



Gibb River Road 13 Day Adventure - Bushwalk Guide

This document is reflective of the bushwalks you will encounter on the trip itinerary of the 13 day Gibb River Road Adventure with Explore WA 4wd Adventures & Kimberley Dreaming.

This small guide is designed to offer an insight to the walks, their length, difficulty & nature. All our walks can change over the seasons due to a combination of factors such as the wet season, local demarcation changes & other safety factors. Please note, there may be some additional walks not covered in this guide if additional areas are visited, or new places become available to visit.

For all our walks we ask you to bring a light weight shoulder bag that can strap to your person. Some modern "Camelback" bags provide a water bladder & drinking tube enclosed & ample storage for your personal effects however, there are many suitable options & we encourage you to bring whatever is both comfortable & practical for you.

For every walk you should carry the following:

- Sturdy Shoes (these may get wet on some walks)
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Bathers
- At least 2L of water per person.
- Personal effects (Keys/Wallet/Phone/Camera/Jewellery)
- 1/3 Toilet Paper / Lighter
- Basic high energy snacks, like muesli bars, nuts & fruit.

Some other items you might consider for your circumstance

- Small portable 2 way radio
- Hiking / Trekking Pole
- Basic First Aid Items
- Medications

Your trip leader will be carrying in addition to the above

- Basic First Aid Supplies
 - Emergency Locating Beacon
 - Satellite Phone
 - High power 5W UHF Radio
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It is important to note as a group there is differing levels of bushwalking ability. Your trip leader will focus on progressing the group & keeping everyone together safely on our walks by leading the way & will appoint a "tail end charlie" who will have radio communication as well. Our goal is to keep the group together on our walks and not "split" the groups. In some instances, it may be necessary to request guests to wait, sit out or attempt only a portion of a walk for your own safety & the amenity of the group for these activities. If you have any concerns, please talk directly with your guide.

Walk 1) Windjana Gorge (Bandilngan)

Commencing from the trailhead at the carpark nearby our campsite, you walk towards the grey and orange rock face where you can see the river winding through the gorge. Accessible by a small gap-like tunnel you will emerge on the other side to the shady, cool, green gorge where you can take time to view the wildlife. Freshwater crocodiles bask on the beach as others float in the water and flocks of corellas groom each other in the trees and on cliff walls.

Walk - Easy Cat 2

Distance - 1 - 1.5km or more Return (pending your sightseeing)

Duration - Less than an hour (We like to spend the golden hour in the Gorge to see the colours light up before returning to camp for a shower & a campfire.)

Walk 2) Tunnel Creek (Dimalurru)

Tunnel Creek is one of our highlight walks with a bit of adventure thrown in for good measure. The 2 kilometre return walk goes through a naturally formed tunnel carved over millions of years by fast flowing wet-season water.

To do the walk you need a good powerful torch (headlamp recommended), bathers and sneakers or reef shoes to wade through pools that can be up to waist deep in places.

The trail is about 2km return and you need to be surefooted to negotiate rocky uneven surfaces and river sand. In the dark, your torch may light up small bats roosting on cave walls and glowing freshwater crocodile eyes. It can be a little unnerving for some.

Walk - Cat 5

Distance - 2km Return

Walk Duration - Less than an hour (We will spend some additional time in the cave system & you can see if you are able to find the rock art at the other end of the cave, hear the story of Jundamurra)

Walk 3) Bell Gorge (Dalmanyi)

The Dalmanyi (Bell Gorge) Walk is four kilometres return from the car park to a section of the creek just above the falls with spectacular views of the gorge and waterfall.

Be rewarded with spectacular views and walk the marked two-kilometre, gently sloping trail from the Dalmanyi (Bell) Gorge carpark down to the gorge. The carpark is about 40 minutes drive from Gibb River Road. Following wet season rains, great volumes of water cascade from the Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges. In the dry, tourists are attracted to the spectacular cascading waterfalls at Dalmanyi (Bell) Gorge, a relaxing place to swim. The base of the falls form a deep pool surrounded by ledges and sheltered by rocky walls that is a superb spot for swimming. However, accessing the base pool is a more difficult section of the trail. If this popular site is too busy for your liking, you can also explore upstream.

Walk – Cat 2 (Ascending Gorge to lower pools Cat 4/5)

Distance – 4km Return

Walk Duration – 1-3 hours (We will spend a good chunk of time here & allow those accessing the lower pools ample time to frolick in the waters below. You can swim at the top of the waterfall area in the creek also. Guide will lay out plan on the day)

Walk 4) Galvins Gorge

This easy flat 1km one-way trail is one of the prettiest short walks in the Kimberley. A multi-tiered waterfall plunges down a rocky gorge wall into a pretty reflective pool surround by luxuriant vegetation. It is a delightfully pretty spot to relax and ponder nature.

Find the rock art in the ledge, spot the birdlife. This is an amazing stop where we will spend some time just soaking it up. Don't forget the camera.

Walk – Cat 3

Distance – 1.8km Return

Walk Duration – 1 hours

Walk 5) Manning Gorge

This 5.6 kilometre return hike is hot going, but the great thing about it is a cooling swim when you get to the end as well as the beginning. The well-marked trail goes over broken rocky terrain, with some climbing and scrambling at the end. The reward for effort is a magnificent swim in a massive and gorgeous waterfall fed pool. Pack a bag with supplies & we'll spend a long while soaking it all up during the day.

