



kakadu[®]

NATIONAL PARK

Fishing and Boating

Kakadu is a World Heritage listed park. The park is listed for its natural and cultural values.

When boating and fishing in Kakadu, you are expected to obey laws created to protect the park's values. These include the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* and the Northern Territory *Fisheries and Marine Acts*. The laws require you to carry the correct safety equipment in your vessel and observe fish possession limits* (maximum: 15 fish). Northern Territory catch limits apply unless otherwise specified. Commercial fishing is not permitted in Kakadu National Park. Fishing tour operators may conduct tours with a current Kakadu National Park permit.

MORE INFORMATION

Laws relating to fishing and boating are regularly reviewed and may change. For current recreational fishing information and to report any suspicious activity or crocodile incidents call Kakadu National Park Headquarters on **(08) 8938 1120**.

For more detailed information about fish possession limits* in the Northern Territory and for fishing tips, visit the Northern Territory Fisheries website at nt.gov.au/marine

Download the NT Fishing Mate app to access fishing rules and information: nt.gov.au/marine/recreational-fishing/get-the-app/get-the-free-fishing-mate-app

RESTRICTED WATERWAYS

For environmental and cultural reasons, fishing, and boating are prohibited in certain areas. Refer to shaded areas on the maps on the following page.

* 'Possession limit' refers to the maximum number of fish in your possession at any one time, other than your permanent place of residence. The approved total is 15 fish.



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- 1 Kakadu is a great place for boating.
- 2 Please obey fishing and boating regulations.

For more information or to plan your trip visit kakadu.gov.au



Australian Government
Parks Australia



3 Make your trip a memorable one for the right reasons and follow the rules and regulations that apply to fishing in the Northern Territory



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Fishing rules

The following regulations apply to fishing in Kakadu National Park.

FISH POSSESSION LIMITS

Kakadu National Park has the same possession limits as in the Northern Territory's Mary and Daly River Fish Management Zones. A general possession limit of **15 fish** applies to each person. Included within this limit, you may only have a maximum number of the following species:

- **Three (3)** barramundi (minimum overall length 55 cm, fillet 27 cm)
 - **Two (2)** black jewfish
 - **Two (2)** spanish mackerel
 - **Three (3)** golden snapper
 - **Three (3)** threadfin salmon
 - **Three (3)** mangrove jack (minimum length 35 cm)
 - **Three (3)** sharks (excluding protected species). Sawfish, northern river, and spartooth sharks are protected and must not be taken.
- To assist with identification and effective enforcement:
- The entire skin must be left on fillets or trunks
 - If a fillet is dissected, each portion will be considered a whole fillet and equal to half a fish
 - Fillets of managed species must be kept separate from fillets of other species.
- For full details of Northern Territory possession limits for all other species that don't appear in this list, visit: nt.gov.au/marine

OTHER RULES

- Fishing tour operators must hold a licence to conduct tours in Kakadu National Park.
- You may not use or possess nets, firearms, spears, traps or any device designed for taking an animal or fish other than:
 - rods or handlines with a single hook or lure attached
 - landing nets which are permitted only for landing fish. They may not be used for any other purposes
 - a live animal (including fish) cannot be used as bait
- Dead bait fish may be used only if caught within Kakadu
- Do not leave a fishing line unattended
- The use of processed bait is restricted to coastal areas of the park, except the West Alligator River where all fishing is prohibited
- Do not tether fish
- Do not clean fish within 50 metres of a water body unless using a designated fish cleaning facility
- Do not clean fish on the water if within one kilometre of land
- Crabs must not be taken
- Nets, traps, and pots used for recreational fishing outside the park may be transported into, or through the park, only along Oenpelli Road, and Arnhem and Kakadu Highways. These items must be securely stowed at all times and not used while in the park.

! IMPORTANT NORTHERN TERRITORY REGIONAL INFORMATION

East Alligator River

While fishing is permitted on the Magela downstream of the crossing, boating is not. A permit is required to boat on Magela Creek from Mudginberri to Nankeen billabongs, including the Oenpelli Road crossing. This does not apply to the tidal area of Magela Creek accessed by boat from the East Alligator River. Note that a permit is required to enter Arnhem Land on the eastern side of the East Alligator River.

