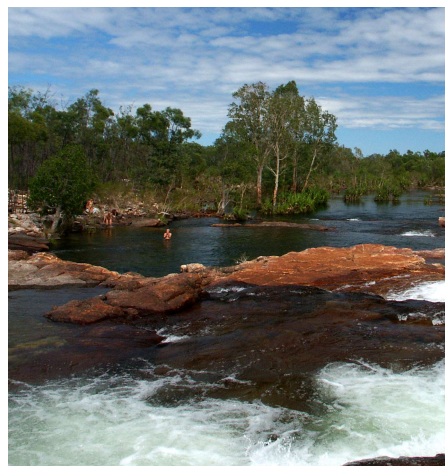


Kakadu Super Circle No. 2: June 5-26, 2022

List price - \$4695 For information about our advance purchase and other discounts, see our discount page, www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au/discounts

Summary. Our longest and most ambitious dry season Kakadu expedition. You see wonderful creeks, gorges and Aboriginal art sites hidden deep within the heart of Kakadu. You experience the best of our Kakadu Circle and Twin to Jim Jim Circle routes as well as the Ayal Buffalo & Wildlife tour and the Guluyambi Cruise along the East Alligator River. It is divided into two sections, either of which can be done on its own.

Anyone considering section two must read the special note on pages 5 & 6 before booking.



Cascades swim, upper Koolpin Creek

Itinerary: Kakadu Super Circle No. 2

Note 1 Day 0 is the day before departure.

Note 2 This itinerary is subject to change.

Section 1 Koolpin to Twin via Jim Jim

List price: \$2595

Day 0 **Pre-trip meeting, 6.30 p.m., Pool Side Bar & Restaurant, Double Tree Hilton, 122 The Esplanade.** There are two Double Tree 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 8 a.m. pick up. Pick up is as arranged at the pre-trip meeting. Drive to Kakadu. There will be a stop along the way to buy cool drinks, etc. Begin the walk. Bush camp, carrying full packs.

Day 2–11 Bush camping, carrying full packs.

Day 12 Walk to Jim Jim Falls car park. Those finishing here have the choice of a drop off in Cooina or at their accommodation in Darwin. Those going to Darwin will arrive quite late, probably after 9 p.m. If you choose to stay at Cooina, we recommend doing the early morning Yellow Waters cruise.

Section 2 Jim Jim to Gunlom

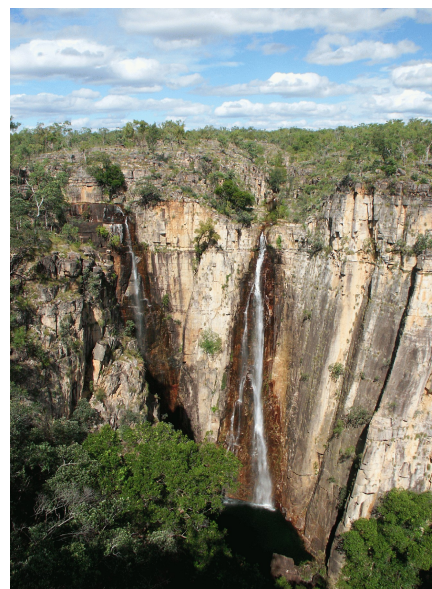
List price: \$3095

Day 12 Very early pick up for those beginning with this section. Pick up is as arranged prior to the trip. Drive to Kakadu. There will be a stop along the way to buy cool drinks, etc. Meet group, begin walk carrying full packs, bush camp.

Day 13–20 Bush camping, carrying full packs.

Day 21 Return to vehicles. Drive to Jabiru. 1 PM Ayal Buffalo & Wildlife tour. Overnight at Anbinik.

Day 22 Depart Jabiru for 9 am Guluyambi Cruise. Return to Darwin. Drop off at airport or your accommodation.



Main falls, Graveside Gorge. You can't get to this waterfall when it's flowing like this without doing a very long walk.

Now for the details.

Section 1: Koolpin to Jim Jim: June 5-16



First falls, Koolpin gorge.

The drive to the start of the walk is about 330 km and four to five hours from Darwin. If the 4WD Koolpin track is open, we drive all the way in. If not, we begin at Flying Fox Crossing on the South Alligator River. This adds about 8 km to the walk, a distance we'll make up over the next ten days.

If the lower area has not yet been cleared of the crocodiles which sometimes swim in during the Wet, we will have to do a fairly steep climb and join the creek above the first waterfall. Once on

the plateau, big crocs are never a problem.

