

Kakadu Short Overnight Walks: 30 Aug - 7 Sep 2026

List price - \$3395

Jim Jim & Twin Falls will remain closed for 2026. Severe road damage during a record wet season has made it impossible for parks to open the area safely. As there is no appropriate alternative in Kakadu, we have substituted two walks in Litchfield, adding an extra day at no additional cost.

Special conditions apply so please make sure you read this document to the end.

For information about our advance purchase and other discounts, see our discount page, www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/discounts and see our Special Offers page for more, <https://www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/photoavailability>

Summary. This is as easy as it gets, two short overnight walks plus a variety of day walks and a collection of the best Aboriginal run experiences that the park has to offer.

Day 1 Leave Darwin, drive to Fogg Dam, look for birds & other wildlife, short nature walk on marked trail. <https://www.aussiemob.com/fogg-dam/>
Even if, it's not the best time of year to visit, there is always something to see.

Leave in time for short drive to
10:30 AM Pudukul Aboriginal Cultural tour.

<https://www.pudakul.com.au/>

Lunch at Corroboree Park Tavern. If it is open, we'll stop at Wetland View Top for a scenic view over the floodplains.

Drive to Kakadu stopping at the Mamukala Wetlands. Very short walk to bird hide or longer walk near billabong.

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/do/walks/mamukala-wetlands-walk/>

Visit Bowali Visitor Centre.

Overnight at Anbinik Resort in <https://www.anbinik.com.au/>

Variety of accom possibilities. We recommend the two-bedroom cabins,

<https://www.anbinik.com.au/index.php/accommodation/cabins>

Their restaurant may or may not be open. If not, there are others or we can cook for ourselves.

Day 2 9 AM Guluyambi Cruise on the East Alligator River.

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

Do the Mangarre Rainforest walk,

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/do/walks/manngarre-rainforest-walk/>

And possibly the Bardedjilidji sandstone walk,

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu/do/walks/bardedjilidji-sandstone-walk>

Visit Injalak Art Centre in Kunbarlanja (Gunbalanya old spelling or Oenpelli). If possible do their rock art tour. <https://injalak.com/> Link to Rock Art tour at bottom of the page above.

Visit Ubirr art site late afternoon. Includes climb to view point. Return to Anbinik.

Day 3 Drive to Cooina stopping to visit the Burrungkuy (Nourlangie) art sites. If it is running, we need to be there in time for the Animal Tracks tour at 1 PM. Animal Tracks tour.

Overnight at Cooina, accom or campground, your choice.



Day hike from Tableland Creek camp, Litchfield



Rainbow pitta at Fogg Dam



In Arnhem Land on the Guluyambi tour

Day 4 6:45 AM Yellow Waters Cruise. Drive to Koolpin Gorge. Put on packs and walk to a base camp. The walk should take about 2 to 2½ hours.

Day 5 Day walk from base camp visiting numerous art sites. Lots of swims.

Day 6 Return to car. Drive to southern Litchfield. Walk to a base camp at Tableland Falls.

Day 7 Day walk up Tableland Creek.

Day 8. Return to vehicles, drive back to the main road, then up the 4WD track that goes through southern Litchfield, stopping to visit Surprise Falls on the way. We finish at Tjaynera Falls where a walk of about 1 km brings to our own private camp.

Day 9 We return to the vehicles and drive back to Darwin.



Koolpin Gorge campsite

Now for the details

Some of the people who were looking at our day walk trip expressed an interest in doing some short overnight walks and seeing a bit more. We were happy to oblige. This is the result.

We leave Darwin early on the first morning so that we have time to have a good look at Fogg Dam. While we won't see the amazing concentration of waterbirds that are there during and just after the wet season, there is always something to see. We spotted the rainbow bitta shown at the beginning of these notes on a trip at a similar time of year.



On the Pudukul tour

We can't stay long as the Pudukul tour begins at 10 AM. Fortunately this is only a short distance away. It is run by one of the senior members of the Kakadu Board of Management. He and his family will give you an insight into traditional practices as well as the cultural beliefs that remain so important to them today.

After a roadhouse lunch stop, we continue to Kakadu and the Mamukala wetlands. We will

visit the bird hide, where there should be a good concentration of water birds. If people are interested, we can combine this with a 3 km woodland walk. We spend the night at the Anbinik Resort in Kakadu. (Anbinik is the local word for one of the shadiest trees in the park, *Allosyncarpia ternata*.)



Mamukala bird hide



Crocodile seen on the Guluyambi cruise



Climbing to a high view at Ubirr

Next day, we do the 9 AM Guluyambi cruise on the East Alligator River, a short walk or two, visit the Injalak Art Centre in Arnhem Land, do the walk at the famous Ubirr art site and finish with a night back at Anbinik.

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Animal Tracks: Preparing dinner



Animal Tracks sunset



Basket making on the Animal Tracks tour

Next morning, a relatively short drive brings us to the famous art sites at Burrungkuy (Nourlangie). From there, We drive to Coinda for lunch. If time permits, we will include a visit to the Warradjan Cultural Centre. If it is running, at 1 PM, we are picked up by the Animal Tracks tour and given a cultural experience second to none.

You will get to experience how the local people collected their bush tucker, see how they made some of their crafts and take part in the preparation of a traditional bush meal. We return to Coinda sometime past 8 PM.

First thing the next morning, we do the 6:45 AM Yellow Water (Ngurrungurrudjba) wetlands cruise where we will see a variety of birds and other wildlife.



