



# 2024 TRIP NOTES

## 14 DAY KIMBERLEY TRAIL



### Itinerary

#### DAY 1 WINDJANA GORGE & TUNNEL CREEK

Departing Broome at 7:00am, travel through the remote and beautiful landscape, as the guide shares stories of local history, people and the environment. Enjoy a morning tea break by the Fitzroy River and visit the Derby 'Boab Prison Tree'. Before long we hit the Gibb River Road, and travel towards the Napier Range. 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. After a picnic lunch, the afternoon is spent exploring Tunnel Creek and learn the legend of Jandamarra, an Aboriginal freedom fighter who used the tunnel as a hide-out in the late 1800's. In this 750-metre cave system carved through the Napier Range, we also discover stalactites, secret caves and a large variety of wildlife. A refreshing swim in an idyllic waterhole is a highlight of the day. Return to Windjana Gorge that evening to camp. (LD)

#### DAYS 2-3 WEST KIMBERLEY GORGES

In the morning we head off to Dalmanyi (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! Spend the day swimming in paradise: further up the Gibb River Road, we discover the cool waters of water lily-laden Galvans Gorge and stunning Adcock Gorge. Amid the rugged beauty of Manning Falls we swim in deep clear pools, relax, explore wandering streams, uncover local wildlife and take a dip in the waterfall pools. Overnight we camp by a billabong on Mt Barnett Cattle Station. (BLD/BLD)

#### DAYS 4-5 THE MITCHELL PLATEAU

Our two day diversion to the majestic Mitchell Plateau is a highlight of the trip. Take on 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 6 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 7-8 EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK

We continue our journey up the Gibb River Road to the iconic El Questro Wilderness Park. Two nights here allows time to join one or more of the many activities on offer. This could include a refreshing dip in the Zebedee Springs, a trek into El Questro Gorge, Emma Gorge or a cruise on Chamberlain Gorge (own expense). Or simply explore this beautiful wilderness park at your own leisure. (BLD/BL)

#### DAYS 9-10 KUNUNURRA & LAKE ARGYLE

Emerge from the Gibb River Road for a few hours free time in Kununurra: sample locally-made rum at the Hoochery and pick up some local sandalwood inspired beauty, health and lifestyle products at the Sandalwood Factory. After lunch, travel on to the shores of the expansive Lake Argyle, the heart of the Ord River Irrigation System which has transformed this dry region into a lush agricultural oasis. Enjoy a refreshing afternoon swim in the Infinity Pool, with a magnificent view across the lake. In the morning, take up one of the many optional activities on offer such as scenic flights and kayak hire. Alternatively, join our guide to visit the historic Durack Homestead Museum or take on one of the many bush trails to explore the area. A sunset boat cruise on the lake is highly recommended (approx AU\$110pp, own expense). (BD/BL)

#### DAYS 11-12 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 helicopter flight and enjoy a birds-eye view of the beehive domes (approx \$500pp, own expense) to put it all into perspective. (BLD/BLD)

#### DAY 13 CHINA WALL & FITZROY CROSSING

Enroute to Fitzroy Crossing, we break the long journey with a visit to the gold rush town of Halls Creek to see the remarkable China Wall. We also enjoy lunch at Marys Pool and visit a remote Aboriginal Art Gallery, before an evening by the Fitzroy River at Fitzroy Crossing. (BLD)

#### DAY 14 DALGUNYA CULTURAL WALK

This morning we Join the Dalgunya Cultural Walk where our local Indigenous guide leads a stroll through the remnants of the old postal settlement. Learn about the wild Fitzroy River: its plants, wildlife and significance to local culture. Finish up with a chat over a cup of billy tea. We return to Broome in the afternoon. (BL)

## Accommodation

The 14 Day Kimberley Trail is an adventurous camping tour with a mix of private seasonal Kimberley Wild Safari Camps and National Park 'pitch your own tent' style camping. You may even try sleeping in a swag under the stars - highly recommended!

#### Important Notes!

- You will need to arrange your own pre-and post- tour accommodation in Broome, and advise our office where to pick you up from on the morning of Day 1. We can assist with recommendations.
- There is No Single Supplement on this tour. On nights when you are pitching your own tent, single travellers will be provided with their own tent. However, due to capacity constraints, when staying in our own private camps, 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 \$50pp if requested prior to travel.





