

Five Day 2WD Dry Season Itinerary



From May to October, it is the dry season in Kakadu National Park, with cooler temperatures around 17°C to 30°C, making it Kakadu's peak visiting season. Most waterfalls stop flowing and the floodplains quickly dry out, while the low water levels in the billabongs and floodplain reveal an explosion of wildlife activity.

Kakadu seasons

There are three different [Kakadu seasons](#) during the dry time. Visit [Kakadu Parks Access Report](#) for updates on what is open during your time of travel.



Day One — Welcome

Embark on your three hour drive from Darwin towards Kakadu National Park. Upon entering the park, call into [Mamukala Wetlands](#), where you will be introduced to Kakadu's floodplain landscape teeming with wildlife.

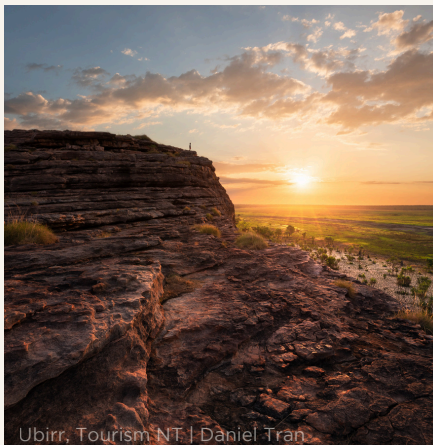
Check into the world-famous Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel in Jabiru, unpack your bags and have a cooling dip in the resort pool.

Book Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel

Prior to arrival

You'll need to collect a [Kakadu National Parks pass](#) to enter the park. You can either purchase the pass online before heading into the park, or from Bowali Visitor Centre upon arrival.

Check-in at the hotel is from 2pm daily.



Day One — Afternoon

Take a scenic drive to [Ubirr](#), a sacred site that is significant for its Aboriginal Rock Art. Experience a spectacular sunset, with 360° views of the Arnhem Land escarpment amalgamating into the floodplains.

As you traverse the ancient stone country landscape, you'll become privy to the artistry and cultural heritage that defines this extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage Listed National Park.

Guided tour

Most rental cars do not allow driving at night in Kakadu. Never Never Safari Tours is an option if this is the case for your visit, offering a pick-up and drop-off from the Crocodile Hotel. [Book Never Never Safari Tour to Ubirr](#)



Day One — Evening

Return to Mercure Crocodile Hotel for an air-conditioned, indoor dining experience at Manjmuruk Restaurant and Bar.

The menu promotes the unique flavours of Kakadu, with native ingredients such as kangaroo, barramundi and buffalo. Enjoy the extensive wine and bar menu featuring local NT distillers and native ingredient inspired cocktails.

Signature menu

Indulge in the native flavours of Kakadu with Manjmuruk's new menu featuring local Gunbalanya Eye Fillet, Pan-seared NT Barramundi and Kangaroo. [Download menu](#)



Day Two — Morning to Day

Enjoy a buffet breakfast at the Croc Hotel before embarking on a full-day Arnhem Land tour with Kakadu Cultural tours. Pick up is at 7.50am from the hotel, returning you by 4pm.

You'll explore the sandstone escarpment outcrops, rock art sites, forests, floodplains and billabongs from a 4WD bus. The tour includes permits and visits the [Injalak Arts & Crafts](#) outlet at the Border Store.

Book Arnhemlander Cultural Tour



Day Two — Afternoon

Return to Mercure Crocodile Hotel for a refreshing swim before an air-conditioned, indoor dining experience at Manjukumuk Restaurant and Bar.

The menu promotes the unique flavours of Kakadu, with native ingredients such as kangaroo, barramundi and buffalo. Enjoy the extensive wine and bar menu featuring local NT distillers and native ingredient inspired cocktails.

Signature beverage

Satisfy your outback thirst with the signature cocktail, 'Kakadu Mule.' This refreshing drink features locally crafted NT Willing Distillery Vodka, a kick of Strangelove hot ginger beer, and the zest of fresh lime juice, all perfectly balanced with a hint of mint.



Day Three — Morning

Enjoy a buffet breakfast at the Croc Hotel before walking across the road to visit [Marrawuddi Arts & Culture](#); a vibrant working space for local artists with a beautiful exhibition area and delicious coffee.

Next, head toward [Bowali Visitor Information Centre](#), which is designed and inspired by an Aboriginal Rock Shelter, with a wealth of information and background to the Park's heritage and evolution.

Cultural learning

The town of Jabiru is Traditionally Owned and situated on Mirarr Clan Country. Marrawuddi Arts & Culture and Bowali Visitor Centre both provide insight into the deep history of these lands, Bininj/Mungguy (Aboriginal) people and their traditional practices that are still very present in local communities.



Day Three — Day

Visit [Burrungkuy \(Nourlangie\)](#) for a visual odyssey through time — an open-air cultural museum. The paintings, shelters and artefacts vividly showcase traditional ways of life from various epochs, offering a captivating glimpse into the rich heritage of the area. A 1.5 km circular walk leads to the base, with wheelchair-accessible sections.

For something extra, explore the moderate 6 km return [Kubara pools walk](#).

