

## Family Bushwalk No. 1: Carr Boyd Range: April 10-16, 2022

**List price - \$1995** For information about our advance purchase and other discounts, see our discount page, [www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/discounts](http://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/discounts) and the additional information at the end of these notes.

**Summary.** We've had several people ask about a Family trip to the Kimberley so we created this one based on a family charter we did some years back. While there are a couple of longish dry stretches, there are more waterfalls than on any Kakadu walk of similar length and difficulty. It has been designed to run at a somewhat slower pace than our other trips to allow families with children to enjoy the Kimberley bush.

### Itinerary

**Note 1** Day 0 is the day before departure.

**Note 2** This itinerary is subject to change.

**Day 0** **Pre-trip meeting, 6.00 p.m., Kimberley Croc Motel. This meeting is important.** If you cannot make the meeting, please advise us well in advance.

**Day 1** 6:30-7:00 AM pick up as arranged at the pre trip meeting. 8 a.m. pick up. Boat ride up the Ord River to the start of the walk. Begin the walk. Bush camp, carrying full packs.

**Day 2-6** Bush camping, carrying full packs.

**Day 7** Walk out to the pick up vehicle. Drive to Kununurra. Drop off at your accommodation.

### *Now for the details.*



Heading up the Ord to the drop off

We begin with a boat ride up the Ord River to a drop off on Cooliman Creek. A relatively flat walk of about 4 km brings us to the first of the many waterfalls and pools we get to enjoy on this walk.

From here, it's uphill for the rest of the day as one waterfall follows another as we make our way up 'Many Falls' Creek. If we are moving reasonably well, we will probably spend half a day exploring without packs so that we can give this magnificent spot the time it deserves.

The route between the two main creek systems takes us over two low ridges. Later in the year when the small creeks have dried out, we must make our way up and down hill and from Many Falls to Packsaddle Creek in a single day. If we are going well, we may do so, but this early in the year, we have the luxury of being able to stop in a few different places along the way.



Children and parents enjoying one of the many swim stops



One of the 8 waterfalls on Many Falls Creek



Rest stop with a view

Packsaddle is the largest creek in the range, far too nice to rush. There are several possible side walks we can do without packs. Which ones we choose will depend on how fast we are travelling and on how much water there is. Water levels on some of the smaller creeks can vary dramatically from year to year so this is a decision we can't make until we are actually there.



Carr Boyd campsite



Swim stop near our final camp

Our final campsite may be beside the pool above the last set of waterfalls or at another pool below. In either case, we will almost certainly have it to ourselves in spite of being less than 20 km in a straight line from the centre of town. A relatively easy walk on the final morning brings us out to the track where we meet the pick up vehicle. The trip may be over but the memories can last a lifetime.

## Terrain and Difficulty

**Overall** Level 3

**Climate** Level 3-4. It will be hot. It will also be humid although the humidity normally drops substantially between March and May and is almost always less than in Kakadu. The average daily maximum is 35°C (95°F). The average minimum is 20-21°C (68-70°F). It can, however, get much cooler. Rain is unlikely but possible. We recommend that you bring a tent or mosquito net with a fly.

**Terrain** Level 3. This trip has it all. The climb up Many Falls Creek is quite steep, but it is less than 200 m in total. There is a substantial amount of rock hopping but there is also a lot of fairly flat terrain, sometimes through grass, sometimes on flat rock ledges. Most groups should be able to do one or more half to full day walks without carrying a full pack.



Rockhopping in a dry creek bed

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 here can give you a taste of what it's like, 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. Inexperienced children generally have less trouble coping than inexperienced adults.



Easy walking on a grassy plain

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 more than if you do not. However, even without any training, the slow pace should allow anyone who meets our minimum fitness to relax and enjoy the walk.

**Vegetation** Level 2-4. 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. It's a great time to see wildflowers.



Gomphrena sp.



Grevillea refracta

The spear grass normally reaches its peak in March, often three or four metres tall in some areas (much shorter in others). We may encounter short sections of partially collapsed and seeding spear grass during some portion of the trip, but this late it is unlikely that there will be much.

**Hours** Generally 4-5 hours carrying packs.

**Packs** **Pack weight** - level 3. It will be necessary to carry all your food for the full trip. In addition to your breakfasts and lunches, you will have to carry about 2-3 kg of the evening meals. The exact amount the adults will carry will depend on how much the children are likely to eat and how much they can carry. We recommend both a lightweight sleeping and a tent or mosquito net and fly.

**Art** There are very few art sites in the range. We may or may not visit some minor ones.

**Campsites** Mix of sand, rock ledges and possibly a pebble beach. Most sites are excellent. You are unlikely to see anyone else anywhere along most of the route.

**Swims** Excellent. This is a good time to see the waterfalls on this route. We will have good pools at almost every campsite lunch spot as well as other pools along the way.

**Lowlights** Heat and humidity. Pushing through thick grass.

**Highlights** April is a good month to see the Carr Boyd waterfalls. Most creeks are still flowing well and the swimming is excellent. A still relatively green landscape that dry season visitors can only imagine.

**Wildlife** Birds are always present but spread out at this time of year. Small lizards (and occasionally large ones), a variety of insects.

**Fishing** Possible near the very beginning and very end of the walk.

**Maps** 1:50 000 Deception Range.

## Notes

The guide will try and spend more time with the little things which might be interesting and unusual for the children: insects, lizards, etc. (Young children can bring a sense of wonder to things older people take for granted.)

Parents/guardians must keep an eye on their own children, especially on young children who may not be able to swim.



Carr Boyd camp near sunset



A waterproof camera is a great asset in these clear waters



City boy with stick insect. Watching city children get in touch with nature is a rewarding experience.

We plan to have more and longer breaks and do even more swimming than on our standard trips.

If the children cannot carry their own food and equipment, their parents/guardians will have to do so.

Bringing fresh fruit, vegetables or honey into WA is illegal whether you come by road or plane. (You cannot even bring in boxes or other containers that once contained fruit or vegetables.) Bags are checked both on the highway and at the airport. There will be time to do some shopping in Kununurra.

**Dehydration** can be a major problem for young children. (See our *Bushwalking Guide*.) It is absolutely essential to make sure your children drink enough to need several "wee stops" during the day.

**Family discounts**     1/3 off for age 12-16  
                                  1/2 off for children under 12  
                                  no discount for more than two children unless accompanied by two adults

**Other discounts**     Our standard advance purchase and past client discounts apply.  
                                  The other discounts listed on our website do not.  
                                  We need the equivalent of six adult fares to run this trip.

**Air North** is the main airline currently operating into Kununurra but if you are coming from Perth or Melbourne, it's worth checking Virgin Australia as well.

The prices may be out of date, but the map at right shows where we hold our pre-trip meeting at the Kimberley Croc Motel.



Having a break by the pool

