NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK · UNOFFICIAL GUIDE

Day planner

Three fee systems · Gorge vs Leliyn · heat and crocodile checks · packing · official links. Print this page or save as PDF from your browser. No email required.

Verify before you go. Fees, swimming status, ferry times, track conditions and road closures change. Always check NT Parks — Nitmiluk, Katherine park-open and roadreport.nt.gov.au. This planner is independent and unofficial — not Parks and Wildlife NT, not Jawoyn Association, not Nitmiluk Tours. Emergency: **000**.

Gorge 1 is permanently closed to swimming and canoeing. Swim only where signs say open after ranger crocodile surveys. Be Crocwise.

1. Before you leave

Status & roads

- ☐ Katherine-region park-open page checked this morning
- ☐ roadreport.nt.gov.au (Maud Creek in the wet)
- ☐ BOM Katherine forecast — not a Darwin-only guess
- ☐ Swim signs / Be Crocwise understood
- ☐ Someone at home knows the plan — 000 needs reception

Packing (day pack)

- ☐ Water 3 L+ per person on walks
- ☐ Electrolytes · snacks
- ☐ Wide-brim hat · UPF shirt · SPF 50
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Grip shoes (rock gets slick when wet)
- ☐ Phone + offline map / Avenza screenshot
- ☐ Screenshots of bookings (poor reception)
- ☐ Basic first aid

2. Fees — three official systems, not one ticket

Visitor Pass

- Interstate / overseas visitors
- NT residents usually exempt (carry proof)
- Buy only on parkbookings.nt.gov.au
- Does not cover camping, walking fees, cruises or

Camping

- Park sites: book and pay online before arrival
- No on-site payment for park-managed camps
- Display the camping tag
- Gorge Tourist Precinct: Nitmiluk Tours

Walking + extras

- Jatbula / overnight walking fees are extra
- Start ferry: Nitmiluk Tours (separate ticket)
- Cruises and canoe hire: Nitmiluk Tours
- This site never takes commission on official fees

ferry

Published dollar figures change. Confirm the live tables on nt.gov.au before you pay.

3. Which sector today?

Nitmiluk Gorge

- ~30 km from Katherine on Gorge Road
- Centre · cruise · Baruwei
- Jatbula start (ferry + briefing)

Leliyn (Edith Falls)

- ~60 km from Katherine (Stuart Hwy + Edith Falls Rd)
- ~90 km from the Gorge by road
- Short loop · swim only if signed open

- ☐ One sector today — do not try both in one hot afternoon
- ☐ Gorge Road does not go to Leliyn

4. One-day Gorge (order of stops)

1. **Night before** — Visitor Pass if needed. Pack water. Agree: Baruwei and/or a booked cruise. Leliyn is off this plan.
2. **Early** — Drive Gorge Road. Toilets. Fill bottles. Collect a map at the Nitmiluk Centre.
3. **Cool morning** — Baruwei Lookout (~1.8 km return) *or* cruise check-in. Do not miss a booked boat to "quickly" add another walk.
4. **Middle of the day** — Shade and food. Swim only if signed open. Optional Baruwei Loop only if you started early.
5. **Afternoon** — Back to Katherine. Do not add a 90 km Leliyn drive.

5. Two-day Gorge + Leliyn

- **Day 1** — Gorge sector as above. Sleep in Katherine (or a booked Gorge precinct site).
- **Day 2** — Leliyn. Read swim signs. Walk the 2.6 km loop if open. Swim only where signed.
- Darwin is still ~3.5 hours from Katherine — do not leave Leliyn at 4 pm and expect an easy flight.

6. Heat, crocodiles, comms

- Heat is the main day-to-day risk. Start early. Rest in shade. 3 L+ on walks.
- Gorge 1 permanently closed to swimming and canoeing. Other water: signs after ranger surveys.
- Never swim at dawn or dusk in closed water. Keep children back from unsigned banks.
- Reception is patchy at the Centre and poor or absent at Leliyn, on trails and in the gorges. 000 needs reception. Emergency+ app + offline maps. Satellite messenger is optional for overnight trips.

7. Jatbula (only if already booked)

- ☐ Walking fee + each night's camp on parkbookings.nt.gov.au
- ☐ Ferry booked with Nitmiluk Tours + briefing attended
- ☐ Finish transfer or car shuffle at Leliyn arranged
- ☐ Visitor Pass if required — still a separate booking

Jatbula is not a day walk. If the bookings feel like too much paperwork, choose day walks.

8. Official links

- **This guide:** https://www.nitmiluknationalpark.com.au/ — visit, walks, itineraries
- NT Parks Nitmiluk: https://nt.gov.au/parks/find-a-park/nitmiluk-national-park
- Park open (Katherine): https://nt.gov.au/parks/regions/katherine/check-park-open-katherine
- Bookings / pass: https://parkbookings.nt.gov.au/
- Visitor Pass fees: https://nt.gov.au/parks/visitor-pass
- Camping fees: https://nt.gov.au/parks/camping/fees
- Walking fees: https://nt.gov.au/parks/bushwalking-hiking/multi-day-walking-trail-fees
- Jatbula notes: https://nt.gov.au/parks/find-a-park/nitmiluk-national-park/nitmiluk-national-park-jatbula-trail
- Nitmiluk Tours: https://www.nitmiluktours.com.au/
- Roads: https://roadreport.nt.gov.au/ · 1800 246 199
- BOM Katherine: https://www.bom.gov.au/nt/forecasts/katherine.shtml
- Be Crocwise: https://nt.gov.au/emergency/community-safety/be-crocwise

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www.nitmiluknationalpark.com.au

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