



Yellow  
Water  
Cruises

# NGURRUNGURRUDJBA

Yellow Water Billabong, Kakadu



## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL INSIGHTS

**Name Origin:** "Ngurrungurrudjba," the Bininj term for Yellow Water, 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, 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, emphasizing the region's rich biodiversity.

**Birdlife:** Host to 60-70 bird species, Yellow Water is a critical site for birdwatching, showcasing species like the White-bellied Sea Eagle 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.



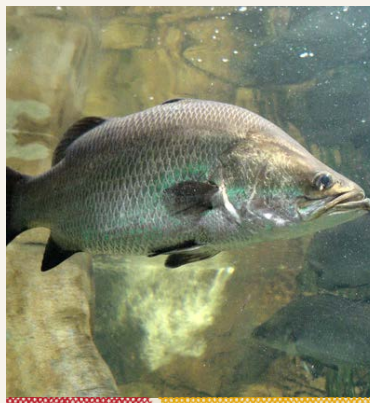
### Saltwater Crocodile

We call them Ginga! One of Kakadu's main attractions, and the world's most prehistoric reptile. Crocodile meat is a local delicacy, however the intestine is reserved for Elders as it's tasty and filled with good fats.



### Magpie Goose

*Bamarru* breed and thrive in a healthy wetland habitat. Local families will collect *mobok*, a pandanus seed, to use as coals to cook the fresh goose on. It adds a better flavour than firewood.



### Barramundi

*Namarnkol* are the most famous fish of Kakadu and staple part of the local diet; traditionally roasted on white hot coals. Most plentiful in the dry season, May to September, when the water levels recede.



### Water Buffalo

*Anabarru* were imported in the 19th Century to feed the Australian settlements. Despite disturbing the eco-system, they have proven beneficial by eating *Hymenachne*, a grass that chokes up the waterways.



### Pig-Nosed Turtle

*Warradjan* mostly feed on plants, seeds and fruit. Locals fish for them using hand lines with fish or red meat as bait. Turtles are then cooked over coals, with paperbark leaves, giving a eucalypt taste.



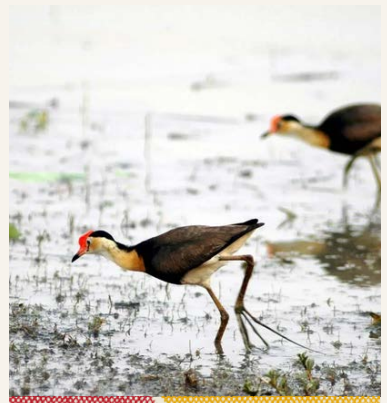
### File Snake

*Nawarndak* are considered a delicacy food for locals. They are collected by poking around the banks and tree trunks along the water's edge when the water levels are low. But be ware of the crocodiles!



### Pandanus Aquaticus

*An-yakngarra* stems can hold many litres of water to sustain the tree through the dry season and when cut open, it's flesh can be eaten for hydration and electrolytes. Its leaves are stripped and used for weaving.



### Comb-Crested Jacana

The 'Jesus' bird, as their long toes disperses their weight across lily pads, so they walk on water. Females abandon their partner after laying the eggs, while the Male incubates and protects the chicks.



### Water Lily

*An-dem* have a singular green leaf upon the water throughout the year shows off a large pink-yellow flower which smells divine. Their seeds are the base ingredient for "bush bread" to pair with red bush apple jam.



### Agile Wallaby

*Gonorborlo* (Agile Wallaby) search for sweet grasses, root bulbs and fruit that has fallen from the trees such as *an-duchme* (green) *an-dak* (milky plum) and *an-morlak* (Kakadu plum).



### Jabiru

*Djakarna* or commonly referred to as the 'Black-Necked Stork' are quite a large bird species and are also the only stork found in Australia. You can distinguish females by their yellow eye.



### White-Bellied Sea Eagle

*Marrawuddi* is the largest raptor in Kakadu, with a wingspan of up to 2.2m. Known for its keen eyesight, they are highly territorial and typically mate for life.



### Blue Azure Kingfisher

This shy bird can be observed skimming the surface of creeks and billabongs, hunting for fish before disappearing into the vegetation. These are highly sought after by birdwatchers.



### Brumby

Brought by European settlers centuries ago, brumbies have adapted to the harsh Australian outback. Their population has a detrimental impact on native flora and fauna while taking resources from native animals.



