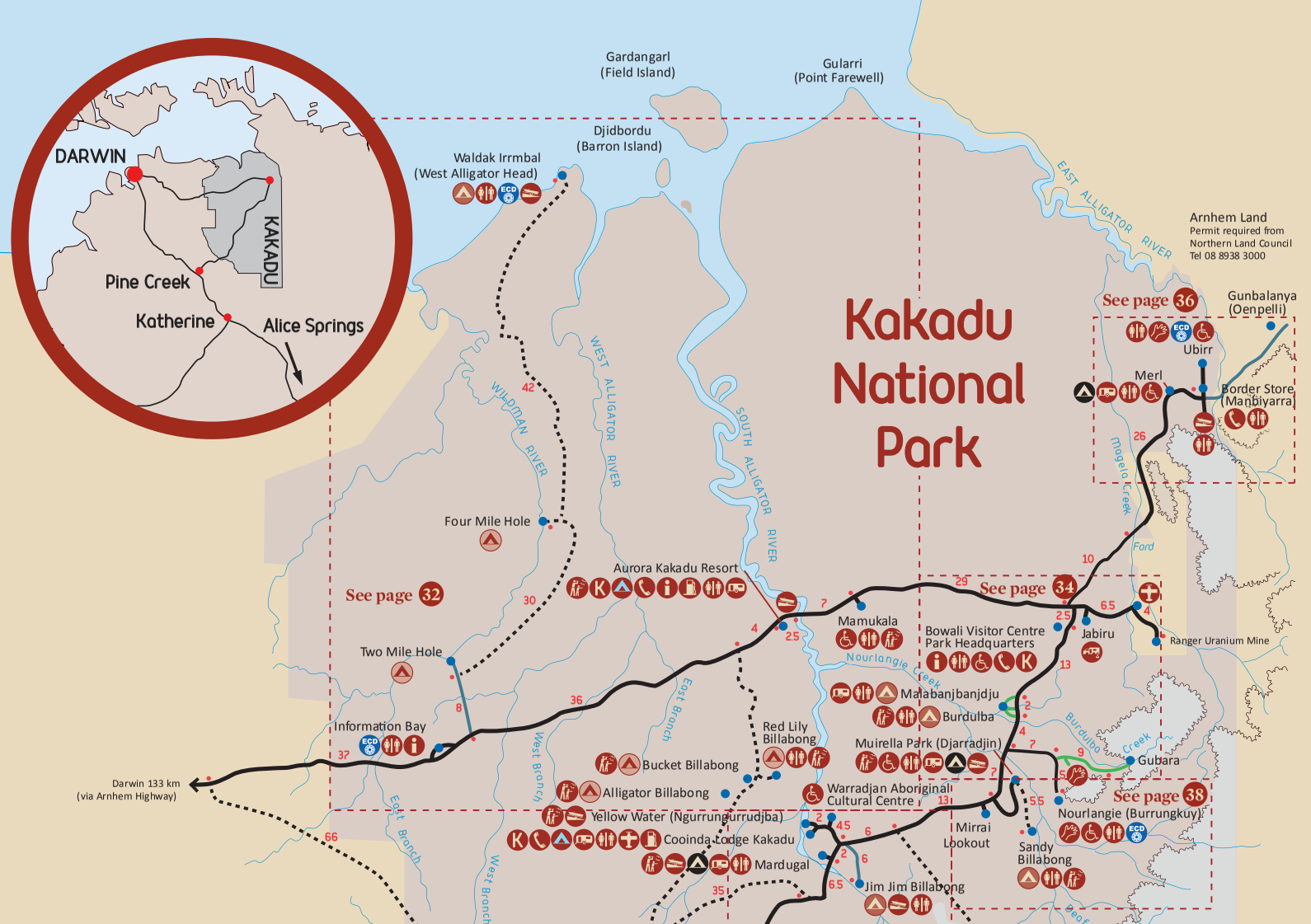
kakadu®
NATIONAL PARK

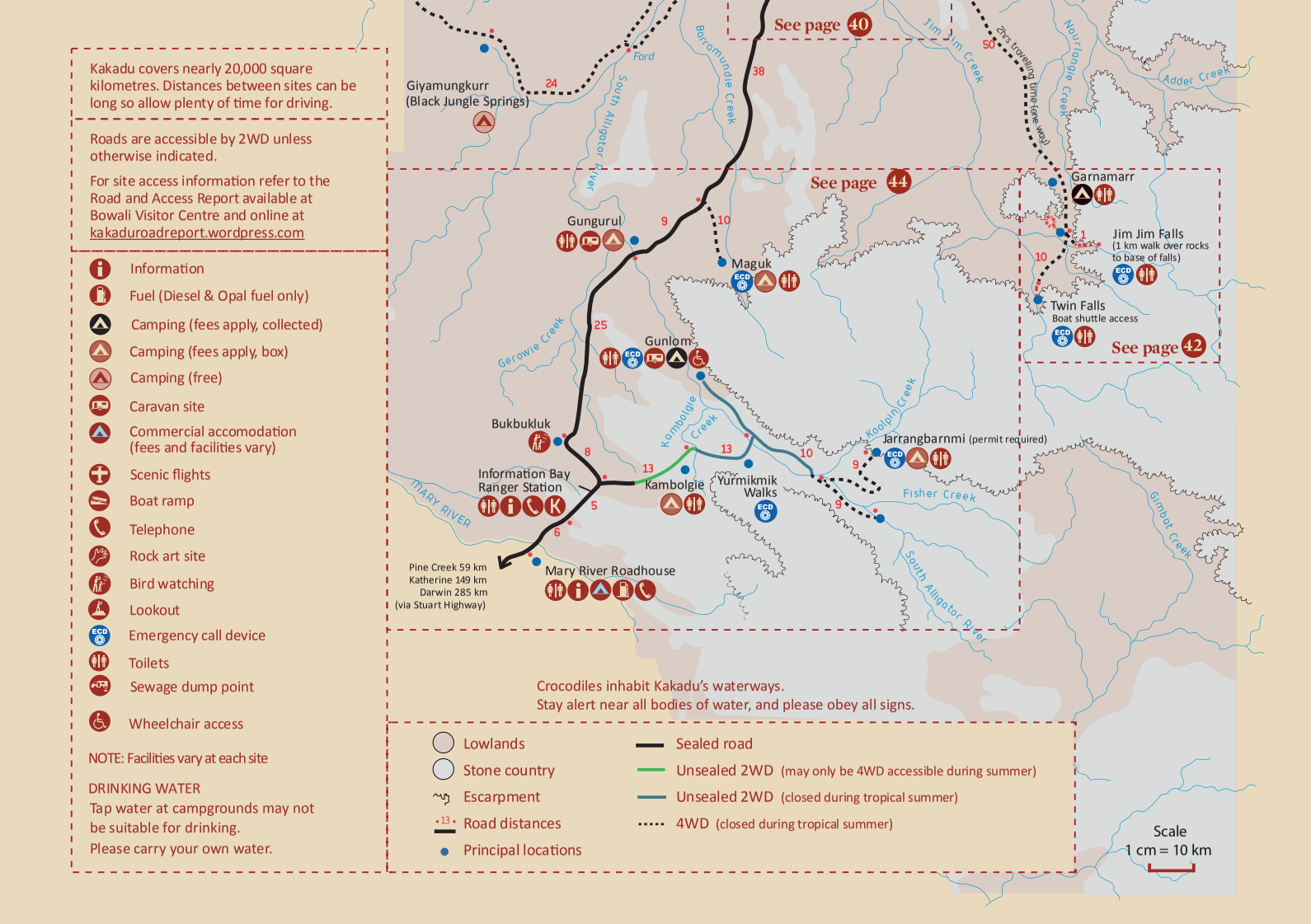
Welcome to the Aboriginal Lands of Kakadu National Park,
a jointly managed Commonwealth Reserve.

