

Level of difficulty

Almost none of our walking is done on marked trails. Someone who has never done any off-track walking will probably find that they should rate each walk at the next higher level of difficulty.

If you have never done any off-track walking, we strongly recommend that you log onto our website, click onto the 'Is it for you' page and follow the links to the 'How hard' page. Nothing else short of doing an off-track walk will give you a better picture of what is involved.

A positive mental attitude is essential.

A superfit person who is unhappy at leaving the comforts of civilisation behind will not cope as well as a moderately fit person who is prepared to enjoy the wilderness on its own terms.

Trips may reach the same average level of difficulty for different reasons. In arriving at an average level, we consider the climate, terrain, vegetation, hours walked per day and necessary pack weight. See our website and/or trip notes for more information about each trip.

The length of time carrying packs in the descriptions below does not include breaks.

0 Day pack only

The climate, terrain, vegetation and hours walked can range anywhere from level 1 to level 5.

1 Easy

Climate. Average day time maximum temperature 18-25°C, moderate humidity, rain unlikely.

Terrain. Mostly fairly flat. May include some soft sand, rock hopping and/or moderate climbs.

Vegetation. Mostly fairly open with little thick grass, spinifex or scrub bashing.

Hours. You generally walk 4-6 hours per day.

Pack weight. No more than four days food. Tent or sleeping bag, not both. No need for cold-weather gear. No need for more than 1 litre of water.

2 Fairly easy

Climate. Average day time maximum temperature 26-29°C, moderate humidity, rain unlikely.

Terrain. Mostly fairly flat but includes some soft sand, moderately rough terrain, rock hopping and/or moderate to steep climbs.

Vegetation. Mostly fairly open with short stretches thick grass, spinifex and/or scrub bashing.

Hours. You generally walk 4-6 hours per day.

Pack weight. Up to 7 days food. Tent or sleeping bag, not both. No need for cold-weather gear. You may need to carry two litres of water for short distances.

Good average fitness should be enough.

3 Moderately difficult

Climate. Average day time maximum temperature 30-32°C, moderate to medium humidity, rain possible but unlikely to rain often.

Terrain. Mostly fairly flat but includes somewhat more soft sand, rough terrain, rock hopping and/or steep climbs than level two.

Vegetation. Still mostly fairly open but there may be times when you have to push through thick grass, spinifex or other scrub for a some hours.

Hours. You generally walk 4-6 hours per day.

Pack weight. Up to 11 days food. You might need both a tent and a sleeping bag, cold-weather and/or rain gear. You may need to carry two litres of water some days.

Somewhat above average fitness or good overnight bushwalking experience is recommended.

4 Relatively difficult

Climate. Average day time maximum temperature 33-35°C, fairly high humidity, rain probable.

Terrain. Very rugged. Lots of soft sand, rock hopping, scrambling over boulders and/or steep climbs.

Vegetation. You may have to push through thick grass, spinifex or other scrub for as much as a quarter of the trip.

Hours. You have to walk 5-7 hours most days, possibly up to 8 hours on some days.

Pack weight. Up to 14 days food. You might need both a tent and a sleeping bag, cold-weather and/or rain gear. You may need to carry two-three litres of water for most days.

Above average fitness or extensive overnight bushwalking experience is recommended.

5 Our most difficult trips

Climate. Average day time maximum temperature over 35°C, very high humidity, rain probable.

Terrain. Extremely rugged. Lots of soft sand, rock hopping, scrambling over boulders and/or steep climbs.

Vegetation. You may have to push through thick grass, spinifex or other scrub for as much as third of the trip.

Hours. You have to walk 5-7 hours most days, possibly up to 8 hours on some days.

Pack weight. Up to 14 days food. You might need both a tent and a sleeping bag, cold-weather and/or rain gear. You may need to carry two to three litres of water for most days.

Not suited to beginners unless they are exceptionally fit.

Discounts

Multiple Section discounts

Anyone doing consecutive sections on a single trip is entitled to a discount. Unless otherwise stated in the trip list, deduct \$110 for two sections, \$220 for three sections, etc. Deduct this before any other discount. This does not apply to a full trip as the discount has already been included in the total price.

Discounts

Up to three discounts (maximum 35%) may apply to any trip. Past client – 5% discount

Book two full trips in a row – 10% discount on second trip.

Membership

Members of the following may deduct 5% on proof of membership. Only one member discount may apply. Paddy Pallin, NPA of NSW, YHA, Nomads, ACF, Wilderness Society, Australian Geographic Society.

Advance Purchase

Book and pay four months in advance — 20% discount

Book and pay three months in advance — 15% discount

Book and pay two months in advance — 10% discount

Group Bookings

Five or more booking as a group — 5% discount

Ten or more booking as a group — 10% discount

Example: Green Kimberley Light 2008

Sections 1-2: \$675 + \$475 – \$110 = \$1040

Sections 1-3: \$675 + \$475 + \$425 – \$220 = \$1355

Sections 1-4: \$675 + \$475 + \$425 + \$795 – \$330 = \$2040

Work out discounts consecutively as follows, eg

1 discount \$1000 – 20% = \$800

2 discounts \$1000 – 20% = \$800 – 5% = \$760

3 discounts \$1000 – 20% = \$800 – 5% = \$760 – 5% = \$722

This is not the same as a single 30% discount.

