Five Day 4WD Green Season Itinerary



From November to April, the days are humid yet the rains each afternoon bring a sense of comfort to Kakadu. We call it the green season, because this is when the park comes to life - lush green plants, thriving animals and incredible skies, a truly tropical summer. The park is generally quieter during this time of year, yet there's still so much to see and do!

Kakadu seasons

There are three different Kakadu seasons during the green 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.

Prior to arrival

You'll need to collect a <u>Kakadu National Parks pass</u> 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

Book Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel

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



Return to Mercure Crocodile Hotel for an airconditioned, indoor dining experience at Manjmukmuk 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 Manjmukmuk'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 Guluyambi Cultural Cruise with Kakadu Cultural tours. Pick up is at 8.30am from the hotel, returning 2pm.

Expert Aboriginal guides will provide guests with an insight into local Aboriginal mythology, traditional uses for many plants and animals as well as bush survival skills required for this wilderness environment

Book Guluyambi Tour & Cruise





Day Two - Afternoon

Head toward <u>Bowali Visitor Information</u>
<u>Centre</u>, which is designed and inspired by an Aboriginal Rock Shelter, with a wealth of information and background to the Park's heritage and evolution.

Make sure to ask the staff for any tips on the park and see what is open during your time of stay. Bowali is open 8am to 5pm daily.

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 Two — Evening

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

Marrawuddi is a vibrant working space for local artists with a beautiful exhibition area and delicious coffee. Sip and shop as you enjoy locally-made paintings, weavings, jewellery, sculptures, carvings and merchandise!

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 — 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. <u>Book Yibekka</u>



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

Take a refreshing dip in the lagoon swimming pool before heading inside the airconditioned Mimi's restaurant for an à la carte dinner service.

The food menu promotes local ingredients and the native flavours of Kakadu. Meanwhile, the extensive wine and bar menu features local brewers, NT distillers, signature cocktails and non-alcoholic spritzes.

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

Enjoy a morning buffet breakfast, baristamade coffees and fresh juices at Cooinda before check-out at 10am.

Visit Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre on upon departing Cooinda for an insight into culture in Kakadu with an interactive museum, art exhibit and meeting place to sit on country and weave with Binini artists and Murumburr Traditional Owners.

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





Day Four — Day

Begin the 1 hour drive south of Cooinda toward Yurmikmik walks to two of the park's most formidable swimming spots.

First, take a refreshing dip at <u>Boulder Creek</u>, just a short stroll from the Yurmikmik Trails car park. Immerse yourself in the lush monsoon forest and relax by the shaded plunge pool. You might fall in love with this spot and decide to spend the entire day here.

Before you go

The nearest services including food, water, fuel and wifi are available at Cooinda Lodge, about 1.5 hours drive from the carpark, so please ensure you are prepared before your adventure! Remember to pack: sunscreen, hat, walking shoes, insect repellent and plenty of food and water!



Day Four — Afternoon

For those seeking more of an adventure, your next stop is <u>Motor Car Falls</u>, a true Kakadu gem! The trail meanders through the monsoon forest for about 4km before you reach the waterfall. Relax and enjoy the beautiful freshwater pool at the base of the falls and shaded boulders to escape the heat.

Important note

The insects are especially uncomfortable during the green season, so it's important to make sure you have a heavy duty insect repellent! You can purchase some 'Good Riddance' repellent from the Cooinda Lodge retail store prior to departure.



Day Four — Evening

Return to Cooinda Lodge for some relaxation time in your accommodation.

Enjoy dinner at Mimi's Restaurant for a second night and try something new on the menu! Choose a special beverage from our extensive wine and bar menu featuring local brewers, NT distillers, signature cocktails and non-alcoholic spritzes.

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 Five — Morning

Indulge in a buffet breakfast, barista-made coffee and fresh juice before checking out of Cooinda Lodge.

Experience the breathtaking beauty of Kakadu from the sky with Kakadu Air's scenic flights. The wet season is the ultimate time to fly, with thundering waterfalls, lush green floodplains and ancient stone country.

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. Book Yellow Water Cruise





Day Five — Day

Experience Kakadu's best kept secret, Ikoymarrwa (Moline) rock hole for a refreshing shaded swim! Meanwhile, Upper Ikoymarrwa falls is like mother nature's infinity pool, with its remarkable views over the floodplains. Make sure to pack your snorkelling gear, as the crystal-clear waters reveal an underwater world teeming with small fish.

Boh boh (bye bye), head back to Darwin or onto Pine Creek.

How to find it

To find this secret haven, you'll need to spot the small sign on the right-hand side of the main road, coming from Cooinda direction, after passing the Mary River Ranger Station. Please note, it is not sign-posted.

Other Recommendations:



Nawurlandja Lookout

Journey along the short 600m trail to Nawurlandja lookout. Boasting a panorama of views across Anbangbang Billabong to Burrungkuy (Nourlangie Rock) and the Arnhem Land escarpment, this lookout is the ultimate spot for nature enthusiasts and photographers.

Find out more



Gungurul Lookout Walk

Home to the rare red goshawk, Gungurul boasts an abundance of wildlife along the easy 2km nature walk. The stroll leads to a spectacular lookout, featuring scenes of South Alligator valley.

Find out more



Mirray Lookout Walk

Mirray lookout walk is a moderate challenge, with a short, steep walk that leads to a shaded viewing platform under a canopy of trees.

Find out more