Australian Government
Parks Australia

PATRIMONIO MUNDIAL · WORLD HERITAGE · PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

VISITOR GUIDE


DARWIN
KAKADU
Pine Creek
Katherine
Alice Springs
Gardangarl
(Field Island)
Djidbordu
(Barron Island)
Gularri
(Point Farewell)
Waldak Irrmbal
(West Alligator Head)
EAST ALLIGATOR RIVER
Arnhem Land
Permit required from
Northern Land Council
Tel 08 8938 3000
Kakadu
National
Park
See page 36
Gunbalanya
(Oenpelli)
Ubirr
Merl
Border Store
Manbiyarra
Mngelo Creek
Ford
WILDMAN RIVER
WEST ALLIGATOR RIVER
SOUTH ALLIGATOR RIVER
Four Mile Hole
Aurora Kakadu Resort
See page 32
See page 34
Mamukala
Bowali Visitor Centre
Park Headquarters
Jabiru
Ranger Uranium Mine
Nourlangie Creek
Two Mile Hole
Malabanjbanjdju
Burdulba
Burdulba Creek
Information Bay
Red Lily
Billabong
Muirella Park (Djarradjin)
Gubara
Darwin 133 km
(via Arnhem Highway)
East Branch
West Branch
Bucket Billabong
Alligator Billabong
Warradjan Aboriginal
Cultural Centre
See page 38
Nourlangie (Burrungkuy)
Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba)
Cooinda Lodge Kakadu
Mirrai
Lookout
Sandy
Billabong
Mardugal
Jim Jim Billabong


Kakadu covers nearly 20,000 square kilometres. Distances between sites can be long so allow plenty of time for driving.
Roads are accessible by 2WD unless otherwise indicated.
For site access information refer to the Road and Access Report available at Bowali Visitor Centre and online at kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com
Information
Fuel (Diesel & Opal fuel only)
Camping (fees apply, collected)
Camping (fees apply, box)
Camping (free)
Caravan site
Commercial accomodation (fees and facilities vary)
Scenic flights
Boat ramp
Telephone
Rock art site
Bird watching
Lookout
Emergency call device
Toilets
Sewage dump point
Wheelchair access
NOTE: Facilities vary at each site
DRINKING WATER
Tap water at campgrounds may not be suitable for drinking.
Please carry your own water.
See page 40
See page 44
See page 42
Giyamungkurr (Black Jungle Springs)
Ford
South Alligator River
Barramundie Creek
Tim Jim Creek
Nourlangie Creek
Adder Creek
2hrs travelling time one way
Gungurul
Maguk
Garnamarr
Jim Jim Falls
(1 km walk over rocks to base of falls)
Twin Falls
Boat shuttle access
Gerowie Creek
Gunlom
Kambolgie Creek
Koolgin Creek
Bukbukluk
Jarrangbarnmi (permit required)
Information Bay Ranger Station
Kambolgie
Yurmikmik Walks
Fisher Creek
Gimbat Creek
MARY RIVER
Pine Creek 59 km
Katherine 149 km
Darwin 285 km
(via Stuart Highway)
Mary River Roadhouse
South Alligator River
Crocodiles inhabit Kakadu's waterways.
Stay alert near all bodies of water, and please obey all signs.
Lowlands
Stone country
Escarpment
Road distances
Principal locations
Sealed road
Unsealed 2WD (may only be 4WD accessible during summer)
Unsealed 2WD (closed during tropical summer)
4WD (closed during tropical summer)
Scale
1 cm = 10 km

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"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

Kakadu National Park covers an amazing 20,000-square-kilometres, and is on the UNESCO World Heritage List in recognition of both 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 combines with abundant wildlife and spectacular landscapes to deliver a profound visual and spiritual experience for visitors. Kakadu's complex ecosystem provides habitats for a wide range of plant and animal species. About one third of Australia's bird species are found in the park.

The name 'Kakadu' comes from an Aboriginal language called Gagudju, which was one of the languages spoken in the north of the park at the beginning of the 20th century. Aboriginal languages used in the park today include Kunwinjku from the north-eastern region, Gundjeihmi from the central region and Jawoyn from the south.

Welcome to Country

The Aboriginal traditional owners welcome you to Kakadu National Park. We are happy and proud to share this special place with you. We hope you 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 from our country.

Park passes

Visitors are required to purchase a park pass to enter Kakadu National Park. Your park pass includes entry to the park, ranger guided activities and information. By purchasing a park pass you contribute to the management of Kakadu and help us maintain tourism services and infrastructure. A large portion of this money goes directly to Kakadu's Bininj/Mungguy traditional owners, supporting their homelands, training and business development.

Park passes can be purchased online before arriving in the park, or at Bowali Visitor Centre and other locations. Visit **parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu** for details.

NT Residents with proof of residency do not require a pass. Park pass checks take place throughout the park and penalties apply for non-compliance.

Culture

A living cultural landscape

Kakadu is a living cultural landscape. Generations of Bininj/Mungguy 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 time.

Bininj/Mungguy believe that during the Creation time important ancestral beings, known as the first people or Nayuhyunggi, journeyed across the landscape creating the features and landforms, plants, animals and the generations of Bininj/Mungguy living here today. The land and its people have always been linked. Discover more about the local traditions and culture at the Warradjan Cultural Centre - page 25.

Fallen *kalalajorn* pandanus nuts

The Aboriginal people of Kakadu are known as Bininj/Mungguy. Bininj (pronounced bining) is a Kunwinjku and Gundjeihmi word; Mungguy (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.

"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 NADJI BUNITJ CLAN

The 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.

The Kakadu National Park logo is a traditional image used to depict the Rainbow Serpent. This cultural design was chosen to represent the local Aboriginal traditional owners and the broader Aboriginal community. It symbolises cultural unity across many clans and many languages throughout the region. The serpent's image is a constant reminder of her power and presence in the landscape. More importantly, she is a reminder to Bininj/Mungguy custodians and the next generations about their obligations to care for country.

1
Artwork by Gabriel Maralngurra

2
Artwork by Gershom Garingarr

3
Artwork by Abel Naborlhborlh

The Rainbow Serpent is a powerful ancestor, known by many Aboriginal groups throughout Australia. The 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 life cycle 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), Namarrgon (Lightning Man) and Warramurrungundji (Earth Mother).

In the Kakadu region alone, the Rainbow Serpent has many different language names. To the north of the park she is known in Gundjeihmi as 'almudj' and in Kunwinjku she is 'ngalyod'. In Gagudju she is referred to as 'nama'rdeedjurr', further south Jawoyn speakers say 'bolung', and to the north-west she is known in Limilngan as 'lulydjudjan'.

1

Creation Ancestors feature prominently at the rock art galleries at Anbangbang.

Rock art

Mimi 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 Mimi 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/Mungguy 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 (gunbim) represents one of the longest historical records of any group of people in the world.

More than 5,000 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 Nourlangie (Burrungkuy) - pages 36 & 38.

"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 BUNITJ CLAN

1

Environment

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of life – the different plants, animals, insects and all other life forms, and the ecosystems of which they are a part. 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 its natural values. Its enduring natural values stem from its exceptional beauty and unique biodiversity, its 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, over 300 tidal and freshwater fish species, more than 2,000 plants and over 10,000 species of insects. It provides habitat for more than 290 bird species (over one-third of Australia's birds). Its internationally important wetlands are a major staging point for migratory birds.

Some of these species are threatened or endangered. Many are found nowhere else in the world and there are still others 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

The beautiful pink blooms of the *Wurrmarninj* lotus lily

2

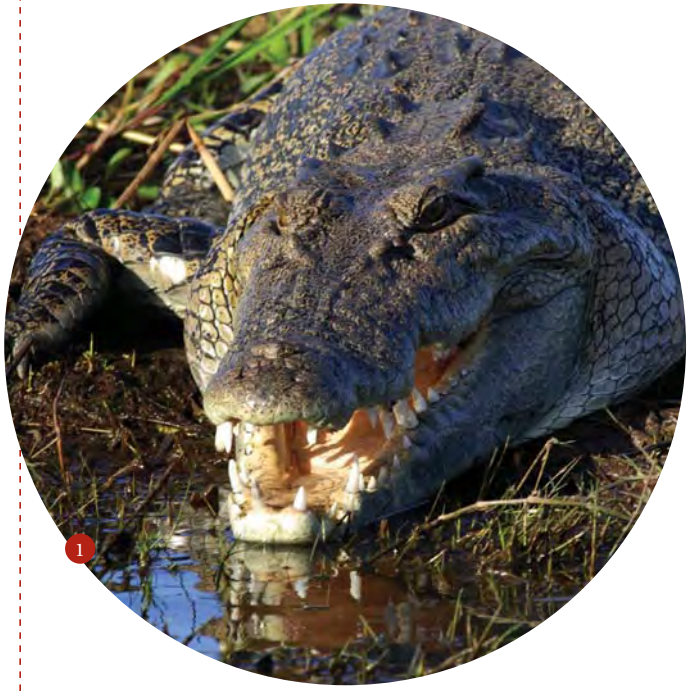
Baby northern quoll

3

Ngalmaykorlo male Gouldian finch

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. There are more than 20 species of crocodilians in the world. Two species occur in Australia: the freshwater and the estuarine (saltwater) crocodile.


