



The Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory is known around the world for the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park, the park is an enormous, biodiverse nature reserve in Australia's Northern Territory.

The park has wetlands, rivers and sandstone escarpments, it's home to some 2,000 plant species and wildlife from saltwater crocodiles and flatback turtles to birds. Aboriginal rock paintings, dating to prehistoric times, can be viewed at sites such as Nourlangie, Nanguluwur and Ubirr.

The Northern Territory has 2 seasons the Wet and the Dry, i have only been in the dry season as the roads can be cut off in the wet season due to large amounts of rainfall swelling the rivers. But this year i went on the Ghan towards the end of the wet season so much more water at the waterfalls and in the rivers.

The Equipment.

My vehicle is a Toyota pop top camper with dual 90 litre fuel tanks , a 50 litre water tank.

The vehicle can sleep four people with the roof extended, it has a cooker, sink, fridge, storage cupboards for food utensils and clothing.

The vehicle has a 150 watt solar panel and a 2000 watt inverter for 240 volt power, it also has dual batteries so as to keep the fridge going day and night.

I have recovery equipment consisting of a snatch strap, high lift jack, Max trax, long handled shovel and an exhaust air jack.

Safety equipment is a first aid kit, fire blanket, 2 fire extinguishers one at the front and one at the back, a satellite phone and UHF radio.





Kakadu National Park

Kakadu is Australia's biggest national park covering nearly 20,000 square kilometres, it is a World Heritage listing renowned for both its cultural and natural values.

You will find ancient landscapes with thundering waterfalls, lush rainforests, wandering wetlands, exotic wildlife, birds, crocodiles, turtles and ancient rock art.

Don't forget to get your parks permit from the Mary River Roadhouse.

Mary River Roadhouse





Gunlom Falls

Gunlom Falls is in the Mary River region of Kakadu National Park in the southern part of the Park.

Gunlom was originally known as UDP Falls as it was the camp site of the Uranium Development Prospecting Company.

Gunlom Falls waterfall is almost 90 metres in height, the pool at the base is safe to swim in. I had a cut on my leg, it had scabbed over but the fish were attacking it and made it bleed, I noticed the aboriginal children had bandage around their wounds.

A 15 minute climb to the rock pools above the falls provide great views across the bushlands of Kakadu. The Aboriginal crew were from a school in the Pilbara they had a governor and governess to supervise them, but I noticed they took more notice from a young aboriginal boy that was with them. In the morning the boys were in the washroom and were fascinated by my electric toothbrush



