

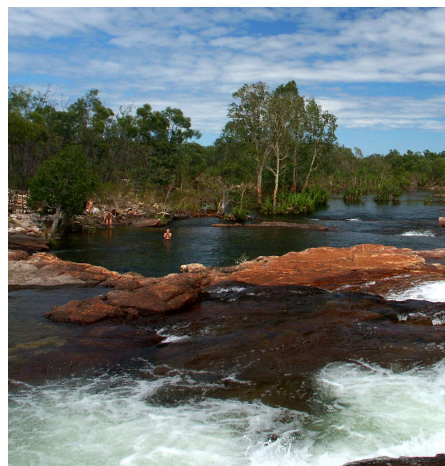
Kakadu Super Circle No. 2: June 6-27, 2021

List price - \$4195 For information about our advance purchase and other discounts, see our discount page,

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/discounts

Summary. This is our longest and most ambitious dry season Kakadu expedition. On the trip you see wonderful creeks, gorges and Aboriginal art sites hidden deep within the heart of Kakadu. You experience the best of our Kakadu Circle and Twin to Jim Jim Circle routes as well as the Guluyambi Cruise along the East Alligator River.

It is divided into two sections, either of which can be done on its own.



Cascades swim, upper Koolpin Creek

Itinerary: Kakadu Super Circle No. 2

Note 1 Day 0 is the day before departure.

Note 2 This itinerary is subject to change.

Section 1 Koolpin to Twin via Jim Jim

List price: \$2495

Day 0 **Pre-trip meeting, 6.30 p.m., Pool Side Bar & Restaurant, Double Tree Hilton, 122 The Esplanade.** There are two Double Tree Hiltons next door to each other. The correct one is closer to Daly Street, the taller of the two. **This meeting is important.** If you cannot make the meeting, please advise us well in advance.

Day 1 8 a.m. pick up. Pick up is as arranged at the pre-trip meeting. Drive to Kakadu. There will be a stop along the way to buy cool drinks, etc.
Begin the walk. Bush camp, carrying full packs.

Day 2–11 Bush camping, carrying full packs.

Day 12 Walk to Jim Jim Falls car park. Those finishing here have the choice of a drop off in Cooina or at their accommodation in Darwin. Those going to Darwin will arrive quite late, probably after 9 p.m. If you choose to stay at Cooina, we recommend doing the early morning Yellow Waters cruise.

Section 2 Jim Jim to Koolpin **List price: \$2695**

Day 12 Very early pick up for those beginning with this section. Pick up is from your accommodation if you have notified us where you are staying at least a week before departure. Otherwise, pick up is from Darwin Transit Centre at 69 Mitchell Street.

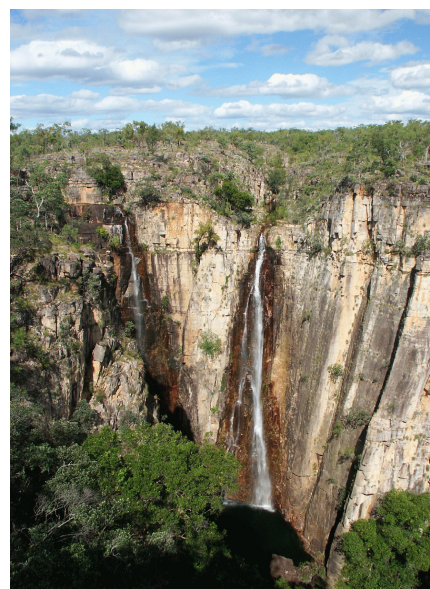
Drive to Kakadu. There will be a stop along the way to buy cool drinks, etc.

Meet group, begin walk carrying full packs, bush camp.

Day 13–20 Bush camping, carrying full packs.

Day 21 Return to vehicles. Drive to Warradjan and Cooina, possible bistro lunch. Drive to Jabiru. Pub/restaurant meal.

Day 22 Depart Jabiru for 9 am Guluyambi Cruise. Return to Darwin. Drop off at airport or your accommodation.



Main falls, Graveside Gorge. You can't get to this waterfall when it's flowing like this without doing a very long walk.

Now for the details.

Section 1: Koolpin to Jim Jim: June 6-17



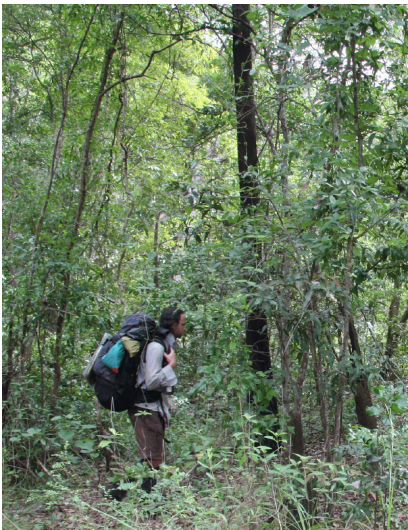
First falls, Koolpin gorge.

