

11 Day Broome to Darwin 4WD Kimberley safari with Mitchell Falls

Day 1 - Monday 6th July 2020 (L,D)

You will be collected from your hotel in Broome 7.30am this morning to begin your 11 day 4WD safari through the Kimberley region.

This morning we travel to Willaire and then continue to Fitzroy Crossing. After lunch you'll take a ranger lead boat cruise through Geike Gorge, where flood waters of the Fitzroy River have carved the 30-metre-deep Gorge through the limestone at the junction of the Oscar and Geike Ranges.

In the dry season, the river transforms itself into a quiet stream strung out beneath the towering cliffs of the Devonian reef. Here, layers of fossils and the limestone strata of an ancient reef are exposed in cross section, showing glimpses of life in the Devonian period before reptiles or mammals evolved.

Overnight accommodation – air- conditioned safari lodges with en-suites at Fitzroy River Lodge

***Upgrade to motel rooms with en-suites for an extra cost ***

Day 2 – Tuesday 7th July (B,L,D)

Our destination this morning is Tunnel Creek, a 750m long limestone tunnel in the Napier Range, carved into the rock over thousands of years. View stalactites and stalacmites and hear the story of Jandamarra, who used the tunnel as a hideout in the late 1800's.

The afternoon is spent exploring Windjana Gorge, where we can take a walk into the gorge, part of an ancient Devonian reef system where the Lennard River has cut through the Napier range. We view the fossilised reef system and freshwater crocodiles can often be seen lazing around on the river banks.

Overnight accommodation - tented cabins with en-suites at Bell Gorge Wilderness Lodge

Day 3 - Wednesday 8th July (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we make our way through the Napier and King Leopold Ranges to Bell Gorge, believed to be the most picturesque in the Kimberley. En-route we stop to look at the King Leopold Range lookout, which offers great photo opportunities. We can swim and relax at the stunning waterfall and plungepool.

Then we travel to Galvans gorge, where a short walk leads to a pretty gorge and plungepool, surrounded by boab trees. It also has some interesting rock art.

Our destination today is Mt Elizabeth Station, a working cattle station, established in 1945 by the pioneering Lacey Family. En-route we visit an art site in the Gibb River area.

Once we've checked into our Mt Elizabeth accommodation, you should have a couple of hours to take the station nature walk or relax and enjoy your surrounds, before dinner.

Overnight accommodation –Mt. Elizabeth Station, with a choice of either Homestead rooms with shared bathrooms OR rooms with small en-suite (double beds only)

Day 4 - Thursday 9th July (B,L,D)

This morning we travel the Kalumburu Road to Drysdale River Station.

After lunch you have the option (additional cost) of taking a spectacular 2 hour flight over Mitchell Falls and the Kimberley coast.

Your flight takes you past Mt Hann, Deep Gorge and the Rift, then over the magnificent Prince Regent Nature Reserve. Follow the Prince Regent River, fly over unnamed waterfalls, King Cascades, St George Basin, Mt Trafalgar, Prince Frederick Harbour, the Hunter River, Donkins Hill Falls and the spectacular Mitchell Falls. The vast beautiful

unspoilt coastline of the wilderness nature reserve is always a heart winner. You may even be lucky enough see crocodiles, dugong and whales.

Those not taking the scenic flight can enjoy a swim at nearby Miners Pool.

Overnight accommodation – Drysdale River Station, in station rooms with shared bathroom facilities, on a DBB basis

***upgrade to en-suited rooms may be available for an extra charge*

Day 5 - Friday 10th July (B,L)

Our destination today again, to Emma Gorge, part of El Questro Wilderness Park, which is a million acres in size.

En-route we'll view an art site of cuples, Wanjana figures and Petroglyphs (rock carvings). This is also where the local Aboriginal people used to shelter and sharpen their spears.

We'll also stop at a lookout, for fantastic views of the Pentecost River and the mighty Cockburn Range, before driving through the river.

We arrive at Emma Gorge and late this afternoon, you can take the walk to the beautiful Emma Gorge and waterfall, at your leisure. A cool reward awaits you at the end of the walk in, where you can swim at Emma Gorge pool and the 200ft waterfall that is fed from a series of natural springs high above the plateau of the Cockburn Range.

Overnight accommodation – Emma Gorge Resort, in tented cabins with en-suites (2 night stay).

Day 6 - Saturday 11th July (B,L)

Today you have a full day tour to Mitchell Falls, with a scenic flight, 4WD transfers, hiking, helicopter and then scenic flight back to Emma Gorge.

With an early morning departure from Emma Gorge we head west to the Cockburn Ranges and Pentecost River and then onwards over the heart of the north-central Kimberley to the Mitchell Plateau.

On arrival at the Mitchell Plateau airfield we board the 4WD coach for the 20km bush track to the Ranger Base and the start of the 4.5km Punamii-unpuu Hiking Trail to the Mitchell Falls. Along the way you can swim and explore Little Merton's and Big Merton's Falls and be amazed at the ancient rock art sites featuring the mythical Gwion Gwion spirit figures, and listen to some of the significant dreaming stories of the Wunambal people. You'll arrive at the spectacular Punamii-unpuu (Mitchell Falls) at around midday, for your picnic pack lunch, eat rest and swim. For the next 2 hours you can explore the escarpment and swim in the upstream (crocodile free) waterholes.

