visitor Centre.

More information on a variety of subjects including language, geology, rock art and walks is available in the Kakadu National Park fact sheets, which are available for free on our website kakadu.gov.au



1 Seasonal activities are very popular, so arrive before the start time to secure your place



2 Scenic flights over Kakadu by helicopter provide a totally different perspective of the park. Credit: Peter Eve Tourism NT

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL TOURS

ANIMAL TRACKS SAFARI:

Aboriginal culture and wildlife, featuring bush food gathering and cooking.

E: kakadu@animaltracks.com.au

T: 0429 676 194

W: animaltracks.com.au

AYAL ABORIGINAL TOURS KAKADU:

Experience wildlife and Aboriginal rock art with a local Aboriginal guide.

E: bookings@ayalkakadu.com.au

T: (08) 8979 0483

W: ayalkakadu.com.au

YELLOW WATER CRUISES:

Nature and culture cruise on Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) wetlands.

E: reservations@yellowwater.com.au

T: (08) 8979 1500

W: kakadutourism.com.au

KAKADU CULTURAL TOURS:

Experience culture and scenery aboard the Arnhemlander 4WD Tour and the Magela Cultural and Heritage Tour. Cruise the East Alligator River aboard the Guluyambi Boat Tour for breathtaking views of the surrounding area.

E: kctres@kakadu.net.au

T: 1800 525 238

W: kakaduculturaltours.com.au

SPIRIT OF KAKADU ADVENTURE TOURS:

Spectacular adventure taking you off road to see the best of Kakadu.

E: reservations@yellowwater.com.au

T: (08) 8979 1500

W: kakadutourism.com.au

OTHER TOURS BASED IN KAKADU

KAKADU AIR:

Scenic flights over Kakadu.

E: reservations@kakaduai.com.au

T: 1800 089 113

W: kakaduai.com.au

KAKADU FISHING TOURS:

Fishing tours on some of Kakadu's most breathtaking waterways.

E: tours@kakadufishingtours.com.au

T: (08) 8979 2025

W: kakadufishingtours.com.au

THE SCENIC FLIGHT COMPANY:

Scenic flights over Kakadu.

E: operations@katherineaviation.com.au

T: (08) 8971 1277

W: katherineaviation.com.au/kakadu-scenic-flights

YELLOW WATER FISHING TOURS:

Fishing tours on Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) wetlands.

E: reservations@yellowwater.com.au

T: (08) 8979 1500

W: kakadutourism.com.au

Activities

BUSHWALKING

Walking is a great way to experience Kakadu. There are many walks throughout the park, including a wide variety of short and easy day walks as well as some longer, more challenging full-day walks for those who are fit. Check the website for seasonal conditions and access.



Extended overnight bushwalks are also available for specific sites. These require a high level of experience and can be very physically demanding. For these reasons, a permit is required for overnight bushwalking. Advance planning is essential, as is the ability to navigate using a topographic map and a compass. The routes are unmarked, and extend through remote and rugged country with variable climatic conditions.

It is important to prevent dehydration, take plenty of water and read the visitor safety information. (*see page 46*).

Contact the Permits Officer on **(08) 8938 1140** or email **kakadu.permits@awe.gov.au**

Permits may take up to 14 days to process.

CAMPING



Camping is one of the best ways to really feel country in Kakadu, allowing you to experience the landscape at the special times of dawn and dusk.

Kakadu has lots of park-managed camping areas, with many suitable for caravans. You do not need to book ahead to camp at these sites. Fees apply and vary depending on the level of services and amenities provided. There are also a number of commercial campgrounds in Kakadu. For detailed information on camping fees and amenities at each campsite, see our website.

For a great camping experience:

- Be considerate of others
- Use gas appliances for cooking rather than fire
- Only light fires in fireplaces provided
- Only collect dead and fallen wood from roadsides
- Camp at least 50 metres away from the water's edge
- Keep all equipment in campsites and away from vegetation
- Do not disturb trees, particularly small trees which provide future shade
- Do not feed the wildlife
- Take rubbish with you when you leave
- Take notice of safety signs.

1 Kubara walk in the Mary River region is one of the lesser known, but equally exciting walks

2 Camping is a great way to connect with nature.
Credit: Tourism NT

Walking is good. You follow track... you sleep, wake in morning to birds, maybe kookaburra. You feel country.

Bill Neidjie, Bunidj clan

BOATING AND FISHING

Boating on Kakadu's waterways can be dangerous due to strong currents, sand bars, submerged logs and crocodiles. For this reason the use of non-motorised vessels (including canoes) is prohibited. Crocodiles can attack people in boats — the smaller the boat the greater the risk. Please let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to be back. In tidal areas always carry life jackets, water, oars, flares, torch, tool kit, extra fuel, EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) and a satellite phone. Refer to onsite signage for more detailed safety information. Boating is prohibited in certain areas — see the Bowali Visitor Centre for details.

Concrete boat ramps are located at the South Alligator River near the Arnhem Highway, the East Alligator River, Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba), Mardukal and Jim Jim Billabong. Unsealed boat ramps are located at West Alligator Head and Djarradjin (Muirella Park).

Always remember: crocodiles occur near boat ramps. For your safety, be alert for crocodiles at all times:

- Keep away from water's edge, do not enter the water and take extreme care when launching and retrieving boats
- Do not reach into the water to bring up a fish; use a landing net
- Do not clean fish or bleed fish in or near the water's edge, as this may attract crocodiles
- Remove all fish and food waste, which attract crocodiles

(see more information on pages 12, 13, and 46).

FISHING:

Live bait fishing is not permitted in Kakadu. Recreational fishing using a line with a single hook or lure is permitted in waters west of the Kakadu Highway except the West Alligator River system. A landing net may be used to land hooked fish. To provide refuge areas, fishing is not permitted in waters east of the Kakadu Highway except at the camping areas of Djarradjin (Muirella Park), Sandy Billabong (Djirrillba) and Jim Jim Billabong. Crab pots and taking crabs, firearms, traps, nets, spearguns and spears are prohibited in any Commonwealth Reserve. Contact the Bowali Visitor Centre, phone (08) 8938 1120 for the latest information.

AVOID SPREAD OF SALVINIA

Salvinia is a free-floating aquatic fern native to South America. It was originally imported as an aquarium plant. It reproduces very rapidly by growing from small fragments. The areas between Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) and the South Alligator River, as well as the Magela Creek from Madjinbardi to Nankeen Billabong have been closed to boating as a quarantine measure. If boating near salvinia please help stop this weed from choking Kakadu's wetland areas. Check your boat, trailer, and car, and remove any salvinia before moving on.

The seven regions of Kakadu

At 20,000 square kilometres, Kakadu National Park is huge!