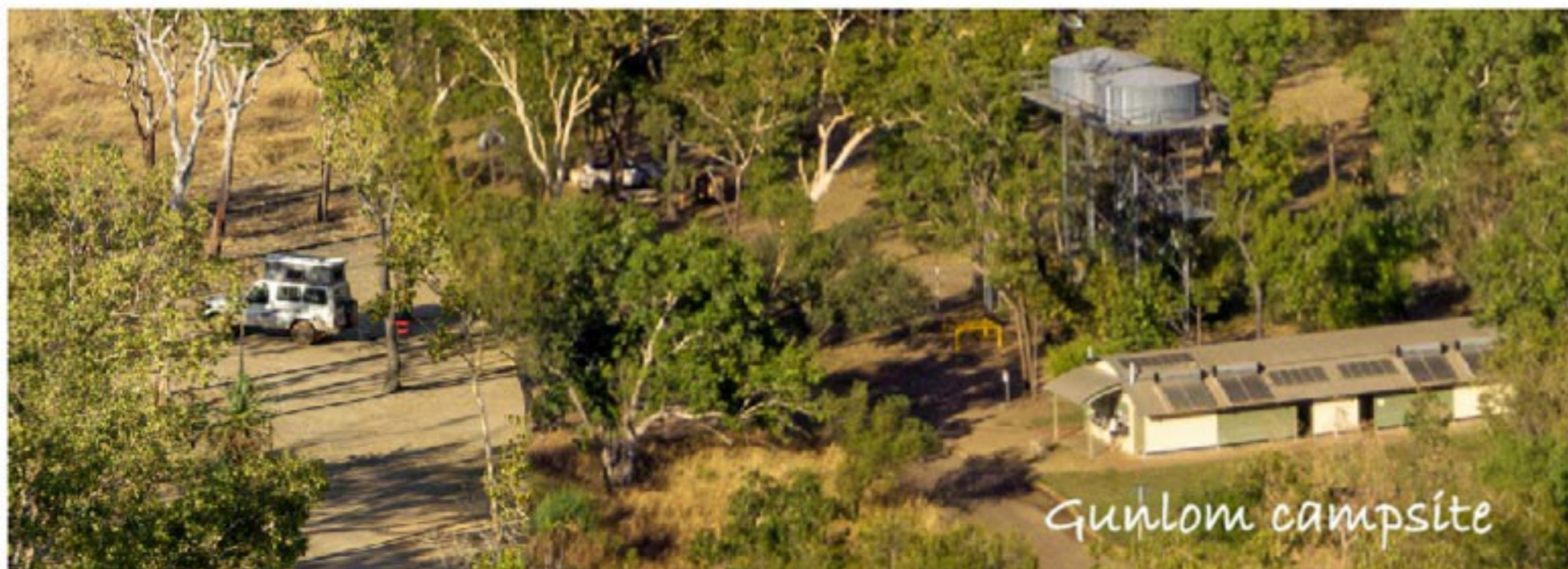


Gunlom Falls

Bottom; Gunlom campsite, it was once the Uranium Mining Company campsite.

Top left; A Lime ant, we were warned to be careful as they bite, i later found out that you can eat them, they are a good source of vitamin C, you eat the only green bit, it tastes of lime.

Page right; Gunlom falls swimming hole, it has fish in it.

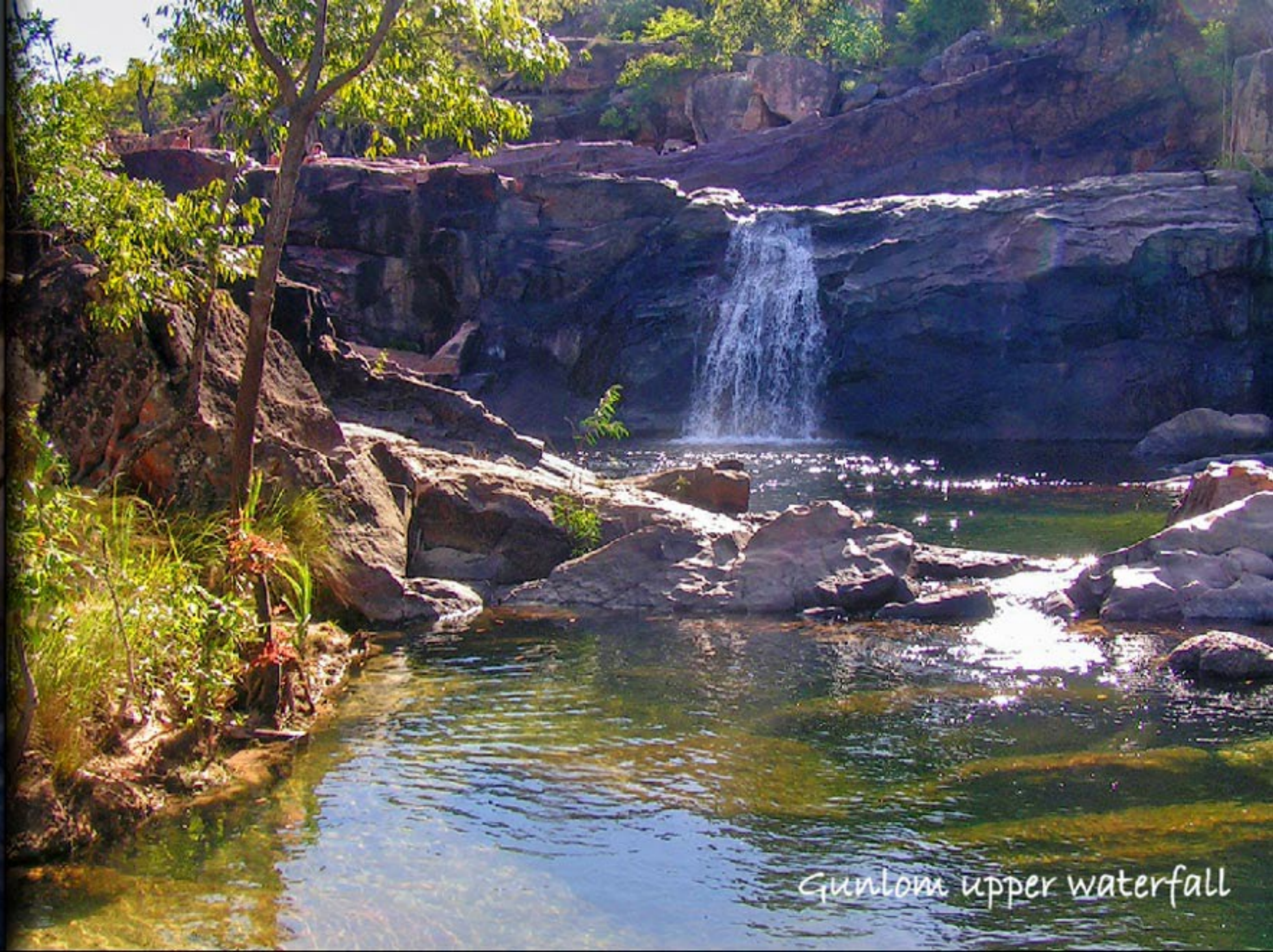


Gunlom campsite





view from the top of the waterfall



Gunlom upper waterfall



Gunlom Falls

Page right; Gunlom Falls pools.

