

Seven 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/Mungguy (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.

Explore the moderate 6km return scenic walk amongst the monsoon forest to [Kubara pools](#). Listen to the water cascading over boulders while you spot wallabies, lizards and birdlife.

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

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 alike.

An Instagram moment

Many guests consider Nawurlandja Lookout to offer the most astonishing outback backdrop for photography! So don't forget to bring your camera gear and capture the perfect Insta moment!



Day Two — 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 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 driving 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 Ubirr [Border Store](#) by Injalak Arts, where you can find local crafts and pieces of art made in Gunbalanya, West Arnhem Land.

Anhemlander tour

Get picked up outside 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 outlet at the Border Store. Returns guests to the hotel at 4pm. [Book Anhemlander Tour](#)



Day Three — 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 Three — Evening

Return to Mercure Crocodile Hotel for a refreshing swim and cocktail by the pool.

Seat another dinner at the Manjmukmuk restaurant, or try the local Thai Restaurant, next to Anbinik Resort and just a short 5 min walk from the Croc Hotel. The Jabiru favourite has a great Thai menu, with cold beverages to compliment the balmy alfresco dining.

Artist in residence

Make sure to pop by the Mercure Kakadu Crocodile Hotel's Ochre Art Gallery to see if any artists are in the studio. It is encouraged to say hello and sit down with the Bininj artists, as they love sharing their culture and heritage with visitors. [Shop Ochre Art Gallery](#)



Day Four — Morning to Day

Enjoy a buffet breakfast at the Croc Hotel before beginning the 2 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 Four — 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.

Journey to check-in at Cooina Lodge, the resort-style oasis in Kakadu's southern area.

Book Cooina

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!



Day Four — 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 Five — Morning

Wake up early to catch the 6.45am dawn Yellow Water Cruise upon the Ngunnurrudjba ([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 Cooina 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 Five — Day

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.

Return to Cooina Lodge for a dip in the lagoon pool before a delicious buffet lunch at Mimi's Restaurant or a snack from the cafe!

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 Five — 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 Six — Morning

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

Relish the thrill of fishing a 3 hour fishing adventure, perfect for beginners and families alike. Guided by experienced fishing experts, you're sure to enjoy a memorable time on these bountiful waters.

Book Yellow Water Fishing

Make it private

Opt for a private Yellow Water tour — departing 11am daily, this 2.5hr tour allows you to soak in the peaceful Yellow Water Billabong in exclusivity. Max 8 people per boat with up to 4 people fishing at any point in time.



Day Six — Day

Head 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.

As another option, or if you have time to see both — visit upper and lower Ikoymarrwa falls, also known as [Moline Rockhole](#). This accessible destinations offers incredible swimming and a panorama of views.

Hot tip

Make sure to pack your snorkelling gear, as the crystal-clear waters reveal an underwater world teeming with small fish. If luck is on your side, you might even share the aquatic space with a warradjan (pig-nosed turtle)!



Day Six — Evening

Return to Cooina Lodge for an early dinner seating at Mimi's restaurant or Barra Bar.

Take the Alhohgarrng Stargazing Tour aboard a Yellow Water Vessel from 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Experience the spectacle of Kakadu's night sky, showcasing stars, planets, constellations and ancestral spirits from the Dreamtime above Kakadu National Park.

Book Alhohgarrng Stargazing Tour

Another option

Embark on an enlightening evening Bush Tucker Tour from 4.45pm to 6.15pm. Journey through the diverse botanical landscape and uncover traditional uses of various local plants and their cultural significance to the local Bininj people.



Day Seven – Opt 1

Indulge in a buffet breakfast, barista-made coffee and fresh juice before checking out of Cooinda Lodge and experiencing 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. Boh boh (bye bye) drive back to Darwin or onto Pine Creek.

[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 Seven – Opt 2

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

Join this full day (7hr) authentic Aboriginal wilderness experience. The tour involves hands-on experiences with a 100% Aboriginal guide who was born in the bush and grew up in rock and bark shelters.

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

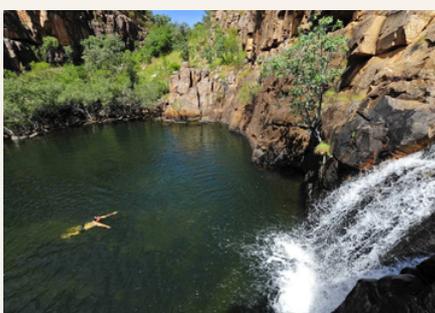
[Book Animal Tracks Safari Tour](#)

Skip the tour

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](#)

Other Recommendations:



Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin) Gorge

The 'jewel in Kakadu's crown' is what this beautiful sacred place is known as. To protect the cultural significance of Jarrangbarnmi, only a limited amount of people are allowed to visit the area each year and a special permit is required. To apply for a permit to visit this sacred attraction, [visit DCCEEW](#).

[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](#)