The walk begins at Flying Fox Crossing on the South Alligator River in southern Kakadu, about 330 kilometres and four to five hours from Darwin. A relatively flat eight kilometre walk along the banks of the river and across the plain brings us to the beginning of Koolpin Gorge. If the lower area has not yet been cleared of the crocodiles which sometimes swim in during the Wet, we will have to do a fairly steep climb and join the creek above the first waterfall. Once on the plateau, big crocs are never a problem.

Koolpin Gorge is beautiful. The pools are perfect for swimming. The waterfalls and views are a photographers delight. Aboriginal art sites tell us that this has been a special place for thousands of years. Although the gorge is only four kilometres long, it is too good to rush through. We normally take a full day to reach the top.



Koolpin campsite – a beautiful sandy beach next to your own private pool.



In the monsoon forest.

From the top of the gorge we take a short cut across the plain and through the first of two low passes. Just before the second, there is a sudden change in vegetation as we enter a monsoon rainforest. Generally restricted to small gorges such as the one through which we are passing, these forests offer deep shade and a flora totally different to that of the open plains. Unlike rainforests elsewhere, they are easy to walk through, even without the aid of a track.

Our path now takes us toward Twin Falls Creek where we turn and head upstream, bound for one of the most interesting and least known parts of the park. The plateau is a mixture of sandy flats and broken rock outcrops, many of which hide Aboriginal art sites.



Upper Twin Falls Creek

As we travel, we notice dramatic changes in the landscape. Small and scrubby vegetation in one location, towering paperbarks in another. Flat plains here and rocky outcrops of all shapes and sizes there.

And, of course, there are the swims. Every day we find more beautiful pools that seem to demand that we stop for yet another dip. From Twin Falls Creek, we cross over to the upper reaches of Jim Jim Creek. At this time of year we can avoid some extremely rocky and scrubby country by walking up the dry creek beds or taking a short cut around the entire area.



Beach camp, Jim Jim Creek.

We reach Jim Jim Creek and the first of many inviting pools about two and a half days upstream from the falls. The area near Jim Jim Creek is fairly flat so the walking is relatively easy as we move downstream toward the falls, stopping to examine some Aboriginal art and cool off with a swim or two along the way.

From the top of Jim Jim Falls, over 200 metres from top to bottom with a final sheer drop of 160 metres, we enjoy spectacular views down the gorge and across the plains to the distant escarpment on the horizon.

After collecting our food drop, we make our way over Twin Falls (unlikely to be open to vehicles at this time). We normally camp on Twin Falls Creek below the gorge in an area where swimming is no longer permitted.

Section 2: Jim Jim to Gunlom: June 17-27

The first day of this section is the longest of the entire trip as we make our way across the plains and climb up the escarpment to enjoy the views and pools at Surprise Falls. Those who are doing only this section need to be prepared for an exceptionally strenuous first day. Those doing the full trip will have had ample time to get used to carrying their packs.

From Surprise Falls, we continue across the plateau, passing through the largest patch of open country rainforest in the park,



Crossing Graveside Creek at the top falls

across the upper reaches of Koolpin Creek and over to the top of Graveside Gorge where a double waterfall drops 100 metres into a pool in the gorge below. After taking time to have a good look at Graveside, we move along to Cascades Creek and the first of its many pools and art sites. The walk down the four kilometre gorge is a slow one. There are a few places where you have the choice of edging along narrow rock ledges (close to water level, no big drops), floating your pack through the creek, or climbing up and around.

The pools and art sites are too nice to pass by, so stops are frequent as we make our way down to the cascades for which the creek is named. The last 500 metres often takes two hours or more as the deep pools and a natural water slide are much too inviting to pass by in a rush.



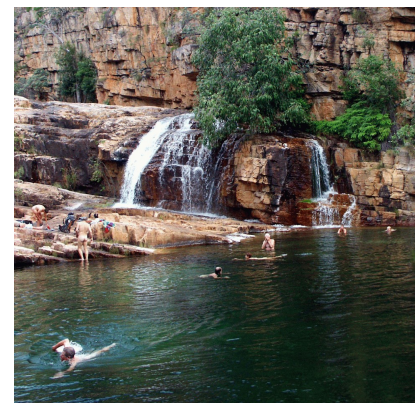
Upper Gronophylum camp

Next, we visit Gronophylum Creek with its unusual multi-trunked palms, beautiful, sandy camp sites and deep, clear pools. The rugged landscape away from the creek is reminiscent of central Australia with its red rock and spinifex covered hills. A short, steep climb to the top of one of the hills presents us with an incredible panorama. Following the creek, you might walk three kilometres in an hour. Following a straight-line compass bearing, the landscape is such a jumble of broken rock that walking three kilometres might take you three days.