1

2

"We still hunt our turtle, goanna or file snake. We used to swim in the water, but not this time because the croc's everywhere, ginga."

YVONNE MARGARULU
MIRARR CLAN

FRESHWATER CROCODILES

Freshwater crocodiles (Madjarrki, *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 crocodiles (Ginga, *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 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.**

1 *Ginga* Estuarine crocodile

2 *Madjarrki* Freshwater crocodile

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 crocodile 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/Mungguy 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 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 crocodiles may move in at any time. **Detailed crocodile safety information is on page 48. Please read the crocodile warning signs, consider their information carefully and obey all safety directions.**

1

Landscapes and habitats

Within the vast landscapes of Kakadu, there are 6 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.

1

A towering cathedral termite mound

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 region.

MONSOON VINE FORESTS

Monsoon vine forests occur in small, isolated patches such as the Manngarre walk or Gubara. 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.

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 Nourlangie for spectacular stone country.

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.

Seasons

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.

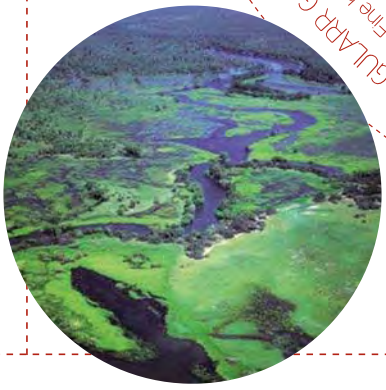
SIX SEASONS OF KAKADU

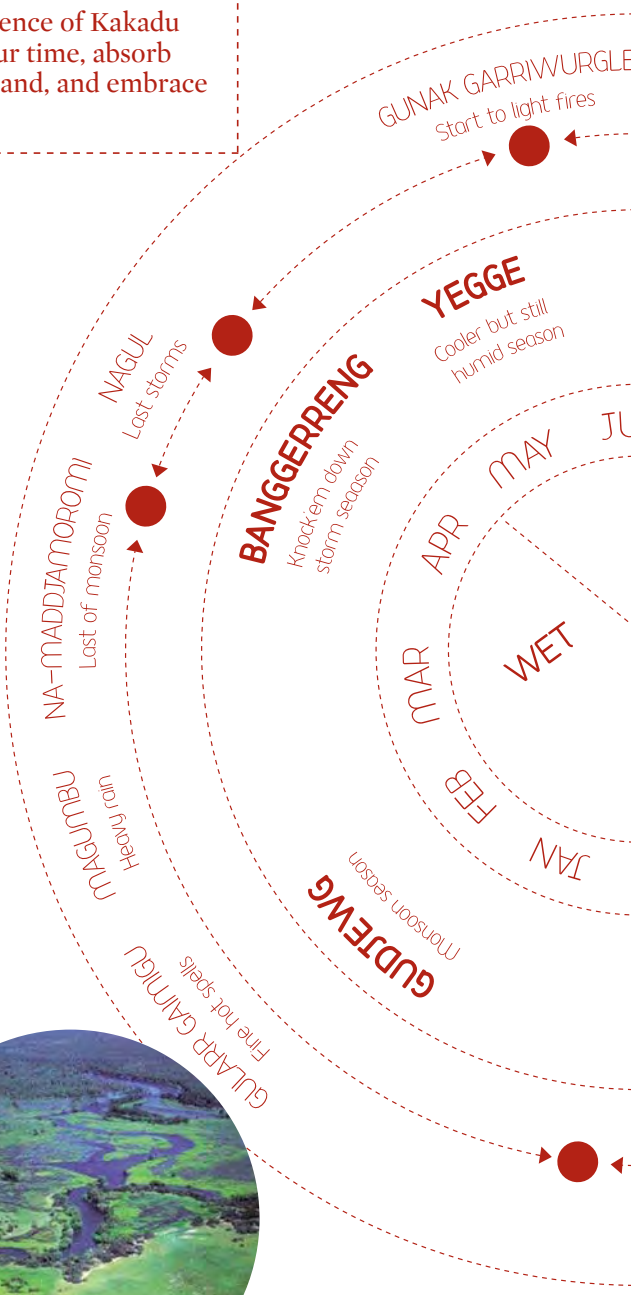
To experience the real essence of Kakadu please slow down, take your time, absorb our relationship with the land, and embrace nature the way we do.

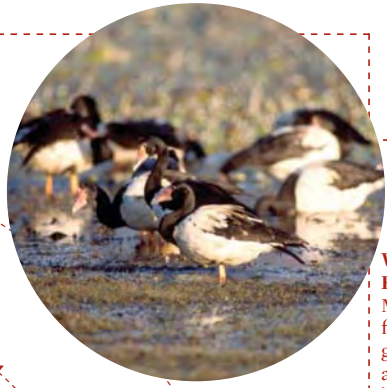
Yegge:
Cool weather time, May to June
The wetlands are carpeted with water lilies. Drying winds and flowering Darwin woolly butt tell Bininj/Mungguy to patchwork burn the woodlands to encourage new growth.

Banggerreng:
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.

Gudjewg:
Monsoon, December to March
The heat and humidity generate an explosion of plant and animal life. Spear grass grows to over 2 metres tall and creates a silvery-green hue throughout the woodlands.







Wurrgeng:
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.

Gurrung:
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 Gunumeleng.

Gunumeleng:
Pre-monsoon, October to December
Streams begin to run, water birds spread out as surface water and new growth becomes widespread. Barramundi move from the waterholes downstream to the estuaries to breed.

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.

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 top of Australia are using traditional patch burning in the cooler weather to prevent wildfires, to repair country and to encourage biodiversity to recover.

"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 BUNITJ CLAN

Activities

Bowali

VISITOR CENTRE

Bowali is a Gundjeihmi name for the local area and creek on land owned by the Mirarr clan. 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.

The Marrawuddi Gallery promotes Aboriginal fine art by artists from Kakadu and the wider region. Refreshments are available from the Anmak An-me Café. Bowali Visitor Centre is open from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm daily (except Christmas Day).
Tel: (08) 8938 1120
Email: kakadunationalpark@environment.gov.au
See region maps on page 34.

1

Warradjan

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE

The shape of this building represents a Warradjan, which is a Gundjeihmi name for 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 that you do not take photographs while you are inside Warradjan.

During the dry season, cultural activities are sometimes scheduled here. Contact Bowali Visitor Centre for further information.

The Warradjan Gift Shop has a selection of arts, crafts, books, clothing, cards and light refreshments. Warradjan is open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm every day. See region maps on page 41.

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.

1 Bowali Visitor Centre

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

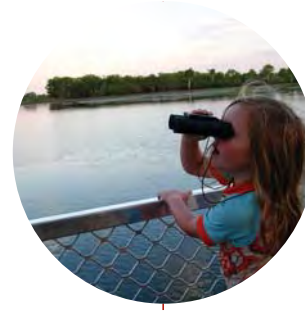
During the dry season, visitors can join rangers and traditional owners for activities throughout Kakadu, including art site talks, walks, cultural activities and night-time slide shows. During the tropical summer, a more limited program is provided. These activities provide an insight into Kakadu's diverse natural features and the culture and traditions of Bininj/ Mungguy. For full details, visit our website or contact Bowali Visitor Centre.

Attending talks: Please respect the experiences of others by moving through or passing by talks 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 apply for park fee and camping fee exemptions, as well as download information 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.



