

ENGLISH



Yellow
Water
Cruises

NGURRUNGURRUDJBA

Yellow Water Billabong, Kakadu



CULTURAL & HISTORICAL INSIGHTS

Name Origin: *Ngurrungurrudjba* is the Bininj term for Yellow Water. The name holds unclear origins, but is linked to natural phenomena like buffalo activity, flowering plants, and tannin-stained waters.

Local Clans: Home to the Murumburr Clan, this site is integral for hunting and gathering, hosting important Dreaming sites and stories.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

Located at Jim Jim Creek's end, Yellow Water plays a crucial role in the South Alligator River's ecology, supporting diverse habitats and species through its connection to the river system.

SAFETY AND PRESERVATION

Wildlife Caution: With over 10,000 crocodiles in Kakadu, safety around water is paramount. Visitors should maintain distance and follow guidelines to protect themselves and the wildlife.

Cultural Respect: Acknowledging the area's deep cultural significance, visitors are encouraged to respect the land, its stories, and its people, ensuring conservation and cultural heritage are upheld.

BIODIVERSITY

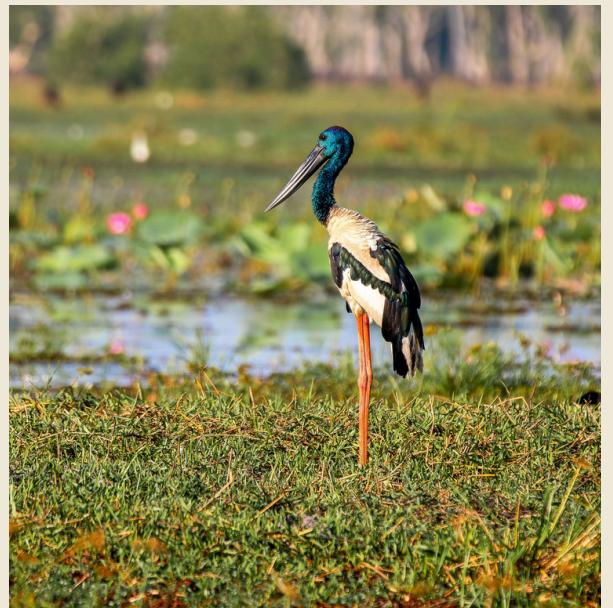
Reptiles: The billabong is a habitat for 132 reptile species, including the formidable estuarine crocodile and a variety of snakes, emphasising the region's rich biodiversity.

Birdlife: Home to over 60 waterbird species, Yellow Water is a great site for birdwatching, showcasing species like the white-bellied sea eagles and various migratory birds, reflecting the area's ecological importance.



CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

An essential cultural and natural landmark, Yellow Water offers a unique glimpse into Bininj culture and the natural beauty of Kakadu, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding among visitors.



VISITOR ENGAGEMENT

Tours and educational programs aim to deepen visitors' understanding of Yellow Water's ecological and cultural richness, promoting sustainable tourism and awareness of the area's global significance.

ESTUARINE OR SALTWATER CROCODILE

We call them Ginga in local language!

LARGEST REPTILES

Saltwater crocodiles, or "salties," are the largest living reptiles, with males in Kakadu often reaching over 5 meters (16 feet) in length.

COLD BLOODED

Being ectothermic, they rely on external heat sources to regulate their body temperature and can often be seen basking in the sun along riverbanks.



TERRITORIAL

Males are highly territorial, especially during the breeding season (November to April), where females build nests and lay 40 to 60 eggs.

CROCODILES HAVE EXISTED FOR OVER 200 MILLION YEARS, MAKING THEM ONE OF THE OLDEST SURVIVING ANIMALS ON EARTH!

TOP PREDATORS

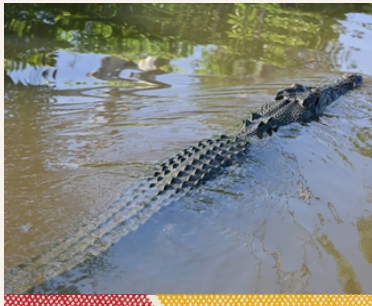
- As apex predators, they sit at the top of the food chain.
- Hatchlings and young crocs eat small fish.
- Large Crocs consume anything they can overpower from small prey to large mammals.
- They are stealthy hunters, often waiting motionless in the water to ambush prey with a powerful strike.

Crocodile meat is a local delicacy amongst Bininj people; smaller crocodiles are hunted by choice, being easier to catch of course! Not many want to go up against a tonne worth of reptile. The crocodile intestine, however, is reserved for elders, filled with croc fat and roasted for a delicious treat.

CONSERVATION

In the 1970s, saltwater crocodiles in Kakadu were nearly hunted to extinction, but they are now protected, leading to a significant population recovery.

Native Species Found in Yellow Water Billabong



Saltwater Crocodile

Largest and most prehistoric reptile, *Ginga*, hunted for meat. Intestine reserved for elders, roasted with croc fat.