The park is divided into seven regions, and each region offers unique habitats to explore. These regions are East Alligator (Erre), Jabiru, Jim Jim and Twin Falls, Mary River, Burrungkuy (Nourlangie), South Alligator, and Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba).

You'll experience a fascinating variety of landscapes as you travel through Kakadu.

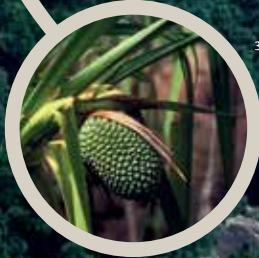
1 Wetlands — Yellow Water region

2 Savanna woodland — Mary River region.
*Credit: Peter Eve
Tourism NT*

3 Freshwater pandanus — East Alligator region

4 Stone country — Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) region. *Credit: Oswald Jacobs*





If you respect the land.
then you will feel the land.
Your experience will be
one you cannot get
anywhere else in the world.

Brn Baruwei, Wurrkaba clan

South Alligator region

This landscape is important to us, it is our home... and we ask that you look after the country.

Sampson Henry
Limilngan clan

Central to this area is the South Alligator River. Get back to nature and camp under the stars. Visit wetlands and enjoy invigorating walks in this region.



- 1 South Alligator region map
- 2 Magpie goose.
Credit: Luke Paterson
- 3 Water lilies on Kungarre walk

THINGS TO DO

MAMUKALA WETLANDS: *(Check seasonal access)* Mamukala is beautiful all year but at its most dramatic in the late dry season (September — October) when thousands of magpie geese congregate to feed. An observation platform allows you to view the birdlife and a mural illustrates the seasonal changes that occur through the year. There is also a 3 kilometre walk adjacent to the wetlands. Allow 1 to 2 hours for the full walk.

KUNGARRE WALK: *(Check seasonal access)* Starts at the large banyan fig tree near the old Aurora Kakadu Resort site and features a 3.6 kilometre circular walk through monsoon forest, woodlands and along the margins of Ankurdabbal Billabong. Allow 2 hours.



IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

SOUTH ALLIGATOR RIVER & PICNIC AREA: Picnic tables and barbeque areas near the South Alligator bridge on the Arnhem Highway and boat ramp at the northern end of the carpark. *(see boating information, page 27).*

OFF THE HIGHWAY: *(Dry season only)* There are two major four-wheel drive tracks in the area: the West Alligator Head track (which accesses Two Mile Hole and Four Mile Hole) and the Red Lily Billabong (Djunda), Bucket Billabong (Ngarrababa) and Alligator Billabong (Gurdurunganjdju) track. Both tracks lead to destinations suitable for boating, birdwatching and camping. *(see crocodile information, page 47).*

WHERE TO STAY

BUSH CAMPGROUNDS: West Alligator Head. Basic toilet facilities. Fees apply (collection box).

FREE CAMPGROUNDS: *(Check seasonal access)* Two Mile Hole, Four Mile Hole, Red Lily Billabong (Djunda), Bucket Billabong (Ngarrababa) and Alligator Billabong (Gurdurunganjdju). No toilet available. No drinking water available. Rubbish bins are not provided, so please take rubbish out with you.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Please show respect by only drinking alcohol in licensed venues and managed campgrounds.

Jabiru region

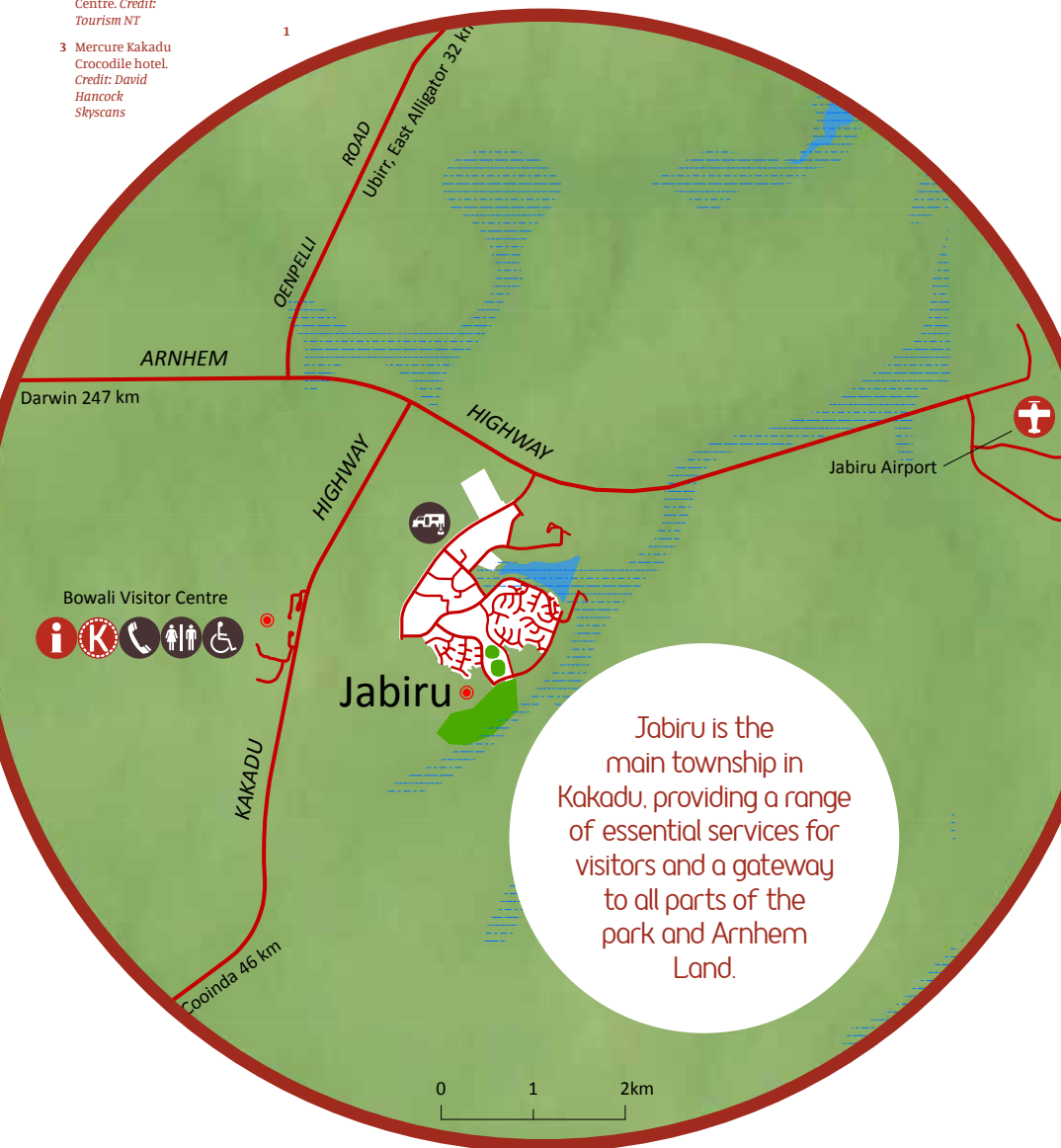
Bininj
culture is
really strong...
Very strong
for us bininj.

