

Kakadu Short But Sweet: 7 days beginning on a Tuesday

First Draft: 21 December 2014

This trip will take place sometime between April and September. The exact dates will be selected in consultation with the first people who express an interest in the trip.

There are only a few places in Kakadu where you can do a short walk to a base camp followed by a day walk exploring some very scenic country. On this trip we will combine three of them. In each case, we walk a relatively short distance – anywhere from two to five km depending on the walk – to a base camp next to a pool. The following day, we do a day walk and return to the same camp.

We walk out the following day and go to the next walk – three two-night camps before returning to Darwin.

Exactly where we go will be determined by the weather conditions at the time, which walks are still available at the time we put in our permit application and on the fitness and interests of the group. Possibilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, Waterfall Creek above Gunlom, Motorcar Creek, Barramundi Creek above Maguk, Graveside Gorge, Twin Falls Creek above Twin Falls, Jim Jim Creek above Jim Jim Falls, Baroalba Creek above Gubara.

Motorcar Creek

We begin with the Yurmikmik walk to Motorcar Falls. For information see the Kakadu Yurmikmik notes, www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/pub/yurmikmik.pdf – that's the easy part. After a swim, we leave the track and do a steep climb up above the falls. That's the hard part. After a visit to the top of the falls, we move upstream to a campsite and spend the rest of the afternoon relaxing by the pool. The next day, we do a loop walk through some amazing sandstone country with plenty of time for swim stops along the way. On the final day, it's back the way we came.



Motorcar Falls, late dry season



Motorcar, climbing to the top



One of the many pools on the day walk



Rock formations, upper Motorcar



Motorcar, relaxing at lunch

The photos here should give you something of an idea as to what to expect.

Waterfall Creek

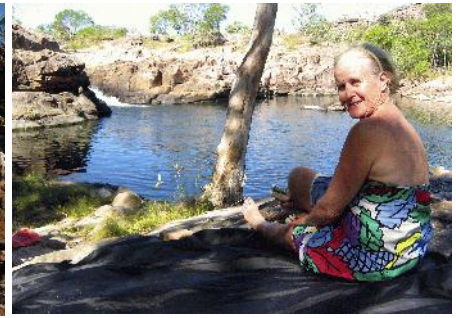
We begin with the walk to the top of Gunlom in southern Kakadu. For information see the Kakadu Gunlom notes, www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/pub/gunlom.pdf. A walk of only 1 km brings us to the top of the falls. A further 2 km along relatively flat ground brings us to a nice pool, our home for the next two nights. Our day walk is only another two or three km upstream to the edge of the rocky area. There are plenty of pools, a few art sites and some great views for those energetic enough to climb to a high point.



Waterfall Creek camp & pool



Waterfall Creek pool



Relaxing by pool near end of rocky area

Barramundi Creek

We begin our walk from the Maguk car park. Before we get to the main pool, we turn off and climb up. A short walk brings us to the top of the falls. Another two km brings us to a sandy campsite by a nice pool. We spend a full day exploring our immediate surrounds before returning the way we came.



Barramundi camp & pool



Approaching camp from upstream



Walking back to the vehicle

Jim Jim Creek

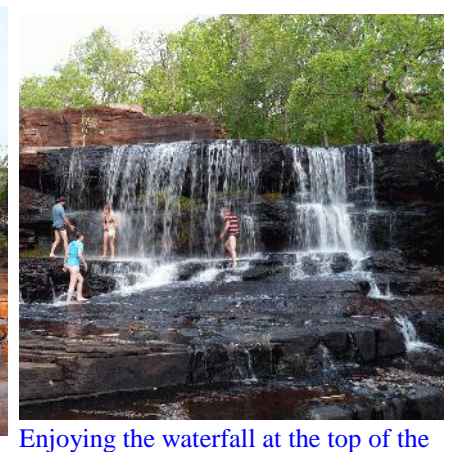
This is one of our more strenuous options. It begins with the Barrk Marlam walk to the top of Jim Jim Falls. Here we have two choices, a walk of about 6 km (each way) to the Jim Jim Monoliths or a shorter walk to the top of Anbadgoran, the rainforest gorge. We return the way we came.



Sandy camp near Jim Jim



Monolith campsite, Jim Jim Creek



Enjoying the waterfall at the top of the rainforest gorge

Twin Falls Creek

As with Jim Jim, we begin with the marked trail to the top of the falls. After a look around the top of the falls, we walk about two km upstream and set up our camp. We spend the next day exploring the upper gorge as far as the Amphitheatre Falls. We return to our vehicle the way we came.



Twin Falls Creek, your own private pool



Getting ready for a swim at Amphitheatre Falls.

Graveside Gorge

Of all our possible walks, this is the one with the longest, roughest drive. It also has one of the longest walks in and out. The reward is a chance to explore both branches of one of the most beautiful gorges in Kakadu.



On the track to Graveside



Relaxing at a pool in the side gorge



Waterfall in the main gorge.

Baroalba Creek

This walk begins with a three km stroll along a marked track followed by another three km to our campsite above. From there we spend a day exploring the wonderful sandstone formations that surround us and, of course, enjoying some of the pools we find along the way.



On the marked trail. This is as easy as it gets.



Campsite and pool.



Climbing to a high point for a view.

By now you should have a good idea of the possibilities. As stated at the beginning, exactly where we go will be determined by the weather conditions at the time, which walks are still available at the time we put in our permit application and on the fitness and interests of the group.

Graveside is normally the last of these areas to open, sometimes not opening until August. Baroalba is the first to dry out – we would not normally go there after July.

Notes

We are offering this trip for the super-special, one-off price of \$300. That price includes only the services of our guide, evening meals and any transport we provide. Everyone, including the guide will share the cost of any other transport we need to charter. As on our other trips, you will need to bring your own breakfasts, lunches and equipment. At this price, none of our normal discounts apply.

Getting to some of the walks requires a 4WD. All of them require driving on gravel roads. If our vehicles are being used on our other trips, the cost of the hire vehicle or vehicles could be substantial.

The \$300 price depends on Walkabouts owner Russell Willis being able to lead the trip. He doesn't have to pay himself a wage. The other guides need to be paid.

If we offer two trips, the second will list for at least \$1000.

No matter how well this trip may work, we cannot offer too many of them as overuse could damage the campsites we depend on.

If you think you might be interested in this trip, please contact us as soon as possible.