



BAMURRU PLAINS

Wild Bush Luxury

# Seasonality: what to expect

Commonly, the Northern Territory's Top End is defined by two seasons: the dry season (April to October) and the wet season (November to March).

The traditional owners of nearby Kakadu recognise six different seasons, defined by the skies, rainfall, plants and animals.

## **"Bangkerreng" - storm season**

***Mid March to April, 23°C to 34°C***

The early days of Bangkerreng are marked by storms that flatten the speargrass - these are called "knock 'em down" storms. These storms can be a photographer's dream, with the landscape green from the amount of water on the floodplains and the skies lighting up in colour from the electrical storms. By April the rain clouds have dispersed and clear skies prevail. The vast expanses of floodwater recede and streams start to run clear again. Most plants are fruiting and animals are caring for their young.

## **"Yekke" - cooler (but still humid) season**

***May to mid-June, 21°C to 33°C***

This is a relatively cool time with less humidity. Early-morning mist hangs low over the plains and the shallow wetlands and billabongs are carpeted with water lilies. The days are warm, dry and generally cloudless with spectacular sunsets. This is the season of life and rebirth as many species start to teach their young how to navigate the floodplains.

## **"Wurrkeng" - cold weather season**

***Mid-June to mid-August, 17°C to 32°C***

The coolest time to visit, at least by Northern Territory standards. Humidity is low, while daytime temperatures can rise to 30°C and drop to around 17°C at night. Magpie Geese (the "Bamurru"), plump after weeks of abundant food, crowd the billabongs with a myriad of other waterbirds.

## **"Kurrung" - hot dry weather**

***Mid-August to mid-October, 23°C to 37°C***

Days and nights start to warm up, leading to many tropical woodland plants flowering at this time of year. Watch as Magpie Geese blanket the floodplain, and marvel as the waters begin to retreat creating pockets of water concentration that draw in extraordinary numbers of birdlife rarely seen in Australia.

The receding floodplain opens up access to new regions waiting to be explored by 4WD and by foot, and the Sampan Creek provides a hive of activity on croc-spotting river cruises.

## **"Kunumeleng" - pre-monsoon storm season**

***(Bamurru Plains is closed)***

***Late-October to late December, 24°C to 37°C***

Kunumeleng is the pre-monsoon season, with hot weather that becomes increasingly humid. It can last from a few weeks to several months. Thunderstorms build in the afternoons and showers bring green to the dry land. Barramundi move from the waterholes to the estuaries to breed, and waterbirds spread out with the increased surface water and plant growth.

## **"Kudjewk" - monsoon season**

***(Bamurru Plains is closed)***

***December to February, 24°C to 34°C***

This is the tropical summer period with thunderstorms and heavy rain. Kudjewk's heat and humidity causes an explosion of plant and animal life. Speargrass grows to over two metres tall and gives the woodlands a silvery-green hue. Magpie geese nest in the wetlands, while widespread flooding drives goannas, snakes and rats to seek refuge in the trees.