★ FREE SAMPLE ★

ROUTES

THE GIBB RIVER ROAD

900+ km
14+ days
WA



Emma Gorge, WA by Overland Exposure

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Pentecost River crossing, Western Australia by @phil.reit

The Gibb River Road

Derby → Kununurra, WA ★ 900+ km (+ 750 km Mitchell Falls and Kalumburu)
★ 14+ days ★ Winter
★ 4WD only, best for roof top tents or off-road motorhomes

If you're after an epic road trip of swimming holes, waterfalls, free camps and station stays, where everyone talks road conditions, this is it! Most of our days were spent getting wet in spectacular gorges, but it's The Kimberley's boabs and ranges that crawl into your soul.

The infamous Gibb River Road (GRR) is a former beef road, mostly unsealed, running from Derby in the west to the Great Northern Highway between Wyndham and Kununurra in the east.

The Gibb itself is only about 900 km, but side trips to Mitchell Falls and Kalumburu can double that. And remember, dump points are even rarer than fuel stops!

What surprised me was the camaraderie. You keep bumping into the same travellers heading your way, and those coming the other way are hungry to learn how bad the roads are or share which gorge is best.

We travelled west to east, but it's easy to reverse this off-road adventure. The west has more attractions, and the east has more river crossings and ranges. Give yourself plenty of time, because speed is not your friend on what some say is Australia's greatest offroad adventure.

Watch us talk about this route on our Blog: www.campsaustraliawide.com/gibb-river-road-iconic-roads-australia

Highlights

- ✓ Magnificent gorges, waterfalls and national parks (even a tunnel of crocs)
- ✓ Beautiful boabs
- ✓ Remote station stays with campfire gatherings scones and home grown beef
- ✓ The kudos of saying you braved that notorious road
- ✓ Majestic Cockburn Ranges

Tips

Bring extra tyres, be croc safe and buy a WA park pass. Main Roads WA recommends a high-clearance 4WD, and says caravans, motorhomes and some camper trailers are not recommended on its unsealed roads.


Honeymoon Bay by Adams Family Travels


Scones at Ellenbrae Station, WA


Windjana Gorge at sunset, WA

Your trip at a glance

The Gibb River Road ★ 900+ km (+ 750 km Mitchell Falls and Kalumburu) ★ 14+ days

		DISTANCE	SUGGESTED OVERNIGHT STOP
01	Derby to Birdwood Downs	17 km In the full Route	Birdwood Downs Station Stay
02	Birdwood Downs to Windjana Gorge	131 km In the full Route	Windjana Gorge Campground
05	Silent Grove to Mt Barnett	113 km In this sample	Manning Gorge Camp area

8 more legs in the full Route





05 Silent Grove to Mt Barnett

113 km (unsealed)

Three gorges and four waterholes, this is where the Gibb surprised me!

Adcock Gorge is 5 km in on a rocky and narrow 4WD track, not suitable for towing. The walk is short, with stepping stones and some clambering over rocks, and getting into the water is a bit tricky.

Galvans Gorge, 14 km west of Mt Barnett, is much easier. Parking is right on the road, with loads of room for vans, day use only. The 1 km walk is flat and easy, apart from the last bit over boulders at the water's edge. It's so beautiful, especially the boab perched at the top of the falls.

Mt Barnett Roadhouse is just off the Gibb, and you pay here for Manning Gorge Campground, 7 km further. On our arrival, I just swam at the "beach". It has great access, a sandy and rocky bottom, boulders to relax on and fish nibbling at my toes!

The Manning Gorge hike starts and finishes with a swim. We watched people ferrying their gear back from the walk, and everyone said it was worth it. Next day, it was our turn. Even though it's a grade 4 walk, it became my favourite of the whole Gibb. I loved the little rock caverns under the falls, and cooling down for a swim at the end.

At the start of our 5.8 km hike, there were no drums on our side to ferry our gear across, so Heatley swam the 100 or so metres over and brought them all back from the far bank. Funny thing was, it happened again at the end of our trek. After our huge day, he had three more river crossings before we were both back on the campsite side of the river!

Must see and do

* Adcock, Galvans and Manning Gorges
* Mt Barnett Roadhouse burgers (fuel and the kitchen close mid-afternoon)

Tip

Management advises against starting the hike after 2 pm and suggests leaving the falls by 3 pm. Pets are welcome on a leash in the campground, but not on the walk.

Where to camp

Manning Gorge Camp area
$ • pets • toilets • showers

Hann River
free • pets

Read more on our blog

Search Manning Gorge

Images: Galvans Gorge, Western Australia & Manning Gorge, Western Australia

There’s more where that came from

The Gibb River Road ★ 900+ km (+ 750 km Mitchell Falls and Kalumburu) ★ 14+ days

What’s in the full Route

01	**Derby to Birdwood Downs**	17 km
02	**Birdwood Downs to Windjana Gorge**	131 km
+8	**8 more legs, each with camps, must-sees and blog links**	

* 10 essential tips every traveller should know
* ROUTES 101: things to remember before you set out

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Image: Mitchell Falls, WA