Yvonne Margarula,
Mirarr Clan

1 Jabiru region map

2 Bowali Visitor
Centre. Credit:
Tourism NT

3 Mercure Kakadu
Crocodile hotel.
Credit: David
Hancock
slyscans



THINGS TO DO

BOWALI VISITOR CENTRE: The Bowali Visitor Centre contains a wealth of information about Kakadu including a theatre, library and interpretive display. Staff are available to help you plan your visit.

Open daily: **8.00 am to 5.00 pm.**

T: **(08) 8938 1120.**



IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

BOWALI TRACK: Starts opposite the Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel Jabiru. A 4 kilometre return earth path winds through woodlands to the Bowali Visitor Centre. Allow 30 to 45 minutes each way.

YILIKADJARR WALK: *(Dry season only)*

Starts at Malabanjbanjdju or Burdulba campgrounds. This 3.8 kilometre circular walk goes across a small grassy floodplain and along Burdulba Billabong. Allow 2 hours.

TOURS: Several land-based tours depart from Jabiru. Scenic flights, which depart from both Jabiru and Cooida, provide an awe-inspiring bird's-eye view of Kakadu and its many and varied habitats. *(see tour booking information, page 25).*

WHERE TO STAY

MERCURE KAKADU CROCODILE HOTEL:

Hotel rooms (air conditioned), restaurant, gift shop, guest pool and bookings for commercial tours. Reservations recommended.

T: **(08) 8979 9000.**



KAKADU LODGE & CARAVAN PARK:

Budget accommodation, air-conditioned cabins, tent sites, powered van sites, barbeque facilities, camper's kitchen. Bar/bistro for guests and visitors.

T: **(08) 8979 2422.**

ANBINIK KAKADU RESORT:

Bush bungalows, cabins, and air-conditioned rooms. Reservations recommended.

T: **(08) 8979 3144.**

BUSH CAMPGROUNDS: *(Check seasonal access)*

Malabanjbanjdju and Burdulba have basic toilet facilities. Drinking water is not available. Fees apply (collection box).

USEFUL INFORMATION

Jabiru is a retail hub with a service station, supermarket, Westpac bank, travel agent, medical centre, chemist, Police, public telephones, swimming pool, library (with internet), Northern Land Council Office, golf course, restaurant, and cafe.

Please show respect by only drinking alcohol in licensed venues and managed campgrounds.

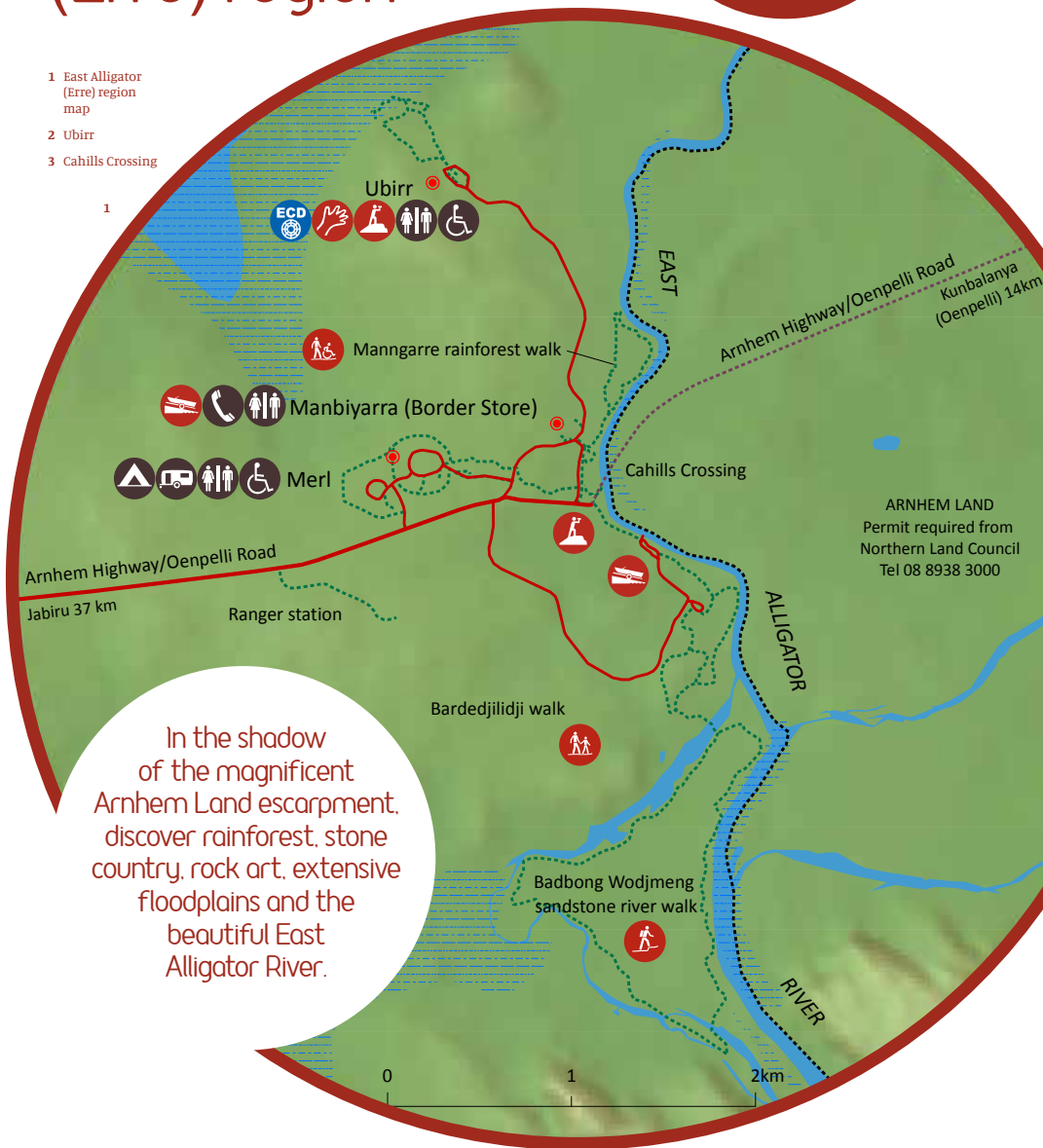
East Alligator (Erre) region

People need to come here and relax, sit on country, feel the spirits of the country, and go home and feel the same way.

