



**kakadu**  
NATIONAL PARK

WALKS

# Yurmikmik

Yurmikmik is the Jawoyn name for the country between the Marrawal Plateau and the South Alligator River.

The Yurmikmik walks in the southern hills and ridges are particularly enjoyable in the wet season, but beware of flash flooding in creeks at this time.

Notice the contrast as you walk from the cool creeks and monsoon forests to the heat of the open woodlands, and from the trees in the woodland valley to the stunted vegetation of the rocky ridge and plateau.



**1** Enjoy cool creeks shaded by rainforest at Boulder Creek and Motor Car Falls.

**2** *Wij* (turkey bush) occurs along the Yurmikmik walks and throughout the park.

**3** You may be lucky enough to see *kuppu* (antelope wallaroo) grazing in the woodlands.



## WALKING IN JAWOYN COUNTRY

We camped, we sharpened spears and straightened them and we climbed up on the top of Yurmikmik. Yes, we climbed the scarp to the uplands and we all took a shortcut. We ate all sorts of game, rock wallaby, and all sorts of sugarbag, ground sugarbag. We went down there at Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge). It was still without whitefellas then.

Bulayan Nawurrkbarbar, Wurrkbarbar clan  
Jawoyn traditional custodian



Australian Government



PARK NOTE

# Yurmikmik walks

All the walks start and finish at the carpark. The short walks are marked with either yellow-topped posts or orange arrows on rocks. The longer tracks are unmarked.

## BOULDER CREEK WALK

Distance: 2 km loop

Time: 45 minutes

Grade: moderate, marked track

Plum Tree Creek near the start of this walk is just a sandy creek bed during the dry season. It is named after *marlak*, the billygoat plum. *Pirn'pirntok* (striated pardalotes) and *wirriwtwirri* (rainbow bee-eaters) nest in the banks of this creek.

After passing through open woodland, the track leads to Boulder Creek, which is lined with a monsoon forest. Amongst the boulders are *karnpayn* (fan palms). Listen and look for birds, like *pukpuk* (pheasant coucal).

Feel the texture of the large sandstone and conglomerate boulders along the creek. Millions of years ago, the fine-grained sandstone was deposited as sand and silt under slow moving water. Pebbly conglomerates were laid down in fast flood waters.

Follow the markers over the boulders across the creek and back to the carpark, or detour to the Yurmikmik Lookout.

## YURMIKMIK LOOKOUT WALK

Distance: 5 km return

Time: 1 ½ to 2 hours

Grade: moderate, marked track

This walk goes through open woodland up a stony ridge to the lookout where you can enjoy views over Jawoyn country.

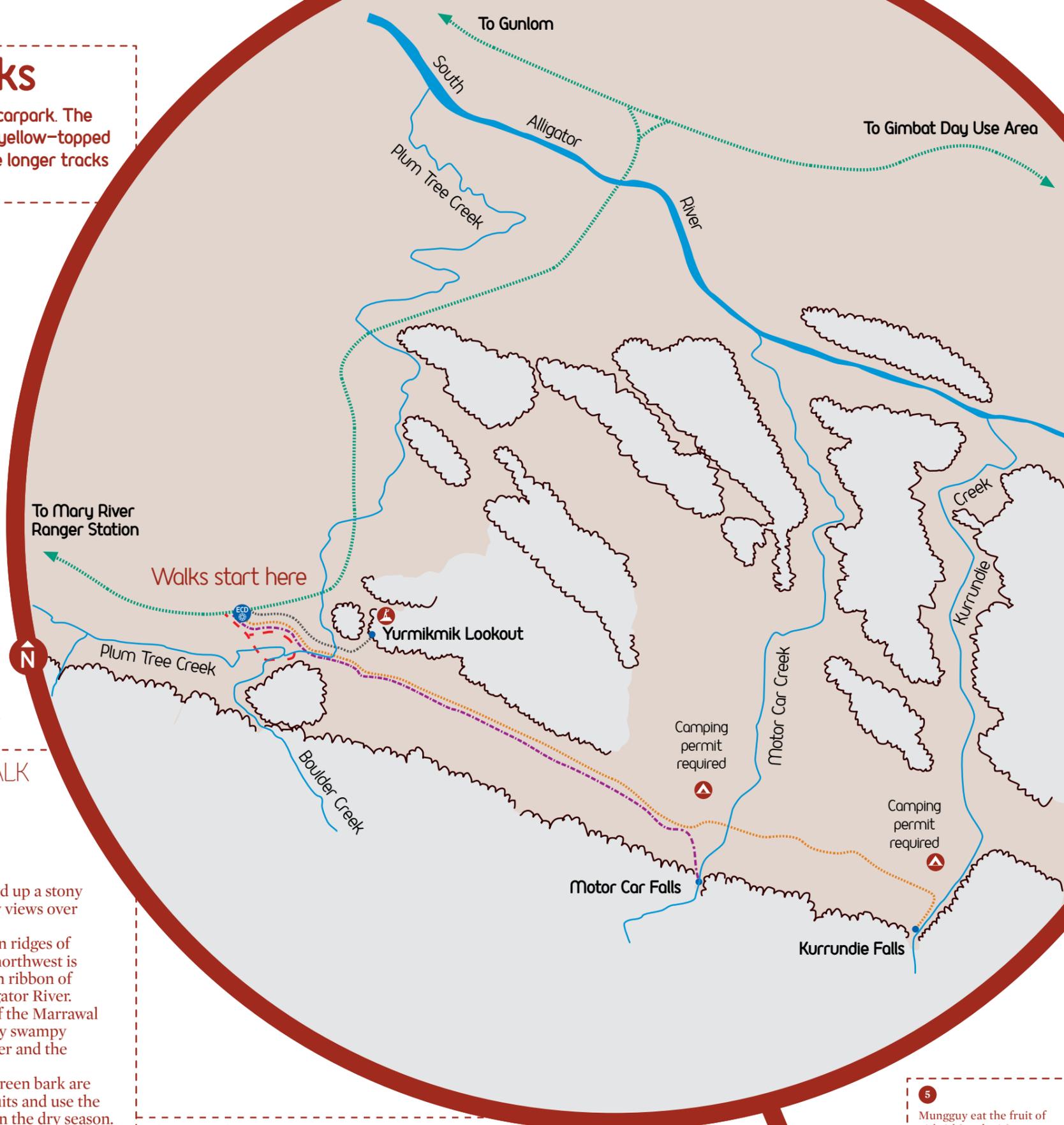
To the north and west are the southern ridges of Kakadu. The large sandstone hill to the northwest is Bornluk. Look along the road for the lush ribbon of vegetation growing along the South Alligator River.

