



**kakadu**<sup>®</sup>  
NATIONAL PARK

# Water safety in Kakadu

Kakadu's waterways and natural pools are spectacular however they can also be treacherous for swimmers.

Some of the waterways are susceptible to flash flooding and rapid currents, and many of the waterways are home to crocodiles. Crocodiles usually hunt by staying submerged and can attack in knee-deep water, so even wading can be dangerous. Visitors to Kakadu are urged to heed the following warnings in order to enjoy a safe and worry-free visit to this picturesque wonderland.

- It can be dangerous to swim in Kakadu's waterways and natural pools
- Observe all safety warning signs in the park
- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Maintain a safe distance from the waters' edge
- Be alert to changes in the weather as flash flooding can occur causing dangerously rapid currents
- Be careful when walking around the waterfalls and rock pools as these areas can be very slippery
- Be aware that submerged rocks and parts of trees may pose a severe risk
- Be aware that water in rock pools can be extremely cold and can induce shock, especially on hot days
- Carry a first aid kit with you and always take an adequate supply of water on walks
- Take note of the location of emergency call devices in case someone needs help
- The safest place to swim in Kakadu is in a public or hotel pool, and you should never swim alone



1

1 Kakadu National Park waterholes.



For more information or to plan your trip visit

[kakadu.gov.au](http://kakadu.gov.au)



Australian Government  
Parks Australia



# ! Be crocwise. Obey crocodile warning signs



- 1 Estuarine (saltwater) crocodile.
- 2 Crocodile management signs in Kakadu Park.

## Crocodile safety in Kakadu

Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles are the world's largest reptiles and Australia's largest saltwater and freshwater predator. They use stillness and camouflage to hide and lightning reflexes to kill.

### SPECIES OF CROCODILE

Two crocodile species live in Australia and Kakadu, the estuarine (saltwater) crocodile, *Crocodylus porosus*, and freshwater crocodile, *Crocodylus johnstoni*. Freshwater crocodiles are only found in northern Australia.

### CAMPING

- Camp at least two metres above the high water mark, and at least 50 metres from the water's edge
- Never dispose of food scraps or fish offal in the water, around campsites or boat ramps
- Bring your own water. Water is not safe to collect from any waterways
- Avoid the water's edge. Children and pets are at particular risk

### For more information contact

Bowali Visitor Centre, Kakadu National Park,  
GPO Box 3090, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia  
Tel: 08 8938 1120 • kakadunationalpark@awe.gov.au

© Parks Australia | Updated JAN/2021 • [kakadu.gov.au](http://kakadu.gov.au)



## BE CROCWISE

Tragic deaths and injuries have occurred in the park due to crocodile attacks. For your safety, read and obey all crocodile warning signs.  
Bill Neidjie Bunitj clan

### SWIMMING

The safest places to swim are the public swimming pool in Jabiru and the pools at the resorts and hotels. We do not recommend people swim in Kakadu's waterways.

### FISHING AND BOATING

- Stay alert when fishing and boating
- When fishing from river banks, stand back five (5) metres from the water's edge. Try to fish with an obstacle such as a rock in front of you.
- Do not clean fish while on, or near the water, or boat ramps
- Do not ever lean out, or hang any part of your body over the edge of a boat when on the water or at the shoreline. Crocodiles can attack and snatch people from boats. The smaller the boat, the greater the risk.

@KakaduNationalPark

@SeeKakadu

@KakaduNationalP



SHARE YOUR  
KAKADU  
ADVENTURES!