Magpie Goose

Bamaru thrives in wetlands. Eaten after fattening on chestnut, cooked using dry pandanus fruit as coals for flavour.



Barramundi

Namarnkol, Kakadu's famous fish, a favourite for anglers. Traditionally roasted on coals, plentiful as wet season recedes.



Freshwater Mangroves

Locally known as "Itchy Bush" and thrives in low-salinity waters. Serving as vital fish nurseries, they enrich the billabong's biodiversity.



Azure Kingfisher

Shy bird with striking azure blue plumage, bright orange breast. Skims creeks and billabongs, diving for small fish.



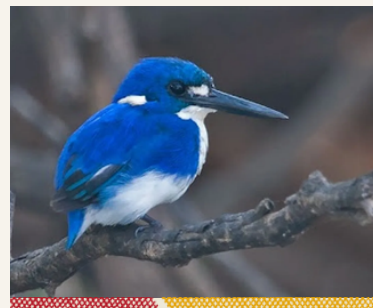
Forest Kingfisher

Dazzling blue and white feathers, agile flight, keen eyesight. Hunts insects and reptiles from forested perches, melodious calls.



Sacred Kingfisher

With its vibrant azure and russet plumage, the sacred kingfisher thrives along the billabongs and waters.



Little Kingfisher

Flaunting its vibrant colours and agile hunting skills, this little bird's diminutive size belies its prowess as a skilled fisher.



Blue-Winged Kookaburra

During seasonal burning, they seize insects flushed out by the fires. A family may occupy the same hollow trunk of a tree for up to 15 years.



Freshwater Crocodile

Distinguished by a narrower snout, it coexists with its more infamous cousin, the saltwater crocodile.



File Snake

Nawarndak, aquatic snake prized food for fat and eggs. Cooked over coals, caught when water levels are low.



Comb-Crested Jacana

'Jesus' bird with long toes, walks on waterlily leaves. Males incubate eggs and protect chicks from threats.



Black-Necked Stork

Djakarna, the only Australian stork. Easily identified by black and white plumage, iridescent necks, and massive black bill.



Agile Wallaby

Gonorborlo searches for sweet grasses, root bulbs, and fallen fruit like green, milky, and Kakadu plums.



Water Lily

An-dem's blue petals used for dyeing. Stems can be eaten raw, a refreshing snack like celery.



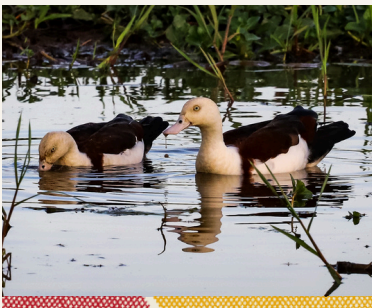
White-Bellied Sea Eagle

Marrawuddi, Kakadu's second-largest raptor. Keen eyesight for spotting fish, highly territorial, mates for life, impressive aerial displays.



Green Pygmy Goose

Despite the name, they're more closely related to ducks than geese. Typically found in pairs or small flocks and are well adapted to the tropics.



Radjah Shelduck

Often seen in pairs or small groups, feeding on aquatic plants, insects, and small invertebrates. They are known for their soft whistling calls.



Plumed Whistling Duck

Named for whistling chatter, pink webbed feet, longer plume feathers. They are the most numerous waterbirds on Yellow Water.



Wandering Whistling Duck

Black webbed feet, richer plumage. Strong swimmer, dives for water plants, significant cultural site named after this duck.



Great Egret

Their long bills help them catch fish. During the monsoon season, egrets form large nesting colonies atop mangroves.



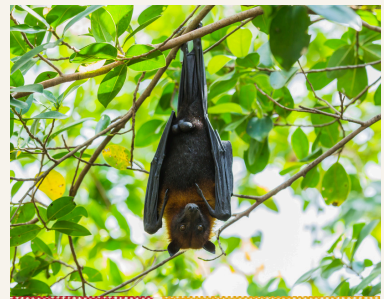
Brolga

These graceful giants fill the air with their distinctive trumpet calls. They can stand up to 1.25 meters tall.



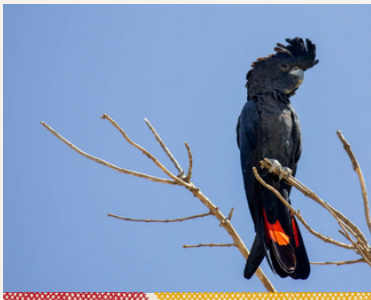
Whistling Kite

With keen eyesight, they spot and capture small mammals, birds and reptiles with precision.



Flying Fox

We call this animal *Guluban*! Guluban is traditionally roasted in a *gungede* (ground oven). The flavour is strong and the meat is oily and rich.



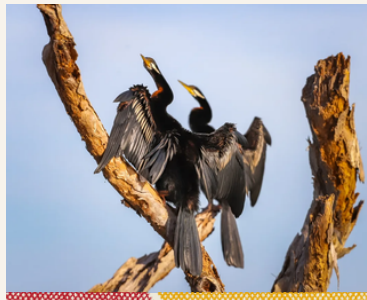
Black Cockatoo

The red-tailed black cockatoo can be found in eucalypt woodlands using their powerful beaks to feed on seeds from native trees.



