

Three Day 4WD 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 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

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/Munggyu (Aboriginal) people and their traditional practices that are still very present in local communities.



Day Two – 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.

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 Two – Afternoon

Carry on driving down the Kakadu Hwy, roughly an hour from Coinda to Maguk (Barramundi Gorge).

The short scenic walk through lush monsoon forest leads to a serene plunge pool, inviting visitors to take a refreshing swim surrounded by ancient rock formations. Make sure to pack your snorkelling gear, as the crystal-clear waters reveal an underwater world teeming with small fish.

Important note

The top of Maguk has been recently closed by the Traditional Owners for cultural reasons. We kindly request that you respect their decision and refrain from visiting this area.



Day Two – Evening

Check-in to Coinda Lodge and head to Mimi's restaurant for an indoor a la carte service with signature dishes, or opt for the 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.

[Book Coinda Lodge](#)

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 Three — Morning

Wake up early to catch the 6.45am dawn Yellow Water Cruise upon the Ngurrungurrudjba (Yellow Water Billabong). Witness the golden glow upon the water's surface, awakening crocodiles, vibrant birdlife, and the tranquil rhythm of nature.

Return in time for breakfast, barista-made coffees and fresh juices at Cooinda before check-out at 10am.

[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 — Day

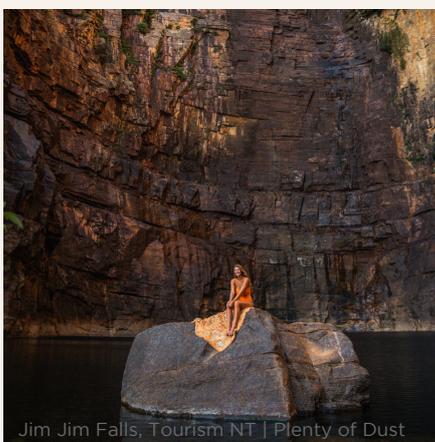
Visit Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre on upon departing Cooinda for an insight into culture in Kakadu with an interactive museum, art exhibit and meeting place to sit on country and weave with Bininj artists and Murumburr Traditional Owners.

Begin the 1.5 hour drive south of Cooinda toward one of the park's most formidable waterfalls, Jim Jim Falls.

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 Three — Afternoon

To reach the waterfall, embark on a 2km journey through sandy tracks and rocky terrains before being rewarded by a large plunge pool at the base of the falls. Take a refreshing swim and soak in towering cliffs and ancient rock formations.

The falls boast an impressive 200m vertical drop, which is a breathtaking spectacle against the rugged backdrop of the Arnhem Land escarpment.

Important note

Make sure to check that Jim Jim Falls is open and road conditions. Creek crossing with firm concrete base can be more than 0.4 metres deep. A vehicle snorkel is highly recommended.

[Download guidebook](#)

[Check Park Access Report](#)



Day Three — Afternoon

For those seeking a more physical adventure than Jim Jim Falls, or if you have enough time after visiting Jim Jim Falls (allow 3-4 hours), Twin Falls Plateau serves as a moderately challenging hike with panoramic escarpment views and delicious waterholes for swimming.

Boh boh (bye bye) and enjoy the scenic drive back to Darwin or onto Pine Creek.

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!

Other Recommendations



Culture of Kakadu Tour

Embark on a cultural journey from 3pm to 7pm and discover life through the Bininj lens at Patonga Homestead. The tour will explore Kakadu's rich history, Bininj culture, native bush tucker and cultural activities. Try your hand at traditional art and weaving!

[Book now](#)



Kakadu Billabong Safari Camp Overnight Cultural Tour

Available June to September only*
Visit traditional Aboriginal land and engage directly with the local community, while observing traditional cooking practices. Your stay will be in off-grid safari style tents, embracing the tranquility of Kakadu.

[Book now](#)



Kakadu Air Scenic Flight

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 landscapes, waterfalls and ancient stone country.

[Book now](#)



Yellow Water Fishing

Relish the thrill of fishing with the chance to catch the famous barramundi. These three hour fishing adventures are perfect for beginners and families alike. Guided by experienced fishing experts, you're sure to enjoy a memorable time on these bountiful waters.

[Book now](#)



Ikoymarrwa (Moline) Rockhole

Lower Ikoymarrwa is a shaded freshwater haven, conveniently located just a short stroll from the carpark. Meanwhile, upper ikoymarrwa is like mother nature's infinity pool, with remarkable views over the floodplains - similar to that of Gunlom Falls, which is currently closed until further notice.

[Find out more](#)