From Gronophylum, we cross to the Barramundi system and its many waterfalls. Our final campsite in Barramundi Valley is on the banks of a huge, shady pool below a small waterfall. It is a beautiful spot, but there is more to come.



Surprise Falls



Swim stop, central falls, Cascades Creek

The next morning we follow Barramundi Creek to the top and cross a small pass and follow a tributary of Koolpin Creek back toward where we began. We follow Koolpin downstream a short distance to where we leave the creek and rock hop through a series of gullies as we make our way to Freezing Gorge. Freezing Creek is much smaller than



Freezing Gorge, it's a long way up if you don't float your pack

Koolpin but it has carved a deep and narrow gorge where the sun seldom reaches the water, hence the name. The pools are just as inviting as those in Koolpin, perhaps more so since very few of the 4WD campers are aware that it exists so we seldom see anyone at any point along the creek. You need to be prepared for a short pack float as the alternative to a 30 metre swim is an hour or two of strenuous rock climbing. (You can waterproof your pack by lining it with 2 garbage bags, one inside the other, and sealing them carefully.) The walk down Freezing Creek below the gorge involves climbing over and scrambling around large boulders. A distance of about a kilometre may take two hours.



Barramundi Creek tributary waterfall

Although we do not rate this walk as difficult, the one km walk down Freezing Creek below the gorge can be a daunting experience for some people. People who have never done anything like this before may find it difficult. Progress down the creek may be quite slow.



Lower Freezing Creek



Guluyambi guide demonstrating how to produce pigments used in rock art

A short walk from the bottom of Freezing Gorge brings us back to where we began. We drive to Cooina. After a bistro lunch at the pub, we visit the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre before driving to Jabiru for a night in the Bush Bungalows at the Anbinik Resort. See <http://www.anbinik.com.au/> for more information about Anbinik.

Next morning, we do the Guluyambi Aboriginal Cultural cruise on the East Alligator River. This gives you a good view of the Kakadu wetlands before returning to Darwin and the airport, ready for the flight home. For more information about Guluyambi,

<http://www.kakaduculturaltours.com.au/index.php/guluyambi>

Terrain and Difficulty

Overall	Level 4
Climate	Level 2. Although June is one of the two coolest months of the year, the maximum temperature on most days will still average 30-31°C. Although the average nightly minimum is reasonably warm at about 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	Level 3. There are 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.

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.

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 in these notes should 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.

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.

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. Section one rates as level four because it is necessary to cover longer distances than on most of our other trips. Section two rates as level four because of the long first day. Those who have already done section one seldom find it particularly difficult.
Packs	Pack weight - level 3+. You need to carry 11 days food. This will include about 2½-3½ kg of the evening meals. You need a sleeping bag but are unlikely to need a tent. We do, however, recommend some sort of emergency shelter.
Art	We visit a variety of art sites.
Campsites	Mix of sand and rock ledges. Most sites are excellent. You are unlikely to see anyone else at most of the campsites.
Swims	June is a good month to see Kakadu's waterfalls. Most creeks are still flowing well and the swimming is excellent. We will have good pools at almost every campsite and lunch spot.
Lowlights	Carrying food for 11 days. Possible tourist crowds at Jim Jim and/or Twin Falls.
Highlights	Kakadu's biggest waterfalls seen early in the dry season. Perfect weather. Great swimming holes. Aboriginal art sites.
Wildlife	Birds are always present but spread out at this time of year. You are unlikely to see many large animals. The Guluyambi cruise gives you a good chance to see large estuarine crocodiles.
Fishing	Not permitted on this walk.
Maps	Section 1: 1:50 000 El Sherana (small portion of walk only), Koolpin & Jim Jim Falls Section 2: 1:50 000 Jim Jim Falls (small portion of walk only), Koolpin & Goodparla The 1:250 000 Kakadu park map shows all areas but is not suitable for navigation.

Notes

Carrying food for 11 days and covering relatively long distances on section one makes this a physically demanding trip. It should not, however, be an endurance test. Every day you eat some of your food and your pack grows lighter. Somewhat above average fitness is required; super fitness is not. We will travel at a reasonably leisurely pace which allows us to enjoy our surroundings. If you have a spirit of adventure and possess the needed fitness, this trip offers you an intensive Kakadu experience to remember for a lifetime.

Those doing the full trip will have to carry only what they need for the first section. Additional food and other items for the second section can be left in a package which will be brought out with the food drop.

You should prepare another package containing some clean clothes for the final night in Jabiru. You should have enough money to pay for your drinks at the pub.

Jabiru Dining. There is now an excellent Thai restaurant at Anbinik. It is BYO so if we eat there, you might want to leave something heat resistant in the car during the trip so that you can have it at the final dinner. It should be possible to connect with flights leaving Darwin after 3 p.m. on the day the trip finishes.

Make sure you keep some money and a water bottle with you during the drives. It may not be possible to get at your pack until the vehicle is unloaded at the end.