Jarrangbarnmi (Koolpin Gorge) is beautiful. The pools are perfect for swimming. The waterfalls and views are a photographers



In the monsoon forest.

delight. Aboriginal art sites tell us that this has been a special place for thousands of years. Although the gorge is only four kilometres long, it is too good to rush through. We normally take a full day to reach the top.

From the top of the gorge we take a short cut across the plain and through the first of two low passes. Just before the second, there is a sudden change in vegetation as we enter a monsoon rainforest. Generally restricted to small gorges such as the one through which we are passing, these forests offer deep shade and a flora totally different to that of the open plains. Unlike rainforests elsewhere, they are easy to walk through, even without the aid of a track.

Our path now takes us toward Twin Falls Creek where we turn and head upstream, bound for one of the most interesting and least known parts of the park. The plateau is a mixture of sandy flats and broken rock outcrops, many of which hide Aboriginal art sites. Some shelters contain only a few paintings, others contain dozens. No group can possibly visit them all but all groups visit a good selection.



Upper Twin Falls Creek

As we walk, we notice dramatic changes in the landscape. Small and scrubby vegetation in one area, towering paperbarks in another. Flat plains here and rocky outcrops of all shapes and sizes there.

And, of course, there are the swims. Every day we find more beautiful pools that seem to demand that we stop for yet another dip. From Twin Falls Creek, we cross over to the upper reaches of Jim Jim Creek. At this time of year we can avoid some very rocky and scrubby country by walking up the dry creek beds or taking a short cut around the entire area.

We reach Jim Jim Creek and the first of many inviting pools about two and a half days upstream from the falls. The area near Jim Jim Creek is fairly flat so the walking is relatively easy as we move downstream toward the falls, stopping to examine some Aboriginal art and cool off with a swim or two along the way. From the top of Jim Jim Falls, over 200 metres from top to bottom with a final sheer drop of 160 metres, we enjoy spectacular views down the gorge and across the plains to the distant escarpment on the horizon.



Koolpin campsite – a beautiful sandy beach next to your own private pool.



Beach camp, Jim Jim Creek.

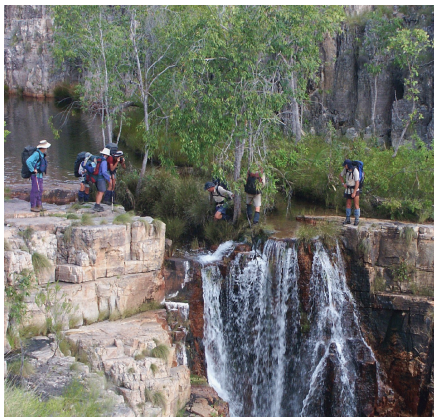
After collecting our food drop, we make our way over Twin Falls (often not open to vehicles at this time of year). If the road has been opened to vehicles, it may be possible to take a boat up the gorge and visit the base of the falls with an Aboriginal guide. There would be an extra charge for this. Or, if the proposed removable walkway is in place, we could walk up.

Maps. 1:50 000 El Sherana (small portion of walk only), Koolpin & Jim Jim Falls

Section 2: Jim Jim to Gunlom: June 16-26

These notes describe our normal route. We may have to replace it with the route described on pages 5 & 6.

The first day of this section is the longest of the entire trip as we make our way across the plains and climb up the escarpment to enjoy the views and pools at Surprise Falls. Those who are doing



Crossing Graveside Creek at the top falls

only this section need to be prepared for an exceptionally strenuous first day. Those doing the full trip will have had ample time to get used to carrying their packs.

From Surprise Falls, we continue across the plateau, passing through the largest patch of open country rainforest in the park, across the upper reaches of Koolpin Creek and over to the top of Graveside Gorge where a

double waterfall drops 100 metres into a pool in the gorge below. After taking time to have a good look at Graveside, we move along to Cascades Creek and the first of its many pools and art sites. The walk down the four kilometre gorge is a slow one. There are a few



Gronophylum Creek waterfall

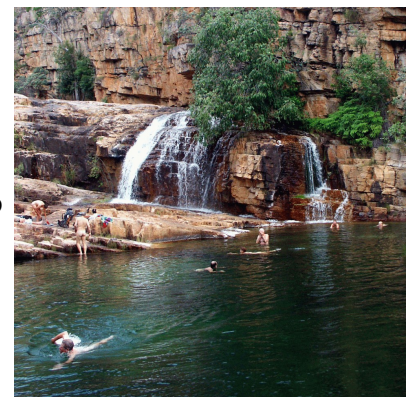
places where you have the choice of edging along narrow rock ledges (close to water level, no big drops), floating your pack through the creek, or climbing up and around.

