Family Bushwalk No. 2: Barramundi Creek: July 4-10, 2027

List price - $3095 For information about our advance purchase and other discounts, see our discount page, www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/discounts and the additional information at the end of these notes.


At the first camp and loving it.

Summary. As with all our family walks, this trip is designed to run at a slower pace than our other trips to allow families with children to enjoy the Kakadu bush.

This walk takes you to some of the nicest permanently flowing creeks and largest pools we have found in the park. You see a variety of landscapes, deep gorges, beautiful swimming pools and cascades as well as a some little known Aboriginal art sites.

Itinerary

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

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

Day 0 **Pre-trip meeting, 6.30 p.m., Pool Side Bar & Restaurant, Hilton Gardens, 122 The Esplanade.** There are two 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.


Setting off. We won't see the vehicle again for a week.

Day 2–6 Bush camping, carrying full packs.

Day 7 Return to vehicle. Drive to Darwin. Drop off at your accommodation.

Now for the details.

We begin with a four to six hour, 350 kilometre drive from Darwin. From the parking area, a relatively easy three kilometre walk brings us first to some pools, then up a hill for some good views, through a patch of forest and finally back down to the creek and our first campsite near a pool, perfect for swimming as are most of the pools we encounter.


Setting up camp. It's hard to go any lighter than this.

During the next five days, we visit magical spots our clients have christened the Emerald Pool, Piccaninny Pools and the Buff Pool. Our route takes us along creeks, up a steep hill, across a plateau, down to another pool and back via the main creek. There are many possible campsites so we can make our decision according to how fast the group is going and how they feel at the time.

If we move reasonably quickly, we have the option of doing some of the walking without packs.

On the final day, we return to the vehicle(s) and drive back to Darwin.

Terrain and Difficulty



For most children, the pools are paradise.

Overall Level 2.

Climate Level 2. Although July is one of the two coolest months of the year, the maximum temperature on most days will still average 30-31ºC (84-86ºF). Although the average nightly minimum is about 16-18ºC (65ºF), it is not uncommon for the temperature to drop as low as 10ºC (50ºF). Occasionally it goes lower still. Sleeping bags are essential. Rain is highly unlikely.

Terrain Level 2-3. The terrain ranges from open woodland to narrow rainforest gorges. Most is relatively flat and easy. A few places require scrambling over river stones of a variety of sizes. There are a few steep, but short climbs. The leisurely pace makes it easier than many of our other trips.

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.



Young children – and parents – who have never done anything like this may find it difficult at first but most of them adapt very quickly.

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. Mostly open woodland or open areas along the creek. There is likely to be one section of grass covered rocks on one short section.



Dinner time.

Hours 4-6 hours most days.

Packs **Pack weight** - level 2-3. You need to carry six days food.

Art There are a few sites along this route.

Campsites Sand or rock ledges. Excellent sites near the water. We should have most or all of them to ourselves.

Swims Swimming is excellent. Good pools at all campsites.

Lowlights Very long drive from Darwin at the beginning and end.

Highlights The waterfalls and crystal clear pools.

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 Goodparla.

Optional Extra

In order to keep the cost as reasonable as possible, we have not included a Yellow Waters wetlands cruise or a night at Cooinda. We could organise the trip to include this or the Guluyambi Aboriginal Cruise on the East Alligator River for an additional charge.

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.)

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

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

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 & equipment, their parents/guardians will have to do so.

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 in our brochure do not.
We need the equivalent of six adult fares to run this trip.