### Long-necked Turtle

This native freshwater turtle's long neck allows it to reach prey while remaining concealed underwater. They are carnivorous, feeding primarily on aquatic invertebrates, small fish and amphibians.



### Wild Pig

Introduced by European settlers, these highly adaptable omnivores have established feral populations across Kakadu. They cause significant damage to vegetation and soil, impacting native ecologies.



### Whistling Ducks

Known for their whistling call. Fun fact: *Djirrbiyuk* is an Aboriginal outstation in Kakadu, named after the sacred site for the wandering whistle duck, reflecting its cultural significance.



### Blue-Winged Kookaburra

During seasonal burning from April to June, they can be seen seizing insects flushed out by the fires. Interestingly, a family of these kookaburras may occupy the same hollow trunk of a tree for up to 15 years.



### Egret

These birds catch fish by stabbing them with their long bills. During the monsoon season (December–March), known as *kudjewk*, egrets form large nesting colonies atop mangroves.



### Cheeky Yam

*Mankinjdek* is cheeky because of its poisonous toxins. To eat, the yam should be sliced thinly, placed into a string bag and immersed into a flowing stream overnight or longer. After this it can be cooked and eaten. It makes good tucker, yet cheeky!



### Brolga

These graceful giants fill the air with their distinctive trumpet calls. Thousands of these large grey cranes, standing up to 1.25 meters tall, can be observed in flight over the floodplains.



### Whistling Kite

With keen eyesight, they spot and capture small mammals, birds and reptiles with precision. These scavengers play an important ecological role, helping clean up deceased animals.



### 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, measuring up to 60cm, can be found in eucalypt woodlands. Using their powerful beaks, they feed on seeds from native tree species. Breeding season occurs from May to September.



### Kapok

Local term An-djedj. These flowers develop and split open to release seeds attached to a fluffy cotton-like material called Kapok. The bush's life-cycle indicates to locals when turtle and freshwater crocodile eggs are ready to harvest.



### Australasian Darter

Often perched on a tree branch with its wings spread wide to dry, these aquatic birds have webbed feet and spear-like bills. Their non-waterproof feathers aids them in diving deeper and swimming faster underwater.



### Nankeen Night Heron

Named after the colour of a Chinese cloth called "nankeen," this heron is renowned for its nocturnal habits and distinctively cryptic colouring which provides effective camouflage against the shadows of their surroundings.



### Gouldian Finch

The diversity in coloration has earned this bird the nickname "rainbow finch". They feed on grass seeds and small insects, foraging on the ground and in low vegetation amongst small flocks.



### Australian Ibis

These animals were once known as the Sacred ibis, but are sadly now often referred to as a 'bin chicken'. They tend to be opportunistic scavengers, and can often be spotted at rubbish tips and in city parks.



### Crimson Finch

A small and vibrant bird species found in around the Yellow Water Billabong. 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, early settlers, upon hearing their night screeches, sometimes mistook them for the sounds of women screaming, given the owls' startled appearance.



### Little Corella

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



### Darwin Woollybutt

Crucial food source for Kakadu's birds and insects, attracting native bees, lorikeets, honeyeaters, and friarbirds. Culturally significant for firewood, didgeridoos, and medical treatment.



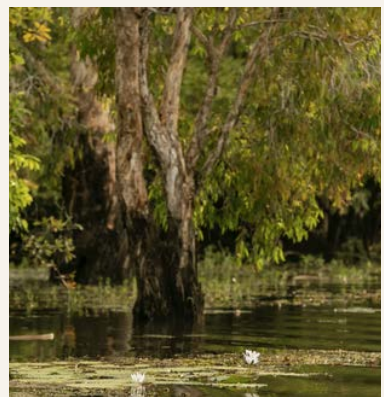
### Rainbow Bee-eater

As its name suggests, they primarily feed on bees and other flying insects. After capturing its prey, the bird returns to a perch where it skilfully removes the stinger before consuming the insect.



### Royal Spoonbill

Observed in shallow waters, their unique bills allow them to sweep and capture prey. During breeding season, they grow distinctive feathers around their nape and bright yellow patches around their eyes.



### Paperbark Tree

Lining the edges of Kakadu's waterways. Local Indigenous use the paperbark tree for bedding, bandages and shelter, while their leaves enhance the flavour of dishes cooked in traditional ground ovens.