Cheeky Yam

Mankinjdek is cheeky because of its toxins that make it poisonous. When prepared correctly, it makes good tucker, yet cheeky!



Australasian Darter

These aquatic birds have webbed feet, spear-like bills and non-waterproof feathers which help them dive deep and swim faster underwater.



Nankeen Night Heron

Renowned for its nocturnal habits and distinctively cryptic colouring which provides effective camouflage against their surroundings.



Lotus Lilies

These flowers bring life to the surface of the Billabong and provide a habitat for diverse species, from frogs to water birds and insects.



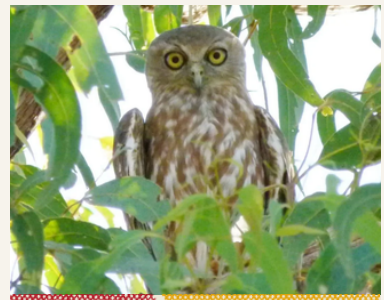
Australian Ibis

A large bird characterised by its long neck, distinctive black head, and curved, slender bill, commonly found in a variety of habitats across Australia.



Crimson Finch

These rare birds can be spotted amongst the tall floodplain grass areas, but mostly within Pandanus trees along the waters edge.



Barking Owl

Renowned for their loud and explosive vocalisations.



Pig-Nosed Turtle

Warradjan mostly feed on plants, seeds and fruit. Turtles are then cooked over coals, with paperbark leaves, giving a eucalypt taste.



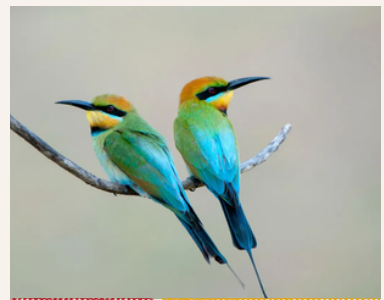
Little Corella

Renowned for their comical antics, these birds engage in games with each other, emitting a typically loud, slurred multi-note falsetto call.



Great Billed Heron

With a slow flight and retracted neck, it hunts fish in shallow waters using its long, sharp bill, a characteristic feature of herons and bitterns.



Rainbow Bee-eater

The Rainbow Bee-eater feeds on bees, wasps, and other flying insects, which it catches in mid-air using its sharp bill and agility.



Royal Spoonbill

Often observed wading in shallow waters in search of food. Their unique bill sweeps through the water, feeling for prey items.



Paperbark Tree

Paperbark leaves were traditionally used by Bininj for bedding, bandages and shelter. They also provide great flavour when cooking in ground ovens.



Black Kite

Its aerial agility and keen eyesight make it a formidable hunter, particularly post-wet season, when fires displace small animals.



Water Chestnut

Primary source of food for Magpie Geese and delicious sweet bush tucker for local Bininj.



Glossy Ibis

This striking bird has iridescent plumage, which although appears dark brown, shines with green, purple, and bronze tones in the sun.



Archer Fish

These native fish possess a unique hunting technique, shooting down insects from overhanging branches with precise water spits.



Arnheim Bamboo

This giant grass provides habitat for various wildlife species, and plays a crucial role in maintaining the park's ecosystem balance.



Masked Lapwing

Distinctive yellow facial wattles, black crest and a loud, piercing call. It defends its territory vigorously, often nesting on the ground.



Pandanus Aquaticus

An-djimdjim grows near billabongs and streams. Trunks used for rafts, roots for paintbrushes, closely related to weaving pandanus.



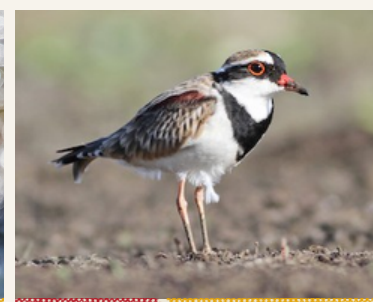
White-Necked Heron

Typically solitary, this elegant, white-necked heron hunts patiently, wading in the shallow waters before striking prey with its sharp beak.



Pied Heron

This blue-grey and white heron hunts for fish, insects, frogs, and crustaceans. They are agile hunters and use their sharp beaks to snatch prey.



Black-Fronted Dotterel

These small shorebirds have bold, black facial masks and bright red eye-rings. With quick movements, they hunt in mud and shallow waters.



Feral Pig

Descendants of domestic pigs, highly adaptable omnivores. Cause significant damage to vegetation and soil, impact native plant communities.



Asian Water Buffalo

Annabarru disturb floodplain habitats, yet are beneficial to the local ecosystem as they consume the invasive weed *Hymenachne* grass.



Feral Horse

These horses were abandoned from European settlements. They've adapted to the Outback, but negatively impact the native flora.



Salvinia Molesta

This fast-growing floating water fern is a huge concern in Kakadu as it prevents native plants from growing and reduces water quality.

Non-Native Species