

201405-06 The Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin plus Uluru and Kakadu

Our wonderful trip on the Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin with a week stopover in Alice Springs to see Uluru, Kata Tjuta and Kings Canyon. The train trip included a cruise up Katherine Gorge. The train was very comfortable and the food excellent. We had a tour of Darwin including the War Museum and the Botanic Gardens. We completed our holiday with a 2-day tour of Kakadu National Park and East Alligator River - really worth while. Thanks to Paul and Heather for helping organise the trip and enjoying the trip with us.

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Day 1-2 The Ghan from Adelaide to Alice Springs

We boarded The Ghan at Adelaide's mainline station (Keswick Terminal) where we met up with Heather and Paul. The line follows the Flinders Ranges before heading...

15 images



Day 3-5 Uluru and Kata Tjuta

Our bus took us south on the Stuart Highway to Ertlunda Roadhouse (with camels) and then west on the Lasseter Highway to Uluru to see the sunset colours of the...

39 images



Day 6 Kings Canyon (Watarrka NP)

Up early for the Kings Canyon Rim Walkers who head off to climb to the north side of the canyon. Interesting geology, flora and views. Descending into the...

40 images



Day 7 Alice Springs Desert Park

On our rest day we spent some time going to various sites around town including the Alice Springs Desert Park - a little out of town but very worthwhile going...

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Day 8 Palm Valley 4WD tour

The 4WD tour into Palm Valley is a very worthwhile excursion to take from Alice Springs. The road is not smooth and a very bumpy ride is guaranteed. However the...

28 images



Day 9-10 The Ghan from Alice Springs to Darwin

We explored Alice Springs again visiting the Botanic Gardens and climbing Telegraph Hill. Back on The Ghan heading towards Darwin. The next morning we stop in...

31 images



Day 11 Darwin

Darwin City Tour including the Australian Aviation Heritage Centre complete with an entire B52, the Darwin Military Museum, the Museum and Art Gallery, and the...

19 images



Kakadu National Park and East Alligator River tour - Day 1

On the first day of our tour we drove down the highway to Humpty Doo roadhouse and then into the Park. Our first stop was at Anbangbang with its wonderful rock...

44 images

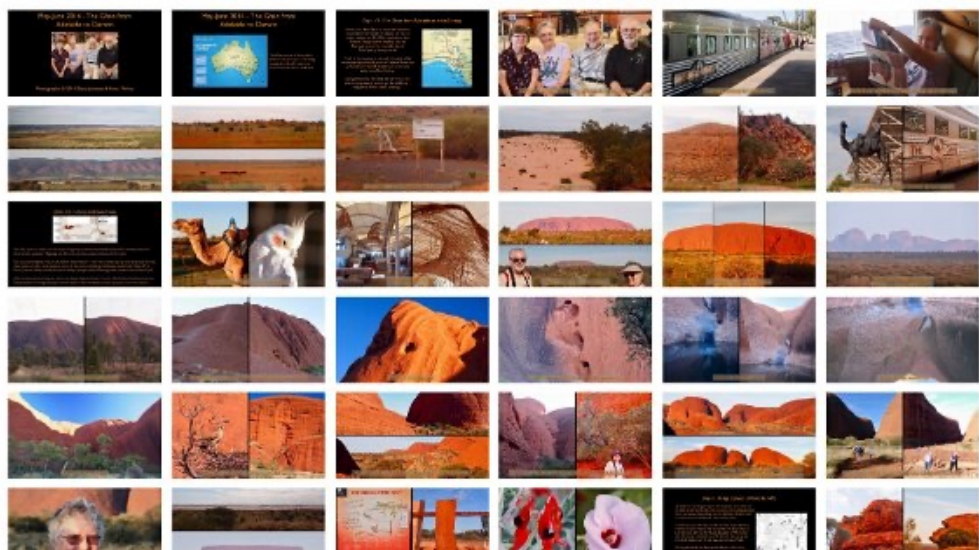


Kakadu National Park and East Alligator River tour - Day 2

Our first stop was Ubirr with its splendid collection of rock art and spectacular views of the Kakadu plains from the Nadab Lookout. Next was a cruise on the...

40 images

201405-06 The Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin Contact Sheet



201405-06 The Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin Contact Sheets

4 images

Day 1-2 The Ghan from Adelaide to Alice Springs

We boarded The Ghan at Adelaide's mainline station (Keswick Terminal) where we met up with Heather and Paul. The line follows the Flinders Ranges before heading west to Tarcoola where the new(ish) line to Alice Springs branches off. Much of the journey is through the night while we enjoyed good food, drink and sleeps. Next day we head over the NT border and eventually arrive into Alice Springs. Everyone knows the Ghan has arrived as the train is long enough to disrupt the traffic as it negotiates several level crossings.



Map of The Ghan railway journey from Adelaide to Darwin



Just before getting on the Ghan at Adelaide railway station

[Fellow passenger photo]



The Ghan waiting for us to get on



Anne in our cabin on the Ghan reading up on the trip



North of Adelaide near the Flinders Ranges



North of Adelaide near the Flinders Ranges



Good cattle country near SA-NT border



Good cattle country near SA-NT border



Iron Man statue - North of Finke River crossing



Dry river crossing



Approaching Alice



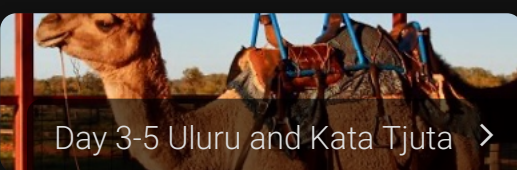
Approaching Alice - almost there



Camel Statue at Alice Springs railway station commemorating the opening of the new line from Tarcoola

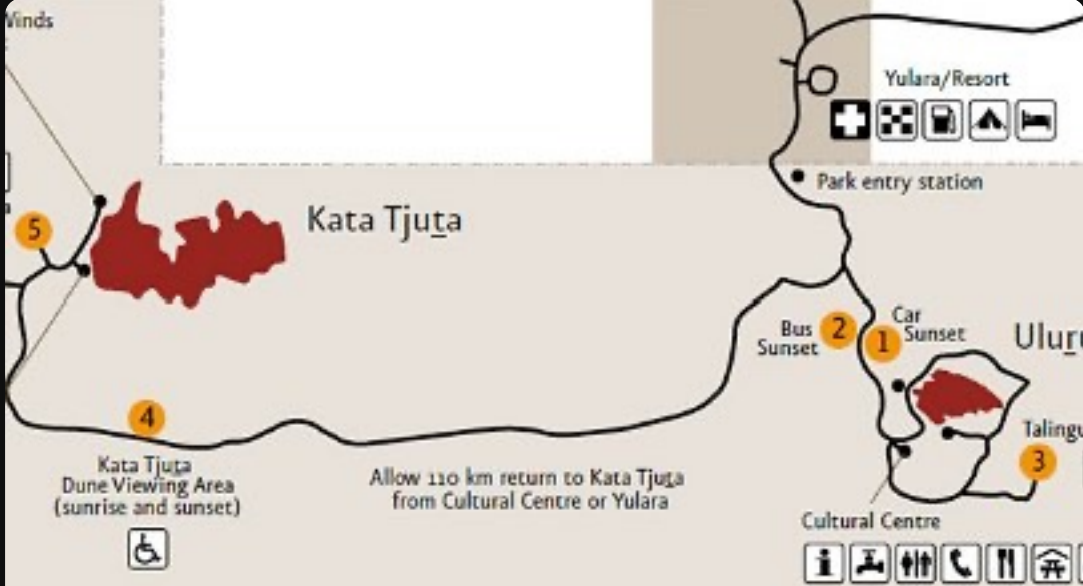


The Ghan at Alice Springs railway station



Day 3-5 Uluru and Kata Tjuta

Our bus took us south on the Stuart Highway to Eridunda Roadhouse (with camels) and then west on the Lasseter Highway to Uluru to see the sunset colours of the rock. Our accommodation was at the Ayres Rock Resort - very nice. Next day up nice and early for the dawn view of Uluru and explore parts of the rock including the Kuniya waterhole. Then off to Kata Tjuta for Valley of the Winds or Walpa Gorge walks finishing with sunset view of Kata Tjuta. After a leisurely morning we drove to Kings Canyon Resort via the Mt Connor Lookout and the road junction to Kings Canyon. Sturt's Desert Pea and Desert Rose greeted us at the Resort.



Uluru and Kata Tjuta map



Camel at Eridunda Road House - junction of Stuart and Lasseter Highways



Galah at Eridunda Road House - junction of Stuart and Lasseter Highways



Ayers Rock Resort foyer



Ayers Rock Resort foyer artistic features



Uluru from sunset viewing point



Dave and Anne waiting for sunset at Uluru
[Paul photo]



Uluru from sunset viewing point



Uluru from sunset viewing point



Uluru from sunset viewing point



Kata Tjuta in early light from Uluru sunrise viewing point



Uluru from sunrise viewing point



Uluru from sunrise viewing point



Climbing track up Uluru - for those that must



Uluru near climbing track



Uluru in morning light



Rock feature on Uluru near Kuniya waterhole



Uluru - Kuniya waterhole



Uluru - Kuniya waterhole



Uluru - Kuniya waterhole



Uluru in morning light



Raptor near Kata Tjuta car park



Kata Tjuta - Valley of the Winds Walk start



Kata Tjuta - Valley of the Winds Walk rest point 1



Kata Tjuta - Valley of the Winds Walk cliff feature



Kata Tjuta - Walpa Gorge Walk group leaving



Kata Tjuta - Valley of the Winds Walk narrows



Kata Tjuta - Walpa Gorge Walk group returning



Kata Tjuta - Valley of the Winds Walk through gap to east



Kata Tjuta - Dave at gap on Valley of the Winds Walk



Kata Tjuta from sunset viewing point



Anne at Kata Tjuta sunset viewing point



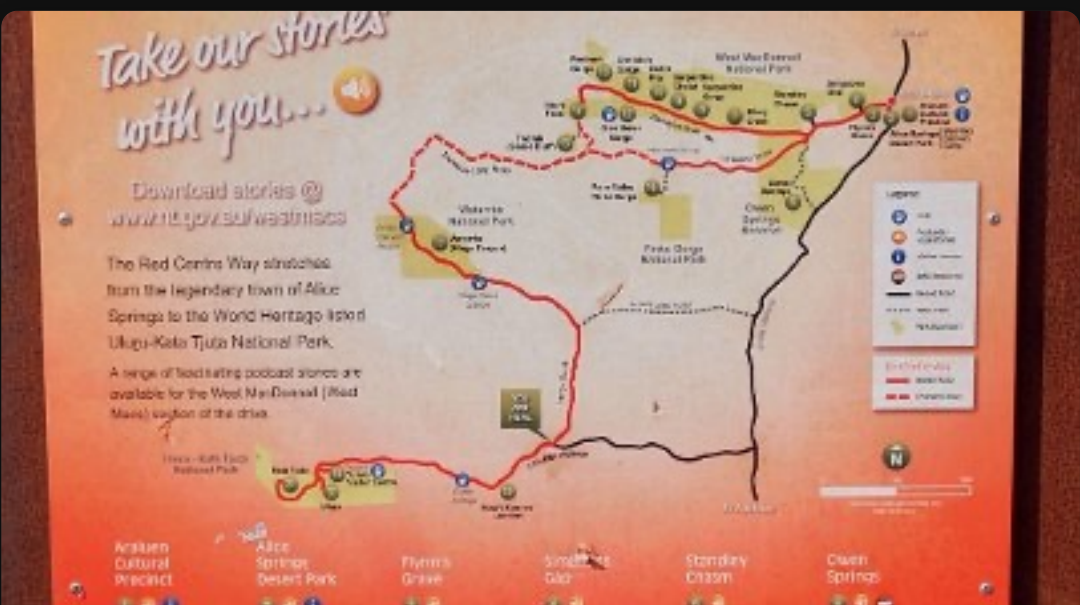
Mt Connor from Mt Connor Lookout on Lasseter Highway



Salt Lake at Mt Connor Lookout on Lasseter Highway



Salt Lake at Mt Connor Lookout panorama



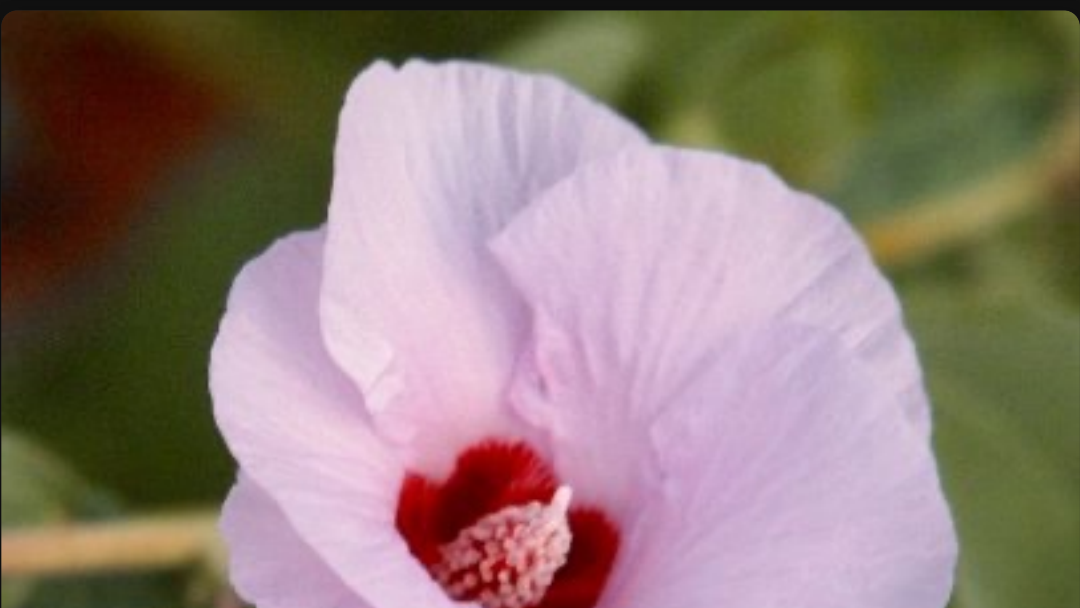
Red Centre information board - Lasseter Highway and Kings Canyon Road junction



Red Centre sign - Lasseter Highway and Kings Canyon Road junction



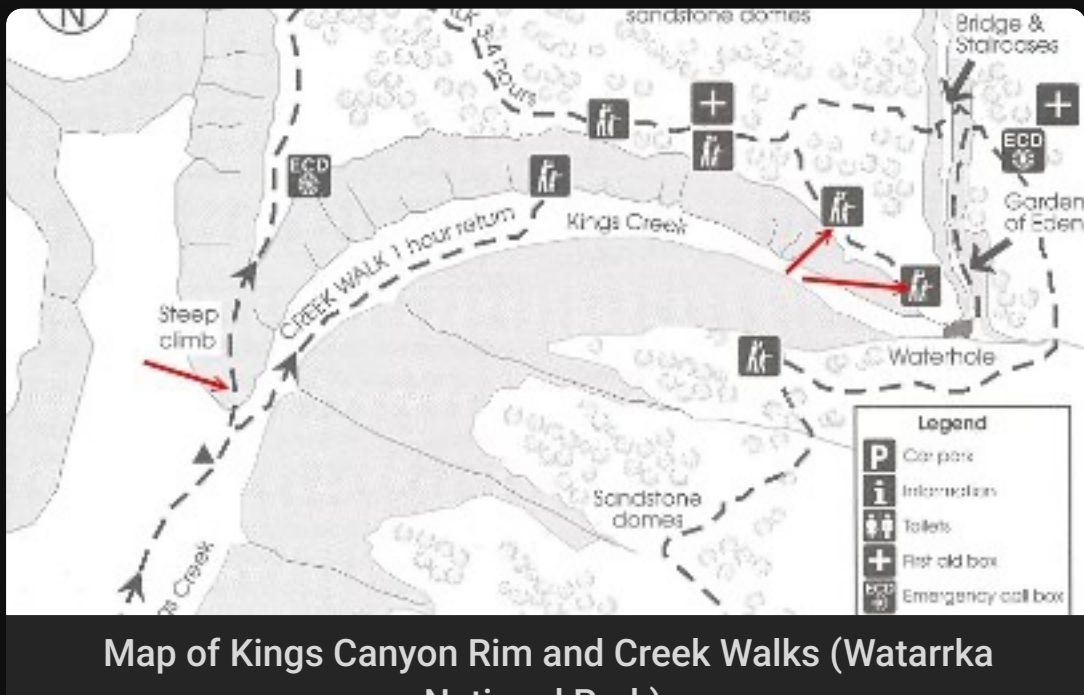
Sturt's Desert Pea at Kings Canyon Resort



Sturt's Desert Rose at Kings Canyon Resort

Day 6 Kings Canyon (Watarrka NP)

Up early for the Kings Canyon Rim Walkers who head off to climb to the north side of the canyon. Interesting geology, flora and views. Descending into the Garden of Eden with its water, trees and flowers - and much cooler. Continuing around to the south side with quite different and more open scenery. We encounter the Lost City (an area looking a bit like the Bungles) before descending to meet up with the rest of our group who had walked part of the way up the Creek Walk. Driving alongside the George Gill Range we arrive at Kings Creek Station for helicopter rides or watching the camel whisperer trying to teach his skills. We get back to Alice Springs after dark.



