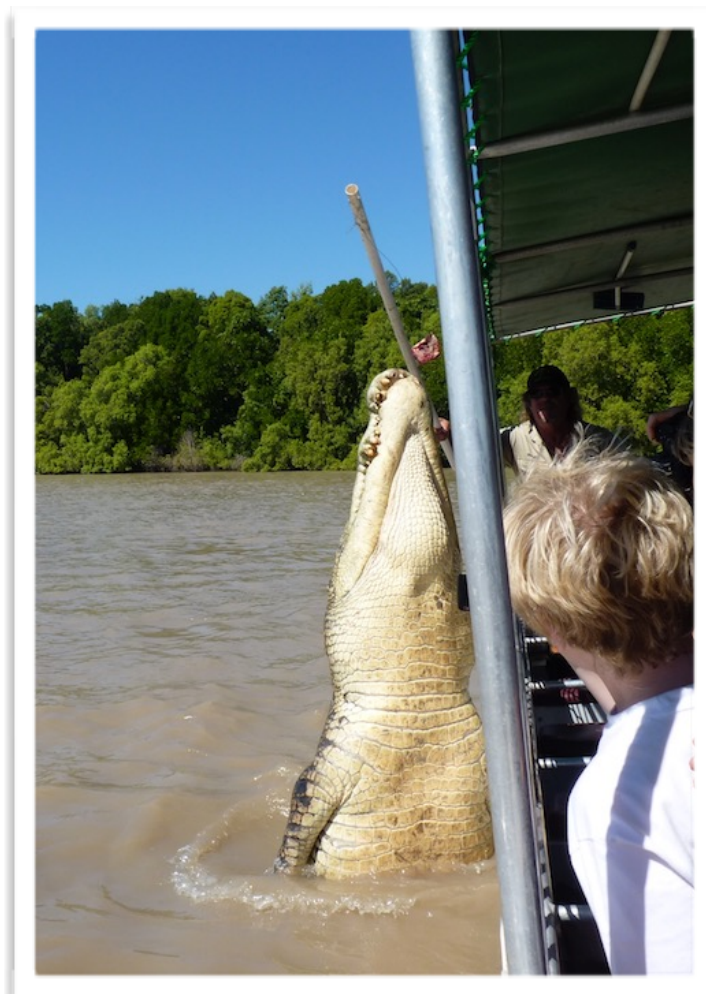




# The Top 3 Ways To Avoid A Death Roll With A Crocodile

## Nature's Ultimate Killing Machines

Saltwater crocodiles - or salties - are big and mean and hungry. They are survivors and *supreme* hunters. Salties have thrived for millions of years, virtually unchanged. So they must be doing something right.



AN ENORMOUS MALE SALTY USING HIS TAIL TO "STAND".

## Patience And Observation

Saltwater crocodiles patiently watch and *learn*. So a croc will observe and learn when for example:

- A camper goes to the same spot on a river to get water,
- A fisherman has a favourite spot on a riverbank,
- A person crosses at the same shallow part of a creek, or
- People swim in a favourite waterhole,

They're pretty clever reptiles - smarter than your average lizard.

Then they wait, and observe, and wait, and observe some more, and wait... then **BAM!** Tucker time. One less human on the planet.

Salties have attitude. Lots of it. It's almost like they have a chip on their collective shoulders - them against the world.

Why do I say this? Well, every part of a salty is designed for killing:

- Masses of sharp teeth designed for ripping.
- The ability to leap vertically out of the water from a standing start, using their powerful tails for leverage.
- Super fast on land over a very short distance - way faster than a human can run.
- Can drop beneath the surface with hardly a ripple, only to re-appear a hundred metres away - again with hardly a ripple.
- Incredible body strength to wrench large animals from banks, then drag them underwater to drown. Even cattle and horses are no match for a large croc.
- Jaw muscles designed to crush the skull of... well, anything that will fit in there.



