

Australian woman escapes wrong turn into croc-filled river

澳洲糊塗女駕駛開進鱷魚河

An Australian woman had a lucky escape after making a wrong turn into a crocodile-infested river in the country's remote north, police said.

The woman mistook a boat ramp for a road crossing the East Alligator River, about 300km east of Darwin, police said.

Officers who retrieved the vehicle after the accident found it surrounded by deadly saltwater crocodiles.

Police said the woman, from New South Wales state, had to scramble through the water as her four-wheel drive sank into the river near the world heritage-listed Kakadu National Park.

"She managed to get out of the car once she realized she had gone the wrong way and her car was going to sink," a police spokeswoman told national news agency AAP.

"She did have to wade through the water but she didn't have to swim."

The mishap prompted Northern Territory police to warn travelers that it's better to be safe than sorry when driving in the area.

"All water crossings should be considered extremely dangerous and exceptional care should be taken to avoid similar incidents such as these, especially considering the number and size of crocodiles that inhabit remote water ways," Sergeant Ben Higgin said.

Two people have been killed in Australia this year in attacks by salt-water crocodiles, which can grow up to 7m long and weigh more than a tonne.

(AFP)



澳洲警方表示，一名女性駕駛在偏遠的北部開車時，不小心駛入一條鱷魚出沒的河中，所幸她平安逃出。

警方表示，這名女子開車行經達爾文東方約三百公里處的東鱷河時，不小心誤入船下水滑道。意外發生後，打撈車子的警官發現，河中有一群致命的鹹水鱷環繞著這輛車。

警方表示，這名來自新南威爾斯省的女子因駕駛的四輪傳動車沉入河中，不得不自己爬上岸。這條東鱷河鄰近名列世界遺產的卡卡度國家公園。

警方女發言人對澳洲國家通訊社澳聯社表示：「她發現自己開錯路且車子就快沉入水裡時，馬上設法逃出車外。」

「她當時得吃力地涉水到岸邊，不過還不到游泳的地步。」

這場意外促使北領地警方對遊客發出警告，要他們開車行經此區時小心為上。

小隊長班·希金說：「所有涉水駕駛都應被視為極危險的行為，駕駛應加倍小心，避免類似意外發生，尤其是在有為數眾多的大型鱷魚棲息的偏遠水路。」

澳洲今年已有兩人被鹹水鱷攻擊後不治。成年鹹水鱷可長至七公尺長，體重逾一公噸。

(法新社/翻譯：袁星慶)

Handout pictures released by the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services taken on July 10, 2009 show a submerged four-wheel drive vehicle which had been driven by mistake into the East Alligator River about 300km east of Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory.

PHOTO: AFP

這些攝於七月十日，由澳洲北領地警消暨急難服務單位提供的照片顯示，一輛四輪傳動車誤駛入達爾文東方約三百公里處的東鱷河中。

照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. infest /ɪnˈfɛst/ v.

大批出沒 (da4 pi1 chu1 mo4)

例：The basement is completely infested with cockroaches.
(地下室有大批蟑螂出沒。)

2. retrieve /rɪˈtrɪv/ v.

重新得到 (chong2 xin1 de2 dao4)

例：You can retrieve your belongings at the end of the flight.
(等航程結束，你就可以拿回你的物品了。)

3. scramble /ˈskræbl/ v.

爬上 (pa2 shang4)

例：Verity managed to scramble aboard the lifeboat before the ship sank.
(薇若蒂在沉船前奮力爬上救生艇。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

it's better to be safe than sorry 小心為上，有備無患

You say **it's better to be safe than sorry** to someone if you want to remind them not to take risks. In the article, the police warned travelers not to make risky water crossings in the area.

Examples: "I don't see the harm in getting travel insurance — **it's much better to be safe than sorry,**" or "When it comes to wearing a helmet I much prefer **to be safe than sorry.**"

若你對某人說「it's better to be safe than sorry」，意思就是你想提醒他們不要冒險。文章中說，警方警告遊客不要冒險在該區涉水。

例如：「我覺得買旅遊險沒什麼不好，安全第一嘛」，或是「說到戴安全帽，我是寧可小心，也不願到時後悔」。