

This guide was prepared for you by...

# Bondi Beach Backpackers

0412 509 279 - 35a Hall Street, Bondi Beach NSW 2026



## DARWIN TO TOWNSVILLE ROAD TRIP

The trip down the middle and over to the EAST COAST of QUEENSLAND is surprisingly busy with many unique and wonderful natural features. Don't go so fast, stop a little and explore this awesome section of the Australian road trip circuit.

Please keep an eye on your gas and in remote areas fill up at every opportunity.

You also need to carry water too. Lots of water for you and maybe the car!

Enjoy this road trip as you will most likely only do it once!

Enjoy!

I very much hope this guide is useful to you.

Have a great trip, drive safe and if this was useful to you please write to us at

[info@bondibeachbackpackers.com.au](mailto:info@bondibeachbackpackers.com.au)

We would love to hear from you, hear about your awesome trip, inform us of any changes and/or updates that need to be made so we can help others too!

Thank you.

Richard & the *Bondi Beach Backpackers* Team



Darwin



Stunning all the way



Townsville

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## DARWIN TO LITCHFIELD & KAKADU NATIONAL PARKS

From DARWIN you hit the 2 major national parks of LITCHFIELD and KAKADU. You can also do them on the way south visit them and have DARWIN not far away if you need to return. The option is yours

### LITCHFIELD NATIONAL PARK



Located just 116km south of Darwin, approximately an hours drive is this amazing national park that many say is better than the more widely known KAKADU NATIONAL PARK. The park is filled with stunning waterfalls, walking tracks and waterholes that are surrounded by monsoonal vine forests all of which offer cool respite on hot summer days.

There is a whole list of awesome things to do so stay a while, at least three nights to see it all.

- FLORENCE FALLS
- GREEN ANT CREEK WALK,
- THE MAGNETIC TERMITE MOUNDS,
- TABLE TOP TRACK,
- THE LOST CITY,
- TJAYNERA FALLS,
- TULMER FALLS,
- WALKER CREEK,
- WANGI FALLS WALK
- BULEY ROCKHOLE



Florence Falls



Green Ant Creek Walk



Magnetic Termite Mounds



Table Top Track



The Lost City



Tjaynera Falls



Tolmer Falls



Walker Creek



Wangi Falls Walk



Buley Rockhole

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## DARWIN TO LITCHFIELD & KAKADU NATIONAL PARKS

### KAKADU NATIONAL PARK



Australia's biggest national park is a world heritage listing has ancient landscapes, thundering waterfalls, lush rainforests, wetlands, exotic wildlife & ancient rock art. Covering 20,000 square kilometres it's renowned for cultural and natural values and also waterfalls, lush rainforests, wandering wetlands, exotic wildlife and ancient rock art.

There are cabins, campgrounds, retreats and hotels here.

There is a whole list are awesome thing to do so stay a while, at least three nights to see it all.

- TWIN FALLS
- ANBANGBANG BILLABONG
- BARDODJILIDJI WALK
- BARRK MARLAM WALK
- BOULDER CREEK WALK
- BUDJMI LOOKOUT
- GUNLOM PLUNGE POOL
- JIM JIM FALLS
- JIM JIM FALLS PLUNGE POOL WALK
- BUBBA WETLANDS WALK



Twin Falls



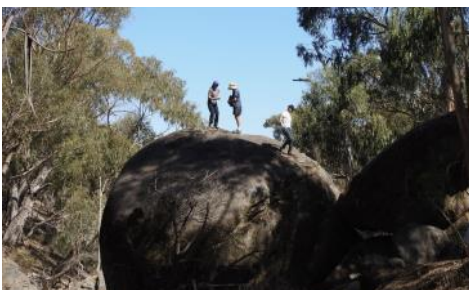
Anbangbang Billabong



Bardodjilidji Walk



Barrk Marlam Walk



Boulder Creek Walk



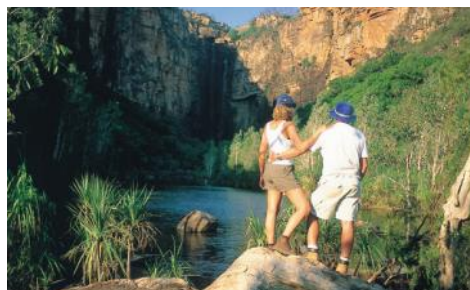
Budjmi Lookout



Gunlop Plunge Pool



Jim Jim Falls



Jim Jim Falls Plunge Pool



Bubba Wetlands Walk

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## DARWIN TO KATHERINE TO MATARANKA SPRINGS