You then meet at the Helipad for an exhilarating chopper ride over the Falls back to Base and return in the 4wd back to the airfield for a cold beer, wine or a cup of tea, before boarding your homeward flight. The plane departs the airfield and will track to the Cambridge Gulf, and the pioneer town of Wyndham and come in low over the Lower Ord wetlands.

Please note: This tour requires a moderate level of fitness and agility. If in doubt then a 2-way heli transfer is also available, for an additional \$160.00pp. Tour needs a minimum of 4 people to run.

Overnight accommodation – Emma Gorge Resort, in tented cabins with en-suites

Day 7 - Sunday 12th July (B,L,D)

Leaving Emma Gorge, we visit the beautiful Parrys Lagoon, which offers excellent bird watching in the comfort of the purpose built bird hide or from one of the walkways. We also stop to enjoy the breathtaking views from Telegraph Hill, over the billabong and wetlands.

We now head south to the Bungle Bungles. Purnululu National park (the Bungle Bungles) is famous for the ancient range of unusual beehive-shaped domes, gorges and chasms over 350 million years old. The section of road into the park is quite challenging and will give you a real sense of off-road adventure !

Overnight accommodation – Cabin with en-suite in the Bungle Bungles (2 night stay).

Day 8 - Monday 13th July (B,L,D)

We spend today in the Bungle Bungles. Our first stop in the park is Cathedral Gorge, a huge natural amphitheatre, with fantastic acoustics. We then take the walk to the Piccininny Lookout, followed by the "Domes trail walk".

This afternoon we take a walk into Echidna Chasm, which is a narrow gorge of conglomerate rock. The walk in is beautiful, passing endemic livistonia palms.

There's time today for optional helicopter flights (additional cost).

Overnight accommodation – Cabin with en-suite in the Bungle Bungles

Day 9 - Tuesday 14th July (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we leave the Bungle Bungles and head towards Kununurra and onto Lake Argyle.

Lake Argyle is Australia's largest man-made lake, covering 1000sq km and built as part of the Ord River scheme. It offers a great expanse of water from which steep red rocky slopes reach up approximately 150m, in awe-inspiring grandeur.

This afternoon we take the sunset cruise on the lake, where you will cruise through some of the 90 islands and inlets and take in the magnificent scenery of the Carr Boyd Ranges. Enjoy a glass of sparkling wine and nibbles as the sun sets over the rugged red cliffs and azure blue water.

Overnight accommodation - Lake Argyle Resort, in en-suite rooms

Day 10 - Wednesday 15th July (B,L,D)

After breakfast, we start our journey towards Darwin, passing through the border into the Northern Territory and travelling through Timber Creek and Gregory National Park.

We stop to view the Victoria River, one of the largest tidal influenced rivers in the Territory with an abundance of saltwater crocodiles.

Our destination this evening is Nitmiluk Gorge, home to 13 spectacular gorges, carved out of the rock by torrential summer rains, over millions of years.

Late this afternoon you'll cruise for 2 hours through the gorge, discovering the customs of the traditional land owners, the Jawoyn people. Discover the stories and ways of the Jawoyn people against the magnificent backdrop of the Nitmiluk Gorge, changing colour with the setting sun. The tour includes a three course candle light dinner, featuring fresh, local Australian produce cooked on board, a complimentary glass of sparkling wine, tea and coffee.

Overnight permanent camp – Nitmiluk Gorge, in fixed safari tents with proper beds and shared bathrooms (no power or lighting)

***OR Upgrade to an en-suite cabin for an additional cost ***

Day 11 - Thursday 16th July (L)

This morning we take a hands on cultural experience at Top Dij Art Gallery. Activities on offer include sitting down with resident artist, Manuel who will tell you tales of tribal life, language, the hunting and gathering techniques, ceremony, weapons used and aboriginal contemporary life. Experience your own Rarrk painting with Manuel and you will also have an opportunity to participate in one of the traditional hunting activities (firelighting, spear throwing etc.).

After lunch we start heading north towards Darwin. En-route, we call into Leilyn (Edith Falls), part of Nitmiluk National Park and well known for its picturesque waterfalls and pools. In particular, the large pool at the base of the escarpment is great for a swim.

We arrive into Darwin at approximately 6pm and you will be dropped off at your Darwin city hotel.

END ITINERARY

B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner

AUD \$9795 per person, twin share, based on 10 adults travelling

\$11,395 single supplement

Includes GST and quote is valid for travel in July 2020

Itinerary is exclusive to Sacred Earth Safaris, subject to availability road, weather and cultural conditions

Inclusions:

- Sole use of 6WD tour coach, with professional driver guide
- Most meals, as stated.
- Accommodation, as listed
- Entry fees and El Questro Wilderness pass
- Lake Argyle cruise
- Full day tour to Mitchell Falls including scenic flight, 4WD transfers, hiking and helicopter flight.
- Geike Gorge cruise
- Nitmiluk Gorge dinner cruise
- Hands on cultural experience in Katherine

Exclusions:

- Arrival/departure flights
- Travel insurance
- Alcohol
- Pre and post tour accommodation
- Upgrades to alternative accommodation while on tour- extra charge is involved and they're subject to availability
- Extra optional activities, such as Bungle Bungles helicopter flight (please request the flights upon booking to avoid disappointment).