



River of gold

Canyon walls reflect an afternoon glow into the lower chute of the Mitchell Falls, the Kimberley, Western Australia, May 2003

The isolation of the Mitchell Plateau keeps it off the itinerary of all but the more adventurous Kimberley travellers (some make it in by 4WD; others choose to come by air). Unlike many of the waterfalls of the Kimberley, Mitchell Falls runs year-round – in the wet and the dry. Its tiers and cascades are a true scenic wonder, and are much-photographed. Indeed the wide amphitheatre, the veil of the upper cascades and the lower chute were familiar in my mind's eye, even before my first visit; through the images of those who had ventured to the best vantage, and photographed before me. But all places have more than just a public face.