General Information

Transportation

We use our own 4WD vehicles plus chartered vehicles, aircraft and boats to provide transport to and from our walks.

- Most of our vehicles are registered as self drive hire cars. This **1** helps keep costs down, **2** allows our clients to share in the driving if they wish to do so and **3** ensures that no guide will feel it necessary to continue driving when he or she feels tired.
- Our listed prices include the cost of the vehicle hire.
- Transportation in our vehicles conveys no rights other than those you would get if you hired the vehicle and did the trip yourself without a guide.

You can use your own vehicle

- On any trip using self drive vehicles, you may provide your own transport (4WD is necessary on most trips) and get a discount.
- The value of the discount depends on distance travelled and the number of passengers carried. It ranges from \$20 to over \$500. Please ask for details.

Connections

- Unless otherwise stated, transportation on all complete trips is from and to Darwin, Kununurra or Alice Springs.
- Except where we use chartered aircraft, those doing part trips have to find their own way to and/or from our connection points, all of which have regular bus services. For example, those doing only one section of most Kakadu Highlights trips have to provide their own transport to or from Cooida.
- Unless otherwise stated, never schedule connections the same day that a trip or section begins or ends without contacting us first.
- There is an important pre-trip meeting the evening before departure for all trips.
- Trips normally depart about 8 a.m. in the NT, earlier in WA, and return in the late afternoon. See the trip notes for details.

Willis's Walkabouts booking form

Name

Postal Address

Phone Fax

Email

Trip Chosen

Full Trip or Section

Date..... Amount Enclosed \$

Further information on any and all trips can be obtained by contacting:

Willis's Walkabouts
12 Carrington Street
Millner NT 0810
Phone 08 8985 2134
Fax 08 8985 2355
Email rrwillis@internode.on.net



Discounts and Surcharges

- Discounts are listed on our trip list.
- Advance purchase discounts can be as much as 20%.
- Those who book well in advance can guarantee themselves a place, a departure and a discount.
- Those who try to book late are often disappointed.
- If we are forced to cancel a trip, we do our best to give at least five weeks notice. If we cancel a trip, all fees paid will be refunded.
- If we don't have enough bookings to guarantee departure, those who have booked can often guarantee departure if they are willing to pay an extra fee. This fee varies from trip to trip based on the number of bookings and our cost to run that particular trip. Details on request.

Liability

- Participants must be aware of the risks involved in the activities and travel associated with these holidays.
- Participants must be aware that they will be travelling in areas which are subject to climatic extremes.
- We reserve the right to change the itineraries if in our opinion, this should be necessary for any reason whatsoever.
- Any expenses incurred by participants as a result of any delay, alteration or curtailment of scheduled departures, no matter how caused, are their own responsibility. Neither Willis's Walkabouts nor its agents can guarantee connections and are not liable for failure to make connections.
- Willis's Walkabouts, its agents, employees and sub-contractors accept no liability for injury, damage, delay or loss of any nature and all participants must sign a liability release before their trip commences.
- Participants are liable for their emergency evacuation costs and are expected to take out suitable travel insurance.
- Our Bushwalking Guide, website and registration form have much more detail about what is involved in our trips.

Insurance

- **We strongly recommend travel insurance.**
- This should cover you against emergency evacuation and cancellation fees.
- Some evacuations are not covered by medical or ambulance insurance. Such an evacuation could cost you more than \$3000.
- Last minute cancellations can mean loss of both the price of the airfare and the cost of the tour.
- This makes it extremely important to obtain travel insurance as soon as you book – or even before. Accidents can happen to anyone – and their equipment.

Booking Procedure

No booking can be confirmed until you have

1. Filled in the booking form and paid a \$150 (non-refundable) deposit to us.
2. Filled in and returned a trip registration form and liability release.

No booking can be finalised until full payment has been made.

This is due

1. **Four months** in advance to obtain the 20% advance purchase discount.
Three months in advance to obtain the 15% advance purchase discount.
Two months in advance to obtain the 10% advance purchase discount.
2. 60 days in advance or at the time of booking, whichever comes later, if the advance purchase discount does not apply.
3. As specified in the trip notes for the overseas trips.

Cancellation & Refund

If you need to cancel your holiday, you must notify us in writing.

The cancellation will take effect the day it is received. All moneys will be refunded less the incurred costs. For the Australian trips these are:

Over 60 days before departure	\$150
36-60 days before departure	25% of the tour cost
29-35 days before departure	50% of the tour cost
21-28 days before departure	75% of the tour cost
Less than 21 days before departure	Nil refund

Bookings can also be made through most travel agents.