Map of Kings Canyon Rim and Creek Walks (Watarrka National Park)



Start of Kings Canyon Rim Walk (Watarrka National Park)



Deltaic structures



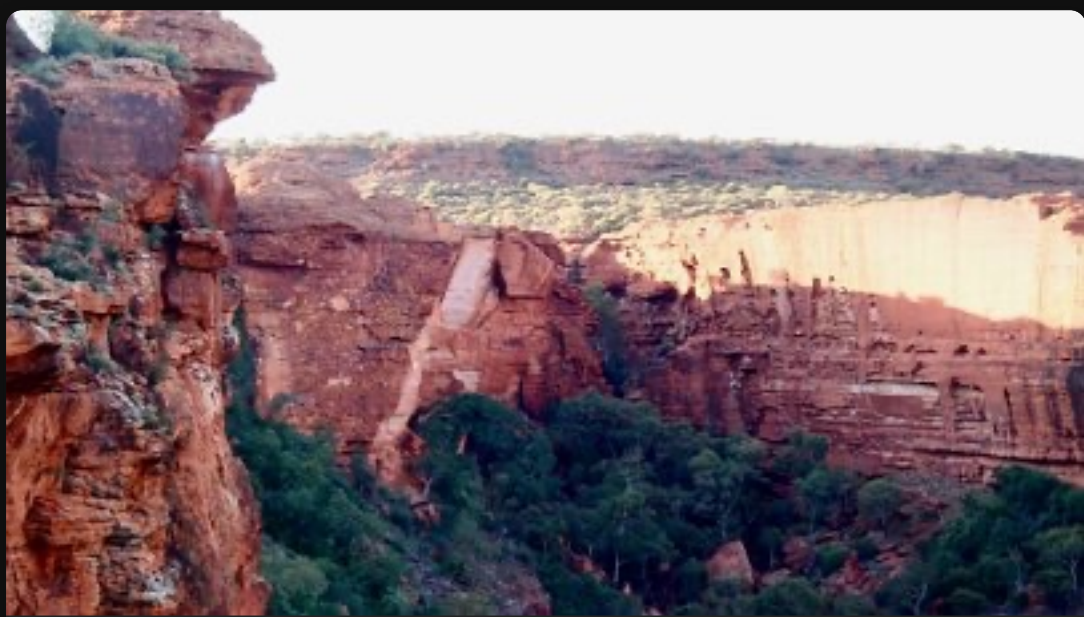
Wind erosion features



Cycad plant



Stubborn tree



South wall and valley from north wall



South wall from north wall



Colourful rocks and distant view



South wall with wind erosion features from north wall



Ripple marks on north side



Going down to Garden of Eden



Water in Garden of Eden



Rock reflections in Garden of Eden



Dry waterfall at head of Kings Canyon



Kings Canyon Rim Walkers
[Guide photo]



View of staircase to Garden of Eden



Small lake on south side



The Lost City (a bit like the Bungles) on south side



The Lost City (a bit like the Bungles) on south side



The Lost City (a bit like the Bungles) on south side



Starting down to the plains



Holly Grevillea



George Gill Range (leaving Kings Canyon)



Paul and Heather getting on helicopter at Kings Creek Station



Paul and Heather leaving



Camel whisperer teaching his skills at Kings Creek Station



Camel whisperer teaching his skills at Kings Creek Station



Paul and Heather return



Dave setting off
[Heather photo]



View over Kings Canyon region



View over Kings Canyon region



View into one of the canyons



View over Kings Canyon region



View over Kings Canyon region



View over Kings Canyon region



View into river valley



View over Kings Canyon region



Kings Creek Station



Dave landing at Kings Creek Station International Airport
[Heather photo]

Day 7 Alice Springs Desert Park

On our rest day we spent some time going to various sites around town including the Alice Springs Desert Park - a little out of town but very worthwhile going to. We saw many birds and animals (mainly lizards of various kinds). The display in the nocturnal house was very interesting (although very hard to photograph) and the dingo demonstration was excellent. We missed out on a raptor display. A great place to visit.



Map of Alice Spings Desert Park



Western MacDonell Range at Alice Spings Desert Park



Dingo at Alice Spings Desert Park



Skink in Nocturnal House



Lizard in Nocturnal House



Thorny Dragon in Nocturnal House



Lizard in Nocturnal House



Eucalypt seed pods



Bird



Bird



Bird



Princess Parrot



Dingo



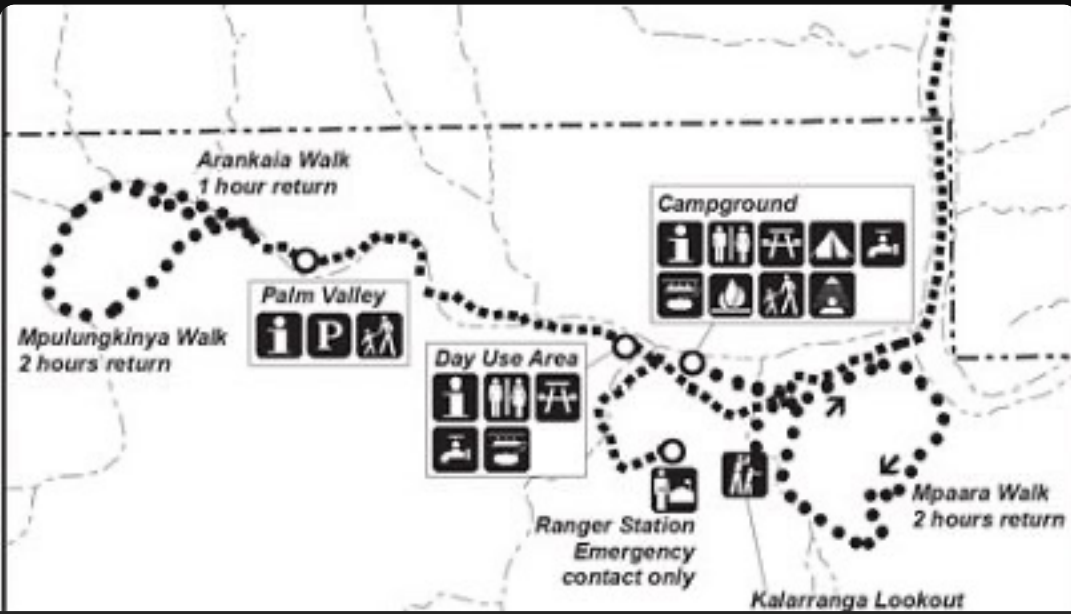
Kookaburra



Perentie lizard

Day 8 Palm Valley 4WD tour

The 4WD tour into Palm Valley is a very worthwhile excursion to take from Alice Springs. The road is not smooth and a very bumpy ride is guaranteed. However the valley is very interesting for its curious rock formations, palm trees and cycads. We walked back down the valley along the southern rim of the valley which provides a different perspective. On the way out we visited the Kalarranga Lookout and Mpaara Walk Amphitheatre. We returned to Alice via the Hermannsburg Aboriginal Mission.



Palm Valley Map



Morning tea stop on way into Palm Valley



Road through Palm Valley



Rock sculptures



Reflection pool



Palm in Palm Valley



Our good road



Mpulungkinya (Palm Valley) information board



Freshwater shrimp



Footpath up to the southern edge



Looking down onto the palms



View of plams and valley sides



Looking down onto the palms



Seed ball



Holly Grevillea



Sturt's Desert Rose (?)



Water in the valley



View of palms in wetter section of the valley



View to west from southern edge of the valley



Reflection pool



Reflection pool



Cycads



Palm Valley Kalarranga Lookout



Palm Valley Kalarranga Lookout and Mpaara Walk Ampitheatre panorama



Looking down from Kalarranga Lookout



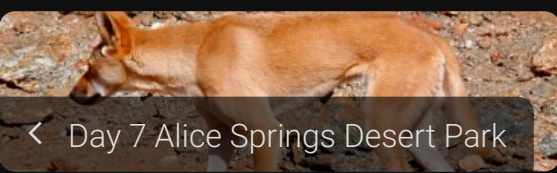
Hermannsburg solar power collection mirrors



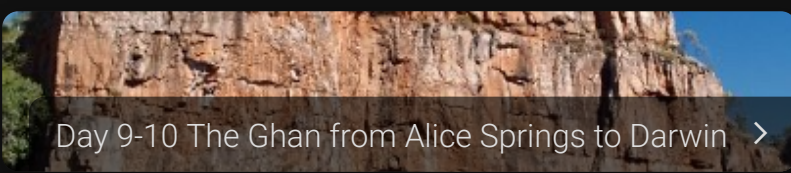
Western Macs on way back to Alice



Western Macs on way back to Alice



Day 7 Alice Springs Desert Park



Day 9-10 The Chan from Alice Springs to Darwin



Day 9-10 The Ghan from Alice Springs to Darwin

We explored Alice Springs again visiting the Botanic Gardens and climbing Telegraph Hill. Back on The Ghan heading towards Darwin. The next morning we stop in Katherine for a very pleasant cruise up the Katherine Gorge. Lots of rock features, birds and crocodiles and a bit of walking in the drier sections of the gorge. Then finally back on the train for the last section into Darwin.



Map of The Ghan railway journey from Adelaide to Darwin



Alice Springs Botanic Gardens



Alice Springs Botanic Gardens



Alice Springs Botanic Gardens



Heavitree Gap from Telegraph Hill



Western Macs from Telegraph Hill



Towards Simpsons Gap in the Western Macs from Telegraph Hill



Alice Springs from Telegraph Hill panorama



The River Todd



Fruit bats at start of Katherine Gorge cruise



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Rock art on the Katherine Gorge cruise



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise scene



Katherine Gorge cruise crocodile



Part of the Ghan at Katherine railway station



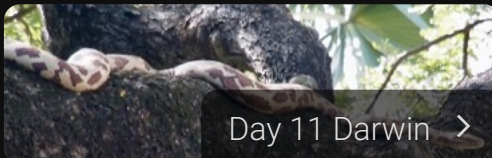
Another part of the Ghan at Katherine railway station



Termite mounds between Katherine and Darwin



Map of The Ghan railway journey from Adelaide to Darwin (northern part)



Day 11 Darwin

Darwin City Tour including the Australian Aviation Heritage Centre complete with an entire B52, the Darwin Military Museum, the Museum and Art Gallery, and the Fannie Bay Goal. We walked along MIndil and Fannie Bay beaches and spent some time at the Botanic Gardens - a really nice place to visit.