Natasha Nadjji,
Buntj clan

- 1 East Alligator (Erre) region map
- 2 Ubirr
- 3 Cahills Crossing

1



THINGS TO DO

UBIRR: *(Check seasonal access and opening times)*

A 1 kilometre circular track takes you past several fascinating Aboriginal rock art sites. A moderately steep 250 metre climb takes you to the top of a rocky lookout that offers superb views over the Nadab floodplain, particularly at sunset. Allow at least 1 hour. Open April to Nov (Dry) from 8.30 am to sunset. Dec to March (Summer) from 2.00 pm to sunset. During the dry season, rangers provide informative talks about Aboriginal art and culture. Contact Bowali Visitor Centre for details.

EAST ALLIGATOR RIVER: *(Check seasonal access)* Just east of Merl campground and the Manbiyarra (Border Store), a tidal river forms the boundary between Kakadu and Arnhem Land. The Guluyambi Cultural Cruise operates on the river during the dry season and on Magela Creek during the summer. Guides explain aspects of local Aboriginal culture while you travel slowly along the waterways. *(see tour booking information, page 25)*. Boat ramps are located upstream and downstream of Cahills Crossing. *(see boating information, page 27)*.



2



3

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

BARDEDJILIDJI WALK: *(Check seasonal access)*

Starts at a small carpark 500 metre from the upstream boat ramp and features a 2.5 kilometre walk through layered sandstone outliers. One of Kakadu's most interesting short walks. Allow 2 hours.

BADBONG WODJMENG SANDSTONE

RIVER WALK: *(Dry season only)* Starts at the Bardedjilidji walk and features a 6.5 kilometre marked circular walk which takes you past Catfish Creek (Mawoernewoerne), floodplains, billabongs, sandstone outliers and the East Alligator River. Popular for croc spotting. Allow 4 hours.

MANNGARRE RAINFOREST WALK:

(Dry season only) Three circular walks, from 0.6 kilometre to 1.5 kilometres, through monsoon rainforest beside the East Alligator (Erre) River. Allow 1 hour.

CAHILLS CROSSING PICNIC AREA:

(Check seasonal access) Features riverside picnic tables and a viewing platform across the East Alligator (Erre) River.

WHERE TO STAY

MANAGED CAMPGROUNDS: *(Check seasonal access)*

Merl campground has showers, toilets and generator zone. Fees apply (collected on site).

USEFUL INFORMATION

(Dry season only) The Manbiyarra (Border Store) is a retail hub selling food and drinks, fishing gear, souvenirs, and takes bookings for commercial tours.

T (08) 8979 2474.

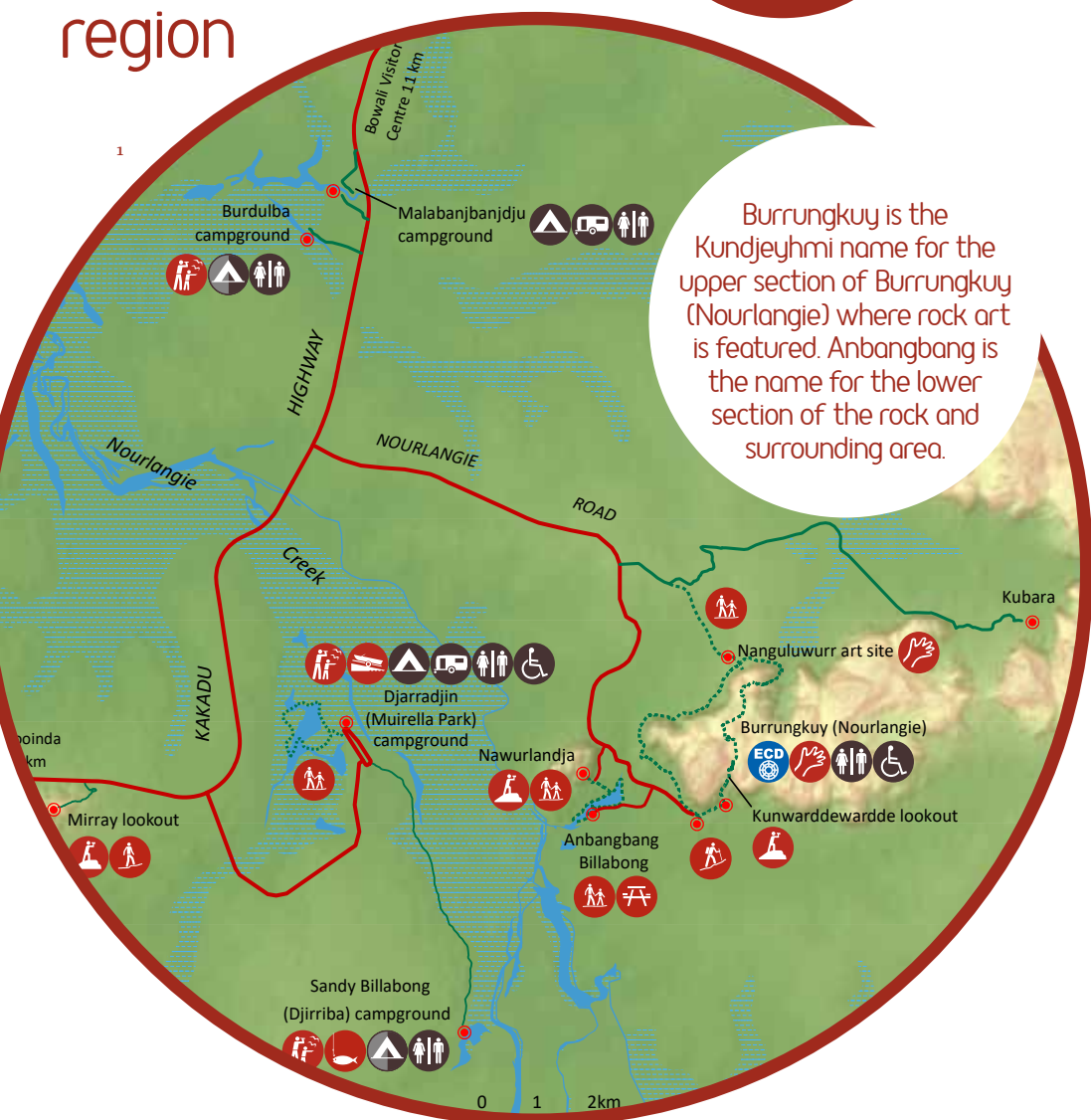
Please show respect by only drinking alcohol in licensed venues and managed campgrounds.

Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) region

- 1 Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) region map
- 2 Enjoy the many walks available. Credit: Peter Eve Tourism NT
- 3 See ancient rock art

When you come to this country you got to respect the people because it is their country and respect this land.

Jeff Lee,
Djok clan



THINGS TO DO

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BURRUNKUY (NOURLANGIE):

Features a 1.5 kilometre circular walk that takes you past an ancient Aboriginal shelter and several outstanding art sites. A moderately steep climb to Kunwarddewardde lookout provides impressive views of Kakadu's escarpment and extensive savannah woodlands below. Rangers provide informative talks here. Contact Bowali Visitor Centre for details. Open daily until sunset.



IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

BUBBA WALK: (*Dry season only*) Starts at the Djarradjin (Muirella Park) campground, and features a 3.5 kilometre circular walk through several wetland habitats. Allow 2 hours.

MIRRAY LOOKOUT WALK: A moderately difficult 2 kilometre return walk to a platform lookout on top of Mount Cahill. A steep climb. Allow 1.5 hours.

BARRK SANDSTONE WALK: Branching off the Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) lookout track, this is a difficult 12 kilometre walk through the sandstone country of Burrungkuy (Nourlangie), past the Nanguluwurr art gallery and back to the Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) carpark. See the Barrk walk fact sheet available from our website or Bowali Visitor Centre. Allow 4 to 6 hours. (*see crocodile information, page 47, and dehydration, page 48*).

ANBANGBANG BILLABONG:

(*Check seasonal access*) A 2.5 kilometre dry season circular walk with Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) forming an impressive backdrop, this is one of Kakadu's most attractive billabongs. Allow 1 hour.

NAWURLANDJA LOOKOUT WALK:

A 300 metre climb up a moderately steep slope offers views of the escarpment, Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) and Anbangbang Billabong. Great sunset spot. Allow 40 minutes.

NANGULUWURR ART SITE WALK:

A 3.4 kilometre return walk through woodlands leads to a quiet Aboriginal rock art site. Allow 2 hours.

KUBARA POOLS WALK: (*Check seasonal access*)

A 6 kilometre return walk past sandstone cliffs to shady monsoon forest pools. A pleasant place to spend the heat of the day. Allow 4 hours.



WHERE TO STAY

MANAGED CAMPGROUNDS:

(*Check seasonal access*) Djarradjin (Muirella Park) has showers, toilets and is a no-generator zone. Fees apply (collected on site).

BUSH CAMPGROUNDS: (*Check seasonal access*)

Sandy Billabong (Djirrilba) campground has basic toilet facilities. Fees apply (collection box). 4WD recommended. Drinking water is not available.

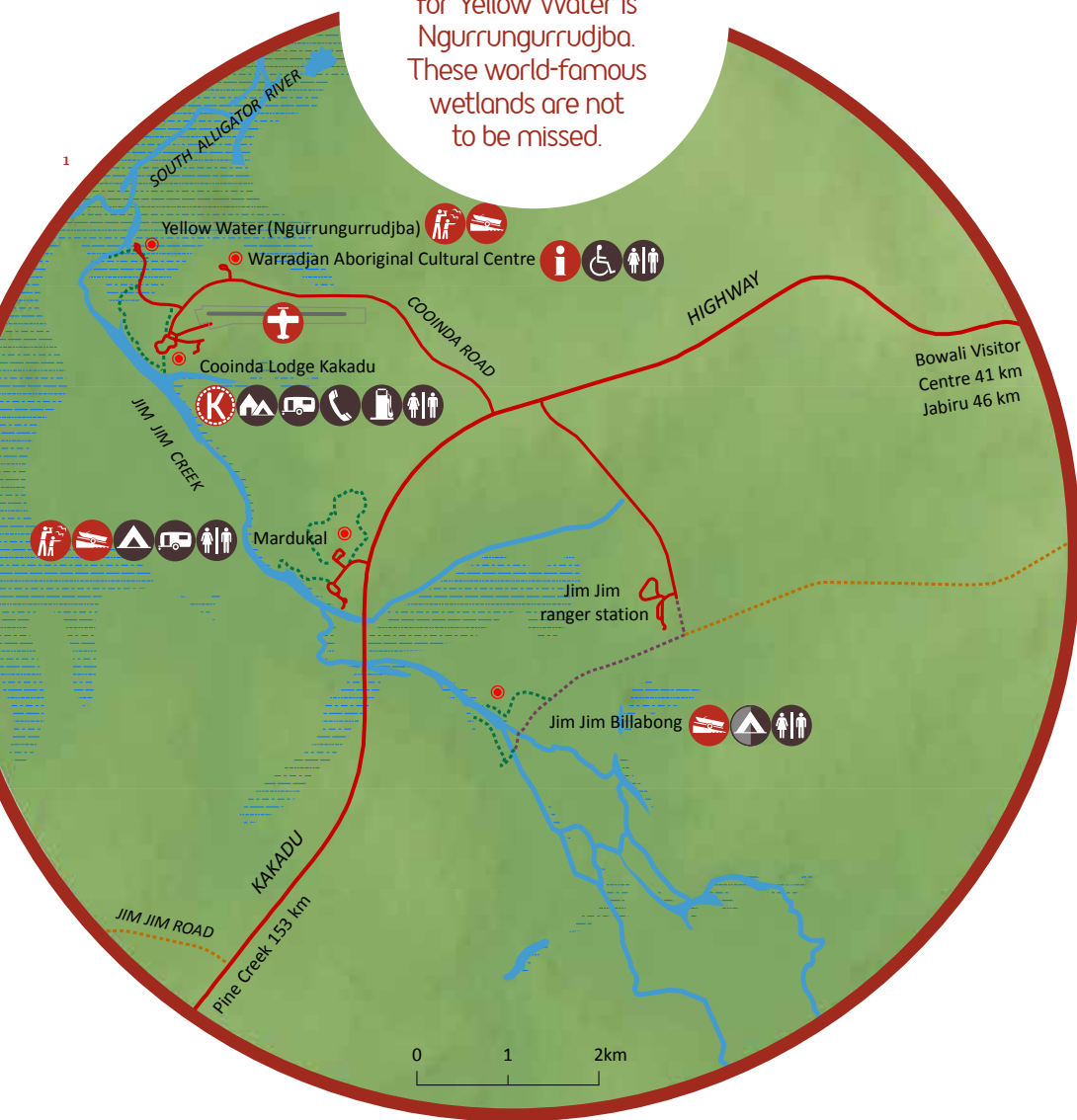
Please show respect by only drinking alcohol in licensed venues and managed campgrounds.

Yellow Water region

We tell
you stories
that have been
told to us by our
old people.

Traditional owner,
Murumburr clan

The local
Aboriginal name
for Yellow Water is
Ngurrungurrudjba.
These world-famous
wetlands are not
to be missed.