*THAT'S AN IMPRESSIVE SET OF TEETH!*

## Salties Don't *Only* Like Saltwater...

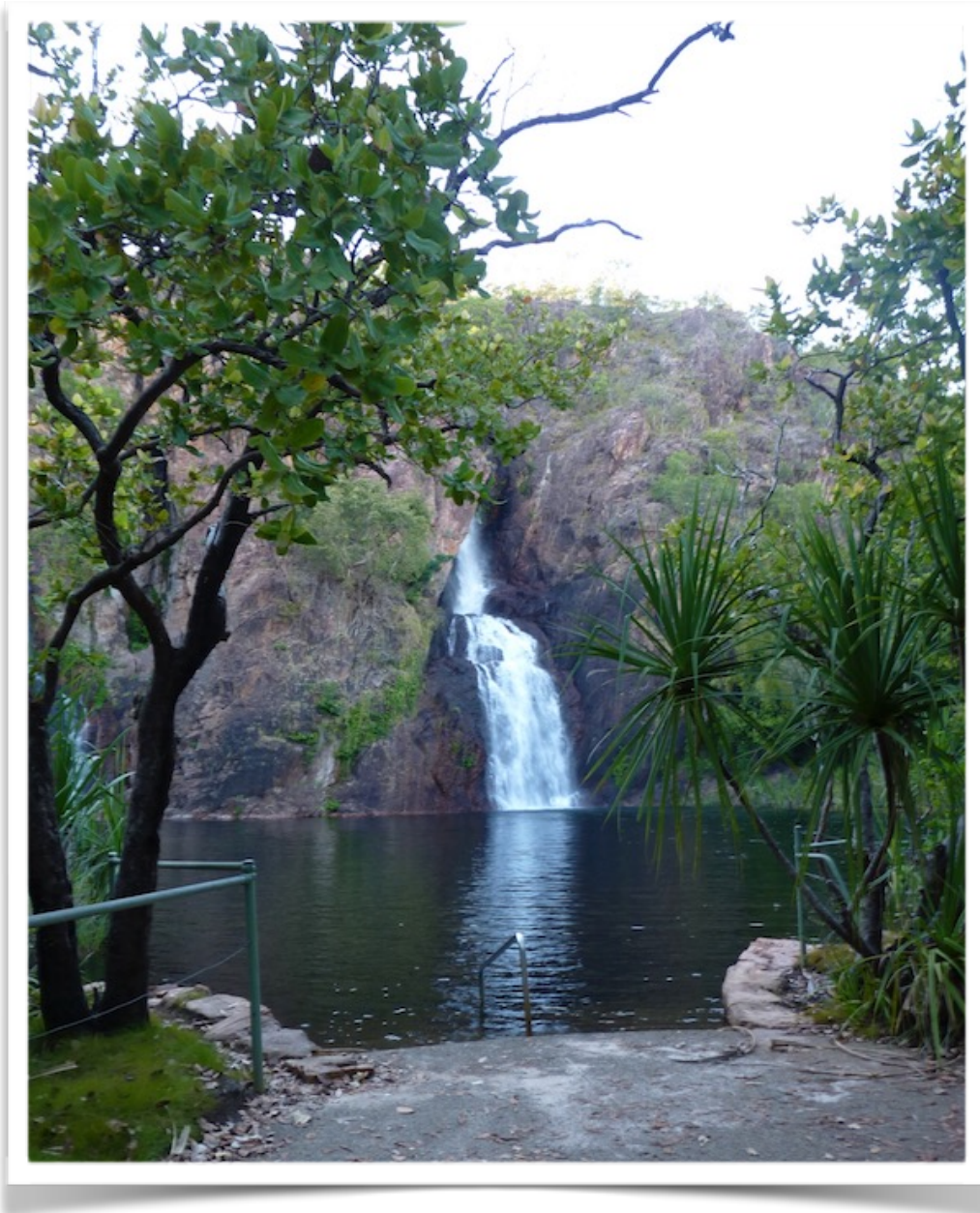
So don't mess with them. Just don't. And the scariest part?

Just because they're called "saltwater" crocs, don't think they only live in salt water. Oh no, they'd be happy in a bathtub full of bubble bath if it came to that. They *love* freshwater creeks and rivers. They'll swim hundreds of kays up a fresh water creek in the wet season, find a comfy waterhole and stay there.

So be careful. That pristine inland billabong might just be home to nature's ultimate killing machine. You really don't want to end up on a salty's dinner menu.



