

Litchfield Explorer: 26 April - 3 May 2026

List price - \$3195 For information about our advance purchase and other discounts, see our discount page, www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/discounts

Summary. This trip is for adventurous people who wish to explore the unknown. Litchfield might not sound unknown, but the parts we visit are seldom visited by anyone else.



The only way to get to this campsite is on foot, carrying a backpack

Itinerary: Litchfield Gregory Explorer

Note 1 Day 0 is the day before departure.

Note 2 This itinerary is subject to change.

Section 1 Litchfield National Park

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 7 to 8 a.m. pick up. Pick up is as arranged at the pre-trip meeting. Drive to Litchfield. There will be a stop along the way to buy cool drinks, etc. Begin the walk. Bush camp, carrying full packs. The drop off vehicles and drivers will then drive to the end of the walk before the drivers and one vehicle returns to Darwin.

Day 2-7 Bush camping, carrying full packs.

Day 8 Finish walk and meet pick up vehicle. Drive Darwin, stopping for cold drinks on the way.

Now for the details

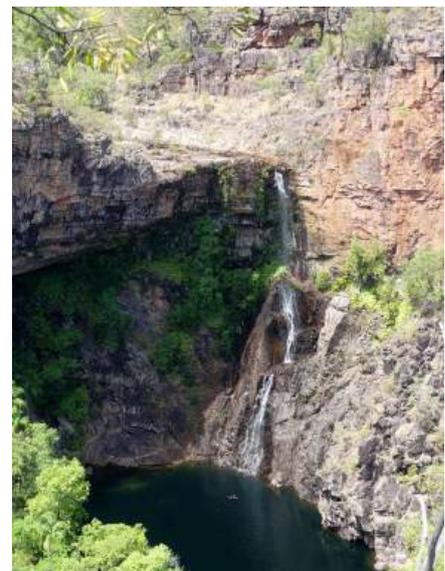
Litchfield National Park: 26 April - 3 May

Located less than 150 kilometres from Darwin, Litchfield National Park is a wonderful area full of permanent springs and waterfalls. Although the northern part of the park has been developed for intensive day use, most of the southern part remains an almost untouched wilderness. No more than one in a hundred park visitors goes anywhere near where we will be walking. Not one in ten thousand would go where we will do our walk.

The tourist map at left shows what we mean. It doesn't even show the creeks we will walk along: Tableland Creek, Surprise Creek, Mistake Creek, Red Rock Creek and the east branch of the Reynolds River.



We plan to do a vehicle shuffle and a through walk. The description which follows is the route we have used since 2018.



High view, Tjaynera Falls. The five people in the photo (can you spot them?) give you an idea of the size.

We begin near the Lost City, or if the 4WD track to Tjaynera Falls opens early, we cut a few km off the first day's walk and begin from there. In either case, we camp at a beautiful spot not far above the main falls. It's such a magnificent spot that we'll stop there no matter how early we arrive.



Enjoying one of the many clear, tropical pools

The serious walk begins the next morning as we do a short climb and head south toward a tributary of the East Reynolds. Some groups get there by lunch, but it's such a nice spot that we stop for the day.



Litchfield campsite

From there, we continue south, crossing the main branch of the East Reynolds. Crossing will almost certainly require a wade.

The next stretch is one of the driest of the trip so we will need to carry enough water to get us to camp that evening. Our normal camp is in a large area where you have the choice of camping on sand or on rock. Plenty of pools and cascades for a swim.



Photo stop, upper Tableland Creek

There are many small ups and downs as we make our way from creek to creek. We walk through gorges, patches of monsoon forest and open woodland. Swims are frequent as we stop to enjoy the many pools we find on the way.

Finally there is Tableland Creek, the largest creek in the southern part of the park. Pool after pool, waterfall after waterfall, swim after swim, it is a magic spot. Most of the walking is fairly easy but there are likely to be a couple of



Final campsite, Tableland Creek

ups and downs along the way. From our final camp, it is only about an hour to where we meet the vehicle.

We then drive back to Darwin, stopping for our first cold drink in a week on the way.

Terrain and difficulty

Overall Level 3+.
Climate Level 3. Average daytime max 32°C, average nighttime min 17-20°C. It can, however, drop below 10°C. Generally low humidity. Rain is unlikely but possible. We recommend that you bring a tent or mosquito net with a fly or at least a plastic sheet for shelter if we do get an unseasonal rain.

Terrain Level 3. There is a fair bit of up and down on section one, less on section two. Much of the walking will be along relatively flat terrain on the top of the range or along creeks. There will be some rock hopping. There will be a few relatively short but steep climbs.



Going downhill in Litchfield

Vegetation	Level 2-4. Varies from year to year depending on when last burnt. In May, most of the spear grass has finished seeding and dried out. Based on past experience, we expect some sections of thick scrub and or spinifex which will make some days much harder than others. There are always flowers in bloom.	
Hours	Generally 4-6 hours. A few days might be longer.	
Packs	Pack weight - level 3. You need to carry 6 days food on each section. You need a light sleeping bag. We recommend a tent or mosquito net with a fly or plastic cover.	
Art	We may visit some art sites on both sections but the art we have found previously has not been as plentiful or as well preserved as much of what we have found in Kakadu and parts of the Kimberley.	
Campsites	Mix of sand, grassy areas and rock ledges. Most sites are good; some are excellent, some no more than average. You are unlikely to see anyone else at any of the campsites.	
Swims	Good pools at most campsites and lunch spots in Litchfield. Good swims in the smaller pools in Gregory but some of the larger pools could contain large crocs. Ask your guide before swimming in the larger pools.	
Highlights	Beautiful gorges, walking on Aboriginal land which has remained virtually unchanged since before European settlement.	
Lowlights	Carrying food for a week. We may encounter thick, sticky spinifex and/or ground hugging vines that make some of the walking difficult.	
Wildlife	Birds are always present but spread out at this time of year. Litchfield is better for birds than Gregory or most of Kakadu. Gregory is excellent for freshwater crocs and agile wallabies. The 2019 group saw many great bower birds. You are unlikely to see many other large animals.	
Fishing	Possible in some places.	
Maps.	The 1:50 000 Prospect Hill map covers most of the route. A small part lies on the Mt Tolmer and/or Rum Jungle maps. The 1:100 000 Reynolds River map covers it all.	

Kapok bush, Litchfield

White faced heron, Litchfield

Notes

This trip is intended to be run at a reasonably leisurely pace so that we can have a really good look at the areas we pass through. It is, however, likely that there will be some long days when it will be necessary to cover a considerable distance. Those taking part will need to be fit enough to do this.

The trip might include a day or half-day walk. You should either bring a day pack or be prepared to use a full size pack on day-walks.

Make sure you keep some money and a water bottle with you during the drives as it may be difficult to get into your pack during the journey.

Crocodiles and swimming. Most of the creeks along which we walk present no problem. There are, however, a few places in the lower reaches of some creeks where large crocodiles could conceivably present a danger. Please ask the guide before you swim in any large waterhole.