Page left;

Top right; Gunlom upper pool.

Bottom Left; View of the lower pool from the top of Gunlom Falls.

Top left; Children playing at the waterfall at the top of Gunlom Falls.





Maguk Falls

After taking the Maguk turnoff from the Kakadu Highway, there's 12 kilometres of unsealed road that that is best travelled by 4WD to access the falls.

At the end of the road, there's a two-kilometre (return) walking track that winds through the lush tropical savanna, giving travellers a chance to stretch their legs and see the Territory landscape and its wildlife up close.

At Maguk Gorge you can take in the towering escarpments and pandanus lined pools, and take a dip in the cool waters.





Warradjan / Cooinda

Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre was developed by the Bininj and Mungguy, the large display provides insights into Aboriginal culture in Kakadu.

Left: The seasonal calendar for Kakadu.

Cooinda Lodge offers a shaded swimming pool, bistro dining, bars, petrol station and a store that offers locally made crafts.





Yellow Water Billabong / Ngurrungurrudjba

Yellow Water Billabong is a wetland located in Kakadu National Park next to Cooinda and forms part of the South Alligator River floodplain. It is home to a many bird species, wild donkeys, wild horses, wild buffalo, snakes and salt water crocodiles.

One of the best way to experience the natural wonder of Yellow Water Billabong is by cruising by boat, the shores are lined with paperbark forests, pandanus and fresh water mangroves and the water blanketed with vibrant white and pink waterlilies. If you are lucky enough you may see jabirus, sea eagles, whistling kites and brolgas.



Yellow Water Billabong / Ngurrungurrudjba

Page right; Saltwater crocodile.

Top left; Pandas trees in the mangroves.

Bottom Left; Mangroves and waterlilies.

Bottom right; waterlilies





Saltwater Croc's do not have gills to cool off so they lay with their mouth open, it's called Gaping.



Saltwater Croc catching a Catfish.



Yellow Water Billabong / Ngurrungurrudjba

Page right; Jacana with it's eggs.

Top left; Egret in the mangroves.

Bottom Left; Sea eagle.

Top right; Darter drying it's wings in the sun





Jabaru catching a snake.



Night heron.



Yellow Water Billabong / Ngurrungurrudjba

Page left; Snake swimming in the Billabong.

Top right; Paperbark trees.

Bottom Left; Mangroves.

Bottom right; Pandanas



The sunrise at the Allegator River



Welcome to our land

We live privately elsewhere in the park and leave this place for visitors to see now. We hope that during your visit you can learn something about our ancestors' lives and our lives today.

As our people visited and sheltered here in the old days, they hunted meat, gathered fruits and vegetables, shared food, played games, told stories, painted pictures and sometimes performed ceremonies. The gunbim (rock art) in the shelters is left as evidence that this place has traditionally been a place of living and learning.

Anbangbang

Anbangbang in Kakadu National Park

The Map above shows where aboriginal people used to shelter in Kakadu. They no longer have to do this and live somewhere more private now.

The paintings in this gallery and the nearby Nabulwinjbulwinj were painted by Nayombolmi. Also known as Barramundi Charlie, Nayombolmi spent many years working for balanda (non Aboriginal people). He returned to repaint these in 1964, shortly before he passed away.

Right; Aboriginal rock art / painting showing hunting of a kangaroo by spear.





Anbabgbang Gallery

Left; Namarrgon the lightning man.

The band running from Namarrgon's left ankle to his hands and head and down to his right ankle represents the lightning he creates. He uses the axes on his head, elbows and feet to split the dark clouds and make lightning and thunder.

Right;