Map of Darwin



Australian Aviation Heritage Centre



Australian Aviation Heritage Centre



Australian Aviation Heritage Centre



Australian Aviation Heritage Centre



Australian Aviation Heritage Centre



Darwin Museum and Art Gallery



Darwin Military Museum at East Point



A Furphy at the Darwin Military Museum



Darwin Fannie Bay panorama 1



Darwin Fannie Bay panorama 2



Mandorah from Fannie Bay



Our beach near to Casino



Peacock at the Darwin Botanic Gardens



Large visitor to the Darwin Botanic Gardens



Eva's Cafe formerly a Wesleyan Church



Flowers in the Botanic Gardens



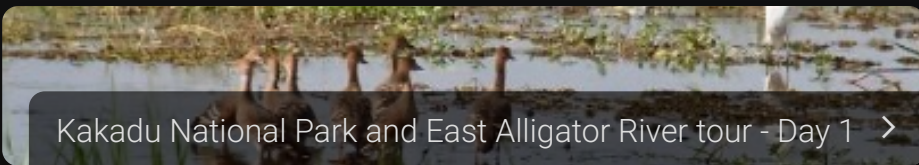
Flowers in the Botanic Gardens



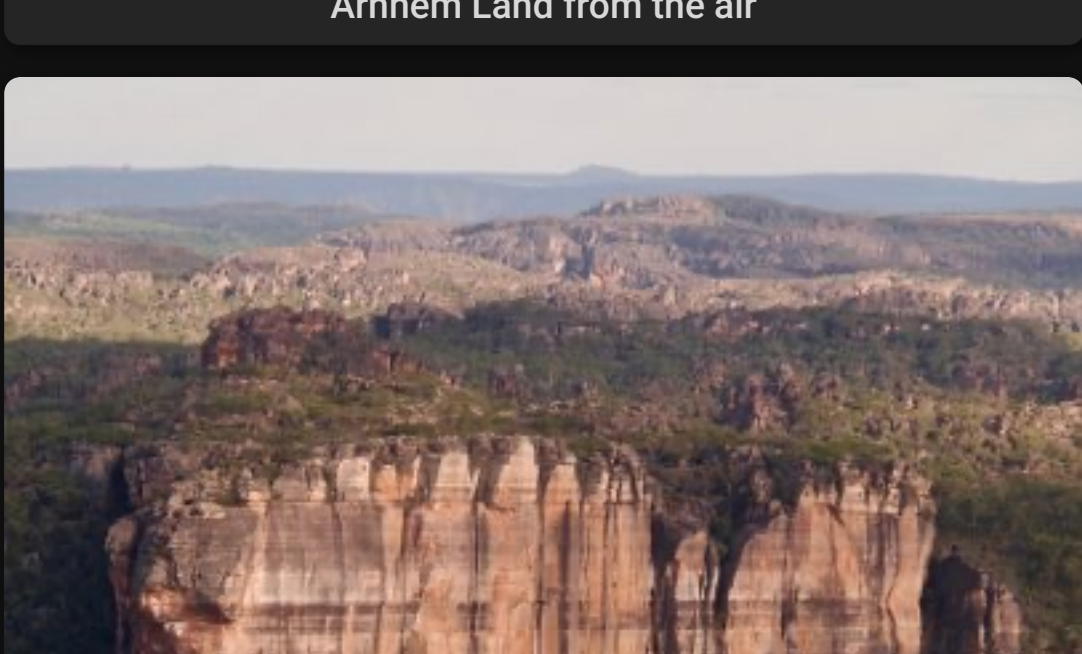
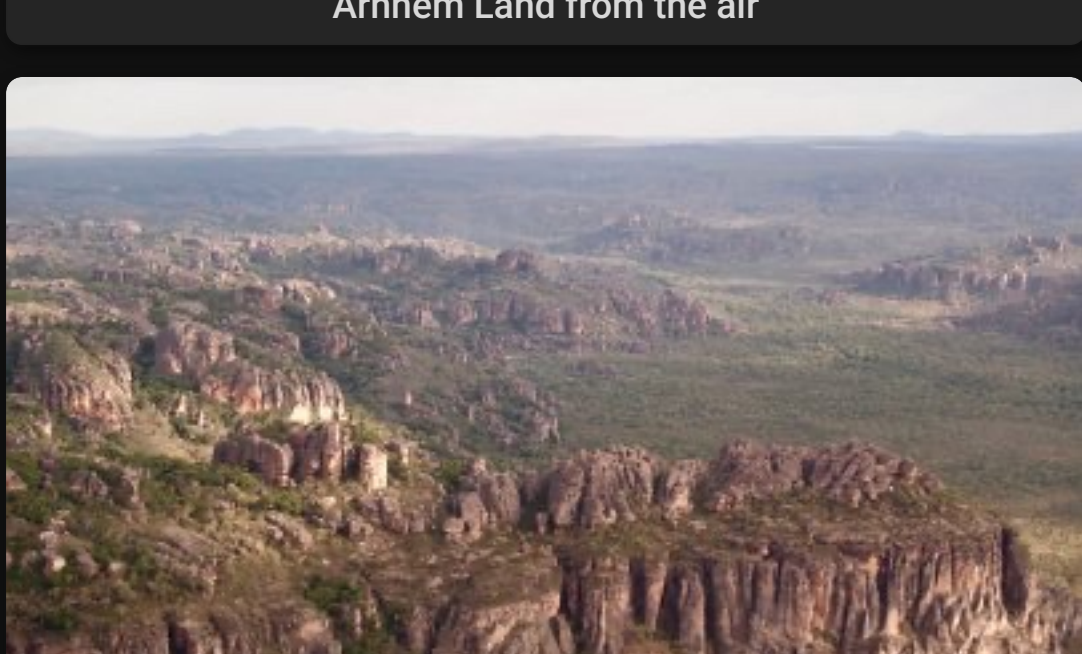
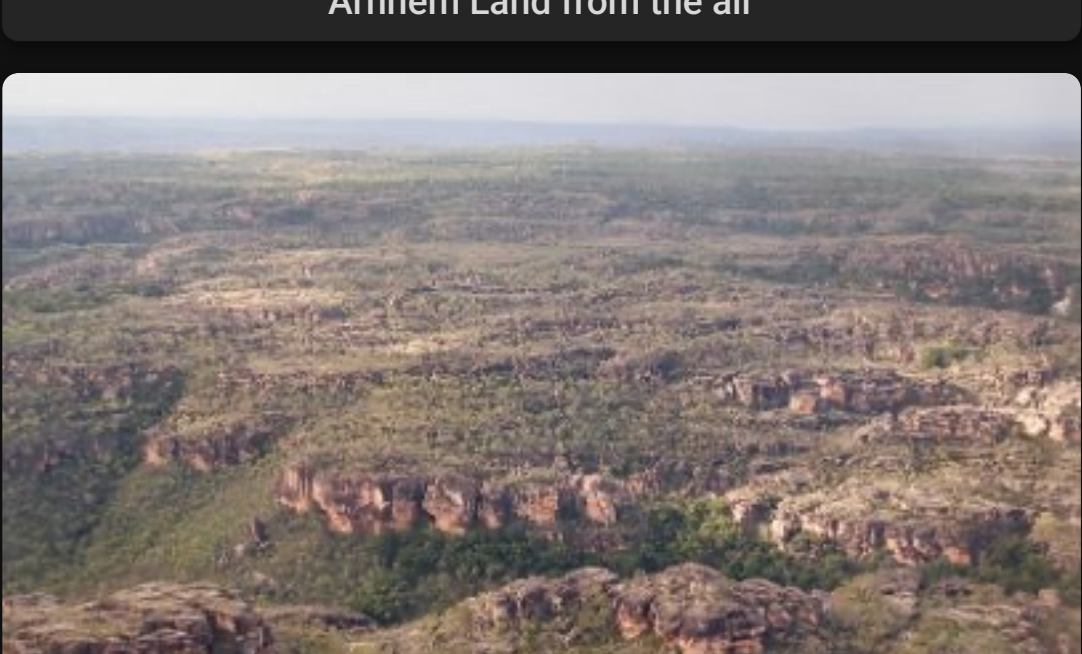
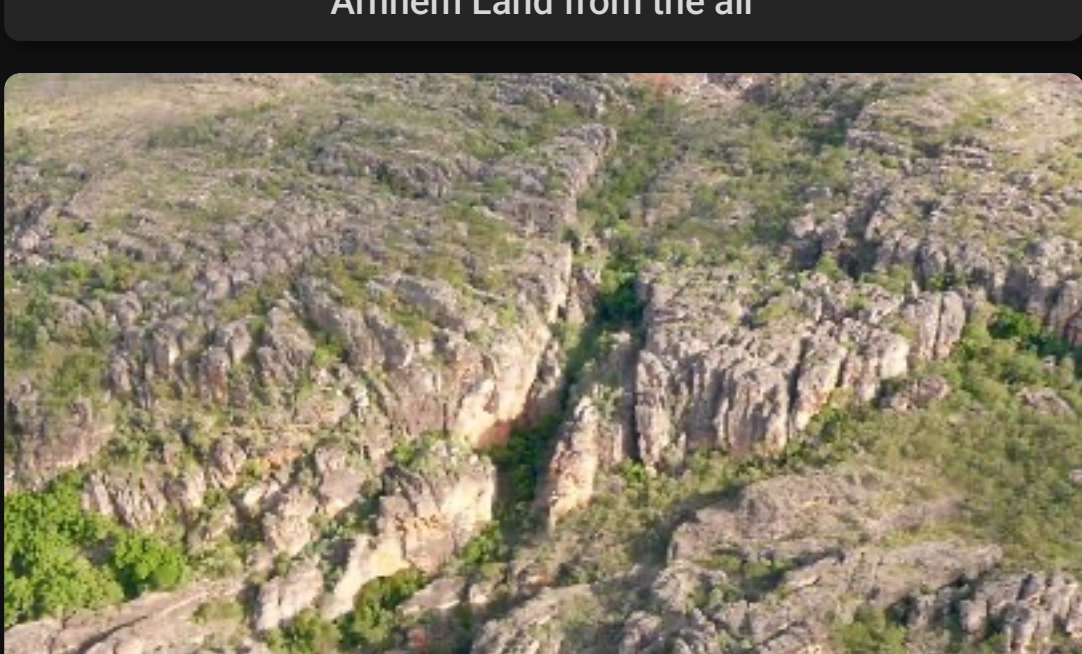
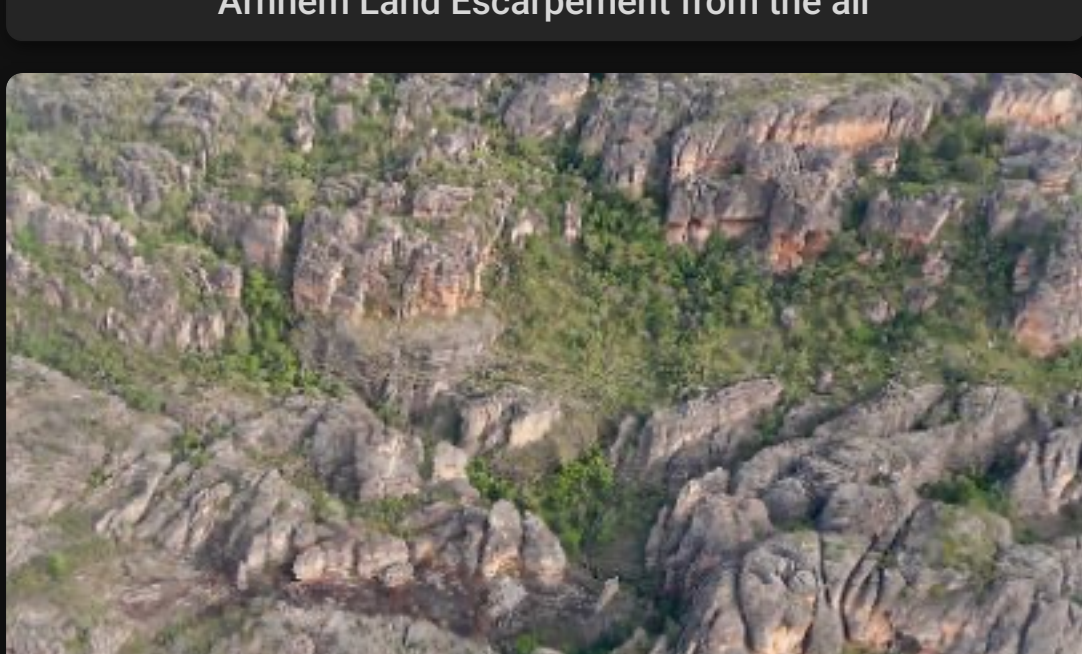
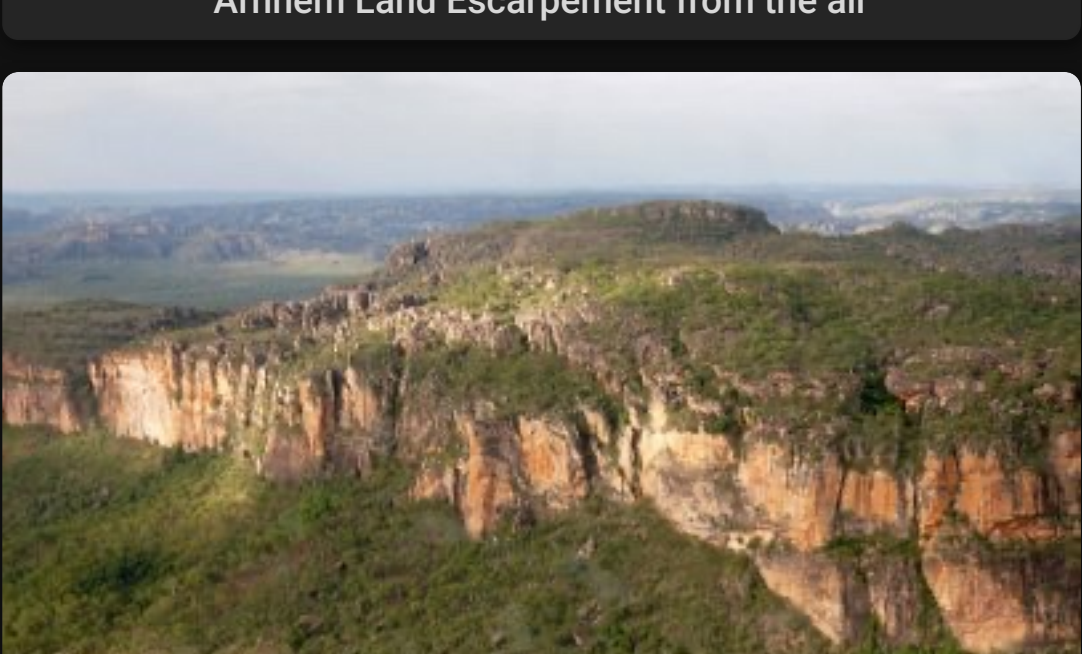
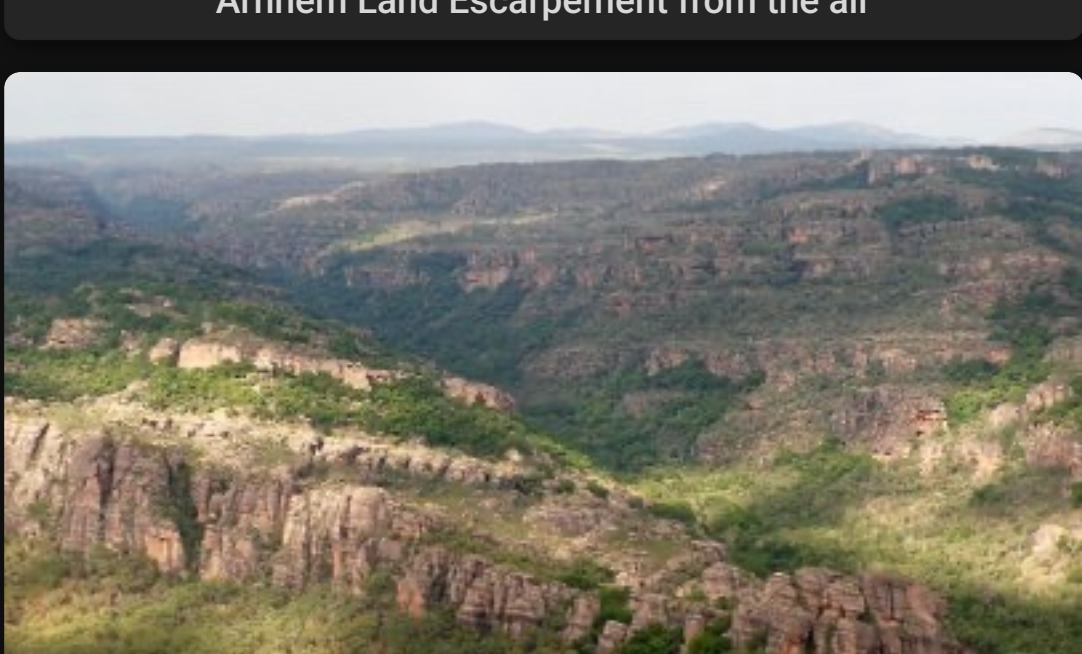
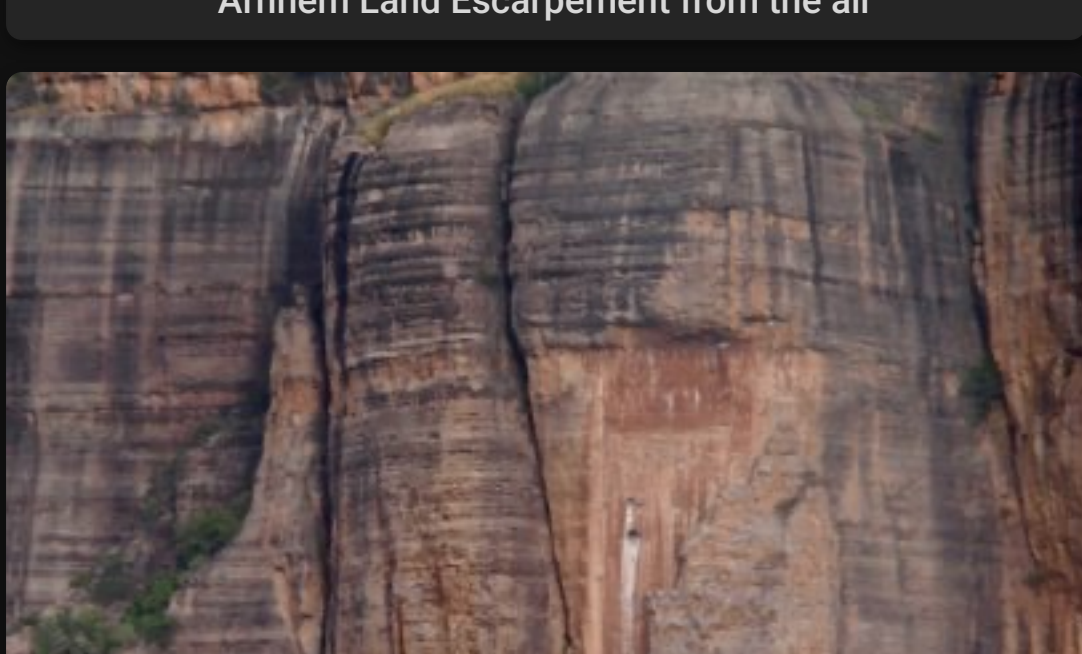
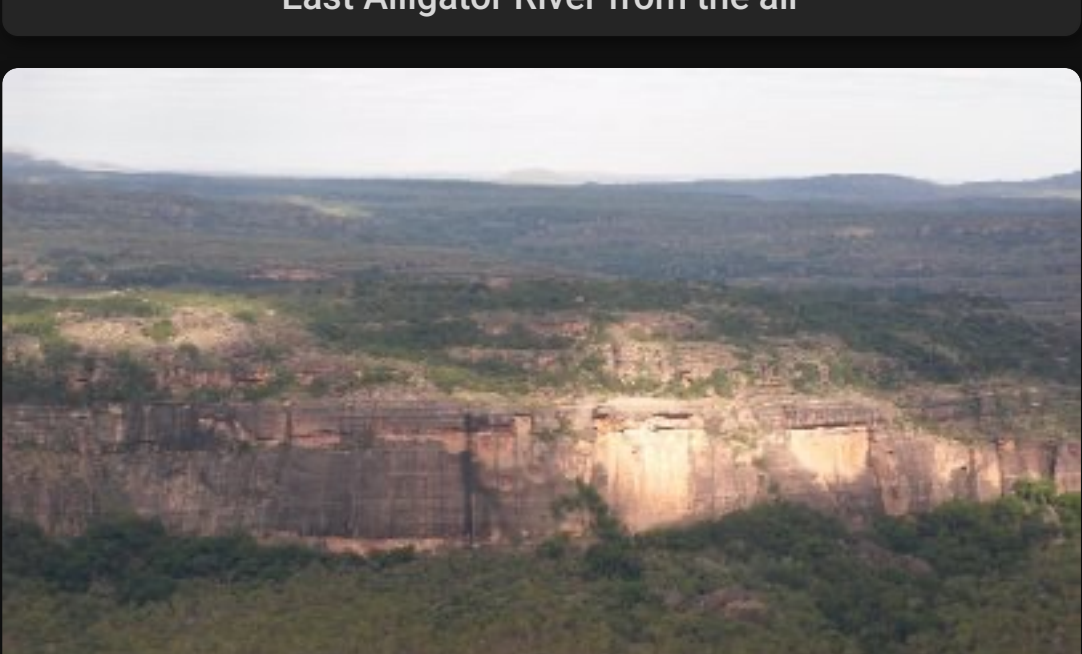
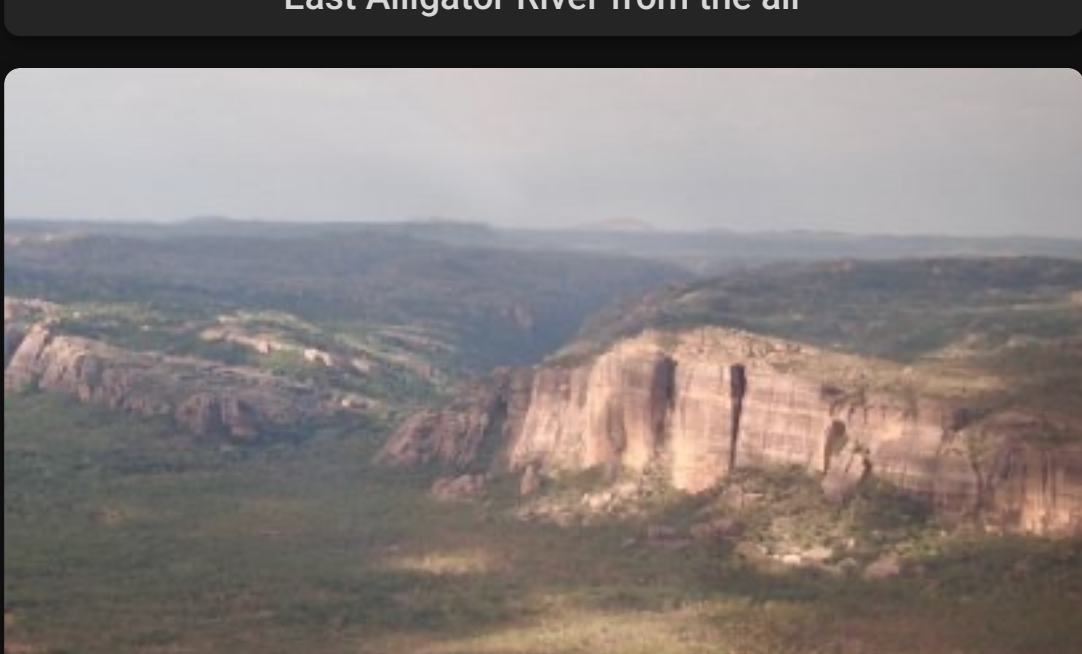