The pools and art sites are too nice to pass by, so stops are frequent as we make our way down to the cascades for which the creek is named. The last 500 metres often takes two hours or more as the deep pools and a natural water slide are much too inviting to pass by in a rush.

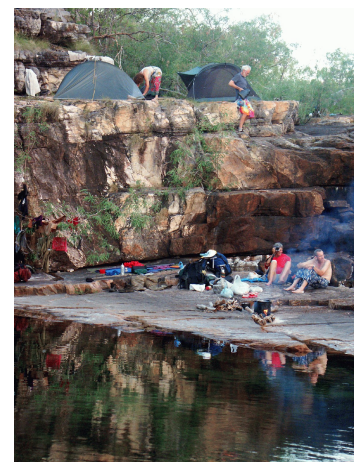
Next, we visit Gronophylum Creek with its unusual multi-trunked palms, beautiful, sandy camp sites and deep, clear pools. The rugged landscape away from the creek is reminiscent of central Australia with its red rock and spinifex covered hills. A short, steep climb to the top of one of the hills presents us with an incredible panorama. Following the creek, you might walk three kilometres in an hour. Following a straight-line compass bearing, the landscape is such a jumble of broken rock that walking three kilometres might take you three days.



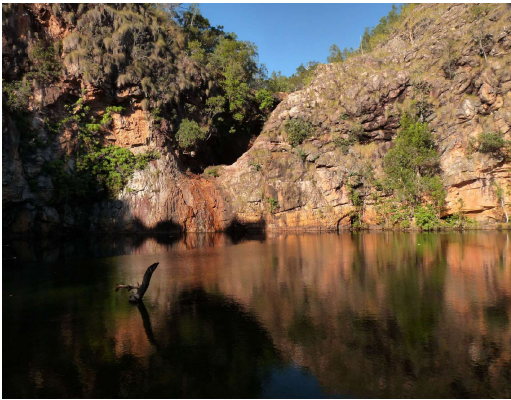
Surprise Falls



Swim stop, central falls, Cascades Creek



Upper Gronophylum camp



Big pool, Barramundi valley

From Gronophylum, we cross to the Barramundi system and its many waterfalls. Our final campsite in Barramundi Valley is on the banks of a huge, shady pool below a small waterfall. It is a beautiful spot, but there is more to come.

The next day is a long one. We follow Barramundi Creek downstream to where we can climb up and over a small pass to get to the Waterfall Creek plateau. Once on top, we still have about 5 km to get to the first of

many pools. If we have a day to spare, we will stop here so we can have a leisurely explore downstream on the final day.

If not, we will have to push on to a final camp near Gunlom Falls. A short walk on the final morning gets us to the top of Gunlom Falls where we enjoy a view out over the plains below. From Gunlom, we drive to Cooina and then to Jabiru where we check into the Anbinik Resort. We need to be there by about noon as we are being picked up for Victor Cooper's Ayal Buffalo and Wildlife tour at 1 PM. For more information about the tour see

<https://www.ayalkakadu.com.au/kakadu-buffalo-camp-history-wildlife-tour>

Russell has known Victor for many years and believes that this is the best possible way to get an understanding of this part of Kakadu's history.

After the tour, our final meal will be at Anbinik or one of the other restaurants in Jabiru.

Next morning, we head north toward Ubirr where we do the Guluyambi Cultural Cruise on the East Alligator River. The Aboriginal guide on the boat will give you an insight into their past and present culture. You will almost certainly see a large number of crocodiles, something you won't see in the areas where we walk.

For more information, see <http://www.kakaduculturaltours.com.au/guluyambi-cultural-cruise>

Maps. 1:50 000 Jim Jim Falls (small portion of walk only), Koolpin & Goodparla

Terrain and Difficulty

Overall	Level 4
Climate	Level 2. Although June is one of the two coolest months of the year, the maximum temperature on most days will still average 30-31°C. Although the average nightly minimum is reasonably warm at about 18°C (65°F), it is not uncommon for the temperature to drop as low as 10°C (50°F). Occasionally it goes lower still. Sleeping bags are essential. Rain is highly unlikely.
Terrain	Level 3. There are few steep climbs, none of which is over 200 m. As short as they are, these climbs are strenuous. Some may require using your hands to hold on as you climb up or down. None are technically difficult. None require ropes or other special equipment. There will be some places where you have to step from stone to stone as you walk along the edge of a creek.



Final swim, Waterfall Creek. Although we are less than 200 m from the tourist walking track, we normally have this pool to ourselves



Guluyambi guide demonstrating how to produce pigments used in rock art



Crossing Koolpin Creek near the start of the walk

The creeks are low enough so that swimming across with packs is unlikely to be necessary. It may, however, be necessary to wade across slippery rocks through waist deep water. Your guide can help if you need assistance. 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.