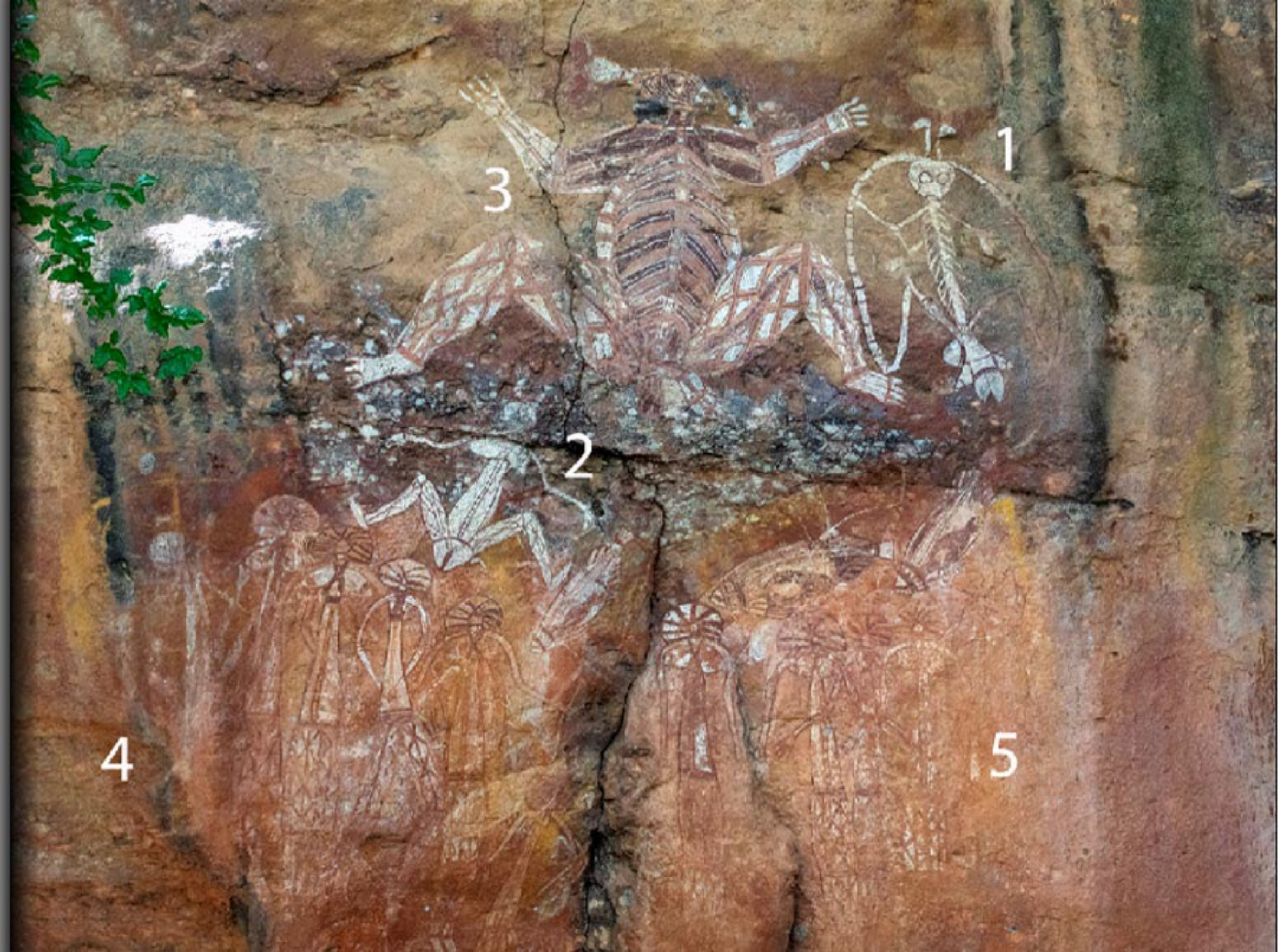
1 Namarrgon the lightning man.

2 Barrginj Namarrgon's wife.

3 Namarndjolg the crocodile man.

4 Family's on their wat ceremony.

5 Guluibirr the saratoga fish.





In traditional dance the movement and steps depend on the meaning of the ceremony. The part played by the dancer, clapping sticks and didgeridoo.



Anbangbang Billabong

Right; Anbangbang billabong.

Top left; The track leading to Anbangbang billabong.

Bottom left; Ducks and Royal Spoonbills

Top Right; Ducks at Anbangbang billabong.



Welcome

Australian National Parks
& Wildlife Service



Nanguluwur Gallery is an ancient home for Aboriginal people and an important part of the world's heritage.

The information displayed at this site has been provided by Aboriginal traditional land owners.

People from the Murumburr, Mirarr and Djok clans and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service welcome you.



Top left; Barramundi.



Nanguluwer

Bottom right; Aboriginal rock art story.

Top Right; Aboriginal rock art story.





Hands up High

Australian National Parks
& Wildlife Service



Hands have been the subject of rock art since Aboriginal people first came to the area perhaps 50,000 years ago.

Notice the hands where the three middle fingers have been held together and separated from the outer fingers. This style of hand stencil often occurs alongside "dynamic art" estimated to be over 20,000 years old.



Look to your right for recent stencils of hands and arms. The decoration on these may have illustrated the lace gloves worn by European women seen by the artist.



Middle fingers
held together.





Nangulwer

Top left; Aboriginal rock art story.

Bottom left; Algaihgo the fire woman, she burns and kills people who visit her Djang sacred site.

Top Right; ships like this brought supplies to buffalo hunters via the Alligator river and returned with buffalo hides.