INDIGENOUS CULTURAL TOURS

Animal Tracks Safari: Aboriginal culture and wildlife, featuring bush food gathering and cooking. Tel: 0409 350 842 Email: kakadu@animaltracks.com.au
animaltracks.com.au

Ayal Aboriginal Tours Kakadu: Experience wildlife and Aboriginal rock art with a local Aboriginal guide. Tel: 0429 470 384 Email: bookings@ayalkakadu.com.au
ayalkakadu.com.au

Djabulukgu Association cultural 4WD & boat tours: Experience culture and scenery aboard the **Arnhemlander 4WD Tour** and the **Magela Cultural and Heritage Tour.** Cruise the East Alligator (Erre) River aboard the **Guluyambi Boat Tour** for breathtaking views of the surrounding area. Tel: 1800 525 238 Email: reservations@kakadu.net.au
kakaduculturaltours.com.au

Spirit of Kakadu Adventure Tours: Spectacular adventure taking you off road to see the best of Kakadu. Tel: (08) 8979 1500 Email: reservations@yellowwater.com.au kakadutourism.com

Yellow Water Cruise: Nature and culture cruise on Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) wetlands. Tel: (08) 8979 1500 Email: reservations@yellowwater.com.au
kakadutourism.com.au

OTHER TOURS BASED IN KAKADU

Kakadu Air: Scenic flights over Kakadu. Tel: 1800 089 113 Email: info@kakadutours.com.au
kakaduair.com.au

Kakadu Fishing Tours: Fishing tours on some of Kakadu's most breathtaking waterways. Tel: (08) 8979 2025 Email: ssummerton@dodo.com.au

Lords Kakadu & Arnhemland Safaris: Day tours to Arnhem Land and private touring in Kakadu. Tel: (08) 8948 2200 Email: lordssafaris@bigpond.com
lords-safaris.com

The Scenic Flight Company: Scenic flights over Kakadu.
Tel: (08) 8979 3432 Email: info@aaacharter.com.au
scenicflight.com.au

Top End Explorer Tours: 4WD day tours and private charters to Jim Jim Falls, Twin Falls, Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin Gorge) and other exciting Kakadu visitor sites.
Tel: (08) 8979 3615 Email: info@kakadutours.net.au
kakadutours.net.au

Yellow Water Fishing Safaris: Fishing tours on Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) wetlands.
Tel: (08) 8979 1500 Email: reservations@yellowwater.com.au

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

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 seasonal conditions and access.

Extended overnight bushwalks are also available. 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. Always take plenty of water and make sure you read the visitor safety information on pages 48 to 51.

For more information on permits, contact the Permits Officer on (08) 8938 1140 or email kakadu.permits@environment.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-run 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 amentities at each campsite, see our website in the 'Plan your trip' section.

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

BILL NEIDJIE BUNITJ CLAN

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 m away from the water's edge.
- Keep all equipment in your campsite and away from vegetation.
- Do not disturb trees, particularly small trees which will provide future shade.
- Do not feed the wildlife.
- Take your rubbish with you when you leave.
- Take notice of safety signs.

Boating and fishing

Boating on Kakadu's waterways can be dangerous due to strong currents, sand bars, submerged logs and crocodiles. For this reason 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 and a satellite phone. Refer to onsite signage for more detailed safety information. Boating is prohibited in certain areas – check at the Bowali Visitor Centre for details.

Concrete boat ramps are located at the South Alligator River near the Arnhem Highway, the East Alligator (Erre) River, Yellow Water, Mardugal and Jim Jim Billabong. Unsealed boat ramps are located at Waldak Irrmbal and Muirella Park.

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

- Keep away from the 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 pages 14, 15 and 48 for more 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) north to the South Alligator River, and the Magela Creek from Mudginberri to Nankeen Billabongs 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.

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 in 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 Muirella Park (Djarradjin and Sandy Billabongs) 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, telephone (08) 8938 1120 for the latest information.

1 Fishing on a commercial tour

2 Salvinia

Regions

The seven regions of Kakadu

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

BRIAN BARUWEI WURRKBARBAR CLAN

South Alligator region

Central to this area is the South Alligator River.
Stay in resort accommodation or camp under the stars.
Visit wetlands and enjoy invigorating walks in this region.

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 km walk adjacent to the wetlands. Allow 1 to 2 hours for the full walk.
Gungarre walk: (Check seasonal access). Starts at the large banyan fig tree near the Aurora Kakadu Resort and features a 3.6 km circular walk through monsoon forest, woodlands and along the margins of Anggardabal Billabong. Allow 2 hours.

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...
South Alligator River and 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 page 29 for more boating information).
Off the highway: (Dry season only) There are 2 major four-wheel drive tracks in the area: the Waldak Irrmbal (West Alligator Head) track (which accesses Two Mile Hole and Four Mile Hole) and the Red Lily Billabong, Bucket Billabong and Alligator Billabong track. Both tracks lead to destinations suitable for boating, bird watching and camping. ***Please read the crocodile information on page 48.***

WHERE TO STAY

Aurora Kakadu Resort: Motel rooms, tent sites, powered and unpowered van sites, restaurant, store and guest pool. Reservations recommended. Tel: (08) 8979 0166
Bush Camping Areas: Waldak Irrmbal (West Alligator Head). Basic toilet facilities. Fees apply (collection box).
Free Camping Areas: (Check seasonal access) Two Mile, Four Mile Hole, Red Lily Billabong, Bucket Billabong and Alligator Billabong. No toilet available. Drinking water is not available. Rubbish bins are not provided, so please take rubbish out with you.

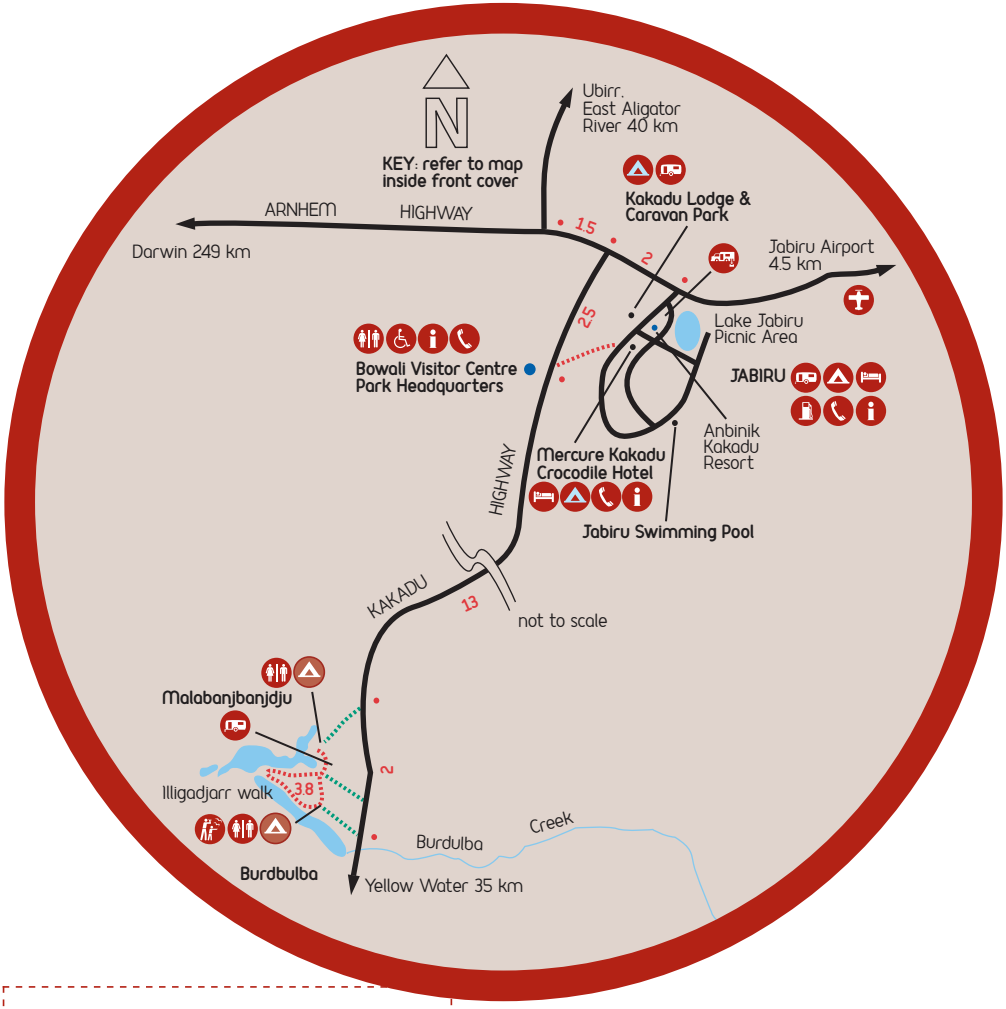
USEFUL INFORMATION

Aurora Kakadu Resort store: Sells petrol, diesel, food and souvenirs.