Walking through open woodland

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. If you are not an experienced off-track bushwalker and you don't do any training or any other form of strenuous physical exercise, you might feel that the trip is more of an endurance test than the pleasure most people experience.

Vegetation Level 2-3. 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. At this time of year, the spear grass has finished seeding and dried out.

Hours Generally 4-6 hours. A few days might be longer. Section one rates as level four because it is necessary to cover longer distances than on most of our other trips. Section two rates as level four because of the long first day. Those who have already done section one seldom find it particularly difficult.

Packs **Pack weight** - level 3+. You need to carry 11 days food. This will include about 2½-3½ kg of the evening meals. You need a sleeping bag but are unlikely to need a tent. We do, however, recommend some sort of emergency shelter.

Art We visit a variety of art sites.

Campsites Mix of sand and rock ledges. Most sites are excellent. You are unlikely to see anyone else at most of the campsites.

Swims June is a good month to see Kakadu's waterfalls. Most creeks are still flowing well and the swimming is excellent. We will have good pools at almost every campsite and lunch spot.

Lowlights Carrying food for 11 days. Possible tourist crowds at Jim Jim and/or Twin Falls.

Highlights Kakadu's biggest waterfalls seen early in the dry season. Perfect weather. Great swimming holes. Aboriginal art sites.

Wildlife Birds are always present but spread out at this time of year. You are unlikely to see many large animals. The Guluyambi cruise gives you a good chance to see large estuarine crocodiles.

Fishing Not permitted on this walk.



Nankeen night heron, seen on the Yellow Waters cruise

Special Note on section 2

We may have to make a drastic change to the route. Anyone booking this section **must** be prepared to accept this change if we have to do it.

The route described in these notes is one we used for over 30 years. While the numbers of feral animals are no greater than they were 30 years ago, they have again increased to the point where Park Management may decide that it is too dangerous for us to use the routes that go across the plains below the escarpment. If that happens, we will have to make a **major** modification to the route. Fortunately, on a trip of this length, this can be done without overlapping the first section for more than a few kilometres.

If we need to make the change and the 4WD track to Twin Falls is open, we will drive to Twin and follow the marked track to the top. If the track remains closed, we will return to the top of Jim Jim and head across to Anbadgoran (Rainforest Gorge). From there we cross to the Amphitheatre Falls on Twin Falls Creek. If we have a fast group, we might then do a day walk to Twin Falls and back.

From Amphitheatre Falls, we follow Twin Falls Creek upstream to where we cross over to a part of Koolpin Creek we didn't get to visit on section one. From there we cross to Barramundi Creek via another waterfall we don't often get to see. We finish at Maguk so that we can include the lower part of the Barramundi Creek system. This route misses Surprise Falls, Graveside, Cascades and Gronophylum Creeks.

Even if we can do the original route, the walking track to the top of Gunlom was closed for two years. It is scheduled to be open by the time this trip takes place. If, for some reason, that doesn't happen, we will finish at Maguk as above.

General Notes

Carrying food for 11 days and covering relatively long distances on section one makes this a physically demanding trip. It should not, however, be an endurance test. Every day you eat some of your food and your pack grows lighter. Somewhat above average fitness is required; super fitness is not. We will travel at a reasonably leisurely pace which allows us to enjoy our surroundings. If you have a spirit of adventure and possess the needed fitness, this trip offers you an intensive Kakadu experience to remember for a lifetime.

Those doing the full trip will have to carry only what they need for the first section. Additional food and other items for the second section can be left in a package which will be brought out with the food drop.

You should prepare another package containing some clean clothes for the final night in Jabiru. You should have enough money to pay for your drinks at the pub.

Jabiru Dining. There is now an excellent Thai restaurant at Anbinik. It is BYO so if we eat there, you might want to leave something heat resistant in the car during the trip so that you can have it at the final dinner. If we eat at the Jabiru Social Club, you will need photo ID. Because of strict licensing laws in Jabiru, you cannot get into the Social Club unless you have photo ID.

It should be possible to connect with flights leaving Darwin after 3 p.m. on the day the trip finishes.

Make sure you keep some money and a water bottle with you during the drives. It may not be possible to get at your pack until the vehicle is unloaded at the end.

Ayal Tour. You need to be aware that any Aboriginal tour that depends on a particular person or small group of people can be cancelled at the last minute for cultural reasons. For example, parts of Kakadu were temporarily closed in 2021 when senior traditional owners passed away. If this happens, we will try and substitute something else but cannot guarantee what that would be.

Map. The 1:250 000 Kakadu park map shows all areas but is not suitable for navigation.