

Jim Jim to Twin Falls Special: June 30 - July 7, 2015

This is a special trip created for a group of four. We, and they, welcome others to join them.

The trip will begin with an early afternoon pick up from wherever you are staying in Darwin or from the Darwin Airport when the group mentioned above arrives. From the airport, we drive straight to Jabiru where we spend the night at Lakeview Park (now called Anbinik). We will have dinner at the Social Club that evening. Leaving straight from the airport allows us to do most of the drive to the start of the walk the day people arrive. This will give us more time to enjoy the walk.



Jim Jim monoliths.

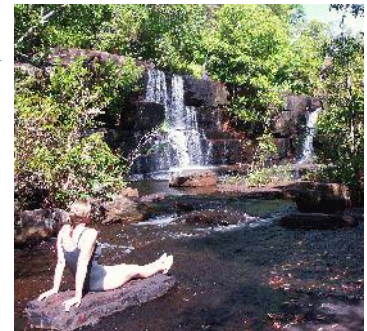
Early the next morning, we drive to Jim Jim Falls, park the car and walk to the top. If we have two vehicles, we will do a car shuffle and leave one at Twin. The area near Jim Jim Creek is fairly flat so the walking is relatively easy as we work our way to a campsite at the Jim Jim Monoliths shown in the photo at left.



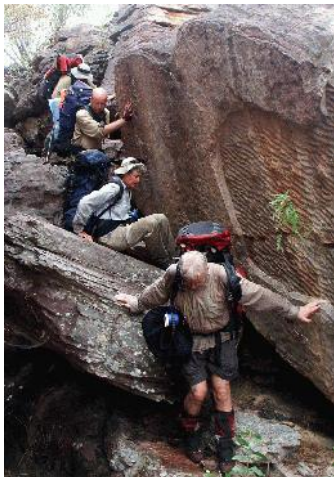
View from the top of Jim Jim Falls.

The next day, we retrace our steps partway back along Jim Jim

Creek so that we can follow the route to Anbadjgoran or the Rainforest Gorge. We should arrive in time to relax and explore a bit of the upper gorge. The camp site on the flat rock ledges at the top of Anbadjgoran is magnificent. Beautiful waterfalls cascade through a series of inviting pools under a shady rainforest canopy. These falls flows well long after its more famous neighbours have dried to a trickle.



Relaxing below the falls at Anbadjgoran.



Rock scramble on the way from Twin Falls to the Rainforest Gorge.

The next day is the tough one as we make our way from Anbadjgoran to the Amphitheatre Falls at the top of the upper Twin Falls Gorge. There are no marked trails so every trip is slightly different. While some of the walking is fairly flat and easy, we often have to do some rock scrambling as shown at left. Some groups camp along the way. Others make it to the Amphitheatre in a single day.

If we get there in a single day, we will spend two nights at a campsite above the falls so that we can explore further upstream without packs.



Getting ready for a swim at Amphitheatre Falls.

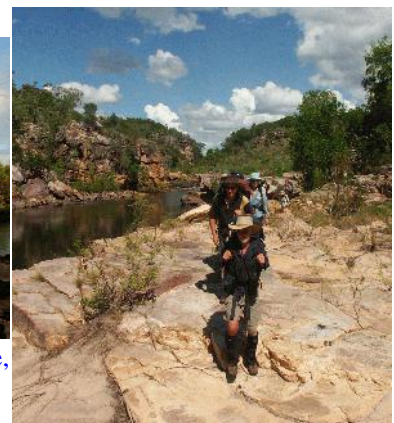
Upper Twin Falls Gorge is too pretty to rush. Pool after pool, beach after beach, campsite after campsite, we are spoiled for choice as we work our way downstream toward Twin Falls.

Camping is not permitted at the top of the falls but we can camp close enough so that we can walk down for a late afternoon view.

On the final morning, we return to the top of Twin for a last look before following the marked trail back to the car park. Unless we were able to do a car shuffle at the beginning, we now have a long walk along the 4WD track to get back to where we left the car at the start. If we are lucky, someone will be able to catch a lift, or just walk very fast, and bring the vehicle back to meet the rest of the group. Once at the car, we begin the long drive back to Darwin, arriving sometime that evening. If we are running late, we will stop at one of the road houses along the way for dinner.



Upper Twin Falls Creek campsite, dawn.



Walking along upper Twin Falls Gorge.

