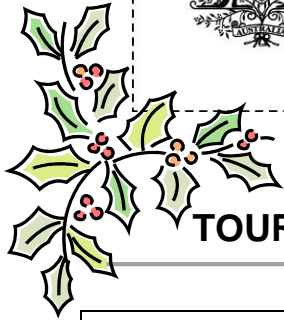




Australian Government
Director of National Parks



kakaduTM
NATIONAL PARK



GUDJEWG SEASON

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE #19

22 December 2011

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS 2012

From everyone at Kakadu National Park, we thank all members of the tourism industry for their valued contributions, feedback and support throughout the year. We wish you a safe and merry Christmas and look forward to working with you in 2012.

Please note that the administration building at Park Headquarters will be closed between 5pm Friday 24 December and 8am Tuesday 3 January. Duty Officers are on-call, however in the event of an emergency always dial 000 first.

Bowali Visitor Centre opens daily (8am-5pm) throughout the festive season. For the latest wet season access information and road condition updates, visit www.kakadu.com/access.

STAY SAFE IN KAKADU THIS WET SEASON

- Obey all signs and drive to the conditions.
- Look out for wildlife seeking higher ground on roads and bridges.
- If heavy downpours reduce visibility, slow down or pull over to the side of the road.
- Check depth indicators and the speed of the water before crossing swollen creeks.
- Remain cautious near waterways. With rising water levels, crocodiles are on the move.
- Be wary of flash flooding after heavy rain, particularly around Gubara and Yurmikmik.

BOWALI BILLABONG RENOVATIONS

Progress continues on the billabong display renovations at Bowali Visitor Centre. Rocky water features, clean gravel and a selection of local plants have been added; and sections of clear roofing material have been installed to provide better lighting.

Rainwater is filtering through the system and a few frogs have already taken up residence. Nutrients circulating through help prepare the billabong for more plants and a selection of fish, native to the Magela Creek system, which will be added in the New Year.

Stay tuned for further updates.



Right: New plants in the Bowali Billabong display appreciate the large skylight which was recently installed.

For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit our websites www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu or www.kakadu.com.au

HEAVY RAIN LEADS TO WASHOUTS ALONG THE GUBARA TRACK

The road to Gubara is now only accessible to 4WDs. Recent heavy rain has caused several washouts and there is water over the road in places. Drivers are urged to slow down to reduce vehicle damage and to avoid further damaging the road.



The Gubara track is now 4WD only.

Above: Water over the road along the Gubara track.

Below: One of the major washouts along the Gubara track.



For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit our websites www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu or www.kakadu.com.au

KAKADU ROAD AND ACCESS REPORT

Daily road reports are available on our website: www.kakadu.com.au/access **NB**. The following forecast times are based on our best predictions and may change. Please check the road report for the daily update.

Visitor Site	Current Status	Forecast to open	Comments
Arnhem Highway	Open		
Kakadu Highway	Open		
Old Darwin/Old Jim Jim Rd	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain and flooding at the South Alligator River crossing.
Jabiru Region			
Burdulba Campground	Closed	2012	Campground is flooded. High water levels present a crocodile risk.
Malabanjbandju Caravan Area	Closed	2012	Campground is flooded. High water levels present a crocodile risk.
Malabanjbandju Tent Area	Open		
Illigadjarr Walk	Closed	2012	High water levels near the track present a crocodile risk.
Nourlangie Region			
Nourlangie Rock	Open		
Nanguluwurr Art Site	Open		
Nawurlandja Lookout	Open		
Gun-warddehwardde Lookout	Open		
Gubara	Open		4WD only. Heavy rain has caused washouts along this road.
Mirrai Lookout	Open		
Sandstone Barrk Walk	Open		Plan to depart as early as possible to avoid the heat of the day. Take enough water for each walker.
Muirella Park Campground	Closed	2012	High water levels present a crocodile risk.
Anbangbang Billabong Walk	Closed	2012	High water levels near the track present a crocodile risk.
Sandy Billabong	Closed	2012	High water levels present a crocodile risk.
Bubba Wetland Walk	Closed	2012	High water levels near the track present a crocodile risk.
Yellow Water Region			
Jim Jim Billabong Campground	Closed		Campground is flooded. Water levels present a crocodile risk.
Mardugal Campground 1 (Caravans)	Closed		High water levels present a crocodile risk. Coinda and Gungurul offer the nearest caravan camping.
Mardugal Campground 2 (Tents)	Open		
Gun-gardun Walk	Open		
Yellow Water Road and Carpark	Closed (alternate access is via Home Billabong)		Car park and boat ramp are flooded. Water levels present a high crocodile risk. Boat cruises are now departing from Home Billabong behind Coinda resort.
Yellow Water Boardwalk	Closed		The boardwalk is closed due to flooding.
Mardugal Billabong Walk	Closed	2012	High water levels near the track present a crocodile risk.
Home Billabong Walk	Closed	2012	This track is inaccessible as it is completely submerged.
Jim Jim and Twin Falls Region			
Garnamarr Campground	Closed	2012	This area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Jim Jim Falls	Closed	2012	This area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain. High water levels at this site also present a crocodile risk.
Barrk Marlam Walk	Closed	2012	This area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain. High water levels at this site also present a crocodile risk.