West Alligator River

The West Alligator River and waterways upstream of the Kakadu Highway are closed to fishing and boating for the purpose of maintaining a river system free of fishing impacts and to protect headwater fish populations. Fishing is permitted on Djarradjin and Sandy billabongs on the Nourlangie Creek system and Jim Jim Billabong on the Jim Jim Creek system.

South Alligator River

Boating is not permitted between the part of the South Alligator known as 'the forks' or 'the rapids' (about 24 kilometres upstream of the bridge on the Arnhem Highway) and two kilometres north of Fisherman's Gully on Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba).



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- 4 Navigating on an outgoing or low tide can be hazardous. If in doubt seek local advice
- 5 Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles are extremely dangerous and present a real risk

BE CROCWISE

BOATING SAFETY

Boating in Kakadu's waterways can be dangerous due to strong currents, sand bars, submerged logs and crocodiles.

For your safety:

- All non-powered vessels are prohibited
- Tell a responsible adult where you are going and when you expect to be back
- Make sure you comply with Northern Territory Marine Safety legislation and have enough safety equipment for every person on board — life jackets, drinking water, oars, flares, torches, tool kit, extra fuel and a satellite phone
- Ensure your boat and motor are in sound working order and drain plugs are tightly inserted
- Check the tides. For Cahills Crossing add 5.5 hours to Darwin tide times. For the South Alligator River bridge, add 4 hours on to Darwin tide times
- Check the weather. Where possible seek local knowledge
- If in doubt, don't go out.

FISHING AND BOATING SAFETY

- 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.

CROCODILE SAFETY

Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles are extremely dangerous and present a risk to people boating or fishing in Kakadu.

For your safety:

- Avoid crocodiles — do not approach or feed them
- Keep well away from the water's edge and do not enter the water. Children and pets are at particular risk
- Be alert when fishing on riverbanks
- Take extreme care when launching and retrieving boats
- It is an offence to clean fish within 50 metres of a water body unless at a designated fish cleaning facility
- Use a landing net to boat fish and keep your hands well out of the water
- When releasing fish, do not put any part of your body into the water
- Camp in designated campgrounds well away from waterways
- Do not go near the water at night
- Bring your own water. Water is not safe to collect from any waterways.

