



## JATBULA TRAIL | 6 DAYS | 62 KM

THE ARNHEM LAND ESCARPMENT COUNTRY IS A VAST WILDERNESS AREA IN THE TOP END OF AUSTRALIA. THE JATBULA TRAIL TAKES US DEEP INTO THIS WILD REGION.

The Jatbula trail follows an ancient Jawoyn song line through the Nitmiluk National Park. The trail takes us up onto the Arnhem Land Escarpment through shady monsoon forests, past spectacular waterfalls and their crystal clear swimming pools and introduces us to stunning Jawoyn Aboriginal rock art sites. We camp in some of the most spectacular wilderness country in Australia.

The Jatbula Trail is a full pack bushwalking adventure, taking us far away from city life and immersing us into this ancient wonderland. The Jatbula is an exclusive destination opening only during the dry season from June to September, with a limit of 15 people per day permitted on the trail. Trek Tours Australia operate trips in June, July, and early August, the coolest and driest months - enjoying perfect blue sky days, cool nights and plenty of water for our frequent swims.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners.
- All delicious snacks on the trail.
- Professional wilderness guides.
- All national park permits and camping fees.
- All camping equipment including mosquito net, sleeping bag, and sleeping mat.
- All catering equipment including cutlery, cups, plates, bowls.
- Emergency satellite communication/navigation equipment.
- Wilderness first aid equipment and supplies.
- Transport from Darwin and return.
- Gear hire: Backpack \$50.

## WHAT YOU CARRY

On the 6 day Jatbula Trail adventure you will need to carry all your personal equipment in a full trekking back pack that is a minimum of 75 litres in capacity. This includes a sleeping bag, inflatable sleeping mat, mosquito dome, a proportion of the group's food supplies and all personal items as specified in our gear list. Depending on the quality and quantity of personal gear and toiletries, the average pack weight should be 12-15kg.

A comprehensive gear list is included detailing what equipment/clothing is included in the tour cost, what items are available for hire and what you will need to bring with you. A gear check will be conducted by your guides once you reach Katherine Gorge, to ensure the right mix of gear for your adventure.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

Trek Tours Australia's 6 day Jatbula Trail Adventure is a demanding walk, we advise you to do as much training as you can before your trek with us. The more you train prior to this adventure the easier you will handle the terrain and the more you will enjoy this wonderful part of the world. It's also important to come along with an open mind ready for an awesome experience whatever the weather, whoever the group. It is very important that you bring the right gear for the conditions. A comprehensive gear list is included at the end of this brochure. Quality backpacks are also available for hire. If you are at all concerned about your ability to complete this walk, please feel free to call one of us here at Trek Tours Australia for more advice (1300 133 278).

## DAY 1: DRIVE TO NITMILUK GORGE, WALK TO BIDDLECOMBE CASCADES

We pick you up from your Darwin accommodation between 6:00 and 6:30am. Heading South to Katherine on the Stuart Highway, we stop for coffee and a stretch at a couple of iconic top end towns along the way. Reaching Nitmiluk Gorge, the starting point of our walk by late morning, we have time for a final pack check before enjoying a fresh healthy lunch. Crossing the Katherine River we begin our Jatbula Trail trek into this wild ancient country. It's going to be warm however after an hour into our walk we find the first of our many awesome swimming spots - the Northern Rockhole. Trekking to our evening campsite at Biddlecombe Cascades we cool off, breathe deep and relax amongst the many natural spa and plunge pools. All this while your professional wilderness guides prepare a nutritious and tasty dinner.

8.3kms | Meals: Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 3: WALK FROM CRYSTAL FALLS TO AMPHITHEATRE THEN ON TO 17 MILE FALLS

Walking out of camp we climb to an elevated position above Crystal Falls, giving us a birds eye view of this spectacular waterfall cascading over the escarpment. Continuing our trek today we discover an incredible natural amphitheatre tucked away in a monsoonal rain forest setting. Descending into this magical place we explore the rocky overhangs and nooks to find incredible Jawoyn rock art. 'The Amphitheatre', as it is called, provides some of the most magnificent recorded indigenous art in this region. After lunch our walk takes us along the edge of the Jatbula Trail escarpment, culminating in the breathtaking vistas of our camp tonight - 17 Mile Falls.