Winds of Change

Australian National Parks
& Wildlife Service



Change has always been a part of Aboriginal life but the greatest changes have occurred since contact with European cultures.

Ships like this one were seen in the area between 1880 and 1950 when they brought supplies to buffalo hunting camps on the floodplains of the Alligator Rivers, and returned to Darwin with hides.

Many Aboriginal people worked in these camps. The work was seasonal, so people could return to their country to carry out the cultural activities necessary to maintain spiritual links with the land.



Aboriginal artists who choose to paint new subjects often pay careful attention to detail perhaps to assist in story telling.





Namanjolg's Feather- Daberrg

The distant solitary boulder is the feather which Namanjolg's sister took from his head-dress after they had broken the incest laws.

She placed it here to show others what they had done. Later she became the rainbow serpent.

You can see the rock painting of Namanjolg and his wife at the Anbangbang Gallery.



Burrungui/Anbangbang



Nourlangie / Burrungkuy

Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) with its stunning rock paintings, documents life in the Kakadu region from 20,000 years ago to the first contact with European explorers.



Nangulwer

Page Right;

Top left; Lizard head rock at Ubirr.

Bottom right; lookout at Kakadu.

Top Right; Nourlangie rock.

Page Left; Namanjolg.



Yellow footed rock wallaby



Cahills Crossing

The East Alligator River forms part of the boundary between Kakadu National Park and Arnhem Land, which has been recognised as Aboriginal land since 1931. A border where permits are needed to enter is an unusual experience for many Australians. However this procedure ensures the privacy of the many communities in Arnhem Land, the closest being Gunbalanya (Oenpelli).

This area is owned by members of the Bunidj, Manilagarr, Murrwan and Mandjuringunj clans.

Some of these people live inside the modern boundaries of Kakadu National Park. Others live in Arnhem Land and places outside the Park.

Aboriginal people manage their land in Kakadu through the Board of Management which is made up of 14 members, 10 of whom are Aboriginal people elected by the traditional land owners. Consultation plays a vital role in the effective management of Kakadu National Park.

TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE EAST ALLIGATOR AREA

Bunidj (Bunidj) Clan	Manilagarr (Manilagarr) Clan
Murrwan (Murrwan) Clan	Mandjuringunj (Mandjuringunj) Clan
Mandjuringunj (Mandjuringunj) Clan	

RIVER CROSSINGS, OLD AND NEW

Downstream from Cahills Crossing there are two large rocks. This site has different names in different languages: Gurranga'nele (Njiljara Language), Ngilid Marrowolagay (Erre), Kalinshire Dyaakeng (Kunwinjku) and Galarabier (Mandjuringunj) (Gundjeihmi).

This is a women's site, meaning the 'Old Lady Crossed Over'. Birriwille (also known as Gurranga'nele) travelled to Uluru, rested in the Managarr monsoon forest, then crossed the East Alligator River where these rocks lie. Traditionally, men are not allowed at the site.

'Can't go there or might be trouble.'
Bill Murrwan, Bunidj Clan, Ngilid in 1990s

The crossing you are at **now** has been used for thousands of years as part of a major trading and communications route.

Throughout the twentieth century many Kunwinjku people used this crossing as they moved west from central Arnhem Land to work as crocodile and buffalo shooters, or timber cutters. Some travelled as far west as Darwin. One record shows that in the 1930s a group of men, women and children from Mililingin walked the 300 miles (nearly 500 kms) to Darwin in less than two weeks.



Cahills Crossing, which takes a history of traffic, is named after Peter Cahill, who operated a cattle, cattle and agricultural goods at Cahills Crossing (Gundjeihmi) from the 1930s to 1950s.



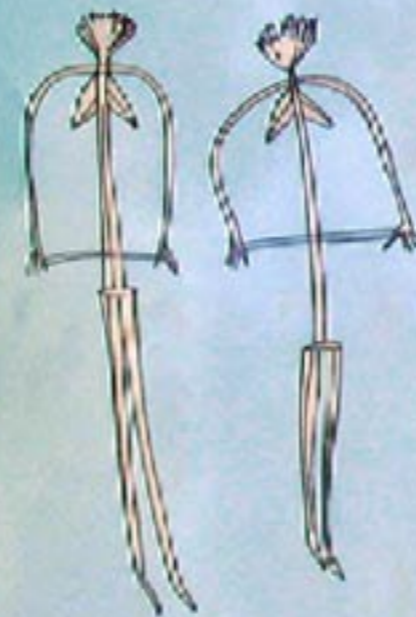
Cahills Crossing



Welcome To Ubirr



On this walk you will see one of the finest collections of rock art in the world, and some of the best views over the vast landscape of Kalbar.



