



2019 TRIP NOTES

15 DAY DARWIN TO BROOME



Itinerary

DAY 1 DARWIN

You can arrive in Darwin at any time today. In the evening, perhaps get to know some of your fellow travellers with a Welcome Drink, while we prepare for the adventure that lies ahead. (No meals)

DAY 2 NITMILUK GORGE & KATHERINE

Departing Darwin at approximately 7am we travel south to the natural spring of Edith Falls. After a break and a refreshing dip, we head for the remote outback town of Katherine, home to the spectacular Nitmiluk Gorge. This inspiring natural wonder comprises 13 different gorges, carved over a millennia by the Katherine River. On an afternoon Nitnit Dreaming Cultural Cruise, we explore two of these gorges and discover the customs of the traditional land owners, the Jawoyn people. (LD)

DAY 3 LAKE ARGYLE

We continue west along the Victoria Highway and cross the border into Western Australia as we travel to expansive Lake Argyle, the heart of the Ord River Irrigation System which has transformed this dry region into a lush agricultural oasis. Visit the historic Durack Homestead Museum or take on one of the many bush trails to explore the area. A sunset cruise on the lake is a stunning way to end the day. (BL)

DAYS 4-5 PURNULULU NATIONAL PARK: BUNGLE BUNGLES

Head south down the Great Northern Highway to Purnululu National Park, home of the magnificent Bungle Bungles. Two nights here allows a full day to explore the highlights of this extraordinary National Park, the most famous of which, are the Bungle Bungle domes. Rivers created this landscape of unique orange and black striped 'beehive' geological formations over a period of 20 million years. Unbelievably, only the locals knew it existed until the early 1980's; once discovered by others, the area was made a national park in 1987. We explore Echidna Chasm (2km), known for its towering Livistonia Palm trees, and take a short walk (2-3km) into stunning Cathedral Gorge, where towering rocks create a natural amphitheatre. There is time in the afternoon to take an optional scenic flight and enjoy a birds-eye view of the beehive domes (approx \$400pp, own expense) to put it all into perspective. (BLD/BLD)

DAYS 6-7 EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK

Two nights here allows free time to join one or more of the many activities on offer. This could include a refreshing dip in the

Zebedee Springs, a cruise on Chamberlain Gorge, a bush tucker walk or a bird watching tour. Or simply explore this beautiful wilderness park at your own leisure. (BLD/BL)

DAY 8 DRYSDALE STATION

Drysdale River Station is an oasis in the outback. This million acre, family owned and operated cattle station, runs approximately 10,000 head of cattle and lies in the North Kimberley on the Gibb River Road. Hanging out in the true blue Australian outback means you have all the magical scenery and feeling of isolation you could ask for. On arrival you may wish to explore the nearby surroundings or sit back and enjoy a cold drink in the beer garden, warm yourself around the log fire in the cool night air. (BL)

DAYS 9-10 MITCHELL PLATEAU

Our two day diversion to the majestic Mitchell Plateau is a highlight of the trip. Enter real 4WD country as we travel the rugged Kalumburu Road then turn off onto the Mitchell Plateau Track. After crossing rivers and passing through ancient Livistonia palm forests, we emerge from the savannah and onto the Mitchell Plateau. With two nights camping in the National Park, we trek to Little and Big Merten Falls, take a dip in pristine plunge pools and view Bradshaw rock art. Return to camp on a short helicopter flight for a bird's eye view of this extraordinary landscape. (BLD/BLD)

DAY 11 MT ELIZABETH STATION

Descending from the plateau we travel to the Mt Elizabeth Station Homestead, where you will be able to enjoy the scenery and see what Kimberley cattle station life is really like. Surrounded by water spots, rocky rises and grasslands, you will be sure to take a great photo, enjoy bush walks and settle in for a lovely evening in the Kimberley outback. (BLD)

DAY 12 SILENT GROVE

Discover lily-laden Galvans Gorge, and the tranquil retreat of Adcock Gorge, pausing for a refreshing swim on our way to Silent Grove. The afternoon is devoted to exploring Bell Gorge, a hidden highlight of the West Kimberley. This idyllic retreat, considered amongst the most beautiful in the area, boasts cascading waterfalls and crystal clear pools formed over millions of years – an easy place to while away a few hours! (BLD)

DAY 13 WINDJANA GORGE

Once a Devonian reef, these mountains are over 350 million years old and home to a diverse array of animals and plants. The perfect place to experience the stunning

natural beauty of an outback oasis is the 3.5km geological wonder of Windjana Gorge. Beneath gorge walls rising 90m, we search for freshwater crocodiles, local birdlife and Indigenous bush tucker before setting up camp. (BLD)

