Bushwalking in Kakadu

‘Walking is good. You follow track... you sleep, wake in morning to birds, maybe kookaburra. You feel country.’

*Bill Neidjie - Bunitj clan, Aboriginal traditional owner.*

If you're well prepared and physically fit, then bushwalking is a great way to experience Kakadu.

The *Bushwalking in Kakadu* booklet provides important information on safe bushwalking. It is available from the Bowali Visitor Centre.

Try to time your walks to the cooler times of the day. Early morning is generally the best time to see wildlife and enjoy the chorus of the birds. Late in the afternoon is also a good time to go walking and enjoy the sunset.

On all walks — even short ones — you should always carry and drink water. Allow at least one litre per hour when walking.

*Remember that the feeling of thirst means that you are already dehydrated.*

The use of sunscreen, a long-sleeved cotton shirt, a broad-brimmed hat, and comfortable protective footwear will make your walk safer and more comfortable.

Stay on the marked walking tracks.

**Day walks**

There are a number of short walks that require little effort within Kakadu. The rewards of these walks include Aboriginal art sites, billabongs and panoramic landscapes.
If you're looking for something a little more challenging than the short walks listed in the What to See and Do guide, here are some interesting longer walks. These walks offer a heightened sense of discovery and require you to more diligent when following the track.

*Remember always carry and drink plenty of water.*

**Sandstone and river bushwalk**

(dry season only)

**Where:** Starts off the Bardedjilidji walk located in the Ubirr Area (See East Alligator Area link).

**Features:** An easy 6.5 km marked circular walk which takes you past Catfish Creek, floodplains, billabongs, sandstone outliers and the East Alligator River. Allow 4 hours.

**Barrk bushwalk**

**Where:** This marked walk branches off the Nourlangie Rock lookout track, just past the Main Gallery (see Nourlangie Area link).

**Features:** A 12 km difficult walk through the sandstone country of Nourlangie, past the Nanguluwur art gallery and back to the car park. See the Barrk Walk Park Note. Allow 6 to 8 hours.

**Barrk Marlam bushwalk**

(dry season only)

**Where:** This marked day walk branches off the Jim Jim Falls Plunge Pool track (see Jim Jim Falls Area link).

**Features:** A difficult 6 km return through the rugged stone country typical of the Arnhem Land Plateau. Allow 4 to 6 hours.
Overnight bushwalking

If you plan to camp overnight on a bushwalk you will need a permit. Please fill out a permit form and provide a copy of a topographic map showing your proposed route and camping sites for approval. Application forms for permits can be organised through the Permits Officer Kakadu National Park telephone: 08 8938 1140, through the EPBC Permits website, or the Bowali Visitor Centre in Kakadu.

Please note: Commercial bushwalking tours require a separate commercial tour operator’s permit.

You will need to allow at least two weeks for processing.

Make sure you read and understand all of the permit conditions.

Please note: As a safety precaution, there must be a minimum of two people on any overnight bushwalk in Kakadu National Park.

- Very good navigation skills are essential when bushwalking away from the designated marked trails.
- Your proposed bushwalking route and camping sites must be approved by park management and clearly indicated on a 1:50,000 or 1:100,000 topographic map, to be submitted with your permit application.

Mobile phones without satellite reception do not operate outside the Jabiru local area.