*WANGI FALLS IS IN LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK. IT'S ABOUT 80KM INLAND FROM THE OCEAN. HOWEVER, A CROCODILE HAD TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN THE MAIN POOL DURING THE WET SEASON.*



*WANGI FALLS. SO TEMPTING TO HAVE A SWIM...*

But some people never learn. Could be the “it won’t happen to me” mentality, ignorance of the danger or just plain stupidity. Who knows. The point is, be very careful when you’re in croc country. Salties don’t give you a second chance.

Well, let’s get to it.

## The Top 3 Ways To Avoid Becoming Crocodile Food

### #1. Don't Fish Off A Causeway

This gentleman seriously has a death wish.



*FISHING OFF CAHILLS CROSSING, KAKADU NATIONAL PARK, NT.*



*THERE ARE CROCODILES IN THIS RIVER... IN THIS VERY POOL. CAN YOU SEE WHY THIS FISHERMAN IS TEMPTING FATE?*

Just a few days before this photo was taken, a photographer was showing us a series of amazing shots he had taken in this very pool. It started with a 3m long croc grabbing a huge barramundi. Then a much bigger croc started attacking the “smaller” croc, biting until the barra wriggled free. Then the bigger croc swallowed the barra whole!

Now what exactly has this man done to ensure he’s on the menu? Well, this is the *perfect* spot for a hungry salty to find a feed. The causeway drops away sharply into a deep pool, so a salty can easily swim to within a few feet of the causeway then launch itself out of the water.

Secondly, the water is murky, so it’s not easy for the man to see what’s under the water - especially on a sunny day with reflections off the surface.

Thirdly, lots of people walk across or fish off this causeway. Remember what we said earlier about crocs learning? Well, this is a perfect example.

Finally, everyone **knows** crocs live in this pool. So why tempt fate?

So going fishing off a causeway in a croc-infested river takes out first prize in the race to prove Darwin’s theory of natural selection.

## #2. Don't Go Swimming At Night In A Billabong

Several years ago, a young lady from overseas was part of a tour group in Kakadu. You know, one of those tours where you sit on a bus all day, jump out to see some random tourist attraction, sit on a bus a bit more, then get to a campground and drink all night until it's time to get on the bus again. Sort of like an outback pub crawl without the pubs.

Now the "tour guide" must have thought he was Crocodile Dundee. Our hapless heroine asked the tour guide if she could go for a night swim in a nearby billabong. Seemed like a great idea after a few drinks - hot night, pristine billabong in a beautiful location. You get the idea.