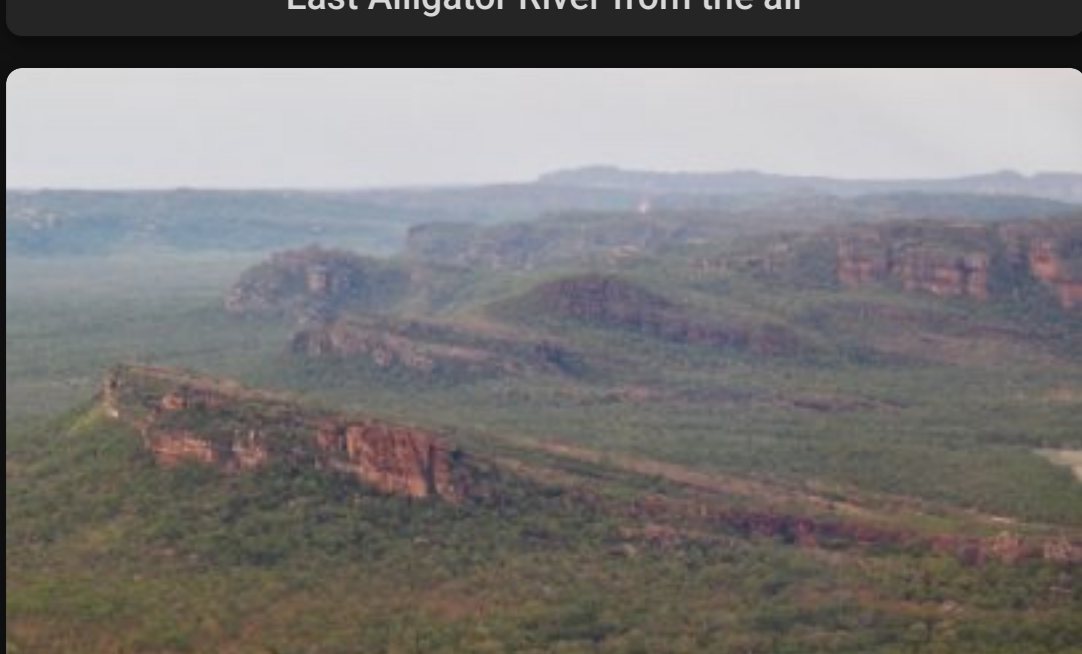
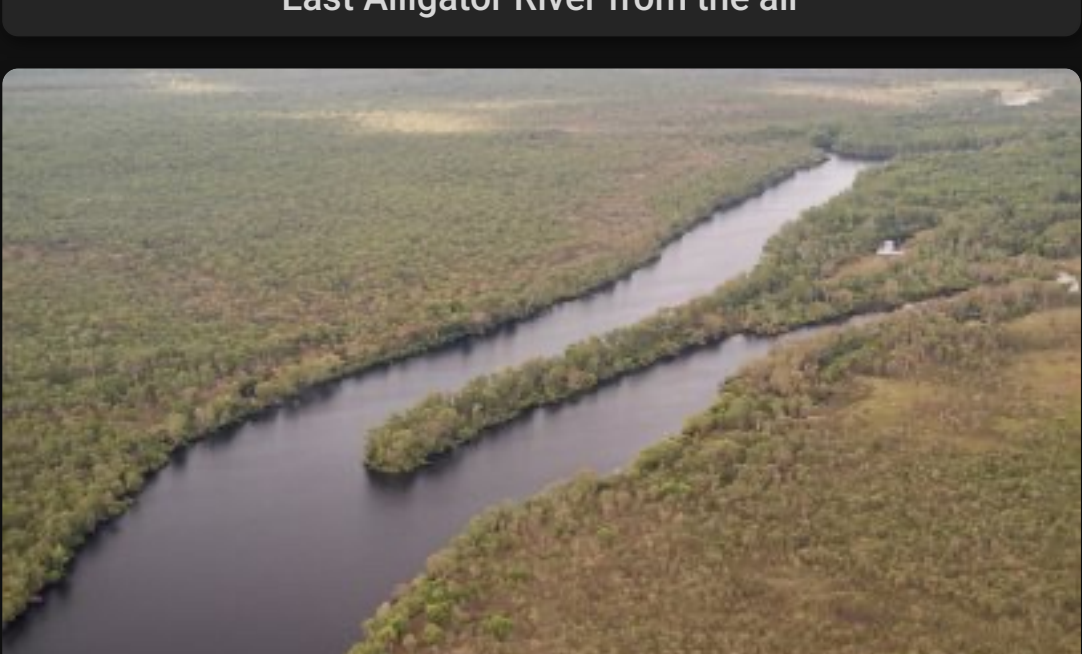
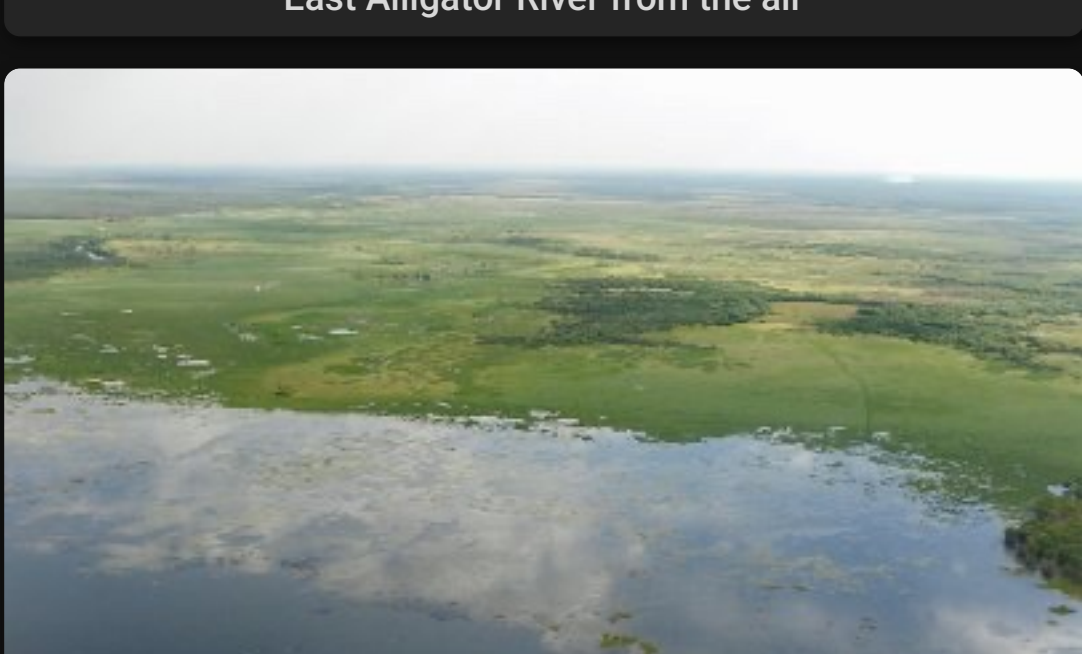
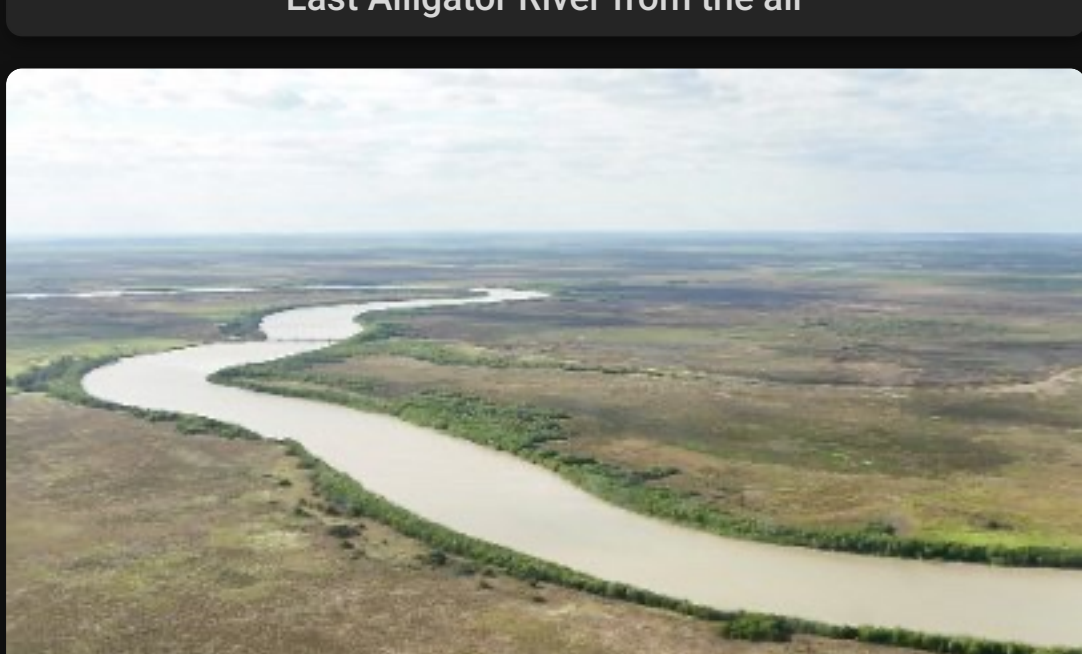
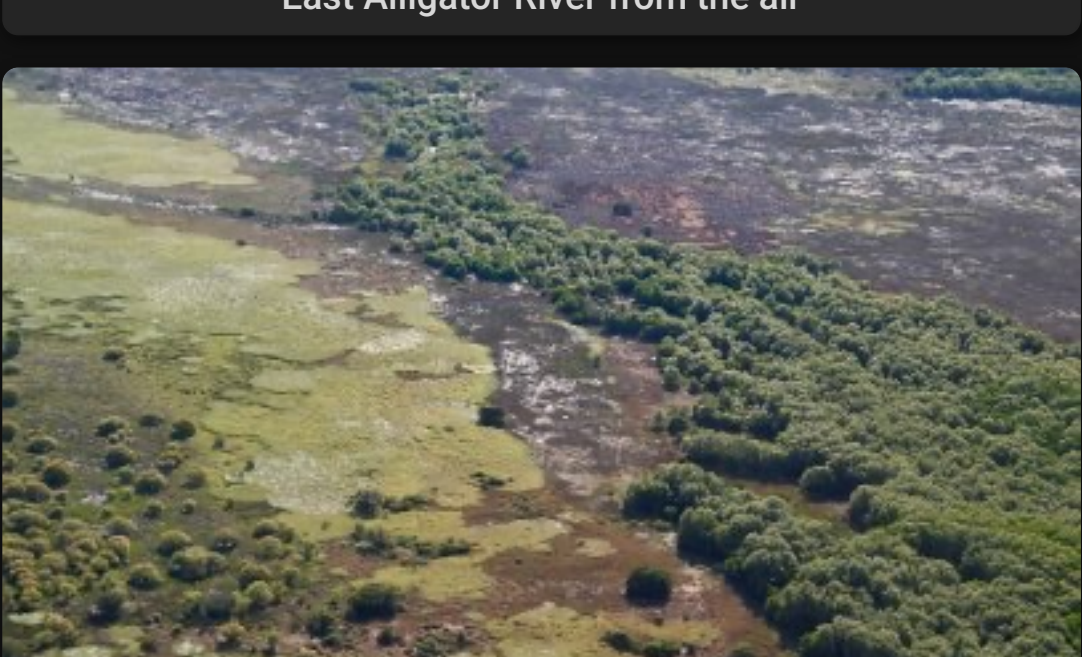
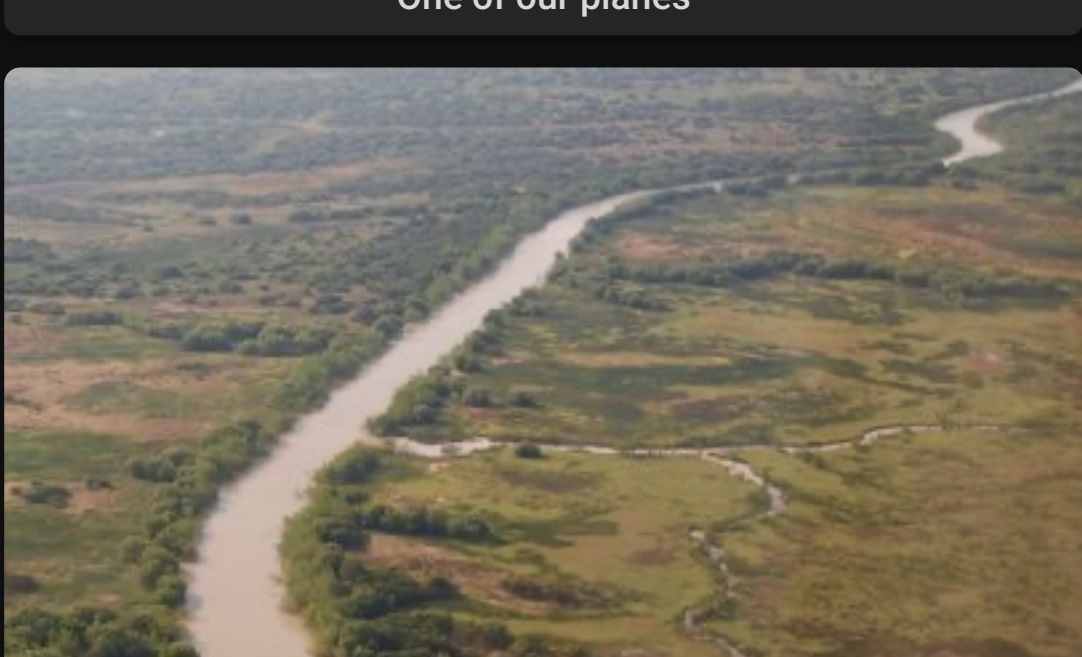
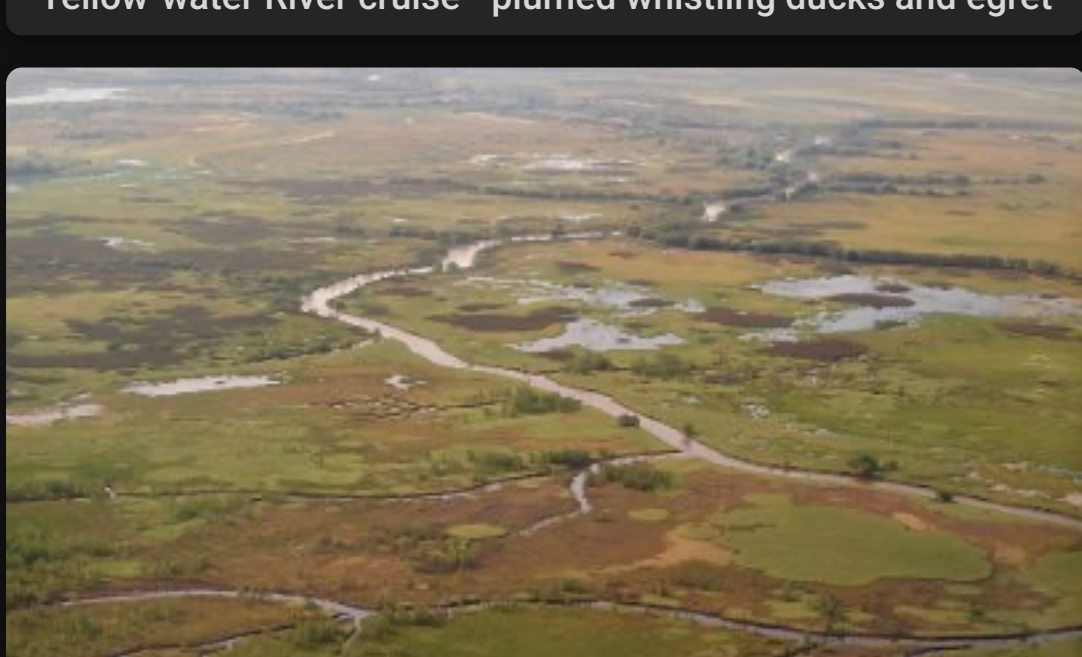
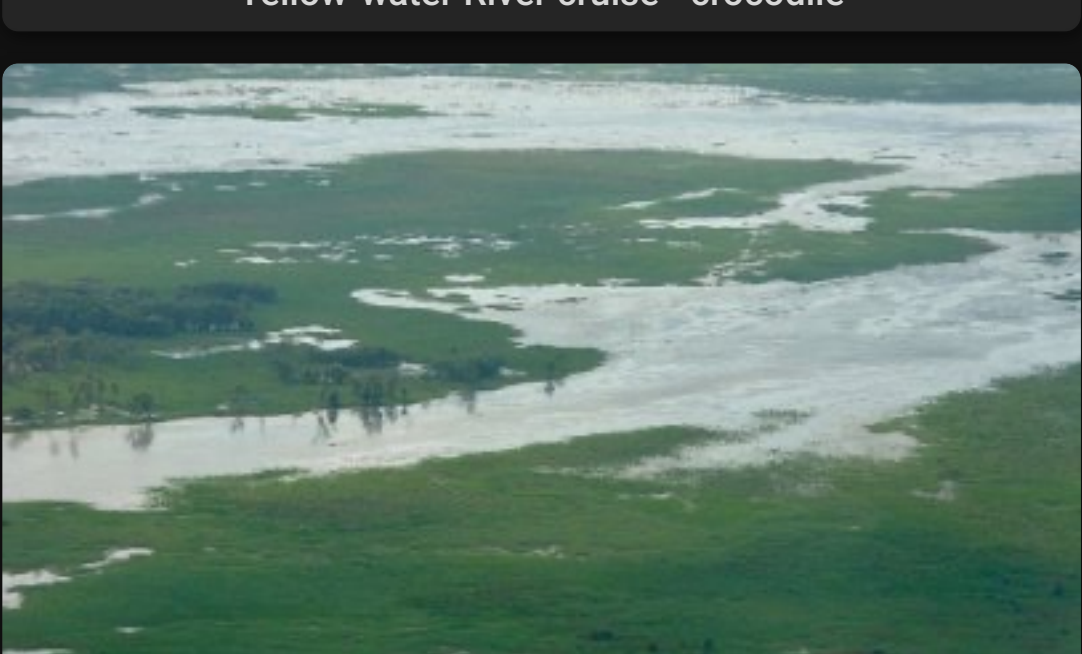
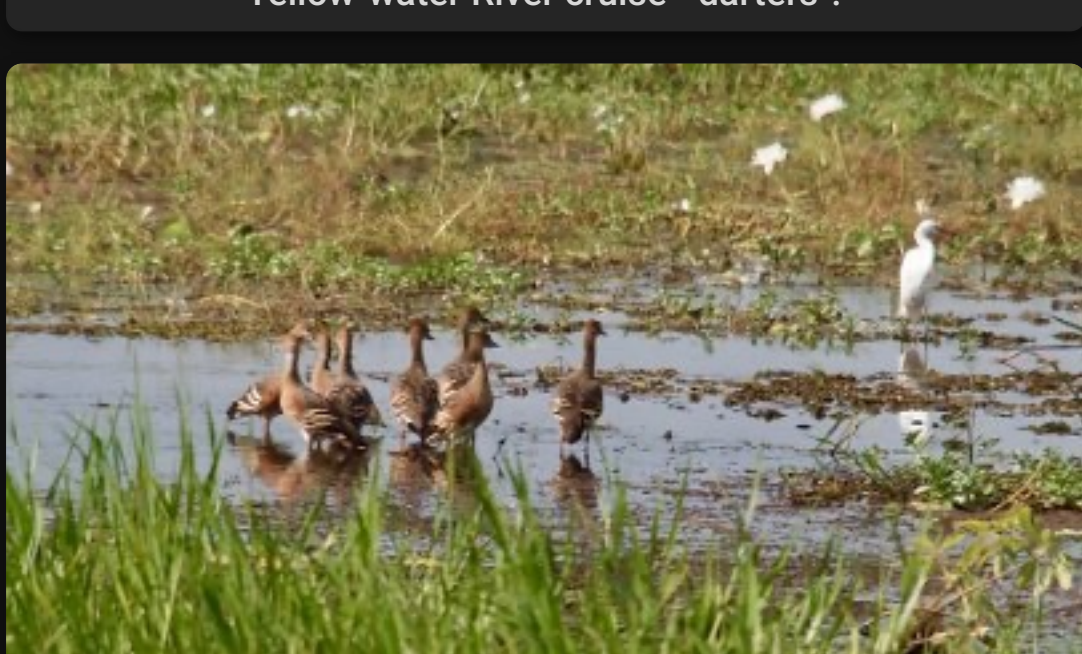
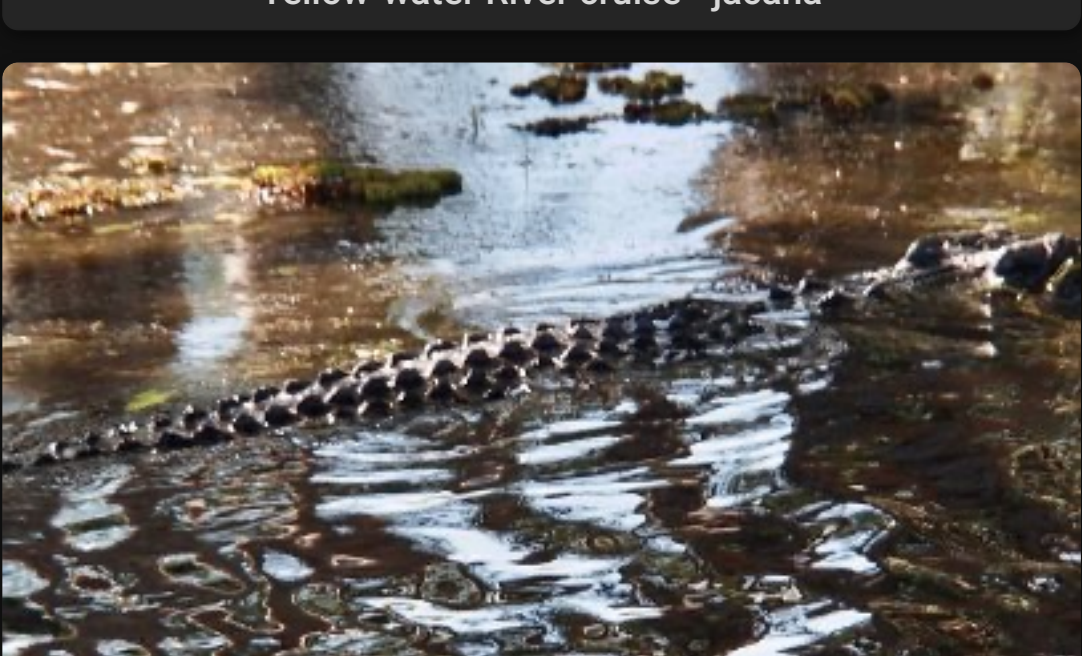
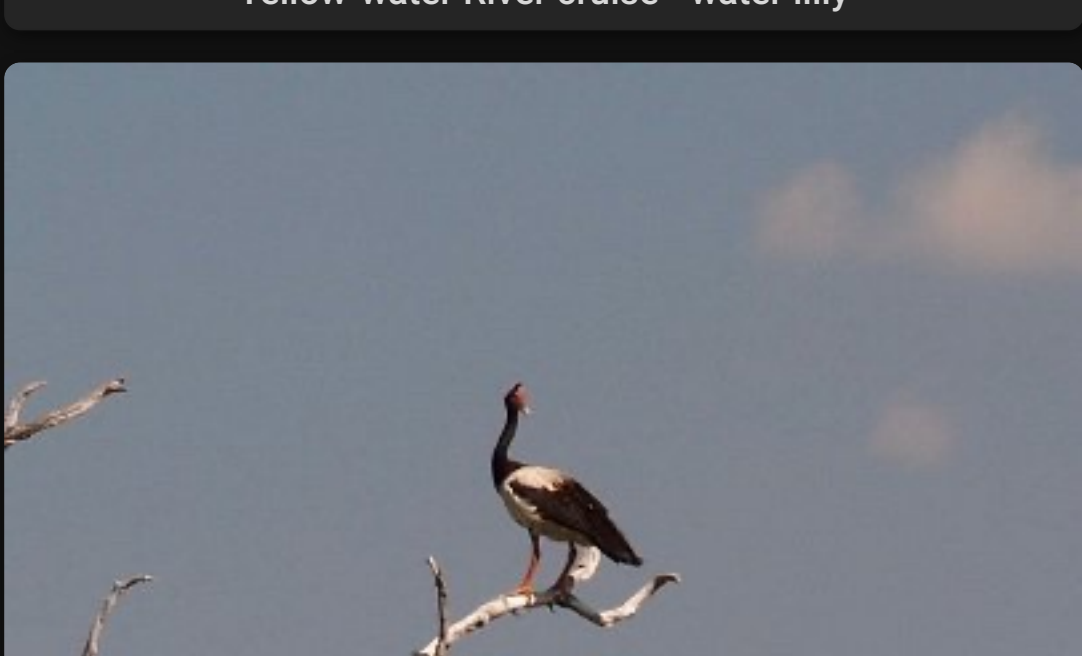
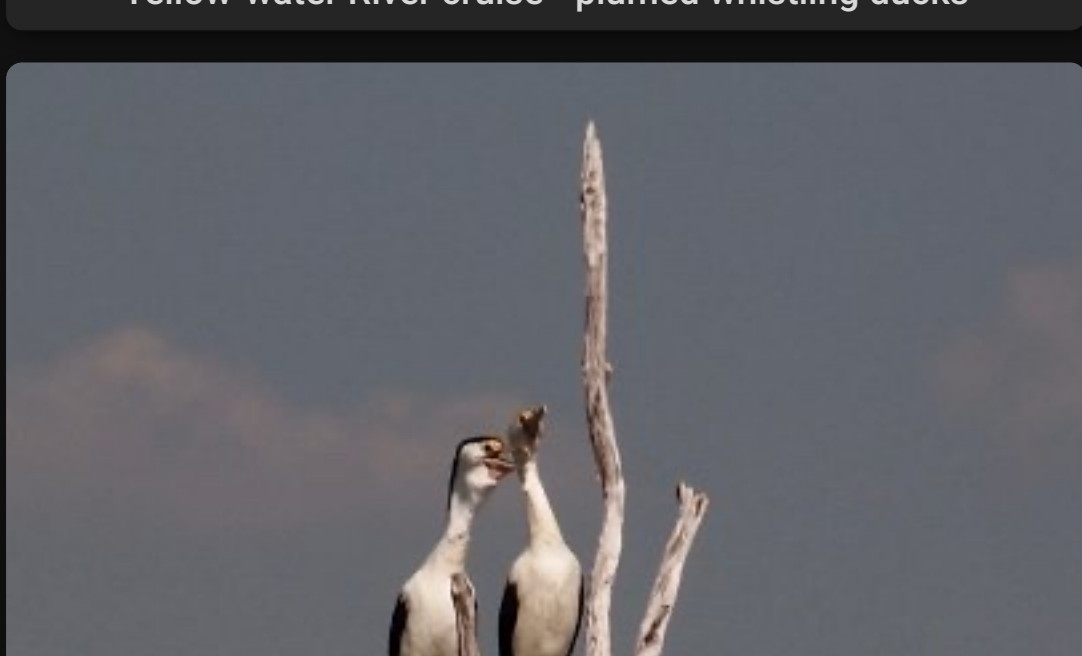
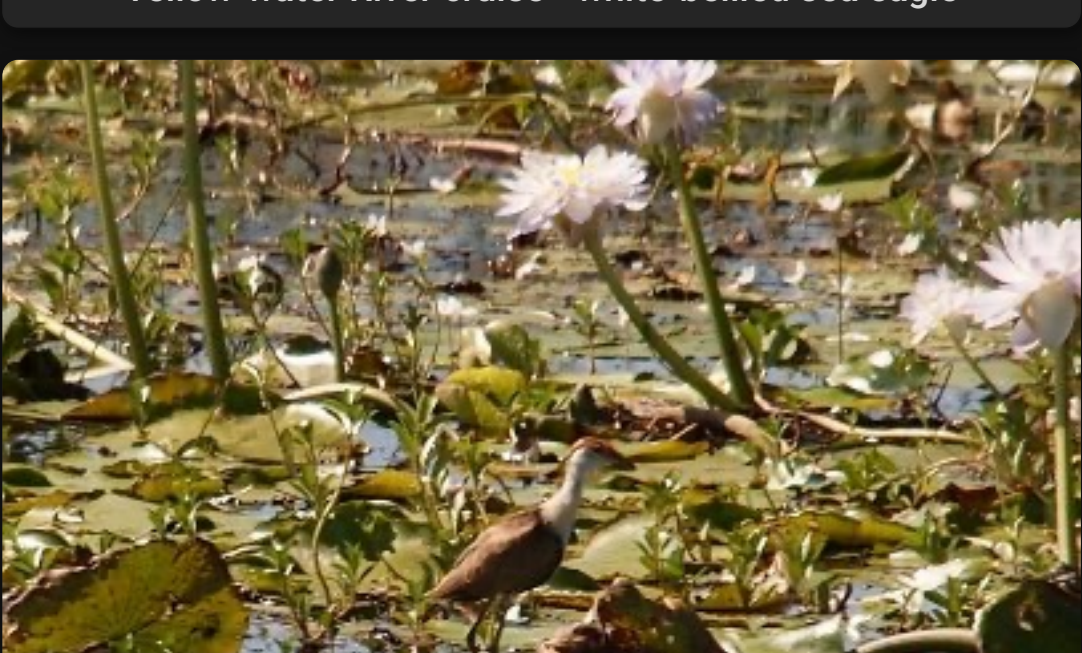
