

4WD Kakadu Tour



Highlights

Aboriginal-owned and kept in pristine condition, all 20,000 sq km's of Kakadu National Park in Australia is laid before you in this guided four-wheel drive tour. You won't get to see it all in two days, but you'll certainly get to see the best bits!

Kakadu National Park truly is a global treasure - a human history spanning 51,000 years, a geology incorporating four major rivers and a spread of wildlife including over 300 distinct species of mammals and birds. Add the fact that this massive park has been protected from the ravages of mainstream tourism and what you have is nature's reconstruction of Eden.

This two-day tour of Kakadu is conducted with this preservation ethos at heart, and your guides hold a deep reverence for the park and the aboriginal people who look after it. Travelling by four-wheel drive through maintained tracks, you'll be taken deep into the heart of Kakadu and shown around this amazing environment, staying overnight in Bush Bungalows, which are set in the small township of Jabiru, in the north of the park.

As Australia's largest national park, Kakadu offers a huge wealth of things to see which would take you weeks to discover by yourself. Luckily, your guides have over twenty years of touring experience and were amongst the first to offer trips into Kakadu. Taking advantage of this expert knowledge means you will have direct access to all the best places of interest (the park is the size of Israel, so trying to discover and get around all the highlights on your own is an impossibility!) By the end of the two days you'll have seen ancient aboriginal rock art, spotted crocodiles on a wildlife cruise, surveyed the floodplains from dizzying heights, learned about the park's indigenous inhabitants, swam in a gorge... the list goes on, and as you can see from the itinerary there certainly aren't any dull moments during your mini-break.

Is it for me?

The tour is suitable for all ages and levels of fitness, with the majority of the tour conducted using 4-wheel drive vehicles. The two days will give you a good taster of what Kakadu National Park is all about, and chances that you'll want to extend your time here are very high.

Guests are limited to 10kg of luggage per person, and soft luggage containers are preferred over suitcases. Any dietary requirements you may have can be catered for - just mention these on booking. Do bear in mind that this region of the Northern Territories can get uncomfortably hot with temperatures peaking at around 30 degrees Celsius all year round, so make sure you pack appropriate clothing.

Accommodation

You'll stay in Bush Bungalows with full bathroom facilities, which are free from Australia's creepier animals. If you'd prefer you can upgrade to hotel accommodation nearby, although this will be at your own expense.

All meals are provided (from lunch on the first day to lunch on the second,) with dinner being a healthy meal made from a variety of fresh and locally sourced ingredients. During the day you'll have access to fruit and iced water, though if you require alcohol for the evening it's recommended to buy this ahead of time.

Itinerary

Prices from

432 GBP (2 days) per person

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Day One - You will be collected from your Darwin accommodation at 7.30 am before heading south along the Stuart highway and into Fog Dam Conservation Reserve. These wetlands have international significance because of their beauty and natural ecosystems - a great variety of fauna can be found here throughout the year as well as a large variety of birdlife.

After a comfort stop at the Bark Hut, the group will make its way into heritage listed Kakadu National park. Kakadu is the largest national park in Australia and has some of the world's finest rock art and a variety of habitats, including floodplains and savannah woodlands.

Once within the park, your first stop is Ubirr where you'll walk through galleries of ancient aboriginal rock art which your guide will interpret. There is also the opportunity to learn about bushtuckers and bush medicines before reaching the top of the plateau, where you can relax and enjoy the spectacular view over the floodplains and Arnhemland escarpment.

A picnic lunch will be served on the banks of the East Alligator River before you head to the centre of the park and to the Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre which will give you an insight into the cultural heritage of the park. In the late afternoon you'll board the sunset Yellow Waters billabong cruise, with its prolific birdlife and wonderful variety of plants. Saltwater crocodiles are often spotted here too.

After the cruise, the party will make our way to the accommodation in Lakeview Park.

Day Two - After an early breakfast you'll make your way in the 4x4s to Maguk (Barramundi Gorge and falls), where you will take a walk through the paperbark forest to reach the gorge and enjoy a refreshing swim in the plunge pool.

From there you'll move on to the Nourlangie area to view the birdlife at Anbangbang billabong before continuing to Nourlangie Rock, an ancient Aboriginal shelter, where you'll explore the area and the rock art. Your guide will lead you on an interpretive walk around the site.

Finally, the tour concludes with a look around the Bowali visitors information centre before journeying back to Darwin (with an aim to arrive at around 6pm.)

Details

Getting there

International flights serve to Darwin direct, the start and end point of the tour.

Price includes

Price quoted is for the wet season (1 December - 31 March, departing Wednesday, Friday & Sunday) and is per person based on 2 people sharing.

Price for the dry season (1 April - 30 November, departing Wednesday & Sunday) is \$695 per person based on 2 people sharing.

Single supplements available.

Accommodation, 1 x breakfast, 2 x lunch, 1 x dinner, snacks, entrance fees to National Park, boat trips, professional driver and guide, transfer to and from Darwin.

If you want to upgrade from camping to a hotel, it is possible, but at your own expense.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

2 days

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed