

OUTDOOR TRAVEL

THE ACTIVE HOLIDAY COMPANY

AUSTRALIAN WALKING HOLIDAYS

2018

KIMBERLEY & NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

13-days / 12-nights small group guided walking in some of Australia's most remote and beautiful regions



A comprehensive circular 4WD journey through Western Australia's remote Kimberley region, departing from Broome. Designed to appeal to experienced walkers, the tour is fully supported with expert guides and includes remote and extreme day walks to discover the many highlights and hidden secrets of this fascinating wilderness.

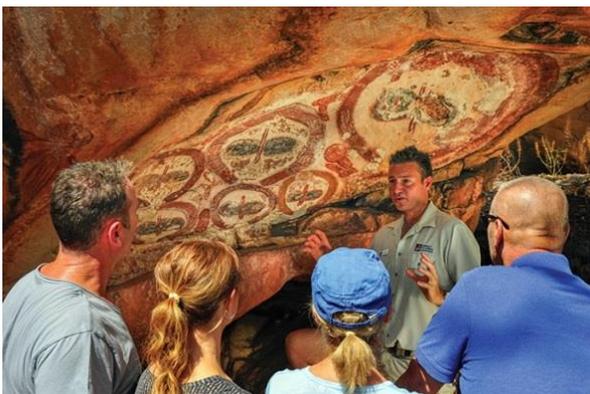
Highlights: Discover Windjana, Bell and Emma Gorges and the Gibb River Road
Guided day walks with expert guides through wilderness scenery
Visit Cable Beach in Broome, Mimbi Caves and Tunnel Creek
Explore Purnululu National Park and the unique Bungle Bungle Range
Stay in exclusive Wilderness Lodges in the heart of this remote region

Cost: From **\$7995** per person twin-share Single room supplement on request

Departs: 6th May, 10th June, 3rd July, 2nd, 23rd August, 2018

Grade: Walking up to 18 kilometres per day in remote country with plenty of ascents and descents and across uneven and sometimes rocky ground - a good level of fitness is required. Moderate to challenging walks are over steep, hilly terrain with some rock hopping and scrambling, following thick vegetation, along creek beds and on rocky surfaces.

Includes: Travel by custom-designed 4WD, twin share / double accommodation with private bathroom facilities as shown in resorts and lodges, meals as indicated, a full program of sightseeing - maximum 20 travellers in the group - with an expert Kimberley driver/guide, park and excursion fees, transfers to and from the airport in Broome, additional guides on selected walks.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1. Arrive in Broome

Arrive in Broome with time to explore some of the remarkable sites in this historic pearl diving town. Make your way to Cable Beach to see one of Australia's best sunsets. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner before your fascinating journey into the Kimberley commences. *Accommodation: Broome Cable Beach Club Resort and Spa. D (Dinner)*

Day 2. Mimbi Caves walk, Halls Creek

Moderate walking @ 2km

After breakfast we drive the Great Northern Highway, passing through Fitzroy Crossing en route to Mimbi Caves. This is an opportunity to gain a unique insight into the Indigenous culture of the Kimberley, with a traditional Welcome to Country from a member of the Gooniyandi nation. With our local Indigenous guide we explore the Mimbi Caves. Some 350 million years ago this area was a tropical reef; now it is a vast cave system, teeming with fossilised fish, freshwater pools, strange and fantastic rock formations, ancient petroglyphs and sites of great cultural importance to the Gooniyandi people. We continue on to Halls Creek, a remote yet busy town that services surrounding pastoralists and remote Indigenous communities. *Accommodation: Halls Creek Motel. BLD (Breakfast Lunch Dinner)*

Day 3. Purnululu National Park: Homestead Valley walk

Easy to Moderate walking @ 4.5km

Our first look at UNESCO World Heritage listed Purnululu National Park, one of Australia's most stunning natural landscapes. Purnululu National Park is home to the famed black and orange striped domes of the Bungle Bungle Range, ascending to 578 metres above sea level. Standing over a grass-covered plain, steep cliffs form the western face. Created by erosion over 20 million years, the range has both geological and Indigenous cultural significance. We get a closer look at the range with a walk along the Homestead Valley trail, shadowing a dry riverbed. In season the trail is surrounded by vibrant yellow acacias. After our walk we head to the first of two *exclusive* wilderness lodges, as we settle into the tranquil Bungle Bungle Wilderness Lodge in the heart of the park. Dinner tonight is a delicious, open-air affair, with your fellow travellers in the newly renovated dining area. *Accommodation: 3 nights, Bungle Bungle Wilderness Lodge. BLD*

