



Australian Government
Director of National Parks



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NATIONAL PARK

Tour Operator Information

Conducting Guided Tours to Igoymarrwa (Lower Moline Rockhole)

Area Related Information

Igoymarrwa is the descriptive Jawoyn name for the area located approximately 2–3 kilometres south of the Mary River Ranger Station, on the western side of the Kakadu Highway, near the southern boundary of Kakadu National Park. The rockholes are located on the spring-fed Rockhole Creek that flows all year into the Mary River. There are two separate visitor areas on the creek at the top and bottom of the plateau generally known as top and lower Moline Rockholes.

Top Moline Rockhole will remain *closed* to commercial use due to the sensitivity of the area.

Lower Moline Rockhole is available to independent travellers, and to commercial operators by a Tourism Licence.

Summary of Features

Igoymarrwa (Lower Moline Rockhole) is characterised by;

- a small plunge pool area.
- a view held by traditional owners that use levels should not be increased;

Landscape and Habitats

Igoymarrwa (Lower Moline Rockhole) is characterised by;

- a waterfall;
- relatively low rocky cliff and escarpment;
- a deep plunge pool;
- a small stream which flows throughout the year;
- monsoon forest.

Rockhole Creek drops off the edge of the escarpment into the small picturesque lower plunge pool. The *Igoymarrwa* plunge pool is surrounded by monsoon forest and the day-use area is primarily surrounded by open eucalyptus woodland.

Threatened animal species that have been recorded in the vicinity of *Igoymarrwa* are the Arnhem Land egernia (endangered), the Mertens water monitor (vulnerable), the Partridge pigeon (vulnerable) and the red goshawk (vulnerable).

Aboriginal Significance

The traditional owners for the southern part of Kakadu National Park are the Jawoyn people. Jawoyn people recognise several *mowurrwurr*, or clan groups, who have traditional associations and custodial responsibilities for areas within the larger estate. Among the clan groups that Jawoyn identify as having traditional links to country within the southern part of the park are Wurrhbarbar, Matjba and Bolmo.

Jawoyn people use *Igoymarrwa* occasionally for general recreation. They have a strong sense of ownership and attachment to the site as a place for swimming and other recreational activities.

Significant Sites

Igoymarrwa is a Goyarr (freshwater crocodile) dreaming site associated with the creation of the spring and falls, and is not regarded as a spiritually dangerous site.

In the vicinity of *Igoymarrwa* there are several culturally significant sites which are little known and rarely visited.

Tour operators and their clients must not go beyond the lower rockhole and day-use areas as access is prohibited under the *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000*, specifically under *Regulation 12.23*. Entering a prohibited area under *Regulation 12.23* carries a maximum penalty of \$5,500. Please note commercial tours to the top of Moline Rockhole is also restricted due to the sensitivity of the area.

Recreation Use

While Igoymarrwa is not promoted in the Kakadu Visitor Guide, it is regularly visited by independent travellers who know about the area, including those from the Katherine and Nitmiluk Region, and commercial tour groups with a licence. The major focus of visitor activities in the area occurs at a small waterfall and plunge pool that flows throughout the year.

Igoymarrwa is accessible all year around, in contrast to a number of other waterfalls in the park, which are closed off to visitors during the wet season (due to seasonal conditions making areas inaccessible and dangers such as flash flooding and the presence of crocodiles).

The main visitor experiences available in the area are;

- enjoyment of a secluded natural area with few visitors
- easily accessible views of a waterfall, plunge pool and surrounding monsoon forest
- year round accessibility to four-wheel-drives up to 6 tonnes GVM
- a place to swim throughout the year (although we cannot guarantee that the area is free of crocodiles and swimming is at your own risk)
- natural experiences in habitats unique to the area and opportunities to view wildlife such as a number of uncommon bird species

Visitor Facilities

The visitor facilities provided at Igoymarrwa are;

- a car park area (suitable for 3–4 cars)
- two picnic tables and two fireplaces
- a short walking track to the plunge pool

Please note, there are no toilet facilities. Operators must advise their clients accordingly, and a stop at the nearby toilet facilities prior to accessing the area is strongly encouraged.

Nearby facility locations are;

- a) the information centre of the Mary River Ranger Station;
- b) Mary River Roadhouse just outside of the park's southern boundary;
- c) Kambolgie and Gungurul campgrounds for drop toilets.

Visitor Activities

The main uses of the Igoymarrwa (Lower Moline Rockhole) are;

- short walk to the plunge pool;
- swimming at the plunge pool;
- use of picnic area.

Visitor Safety

Access

Access is by 4WD vehicle with a limit of 6 tonnes GVM. Vehicles must be fitted with mobile two-way radio communications of sufficient power and sensitivity to contact a radio network in the case of an emergency, and/or a portable satellite phone in working order.

Parking

To ensure visitor safety, the licensee must not park or stand vehicle/s on the road verge of the Kakadu Highway in the vicinity of the Igoymarrwa access track entrance.

Estuarine crocodiles

A 4.2 metres estuarine crocodile was trapped at the junction to the Rockhole Creek and Mary River approximately 7 kilometres from the lower rockhole in 2005. This crocodile was fitted with a radio tracking transmitter. It was trapped again in 2008 at the Mary River bridge on the Kakadu Highway 2 kilometres upstream from the previous capture point. In the 2009–2010 wet season the same crocodile was tracked swimming down the Mary River system and entering the South Alligator River system.

To date monitoring of the tracked movements shows no sign of the crocodile moving up Rockhole Creek. It is possible however, that the presence of estuarine crocodiles may present safety issues for visitors swimming in the Igoymarrwa plunge pool.

The presence of freshwater crocodiles has been reported on occasion. Although generally not considered dangerous to humans, visitors are encouraged to report any sightings to the Bowali Visitor Centre by calling (08) 8938 1120.

Visitor swim at their own risk.

Jumping off rocks

As the lower plunge pool is deep with rock walls on either side, visitors and clients of tour groups have been known to climb the rocks to dive. Please be aware that this behaviour poses substantial risk and is not permitted under the *EPBC Regulations 2000* or under the conditions of your licence. Climbing of rocks is a prohibited activity under *Regulation 12.26* and carries a maximum penalty of 30 penalty units (currently \$6,300).

Commercial Licence Related Information

There are two categories of Tourism Licence for Igoymarrwa, they are;

Regular Access Licence

Five (5) licences have been allocated for *regular access* tour operations into the area

- i. There is a limit of 10 visits per week for each *regular access* licence holder

Casual Access Licence

Five (5) licences have been allocated for *casual access* tour operations into the area

- i. There is a limit of 12 visits per year for each *casual access* licence holder

Licence Limits

In order to minimise overcrowding the following restrictions must be adhered to;

- a) licensee may use more than one vehicle, but must ensure that no more than twenty clients enter Igoymarrwa on any tour at any one time (tour guides do not contribute to your limit)
- b) ensure another operator is not using Igoymarrwa
- c) sign in before entering and sign out before leaving Igoymarrwa at the register located near the start of the Igoymarrwa access track, off the Kakadu Highway; and
- d) stay a maximum of one hour from the time of signing in

Licence Fee Payment

Operators have the option of paying for licence fees upfront (tabled below) or select a pay as you go arrangement, prior to entering Igoymarrwa.

Table below details these fees:

Licence Activity	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024¹
Access to Igoymarrwa (Lower Moline Rockhole)	\$3.20	\$3.40	\$3.60	\$3.80	\$4.00

¹ Subject to licence fee review