



### **3 Day Gibb River Road Explorer 4wd Self-Drive Adventure**

The notorious Gibb River Road provides access to some of the most spectacular Gorges and waterfalls in the Kimberley. The Devonian reefs of Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Creek and Geikie Gorge are outstanding Limestone features and Lennards Gorge is a sandstone gorge cut through the King Leopold Ranges. If more time is available, it is possible to extend the journey to visit other spectacular gorges such as Bell, Galvans and Diamond Gorge. A wonderful introduction to the spectacular Kimberley.

#### **Suggested Itinerary**

##### **Day 1 Broome to Fitzroy Crossing**

Ensure the Darnkgu Heritage Cruise is booked for the afternoon. Conservation and Land Management (CALM) run a cheaper, shorter cruise if preferred. Depart early from your accommodation and drive through Kimberley cattle country for the morning. After a morning stop near the Fitzroy River at Willare, you can detour to Derby and visit the wharf and Prison Boab Tree. You arrive in Fitzroy Crossing and head out to the gorge before enjoying an afternoon Darnkgu Heritage Cruise on Geikie Gorge. Your camping this evening is at the

**Fitzroy River Safari Lodge (Full facilities- shower, toilet and laundry.)** (5 hours (400 km) driving, 1&1/2 hours (12 km) cruising.)

##### **Day 2 Fitzroy Crossing to Windjana Gorge**

Retracing our steps a short distance up the Great Northern Highway, we turn off to the right (signposted) to Tunnel Creek, a 3/4 km subterranean walk through the Napier Range. Continue on with a stop at the ruins of Lillilmoolooro, (signposted) to right, site of the first dramatic chapter in the story of Jandamarra, an Aboriginal resistance fighter, before heading right towards Windjana Gorge (signposted) and establishing camp. An afternoon walking into Windjana Gorge will be very rewarding as you explore this ancient fossil reef forming imposing walls and see crocodiles basking in the sun. The Gorge is nearly 5km long and the energetic may wish to walk right to the end.

**Overnight camping Windjana Gorge National Park. (Toilet & shower facilities)** (3 hours (151 km) driving, 1&1/2 hours (3km) walking.)

##### **Day 3 Windjana Gorge National Park to Broome**

Drive to the Gibb River Road (GRR) and, turning right, make 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 the Lennard Gorge (signposted). The track is quite rough as you make your way to the car park. The walk to the falls looks terribly steep but it's not as bad as it looks. Have a delightful swim and soak in this magnificent Kimberley scenery. Return to the GRR and turn right. Travel back through the King Leopold Range and Napier Ranges, past the Windjana Gorge turn-off and on to the bitumen. Turn right (signposted) to Derby and stop on the right (signposted) for the Prison Boab, one of the fattest boab trees you'll see! Continue on to Derby and have a look at and walk around the Circular wharf before retracing tracks out of town. Stop at Willare roadhouse on right and cross the Fitzroy River before making your way on to Broome. (460km (6&1/2 hours) driving, 1 hour walking)

#### **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

### **3 Day Gibb River Road Explorer**

#### **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

#### **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)