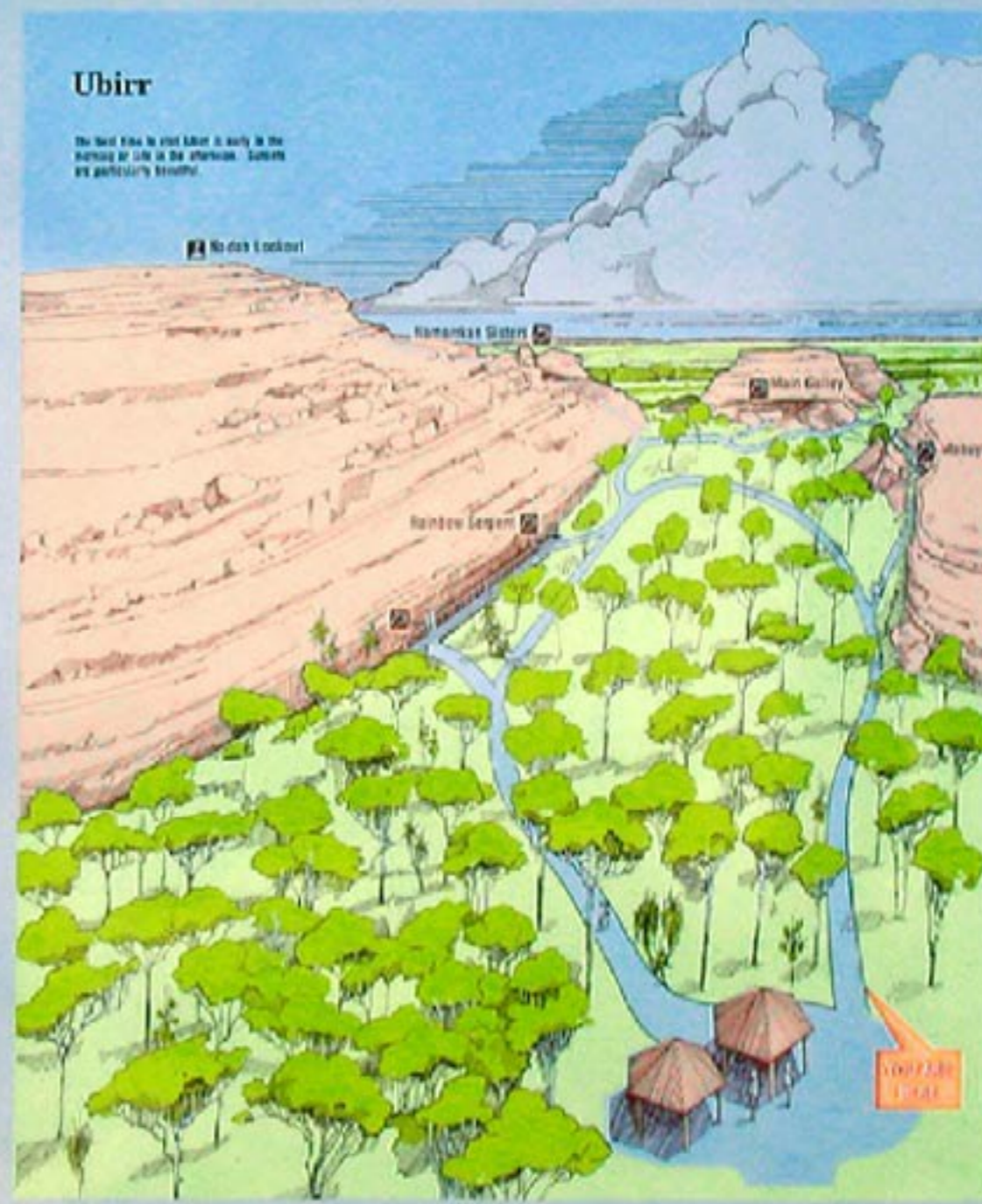
AN UNWRITTEN LIBRARY

During your walk you can learn something about the art and its meaning to Aboriginal people.

Traditional paintings and the stories they illustrate are part of the unwritten library of knowledge and spiritual beliefs of Aboriginal people.

Senior clan members own certain parts of this library, and pass it on to younger people via story telling, songs, dance, music, ceremonies and food gathering expeditions. These lessons have continued for thousands of generations.

Some paintings are particularly important as they are believed to be painted by the First People of the creation era, sometimes called the Dreamtime, who formed the land and all it contains.



The track has three grades: Easy (suitable for wheelchairs), gentle slope, and a moderately difficult climb. Choose a route to suit you. Allow one and a half hours to see all the sites at a relaxed pace.

For your safety, traditional owners have requested that no alcohol be brought into the Ubirr area.

RANGER NOTES

Visitors please

- * Place all rubbish, including cigarette butts, in rubbish bins located in the car park
- * Carry drinking water
- * No alcohol to be taken or consumed at this site

Thanks.





