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Kakadu National Park Holiday Planner



Welcome to Kakadu

Kakadu National Park was declared a World Heritage area for its outstanding cultural and natural values. The Park includes one of the finest and most extensive collections of rock art in the world, a reminder of Aboriginal people's long association with the land. Kakadu embraces some spectacular scenery, from the rugged sandstone escarpment, to the extensive woodlands and vast wetlands. Kakadu also protects the entire catchment of a large sub-tropical river, the South Alligator, and examples of most of Australia's Top End habitats.

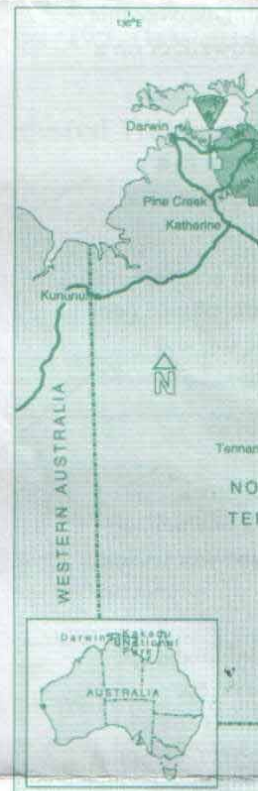
Kakadu National Park is a cultural landscape. It was shaped by the spiritual ancestors of Aboriginal people during the Creation Era. These ancestors journeyed across the country creating the landforms, plants, animals and Bininj/Mungguy (Aboriginal people). They taught Bininj/Mungguy how to live and how to look after the country.

Today, the Park is managed jointly by its Aboriginal traditional owners and the staff of Parks Australia. Management aims are to protect the interests of the Park's traditional owners, conserve Kakadu's World Heritage values and encourage visitor use and enjoyment.

Planning your holiday

Where is Kakadu?

Kakadu is located in Australia's Northern Territory, approximately 200 kilometres east of Darwin, along a sealed highway.



Comparing the Seasons

Dry Season (April to September)



Build up (October to November)



Wet Season (December to March)



How Long to Stay

Kakadu is a very large Park. Spanning over 200 kilometres north to south and over 100 kilometres east to west, Kakadu is roughly one third of the size of Tasmania. Plan to stay at least a few days.

Distances between places of interest are often long. Allow plenty of time for travelling. You may find that some places are more interesting than expected, so also allow time to explore.

What to Pack

In the tropics you will be most comfortable in a long-sleeved shirt and long loose trousers, which are cool but protect you against sunburn and insect bites. Don't forget to pack a water bottle, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Mosquitoes can carry Ross River Virus so, if you are camping, a mosquito net or screen tent is recommended.

Getting Around

By car - visitors travelling from Darwin can enter Kakadu from the north via the Arnhem Highway. Those travelling from Katherine or Pine Creek can enter the Park from the south via the Kakadu Highway. Car hire is available from Darwin, Jabiru and Katherine. It is advisable to book well in advance. Road conditions vary within the Park and some roads are accessible by 4WD only. During the wet season, unsealed roads are generally closed.

By bus - daily bus services run from Darwin to the Park. Travelling around Kakadu by bus is possible however it requires some planning. Please contact the travel centres and Tourism associations mentioned below for further information.

Tours - for visitors without 4WDs or boats, a wide variety of commercial tours are available. Information on tours is available from:

N.T. Holiday Centre	☎ 13 30 68
Darwin Region Tourism Association	☎ 08 8981 4404
Jabiru Travel Centre	☎ 08 8979 2548
Katherine Region Tourism Association	☎ 08 8972 2650

Bookings can also be made in Kakadu at commercial accommodation centres, or by contacting the tour operators directly.

Scenic flights provide a bird's eye view of Kakadu and are available from Jabiru East and Cooina Airstrips. Bookings can be organised in Kakadu by phoning Kakadu Air ☎ 1800 089 113.

Facilities for People with Disabilities

Tracks and toilets suitable for wheelchair access are provided at the Bowali Visitor Centre and Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre; Merl, Muirella Park, Mardugal and Gunlom camping areas; and at Ubirr and Nourlangie art sites. The track from Cooina to the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre and sections of the tracks at Ubirr and Nourlangie are suitable for wheelchairs. Mamukala and Yellow Water have wheelchair access tracks but no toilet facilities for disabled people.

Fuel, Food and Provisions

These are available at Jabiru, Gagudju Lodge, Cooina, Aurora

Places to Stay

Hotel accommodation - available at
Aurora Kakadu Resort ☎ 08 8979 0166
Gagudju Crocodile Holiday Inn ☎ 08 8979 0166
Gagudju Lodge Cooina ☎ 08 8979 0166

Budget accommodation - available at
Kakadu Hostel ☎ 08 8979 2232
Kakadu Lodge ☎ 08 8979 2422 and
Gagudju Lodge Cooina ☎ 08 8979 0166

Commercial camping areas - full camp powered and unpowered sites are located at
Aurora Kakadu Resort ☎ 08 8979 0166
Kakadu Lodge ☎ 08 8979 2422 and
Gagudju Lodge Cooina ☎ 08 8979 0166
Camping fees vary.

National Park camping areas - unpowered sites and shower and toilet facilities are located at
Mardugal and Gunlom. Camping fees are \$16.25 per night, children under 16 are free of charge.

Bush camping - there are a number of unpowered sites in the Park, with limited facilities, free of charge. A permit is required to camp in designated camping areas.

Park Use Fees

There is a Park use fee of \$16.25 per adult per night. Children under 16 are admitted free of charge. Fees are collected at the Park Entrance Station and the Visitor Centre.

Park use fees are used to help manage the Park, provide visitor facilities and information such as maps and the Kakadu Visitor Guide when you visit. The Visitor Guide contains more detailed information on the Park, places of interest and walks.

Protecting the Park

To prevent disturbance or injury to native wildlife is prohibited and pets are not allowed in the Park. Firearms are prohibited for the safety of visitors and residents. These and other regulations are set out in the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, the National Parks and Wildlife Regulations and the National Parks and Wildlife Regulations.

Finding Out More About the Park

The more you know about Kakadu, the more you will enjoy it. To discover more about the Park, contact the owners of Kakadu, look for the following information or bookshop:

- *Kakadu National Park Australia* by Bill Neidjie
- *Kakadu - Natural and Cultural Heritage* edited by AJ Press et al
- *Story about Feeling* by Bill Neidjie
- *Kakadu Man* by Bill Neidjie
- *Wildlife of Kakadu* by Greg Miles
- *Wildflowers of Kakadu* by Kym Bre