

Five 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 Manjmurkum 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 Manjmurkum's new menu featuring local Gunbalanya Eye Fillet, Pan-seared NT Barramundi and Kangaroo. [Download menu](#)



Cahills Crossing, Tourism NT

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.

Drive north toward world-renowned [Cahills Crossing](#) and witness the congregation of crocodiles from the newly established viewing platform. While you're there, check out the [Border Store](#) by Injalak Arts.

Arnhemlander tour

Get picked up from the hotel at 7.50am for an exploration of 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. Returns guests to the hotel by 4pm. [Book Cultural Tour](#)



Day Two – Day

Spend the day exploring Gunbalanya and the fruits of West Arnhem Land, keeping in mind you'll need to obtain a special permit to enter this Indigenous land.

Visit [Injalak Arts](#), an Aboriginal community safe place for culture, creativity and knowledge. See artists at work and bear witness to traditional ways of sharing culture. Make a stop at Gunbalanya Meats for some local butcher favourites such as Buffalo.

Before you go

A permit is required to visit the Aboriginal lands in Arnhem Land which are arranged through the Northern Land Council (NLC). To obtain your permit, [register here](#) and submit your application.



Day Two – Evening

Return to Mercure Crocodile Hotel for a refreshing swim before 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 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.



Nourlangie, Tourism NT

Day Three – Morning

Enjoy a buffet breakfast, check-out of the Croc Hotel and head to [Bowali Visitor Information Centre](#). Designed and inspired by an Aboriginal Rock Shelter, Bowali provides a wealth of information on Kakadu's heritage.

Next, visit [Burrungkuy \(Nourlangie\)](#) for a visual odyssey through time, where Aboriginal rock art captures a glimpse of Kakadu's rich cultural heritage, contributing to its UNESCO World Heritage Listing.

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

Arrive at Cooina Lodge in time for a delicious lunch and check-in to your room.

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.

[Book Cooina Lodge](#)

Cultural learning

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

[Shop Warradjan Art](#)



Day Three — Afternoon

Catch the sun setting over Ngurrungurudjba, the Yellow Water Billabong, by joining the 4.30pm Yellow Water Cruise.

As the setting sun paints the water's surface with a cooling pink glow, the billabong reveals its ancient crocodiles, vibrant birdlife, and the tranquil rhythm of nature.

[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 before checking out of Cooina Lodge.

Embark on the drive to [Maguk \(Barramundi Gorge\)](#), where 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 Four – Overnight

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

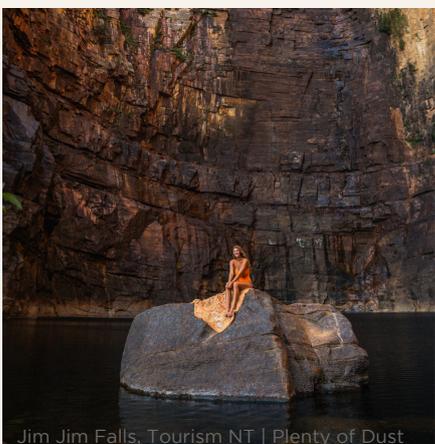
Your stay will be in off-grid safari style tents, embracing the tranquility of Kakadu. Pick up is 3pm from Cooina Lodge, returning you by 9am the following morning.

[Book Kakadu Billabong Safari Camp](#)

Skip the Overnight

Choose to do the four hour afternoon Culture of Kakadu Tour from 3pm to 7pm instead! Spend the evening in your same Cooina 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 to Day

Enjoy breakfast at Kakadu Billabong Safari Camp or a morning spread and check-out of Cooina if you opted to stay another night.

Begin the 1.5 hour drive toward the park's most formidable waterfall, [Jim Jim Falls](#). The 2km walk through sandy tracks and rocky terrains rewards visitors with a large plunge pool at the base of the falls. Take a refreshing swim and soak in towering cliffs and ancient rock formations.

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 Five – Afternoon

For those seeking a more physical adventure after Jim Jim Falls, [Twin Falls Plateau](#) serves as a moderately challenging hike with panoramic views over the West Arnhem Land escarpment. Enjoy the delicious swimming holes at the top of the falls before making your descent back to the car.

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 Cooina 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



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](#)



Never Never Safari Tours

Available June to September only*
Choose a Crocodile Dundee adventure, a swim at our stunning waterfalls or journey into the ancient culture and history of these ancient lands to see rock art and relics.

[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](#)



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](#)



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](#)