1 Mamukala bird hide

2 Bush camping

3 Gungarre walk



Jabiru region

Jabiru is the main township in Kakadu, providing a range of essential services for visitors, and a gateway to all parts of the park and Arnhem Land.

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. Tel: (08) 8938 1120.

The Marrawuddi Gallery: Stocks Aboriginal arts and crafts, books and gifts. Refreshments available from the Anmak An-me Café. Open daily from 9.00 am - 4.00 pm (summer) / 8.30 am - 5.00 pm (dry).

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Bowali bike and walking track: Starts opposite the Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel Jabiru. A 4 km return earth path winds through woodlands to the Bowali Visitor Centre. Allow 30-45 minutes each way.

Illigadjarr walk: (Dry season only) Starts at Malabanjbanjdju or Burdulba Camping Areas. This 3.8 km circular walk 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 Cooinda, provide an awe-inspiring bird's-eye view of Kakadu and its many and varied habitats.

WHERE TO STAY

Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel: Hotel rooms (air conditioned), restaurant, gift shop, guest pool and bookings for commercial tours. Reservations recommended. Tel: (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. Tel: (08) 8979 2422

Anbinik Kakadu Resort: Bush bungalows, cabins and air-conditioned rooms. Reservations recommended. Tel: (08) 8979 3144

Bush Camping Areas: Malabanjbanjdju and Burdulba have basic toilet facilities. Drinking water is not available. Fees apply (collection box). Check seasonal access.

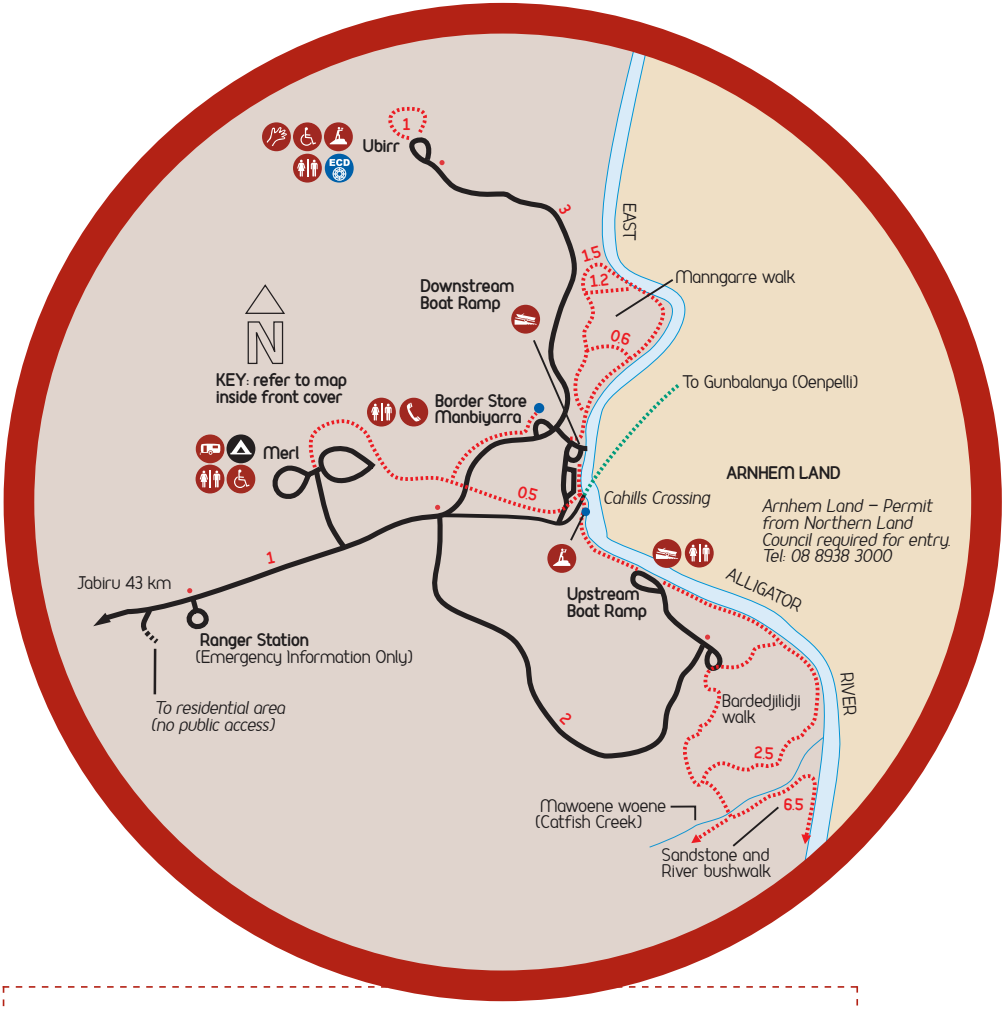
USEFUL INFORMATION

In Jabiru there is a service station, supermarket, newsagent and post office (Commonwealth Bank agency), Westpac Bank, travel agent, medical centre and chemist (Tel: (08) 8979 2018), police, public telephones, swimming pool, library (internet), Northern Land Council Office, golf course, restaurant, café and bakery.

1 Bowali Visitor Centre

2 Experience Kakadu from the air. Image - Peter Eve.

3 Marrawuddi Gallery



East Alligator (Erre) region

In the shadow of the magnificent Arnhem Land escarpment, discover rainforest, stone country, rock art, extensive floodplains and the beautiful East Alligator (Erre) River.

THINGS TO DO

Ubirr: (Check seasonal access and opening times.) A 1 km circular track takes you past several fascinating Aboriginal rock art sites. A moderately steep, 250 m climb takes you to the top of a rocky lookout that offers superb views over the Nadab floodplain, particularly beautiful at sunset. Allow at least 1 hour. Open April to Nov (Dry) from 8.30 am – sunset. Dec to March (Summer) from 2.00 pm – sunset. During the dry season, rangers provide informative talks about Aboriginal art and culture. Contact Bowali Visitor Centre for details.
East Alligator (Erre) River: (Check seasonal access.) Just east of Merl Camping Area and the Border Store (Manbiyarra), a tidal river forms the boundary between Kakadu and Arnhem Land. The Guluyambi boat cruise operates 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 page 27 for tour booking information. Boat ramps are located upstream and downstream of Cahills Crossing. See page 29 for more boating information.

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Bardedjilidji walk: (Check seasonal access.) Starts at a small carpark 500 m from the upstream boat ramp and features a 2.5 km walk through layered sandstone outliers. One of Kakadu's most interesting short walks. Allow 2 hours.
Manngarre rainforest walk: (Dry season only.) 3 circular walks, from 0.6 km to 1.5 km, 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 over the East Alligator (Erre) River.
Sandstone and river bushwalk: (Dry season only.) Starts off the Bardedjilidji walk and features a 6.5 km marked circular walk which takes you past Catfish Creek, floodplains, billabongs, sandstone outliers and the East Alligator (Erre) River. Popular for croc spotting. Allow 4 hours.

WHERE TO STAY

Managed Camping Area: (Check seasonal access) Merl campground has showers, toilets and generator zone. Fees apply (collected on site).