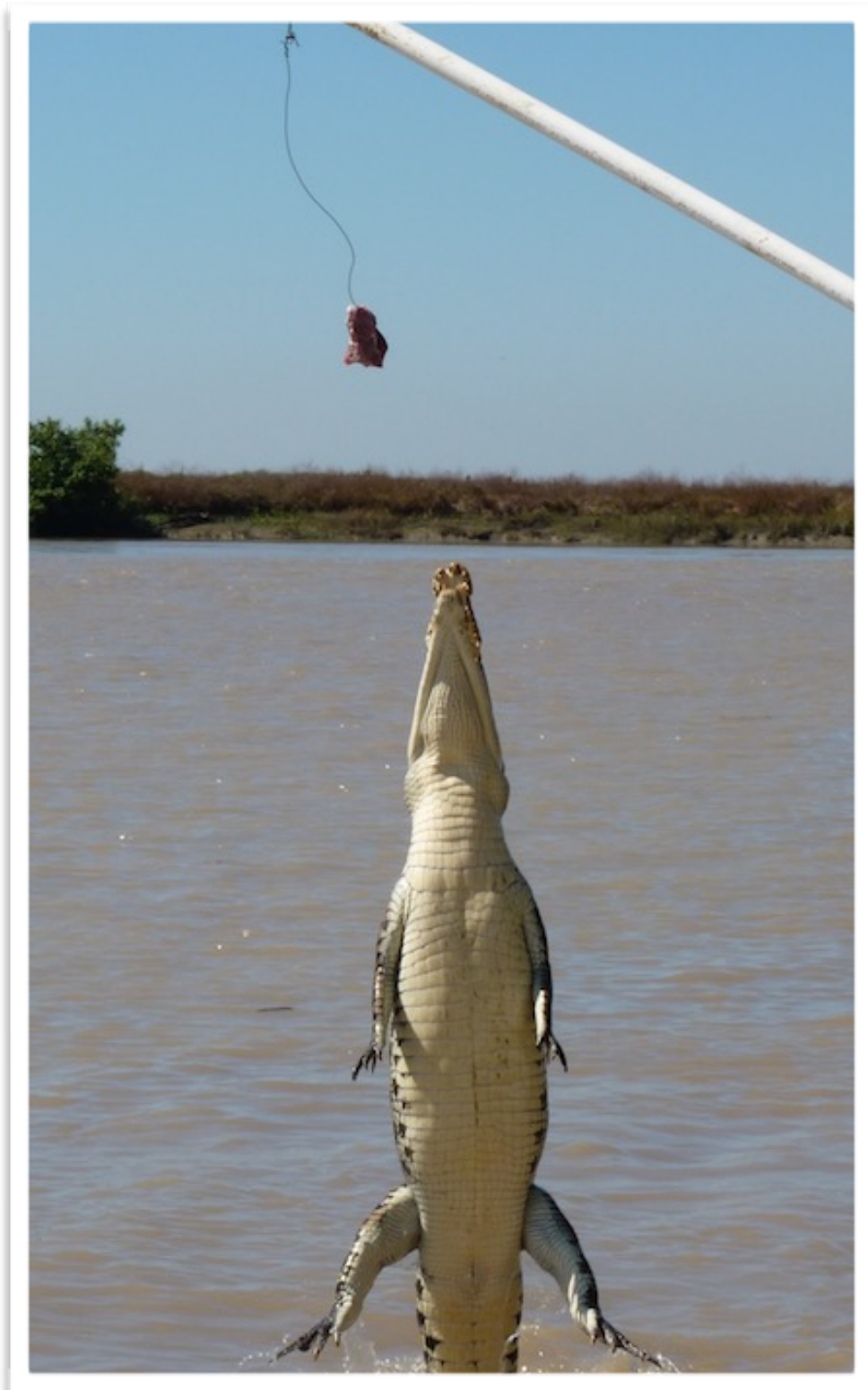
*THIS MAGNIFICENT BILLABONG PROVED FATAL FOR ONE UNFORTUNATE YOUNG LADY. CROCODILE TRACKS WERE CLEARLY VISIBLE IN THE SAND ON THE OPPOSITE BANK.*

And this is where the story gets strange. The wet season had just ended. The tour guide surely must have known about crocodiles. But he said yes!

So off she went, never to be seen again. Not a yell or a scream, nothing. Just vanished silently without a trace.

### #3. Don't Sit In Overhanging Tree Branches

Remember, crocs can jump out of the water... a long way. Don't believe me? Have a look at this photo.



*THIS IS WHY SITTING IN A BRANCH OVERHANGING THE WATER IS NOT A GOOD IDEA...*



Now, sitting in a tree branch overhanging the water on a balmy tropical night... toes dipping in the water... gentle breeze coming off the water after a hot day... might sound like heaven on earth. But if there are crocs about, it's really not a good idea.

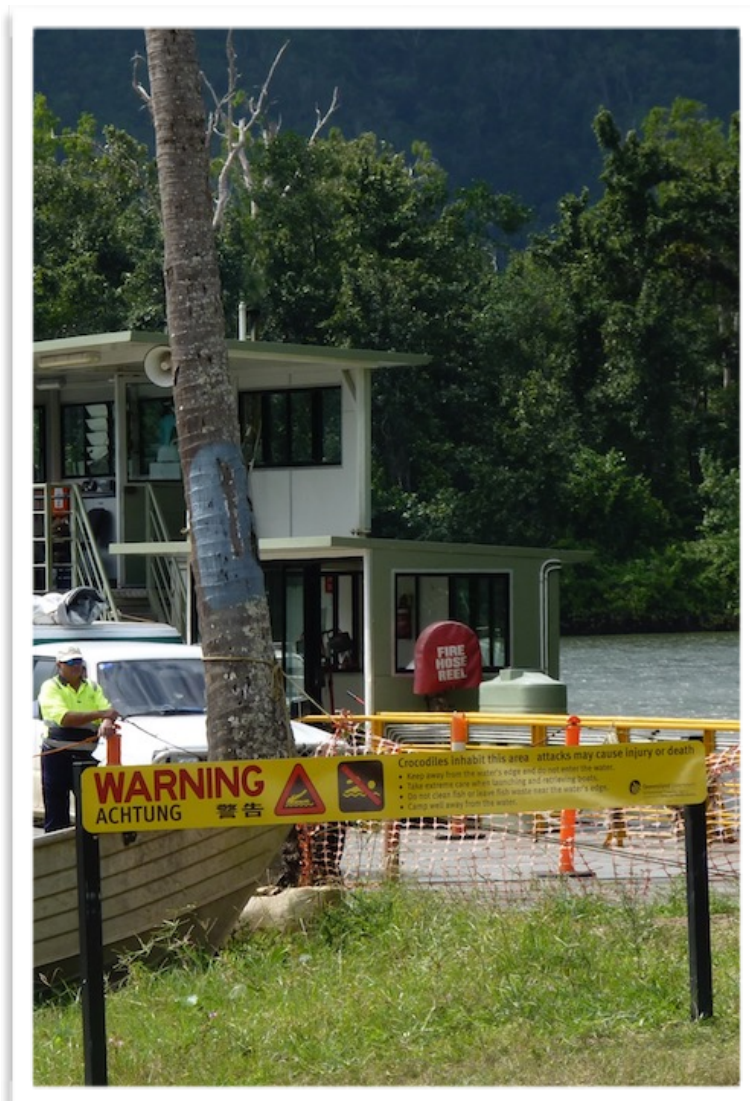
Once again, a crocodile will observe and learn. To them, you're food. Plain and simple. A croc will think nothing of launching itself at you, dragging you under and giving you a thorough death-roll before eating you.