THINGS TO DO

YELLOW WATER (NGURRUNGURRUDJBA)

WETLANDS: *(Check seasonal access)* Yellow Water is part of the South Alligator River floodplain. A boardwalk provides good views of Yellow Water's wildlife. When the waters recede, a 2.6 kilometre return walk takes you across the floodplains to a viewing platform on Home Billabong. Yellow Water Cruises operates throughout the year and provides a marvellous opportunity to see the varied birdlife of Kakadu's World Heritage wetlands. *(see booking information, page 25).*

WARRADJAN ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE

The circular design of this cultural centre represents a warradjan (pig-nosed turtle). The centre's large display, developed by Bininj/Mungguy, provides detailed information about Aboriginal culture in Kakadu. There is also a gallery that sells Aboriginal arts and crafts, books and cards.

Open daily: **9.00 am to 5.00 pm.**

T: **(08) 8979 0051**



IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

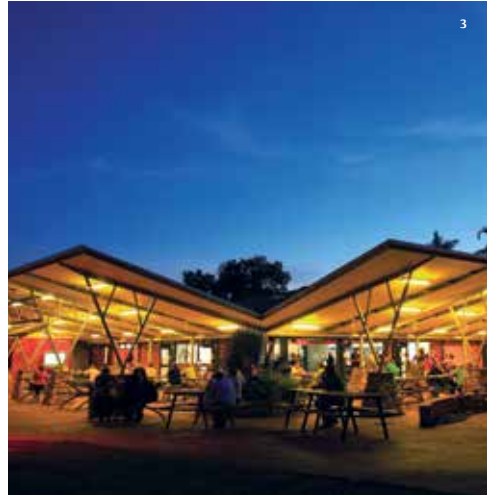
MARDUKAL BILLABONG WALK:

(Dry season only) A 1 kilometre return walk follows the edge of Mardukal Billabong. Allow 30 minutes.

KUNGARDUN WALK: Starts near the entrance of the Mardukal campground and features a 2 kilometre circular walk through woodlands, Kakadu's most widespread habitat. Allow 1 hour.

BOATING: Boat ramps are located at Jim Jim Billabong, Yellow Water and Mardukal Billabong. *(see boating information, page 27, and crocodile information, page 47).*

- 1 Yellow Water region map
- 2 Yellow Water boat cruise
- 3 Barra Bar and Bistro at Cooinda Lodge. Credit: David Hancock



WHERE TO STAY

COOINDA LODGE KAKADU: Motel rooms, budget accommodation, tent sites, powered van sites, bistro, restaurant, pool, store and internet cafe. Reservations recommended.

T: **(08) 8979 1500**

MANAGED CAMPGROUNDS: *(Check seasonal access)* Mardukal has showers, toilets and is a generator zone. Fees apply (collected on site). Water not suitable for drinking.

BUSH CAMPGROUNDS: *(Check seasonal access)* Jim Jim Billabong has basic toilet facilities. Fees apply (collection box). Drinking water not available.

USEFUL INFORMATION

The Cooinda Lodge Kakadu store is a retail hub selling petrol, diesel, food, souvenirs, and books for commercial tours. Please show respect by only drinking alcohol in licensed venues and managed campgrounds.

Jim Jim / Twin Falls

- 1 Jim Jim Falls and Twin Falls region map
- 2 Barrk Marlam walk
- 3 Scenic flight over Jim Jim Falls. Credit: Tourism NT

We want visitors to experience the spirituality of this area as they walk through the landscape and enjoy the views.

Excerpt from Traditional Owners Statement of Management Intent



THINGS TO DO

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JIM JIM FALLS PLUNGE POOL: (*Dry season only, 4WD*) Features a 2 kilometre return walk through monsoon forest and over boulders to a deep plunge pool surrounded by spectacular 150 metre high cliffs. During the dry season the waterfall stops flowing. Allow 1 to 2 hours. Turn east off the Kakadu Highway 43 kilometre south of the Bowali Visitor Centre. Engage 4WD, travel 50 kilometres. Allow 2 hours one way. Please adhere to speed limits and drive safely. The last 10 kilometre of track includes areas of soft sand. Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles are known to move into the Jim Jim Falls area. (*see crocodile information, page 47*).



IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

BUDJMI LOOKOUT: (*Dry season only*)

A moderately steep 1 kilometre return walk to the top of a rocky outcrop, which provides great views of the escarpment cliffs. Allow 45 minutes.

PLATEAU ABOVE TWIN FALLS: A steep 6 kilometre return walk to the plateau with good views and pools along Twin Falls Creek above the falls. For further information contact Bowali Visitor Centre.

BARRK MARLAM WALK: This marked day walk branches off the Jim Jim Falls plunge pool track. It is a very steep, difficult 6 kilometre return walk through the rugged stone country typical of the Arnhem Land Plateau. Allow 4 to 6 hours.

COMMERCIAL TOURS AND FLIGHTS: 4WD tours are available in the area during the dry season. During the tropical summer Jim Jim and Twin Falls can be viewed via a scenic flight. (*see booking information, page 25*).

WHERE TO STAY

MANAGED CAMPGROUNDS: (*Check seasonal access*) Karnamarr campground has showers and toilets. No generators allowed. Fees apply (collected on site). Please show respect by only drinking alcohol in licensed venues and managed campgrounds. Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles have been known to move into Jim Jim Falls and Twin Falls. (*see crocodile information, page 47*).



TWIN FALLS GORGE: (*Dry season only, high clearance 4WD with snorkel recommended*) The spectacular Twin Falls escarpment walk guides you through monsoon vine forests, and ancient sandstone formations up to the lookout. Follow onto the creek to the track's end. Marked as difficult, this 6 kilometre return walk is for the fit and well prepared only. Walkers are reminded to keep away from the cliffs, and carry and drink at least one (1) litre of water per person per hour, keeping walk markers in sight at all times. Swimming is prohibited in this area.

Mary River region

- 1 Mary River region map
- 2 Maguk waterhole and falls.
Credit: Tourism Australia

I want visitors to feel something they'll never forget and have in their heart and mind forever.

Bessie Coleman,
Wurrkbarbar clan



THINGS TO DO

GUNLOM: *(Gravel road; check seasonal access).*

A popular camping area located near a clear plunge pool and waterfall. A 2 kilometre return steep climb takes you to the top of the waterfall with natural infinity pool and a lookout with great views over southern Kakadu. A 2.5 kilometre return walk leads to Murrill Billabong and South Alligator River from the camping area.

YURMIKMIK WALKS:

(Gravel road; check seasonal access).