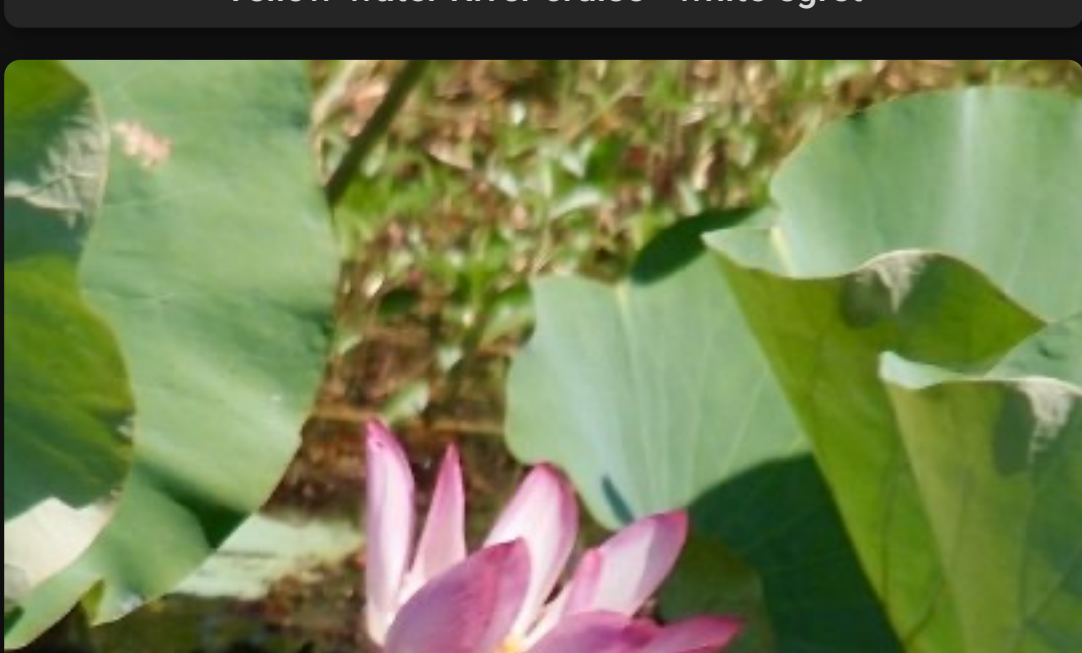
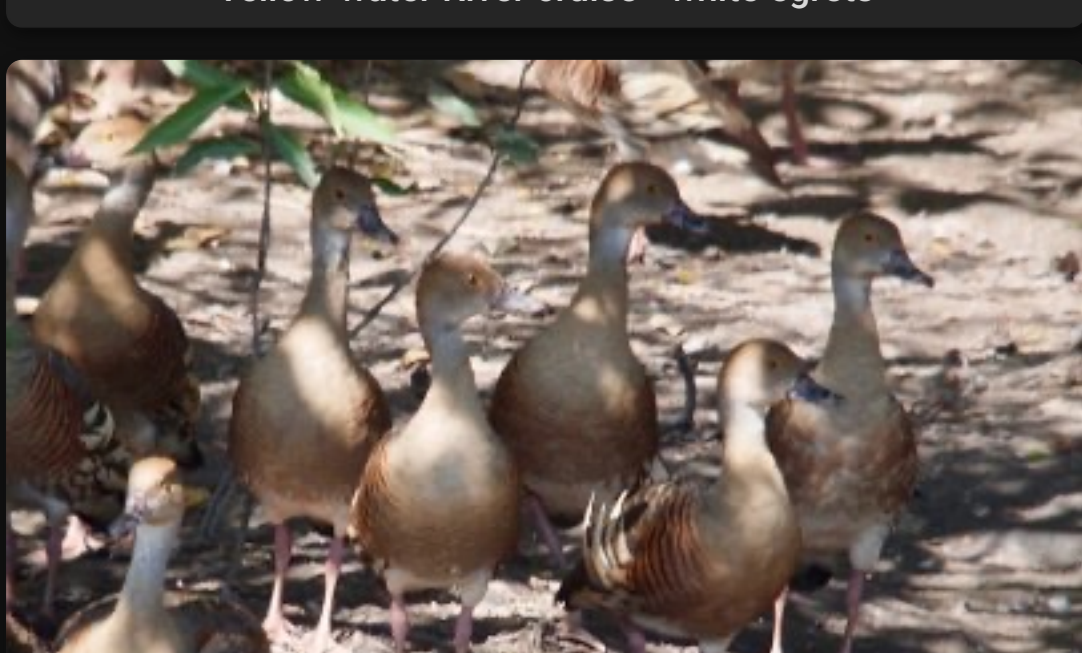
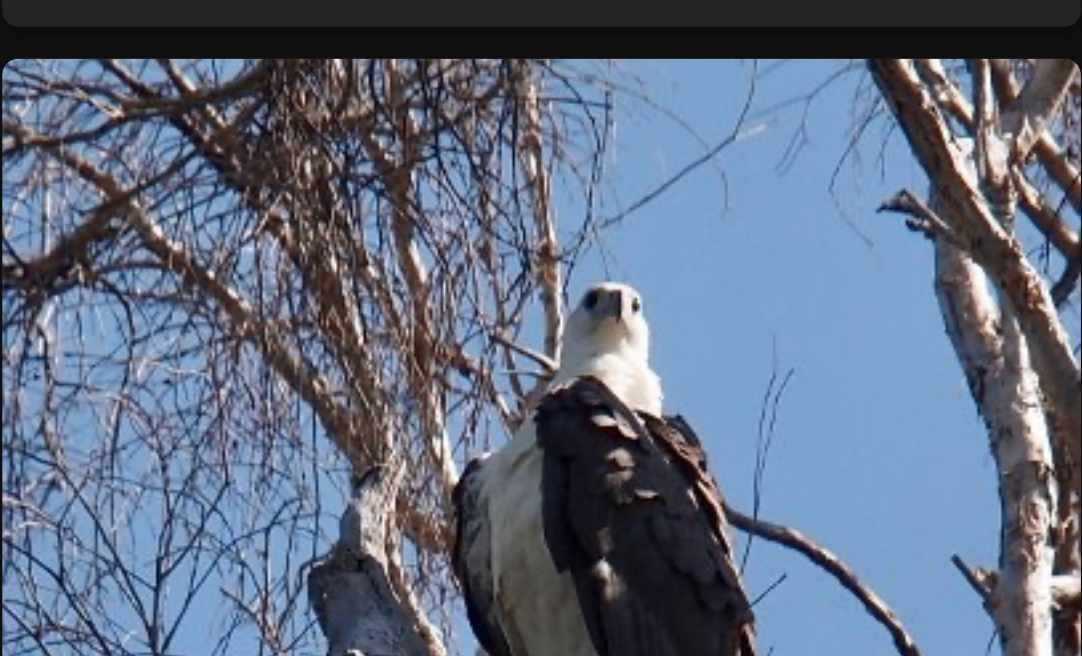
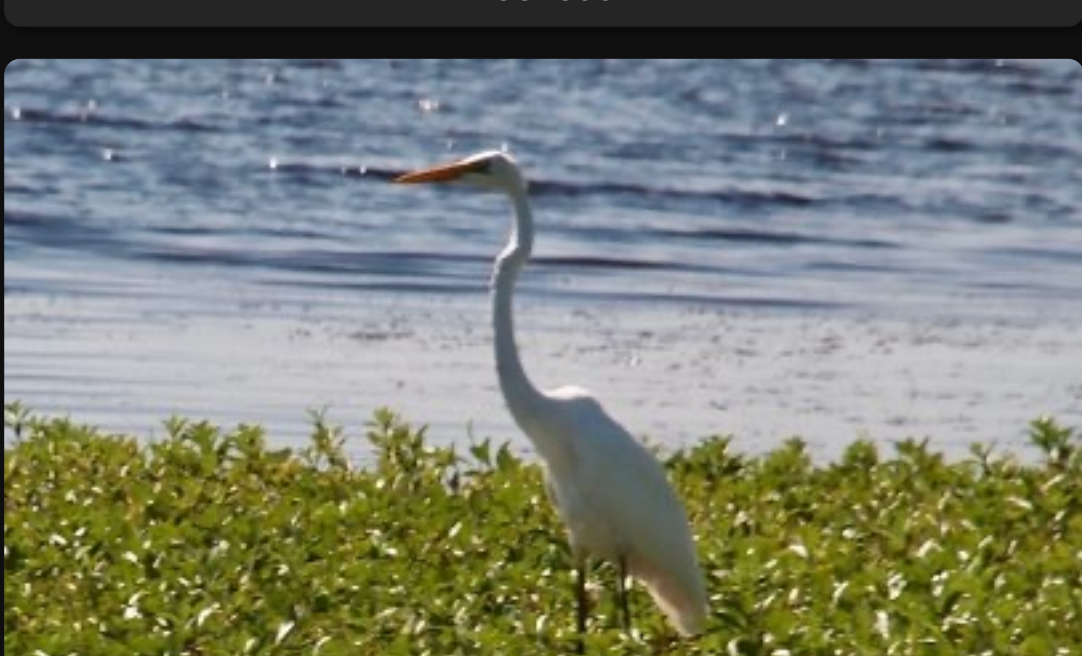
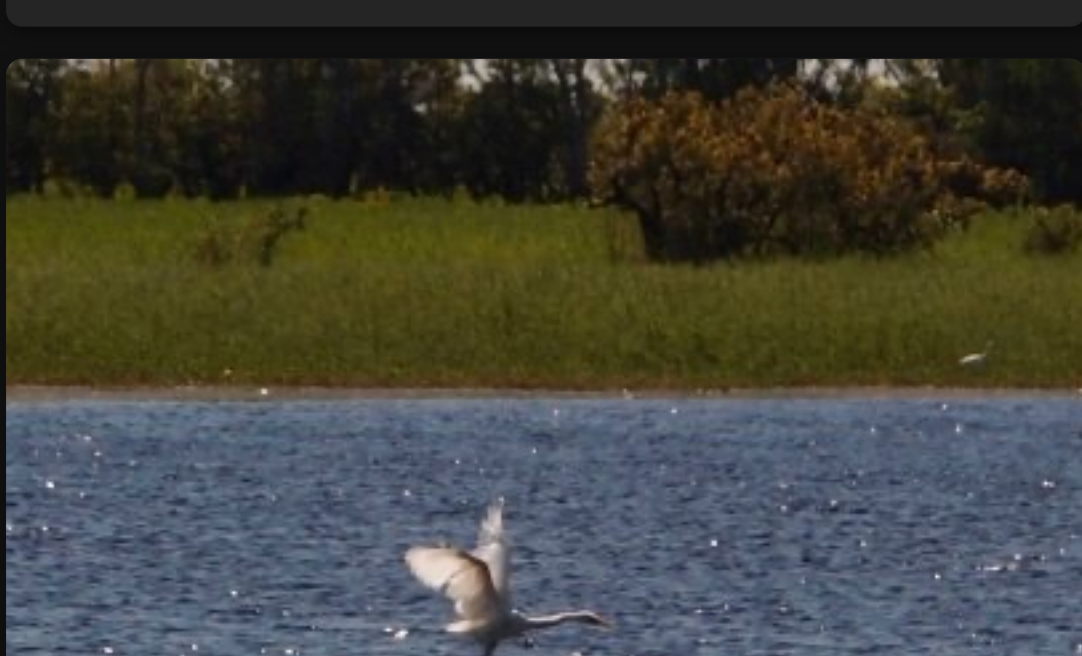
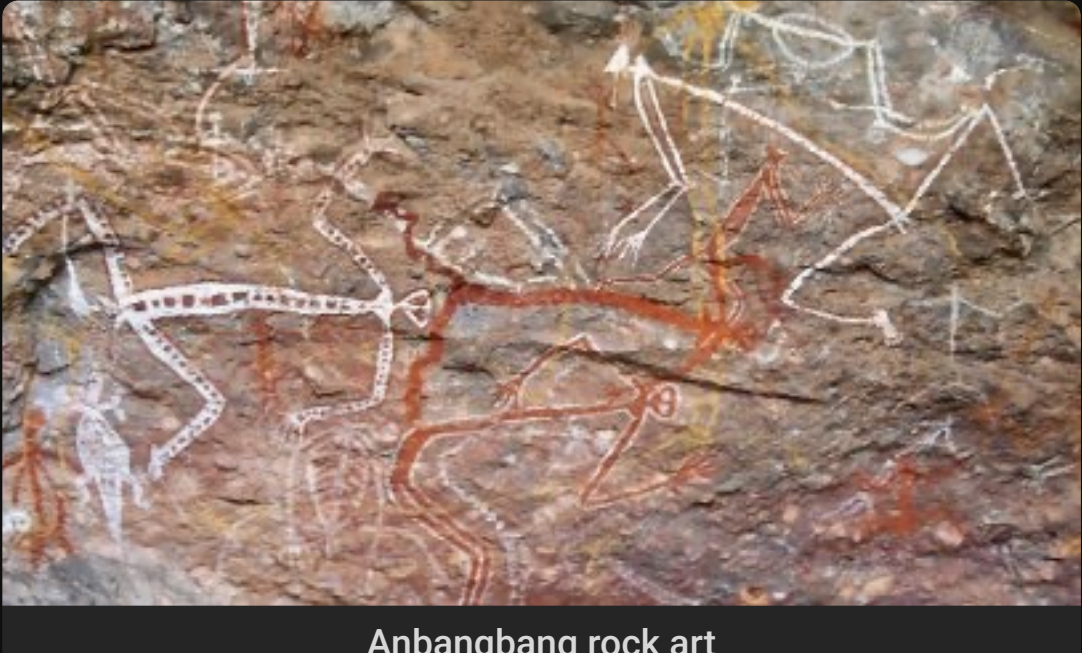
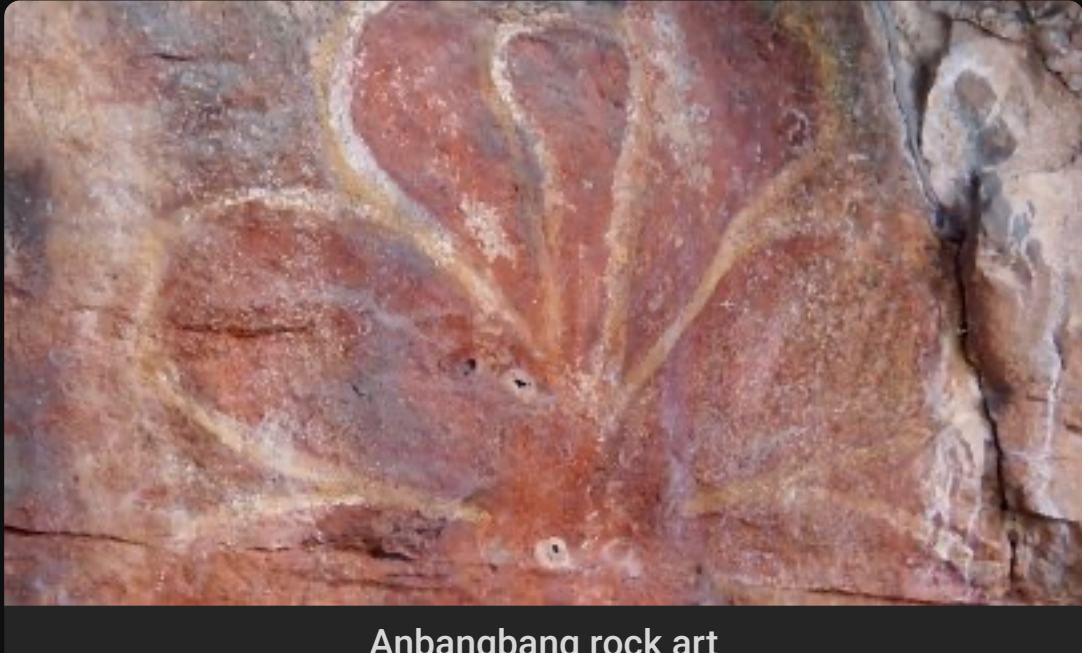
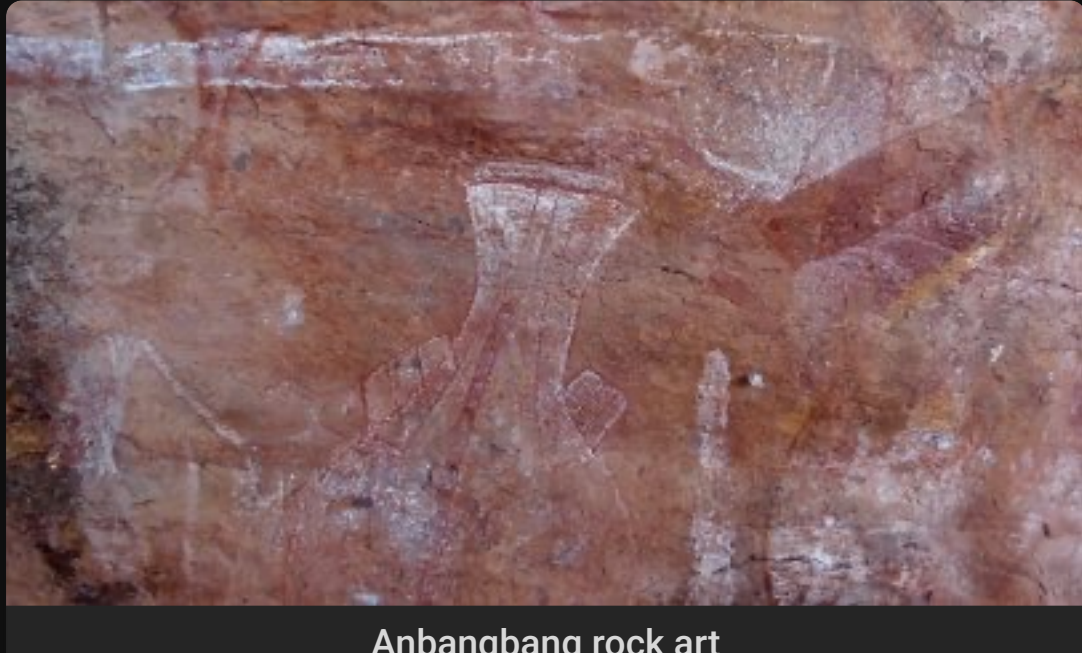
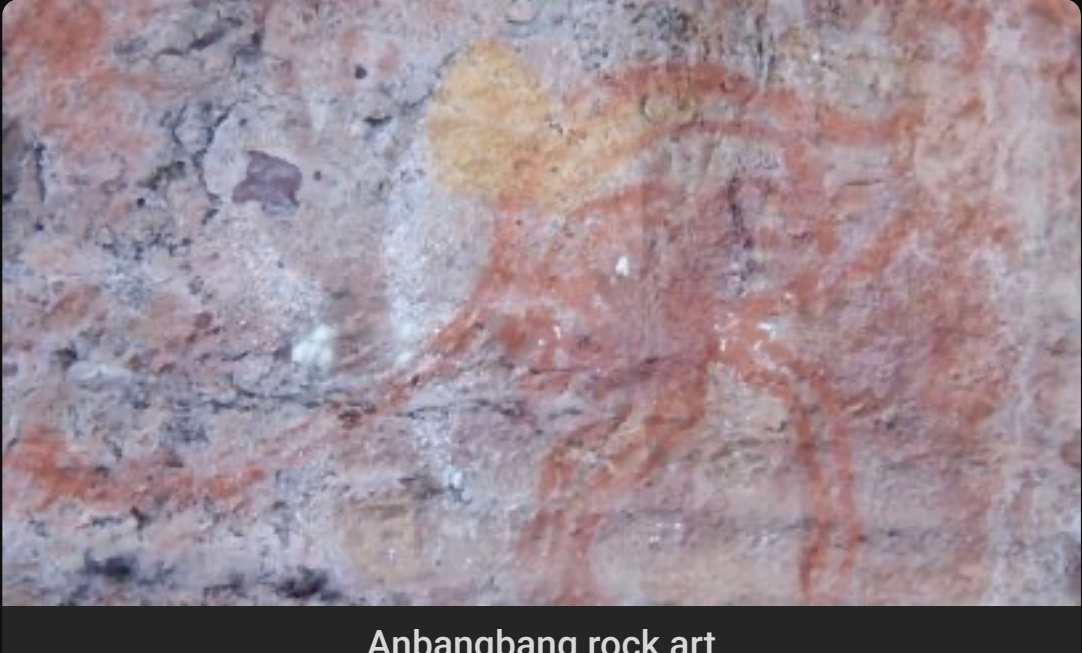
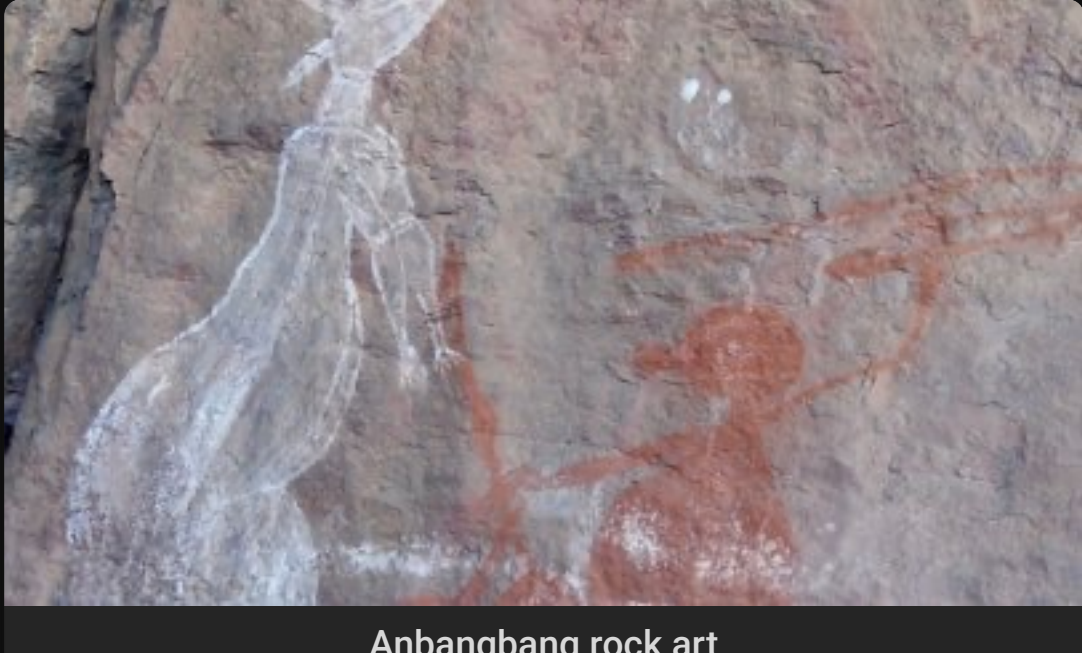
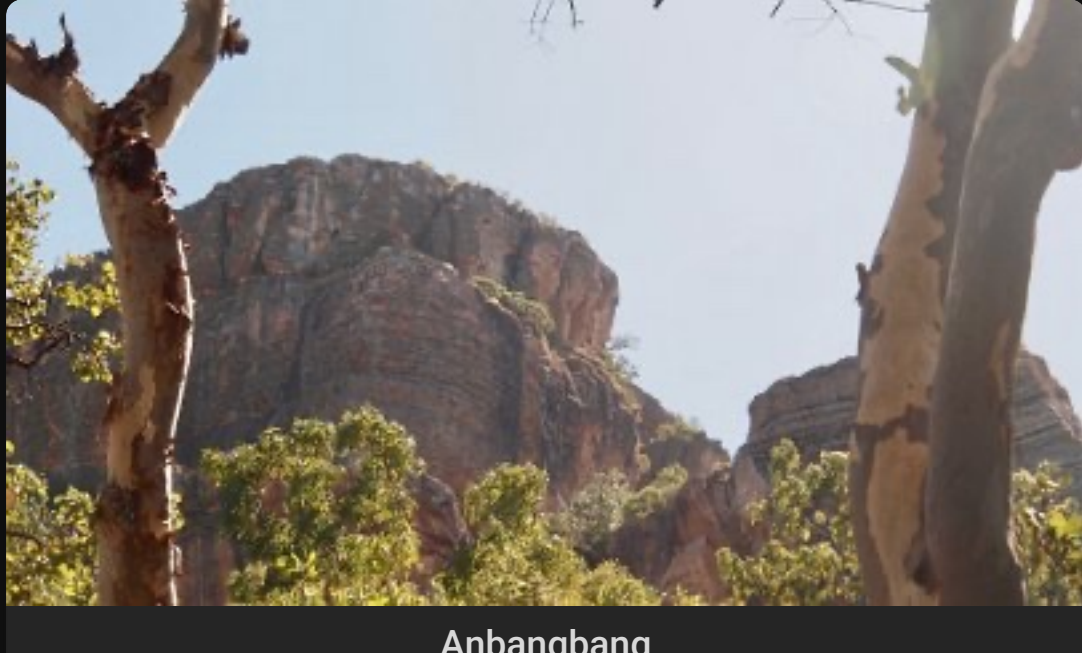
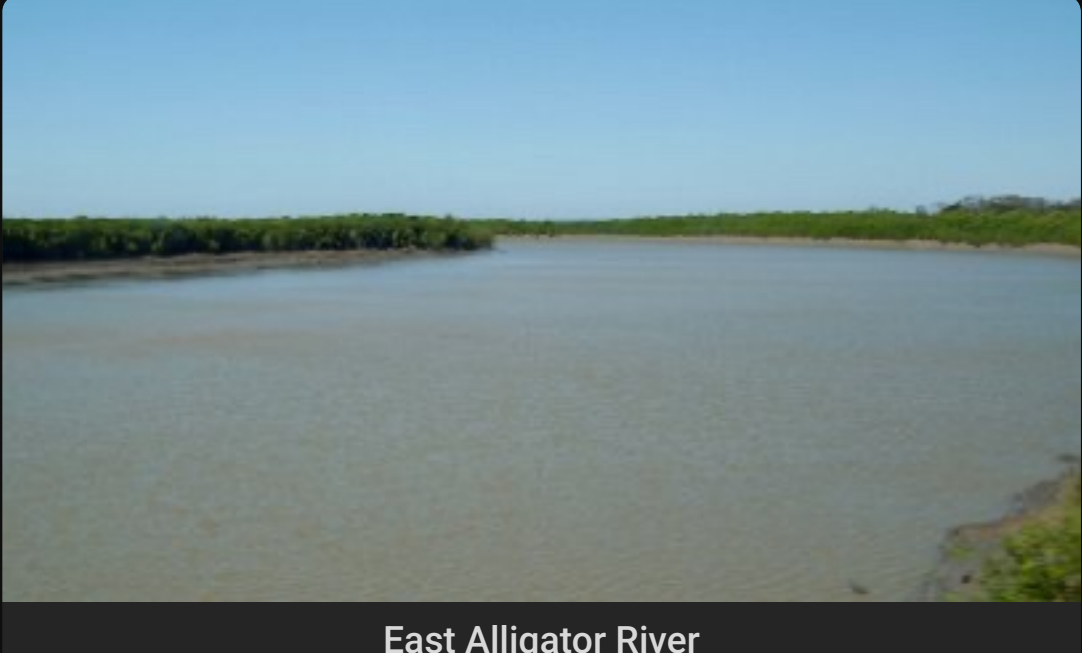
Flowers in the Botanic Gardens



