



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



kakaduTM
NATIONAL PARK

TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE – 3 September 2010

Forecasted access for key visitor sites and news from Kakadu

TURTLE SURVEYS ON FIELD ISLAND

Gardangarl (Field Island) is a critical habitat for flatback turtles and a key monitoring site in the Australian National Recovery Plan for Marine Turtles.

Every year teams of Kakadu park staff, traditional owners and conservation volunteers camp on Field Island over a four week period to study the turtles as they come ashore to nest. Surveying began in the 1980s and has continued annually since 1994.

This year 114 turtles were recorded, a record high in the last five years!

The teams had some extremely busy nights with 17 turtles coming up to lay on one particular night.

A highlight for some was seeing hatchlings scramble out of the sand and making their way to the water.

The study helps us to better understand the species and their movements, and to monitor the effects of threats such as climate change. Our research indicates that the population of female turtles that continuously return to Field Island remains stable. The data we collect is pivotal in monitoring flatback turtle populations at a regional and national scale.

ULURU-KATA TJUṬA KNOWLEDGE FOR TOUR GUIDES COURSE

Tour guides are the frontline of tourism in the Northern Territory and play a major role in enriching visitor experiences by fostering a deeper understanding, respect and appreciation of the natural and cultural values of both Kakadu and Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Parks.

The Kakadu Knowledge for Tour Guides program has successfully contributed to raising the standard of tours and the depth of appreciation amongst visitors.

Following the Kakadu model, the Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa Knowledge for Tour Guides program was released in August 2009. From 1 April 2011 successful completion of this course is compulsory for all guides leading tours to Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa.

Due to the particular qualities of Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa and Kakadu National Parks, most of the content in each course is park specific. Tour guides operating at both parks need to complete both courses.



Above: Staff and volunteers collecting data on a Flatback Turtle on Field Island.

Five of the 12 short assessments are generic to both the courses.

Assessors are based at Charles Darwin University in both Alice Springs (08 8959 5252) and Palmerston (08 8946 7954).

BRING YOUR TOUR GROUPS TO THE MAHBILIL FESTIVAL

Don't forget on **Saturday September 11, 2010** from midday to midnight the shores of Lake Jabiru will come alive once again for the annual Mahbilil Festival.

Festival organisers invite all tour operators to include the festival in your itineraries.



Above: Fred and Douglas Hunter from Kakadu Culture Camp serving up a ground oven feast at Mahbilil festival last year.

For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 89 381120 or visit our websites www.environment.gov.au/parks/kakadu/ or www.kakadu.com.au

KAKADU ROAD AND ACCESS REPORT

Daily Road Reports are available on our website: www.kakadu.com.au/access

Visitor Site	Current Status	Comments
Arnhem Highway	Open	Roadworks in progress, expect delays.
Kakadu Highway	Open	
Old Darwin Rd/Old Jim Jim Rd	Open	Dept of Construction & Infrastructure. 4WD only.
South Alligator Region		
Mamukala	Open	Walking track and observation platform open, plenty of water in front of deck.
Gungarre Walk	Open	Pontoon is now open.
West Alligator Head	Open	Ayal walking trail still closed, infrastructure still being repaired and water still high.
Red Lily Billabong	Open	4WD recommended.
Bucket Billabong	Open	Caution recommended continued wet conditions with 500-600ml water crossing from Arnhem Hwy.
Alligator Billabong	Open	Southern Alligator Campground is open, high clearance 4WD only. Still wet across road. Southern access only.
2 Mile Hole Billabong	Open	4WD recommended
4 Mile Hole Billabong	Open	4WD recommended
Jabiru Region		
Burdulba Campground	Open	
Illigadjarr Walk	Open	
Malabanjbandju Caravan Area	Open	
Malabanjbandju Tent Area	Open	
East Alligator Region		
Ubirr Art Site	Open	Open 8.30am until sunset.
Magela Creek (road to Ubirr)	Open	
Cahills Crossing	Open	Check tide times.
Merl Campground 1 & 2	Open	Reports of high mosquito numbers.
Manngarre Walk	Open	First section of walk open 0.6km.
Bardedjilidji Sandstone Walk	Open	Wet season walking track only.
Sandstone & River Walk	Open	
Nourlangie Region		
Nourlangie Rock	Open	
Nanguluwur Art Site	Open	2WD with care
Nawurlandja Lookout	Open	
Anbangbang Billabong	Open	Picnic area is open. Anbangbang walk still closed. Access via Nawurlandja carpark is closed
Gubara	Open	Unsealed road. 4WD only. Beware of washouts.
Sandy Billabong	Closed	Water levels still too high.
Muirella Park Campground	Open	
Bubba Walk	Closed	Partially opened - only open down to the first seat to billabong due to water on track.
Sandstone Barrk Walk	Open	
Yellow Water Region		
Jim Jim Billabong Campground	Open	
Yellow Water Road	Open	
Yellow Water Boardwalk	Open	
Home Billabong Walk	Closed	Expected opening date mid September – water levels still high.
Mardugal Campground 1 & 2	Open	
Mardugal Billabong Walk	Open	
Gun-gardun Walk	Open	
Jim Jim and Twin Falls Region		
Jim Jim Falls	Open	
Twin Falls	Open	
Twin Falls Plateau Walk	Open	
Barrk Marlam Walk	Open	
Garnamarr Campground	Open	
Mary River Region		
Maguk	Open	
Bilkbilkmi (Graveside Gorge)	Open	
Kambolgie Campground	Open	4WD recommended. Unsealed road.
Yurmikmik Walks	Open	4WD recommended. Unsealed road.
Gunlom	Open	4WD recommended. Unsealed road.
Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin Gorge)	Open	4WD only. Permit required to camp overnight.
Guratba/Gimbat Day Use Area	Open	4WD only
Ikoymarrwa Rock Holes	Open	4WD Only. Permit required to camp overnight.
Bukbukluk Lookout	Open	
Gungurul Campground	Open	
Gungurul Lookout & River Walk	Open	
Gunlom Road	Open	Unsealed road. 4WD recommended.

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