A series of interconnected walking tracks which provide a wonderful tropical summer experience. Individual walks are: Boulder Creek walk (2 kilometre return); Yurmikmik lookout walk (5 kilometre return); Motor Car Falls (7.5 kilometre return); and Kurrundie Creek walk (11 kilometre return). Permit required for this walk.

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

MAGUK PLUNGE POOL: *(Gravel road, dry season only, 4WD recommended)*

A 2 kilometre return walk through monsoon forest and along a sandy and rocky creek leads to a small waterfall and clear plunge pool. Allow 1 to 2 hours. Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles are known to move into Maguk. *(see crocodile information, page 47).*

BUKBUKLUK LOOKOUT: Picnic tables and a moderate 400 metre return walk to a lookout with views of old Goodparla Station.

JARRANGBARNMI (KOOLPIN) GORGE: *(Dry season only, 4WD).* Bush camping beside Koolpin Creek. Access by permit only. Permits can be organised through the Permits Officer, Kakadu National Park on **(08) 8938 1140**. *(see crocodile information, page 47).*

GIMBAT PICNIC AREA: *(Dry season only, 4WD).*

A shady picnic area situated near Guratba (Coronation Hill) and the South Alligator River.



GUNGURUL PICNIC AREA & CAMPGROUND:

Gungurul is accessible all year by 2WD vehicles, caravans, campervans and coaches. There are picnic tables and basic toilet facilities. A 4 kilometre return walk leads you to a branch of the South Alligator River and up a moderate climb to a lookout with views over the South Alligator Valley. Allow 2 to 3 hours.

WHERE TO STAY

MANAGED CAMPGROUNDS: *(Check seasonal access)* Gunlom has showers, toilets and generator zone, as well as barbeques in the day use area. Fees apply (collected on site). Gravel road.

BUSH CAMPGROUNDS: Maguk, Gungurul and Kambolgie have basic toilet facilities, barbeques and picnic tables. Drinking water is not available. Fees apply (collection box). Check seasonal access for Maguk and Kambolgie.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Please show respect by only drinking alcohol in licensed venues and managed campgrounds.

1 Guluyambi
Cultural
Cruise

2 Traditional
painting

Itineraries

The secret to discovering Kakadu is taking your time. With time comes stories, secrets and sights never imagined.

It is impossible to appreciate the full breadth and beauty of the park in a fleeting visit — plan to stay at least 3 to 5 days. If you can afford the time, spend a week or more.

DRY SEASON SUGGESTIONS:

- 1: Mamukala wetlands/Bowali Visitor Centre/Manngarrie rainforest walk, Bardedjilidji walk or Guluyambi Cultural Cruise/Cahills Crossing viewing platform and picnic area /Ubirr art site and sunset lookout.
- 2: Scenic flight from Jabiru or Cooinda airstrips/ Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) art site/Anbangbang Billabong walk/ Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre/ Yellow Water Cruise.
- 3: Gunlom plunge pool or Jim Jim Falls and Twin Falls (self drive or commercial tour).

If you have more time, slow down and add in some of these highlights:

- Nanguluwurr rock art site
- Nawurlandja lookout, for sunset
- Barrk walk
- Maguk walk
- Budjmi walk, near Jim Jim Falls
- Twin Falls plateau walk



TROPICAL SUMMER SUGGESTIONS:

- 1: Bowali Visitor Centre/Magela Cruise/ Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) art site/ Nawurlandja lookout walk.
- 2: Scenic flights from Jabiru or Cooinda airstrips/Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre/ Yellow Water Cruise.
- 3: Yurmikmik walks, Barrk walk, or Kubara pools walk.

If you have more time, slow down and add in some of these highlights:

- Jabiru Lake walk
- Fishing tour
- Nanguluwurr rock art site
- Gungurul, Bukbukluk and Mirray lookouts

Friendly staff at Bowali Visitor Centre are happy to help personalise your itinerary.

(Note: Visitors entering the park from the south are advised to follow itineraries in reverse order.)

Cultural ways

Bininj/Mungguy culture has its own set of social behaviours and customs, which are considered good manners. Please consider these while you are in Kakadu.

- Show respect by not entering restricted areas. They may be sacred sites, ceremonial sites, burial grounds or even someone's home
- Traditionally, Bininj/Mungguy do not greet each other every time they meet. However, most Bininj/Mungguy are used to non-Aboriginal people doing so and may expect a 'hello'
- Many Bininj/Mungguy do not use personal names as freely as non-Aboriginal people do and often address each other by kinship terms
- Bininj/Mungguy appreciate privacy. It is good manners not to enter living areas and not to take photographs of Bininj/Mungguy without permission
- Some Bininj/Mungguy find constant eye contact uncomfortable
- In Bininj/Mungguy culture it is important to listen carefully and consider the response carefully before giving an answer
- It is polite to say goodbye when leaving. The Bininj/Mungguy word for goodbye is bobo
- In Bininj/Mungguy culture it is often not appropriate to use the names or display images of deceased people
- Areas in Kakadu may close at short notice for cultural reasons at the request of traditional owners

PRONOUNCING BININJ/MUNGGUI NAMES

Once you have learnt the alphabet, it is quite easy to pronounce words by sounding them out. The Aboriginal Language factsheet details the Kundjeyhmi alphabet and it is available from kakadu.gov.au, or from the Bowali Visitor Centre.

KAKADU IS JOINTLY MANAGED

Kakadu's traditional owners have leased their land to the Director of National Parks to be jointly managed as a national park. Joint management is about Bininj/Mungguy and Balanda working together, solving problems, sharing decisions and exchanging knowledge, skills and information. Overall direction is provided by the Kakadu Board of Management which has an Aboriginal majority representing the traditional owners.



Visitor safety

Kakadu is a wild place. the following tips will help to know what to do to stay safe.

PARK LAWS

Kakadu National Park is established and managed as a Commonwealth Reserve under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The Act sets out rules for Commonwealth reserves.

Please make sure you:

- Stay on public roads and marked walking tracks
- Camp only in designated campgrounds
- Stay behind barriers to protect rock art
- Protect plants — do not use tree branches as fly swats
- Do not feed or disturb wildlife
- Only light fires in fireplaces provided or use fuel stoves and keep use of firewood to a minimum
- Do not bring pets into Kakadu
- Respect others and don't use drones (remote flying devices)
- Observe rules on all signs/brochures

WARNING SIGNS

Obey all warning signs. They are there for your protection.

- Do not enter areas where gates are locked
- If you do not see a warning sign near the water, assume crocodiles are present

EMERGENCY CALL DEVICES (ECD)

If you have an EMERGENCY or need assistance call **000** or press an Emergency Call Device (ECD). Emergency call devices are found in remote locations throughout Kakadu. Instructions for use are written on the ECD. These are for emergency calls only. ECDs are located at: Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin), Maguk, Jim Jim Falls car park and plunge pool, top of Jim Jim Falls, Bilkbilkmi (Graveside gorge), Ubirr, Burrungkuy (Nourlangie), Gunlom, Twin Falls, West Alligator Head, Northern Information Bay, Twin Falls plateau and boat landing, Motor Car Falls and Yurmikmik car park. See maps for detailed locations.