The gorge itself is huge and you can easily spend hours exploring it. It has several pools to swim through and rocks to climb up and over. You can also climb to the top of the waterfall.

Most people of reasonable fitness should do the Grade 4 trail without big problems. Be sure you take plenty of drinking water and don't leave too late in the afternoon to

avoid being caught in the dark.

Immediately leaving the camp, we will need to cross the river to access the walk trail. If the boat is operational (via pulley system) you can ferry across, however you may need to wade, with belongings overhead.

Walk – Cat 4 / Cat 5

Distance – 5.6km Return

Walk Duration – 1.5 – 3 hours (We generally set off earlier in the morning & spend the day here before returning to camp after lunch. It can be a hot walk walking through broken rocky Kimberley scrub. The river is accessible to swim nearby camp – a great place to rest and enjoy.)

Walk 6) Wannamurra / Warla

These walks on Mt Elizabeth Station will be subject to openings after the wet season & conditions often change. We will try & get some updated information on openings closer to our departure date.

Wannamurra Gorge has a tough going 4x4 track to enter a small parking area before clambering on foot across broken rocky country toward the river bed. A short walk further to the falls & one of the most beautiful scenes in the region awaits. There is lots of rock art adorning the walls.

Walk- Cat 4

Distance – 4km return from vehicle stopping point.

Duration – Under an hour.

Warla Gorge is accessible by vehicle. Trailers will be left behind & a short walk awaits. It is a pretty spot to stop, enjoy a cuppa and make a splash.

Walk- Cat 2

Distance – 500m from vehicles.

Duration – Under an hour.

Walk 7) Mitchell Falls Walk

Punamii-unpuu, is an iconic Kimberley landmark and a place of cultural and spiritual significance for the Wunambal people.

The Punamii-Uunpuu walking trail to the Mitchell Falls departs from the trailhead at the campground, where visitors will also find useful rock art and trail notes. The

trail is a moderate to difficult 8.6km return walk, requiring some rock hopping and with some areas with little shade. As most of the group will opt to fly in to the falls & walk out back to the carpark our walk will take approx 1.5 – 3 hours depending on fitness. Along the way Big Merterns Falls, Little Mertens Falls, galleries of rock art & swimming opportunities await the return leg of the journey.

Walk – Cat 4

Distance – 8.6km Return if walking both ways.

Walk Duration – 1.5 – 3 hours *EACH WAY*

*** Most guests opt for the Helicopter Falls Transfer flight which is a 7 minute journey with passes across the falls – an impressive view & experience. There is also the option to take on additional experiences from the air. Delivered at the falls, we will walk out as a group. To make our 3 hour road journey back to “camp” we will need to be leaving at 2.30PM latest from the falls arriving home on dark.**

*** Additional walks in the area may be undertaken & discussed by your guide. Rock art site tour takes approx. 1 hour & is an easy walk from the carpark.*

Walk 8) Emma Gorge

Emma Gorge is one of the best known and spectacular gorges of the Kimberley. Enjoy a challenging, partially shaded, one hour walk and be rewarded at the end with a large cooling waterhole, perfect for a well-deserved swim.

The walk into Emma Gorge is Moderately difficult with some rugged creek crossings. The water is cool & refreshing – can you find the thermal water bubbling up though?

Walk – Cat 3

Distance – 2.2km return

Walk Duration – 2 hours return.

Walk 9) El Questro Gorge * WATER Crossing *

Take a walk along this narrow spring-fed creek through palm and fern clad escarpments to a small, crystal clear swimming hole, where you can relax and drink in the beauty of the rainforest. From this half way point the more adventurous can continue on a path, which increases in difficulty, for another 1.5 hours to reach the top where another crystal clear pool and waterfall await you.

Walking down the creek system requires walking over rocks, on the edges, stepping over and past pools of crystal clear water. It will take around 1.5 hour from carpark to the first pool. For those adventurous souls, clambering up the rock and heading to the back Macmicking pool at the end of the gorge delivers a stunning waterfall. Note – Our tour only arrives to the first pool & is not guided further.

* Please note accessing this Gorge involves driving across a deeper (800mm-1000mm) depth creek crossing that has a firm base. It is approximately 100m long & may be unnerving for some. Your guide will suggest a slow drive in low range 2nd gear with a gentle bow wave at the front. No vehicles without a snorkel should attempt this crossing. Keep the camera handy!

Walk – Cat 3 (Past halfway pool Cat 5)

Distance – 2.4km each way to middle pool.

Walk Duration – 1.5 - 2 hours *EACH WAY pending fitness*

Walk 10) Zebedee Springs

A short walk from the carpark of around 400m on a marked trail. Take a dip in the thermal spring pools under the oasis of prehistoric Livistona palms.

This is an amazing experience & a great way to wash off the dust. Watch the slippery rocks & surrounds when accessing the pools.

Walk – Cat 2

Distance – 400m each way.

Walk Duration – 20 mins each way.

Please note with all walks, watch out for slippery rocks near water – moss and algae build-up makes these rocks extremely slippery. We are in an extremely remote area of the Kimberley so please take the time to be safe & enjoy your surrounds. We hope you enjoy the scenery on these nature walks.