To the south is the high flat country of the Marrawal Plateau. Marrawal refers to the seasonally swampy uplands between the South Alligator River and the Katherine River.

The trees at the lookout with yellow-green bark are *pir'pir* (gardenia). Munggy eat their fruits and use the resin as glue. Smell the fragrant flowers in the dry season.

### Legend

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|  Lookout               |  Boulder Creek Walk                         |
|  Camping               |  Yurmikmik Lookout Walk                     |
|  Emergency Call Devise |  Motorcar Falls Walk                        |
|                        |  Motor Car Creek Walk                       |
|   |  Motor Car and Kurrundie Creek Circuit Walk |



## MOTOR CAR FALLS WALK

Distance: 7.5 km return

Time: 4 hours

Grade: moderate, marked track

This walk follows a historic vehicle track. In 1946, Paul Allmich, an old tin miner, was the first to drive to this country. He only got his Chevrolet truck as far as Motor Car Creek. The bridge there was built later.

Near the start of the Motor Car Falls walk is *wij* (turkey bush). During the dry season you may notice these pink-flowered shrubs with scale-like leaves in other parts of the park. The hard timber of straight *wij* stems makes good spears.

The walk takes you through the open woodland habitat of *jikkilirrij* (hooded parrot) which nest in termite mounds.

Motor Car Creek is surrounded by lush monsoon forest and is a shady retreat. You may see *murnpel* (banded fruit-dove) feeding in this forest. Track markers lead to the pool and falls.

## KURRUNDIE CREEK WALK

Distance: 11 km return

Time: 7 hours, long day walk

Grade: difficult, unmarked track

Camping permit required.

This walk follows the Motor Car Falls walking track to Motor Car Falls.

Follow the old vehicle track to Kurrundie Creek, then follow the creek upstream to Kurrundie Falls. At this spectacular place you may see *ngalmirlamirla* (peregrine falcon) flying from the cliffs. Also keep an eye out for *parrk* (black wallaroo) amongst the rocks.

Nyirrang Jawoyn nyirri-m-bolk-nangarnan. Bu-m-bolk-nangarna.

We Jawoyn look after this place. You look after this place too.

Bulayan Nawurrkbarbar, Wurrkbarbar clan  
Jawoyn traditional custodian



5 Munggy eat the fruit of *pir'pir* (gardenia).

## CAMPING AT YURMIKMIK

A permit is required to camp in this area.

Camping is not permitted at the base of Motor Car Falls.

Bury toilet waste at least 15 cm deep and 100 m from campsites and creeks.

Wash well away from creeks and pools. Soap, shampoo and detergent can harm fish and other wildlife.

For permits and permit information contact the Permits Officer on 08 8938 1140. Download forms at <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/camping-and-bushwalking>

## LOOK AFTER YOURSELF

Estuarine (saltwater) crocodiles inhabit all lowland Kakadu waterways in Kakadu – observe and obey all crocodile warning signs.

Do not approach or interfere with any wildlife.

Protect yourself from the sun and biting insects – wear a hat and cover up with loose, light clothing.

Beware of creeks flash flooding during the wet season.

## WHEN WALKING

Keep to marked tracks.

Wear sturdy footwear.

Carry and drink plenty of water.

On longer walks, bring energy foods – fruit and nuts.

Carry a First Aid Kit.

Avoid walking in the heat of the day.

Advise a responsible adult when you start and finish your walk.

## LOOK AFTER THE PARK

Fishing is not permitted in the southern part of Kakadu, including Yurmikmik.

Carry out your rubbish, including cigarette butts, fruit peel and tissues.

Observe and enjoy the wildlife, but do not disturb or feed them.

Use fuel stoves in preference to open fires.

If lighting a fire, collect firewood on the way to your camp rather than at the campsite. Use firewood sparingly.

## CROCODILE SAFETY

Motor Car Creek is upstream of known estuarine (saltwater) crocodile habitat. However, crocodiles can move into Motor Car Creek undetected during the wet season. Enter the water at your own risk.

The South Alligator River is known estuarine (saltwater) crocodile habitat. Do not enter the South Alligator River under any circumstances.

## IN AN EMERGENCY

There is an Emergency Call Device in the Yurmikmik carpark. This device is only for emergency requests for medical help, search and rescue, or to notify park staff of any other incident requiring an urgent response.

5

Marlak, billy-goat plums, are rich in Vitamin C.

6

Sulphur-crested cockatoos feast on woodland fruits as they come into season.



For more information contact:

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