



## **11 Day Kimberley Circuit Self-Drive 4wd Adventure**

An ideal shorter Kimberley Exploration, you travel the notorious Gibb River Road and explore the spectacular gorges and waterfalls of this remarkable wilderness. The famous El Questro station provides plenty of opportunity for more walking and exploration before Kununurra and the Ord River are visited. You make your way into the famous Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park. Walks into the bee-hive shaped domes, spectacular gorges and the opportunity of a scenic helicopter flight will allow a thorough exploration before returning to Broome through the old gold mining area of Halls Creek and the spectacular Devonian reef of Geikie Gorge.

### **Suggested Itinerary**

#### **Day 1 Broome to Windjana Gorge National Park**

After departing from your accommodation early, travel up the Great Northern Highway to Derby. Ensure you have adequate alcohol supplies for the next 7 nights before leaving Derby. Walk and view the circular wharf, presiding over the 2nd greatest tidal variance in the World, and the Prison Boab Tree before heading off down the Gibb River Road (GRR) and turning right (signposted) towards Windjana Gorge. Deviate for the afternoon to explore Tunnel Creek, a 3/4-km subterranean passage through the Napier Range. Torches are needed but it's a cool place for the afternoon! Retrace your steps to Windjana Gorge turn off (signposted) to right, after a stop on the right at the ruins of Lillimilura, and set up camp for the evening.

**Overnight camping Windjana Gorge National Park. (Toilets & showers)** (6 hours (451 km) driving, 1 hour (2 km) walking.)

#### **Day 2 Windjana Gorge National Park to Bell Gorge National Park**

A morning walking into Windjana Gorge will be very rewarding as you explore this ancient fossil reef, forming imposing walls, and seeing crocodiles basking in the sun. The Gorge is nearly 5km long and the energetic may wish to walk right to the end. Return to the Gibb River Road and turn right, making your way to the Lennard River, where you may be able to stop for a swim. Travel past the Queen Victoria's Head Rock formation as you pass through the Napier Range before turning left to Lennard Gorge (signposted) in the afternoon and soak in the impressive scenery, although the track is usually very rough. Return to the GRR, turn left and continue down to the Bell Gorge (signposted) turn off to the left and make your way to camp.

**Overnight camping Silent Grove. (Toilets & showers.)** (3&1/2 hours driving (140 km), 2 hours (4 km) walking.)

#### **Day 3 Bell Gorge National Park to Manning Gorge**

After a drive to the Carpark and a morning walk into Bell Gorge, you retrace your steps to the GRR. Head off left down the GRR to your next stop, picturesque Galvans Gorge (signposted) on the left for a lunchtime interlude. Park at the gate and walk to the fall.

After a stop at Mt Barnett Roadhouse to pay camp fees, make your way to Lower Manning Gorge. You can walk that afternoon to beautiful Manning Gorge to see the waterfall and some Gwion (Bradshaw) figures. For the less energetic, you can stop for a swim and relax beneath shady paperbarks and perhaps take the walk in the morning.

**Overnight camping Manning Gorge. (Toilet facilities).** (3 hours (155 km) driving, 3 hours (9 km) walking.)

#### **Day 4 Manning Gorge to Miners Pool**

After a morning stop at Mt Barnett Roadhouse, turn left back on the GRR and cross the Barnett River. Turn left to (signposted) Barnett River Gorge. Keep veering right until you get to the carpark or stop at the rocky creek crossing and walk from there. Time can be spent at Barnett River Gorge before heading left on down the GRR towards the Kalumbaru turn-off.

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Proceed straight ahead up to the Kalumbaru Road and, leaving the GRR; you can make a stop and perhaps a swim at Gibb River. Journey northwards for an hour to Drysdale River Station (signposted) to the left for fuel and to pay camp fees. Arrange for a scenic flight over the Mitchell Falls. Return to the Kalumbaru road, turn left and take the right track before the river crossing (signposted) to Miners Pool to set up camp for the evening and perhaps a swim.

**Overnight camping Miners Pool. (Toilet facilities.)** (5 hours (320 km) driving, 1 hours (2 km) walking.)

### Day 5 Miners Pool to El Questro

Returning to the GRR, turn left and continue the Gibb River Road trek. Cross the Durack River (Check depth early in the season). After stopping to view the magnificent Cockburn Range at the lookout on the right, descend the range and ford the Pentecost River. Continue on to Emma Gorge (signposted to left) and call in to the office to purchase a wilderness pass and get a station map. Walk to the gorge and droplet waterfall for a refreshing swim. Retrace your tracks to the El Questro turn-off (signposted to left) and make your way through to the station. There are choices of camping areas. Black Cockatoo at the Station is best if you want facilities.

**Overnight camping El Questro Station. (Full facilities- laundry, toilet & shower.)** (5 hours (281 km) driving, 2 hours (3km) walking).

### Day 6 El Questro

Set off this morning to explore beautiful Zebedee thermal springs (signposted) to right to relax in the tropical surroundings. The energetic then have the opportunity to walk up El Questro Gorge before returning for lunch. This afternoon, hire an electric motor from the store and drive to Chamberlain Gorge (Signposted) to give you a glimpse of the Station Homestead from a distance. Take an electric boat up Chamberlain Gorge to see the Aboriginal Art at the end or do a spot of Barramundi fishing. Alternatively, arrange a boat cruise. Return towards the store and turn left to Branco's Lookout (signposted) for sunset before returning to camp.