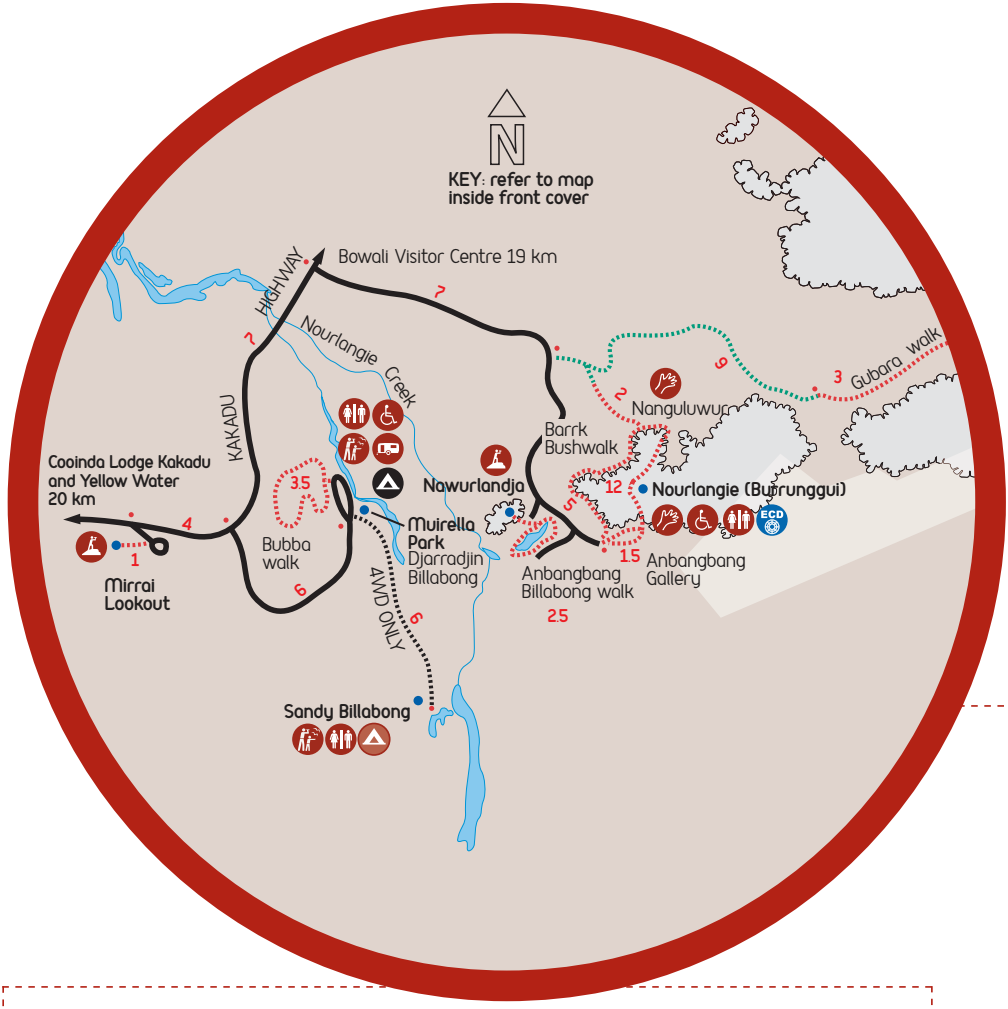
USEFUL INFORMATION

The Border Store (Manbiyarra): Sells food and drinks, fishing gear, souvenirs and takes bookings for commercial tours. Open during the dry season. Tel: (08) 8979 2474.

1 View from Ubirr over the Nadab floodplain in the dry

2 Guluyambi boat cruise on the East Alligator (Erre) River

3 Sandstone and river bushwalk



Nourlangie (Burrungkuy) region

Burrungkuy is the Gundjeihmi name for the upper section of Nourlangie where rock art is featured. Anbangbang is the name for the lower section of the rock and surrounding area.

THINGS TO DO

Nourlangie (Burrungkuy): Features a 1.5 km circular walk that takes you past an ancient Aboriginal shelter and several outstanding art sites. A moderately steep climb to Gunwarddehwardde 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.

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

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

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

Gubara Pools walk: (Check seasonal access.) A 6 km return walk past sandstone cliffs to shady monsoon forest pools. A pleasant place to spend the heat of the day. Allow 4 hours.

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Bubba walk: (Dry season only.) Starts at the Djarradjin (Muirella Park) Camping Area, featuring a 3.5 km circular walk through several wetland habitats. Allow 2 hours.

Mirrai Lookout walk: A moderately difficult 2 km return walk to a platform lookout on top of Mount Cahill. A steep climb. Allow 1.5 hours.

Sandstone Barrk walk: Branching off the Nourlangie (Burrungkuy) lookout track, this is a difficult 12 km walk through the sandstone country of Nourlangie (Burrungkuy), past the Nanguluwur art gallery and back to the Nourlangie (Burrungkuy) car park. See the Barrk Walk Park Note available from our website or Bowali Visitor Centre. Allow 4 to 6 hours.

WHERE TO STAY

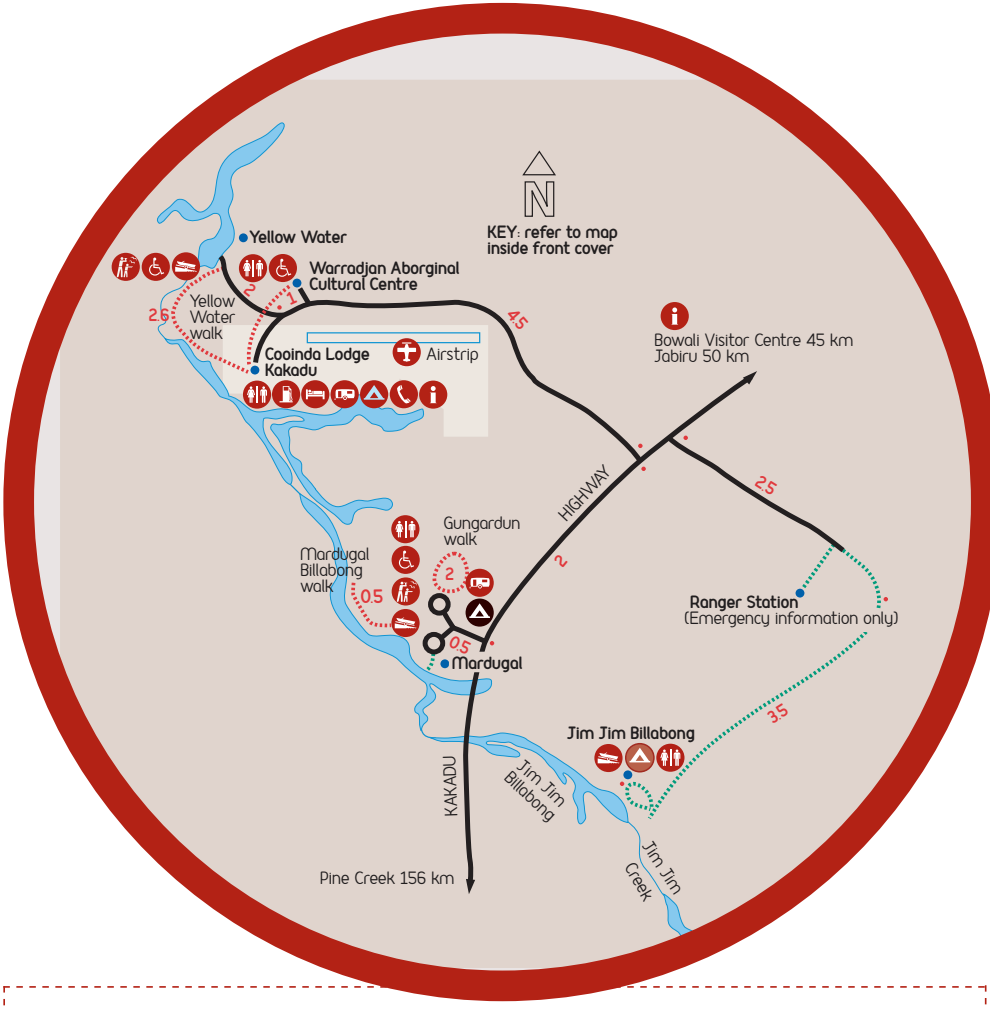
Managed Camping Area: Muirella Park (Djarradjin) has showers, toilets and is a no-generator zone. Fees apply (collected on site). Check seasonal access.

Bush Camping Area: Sandy Billabong has basic toilet facilities. Fees apply (collection box). Check seasonal access. 4WD recommended. Drinking water is not available.

1 Rock art at Nourlangie (Burrungkuy)

2 Burrunggui and Anbangbang Billabong

3 Nawurlandja Lookout walk



Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) region

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 (Ngurrungurrudjba) 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 km return walk takes you across the floodplains to a viewing platform on Home Billabong. Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) boat cruises operates throughout the year and provides a marvellous opportunity to see the varied birdlife of Kakadu's World Heritage wetlands. See page 27 for booking information.

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. Tel: (08) 8979 0051

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Mardugal Billabong walk: (Dry season only.) A 1 km return walk follows the edge of Mardugal Billabong. Allow 30 minutes.

Gungardun walk: Starts near the entrance of the Mardugal Camping Area and features a 2 km circular walk through woodlands, Kakadu's most widespread habitat. Allow 1 hour.