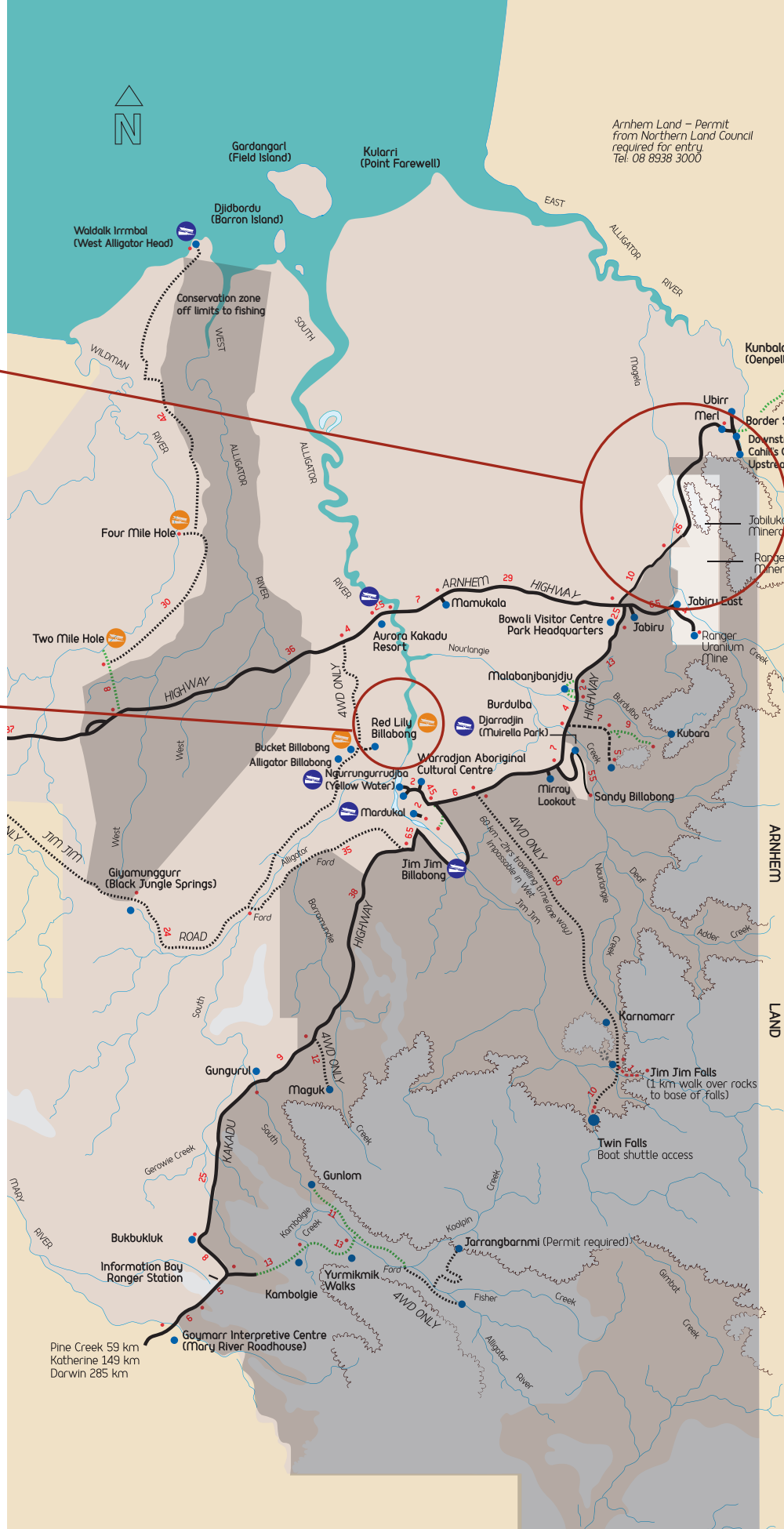
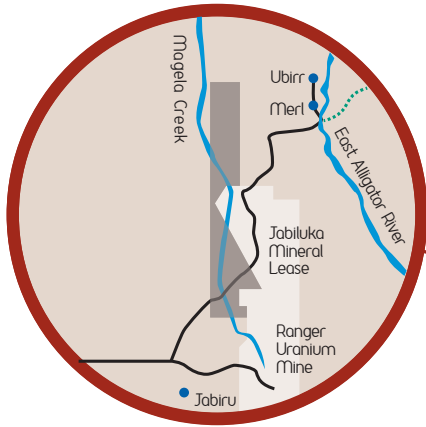
WATER SAFETY



KAKADU VISITORS ARE URGED TO UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING WARNING TO ENJOY A SAFE VISIT.

Kakadu National Park has many spectacular waterways and natural pools however they can be dangerous for swimmers. **Observe ALL safety warning signs;** be aware of your surroundings; remember the location of Emergency Call Devices (ECDs) in case someone needs help; and carry a First Aid kit with you.

Watch for changes in the weather. Some waterways may flash flood causing dangerously strong currents, and many of the waterways are home to crocodiles. Crocodiles hunt by staying submerged and can attack in knee-deep water. Always stay a safe distance from the waters' edge. Be careful when walking near waterfalls or rock pools which can be slippery, and may contain submerged rocks or tree branches that pose risk. Water in rock pools can be extremely cold and may induce shock, especially on hot days. **The safest place to swim in Kakadu is in a public or hotel pool, and never swim alone.**



LEGEND

- Fishing is not permitted the greyed-out areas on the map
- Unformed boat ramp
- Formed boat ramp
- Road distances
- Key locations
- Sealed road
- Unsealed 2WD (closed during wet season)
- 4WD (closed during wet season)
- Walking track

For more information contact

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 KAKADU
 ADVENTURES!**