

Explore Kakadu & Beyond, NT

Tour Date:
Departs 20 August 2011



For **ACTIVE SINGLES 35 TO 59 Years**
Saturday 20 to Sunday 28 August 2011 (9 days / 8 nights)

Darwin • Kakadu National Park • Katherine Gorge • Adelaide

Explore Kakadu & Beyond

As far as World Heritage Areas go, Kakadu National Park is special as it qualifies for World Heritage listing on the basis of both natural and cultural values. Kakadu is possibly the most exciting adventure destination in Australia. Combined with Katherine Gorge and the rich Aboriginal culture this itinerary is beyond comparison. You will observe Dreamtime Rock Art, swim in remote gorges and cruise among the abundant wildlife of Yellow Waters. This is followed by canoeing on the magnificent Katherine Gorge. There are many opportunities to walk, swim, take photos or just relax by a crystal clear rock pool. You camp in spacious two-person tents, and your guide will ensure the best in food and fun.

The warm climate encourages early starts, which sometimes leaves time for a midday siesta. Most days we get the chance to cool off in a shady spot. Come and explore the remote beauty of the Top End.

Trip Grading

This trip is active and suits people with a reasonable to good level of fitness and competent swimming ability. This adventure is designed for the enthusiastic and adventurous in search of something different. This trip has been graded at an **introductory to moderate level**. However, some days will be quite active. These adventures are best prepared for with some regular moderate exercise. As always with adventure travel, you should enjoy a healthy lifestyle before undertaking this trip. Please bear in mind that because you will be travelling into a remote wilderness, creature comforts are limited.

Your level of fitness can also help you acclimatise to the warm temperatures and humidity, so we suggest a bit of swimming, walking, jogging or cycling to trim yourself up ready for the Territory!

Tour Operator

World Expeditions is the tour operator. They are passionate about off the beaten track experiences that visit wilderness regions of great natural beauty. The itineraries will give you the very best travel experience, designed by people with incredible local knowledge who share our vision of authentic exchange and real exploration with a responsible tourism approach.

Fellow Passengers: Share your journey with other like-minded single travellers. Plus, we 'go the extra mile' and offer a pre-departure contact service to our group of guests (see *itinerary page* for details)

aRendezvous

Small group - limited places. Book early to secure your place.



TOP 5 REASONS TO BOOK

1. Age-matched holiday groups
2. Travel with like-minded singles
3. Tours provided by leading tour operators
4. Early bird savings with many tours
5. Room-mate matching option

Tour Inclusions

- 2 nights hotel (4.5 star)
- 6 nights full supported camping
- 6 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners
- professional wilderness guide & support staff
- all group camping equipment including tents, swags for sleeping, stoves & eating utensils
- all National Park entrance fees
- emergency communications and group first aid kit
- return 4WD transport from Darwin

Tour Dates

Saturday 20 - Sunday 28 August 2011
(bookings close 8 July 2011*)

*Bookings will close before published date if places sell out.

Tour Prices

Prices Per Person AUD	Twin Share	Single Room
Tour price	\$2395	\$2695
Pre/Post Tour Hotel with breakfast, Darwin	\$118	\$213

Accommodation on Trip

During the trip you camp with swags and tents. The guide will prepare all the meals and run the camp, however you will be asked to contribute by putting up your own tents and rolling out swags. Participation around the camp will make for a more enjoyable experience for everybody. We supply swags to sleep on. A swag is comprised of a three-inch thick foam mattress with a canvas cover to keep it clean – they are very comfortable.

- Your swag contains a pillow with pillow cover and one sheet.
- Swags are rolled out inside Mozzie Dome style tents.
- Sleeping bags are essential for warmth. You can bring your own or hire. They are available for hire for \$20 (book in advance) but you must provide your own inner sheet if you hire a sleeping bag. If you are travelling alone you will share a tent with someone of the same gender or you can choose to pay a single supplement for your own tent.

The campgrounds used offer bathroom facilities with flushing toilets and hot showers on 4 nights and composting toilets only on 2 nights.

About Us

At *arendezvous travel & leisure* we offer holiday groups for single travellers. All trips age-matched so there's more chance you'll share your journey with like-minded travellers.

Visiting destinations across Australia and around the globe, choose from short escapes to adventure trips and leisurely touring.

Contact Us

arendezvous travel & leisure

Monday to Thursday 10am to 6pm
Friday 10am to 5pm (EST/EDT)

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For your protection and peace of mind we are a member of the Travel Compensation Fund.

Itinerary for Explore Kakadu & Beyond, NT



DAY 1: Arrive Darwin

Arrive at the Airport in Darwin and make your own way to the Darwin Central Hotel (4.5 star). The rest of the day is at leisure. There will be a pre trip briefing at 6pm at the hotel followed by a welcome dinner. **Meals: D**

DAY 2: To Kakadu National Park.

We pick you up from your accommodation at 7:00am, before heading to the renowned bird watching areas of Fogg Dam for coffee and a briefing on the trip ahead. We then get off the sealed roads and travel east by 4WD along the old Jim Jim Road, passing some of the great wetlands such as Red Lily Billabong. In the afternoon, after setting up camp at Mardugal, we travel to Yellow Waters, an expansive billabong that is home to an astounding variety of wildlife. Here you may encounter brumbies, wallabies and goannas drinking from the waterside, salt water crocodile and thousands of birds including Magpie Geese, Brolgas, Cormorants, Pelicans and Jabiru, Australia's largest flying bird. The flat-bottomed boat and commentary by an expert wildlife guide ensures an extraordinary insight in to the wetlands of Kakadu. The cruise finishes about 6:30pm at which time you will hopefully see one of the unforgettable Top End sunsets behind the lagoon. Camp at Mardugal. **Meals: L, D**

DAY 3: Jim Jim and Twin Falls.