Jabaru

The town of Jabiru is located 253 kilometres southeast of Darwin in the Kakadu National Park the major industry of the area is uranium mining, which is the reason for the establishment of the Jabiru Township, all of the infrastructure for the town comes from the mining company including the power for Jabaru.

The Ranger Uranium Mine is operated by Energy Resources of Australia which is a 68% subsidiary of Rio Tinto Group. The orebody was discovered in late 1969, and the mine started operation in 1980, reaching full production of uranium oxide in 1981. The mines are open cut pits with Tailings Storage Facilitys. The mine produced 400 tonnes of uranium oxide per year from 2008 until 2014.

In 2015 Energy Resources Australia (ERA) said it wanted to extend its operations with another site, the 3 Deeps mine but the mine lost the support of its parent company Rio Tinto, and the expansion was rejected by traditional owners later that year.

The local Aboriginals call this land sickness land, i wonder how Jabaru is going to survive without the expertise and money from the mining company. I stayed at the Crocodile Hotel in 2020 and it was starting to look a bit rundown.

Ranger #3 Operations

Open cut mining commenced in Ranger #3 pit in July 1997. The first stage of the mining process involves drilling and blasting. One kilogram of explosive breaks approximately six tonnes of rock and an average sized blast breaks approximately 70,000 tonnes. The mine operates 24 hours a day with three crews of approximately 24 employees.

Mining equipment includes a Hitachi EX2500 weighing 250 tonne. Its bucket can hold 12 cubic metres (30 tonne) of material. 30 tonne is equivalent to about 40 domestic trailer loads.

The excavator loads the fleet of haul trucks which includes Caterpillar 785B haul trucks, carrying 135 tonne each, and Cat 777C haul trucks carrying 95 tonne each.

Every truck that leaves Ranger #3 passes through a radiometric discriminator. The haul trucks stop briefly under the discriminator so that the gamma radiation emissions of each load can be measured to determine the quality or grade of the ore the truck is carrying. The read-out together with production requirements, determines the destination of the load - whether it be directed to the crusher, to low or high ore grade stockpiles, or to the clean rock stockpiles if the grade of uranium is less than 0.02 per cent.

The original resource estimate for Ranger #3 was 36.8 million tonnes of ore at an average grade of 0.23 per cent uranium.

The Ranger #3 pit measures 800 metres from north to south and the final depth will exceed 200 metres.



A member of the Rio

Ranger uranium mine





The Jabaru Crocodile Hotel.



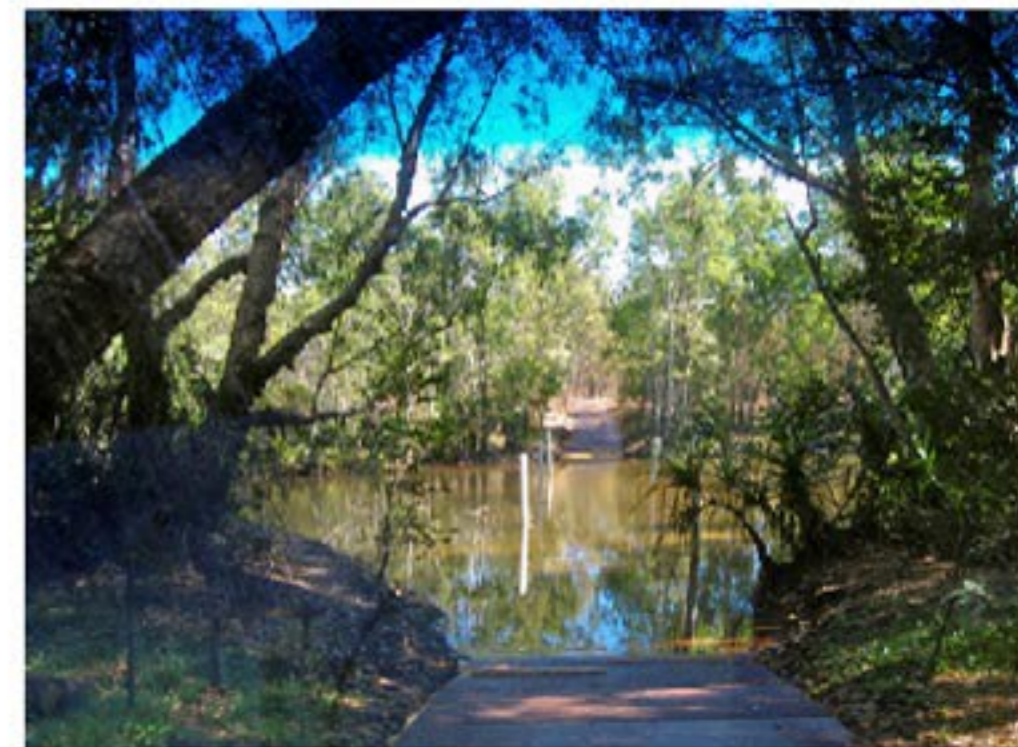
Jim Jim Falls

Jim Jim Falls is 60km kilometres of unsealed corrugated gravel road . The last 5 km only high clearance 4 wheel drive vehicles can continue. along a narrow winding track which has several soft sandy patches and creek crossings.