Driving south from DARWIN 293km comes EDITH FALLS. A series of cascading waterfalls and pools on the EDITH RIVER in the NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

A further 60km south along the GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY is a jewel of a place. KATHERINE has a lot to offer and after a long drive stay a few days and do some awesome things such as KATHERINE HOT SPRINGS and NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK

NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK is around a series of gorges on the KATHERINE RIVER. Previously named KATHERINE GORGE NATIONAL PARK, its northern edge borders KAKADU NATIONAL PARK. The gorges and the surrounding landscape have great ceremonial significance to the local Jawoyn people, who are custodians of NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK.

Kayaking on KATHERINE GORGE is a great experience and inexpensive and you should definitely do this. The levels of the water is the main thing because too low you cannot access far, to high might have other issues, (not sure what) but check on the day and the time of day to make your experience awesome.

Driving south a further 117km is MATARANKA HOT SPRINGS. The MATARANKA THERMAL POOLS and BITTER SPRINGS are both located in the ELSEY NATIONAL PARK. It is safe to swim here and the springs are a perfect 34 degrees all year round. The rest of ELSEY NATIONAL PARK'S waterways are all inhabited by crocodiles so NO SWIMMING.

There are some great place to stay here. Stay a night or two and enjoy the great walks in the ELSEY NATIONAL PARK.

The early days of Mataranka were captured in the Australian novel "*We of the Never Never*".



Edith Falls Swimming Hole



Katherine Hot Springs



Katherine Gorge Kayaking



Matatanka Springs



Bitter Springs Thermal Pool



Elsey National Park Walks



Bower Bird Nest Elsey National Park



Matatanka Springs

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## MATARANKA SPRINGS TO TOWNSVILLE

A further 173km south comes the iconic DALY WATER'S PUB. Take a break and check out this place. It's a time tested 1930's pub serving classic pub meals like steak, schnitzels and seafood.

Now you are up for a long drive and then a long drive again.

A further 384 km south from DALY WATER'S PUB is the highway intersection where you can head east to TOWNSVILLE, only 1538km away OMG!!!

Stop for a photo. You will most likely never be here again!

Now you have a 3 days drive with little to see or do other than stop and rest in outback Queensland towns that exist for mining such as MOUNT ISA just 635km from the intersection.

This would be a place to stay for the night as it would have all kinds of accommodation plus, fuel, water, supermarkets etc

Next major town would be HUGHENDEN 522km from MOUNT ISA

This would also be a place to stay for the night as it would have all kinds of accommodation plus, fuel, water, supermarkets etc

PORCUPINE GORGE LOOKOUT looks amazing if you wish to do 64km each way to see it.

The WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL park is 100km just after HUGHENDEN however there are no walks and the website says its teeming with reptiles which is no doubt why there are no walking tracks. Sorry!

Another 322km of absolutely nothing to see takes you through CHARTERS TOWERS and on to TOWNSVILLE where you will find deep blue ocean that you cannot swim in as you will be eaten by something horrible. MAGNTIC ISLAND off TOWNSVILLE is awesome and this is your reward for the past three days of driving.

From TOWNSVILLE turn north for CAIRNS or south towards AIRLIE BEACH, FRASER ISLAND, NOOSA, BRISBANE or NEW SOUTH WALES.



Daly Waters Pub



The Intersection



Mount Isa



Hughenden



Porcupine Gorge Lookout



Finally the Ocean!!!



More Road!!!



Red Falls at Charters Towers

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Thank you.

Richard & the *Bondi Beach Backpackers* Team

## DRIVING NEED TO KNOW

### Signs

Read the signs, they may save your life. Especially those about NOT to go in the water!!

### Rivers

Most coastal rivers are fast, wide and kill quick plus mean things live in them like sharks.

### Take Breaks

Aussie roads are long, boring & you need to take breaks!

### Kangaroos

Will smash your car to pieces and the crash that follows smashes you and your mates to pieces so at sun up and sun down be very aware!

### Parking

You have to park the direction traffic faces. If you see a parking spot available turn around & park in the same direction as others. Don't be the wrong way round or face a fine that will make you dry.

Many towns make you park with back of car to the kerb whilst other towns want you to park with the front of your car to the kerb. Read the signs or get a ticket.



Read signs that save



I'm drowning



Take a Break!!



Kangaroo v Car. Kangaroo will win!!



Park Same Direction as Others