Wake up to the call of hundreds of birds. After a leisurely breakfast, we drive to Jim Jim and Twin Falls, Kakadu's most famous waterfalls. Our day includes swimming through crystal clear waters and exploring these remarkable waterfalls and gorges. The thundering torrent usually depicted in the postcards is a phenomenon that only occurs during the wet season and this flow declines gradually through the dry season until it is a gentle trickle. We return to our group camp-site at Mardugal. **Meals: B, L, D**

DAY 4: Barramundi Falls

It is about a 45-minute drive to Maguk (Barramundi Falls), which flows all year round. We walk through lush sub-tropical forest before stumbling across the falls themselves. A large glassy pond at the foot of the falls lends itself to a relaxing morning of swimming or exploring the natural surroundings replete with the flora and fauna for which Kakadu is renowned. In the early afternoon we drive to Koolpin Gorge, a remote and restricted area accessed by just a handful of tour operators and locals. You can swim in the main plunge pool with its white sandy beaches and shady pandanus palms. **Meals: B, L, D**

DAY 5: Koolpin Gorge

Today involves a full-day hike in the Koolpin Gorge area, deep in to wilderness of the Southern plateau and stone country. The walk involves a lot of rock scrambling through

spectacular gorges, but your efforts are well rewarded by crystal clear, unspoilt rock pools of remarkable beauty and some outstanding views of the surrounding hills and woodland. The pace of the walk and the distance covered is up to the mood of the group on the day. On the way there are often limpid rock pools lined with ferns and Livistonia palms. Within the walls of the gorge birds and animals find water and shelter from the heat of the plains. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore this magical environment and, once again the day can be as strenuous as the group prefers. This is an area that only very few people are privileged to experience, and for many, this day is one of the highlights of the trip. Return to our overnight camp at Koolpin Gorge. **Meals: B, L, D**

DAY 6: Katherine Gorge

After an early breakfast, we pack and board the vehicle once again for our drive to Katherine Gorge. We leave Kakadu National Park and pass through the old goldmining town of Pine Creek. We will spend the afternoon exploring some of the spectacular walks overlooking the Gorge. There may also be time for optional helicopter flights (own expense). We will camp for the evening at the Gorge. **Meals: B, L, D**

DAY 7: Katherine Gorge

Today is a full day of paddling up the Katherine Gorge, enjoying the spectacular scenery and deep clear flowing water. We paddle up the gorge as far as we can in the time allowing, with some relaxing paddling back down stream. **Meals: B, L, D**

DAY 8: To Darwin

After our second night camped by the river, pack up for a our 4WD trip back to Katherine. We aim to return to town by mid morning and head back up the Stuart Highway to Darwin. We may enjoy a relaxing lunch beside the waterfall of Edith Falls or Adelaide River on the way north and expect to arrive back into Darwin around 5:00pm. **Meals: B, L**

DAY 9 : Trip concludes in Darwin.

Make your own arrangements for further travels or airport transfer. **Meals: NIL**

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

CLIMATE

Generally speaking, it is fine, rain-free and there is plenty of sun between May and October. The days are quite warm from May to November (tops of around 35°C) and evenings can be cooler (down to around 15°C). Mid dry season (June-July can be cold at night down to around 5°C in Katherine). As the wet season approaches (Oct/Nov) there are sometimes

spectacular thunderstorms which provide relief from the humidity. Throughout the year we can swim in crystal clear, spring fed pools.

It is essential in this climate to keep up a high fluid intake (plain water is best) to avoid dehydration. The first sign of mild dehydration is headache, which can make your holiday uncomfortable. More severe dehydration can lead to heat exhaustion, a most uncomfortable experience, and there is no 'quick fix' for this condition. Please ensure that you drink 4 litres per day. Your guide will point this out again when you start the trip, as mild dehydration can be easily avoided.

A TYPICAL DAY

The vehicles used on our Kakadu trips are Toyota Landcruisers and take a maximum of eight passengers for each vehicle plus a driver. The rear seating arrangement is generally centre-facing ie. seating along each side of the vehicle. All vehicles are registered as commercial tourist (passenger carrying) vehicles. The guides are very experienced outdoor leaders, so if you have not been camping before they will assist to make you feel comfortable. On this trip there will be one guide only. He/She will be driving the vehicle at all times, and is responsible for ensuring the safety of the group as a whole as well as the safety of individuals. Your guide will also be doing everything possible to ensure that you get the most out of your trip. Feel comfortable about approaching him/her if there is anything concerning you. World Expeditions guides are selected for their excellent local knowledge and outdoor skills. He/she will oversee all food preparation, cooking and all camping arrangements, but you should come prepared to chip in and help where possible (food preparation, loading vehicles, washing-up, collecting water, etc.). Your participation in the running of the trip is not only encouraged, but will also ensure a rewarding trip.

WHAT YOU CARRY

Explore Kakadu and Beyond is fully supported. You will need to carry just a day-pack with your water bottles, lunch, camera and other personal items. You should plan on carrying at least 3 litres of water each and every day.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Specialist gear required includes walking boots and day pack (a comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Full terms and conditions are available on the holiday website. Information was correct at the time of publishing however some details may change without notice.

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