< Day 9-10 The Ghan from Alice Springs to Darwin



Kakadu National Park and East Alligator River tour - Day 1 >



Kakadu National Park and East Alligator River tour – Day 2

Our first stop was Ubirr with its splendid collection of rock art and spectacular views of the Kakadu plains from the Nadab Lookout. Next was a cruise on the East Alligator River run by an aboriginal group - a most informative and enjoyable experience with the guides showing off their knowledge of the area and crocodile spotting skills. We briefly stepped out onto Arnhem Land and on our return down the river we saw the "Homer" rock. Lastly a fairly quick look around the Bowali Visitor Centre near Jabiru and then back to Darwin.



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art



Ubirr rock art gallery



Climbing up to Nadab Lookout at Ubirr



Kakadu from Nadab Lookout at Ubirr



Kakadu from Nadab Lookout at Ubirr panorama



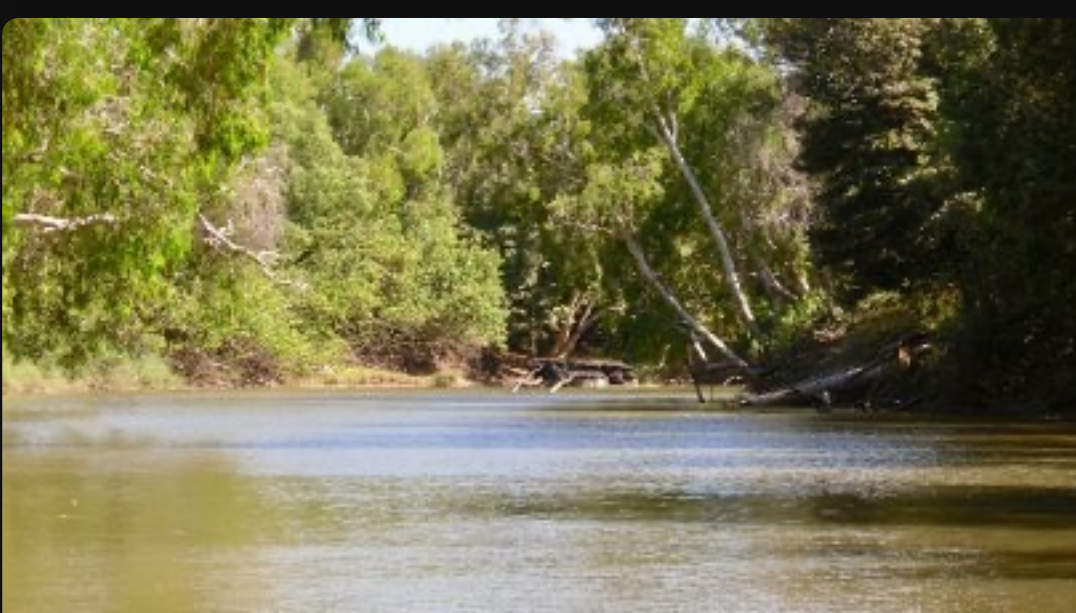
Terrain near Nadab Lookout at Ubirr



Terrain near Nadab Lookout at Ubirr



Terrain near Nadab Lookout at Ubirr



Guluyambi Cultural Cruise on the East Alligator River



East Alligator River crocodile



East Alligator River crocodile



East Alligator River scene



Spear Grass ?



Spear Grass ?



East Alligator River scene



East Alligator River scene



East Alligator River scene



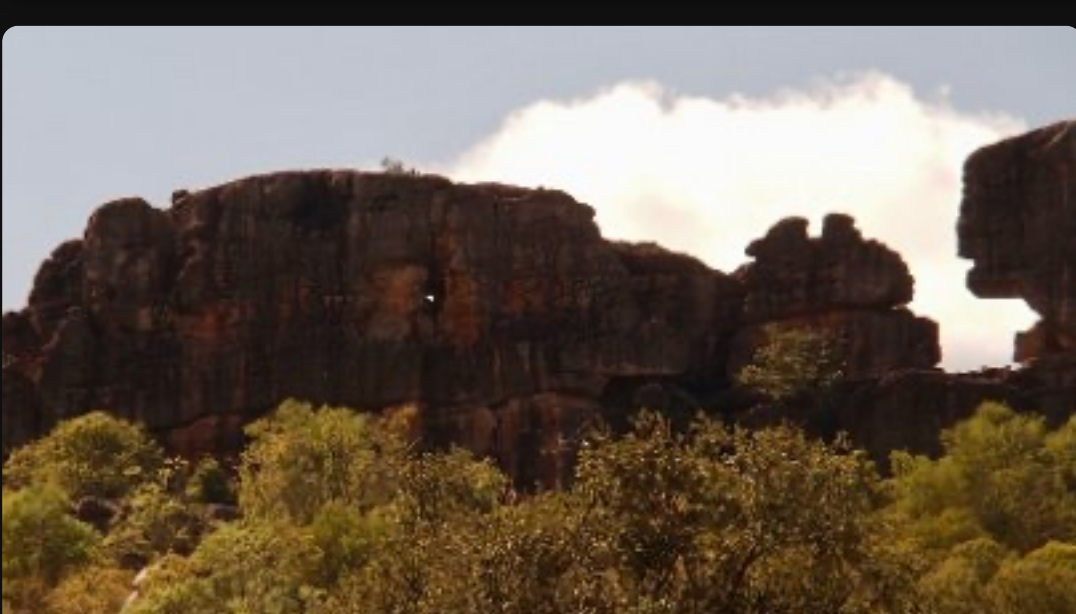
East Alligator River scene



East Alligator River rock art



East Alligator River rock art



East Alligator River "Homer" rock



East Alligator River crocodile



East Alligator River crocodile



East Alligator River tributary



East Alligator River scene



East Alligator River scene



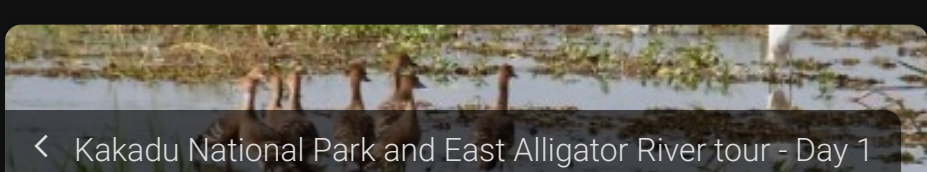
Bowali Visitor Centre near Jabiru



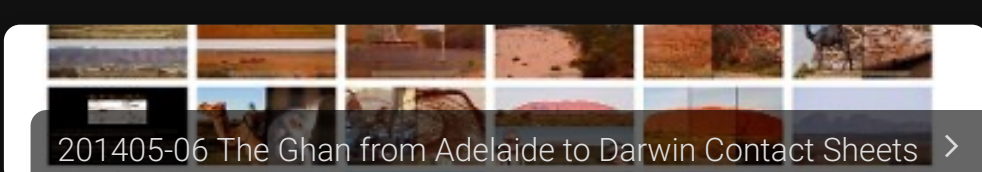
Model of East Alligator River region in Bowali Visitor Centre



Purple flowers at Bowali Visitor Centre



Kakadu National Park and East Alligator River tour - Day 1



201405-06 The Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin Contact Sheets



201405-06 The Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin Contact Sheets

201405-06 The Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin Contact Sheet

