

---

---

**WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS**

ABN: 71 498 328 841

Phone: (08) 8985-2134

Fax: (08) 8985-2355



12 Carrington Street

Millner NT 0810

Email: [rrwillis@internode.on.net](mailto:rrwillis@internode.on.net)

[www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au)

---

---

## Willis's Walkabouts Needs Guides

2009 wasn't a good year for guides. 2010 has been a nightmare. Because of a knee problem I had to give away one trip I was particularly keen to do. Because the guides who were available didn't have all the necessary pieces of paper, I had to drop another trip I wanted to do and take two Kakadu trips I might have otherwise given away. I have had less than a week between trips twice – not good when there is office work that needs doing.

I need more guides, people who are happy to lead only one or two trips per year or even a single trip every couple of years. I need people who are likely to be available at relatively short notice. With no other guide based in Darwin, this could be a big ask.

I also need people who have the necessary bits of paper. There are only three, only one is absolutely essential for every trip, but the other two are just as essential for many trips.

- **Remote Area First Aid certificate.** A basic first aid qualification is not enough. A Wilderness First Aid qualification is better so I'll add \$5 per day to the pay of any guide who has one.
- **H endorsed driver's license.** This goes by different names in different states, but they will all say that you are qualified to drive passengers for hire. In the NT, this requires a medical exam and a police criminal history check. It may take weeks so it needs to be obtained well in advance. Without it, it is illegal for you to drive any of our vehicles.
- **Kakadu Tour Guides Course.** No one, not even the local Aboriginal traditional owners is permitted to lead a tour in Kakadu unless they have completed the course. This was an initiative of the traditional owners who were tired of guides spreading misinformation and/or endangering their clients. (Think of the guide who got someone killed by a croc a few years back.) I've done it. It's easy. It can be done online. For more information see <http://www.cdu.edu.au/tourismhospitality/kakadu-knowledge.html>

Besides the relevant bits of paper above, guides need to be good bush cooks (we can help you get started), good bush navigators – with and without a GPS, and good at communicating with people. They need to develop a good general knowledge of all aspects of the areas where we walk and need to be willing to admit they don't know something rather than make something up.

I recently achieved advanced eco-certification. Anyone leading a trip needs to operate in an eco-friendly way. We all have room to improve but the Willis's Walkabouts reputation could hardly be better in this regard.

In most cases, a new guide will need to go out as an unpaid assistant to allow us to see how they go and to make sure they know what they will need to do. In a few cases, a client on a trip has been so good, that they have skipped this step, going straight from being a client to a guide. That doesn't happen often.

**Still interested?** I prepared a guide's information book some years ago. It needs revision (your suggestions would be welcome), but it is still very relevant. Please have a read, then, if you are still interested, get back to me with comments and/or questions.

**The rewards?** When a trip goes well, it is almost like a paid holiday. Most trips go well, but sometimes you feel that you are really earning your money. You meet all sorts of interesting people. I've made many wonderful friendships over the years. So have most of the other guides. It's not something I can put into words, but it is very rewarding.

Thank you. For your interest.