Day 4. Purnululu National Park: Echidna Chasm & Mini Palms walks

Challenging walking @ 9km

We explore the northern section of the Bungle Bungle range on foot today. We start with a short walk to Osmand Lookout, for wide-ranging views of the Osmand Range and surrounding landscape, followed by a hike to Echidna Chasm. This is a 200-metre deep crevice in the orange and black rock, which narrows to little more than one metre wide in places, casting the path into eerie darkness. Some scrambling over boulders and use of ladders is required. We continue on to the escarpment, skirting the edge of the Bungle Bungle massif before joining the Mini Palms track. This too is a track on a dry riverbed, through a narrow gorge filled with *Livistona* palms. We head back to our wilderness lodge for a well-deserved dinner. *BLD*

Day 5. Purnululu National Park: Piccaninny Creek & Cathedral Gorge

Challenging walking @ 11km

After breakfast head for the southern end of Purnululu. We start our exploration with the Domes walk through the sandstone beehives of the range, and then continue on to Piccaninny Creek, a winding gorge within the high walls of the Bungle Bungle domes, to the Piccaninny Creek lookout, allowing for wonderful views over the domes. We walk to the Window, where erosion has created a natural window in one of the domes. Here we have the choice of longer walks along Piccaninny Creek with our walking guide, or return to the vehicle with our driver-guide. The highlight of the day is the natural amphitheatre that is Cathedral Gorge. The cavern is large and shady and it's well worth spending some time here to soak up the magical atmosphere and to test the acoustics of the curving rock walls. Later in the evening, back at the Bungle Bungle Wilderness Lodge, enjoy sunset drinks overlooking the Bungle Bungle massif. *BLD*

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Day 6. Purnululu National Park, Kununurra, Kelly's Knob lookout walk**Easy walking @ 5km**

Rise early this morning for an optional helicopter flight over the Bungle Bungle Range (weather permitting, at own expense).

Then we travel along Spring Creek Track through rugged red landscapes to Kununurra, the gateway to the eastern Kimberley and the home of the Ord River Scheme, one of Australia's greatest feats of engineering. The dams were designed to prevent seasonal flooding and store water for irrigation. There is a short hike to Kelly's Knob lookout, where we arrive in time for sunset over the town and surrounding landscape. *Accommodation: Kununurra Country Club Resort. BLD*

Day 7. Ord River, El Questro

We visit Lake Argyle, the largest man-made lake in the Southern Hemisphere, and cruise, looking for wildlife on the mighty Ord River. A fascinating ecological system has developed from the damming of the Ord River at two locations and the area is rich in wildlife and flora. Over 270 species of birds have been spotted here, including kites, ospreys, rock pigeons and the rare purple-crowned fairy wren, and of course we should keep our eyes open for freshwater crocodiles and, on the shores of the lake, wallabies. We have a sumptuous buffet lunch at the Riverside Camp.

Back on the road, we head for El Questro Wilderness Park. This iconic Kimberley location covers nearly a million acres. We stay at Emma Gorge Resort in comfortable, ensuite safari-style tented cabins. Take some time to absorb the serene surroundings before dinner with your fellow travellers. *Accommodation: 2 nights, Emma Gorge Resort, El Questro Wilderness Park. BLD*

Day 8. El Questro: Champagne & Zebedee Springs walks**Challenging walking up to 18km**

After breakfast we set out on a challenging walk over rocky terrain to Champagne Springs. Our effort is rewarded with tumbling cascades, cool waterholes and natural hot springs for a relaxing soak. The walk down is a bit easier and we follow it with a hearty lunch at El Questro Station Steakhouse. We walk off our lunch with a gentle hike along a palm-fringed path to Zebedee Springs, a series of rocky thermal pools known for their therapeutic waters. Later in the afternoon there is a choice of walks, both fairly challenging.

The first is a walk to Amalia Gorge, where a scramble over boulders and a bit of rock-hopping along a dry riverbed leads to a series of waterfalls and freshwater pools. The other option is the full length of the El Questro Gorge trail which is suitable for more experienced and adventurous hikers. Follow a palm-fringed gorge deep into the escarpment, then an ancient spring-fed creek leads to a crystalline swimming hole and waterfall. The terrain here becomes more rocky and steep as we climb to another pristine waterfall and plunge pool. This evening we return to Emma Gorge Resort and have dinner in the restaurant. *BLD*

Day 9. El Questro, Home Valley Station: Emma & Bindoola Gorge walks**Challenging walking @ 5km**

After a hearty breakfast we continue exploring El Questro Wilderness Park. We hike to picturesque Emma Gorge where there may be a chance for a refreshing swim. Afterwards, we cross the Pentecost River into Home Valley Station, an immense cattle property which has a striking backdrop in the Cockburn Range and was one of the film locations for Baz Luhrmann's movie 'Australia'.

