

Tourism–Restoration Interface: The Tumbling Waters Project and Berry Springs



High level summary

On this trip participants will get to visit an ecologically diverse restoration site linked to a holiday park located at Tumbling Waters on the outskirts of Darwin. Here they will explore regeneration projects that aim to enhance biodiversity in the plantings as well as to encourage birds, Lepidoptera, and other fauna in three distinct floral communities in the site—savannah woodland, riverine forest, and remnant monsoon vine forest. Participants will get to hear from experts working on restoring the Atlas Moth and other butterflies to the site as well as experts involved in planting for local biodiversity. This will be followed by a short visit to the Blackmore River billabong that is nearby to view birds etc. Alternatively, participants interested in art can also participate in ecological drawing instead of a visit to the Billabong. Morning tea and lunch will be served on site. On the return journey, participants will get to visit Berry Springs Nature Park, a picturesque park known for its clear pools, monsoon forests and aquatic life, where activities can include swimming, bushwalking, and birdwatching.

Detailed description

Tumbling Waters is ecologically diverse restoration site linked to a holiday park on the outskirts of Darwin. The overall park consists of ~40 hectares (100 acres), half of which is natural bushland consisting of at least three types of floral communities: savannah woodland, riverine forest, and remnant monsoon vine forest. Participants will explore the regeneration projects in these three floral communities that aim to enhance biodiversity in the plantings and to encourage birds, Lepidoptera, and other fauna. The

Tumbling Waters project has conducted workshops, exhibitions, and walk-and-talk sessions that attract both tourists and visitors from the wider community.

The field trip begins at 6:30 am on September 26 from the Darwin Entertainment Centre on the Esplanade from where we will travel an hour to the Tumbling Waters visitors' centre. Once there, Dr Ian Hance will conduct an orientation session about the Tumbling Waters project. This will be followed by a cool morning walk in the park where we will hear from project coordinator Geoff Martin about the Atlas Moth and butterflies' projects on the site. Morning tea follows. This will be followed by a discussion on planting for local biodiversity with botanist Di Lucas (or Jeremy Russel-Smith). After this, participants have the option of one of many activities that are planned for about 1.5 hours—planting for regeneration; ecological drawing; or a short walk to Blackmore River billabong to view birds and local fauna. A sumptuous lunch follows these activities after which we will head back to Darwin, but not before stopping by one of Darwin's picturesque parks – Berry Springs Nature Park, known for its clear pools, monsoon forests and aquatic life that is a short 10 minute drive from Tumbling Waters. Here participants have the option of several activities: swimming, bushwalking, or bird and wildlife spotting. After spending about an hour at Berry Springs, we head back to Darwin, which we expect to reach by about 4:15 pm.