Terrain and Difficulty

Overall	Level 3.
Climate	Level 2. Although June-July is the coolest time of the year, the maximum temperature on most days will still average 30-31°C. Although the average nightly minimum is about 16-18°C (65°F), it is not uncommon for the temperature to drop as low as 10°C (50°F). Occasionally it goes lower still. Sleeping bags are essential. Rain is highly unlikely.
Terrain	<p>Level 4. Short sharp climbs at the beginning and end, both on well defined walking tracks. Fairly flat and reasonably easy along Twin Falls and Jim Jim Creeks. Similarly flat and relatively easy between the top of Rainforest Gorge and Jim Jim Creek. Some of the terrain between Twin Falls Creek and Rainforest Gorge is as broken stone country, as rugged as anything we encounter on any of our walks. A difference of 100 metres at one point can mean a difference of two or three hours walking time. If we hadn't allowed a bit of extra time, this would have given this trip a level 4 rating.</p> <p>There are a few steep climbs, none of which is over 200 m. As short as they are, these climbs are strenuous. Some may require using your hands to hold on as you climb up or down. None are technically difficult. None require ropes or other special equipment. There will be some places where you have to step from stone to stone as you walk along the edge of a creek.</p> <p>The creeks are low enough so that swimming across with packs is unlikely to be necessary. It may, however, be necessary to wade across slippery rocks through waist deep water. Your guide can help if you need assistance.</p> <p>Except for the first and last little bits, none of the walking is on a marked trail. If you have never done any off-track walking through moderately rough terrain, nothing we can say can adequately describe the experience. The photos on our website, www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au, can give you a partial picture, but they cannot substitute for the real thing. Most of those who have not had any off-track walking experience find it more difficult than those who have done it before.</p> <p>Anyone who does not regularly (average twice a month) go bushwalking carrying a full pack would benefit from doing some pre-trip training. Do this and you will almost certainly enjoy the trip. If you are not an experienced off-track bushwalker and you don't do any training or any other form of strenuous physical exercise, you might feel that the trip is more of an endurance test than the pleasure most people experience.</p>
Vegetation	Level 2-3. Much of the walking is through relatively flat, open woodland with a grassy understorey. Some short sections of grass may hide a broken rocky surface where you will have to be particularly careful. There may be some slow sections where you will have to pass through thick scrub. The vegetation can vary from year to year depending on when last burnt. At this time of year, the spear grass has finished seeding and dried out.
Hours	Generally 4-6 hours. A few days might be longer.
Packs	Pack weight - level 3. You need to carry 6 days food. This will include about 2-3 kg of the evening meals. You need a sleeping bag but are unlikely to need a tent.
Art	We visit a number of art sites including one really major one.
Campsites	Mix of sand and rock ledges. Most sites are excellent. You are unlikely to see anyone else at most of the campsites.
Swims	Most creeks are still flowing well and the swimming is excellent. We will have good pools at almost every campsite and lunch spot.
Highlights	Perfect weather. Great swimming holes. Aboriginal art sites. The rock maze between Twin Falls Creek and the Rainforest Gorge.
Lowlights	Possible tourist crowds at Jim Jim and Twin Falls. The rock maze between Twin Falls Creek and the Rainforest Gorge. (This can be a highlight for some and a lowlight for others.) The walk along the 4WD track back to the car at the end.
Wildlife	Birds are always present but spread out at this time of year. You are unlikely to see many large animals.
Fishing	Not permitted on this walk.

Maps 1:50 000 Jim Jim Falls or 1:100 000 Jim Jim. The 1:250 000 Kakadu park map shows all areas but is not suitable for navigation.

Notes

Make sure you keep some money and a water bottle with you during the drives. It is unlikely that you will be able to easily get things out of your pack during the day.

If you are planning to arrive in Darwin on the day we leave, please make sure you contact us to confirm that your flight will arrive in time for our departure.

A daypack might be useful.

Special Note

A trip like this which runs from midweek to midweek is ideal for people who would like to see a bit more of Darwin. There are many interesting things to do in and around Darwin. See the Things to Do section on our Accommodation page for more information. www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/accom.shtml#darwin

We would particularly like your comments on our Darwin Beaches page, http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/darwin_beaches.shtml

Itinerary: Jim Jim to Twin Special

Note 1 This itinerary is subject to change.

Day 1 Afternoon pick up. Collect the last people from the airport and drive straight to Jabiru. Overnight at Lakeview.

Day 2 Drive to Jim Jim and begin the walk. After a view stop and swim at the top of the falls, we continue to our overnight camp.

Day 3–7 Bush camping, carrying full packs as we make our way to a final campsite above Twin Falls.

Day 8 Return to vehicle(s). If we have only one, it will be necessary to walk along the track back to Jim Jim.