Boating: Boat ramps are located at Jim Jim Billabong, Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) and Mardugal Billabong (see page 29 for more boating information). ***Please read the crocodile information on page 48.***

WHERE TO STAY

Cooinda Lodge Kakadu: Motel rooms, budget accommodation, tent sites, powered van sites, bistro, restaurant, pool, store and internet café. Reservations recommended. Tel: (08) 8979 1500

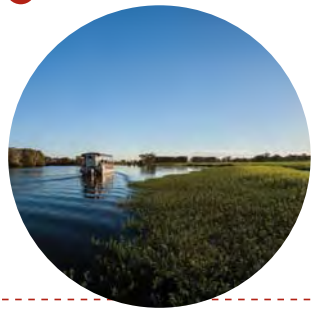
Managed Camping Area: Mardugal has showers, toilets and is a generator zone. Fees apply (collected on site). Check seasonal access. Water not suitable for drinking.

Bush Camping Areas: Jim Jim Billabong has basic toilet facilities. Fees apply (collection box). Check seasonal access. Drinking water not available.

USEFUL INFORMATION

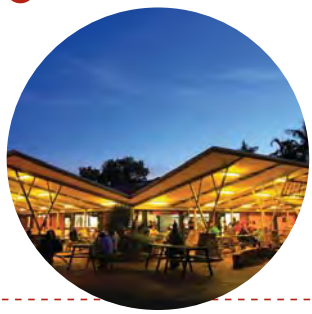
Kakadu Tourism Cooinda Lodge store: Sells petrol, diesel, food, souvenirs and bookings for commercial tours.

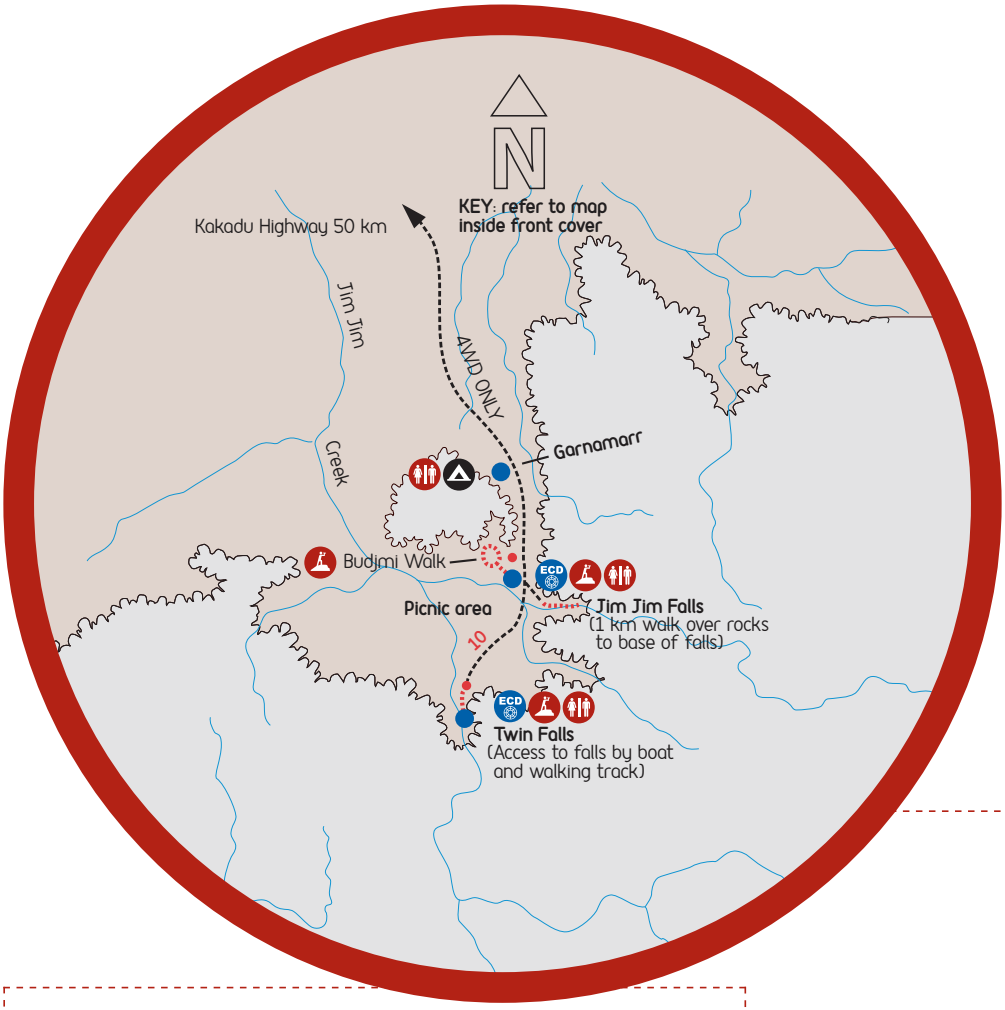
1 Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba)



2 Yellow Water cruise

3 Cooinda Lodge





Jim Jim Falls and Twin Falls Gorge region

Spectacular all year – see this area from the ground in the dry season, and from the air in the tropical summer. Well worth the trip.

THINGS TO DO

Jim Jim Falls Plunge Pool: (Dry season only, 4WD) Features a 2 km return walk through monsoon forest and over boulders to a deep plunge pool surrounded by spectacular 150 m high cliffs. During the dry season the waterfall stops flowing. Allow 1 to 2 hours. Turn east off the Kakadu Highway 43 km south of the Bowali Visitor Centre. Engage 4WD, travel 50 km. Allow 2 hours one-way. Please adhere to speed limits and drive safely. The last 10 km of track includes areas of soft sand. ***Estuarine crocodiles have been known to move into the Jim Jim Falls area. Please read the crocodile information on page 48.***

Twin Falls Gorge: (Dry season only, high clearance 4WD, snorkel recommended.) Access to Twin Falls is by a boat shuttle service and a walking track over boulders and sand, and a boardwalk. Tickets for the boat shuttle can be purchased at the Bowali Visitor Centre, and Garnamarr campground. Allow 2 hours. From Garnamarr travel 8 km towards Jim Jim Falls, turn right and travel a further 11 km to Twin Falls. Engage 4WD. The last section involves a deep water crossing at Jim Jim Creek. Allow half an hour from Jim Jim Falls, one way. Please adhere to speed limits and drive safely. ***Swimming is prohibited in Twin Falls Gorge as estuarine crocodiles may occur here.***

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Budjmi Lookout: (Dry season only.) A moderately steep 1 km 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 km 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 Bushwalk: This marked day walk branches off the Jim Jim Falls Plunge Pool track. It is a very steep, difficult 6 km 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 page 27 for booking information.