**Overnight camping El Questro Station. (Full facilities)** (1 hour (50 km) driving, 2&1/2 hours (6km) walking.)

### Day 7 El Questro to Kununurra

Retrace your steps to the GRR and turn right. Make your way down the GRR to a right turn to MB Rocks and some Aboriginal Art. Completing your traverse of the Gibb River Road, you reach the Great Northern Highway and have the option of turning left to Wyndham and the Five Rivers Lookout. Then retrace your tracks and continue on to Kununurra. This afternoon you may wish to do an optional Boat Cruise or explore Hidden Valley National Park.

**Overnight camping Kimberleyland Caravan Park. (Full facilities)** (1&1/2 hours, (120km) driving, ½ hour walking.)

### Day 8 Kununurra to Bungle Bungle

Departing Kununurra, travel 45-km back to the Great Northern Highway turn-off and turn left. After 50km, you come to the Ragged Range lookout to the left (signposted) for a detour down the old highway. Continue on to Warmun (Turkey Creek) and make a stop at the roadhouse. If you wish, ask directions at the roadhouse to the Warmun Aboriginal Art Centre. 52km along the Great Northern Highway turn left to the Purnululu National Park (signposted) before hitting the dirt to head west 55km to the Bungles. This road has many rough wash-aways at creek crossings. Travel through the Osmond Ranges to Calico Springs, with permanent water, which makes a pleasant stop. Stop at the Ranger Station and pay camp and entry fees. Turn left at 3 ways and make your way to Kurrajong Camp. Walk up the limestone ridge behind the camp for sunset.

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**Overnight camping Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park. (Toilet facilities)** (6 hours (322km) driving, 2 hour sightseeing and exploring.)

### Day 9 Bungle Bungle

Head off in the morning to the southern side of the massif to allow time to fully explore and appreciate the magnificent domes area of Piccaninny Creek. On the way, drop into the airstrip (signposted) to the right and arrange a time for optional helicopter flights, preferably lunchtime. An easy-paced walk up the creek flanked by the curious, striped Beehive domes brings you to hidden gorges and a wide array of vegetation. Time can be spent wandering around these awe-inspiring, striped, beehive-shaped domes before an optional helicopter flight (app \$190) and lunch. This afternoon you can travel around to the northern side of the massif and explore Echidna Chasm. If time allows, also visit Froghole Gorge.

**Overnight camping Kurrajong Camp, Purnululu National Park. (Toilet facilities.)** (3 hours (100 km) driving, 3 hours (6 km) walking)

### Day 10 Bungle Bungle to Fitzroy Crossing

Retrace your tracks to the Great Northern Highway and turn left. Cross the Ord River and continue on to Halls Creek. Turn left (signposted) down the Duncan Highway to Old Halls Creek. Turn left (signposted) to see the China Wall, a curious Quartz Ridge. Continue to Old Halls Creek and examine the ruins of the Gold Rush town and the graves in the old cemetery. Return to the highway and turn left before continuing along to Ngumban Cliff (lookout to left) Continue to Fitzroy Crossing and your overnight camping at the Lodge.

**Overnight camping Fitzroy River Lodge. (Full facilities.)** (7 hours (492km) driving and 1/2 hours (1km) walking)

### Day 11: Fitzroy Crossing to Broome

A delightful morning can be spent with Darngku Heritage Cruises, cruising and walking Geikie Gorge in the company of Bunaba Traditional Owners. The whitewashed cliffs and limestone eroded by massive Fitzroy River Floods are quite spectacular. After lunch, and a look around the Old Town and crossing, continue through Kimberley cattle country to a stop at Willare and the mighty Fitzroy River before finishing at Broome, the Pearl of the North.

**Finish Broome.** (5 hours (400 km) driving, 2&1/2 hours cruising)

### Recommended References

The above itineraries are not intended as the sole guide to the details of your route. Four Wheel Drive Hire Service recommends the following references be consulted or purchased prior to departure.

### Map

Hema Maps – The Kimberley, Great Desert Tracks of Australia NW

### Guide Book

*The Kimberley- An Adventurers Guide* by Ron and Viv Moon  
*Discover Australia by 4WD* by Ron and Viv Moon.

### Background Reading

*Kings in Grass Castles* by Mary Durack  
*The Australian Geographic Guide to the Kimberley.*  
*The Explorers* by Tim Flannery

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### Websites

Moon Guidebooks- [www.guidebooks.com.au](http://www.guidebooks.com.au)

Hema Maps for an idea of the range of maps and information on suppliers -

[www.hemamaps.com.au](http://www.hemamaps.com.au)

Detailed Track notes-[www.mynrma.com.au/travel/go/outback\\_tracks/index.shtml](http://www.mynrma.com.au/travel/go/outback_tracks/index.shtml)

National Park Information- [www.calm.wa.gov.au/national\\_parks/index.html](http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/national_parks/index.html)

Aboriginal books- [www.magabala.com.au](http://www.magabala.com.au)

Darngku Heritage Cruise- [www.darngku.com.au](http://www.darngku.com.au)