DAY 14 TUNNEL CREEK

The morning is spent exploring Tunnel Creek, a 750-metre cave system carved through the Napier Range, in which we discover stalactites, secret caves and a large variety of wildlife. It is here we also learn the legend of Jandamarra, an Aboriginal freedom fighter who used the tunnel as a hide-out in the late 1800's. A refreshing swim in an idyllic waterhole is a highlight of the day. After lunch, we return to the Gibb River Road and visit the Derby 'Boab Prison Tree' before completing our journey to Broome. (BLD)

DAY 15 BROOME

You are free to depart Broome at any time today. If you have more time we recommend you consider a Broome Sights town tour to discover the secrets of this fabulous outback town, or take a trip up to Cape Leveque for a day. (B)





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Itinerary Facts

Please note that this is an indication only. All details are subject to change according to local conditions, itinerary updates and other circumstances beyond our control.

DAY 1 DARWIN

Day Highlights:

Welcome

Distance Travelled:

0km

Meals Included:

No meals included.

Stay Overnight:

The Cavanagh Twin Rooms (All Travellers)

DAY 2 DARWIN TO KATHERINE

Day Highlights:

Nitmiluk Gorge Cruise & Edith Falls

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 400km / 6 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

Katherine Camp (All Travellers)

DAY 3 KATHERINE TO LAKE ARGYLE

Day Highlights:

Crossing into the Northern Territory & Lake Argyle Sunset Cruise

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 500km / 7 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast & Lunch

Stay Overnight:

Lake Argyle Resort Campground (Camping Travellers) OR Lake Argyle Resort Cabins (Camping Plus Travellers)

DAY 4 LAKE ARGYLE TO THE BUNGLE BUNGLES

Day Highlights:

Kununurra & Bungle Bungles Sunset

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 400km / 6 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

National Park Campground (All Travellers)

DAY 5 THE BUNGLE BUNGLES

Day Highlights:

Echidna Chasm, Cathedral Gorge & the Bungles

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 60km / 2 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

National Park Campground (All Travellers)

DAY 6 THE BUNGLE BUNGLES TO EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK

Day Highlights:

Durack Ranges & the Gibb River Road

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 450km / 8 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

El Questro Station Campground (Camping Travellers), El Questro Station Tents (Camping Plus Travellers)

DAY 7 EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK

Day Highlights:

Zebedee Springs & Emma Gorge

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 40km / 1 Hour Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast & Lunch

Stay Overnight:

El Questro Station Campground (Camping Travellers), El Questro Station Tents (Camping Plus Travellers)

DAY 8 EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK TO DRYSDALE STATION

Day Highlights:

The Pentecost River Crossing

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 250km / 5 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast & Lunch

Stay Overnight:

Drysdale Station Campground (Camping Travellers) OR Drysdale Station Twin Rooms (Camping Plus Travellers)

DAY 9 DRYSDALE STATION TO THE MITCHELL PLATEAU

Day Highlights:

King Edward River, Livistonia Palm Forests

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 180km / 4 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

National Park Campground (All Travellers)

DAY 10 THE MITCHELL PLATEAU

Day Highlights:

The Mitchell Plateau, Little & Big Merten Falls, Scenic Helicopter Transfer

Distance Travelled:

0km

Meals Included:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

National Park Campground (All Travellers)

DAY 11 THE MITCHELL PLATEAU TO MT ELIZABETH

Day Highlights:

King Edward River, the

Gibb River Road

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 300km

/ 5 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

Mt Elizabeth Station Campground (Camping Travellers)

OR Mt Elizabeth Station Twin Rooms (Camping Plus Travellers)

DAY 12 MT ELIZABETH TO BELL GORGE

Day Highlights:

Adcock & Galvins Gorges

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 165km / 3 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

Silent Grove Campground (All Travellers)

DAY 13 BELL GORGE TO WINDJANA GORGE

Day Highlights:

Bell Gorge & Tunnel Creek

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 140km / 2.5 Hours Driving

Meals Included:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

Windjana Gorge National Park (All Travellers)

DAY 14 WINDJANA GORGE TO BROOME

Day Highlights:

Windjana Gorge, Boab Prison Tree & Broome

Distance Travelled:

Approximately 400km / 4.5 Hours

Meals Included:

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Stay Overnight:

The Kimberley Travellers Lodge Twin Rooms - shared facilities (All Travellers)

DAY 15 BROOME

Day Highlights:

Clean clothes!

Distance Travelled:

0km

Meals Included:

Breakfast

Stay Overnight:

You are welcome to book additional accommodation at the The Kimberley Travellers Lodge or depart for your forward arrangements.






2019 TRIP NOTES 15 DAY DARWIN TO BROOME



Accommodation

On the 15 Day Darwin to Broome, we offer the choice of comfortable Camping or Camping Plus, on which we assist you to make the most of basic upgrades where available: on nights 4, 7, 8, 9 & 12 (look for the symbol) as follows: 

NIGHT 1 DARWIN

Anytime after 2pm, check into a central Darwin city hotel, The Cavanagh, featuring private rooms with ensuites.

NIGHT 2 KATHERINE

The Permanent Tents at our private Katherine Safari Camp feature twin beds while the shared amenities, including toilets and hot showers, are located nearby.



NIGHT 3 LAKE ARGYLE

Camping on the grounds of Lake Argyle involves dome tents (single/twinshare), swags with fitted sheets & pillows with pillow cases. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets. There is also a fabulous infinity pool overlooking the lake!



Those who have chosen **Camping Plus** will enjoy the comfort of the Standard Rooms (below) at Lake Argyle Resort each have a queen & single bed, private ensuite bathroom, a small fridge, tea/coffee making facilities, airconditioning and a private verandah to enjoy the beautiful surrounds.

NIGHTS 4 & 5 BUNGLES BUNGLES

Camping in the Department of Parks & Wildlife operated Purnululu National Park Campground involves dome tents (single/twinshare), swags with fitted sheets & pillows with pillow cases. On site ablutions are basic.



NIGHTS 6 & 7 EL QUESTRO STATION

Travellers on our **Camping** option will enjoy our private camp on the grounds of El Questro, which also features large tourer-style tents on raised platforms with stretcher beds. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets.



Those who have chosen **Camping Plus** will retreat to the permanent Safari Tents (above), which offer an affordable upgrade option nearby. With twin beds, lighting and a quality ablutions block nearby, these tents ensure you have a comfortable nights sleep while still enjoying the outback essence of Kimberley camping.

NIGHT 8 DRYSDALE STATION

Camping on the grounds of Drysdale Station involves dome tents (single/twinshare), swags with fitted sheets & pillows with pillow cases. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets.



Those who have chosen **Camping Plus** will be upgraded to the basic Twinshare Rooms (above) at Drysdale Station.

NIGHTS 9 & 10 MITCHELL PLATEAU

Camping in the Department of Parks & Wildlife operated 'Mitchell Plateau' Campground involves dome tents (single/twinshare), swags with fitted sheets & pillows with pillow cases. On site ablutions are basic.



NIGHT 11 MT ELIZABETH STATION

Camping on the grounds of Mt Elizabeth Station involves dome tents (single/twinshare), swags with fitted sheets & pillows with pillow cases. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets.



Those who have chosen **Camping Plus** will be booked into the private rooms at the Mount Elizabeth Station Homestead. Basic but comfortable, they have twin beds and shared facilities. Our stay here offers a glimpse into Kimberley cattle station life.

NIGHT 12 SILENT GROVE

Camping in the Department of Parks & Wildlife operated Silent Grove Campground involves dome tents (single/twinshare), swags with fitted sheets & pillows with pillow cases. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets.

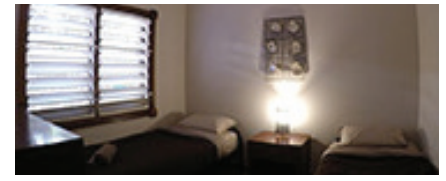
NIGHT 13 WINDJANA GORGE

Camping in the Windjana Gorge National Park involves dome tents (single/twinshare), swags with fitted sheets & pillows with pillow cases. On site ablutions have hot showers and flush toilets.



NIGHT 14 BROOME

The Kimberley Traveller's Lodge is close to town and features double or twinshare rooms with shared amenities, a beer garden and a pool. If you are a single traveller on the **Camping** option, you will share a room with a fellow traveller of the same gender.



Important Notes!

- There is no Single Supplement on the Camping option, while an optional Single Supplement may apply on Camping Plus. Single travellers who do not pay the optional Single Supplement, will be twin-shared with another of the same gender.
- * The optional Single Supplement does not include the Bungle Bungles stay; due to capacity constraints single travellers may have to twinshare with another traveller of the same gender – this is a rare occurrence.
- You will need a Sleeping Bag - bring your own or we can provide for \$35pp if requested prior to travel.





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Important Information

Itinerary Updates

There are no recent itinerary updates to this trip.

Meals

This tour includes: 13 x Breakfasts, 13 x Lunches, 10 x Dinners

Our healthy meals feature fresh ingredients, gourmet salads and local Kimberley flavours. We cater for necessary dietary requirements where possible, so please discuss with us when booking. Meals NOT included are: dinner at Drysdale Station* (1nt) dinner in El Questro (1nt), dinner in Lake Argyle (1nt). Allow approximately \$200pp. *Drysdale Station are famous for their burgers!