Yellow Waters crocodile



Yellow Waters Purple swamp hen



Yellow Waters boat

The photos above give you a tiny taste of what it's like. Every

trip is different. I (Russell Willis) have done it 50 or more times and never tire of doing it and am always happy to do it again. After the cruise, we recommend the Coinda buffet breakfast.

From Coinda, we drive to the southern part of the park where we do a two night walk at Koolpin Gorge (Jarrangbarnmi). The last little bit of the track is a real 4WD experience as shown at right.



On the track to Koolpin



On the marked trail at Koolpin

From the car park, 500 metres along a marked, but unformed trail brings us to the first waterfall and the last sign of civilisation we'll see until the end of the walk. As shown at left, even the marked part of the trail is a bit rough with lots of rock hopping. Beyond that, we have to climb past a number of small waterfalls before reaching our campsite on a sandy beach. It's only about 2 km.

The rewards are worth it. Koolpin Gorge is beautiful. The pools are perfect for swimming, the waterfalls and views a photographers delight. Aboriginal art sites tell us that this has been a special place for thousands of years. We spend the second day exploring the upper part of the gorge, enjoying the pools and visiting some of the art sites.



Koolpin swim, zoomed in

On the next day, we return to the vehicles, drive out to the main road and on to southern Litchfield. The final 8 km is on a rough 4WD track. A walk of about an hour and a half



One of the many pools & cascades on Tableland Creek

brings us to our camp at the base of

Tableland Falls. We spend the next day exploring upstream along Tableland Creek, the largest safe swimming creek in southern Litchfield. Large pools and small cascades for as far as we wish to walk.

Next day, we return to the vehicles. The original itinerary finished on day 8, but we will be so close to a number of the nicest, lesser known places in Litchfield that we couldn't resist adding an extra day at the original price.

When we hit the main road, we turn west for a few km, then north along the 4WD track that passes through the southern part of the park. We'll try and have lunch at Surprise Falls, accessible only by 4WD. From there, we continue north to Tjaynera Falls, one of the most popular spots in the park. Rather than spend the night in the crowded campground, we carry our packs along the track to the falls, cutting off uphill through the bush to a lovely small waterfall and pool where we make our final camp.



Tjaynera camp & waterfall

On the final day, we return to the vehicles and drive back to Darwin.

Terrain and Difficulty

Overall Level 2

Terrain Level 1-3. The climb to the top of Koolpin is steep but relatively short. The first two overnight walks include a fair bit of rock hopping. Most of the walking on the day sections is relatively flat. 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.

Climate September is one of the hotter months of the year with an average daily maximum of 36 C (97°F). Fortunately, the humidity is normally still fairly low. The average minimum is 21°C (70°F). Temperatures as low as 12°C (about 54°F) have been known to occur, but they are rare. You might want to leave your sleeping bag at home. If you do, bring thermals for insurance against a chilly night. We tailor our walking to the climate, starting early and having long breaks next to pools in the middle of the day. If you accept the climate, you should have a wonderfully relaxing holiday. If you want to march on regardless of the weather, you may find it frustrating.

Thunderstorms are possible so that we recommend that you bring a lightweight tent or mossie dome with fly.

Vegetation	Level 1-2. Mostly open woodland or open areas along the creek.
Hours	You carry your full pack for only 1-2 hours on the way up and again on the way back. The day walks on the overnight hikes will be fairly long.
Packs	Pack weight - level 1. You need to carry only 2 days food on any one walk.
Art	We visit several major art sites on this walk.
Campsites	Sand or rock ledges. Excellent sites near the water. We should have it to ourselves.
Swims	Swimming is excellent. Good pools all along the creek. If you couldn't see the swimmers in the photo on the previous page, the photo at right is zoomed in to show four people.
Wildlife	Lots of lizards, birds (especially at Yellow Waters), big crocs on the cruises.
Lowlights	The very long drive to the start of the walk. Possible tourist crowds at Ubirr.
Highlights	The views. Good weather. Great swimming holes. Beautiful camps. The cruises and Animal Tracks tour. Light packs.



Koolpin swim, zoomed in



Magpie geese flying over Yellow Waters

What Is and Is **Not Included** in the Price

Included

- All transport during the trip
- All park entry fees
- Evening meals on the overnight walks
- The services of the guide
- The Yellow Waters cruise
- The Guluyambi cruise
- The Pudukul cultural tour

Not Included

- Overnight accommodation
- Evening meals in restaurants
- Your breakfasts & lunches
- The Injalak tour
- Your drinks
- The Animal Tracks tour

Why not include everything?

Based on past experience, people have different preferences when it comes to accommodation; one person will have a dinner that costs twice as much as that for someone else; the price per person for the Injalak tour depends on numbers. We have not been available to confirm whether or not Animal Tracks will be possible.

Given all that, it doesn't seem fair to charge everyone the same or to charge for a tour which might not be available. We'll do the bookings for you but the cost will be in addition to the cost of the tour. Here are some approximate prices to give you an idea of the extra costs you'll be up for.

Accommodation

- Anbinik Accom. Many choices ranging from about \$50 to over \$200 per person.
- Coinda. Dry season rates start at about \$350 per room for a twin or double. Camping

available at a much lower cost. There may be some basic safari tents for a moderate price.

Meals

- Main meals begin at about \$30 and go up to about \$55
- The Coinda Buffet breakfast cost \$38 at the time these notes were written. Highly recommended. We should book this when we book your cruise or room.

Tours

- The Animal Tracks tour was about \$220 per person the last time we did it.
- The Injalak tour was \$40 per person plus \$400 so the cost per person varies.