

# wwot jatbula and kakadu



## trip highlights

Wilderness walking
bush camps
Indigenous culture
Arnhem Land Escarpment and Stone Country
Gunlom waterfall in Kakadu National Park
Barramundi Falls (Maguk)
Yellow Waters
Trip escorted by Roz Warne, WWoT



<b>Trip Duration</b>	11 days
<b>Grade</b>	Moderate level
<b>Activities</b>	Trekking with a Full Pack, 4WD, Swimming, Day walks
<b>Accommodation</b>	8 nights camping, 2 nights hotel

## welcome to World Expeditions

Thank you for your interest in our WWOT Jatbula and Kakadu trip. At World Expeditions we are passionate about off the beaten track experiences as it provides our travellers with the thrill of coming face to face with untouched cultures as well as wilderness regions of great natural beauty. We are also committed to making sure that our range of unique itineraries are well researched, affordable and tailored for the enjoyment of our small groups or individuals - philosophies that have been at our core since 1975 when we began operating adventure holidays. 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. Whether you like your adventures to include trekking, touring, cycling, mountaineering, kayaking or cruising World Expeditions can make it happen for you. We hope you will join us for a life changing experience!

## why travel with World Expeditions?

World Expeditions Top End adventures have been in continuous operation for more than 20 years, offering economical, reliable, environmentally friendly small group fully inclusive adventure holidays to some of the most beautiful pristine parts of Australia. Our trips cater to people from many walks of life, age groups and motivations. World Expeditions also offers more than 30 exclusive Australian itineraries that incorporate trekking, walking, rafting, cycling and climbing throughout Australia.

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*Bushwalking between waterfalls and swimming holes along the edge of the Arnhem Land escarpment*

## trip dates

2010 13 Jun - 23 Jun

## trip cost

\$2895 joining Darwin

World Expeditions does not require single travellers pay a surcharge for travelling alone. On all of our adventures we will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same sex and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is \$xSingleSupplementx.

## the trip

The stone country, or Arnhem Land escarpment, is one of the most extraordinary wilderness areas in Australia. The Jatbula Trail in the Nitmiluk National Park features magnificent waterfalls that tumble from high quartzite cliffs, shady monsoon forests that line the creeks and stunning Jawoyn Aboriginal rock art that adorns the caves and overhangs. This trek is the tropical equivalent of Tasmania's Overland Track, a full pack bushwalk that gains access to the heart of the country. The Jatbula Trail winds along the edge of the escarpment from Katherine Gorge (Nitmiluk) to Edith Falls (Leliyn), where you will be totally immersed in this stunning wilderness. To complete this journey we take a short 4WD safari in to the heart of Kakadu National Park, camping and exploring the many highlights of the Top End.

## at a glance

DAY 1	ARRIVE IN DARWIN
DAY 2	DRIVE TO KATHERINE GORGE, TREK TO BIDDLECOMBE CASCADES
DAY 3	TREK TO CRYSTAL FALLS
DAY 4	TREK TO THE AMPHITHEATRE THEN ON TO 17 MILE FALLS
DAY 5	TREK TO SANDY CAMP POOL
DAY 6	TREK TO SWEETWATER POOL
DAY 7	TREK TO LEILYN, DRIVE TO GUNLOM (KAKADU)
DAY 9	TO BARRAMUNDI FALLS AND YELLOW WATERS
DAY 10	ABORIGINAL ART SITES, RETURN TO DARWIN ACCOMMODATION
DAY 11	DEPART DARWIN

## what's included

- 8 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 8 dinners
- 2 nights hotel accommodation in Darwin (twin share)
- professional wilderness guides (2 guides)
- all National Park and camping fees
- all group camping equipment including mosquito net, sleeping mats, ground sheet (tarpaulin), stoves, cooking and eating utensils
- emergency communications and group first aid kit
- transport from Darwin

Local cash payments are becoming increasingly popular with many operators in the adventure travel industry. The policy seems to benefit the tour operators, more than the local economies or travellers, as it avoids local taxes and transfers the cost and risk of cash handling to travellers. In accordance with our Responsible Travel practices we have chosen a policy not to ask for such payments.