## Other Ways To Avoid Being Meal Of The Day

If you're really insistent on getting eaten by a salty, then you might like to completely ignore these tips.

### Don't Ignore "Achtung Crocodiles" Signs

Typically these signs are posted for a reason. You can choose to ignore them - but only if you like sharing the water with salties.



**ACHTUNG! THE SIGNS ARE PRETTY CLEAR - YOU'RE IN A CROCODILE HABITAT, BE CAREFUL.**

## Don't Be a Backpacker

Backpackers seem to be particularly tasty. Saltwater crocs love them!

## Don't Hang Around Boat Ramps

Think about it. Lots of food (fish guts), people doing predictable things (remember what we said about crocs observing and learning), usually deep water up to the edge of the boat ramp - a perfect environment for a salty to hunt in.



*THE SIGN SAYS IT ALL.*

## Avoid Swimming In Tropical Oceans

Salties love to swim in the ocean. And they're happy to swim long distances. While it's pretty unlikely you'll be taken by a croc off a beach, they do swim past from time to time. So apart from deadly Irukandji (an extra-venomous type of box jellyfish), salties just might add to your challenge of surviving a tropical swim.



*THIS PRISTINE TROPICAL PARADISE IS DECEPTIVE. WE COULD HEAR CROCS "BARKING" EVERY NIGHT.*

### **Don't Hang Out In Mangrove Swamps**

Crocs just *love* mangrove swamps. Why? Well, they're perfect hunting grounds - plenty of cover, murky water and poor light. And crocs use mangroves for breeding grounds and to lay their eggs. So if you enter a mangrove swamp in crocodile territory, you're truly in their backyard.



*MANGROVES - CROCODILE HEAVEN.*



*CROCS HAVE DEVELOPED A SERIOUSLY GOOD HUNTING STRATEGY OVER THE LAST 200-ODD MILLION YEARS.*

### **Don't Drive Through Crocodile-Infested Floodwaters**

This probably seemed like a good idea at the time. You know how it goes, "She'll be right. I've driven over here a thousand times. It's only a bit of water". I just wonder what was going through their minds as they clambered out of the cab and frantically swam for their lives...



*THIS IS ONE SWIM I WOULDN'T LIKE TO DO. THE UTE WAS WASHED OFF THIS CAUSEWAY DURING THE WET SEASON, WHEN THE RIVER WAS IN FLOOD.*

## Respect And Commonsense

Humans and saltwater crocodiles can co-exist. You just have to remember you're in their territory. Use commonsense. If you are near a river or thinking of having a swim, assume crocs might be in the water.

Salties are magnificent creatures. Take the time to appreciate just how long they've been on earth, their awesome power and how they've developed into such perfect killing machines. Just do it from a distance.



*MAGNIFICENT CREATURES THAT COMMAND RESPECT.*

Use your head when in crocodile country. If you don't, you might lose it.