

Top End Family Bushwalk No. 1: April 4-10 or April 11-17, 2027

This trip has been designed to run at a slower pace than our other trips to allow families with children to enjoy the Kakadu bush. Two trips to fit different school holidays. Same itinerar. Which one runs depends on which gets bookings first.

Itinerary: Family Bushwalk No. 1

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 and is the taller of the two. **This meeting is important.** If you cannot make the meeting, please advise us well in advance.



Lower Motorcar Falls - can you see the people?

Day 1 7 to 8 a.m. pick up. Pick up is as arranged at the pre-trip meeting. Drive to southern Kakadu. There will be a stop along the way to buy cool drinks, etc.

Begin the Lower Motorcar-Kurrundie walk carrying full packs. Bush camp.

Day 2 Day walk from base camp. Depending on the fitness and interest of the group, we may do the full loop or we may just go down and back to Lower Motorcar Falls.



Near our Baroalba camp.

Day 3 Return to vehicle. Lunch at Cooinda. Drive to Kubara car park. Walk to base camp on Baroalba Creek.

Day 4 Day walk from base camp.

Day 5 Return to vehicle. Drive toward Litchfield. Overnight in accom or camping.

Day 6 Day walk(s) in Litchfield. Carry packs to Walker Creek campsite.

Day 7 Morning enjoying the swims. Return to vehicle. Drive to Darwin. Drop off at your accommodation. *Now for the details*



Motorcar Falls.

Walk 1: Lower Motorcar & Kurrundie

We begin with a long drive to Yurmikmik in southern Kakadu whe we put on our packs and walk a short distance, mostly on a marked trail, to Motorcar Falls. From there it is less than 1 km to our campsite for the next two nights.

Next day, we have a number of choices. The longest is a loop walk that takes us to Kurrundie and lower Motorcar Falls. Alternatively, we can visit either or both of the waterfalls without doing the full loop.



Swimming at Kurrundie

The photos here and at the bottom of the previous page were taken during the wet season. April is normally dryer but there is still a lot of water so the photos should give you an idea of what to expect.



On the way to Kurrundie Falls

The walking is very easy at times, more difficult at others. The many swim stops make it far more enjoyable than a dry walk would be. Doing the full loop requires a fairly steep climb. The shorter walks to and from Kurrundie Falls and to and from lower Motorcar Falls are both relatively flat.

Motorcar Creek flows through sandy soil. Upstream of the falls, Kurrundie Creek flows through clay soil which is why the water in Kurrundie is always cloudier than that in Motorcar.



Lower Motorcar campsite pool



Lower Motorcar campsite



Walking along Kurrundie Creek



Walking through thick grass near lower Motorcar



Kurrundie Creek spa



Crossing Motorcar Creek above the lower Falls

Walk 2: Baroalba Creek. The photos in this section were taken on a number of different Baroalba Family Walks, all wet season or early dry.



Getting a ride from dad

The morning after our day walk, we walk the three km back to the car and drive to Cooinda for an early lunch. We then continue to the Kubara car park and begin our next walk. Three km along a marked track brings to Kubara Springs. From here, we leave all tracks behind and walk another 2½ km walk to a two-night camp. The



On the Kubara walking track

walk begins with crossing the creek, then a short climb to the plateau, then passing through mostly open country along a small tributary. Toward the end we climb up and over a small saddle which brings us to our camp.

Our camp is next to our own private pool where you have a choice of sleeping on the flat rock ledges or on the sandy spots between the grass. The photos at right show the pool and grassy campsite.



Waterfall swim stop



Heading back from the top cascades



Final descent

The next day, we walk upstream stopping to enjoy some of the upper cascades and view a few of the many art sites, something that would be impossible on a day walk. On the final morning, we return the way we came. The three photos above show you a bit of what it's like.

Intermission. Our next walk is a very long drive so we will stop in the small town of Batchelor and spend the night at the Batchelor Holiday Park where you have the choice of accommodation or camping. For at least the past 25 years, the different owners of the park have had twice daily wild bird feedings. Everyone who has been there on one of our trips has thought that this was something really special.



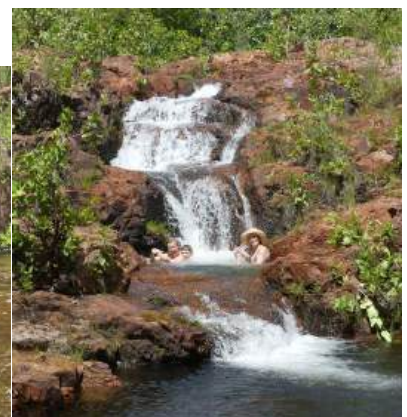
Waiting for dinner



Rainbow lorikeets at the feast

Walk 3: Litchfield.

This will be two or more short walks. We'll begin with the walk from Buley Rockhole to Florence Falls. Depending on how long this takes, we may stop at Wangi Falls (good views, swimming may or may not be open), Tolmer Falls (great view, no swimming) and/or The Cascades (good swimming) before continuing to Walker Creek and carrying our packs to our overnight camp site. Every camp site has its own private pool, so plenty of swimming. The photos at right are on Buley and Walker Creeks.



Terrain and Difficulty

Overall Level 2

Climate Level 3-4. It will be hot. It will also be humid although the humidity normally drops substantially between March and May. The average daily maximum is 33-34°C (91-94°F). The average minimum is 20-22°C (68-71°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 is one of the easiest trips we offer in Kakadu. We have allowed two more days than we would allow for most groups to give those taking part extra time for rest stops, swimming and looking around. There may be some slow sections where you will have to pass through thick scrub. There will be some places where you have to step from stone to stone as you walk along the edge of a creek.

There are few steep climbs, none of which is over 200 m. As short as they are, these climbs are strenuous. One might require using your hands to hold on as you climb up or down. (This can be avoided if the guide decides that it is not appropriate.) None of the climbs are technically difficult. None require ropes or other special equipment. 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. Inexperienced children generally have less trouble coping than inexperienced adults.

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.

The spear grass normally reaches its peak in March, often three or four metres tall in some areas (much shorter in others). We are likely to 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 a number of art sites we can visit during this walk.

Campsites Mix of sand, a pebble beach and possibly a rock ledge. 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 Kakadu's waterfalls. Most creeks are still flowing well and the swimming is excellent. Aboriginal art sites. A still fairly 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** Not permitted on this walk.

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.)

The vehicle which drops us off will return to Darwin until the pickup. Once the walk has been started, there is no way out until the finish.

Depending on the circumstances at the time, it may be necessary to do a somewhat easier walk up and back from Barramundi.

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.

Although you will see some Aboriginal rock art, this may not be emphasised as much as on our standard trips.

If the children cannot carry their own food and 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.