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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. It is important to remember that this is a remote area wilderness, and we need to expect the unexpected!

#### DAY 1 BROOME TO WINDJANA GORGE

**Day Highlights:**

Windjana Gorge & Tunnel Creek

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 400km / 4.5 Hours

**Meals Included:**

Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

National Park Campground

**Walks (Optional):**

Tunnel Creek (Moderate, walking in water), 2km

Windjana Gorge (Easy), 2-3km

#### DAY 2 WINDJANA GORGE TO MT BARNETT

**Day Highlights:**

Windjana Gorge & Bell Gorge

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 250km / 3 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, Mt Barnett

**Walks (Optional):**

Bell Gorge (Moderate, steep sections), 4km

#### DAY 3 EXPLORING GORGES

**Day Highlights:**

Manning Gorge, Adcock Gorge & Galvans Gorge

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 40km / 1 Hour Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, Mt Barnett

**Walks (Optional):**

Adcock Gorge (Easy), 600m

Galvin's Gorge (Easy), 300m

#### DAY 4 MT BARNETT TO THE MITCHELL PLATEAU

**Day Highlights:**

King Edward River, Livistonia Palm Forests

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 500km / 6 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

National Park Campground

#### DAY 5 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

**Walks (Optional):**

Little Merten Falls (Moderate), 1.6km

Mitchell Falls (Challenging), 4.3km \*flight back

Big Merten Falls (Moderate), 10km

#### DAY 6 THE MITCHELL PLATEAU TO DRYSDALE STATION

**Day Highlights:**

King Edward River & Drysdale

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 180km / 4 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Lunch

**Stay Overnight:**

Drysdale Station Campground

#### DAY 7 DRYSDALE STATION TO EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK

**Day Highlights:**

The Pentecost River Crossing

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 250km / 5 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, El Questro

#### DAY 8 EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK

**Day Highlights:**

Zebedee Springs & Emma Gorge

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 40km / 1 Hour Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Lunch

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, El Questro

**Walks (Optional):**

Zebedee Springs (Easy), 200m

Emma Gorge (Moderate) rocky, 3.5km

El Questro Gorge (Challenging) rocky, 9.7km

#### DAY 9 EL QUESTRO WILDERNESS PARK TO LAKE ARGYLE

**Day Highlights:**

Kununurra & Lake Argyle

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 200km / 3 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, Lake Argyle

#### DAY 10 LAKE ARGYLE

**Day Highlights:**

Lake Argyle

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 10km / 0.5 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Lunch

**Stay Overnight:**

Kimberley Wild Private Camp, Lake Argyle

#### DAY 11 LAKE ARGYLE TO THE BUNGLE BUNGLES

**Day Highlights:**

Durack Ranges & Bungle Bungles Sunset

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 450km / 8 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Bungle Bungles Safari Camp

#### DAY 12 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:**

Bungle Bungles Safari Camp

**Walks (Optional):**

Cathedral Gorge (Easy), 3km

Echidna Chasm (Easy) rocky, 3km

#### DAY 13 THE BUNGLE BUNGLES TO FITZROY CROSSING

**Day Highlights:**

China Wall

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 450km / 6 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Stay Overnight:**

Fitzroy River Lodge Campground

#### DAY 14 FITZROY CROSSING TO BROOME

**Day Highlights:**

Dalgunya Cultural Walk

**Distance Travelled:**

Approximately 400km / 5 Hours Driving

**Meals Included:**

Breakfast & Lunch

**Stay Overnight:**

Not Included.





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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: lunch in Kununurra, 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
- Mitchell Falls Scenic Helicopter Transfer
- Dartgunya Cultural Walk
- Zebedee Springs

### Optional Activities

- Chamberlain Gorge Cruise - approx \$100
- Bungle Bungles Scenic Helicopter Flight - approx \$500

### 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 \$50pp - 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 & Cable Beach between 6.30am and 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 an adventurous camping Kimberley Expedition: perfect for those seeking to reconnect with nature and experience the real Kimberley in depth.

### 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 or 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, 21-25 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. We also recommend you bring a personal power bank.

### 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 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.