We walk and rock-hop along a secluded creek bed to Bindoola Gorge, with its swimming hole and views of the Cockburn Range. Keep an eye out for bird life – the rare purple-crowned fairy wren and Gouldian finch have both been spotted here. Later in the day we indulge in sunset drinks at a viewing area with expansive panoramas of the property and the Cockburns, which change colour from orange to deep red and purple as the sun sets. *Accommodation: Home Valley Station. BLD*

Day 10. Gibb River Road: Galvans Gorge walk**Easy walking @ 2km**

Today we travel on the iconic Gibb River Road, a remote 660-kilometre outback highway between Broome and Kununurra. The 'Gibb' traverses the wild heart of the Kimberley, passing intensely coloured mountain ranges, dramatic gorges, deep rock pools and spectacular waterfalls. At Galvans Gorge a short, easy walk leads to a picturesque waterfall where boab trees cling to the escarpment above. We have time to view the rock art on the gorge walls and have a leisurely swim.

We continue on to the Bell Gorge Wilderness Lodge, our second exclusive wilderness lodge, where we stay two nights. A selection of craft-brewed beers from Matso's Brewery in Broome are available here. *Accommodation: 2 nights, Bell Gorge Wilderness Lodge. BLD*

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Day 11. Bell Gorge walk

Moderate walking @ 4km

Today's walk takes us to Bell Gorge, in the King Leopold Range Conservation Park off the Gibb River Road covers more than 900,000 acres and features seven rugged ranges. Bell Gorge is the most spectacular of its gorges. We walk to the top of the falls, down an uneven path and through a creek bed with river rocks, then down the far wall of the gorge, with some rock hopping and scrambling down boulders. There is time for a swim or to stand under the cascading waterfall before returning to the lodge for dinner. *BLD*

Day 12. Tunnel Creek, Windjana Gorge

Moderate walking @ 5.5km

We turn off the Gibb River Road to explore Windjana Gorge. Sheer cliffs tower above white sand, and ancient marine fossils are embedded in the gorge walls. We may spot a freshwater crocodile on the banks of the Lennard River and waterholes in the gorge. We continue on to Tunnel Creek, a 750-metre-long natural tunnel through the Napier Range, which was a hideout for Aboriginal leader Jandamarra in the late 19th Century.

Torch in hand, we wade through the cool waters of the creek. The walls of the tunnel are lined with waterfalls, limestone ledges and stalactites, and on occasion bats may flit above our heads. We emerge on the other side into a tranquil oasis. Later we travel back to Broome, where our hiking and 4WD adventure through the Kimberley draws to an end. We have a Farewell Dinner overlooking Cable Beach. *Accommodation: Broome, Cable Beach Club Resort and Spa. BLD*

Day 13. Depart Broome

After breakfast there is time to enjoy the facilities of the Cable Beach Resort, including pool, tennis courts and day spa, before a transfer to Broome Airport. *B*

This active, guided walking holiday is just one of **many trips** we offer in the Kimberley and northern Australia. Ask about the 15-day (14-night) **Kimberley Complete** itinerary. Starting and ending in Broome, Kimberley Complete includes some short, easy-to-moderate walking, and includes a visit to Mitchell Falls and the Wandjina and Gwion Gwion rock art galleries. We also offer a 3-day extension to **Cape Leveque** on selected dates. Or for a full Top End experience, the **Kimberley, Kakadu & Arnhem Land** tour takes in all the highlights from Broome to Darwin, including Purnululu National Park, Katherine Gorge, cruising on the Yellow Water Billabong in Kakadu, Indigenous culture and rock art, and stays in four *exclusive* wilderness lodges.

Selected early bookings and dates may be eligible for special air deals, including air credits, companion airfares or free flights – please ask when booking. Terms & conditions apply.



Outdoor Travel offer a range of guided walking experiences in Australia and New Zealand including the **Great Ocean Walk** in Victoria, the **Flinders Ranges** in South Australia and the **Freycinet Walk, Overland Track, Bay of Fires** walk, or **Wineglass Bay Sail Walk** in Tasmania.

In New Zealand try the **Milford Sound Track** (guided or freedom walk), **Routeburn Walk, Grand Traverse, Abel Tasman, Akaroa** or **Queen Charlotte Walk**. We also offer a wide selection of guided or self-guided walks in most destinations in Europe and the United Kingdom, including Wainwright's challenging **Coast to Coast** walk in the UK, or the famous pilgrimage trail the **Way of Saint James** or **Camino de Santiago**, from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations:

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