For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit our websites www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu or www.kakadu.com.au

Budjmi Walk	Closed	2012	This area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Twin Falls	Closed	2012	This area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain. High water levels at this site also present a crocodile risk.
Twin Falls Plateau Walk	Closed	2012	Access to this area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Maguk	Closed	2012	This area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain. High water levels at this site also present a crocodile risk.
Bilkbilkm (Graveside Gorge)	Closed	2012	This area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Mary River Region			
Kambolgie Campground	Open		Leave this area with the onset of heavy rainfall which can lead to flash flooding. The fast flowing nature of this creek makes the crossing impassable at 0.5m.
Yurmikmik Walks	Open		Some recent rain has caused minor washouts along this road. 4WD recommended.
Gunlom	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain. High water levels at this site also present a crocodile risk.
Ikoymarrwa Rock Holes	Open		
Bukbukluk Lookout	Open		
Gungurul Campground	Open		
Gungurul Lookout & River Walk	Open		
Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin Gorge)	Closed	2012	This area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain. High water levels at this site also present a crocodile risk.
Guratba/Gimbat Day Use Area	Closed	2012	This area is flooded. Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Giyamungkurr (Black Jungle Springs)	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
East Alligator Region			
Ubirr Art Site	Closed	Subject to water levels at Magela Creek	Ubirr is currently inaccessible as Magela Creek is impassable (see details below). If water levels at the Magela recede below 0.8m Ubirr will re-open. If water levels remain high, Magela boat tours will commence, providing access to Ubirr. Ubirr wet season access arrangements: From 1 December 2011 to 31 March 2012, Ubirr opens to the public between 2:00pm and sunset. Operators may apply for a permit and a key, to access the area between 8:30 and sunset, by contacting the Permits Officer on 08 8938 1140.
Magela Creek (road to Ubirr)	Impassable	Subject to rainfall	Impassable due to flooding, with 1m of fast flowing water over the road. If water levels recede below 0.8m the road will re-open. If water levels remain high, Magela boat tours will commence, providing access to Ubirr.
Cahills Crossing	Impassable		Impassable due to flooding, with 2m of fast flowing water over the crossing.
Merl Campground 1 & 2	Closed	2012	Road is impassable due to flooding at Magela Creek.
Bardedjilidji Sandstone Walk	Closed	2012	Road is impassable due to flooding at Magela Creek.
Manngarre Walk	Closed	2012	Road is impassable due to flooding at Magela Creek.
Sandstone & River Walk	Closed	2012	Recent rains have forced the closure of this walk due to the crocodile risk presented along sections of the track.
South Alligator Region			
Mamukala	Open		
2 Mile Hole Billabong	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.

For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit our websites www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu or www.kakadu.com.au

4 Mile Hole Billabong	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
West Alligator Head	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Gungarre Walk	Open		
Red Lily Billabong	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Bucket Billabong	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Alligator Billabong 1	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Alligator Billabong 2 - Southern Access via Old Darwin Rd	Closed	2012	Road is inaccessible due to the effects of heavy rain.
Boat ramps			
South Alligator boat ramp	Open		
East Alligator upstream boat ramp	Closed	2012	Road is impassable due to flooding at Magela Creek.
East Alligator downstream boat ramp	Closed	2012	Road is impassable due to flooding at Magela Creek.
Yellow Water boat ramp	Closed	2012	High water levels at the car park and boat ramp present a crocodile risk to visitors. Visitors can access Yellow Water by launching boats from Home Billabong behind Coinda and via a channel which connects the two.
Home Billabong boat ramp	Open		Use caution on this gravel boat ramp. Channel erosion can cause the ramp surface to become uneven. This ramp provides access to Yellow Water Billabong via a connecting channel. Use caution when navigating through the channel.
Mardugal Billabong boat ramp	Open		Be mindful of crocodile safety when launching and retrieving.