Top right; Water crossing.

Bottom right; Twin Falls.

Bottom Left; Jim Jim warning sign.



Jim Jim Falls



Jim Jim Falls



Mamukala Wetlands

The Ramsar Convention

The wetlands of Kakadu have been declared Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

This convention, established in 1971, aimed to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and to conserve, through wise use and management, those that remain. Australia was one of the first countries to sign this Convention which now has more than one hundred and fifty signatories.

Kakadu wetlands play a crucial role in the survival of bamurru (maggie goose or pied goose). This bird has disappeared from southern Australia because of the infilling and draining of wetland areas associated with development.



A seasonal feast

The end of the dry season is a critical time for bamurru. Food is hard to find and competition is high.

Mamukala (say Mar-moo-car-lar) becomes an important haven when the receding waters are shallow enough for bamurru to feed on the thousands of spike-rush bulbs. They bob head first and use their stout, hooked bill to dig 10 to 15 centimetres into the mud. With persistence bamurru are rewarded with succulent bulbs.

As the water evaporates completely, the mud bakes rock hard in the fierce tropical sun. Bamurru can no longer break through the hard surface and so they return in their thousands to breeding grounds. This timeless act of arrival and departure is repeated in a predictable annual pattern.

For hundreds of years Bininj (Aboriginal people) took advantage of this pattern and Mamukala was a traditional hunting area during the months the bamurru came to feed.

Today Bininj have decided not to hunt in this area so that the wetland and its wealth of bird life can be enjoyed by park visitors.

Visiting Mamukala

Mamukala wetlands are part of the vast South Alligator river floodplains.

In addition to the thousands of bamurru who come here in the late dry season, Mamukala is also seasonally visited by as many as 60 species of waterbirds, some of which have flown from as far away as the sub-Arctic.

Birdwatching and walking

- Birds can be viewed from the wetlands observation platform, 100 metres from here.
- A marked 3 km circular walking track follows the edge of the wetlands and provides opportunities to observe both wetland and woodland birds. Allow 1 to 2 hours for the full walk.

Walkers remember:

- to wear sturdy shoes, long-sleeved shirts and hat to protect you from the sun and insects.
- to carry and drink or buy water from the water pump area for safety when you're walking.
- during hot weather it is best to walk at the cooler parts of the day.



Bamurru / Ducks



Whistling Ducks



Egret



Glossy Ibis



Mamukala wetlands

Mamukala wetlands is on the Alligator River in Kakadu National Park, the wetlands becomes a haven for many birds and ducks that come to feed on the food in the wetlands.

Top right; A Jacana.

Top left; Darter.

Bottom left; Cormorant.



Malbanjbanjdju

Malbanjbanjdju birds around the floodwaters.

Top Left; Male and Female Red Tailed Black Cockatoo's.

Top right; Rainbow Bee Eater.

Bottom right; Red Tailed Black Cockatoo.





Adelaide River

The Adelaide River has saltwater crocodiles, barramundi, white bellied sea eagles, whistling kites, freshwater crocodiles, bull sharks and Black Flying fox.

Left; Saltwater Croc jumping for a feed

Top Left; Saltwater croc

Top right; Whistling Kite.

Bottom right; Black Flying Fox.





Fogg Dam

Fogg Dam is a remnant of early attempts to produce rice on the Adelaide River flood plains.

Page Left; Dam wall sign saying walking not allowed due to croos either side of the dam wall.

Top Left; The Fogg Dam wall

Top right; Floodplains of Fogg Dam.

Bottom right; Walkway over Fogg floodplain.





Fogg dam

The dam was built to provide irrigation in the 1950's for the Humpty Doo Rice Project. The dam was constructed by the RAAF Airfield Construction Squadron, who named it the Fogg Dam, to honour the Managing Director, Mr J D Fogg.

Top left; Crimson finch having a spring clean.

Bottom right; Lemon Bellied Flycatcher.

Bottom Left; Double bar finches having a drink.



Kingfisher





Termite mound



Sunset in Kakadu National Park

This book covers the Kakadu National Park.

This National Park has beautiful waterfalls, wetlands and very old Aboriginal rock art (xray paintings).

There is a huge amount of birdlife, lots of Saltwater Crocodiles, Water Buffalo, Kangaroo's, feral Pigs and Donkeys.

The landscape has Paperbark tree's, Pandanas, Mangroves and rivers.





The Kakadu Trip