WATER SAFETY



KAKADU VISITORS ARE URGED TO UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING WARNING TO ENJOY A SAFE VISIT.

Kakadu National Park has many spectacular waterways and natural pools however they can be dangerous for swimmers. **Observe ALL safety warning signs**; be aware of your surroundings; remember the location of Emergency Call Devices (ECDs) in case someone needs help; and carry a First Aid kit with you.

Watch for changes in the weather. Some waterways may flash flood causing dangerously strong currents, and many of the waterways are home to crocodiles. Crocodiles hunt by staying submerged and can attack in knee-deep water. Always stay a safe distance from the waters' edge. Be careful when walking near waterfalls or rock pools which can be slippery, and may contain submerged rocks or tree branches that pose risk. Water in rock pools can be extremely cold and may induce shock, especially on hot days. **The safest place to swim in Kakadu is in a public or hotel pool, and never swim alone.**

CROCODILES

(Please refer to detailed fact sheet)

Saltwater (estuarine) crocodiles are dangerous. They have attacked and killed people in Kakadu. They inhabit most areas with water in Kakadu National Park including floodplains, freshwater billabongs, creeks, rivers and coastal areas. In most locations, crocodile warning signs tell you not to enter the water and to keep away from the water's edge. Obey all signs warning of crocodiles. If you do not see a warning sign, assume that crocodiles are present. Stay on the marked tracks and do not enter the water — you don't want to meet the local crocodiles up close!

FISHING AND BOATING

More info at kakadu.gov.au

Kakadu's waterways can be dangerous. For this reason, use of non-motorised vessels (including canoes) is prohibited.

- Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles can attack people in boats — the smaller the boat the greater the risk
- Let someone know where you are going and when you'll be back
- Always carry life jackets, water, oars, flares, a torch, tool kit, extra fuel and a satellite phone
- Do not clean fish within 50 metres of a water body unless using a designated fish cleaning facility. Never clean gear or fish over the side of the boat.

CLIFFS

Climbing rock ledges and cliffs and walking or standing near cliff edges can lead to serious injury or death, especially when rock surfaces are wet. Keep well away from all cliff edges.

DRIVING HINTS

Slow down! Top End roads can be hazardous. Plan ahead and allow sufficient time for travel.

Roads can become slippery in the wet. When dry, dust from other vehicles can obscure your vision. When using 4WD tracks, put your vehicle into 4WD. Read your vehicle instructions: many vehicles need their front wheel hubs manually locked before engaging 4WD from the driver's seat. At flooded crossings, read the signs, look at depth markers and observe how quickly the water is flowing before deciding whether to cross. Sometimes it is safer to wait until the water recedes. Remember, crocodiles may be present.

In the event of fires, make sure you park your vehicle in cleared areas rather than in flammable long grass. Use vehicle headlights if driving through heavy smoke and drive slowly. If stopping, park well off the road and use hazard lights. Do not park on bridges or causeways at any time.

Check the daily updated road access information by contacting the Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit kakadu.gov.au/access

Watch out for wildlife. Every year, hundreds of our native animals are killed or injured on our roads. Drive slowly, look well ahead for animals on the road, and try to avoid driving at night. Use your horn to alert wildlife on the road. Look carefully for large feral animals such as horses, pigs and buffalo.



1 Take walks during the cooler times of the day

2 Crimson finch (*Neochmia phaeton*) Credit: Luke Paterson

3 Termite mounds at Jim Jim. Credit: James Hunt

BEAT THE HEAT – TIPS TO PREVENT DEHYDRATION, HEAT EXHAUSTION, HEAT STROKE, AND HEAT STRESS

Heat stress and dehydration are very real dangers here. Take some simple steps to keep you and your family safe while out in our park. Temperatures are considered extreme once 36°C or above. Limit your activity to the cooler parts of the day (mornings and late afternoons) and drink plenty of water.

- Wear a hat, strong shoes, and sunscreen
- Carry and drink at least one (1) litre of water per person per hour. Most people need between four (4) and eight (8) litres of water per day, so start drinking water early (coffee, tea, and alcohol **do not** count!).
- Take frequent breaks to eat healthy snacks and drink water
- Walk in the cooler parts of the day (before 11.00 am), walk with another person at all times and stay on the track
- If you have any concerns about your health or fitness, we recommend you avoid activities, including walking, in extreme heat
- Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of heat exhaustion, heat stroke and heat stress

- **DEHYDRATION, HEAT EXHAUSTION, HEAT STROKE AND HEAT STRESS SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS.** Early symptoms include feeling thirsty, excess sweating, headache, dizziness and nausea. If dehydration continues, it can result in seizures, a loss of consciousness and even death.
- **DEHYDRATION, HEAT EXHAUSTION, HEAT STROKE AND HEAT STRESS FIRST AID.** Lie the person down in a cool shaded area. Give them water in small quantities at a time (creek water is fine if you have no other water). If the person cannot keep the water down or does not recover quickly, seek medical assistance. Contact the medical centre at Jabiru on (08) 8979 2018 or use an **Emergency Call Device (ECD)**.

WHAT TO WEAR

During the heat of the day, you will be most comfortable in loose long-sleeve clothing, which is cool and protects you from sunburn and insect bites. Use sunscreen and wear a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses. Mosquitoes can carry viruses such as the Ross River virus, so use a repellent if they are biting.

PLEASE KEEP KAKADU'S WILDLIFE WILD

Do not feed or approach any wildlife as it may become aggressive or disturbed. Observe from a safe distance and only use a camera flash when necessary.

**SNAKES, SPIDERS AND OTHER
POISONOUS INSECTS**

If you are bitten by a snake, spider, scorpion or box jellyfish, immediate first aid should be applied — a pressure bandage should be used, and the person bitten immobilised.



What to bring to Kakadu?

GENERAL

Sunglasses

Insect repellent

Long, light clothes

Sunscreen

Camera

WALKING

Water

Hat

Healthy snacks

Walking shoes

Binoculars

Map

@KakaduNationalPark



@SeeKakadu



@KakaduNationalP



SHARE YOUR
KAKADU
ADVENTURES!

VISITOR CENTRES

BOWALI VISITOR CENTRE

Jabiru region

E kakadunationalpark@awe.gov.au

T (08) 8938 1120

WARRADJAN ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE

Yellow Water region

T (08) 8979 0525

ENQUIRIES OR FEEDBACK:

E kakadunationalpark@awe.gov.au