Inclusions

- Experienced Guide
- Meals as specified
- National Park Entry Fees
- Indigenous Guided Walk in Tunnel Creek
- Mitchell Falls Scenic Helicopter Transfer
- Zebedee Springs
- Nit Nit Dreaming Cruise (Katherine Gorge)
- Lake Argyle Sunset Cruise

Optional Activities

- Chamberlain Gorge Cruise - approx \$60
- Bungle Bungles Scenic Helicopter Flight - approx \$400

What to Bring: Checklist

- A pair of shoes/sandals that you don't mind getting wet - and we mean fully immersed in water. Ideally, wet shoes or sandals.
- A torch (ideally a head torch)
- A broad-brimmed hat with sun visor for all round protection
- Swimming costume and towel
- Bath towel
- Walking/trekking shoes
- Personal water bottle (ideally 1.5L capacity)
- Small day pack
- Personal toiletries
- Insect repellent & sunscreen
- Long-sleeved cotton shirt (sun protection) and loose-fitting pants (warmth and insect protection for evenings)
- Warm jumper (particularly in May-Aug)
- Sleeping Bag *Note: 10°C sleeping bags are available for sale at \$35pp - must be requested prior to travel and can be kept following your trip or donated to indigenous communities.

Note: Maximum bag weight limit is 15kg - no suitcases

Itinerary Notes

Fitness Level: Advanced

This itinerary involves some clambering over rocks, wading in water by torchlight, walking on rocky creek beds that are unstable underfoot and ascending/descending into gorges. The ability to swim and a reasonable level of fitness and being sure on your feet is required to participate.

Western Australia is a big state, so travelling significant distances is necessary to fully experience the highlights. You will soon discover that they are well worth the journey.

FREE Hotel Pick Up

Kimberley Wild offers free pick up from selected hotels in Broome and Darwin, 6.30am - 7.30am. Please advise where you are staying and let us know if there are any changes. We appreciate your patience if we are running a little late. You being there on time will help make sure we are! Have your mobile phone turned on in the morning in case we need to reach you. Call 1300 73 88 70 if you are concerned you have missed pickup.

Tour Style

This is a Kimberley Expedition: perfect for those seeking to experience the real Kimberley in depth - either with comfortable Camping or making the most of basic upgrades where available on the Camping Plus option.

Important Notes!

1. It is essential that you call the Kimberley Wild office on 9193 7778, the day prior to departure to confirm pick up, and provide a mobile number for any late notifications.
2. Departures are all subject to regional weather conditions and road closures - usually only a concern in Apr & Oct / Nov.
3. Space in a 4WD is limited so please keep luggage light - bring only essentials in a small soft bag, MAXIMUM 15kg. Suitcases are NOT suitable. Excess luggage must be left in Broome or sent to a forward destination.
4. Due to distances covered, this trip involves early departures on some morning and frequent stops between destinations.
5. Kimberley Wild reserves the right to assess the fitness capability of passengers prior to tour departure.
6. It is your responsibility to advise Kimberley Wild if you have any dietary requirements or medical conditions (including allergies).
7. It is important that travellers participate in setting up camp each night, though the guide can assist where necessary. Kimberley Wild guides also appreciate the assistance of one or two group members in preparing/clearing meals. It is essential that all our groups leave the camps they stay in as they found them for the next travellers - the Kimberley is a pristine wilderness and it is our responsibility to ensure it stays this way.

Vehicles

4WD tours are operated in custom-built, 21 seat 4WD trucks with a PA system and built-in storage (no risky trailers!). These comfortable, strong remote area vehicles allow our small groups extra space (including standing room), are fully air-conditioned and fitted with adjustable air-vents, reclining seats, map pockets and footrests. It is important that when booking a 4WD outback adventure in the Kimberley, you understand that the roads we travel on can be heavily corrugated. Rest assured, these are the conditions for which our 4WD trucks are designed.

Power & Phone Reception

Telstra users will get phone reception in most towns and the occasional remote hot spot. There will be long stretches where we are out of phone range. Power points will be accessible on most nights for recharging cameras and other electronic equipment.

Travel Insurance

It is essential that you have travel insurance that covers medical expenses, including emergency repatriation. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects.

Alcohol

Alcohol is not provided. Travellers may bring a personal supply from Broome if desired - preferably no glass bottles as wine cannot be purchased in Broome. Enroute, alcohol can be purchased in some locations. Note: alcohol restrictions are in place throughout the Kimberley.

Climate

The Kimberley has a Wet Season (DEC to MAR) and a Dry Season (APR to NOV). During 'the Wet' most 4WD roads and National Parks are closed. Our tours operate during 'the Dry', when it can get surprisingly cold overnight, depending on where you are - in Broome it can get down to 12°C, while in Purnululu, it can fall as low as 5°C! During the day, we usually enjoy 28 to 30°C. Note: in September and October, as 'the Wet' approaches, temperatures increase accordingly and it can be very hot during the day. It is essential that you are prepared for this - ask our office for advice prior to booking.

