

# Kakadu National Park

**Kakadu National Park is located within the Alligator Rivers Region of the Northern Territory of Australia, 171 kilometres east of Darwin. The magnificent Kakadu National Park is a major tourist attraction in Australia's north and is the same size as Israel and nearly half the size of Switzerland. It extends over 100 kilometres from east to west and almost 200 kilometres from north to south, covering a massive area of 1,980,400 hectares (4,894,000 acres).**

Kakadu National Park offers visitors exhilarating bush walking trails, beautiful landscapes, sensational swimming holes, gorgeous waterfalls, the opportunity to experience a glimpse of Aboriginal cultural history, and a fantastic array of wildlife and flora. It truly is one of the must-see places on your Australian Adventure travel itinerary! There are many different tours that depart from Darwin to visit this exceptional wilderness area; Travel Forever can help you choose the best way for you to see it your way! For accommodation within Kakadu National Park, there are numerous camping sites at Jabiru, Cooinda and South Alligator. There is also a few hotels to choose from in Jabiru.

## Sights & Attractions

Kakadu National Park features breathtakingly beautiful and dramatic landscapes, a diverse and plentiful wildlife population, and has a depth of Aboriginal cultural significance. Visitors are also awed by the large number of stunning waterfalls and gorges within the Park such as Twin Falls, Jim Jim Falls, Gunlom and Maguk.

Kakadu National Park is renowned for its Aboriginal cultural sites, for at least 40,000 years the Aboriginal people have occupied the Kakadu area. In Kakadu itself there are more than 5000 recorded art sites illustrating Aboriginal culture over thousands of years. Kakadu National Park boasts some excellent examples of Australian Aboriginal rock art; the most popular sites include Ubirr and Nourlangie.

The Kakadu National Park environment supports an amazingly wide range of unique Australian animals, insects, and reptiles. Some of these creatures are extremely rare, classified as an endangered species, or vulnerable. Many animals within Kakadu National Park are only active at particular times of the day or night or at specific times of the year.

Kakadu has a remarkable 60 mammal species, more than 10,000 species of insects, and 25 species of frogs. The most impressive insect-created features in the park are the towering red termite mounds, a prominent and dramatic characteristic of the landscape. As for reptiles, there are 117 species of reptiles in Kakadu, with snakes most active at night despite relying on the sun to regulate their body temperature. This amazing environment is also home to more than 280 species of birds while the waterways of Kakadu boast 53 species of native freshwater fish. It is possible to view the incredibly diverse wildlife at places like Cooinda, Mamukala Wetlands, Anbangbang Billabong or Yellow Water Billabong.

There are also 2 species of crocodile found in the Kakadu National Park: the Freshwater Crocodile and the Estuarine, or Saltwater Crocodile. The maximum size for a 'freshie' is just 3 metres, whereas a 'saltie' can grow up to a massive 6 metres!

## Climate

Kakadu is located in the tropics with a monsoonal climate that has just two main seasons: the dry season and the wet season. There is also a 'build up' period for the transition between the dry and the wet season. The peak tourism time to visit this region is during the dry season.

During the dry season (from April/May to September), there are dry winds, humidity is relatively low, and rain is unusual. The average maximum temperature for June to July is a warm 32 °C (Degrees Celsius). During the 'build up' period (October to December) conditions are very uncomfortable with high temperatures and high humidity. However the 'build up' storms feature regular, spectacular lightening strikes. The average maximum temperature for October is 37.5 °C. The wet season (January to March/April) has warm temperatures, high humidity, and lots of rain. The average maximum temperature for January is 33 °C.

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