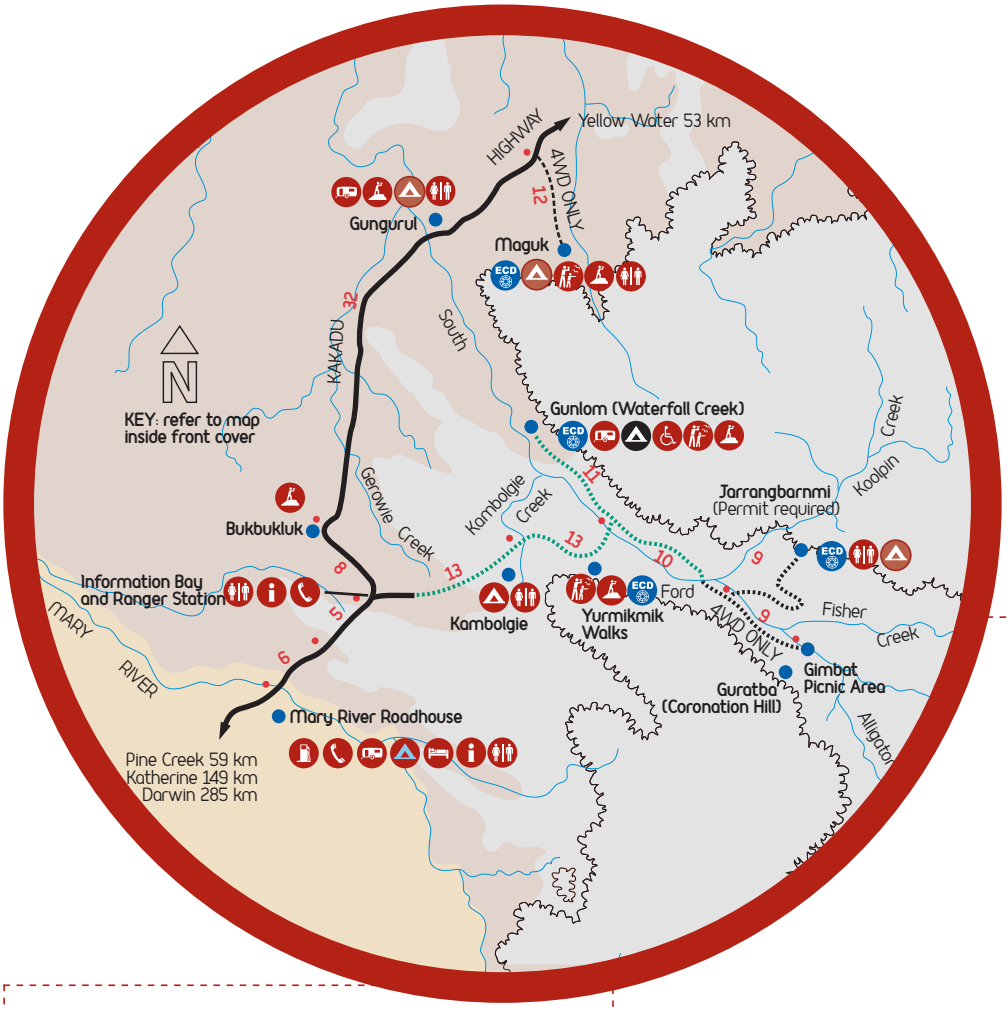
WHERE TO STAY

Managed Camping Area: Garnamarr Camping Area has showers and toilets. No generators allowed. Fees apply (collected on site). Check seasonal access.

1 See Jim Jim Falls from a scenic flight in full summer flow

2 Jim Jim Falls Gorge Walk

3 A four-wheel drive vehicle is essential



Mary River region

The Jawoyn people believe that powerful Creation Ancestors rest here and they should not be disturbed. This area offers spectacular bushwalks, with powerful waterfalls in summer and sparkling waterholes in the dry.

THINGS TO DO

Gunlom: (Gravel road; check seasonal access). A popular camping area located near a clear plunge pool and waterfall. A 2 km 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 km 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. The individual walks are: Boulder Creek Walk (2 km return); Yurmikmik Lookout Walk (5 km return); Motor Car Falls (7.5 km return); and Kurrundie Creek Walk (11 km return - NOTE: permit required for this walk).

IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME...

Maguk Plunge Pool: (Gravel road, dry season only, 4WD recommended). A 2 km 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 crocodiles have been known to move into Maguk. Please read the crocodile information on page 48.

Bukbukluk Lookout: Picnic tables and a 400 m return walk to a lookout with views of old Goodparla Station.

Jarrangbarnmi: (Dry season only, 4WD). Bush camping beside Koolpin Creek. Access by permit only. Permits can be organised through the Permits Officer, Kakadu National Park (08) 8938 1140. Please read the crocodile information on page 48.

Gimbat picnic area: (Dry season only, 4WD). A shady picnic area situated near Guratba (Coronation Hill) and the South Alligator River.

WHERE TO STAY

Mary River Roadhouse: (Just outside Kakadu). Motel rooms, backpacker accommodation, powered van sites and camping. Telephone (08) 8975 4229.

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

Bush Camping Areas: 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

Mary River Roadhouse: Bistro, take-away food, petrol, diesel, souvenirs and supplies.

1 Waterhole at the top of Gunlom

2 Yurmikmik Walks

3 Walk to Maguk plunge pool

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:

Day 1: Mamukala wetlands/Bowali Visitor Centre/Manngarre rainforest walk, Bardedjilidji walk or Guluyambi Cultural Cruise/Cahills Crossing viewing platform and picnic area/Ubirr art site and sunset lookout.
Day 2: Scenic flight from Jabiru or Cooinda airstrips/Nourlangie (Burrungkuy) art site/ Anbangbang Billabong walk/Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre/Yellow Water Cruise.
Day 3: Gunlom Plunge Pool and Lookout 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:

- Nanguluwur quiet rock art site
- Barrk walk
- Budjmi walk near Jim Jim Falls
- Nawurlandja Lookout for sunset
- Maguk
- Twin Falls Plateau walk

Tropical Summer:

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

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

- Jabiru lake walk
- Nanguluwur quiet rock art site
- Fishing tour
- Gungurul, Bukbukluk and Mirrai Lookouts

Friendly staff at Bowali Visitor Centre are happy to help personalise your itinerary. Don't miss our ranger guided activities. Contact Bowali Visitor Centre or visit our website for full details. See page 27 for tour booking information.

Note: Visitors entering the park from the south are advised to follow these itineraries in reverse order. Please check seasonal access for suggested sites on our road and access report at kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com.

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 purposes at the request of traditional owners.

Pronouncing Bininj/Mungguy names: Unlike English, the spelling system used to record local Aboriginal languages is very consistent. So once you have learnt the alphabet, it is quite easy to pronounce words by sounding them out. The Aboriginal Language Park Note details the Gundjeihmi alphabet. It is available on our website via the Kakadu culture page.

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 decision making 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

CROCODILES

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.

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.

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 if they are biting, use a repellent.

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 camping areas
- Stay behind the 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 park signs and brochures

PREVENTING DEHYDRATION:
Limit your activity to the cooler parts of the day (mornings and late afternoons) and drink plenty of water. Most people need between 4 to 8 litres of water per day so start drinking water early (coffee, tea and alcohol don't count!). For every hour you walk, carry at least 1 litre of water per person.

DEHYDRATION 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.

FIRST AID:
Lie the person down in a cool shaded area.
Give them water in small quantities at a time (creek water is alright 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.

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 camera flash when necessary.

SWIMMING IN KAKADU

Due to the risk of crocodiles in the park, the only place we recommend you swim is in the Jabiru swimming pool and pools at various resorts and hotels. Some visitors choose to swim at their own risk in crocodile management zones, which are selected natural plunge pools and gorge areas such as Maguk, Jim Jim Falls, Gunlom, Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin Gorge) and in creeks on the plateau above Twin Falls, Jim Jim Falls and Gunlom. These areas are surveyed for crocodiles prior to opening each dry season. There still remains some risk that crocodiles may move into any gorge, creek, plunge pool or waterway.

Please obey the crocodile warning signs in each plunge pool, gorge area and consider the information carefully.

DRIVING HINTS

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

Roads can become slippery in the wet. During the 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.

Always check road access, by contacting the Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com

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.

FLASH FLOODING:
Please be aware of possible sudden rises in the levels of waterways across roads, walking tracks and in waterfall areas. These rises can quickly cut off access. Fast flowing water can be deceptive, creating strong currents, and dangerous swimming and driving conditions. Do not enter the water unless you are sure it is safe to do so.

EMERGENCY CALL DEVICES (ECDS)

Emergency Call Devices (ECD) are found in remote locations throughout Kakadu. Instructions for use are written on the ECD. These are for emergency calls only. See maps for detailed locations. ECDs are located at: Koolpin, Maguk, Jim Jim Falls car park and plunge pool, Top of Jim Jim Falls, Graveside, Ubirr, Nourlangie (Burrungkuy), Gunlom, Twin Falls, West Alligator Head, Northern Information Bay, Twin Falls Plateau and Boat Landing, Motor Car Falls and Yurmikmik car park.

Quick tips to stay safe

Kakadu is a wild place - here are our tips to help you stay safe!

Beat the heat

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 it reaches 36°C or above.

- Wear a hat, strong shoes and sunscreen
- Carry and drink at least one litre of fluids per person per hour
- 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

Following all 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 that crocodiles are present

Emergency Call Devices (ECD)

- Familiarise yourself with ECD locations on the map at the front of this guide

Crocodiles (please refer to detailed fact sheet)

- 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 (please refer to detailed fact sheet)

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

- 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, 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

Swimming

The safest places to swim are the public swimming pool in Jabiru and the pools at the resorts and hotels.

- We don't recommend that people swim in Kakadu's waterways, but some people choose to do so at their own risk in our crocodile management zones. See page 49 for more details

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 immobilized

Emergencies

- If you have an EMERGENCY or need assistance call 000 or press an emergency call device (ECD)

kakadu™
NATIONAL PARK

parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu

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Printed September 2017

Bobo (goodbye)