## detailed itinerary

### DAY 1 Arrive in Darwin

On arrival in Darwin, transfer at own expense to the group hotel, Darwin Central Hotel.  
**Meals: NIL**

### DAY 2 Drive to Katherine Gorge, trek to Biddlecombe Cascades

We pick you up from your Darwin accommodation at 6:00am before heading south on the Stuart Highway to Katherine, the starting point to our walk at Katherine Gorge. After lunch, we cross the





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## fast facts

**Countries Visited:**  
Australia

**Visas:**  
No

**Vaccinations:**  
Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

**Private Groups:**  
Private group options are not available for this trip

**Singles:**  
A single supplement is not available for this trip

**Leader:**  
Expert local leader

**Brochure Reference:**  
Active Adventures

\*Ask our staff for more information.

Katherine River and begin our trek into the stone country. The Northern Rockhole offers a fantastic swimming spot. We then trek to our evening campsite at Biddlecombe Cascades with its clear flowing stream.

Walk approx 8kms

**Meals: L, D**

### DAY 3 Trek to Crystal Falls

Today's trek takes us through more of the rugged stone country. This includes some interesting Jawoyn Aboriginal rock art sites hidden in the many rocky outcrops and overhangs. The cascades of Crystal Falls are an inviting backdrop to our campsite. We are now deep in to the wilderness of the Arnhemland Escarpment and Stone Country which extends almost 1000 kilometres through the heart of the Top End.

Walk approx 10.5kms

**Meals: B, L, D**

### DAY 4 Trek to the Amphitheatre then on to 17 Mile Falls

A good mornings trek brings us to the Amphitheatre, an aptly named natural pocket in the escarpment. The shade of the cliffs encourages a rich monsoonal rain forest and the rock shelters exhibit the art of the Jawoyn Traditional Owners. Trekking along the edge of the escarpment with its stunning views, we reach our camp and the spectacular 17 Mile falls. The rock pools above the falls offer great swimming in the spring fed clear streams.

Walk approx 9.5kms

**Meals: B, L, D**

### DAY 5 Trek to Sandy Camp Pool

A bigger day of trekking takes us to the Edith River as it flows across the stone country. We will follow the course of the river with its gentle gradients to our evening campsite at Sandy Camp Pool.

Walk approx 16kms

**Meals: B, L, D**

### DAY 6 Trek to Sweetwater Pool

We continue following the Edith River with its Paperbark Forests, cascades and water holes arriving at Sweetwater Pool by lunch. After lunch the rest of the afternoon is at leisure to relax and swim, soaking up the last moments in this wonderful country. We spend the night at Sweetwater Pool Camp.

Walk approx 10.5kms

**Meals: B, L, D**



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## responsible travel

The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence. World Expeditions were the proud recipients of the inaugural Australian National Travel Industry's Environmental Achievement award for our Responsible Travel Guidebook. This detailed guide to responsible & sustainable travel is provided to all World Expeditions clients before they travel. Please ask your consultant if you have not received your copy of our award winning book. Alternatively, you may like to download a copy from our website [www.worldexpeditions.com](http://www.worldexpeditions.com)

## trip grading

Thorough physical and mental preparation is important for your safe participation and enjoyment of this expedition. As with any active holiday, the fitter you are for the activity, the more the attention moves from looking at your feet to experiencing your surrounds. In short, fitness enables you to do more, see more and simply relax more. The best way to train for an active holiday is to simulate the activity you will be undertaking on the trip. Train for uneven terrain by finding a rough narrow bush track, even just your local park or sports field, and go for a lovely long walk in your trekking boots (nothing spoils a trekking holiday quite as much as poor fitting boots!) - splash in the puddles or kick up the dust!

### DAY 7 Trek to Leilyn, Drive to Gunlom (Kakadu)

A short trek brings us to the end of the trail and this outstanding trek at Leilyn (Edith Falls). There is the opportunity for one last swim in the stunning broad plunge pool before lunch and heading up the highway in to Kakadu. We will camp at another idyllic waterfall, Gunlom.