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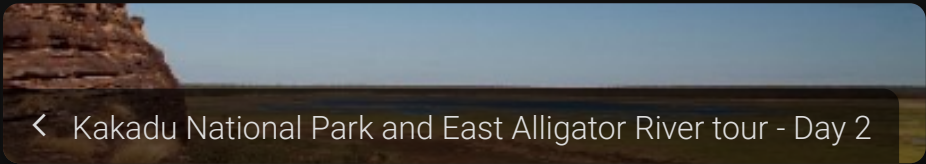
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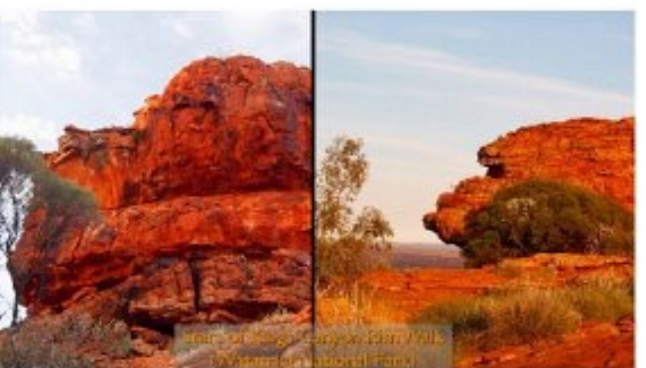
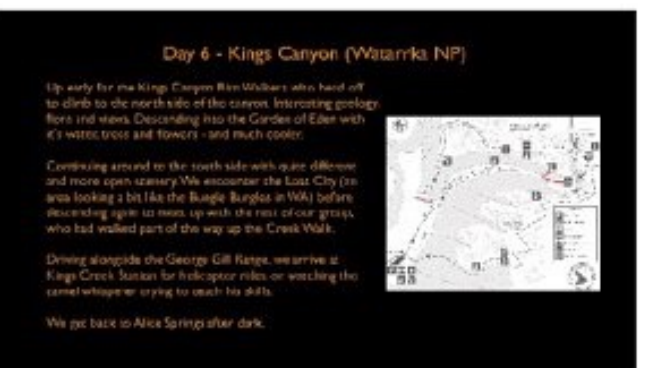
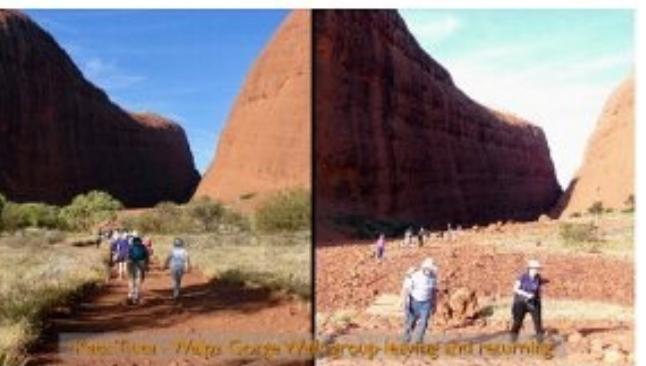
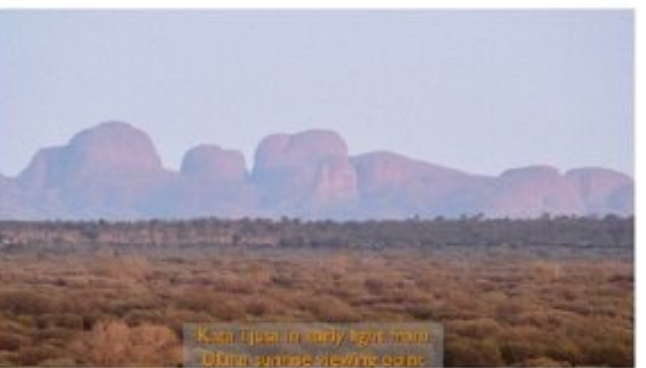
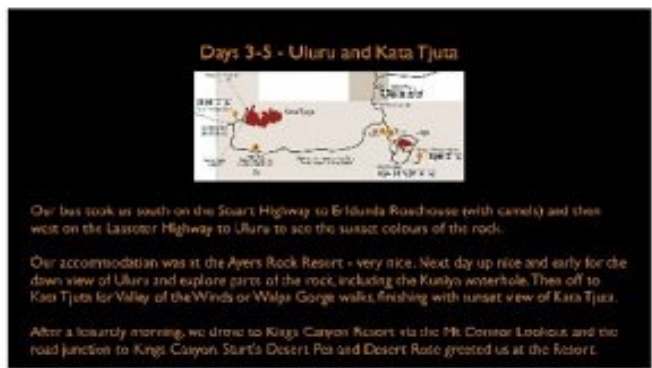
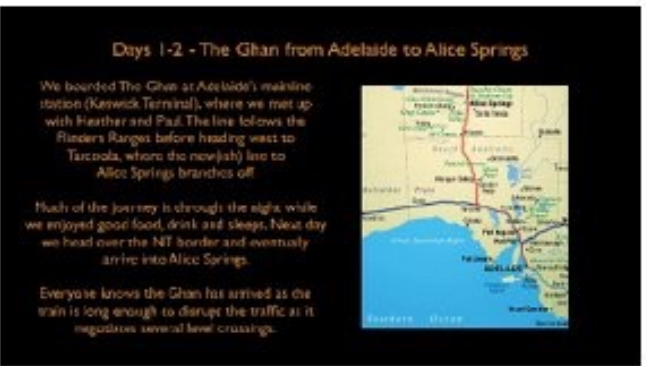
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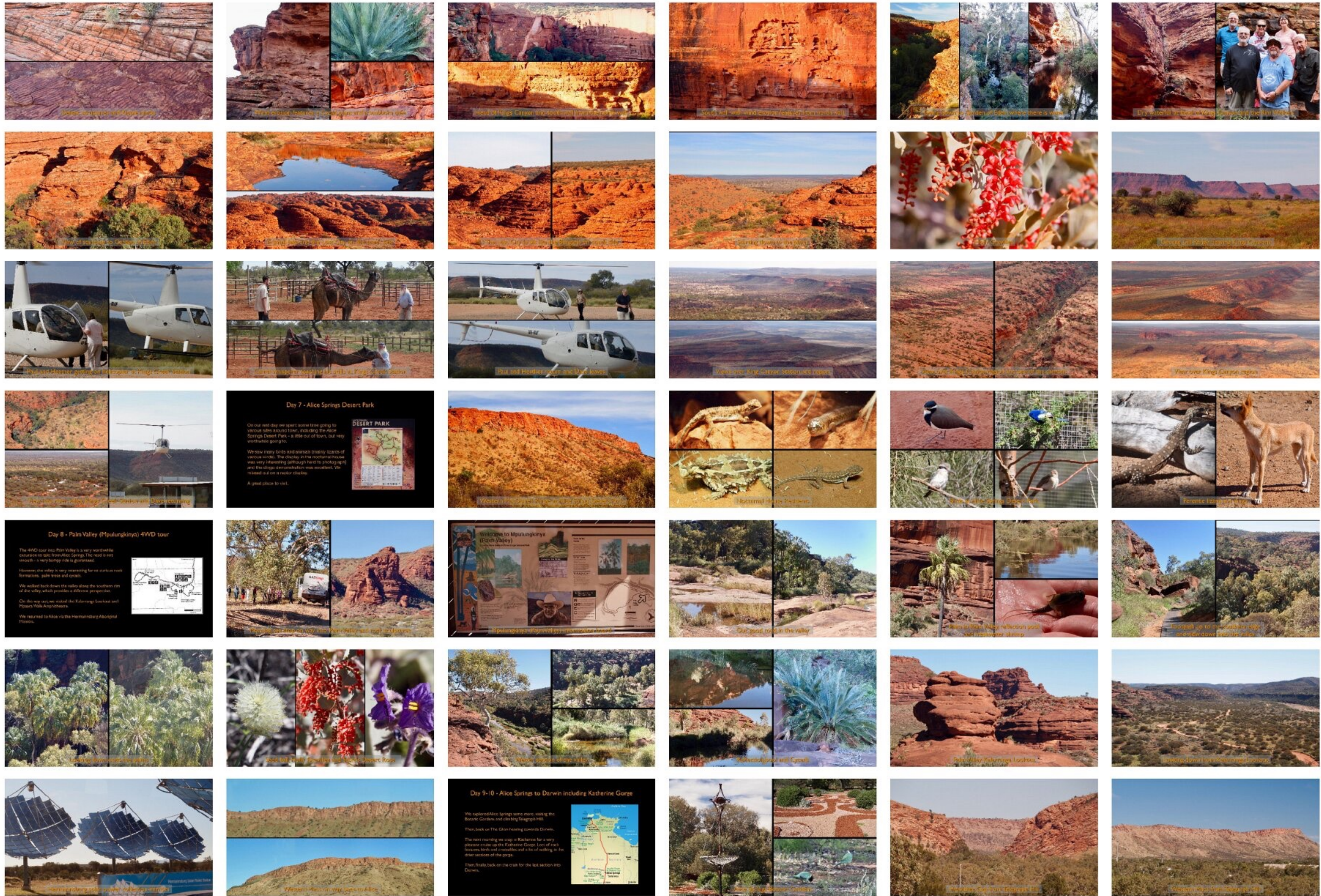
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201405-06 The Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin Contact Sheet







Kakadu National Park - the Kakadu National Park



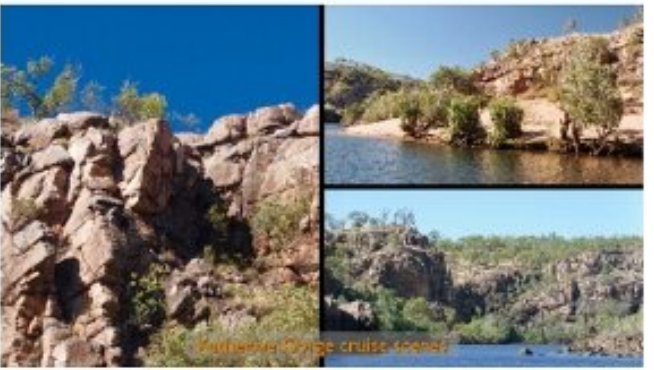
The River Bell



A large, ancient tree in Kakadu National Park



Kakadu National Park - a large, rocky outcrop



Kakadu National Park - a large, rocky outcrop



Kakadu National Park - a large, rocky outcrop



A large, ancient tree in Kakadu National Park



Kakadu National Park - a large, rocky outcrop



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Kakadu National Park - a large, rocky outcrop



Kakadu National Park - a large, rocky outcrop



Day 11 - Darwin

Darwin City Tour including the Australian Aviation Heritage Centre (comprising with an entire B52), the Darwin Military Museum, the Museum and Art Gallery and the former Bay Gate.

We walked along Mitchell and Fynes Bay beaches and spent some time at the Botanic Gardens - a really nice place to visit.



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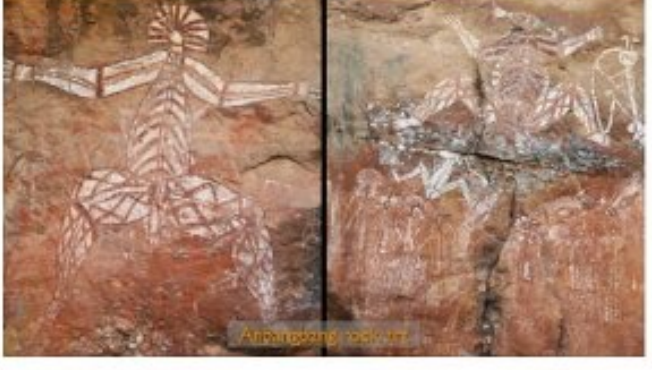
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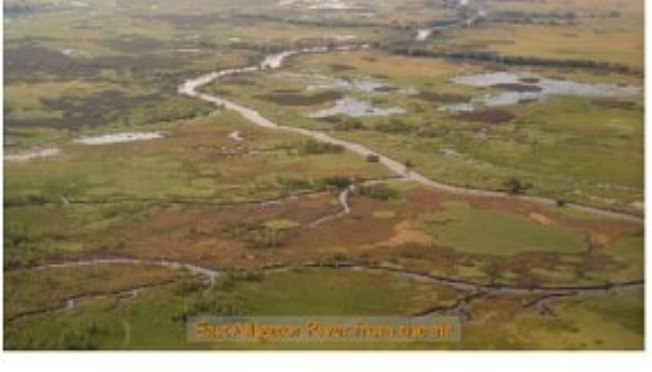
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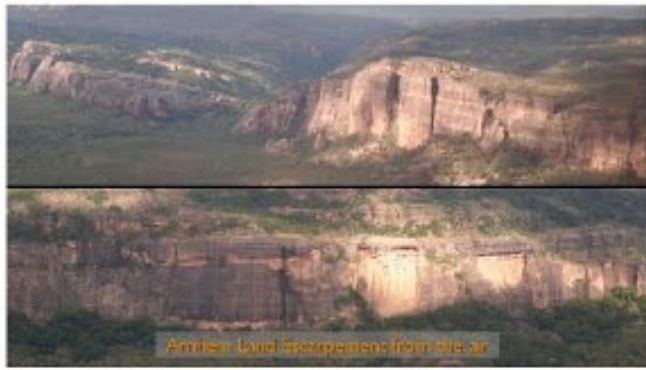
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Arnhem Land Desert from the air



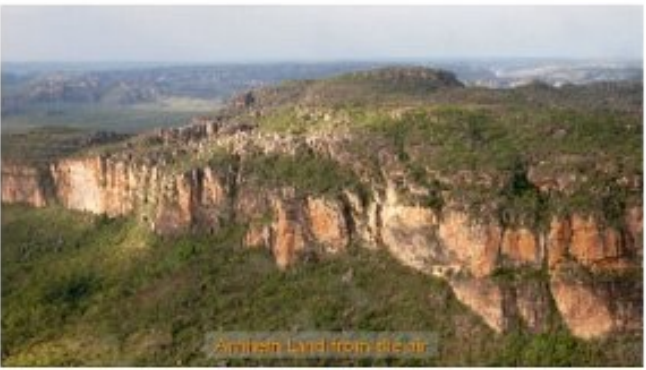
Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



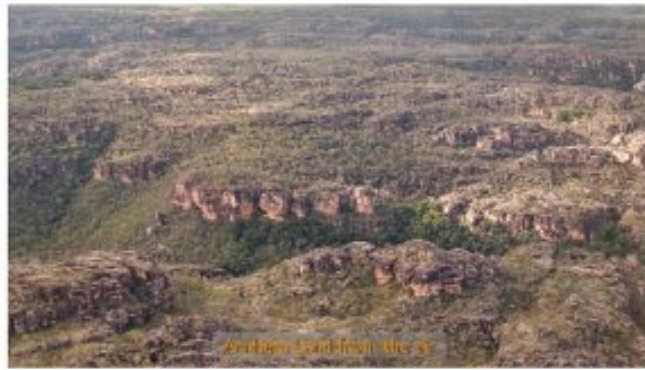
Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



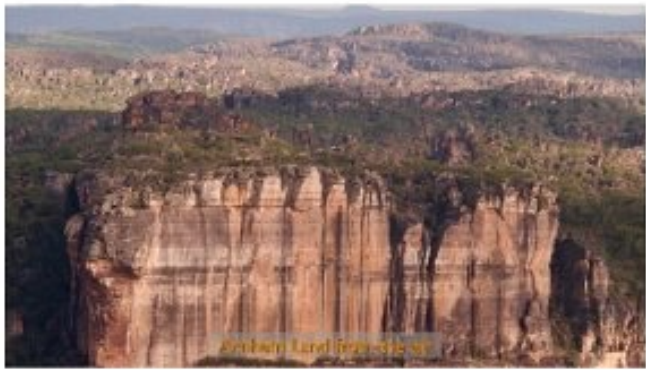
Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Kalbarri National Park and East Alligator River tour - Day 2

Our first stop was Uluru with its unique collection of rock art and spectacular views of the Kalbarri gorges from the Mable Lookout.

Next was a cruise on the East Alligator River run by an Aboriginal guide. This was a most informative and enjoyable experience with the guide showing off their knowledge of the area and crocodile spotting skills.

We finally stopped at our Arnhem Land and on our return down the river we saw the "Tjener" Falls.

Lastly a brief quick look around the Bowdler Visitor Centre near Jabiru and then back to Darwin.



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



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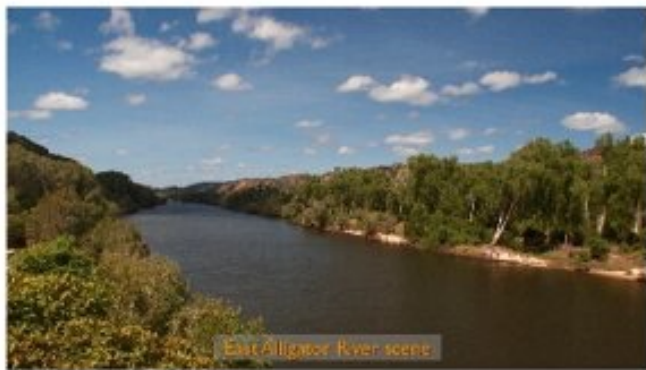
Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air



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Arnhem Land Desert from the air



Arnhem Land Desert from the air