



Australian Government
Director of National Parks

kakaduTM
NATIONAL PARK

Tourism Industry Update – 22 October 2009

PRE – WET SEASON CLOSURE ADVICE

RANGERS PREPARE FOR THE COMING WET SEASON

It is that time of year again when district staff start preparing visitor sites and catchment areas for the wet season. The Jim Jim and Twin Falls area floods rapidly with the onset of the wet season. Rangers need to prepare these areas before the first heavy rains occur. Infrastructure is dismantled and removed prior to any flooding which could cause damage. At the upper end of Twin Falls Gorge, the floating boardwalk must be dismantled and removed by helicopter.

These preparations occur across the park at visitor sites that flood during the wet season. We will endeavour to keep the tourism industry informed of approaching closures over the coming months. Please ensure your guides are informed of the details below.

EXTREME TEMPERATURES CAUSE WALKING TRACK CLOSURES

The difficult and steep day walks to escarpment areas are particularly hot at this time of year and offer limited shade for walkers. Due to high temperatures and a recent spate of heat-related incidents we will be closing the walks to the top of Jim Jim and Twin Falls, and the Sandstone Barrk Walk at Nourlangie.

Keep in mind that the Sandstone Barrk Walk is a great wet season walk which will reopen in the wet when the temperature drops.

All three extended walks close at 4pm, Friday 23 October 2009.

WORK SCHEDULED FOR TWIN FALLS CLOSURE

To prevent wet season damage to infrastructure, district staff will be carrying out works at Twin Falls over the coming weeks. A helicopter will be landing and taking off around the main visitor sites allowing rangers to remove boardwalks, boat ramps and other infrastructure. The area will be closed to allow this work to occur and to avoid noise and safety hazards to visitors.

Twin Falls area will close at 4pm, Sunday 8 November 2009.

DATE SET FOR JIM JIM FALLS CLOSURE

The anticipated date for closing Jim Jim Falls area is **4pm, Friday 11 December**. It is difficult to predict when the first heavy rains will fall over the Jim Jim catchment area. The onset of these rains cause Jim Jim Falls area to flood rapidly. If significant rains occur before the scheduled closure date, please be aware that we will need to close the area earlier. Stay tuned for further updates.

SUMMARY OF CLOSURES

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 4pm, Friday 23 October: | Walk to the top of Jim Jim Falls (Barrk Marlam Walk) Twin Falls Plateau Walk Sandstone Barrk Walk (Nourlangie) |
| 4pm, Sunday 8 November: | Twin Falls area |
| 4pm, Friday 11 December: | Jim Jim Falls area |