10kms | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 2: WALK FROM BIDDLECOMBE CASCADES TO CRYSTAL FALLS

Today we make an early start and take advantage of the cool morning. Our walk takes us through some magnificent pandanus palm forest with its abundant bird life, and colourful fruit. Trekking through vast open savannah country we explore the ancient stone country where Jawoyn Aboriginal art sites are hidden in many of the spectacular rocky outcrops and overhangs. Crystal Falls is our campsite tonight, a truly stunning location blessed with deep crystal clear pools, surrounded by lush monsoon forest. Amazing, beautiful, stunning, incredible, these words don't even go close to describing the place we camp tonight - another delicious meal, a moonlight swim, and a deep sleep under the stars. This is Jatbula Trail living at its best.

11kms | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 4: WALK FROM 17 MILE FALLS TO SANDY CAMP POOL

Our biggest day on the trail takes us into the Edith River catchment. Trekking through Pandanus groves and lush grasses we follow the course of the river to Channels Waterhole. A shady, sandy, cool oasis awaits, providing us with a perfect lunch stop and of course a midday swim in the Edith River. Continuing our walk today through lush green wetlands we have time to watch the prolific birdlife and maybe even spot a buffalo. Camp tonight is Sandy Camp Pool a picturesque billabong of Olympic proportions; it overflows with water lilies and is surrounded by towering paperbarks. As the name suggests we enjoy a wonderful sandy camp giving us another comfortable sleep under the stars, beside one of our favourite billabongs on the Jatbula Trail.

17kms | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 5: WALK FROM SANDY CAMP TO SWEETWATER POOL

A morning swim and relaxed breakfast sees us in great shape to begin our trek to Sweetwater Pool. Walking alongside the Edith River with its many billabongs and waterholes, today is a wonderful opportunity to see some of the top ends shyest wildlife - perhaps a turtle, some Brolgas or maybe even a Water Monitor. A delicious lunch at camp is followed by a leisurely afternoon, swimming and exploring these gorgeous pools. Our last dinner together is a special event and a chance for us to share memories and some of the highlights experienced on our Jatbula Trail adventure.

11.2kms | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 6: WALK FROM SWEETWATER POOL TO LEILYN(EDITH FALLS), DRIVE TO DARWIN

A morning trek along the Edith River and its numerous waterfalls brings us to the end of the Jatbula Trail and our incredible journey together. Arriving at Leilyn (Edith Falls) we have the opportunity for a last swim of the tour in one of the top ends favourite swimming holes. Driving back to Darwin, we stop at the historic Adelaide River Inn for a superb lunch and experience a unique slice of top end food and hospitality. We aim to arrive back in Darwin by 5pm.

4.5kms | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## WHAT EQUIPMENT TO BRING FOR THE JATBULA TRAIL ADVENTURE

The following lists set out all the clothing and equipment you are required to bring for you to participate in this adventure. The gear check prior to your departure from the meeting area will ensure that you have covered all aspects of the required gear without over packing.

Depending on the quality and quantity of personal gear and toiletries, the average pack weight should be 12-15kg, including a portion of the group's food supplies.

**E** indicates essential item of equipment

**H** indicates available for hire

✓	✓
Clothing	Equipment
1 Woolen/Polar fleece jumper. Must be wool or synthetic fiber. <b>E</b>	Backpack 75 litre capacity <b>E, H (\$50)</b>
2 T-shirts/Long sleeve shirts	We provide light weight inflatable sleeping mat <b>E</b>
Walking trousers (not jeans)	We provide sleeping bag rated to 3 seasons <b>E</b>
Walking shorts	We provide inner sheet
Wool walking socks <b>E</b>	We provide mosquito dome <b>E</b>
Sunhat <b>E</b>	Head torch with spare batteries and globe <b>E</b>
Underwear	Water bottles or water bladder minimum 2-3 litres <b>E</b>
Thermals - top and bottom (polypropelene, wool, polyester powder dry, Daymart) <b>E</b>	Towel
Swimmers <b>E</b>	We provide all catering equipment including cutlery, cups, plates, bowls <b>E</b>
Warm hat/beanie <b>E</b>	
Sunglasses	<b>Personal Toiletries and First Aid</b>
	Personal toiletries
<b>Footwear</b>	Sunscreen and lip balm <b>E</b>
Boots must be lace up, ankle high, leather or leather/fabric construction with a sturdy rubber sole (runners or sandals are not adequate). They must be well worn-in but not worn-out <b>E</b>	Personal first aid kit - blister protection
Sandals with straps or shoes for end of the day	Insect repellent cream
<b>Optional Equipment</b>	<b>Optional Equipment</b>
Camera	Walking poles
Pillow	A good book!
Binoculars	Maps
<b>Please contact us with any questions.</b>	Sock gaiters