Your long weekend sorted - come on down to Kakadu

5 June 2015

Kakadu’s famous Twin Falls will be open for the long weekend, almost a month earlier than usual. The park is urging locals to come on down for the long weekend, and enjoy the World Heritage wonders on Darwin’s doorstep.

Chief Minister Adam Giles congratulated Kakadu on all the extra work this year to open sites early, which has seen attractions like Twin Falls, Jim Jim, Koolpin Gorge and Maguk open earlier than usual.

“Kakadu is a huge drawcard for overseas and interstate visitors, attracting more than 190,000 people a year and many of those are keen to get into the iconic sites as early as possible after the wet,” Mr Giles said.

“It’s fantastic to see attractions such as Twin Falls and Maguk open close to a month early – those extra weeks are putting dollars in the pockets of local tour operators and big smiles on visitors’ faces.

“We want as many people as possible to experience the beauty of Kakadu. That’s why we recently launched a nation-wide advertising blitz ‘There’s So Much to Kakadu’, which is aimed at breaking down barriers about access to the Park.

“We’re also investing in future upgrades to further improve access to much-loved areas of the Park with $3 million in this year’s Budget to upgrade Kambolgie Creek Crossing on Gimbat Road.”

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Bob Baldwin, said the early openings are part of a $5 million drive from the Australian Government to improve Kakadu’s visitor sites and make it an even more appealing holiday destination.

“The Kakadu team should be hugely proud of themselves – the park is humming with happy visitors, we’re running free ranger-guided activities, and everyone is ecstatic to have key places like Twin Falls open so early,” Mr Baldwin said.

“This is all part of our efforts to boost Kakadu’s visitor numbers and return the park to the top of its game, as a major tourism drawcard and a driver of the local economy.
“Our rangers have a huge task on their hands each year as the wet season flooding subsides, to repair roads and facilities, remove troublesome crocs and get places ready for the peak season, and this year they’ve pulled out all the stops.

“I can personally vouch for the huge effort that’s gone into this year’s wet season cleanup. I toured the park a few weeks back, inspecting our multimillion dollar upgrades to roads, campgrounds and facilities – the place is looking top notch.

“If you haven’t locked in your plans for the long weekend, you can’t beat a trip to Kakadu. Come on down and see for yourself!”

It’s an exciting week for the park, which today celebrates the 100th meeting of its majority-Aboriginal Board. Kakadu’s Ubirr Lookout was just voted one of Australia’s top attractions by Trip Advisor, and Kakadu’s free ranger-guided walks and talks have begun for 2015.

Early Kakadu openings this year include:

- Twin Falls (open 4 June, usually late June/early July)
- Jim Jim (open 26 May, usually early/mid June)
- Maguk (open 4 May, usually June/July)
- 2 Mile Hole (open 5 April, usually June/July)
- Koolpin Gorge (open 24 April, usually June/July)

To plan your Kakadu holiday visit parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/

Opening details for Kakadu attractions are listed at kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com/

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