Walk approx 4.3kms

**Meals: B, L, D**

### DAY 9 To Barramundi Falls and Yellow Waters

From Gunlom we drive north in to the heart of Kakadu. We explore the waterfall and plunge pool of Barramundi Falls (Maguk). In the afternoon we set up camp near Cooida and enjoy a sunset cruise on Yellow Water Billabong. This is a great wildlife experience including close encounters with saltwater crocodiles. Camp at Mardugal

**Meals: B, L, D**

### DAY 10 Aboriginal Art sites, return to Darwin Accommodation

From Cooida we will explore some of the classic art sites of Northern Kakadu. In the afternoon we will drive back to Darwin, crossing the floodplains and wetlands.

We return to the Darwin Central Hotel for our final nights accommodation

**Meals: B, L**

### DAY 11 Depart Darwin

The trip concludes at the Darwin accommodation

**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.

## suggested extensions

Explore Kakadu & Beyond

## country information

You will be travelling through Aboriginal land with a living culture and rich heritage. When on Aboriginal land it is necessary to accept that there may be some conditions of travel (your guide will explain) and that local and traditional obligations take precedence over permission to travel. Consider that Aboriginal land is essentially private land and that permission is to enter is a privilege.

There is incredible diversity in Aboriginal culture and each local clan may have their own language and culture. Your guide will keep you informed of local culture, issues, and any considerations for dealing with local people.

## 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 35C) and evenings can be cooler (down to around 15C). Mid dry season (Jun-July can be cold at night down to around 5°C in Katherine). As the wet season approaches (Oct/Nov) there are sometimes spectacular



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Train for pack-carrying by carrying a load similar to the one you expect to carry on the trip. Use the pack you will use during your expedition if possible. Disperse the weight evenly in the pack – a couple of bricks in your pack will feel like a couple of bricks in your pack but a few phone books, a couple of towels, a jumper or two and a few kilos of flour will weigh the same as a couple of bricks but will be much more comfortable to carry and closer to your actual load on the trip. Train for multiple days of trekking by doing so – try loading up and setting out for the park for an hour or so walk every day for a week.

Go early in the morning and it may not feel so strange with other people out training for their own ambitions. Enjoy your training – include friends and family, set some goals, note your progress and explore.

## adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home.

Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant of travel agent.

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

Mental preparation for your trek in the Top End cannot be highlighted enough. Come open minded and ready for a wonderful experience whatever the weather, whoever the group, whatever your preconceived ideas. Your guides will be working to enhance your trek and maximise your safety. Each day, each group, each guide will influence itinerary details but the following will give you an idea of daily timing.

Each day will start with a hot drink call from your guides. They will then prepare breakfast, whilst you prepare for the day and pack up all your equipment. After breakfast the guides finish their last minute packing and you set off for the day's walk. Each day is different but usually the morning walk is 3-4 hours with numerous snack, photo and water breaks along the way.

A leisurely lunch is served with a chance to put your feet up, dry socks, read or simply take in the magnificent scenery. The afternoon walk is usually shorter than the morning walk getting us to camp with plenty of daylight and time for exploring, relaxing or just enjoying a welcome hot drink and a chat. A hot dinner and dessert is served around 7pm with time to tell a few stories.

## what you carry

The Jatbula Trail is a full pack unsupported trek. You will need to carry all your own personal equipment. This includes your sleeping bag, sleeping mat, ground sheet and mosquito net, plus a small proportion of the group food. On average this works out to be 15-17kgs. Your guides will conduct a gear check to ensure you are not carrying too little or too much!

## equipment required

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



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## important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price.

The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

## what's not included

- Airfares
- meals in Darwin
- Items of a personal nature, such as laundry and postage
- Backpacks
- Sleeping Bag hire
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance

## subscribe to our newsletter

To keep up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter! You can do this on line through our website, [www.worldexpeditions.com](http://www.worldexpeditions.com) or contact our office.

## how to book

Please note that all reservations are subject to availability at the time of booking. Your booking will be held for seven days pending receipt of a non-refundable deposit per person and the completed booking form. The deposit is payable by cheque (made payable to World Expeditions), credit card or direct deposit.

Please fax or post your completed booking form to:

World Expeditions  
Level 5, 71 York St  
Sydney 2000  
Ph: (02) 8270 8400  
Fax: (02) 8270 8401

Important: You must be a financial member of

Wild Women on Top to join this tour. Please call Di Westaway, Director of WWoT for details. 02 9907 9843 / 0419 612 704