Guided tour

Join local Bininj (Aboriginal) tour guides on a 2 hr tour of Burrungkuy/Nourlangie rock art, where you'll learn about the cultural, and family stories of the last great rock art painter in Kakadu. [Book Yibekka](#)



Day Three — Afternoon

Check-in to Cooinda Lodge, the resort-style oasis in Kakadu's southern area.

Explore the Ngurrungurudjba, [Yellow Water Billabong](#) by joining the afternoon Yellow Water Cruise. As the sun paints the water's surface with a warm golden glow, the billabong exhibits its basking crocodiles, vibrant birdlife, and the tranquil rhythm of nature.

[Book Cooinda](#) **[Book Yellow Water Cruise](#)**

What to see

For bird lovers and wildlife enthusiasts, download a guide on what to see on a Yellow Water Cruise in this UNESCO World Heritage Listed National Park. This is also very helpful for visitors with English as a secondary language! [Learn more](#)



Day Three — Evening

Head to Mimi's restaurant for an indoor à la carte service with signature dishes, or opt for alfresco Barra Bar, adorned with fairy lights for a balmy outdoor dining experience.

Alternatively, try the pop-up Too Deadly Takeaway Fish and Chip Van or Smoking Croc BBQ House for a more casual option upon the grassy outdoor area.

Signature dish

For quality meat and fresh flavours, try the Rum Jungle Buffalo Fillet. Enjoy tangy carrot and ginger, rosella jus, and a hint of sweetness from Davidson plum and native currant chutney. [Download menu](#)



Day Four — Morning to Day

Indulge in a buffet breakfast, barista-made coffee and fresh juice at Cooinda Lodge to start your day.

Experience the breathtaking beauty of Kakadu from the sky with Kakadu Air's scenic flights. These flights offer a unique perspective on the park's stunning landscapes, from cascading waterfalls to ancient rock formations.

[Book Kakadu Air Scenic Flight](#)

Skip the flight

Option to take a second Yellow Water Cruise to see the billabong in a different light! See crocodiles awakening to warm themselves in the morning sun, and the golden glow through the morning mist. You're sure to see something new with another cruise. [Book Yellow Water Cruise](#)



Day Four — Overnight

Discover Kakadu through the Indigenous lens with Kakadu Billabong Safari Camp's culturally immersive accommodation and tour experience on Murumburr Clan country.

Your stay will be in off-grid safari style tents, embracing the tranquility of Kakadu. Pick up is 3pm from Cooinda Lodge, returning you by 9am the following morning.

[Book Kakadu Billabong Safari Camp](#)

Skip the Overnight

Take the 4 hour afternoon Culture of Kakadu Tour from 3pm to 7pm instead! Spend the evening in your same Cooinda room or upgrade to a Yellow Water Villa for something extra special for your last night. [Book Culture of Kakadu](#) [Book Yellow Water Villa](#)



Day Five — Morning

Indulge in a buffet breakfast, barista-made coffee and fresh juice at Cooina Lodge to start your day.

Embark on a five hour Kakadu Adventure Tour from 8am to 1pm. This is the perfect opportunity to visit stunning waterfalls and crystal-clear swimming holes that are only accessible with a 4WD vehicle.

Book Kakadu Adventure Tour

Please note

The Kakadu Adventure tour itineraries will vary depending on site accessibility and fitness level of the group. Popular destinations can include [Maguk](#), [Ikoymarrwa \(Moline\)](#), [Rockhole](#) and [Gungural Lookout Walk](#).



Day Five — Afternoon

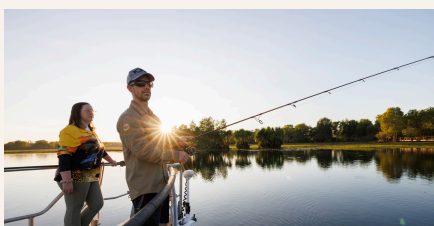
Arrive back at Cooina Lodge in time for a delicious buffet lunch at Mimi's Restaurant or a snack from the cafe!

Take the 1km walking track or short drive to [Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre](#) for an insight into culture in Kakadu with an interactive museum, art exhibit and meeting place to sit on country and weave with Bininj artists and Murumburr Traditional Owners. Boh boh (bye bye), head back to Darwin or onto Pine Creek.

Cultural learning

Warradjan's exhibit is curated by and central to the local Bininj/Mungguy (Aboriginal) community, and it tells the stories of their land, people and Dreamtime. [Shop Warradjan Art](#)

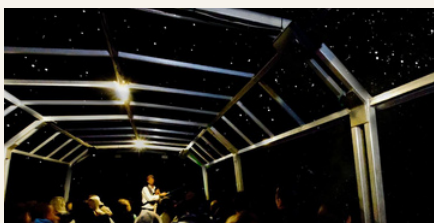
Other Recommendations:



Private Yellow Water Fishing

Departing 11am daily, this 2.5hr tour allows you to soak in the peaceful Yellow Water Billabong in exclusivity, with fishing rods! Max 8 people per boat with up to 4 people fishing.

Book now



Algothgarrng Stargazing Tour

Experience the spectacle of Kakadu's night sky on this night tour from 7.30pm to 8.30pm, showcasing stars, planets, and constellations above Kakadu National Park.

Book now



Animal Tracks Safari Tour

An authentic aboriginal and wilderness experience. Hands-on aboriginal experiences with a 100% bush aboriginal guide who was born in the bush and grew up in rock and bark shelters.

Book now