

kakadu[™] NATIONAL PARK

SITE Nourlangie

Welcome to Nourlangie, or Burrunggui, as it is known to the Gun-djeihmi speakers for this place.

At Nourlangie you can see how local Aboriginal people lived in this area through changing times. Environmental and social changes are reflected in the rock art and in the ground, where archaeologists have uncovered over 20,000 years of Aboriginal occupation.

Burrunggui (Boor-oon-goy) is the name for the higher parts of Nourlangie. The lower areas are known as Anbangbang (Arn-barng-barng).

Burrunggui (Nourlangie Rock) from Anbangbang Billabong

Namarrgon djardjang, lightning dreaming, from Gunwarddewarde lookout. From his place on the escarpment, Namarrgon watches for the first wet season storms.

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Namarrgon, lightning man, at Anbangbang gallery

A 1.5 km circuit walk takes you through a wet season home for generations of Aboriginal people. Evidence of long occupation and changing times is to be found in the art sites and a large rock shelter. The lookouts reveal connections between people and landscape.

If you are in the area during the dry season, visit Anbangbang Billabong and enjoy the views looking back at Nourlangie.

The 12 km Barrk Sandstone Walk over Nourlangie presents a challenging walk. Precautions must be taken and the walk must not be attempted by the solo walker. See the Barrk Park Note.





WALKS

ANBANGBANG GALLERY

The paintings in this gallery and the nearby Nabulwinjbulwinj were painted by Nayombolmi. Also known as Barramundi Charlie, Nayombolmi spent many years working for balanda (non Aboriginal people). He returned to repaint these in 1964, shortly before he passed away. In 1962, before Nayombolmi's work, British naturalist Sir David Attenborough had photographed this gallery; those photographs show paintings much more faded than the ones you now see.

ANBANGBANG SHELTER

Aboriginal people have been coming home to this shelter for the last 6,000 years. Occasional use dates further back to 20,000 years, when the climate of the area was drier and food more scarce.

Over time objects discarded by people here have built up the floor of the shelter. Archaeological excavations have revealed organic objects not usually preserved in the hot, wet climate of northern Australia, safe in the dryness of this shelter.

NANGULUWURR

The Nanguluwurr Gallery is another art site on the northern side of Burrunggui. An unsealed road leads to the start of the 4 km return walk through woodland to Nanguluwurr.

MORE INFORMATION

See the Gunbim Park Note for more information about rock art.

From June to September rangers give talks at Ubirr, Nourlangie and other areas.

CONSERVATION

Rock art is extremely important to the Aboriginal owners of Kakadu. It is also an important historic and scientific record of human occupation of the region.

Rock art can be damaged by many natural processes and Rangers do what they can to remove or redirect damaging processes.

Boardwalks and handrails prevent both people and animals from touching and rubbing the paintings. Boardwalks also prevent dust from being stirred up and coating the paintings.

Pruning, clearing and controlled burning help reduce risks from wildfire and plants rubbing against the rocks.

Rangers regularly remove nests and tunnels made by wasps and other insects. They put silicon drip lines around paintings to redirect water flow away from paintings. This also reduces lichen and mould growth over the paintings and chemical rock weathering processes.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The thousands of people who visit the art sites each year pose the greatest, although unintentional, threat to the rock art. To help protect the paintings please:

Do not touch the paintings or interfere with the silicon drip lines

Keep to the walking tracks and behind the fences and barriers

Do not enter prohibited areas

Penalties apply to anyone defacing or damaging an archaeological site or artefact

