

Tourism and Events NT

Navigating current global impacts

Different in every sense



Current Impacts

INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Challenges

- Flight disruption due to Middle East re-routes.
- Jet fuel access/ cost impacting pricing and scheduling.
- Consumer confidence to travel lower.

Opportunities

- Australia positioned as a “safe reroute” for high-value travellers.
- Asia markets remain stable; shift effort to strongest near-term pipeline.
- Potential fast rebound once routes normalise.
- Supplier flexibility to preserve bookings for a quicker recovery.

DOMESTIC MARKET

Challenges

- Weather impacts across Australia impacting travel, business continuity and insurance.
- Fuel impact on pricing and capacity across all transport modes and sectors.
- Roll on impact on consumer confidence.

Opportunities

- Shift in demand to domestic travel/ close to home
- Fuel measures easing impact
- Certainty of supply, followed by pricing is most important – we all have a role to play to reinforce facts

What does it mean for the NT?

Forward Bookings - Darwin

- Forward bookings in Darwin for the next 90 days are softer than last year.
- Dry season bookings in Darwin are tracking behind 2025.

Forward Bookings – Regional NT

- Regional NT forward bookings are performing more strongly.
- Short term regional occupancy is being lifted by events like Parrtjima.

Estimated Flight Searches

- Estimated flight bookings for March are mixed compared to last year.
- Flight searches are down across most markets.

For Now, Travel Demand Is Holding — But Traveller Behaviour Is Shifting

What we are seeing:

- Travel demand remains resilient
- Travellers becoming more deliberate about decisions
- Cost of living is shaping travel planning
- Booking windows are shortening
- Some long-haul trips shifting closer to home

What industry partners are telling us:

- Strong intent to travel remains
- Travellers are prioritising proximity to home and value
- Domestic and regional travel gaining interest
- Long-haul demand concentrating on destinations that are considered safe and “bucket-list”

Protecting the Northern Territory's High Season

- No changes to our 2026 events calendar
- Monitoring traveller sentiment and market signals closely
- Working with airline partners to maintain access and affordability
- Partnering with conversion partners to drive bookings
- Supporting destination confidence following recent weather events
- Preparing strategic campaign to protect visitation

Our focus is to ensure the Northern Territory remains a destination worth the journey.

Parks and Wildlife Flood Recovery Plan

Overall infrastructure across the Territory in relatively good condition.

- There are a few key places that will require further assessment and repair
- Priority focus on: -
 - high visitation parks and reserves and visitor nodes
 - high tour operator use parks and visitor nodes
 - parks and reserves and visitor nodes that support swimming

Most areas have been assessed, and recovery works well underway with other projects provided to the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI).

Challenges and associated effort

- Undertaking crocodile surveys and management actions post a large wet season
- Walking track checks and ability to assess physically for repairs
- Delayed prescribed burning and feral animal control activities
- Extended period of inaccessible access tracks and roads due to flooding and tree fall – requires coordination with DLI

To find a park to visit, or to check which parks and sites are open visit the Parks and Reserves page, <https://nt.gov.au/parks>

Central Australian Region

- Of the 28 sites identified, 57% are open or partially open.
- All other areas are anticipated for opening from mid to late April.
- Only a few areas such as Ruby Gap Nature Park and the Simpsons Gap Waterhole Walk anticipated for May.
- Larapinta – Commercial tours have started for the season, and a volunteer program is underway to ensure the trail is ready for the West Mac's Monster trail running event 15-17 May 2026.



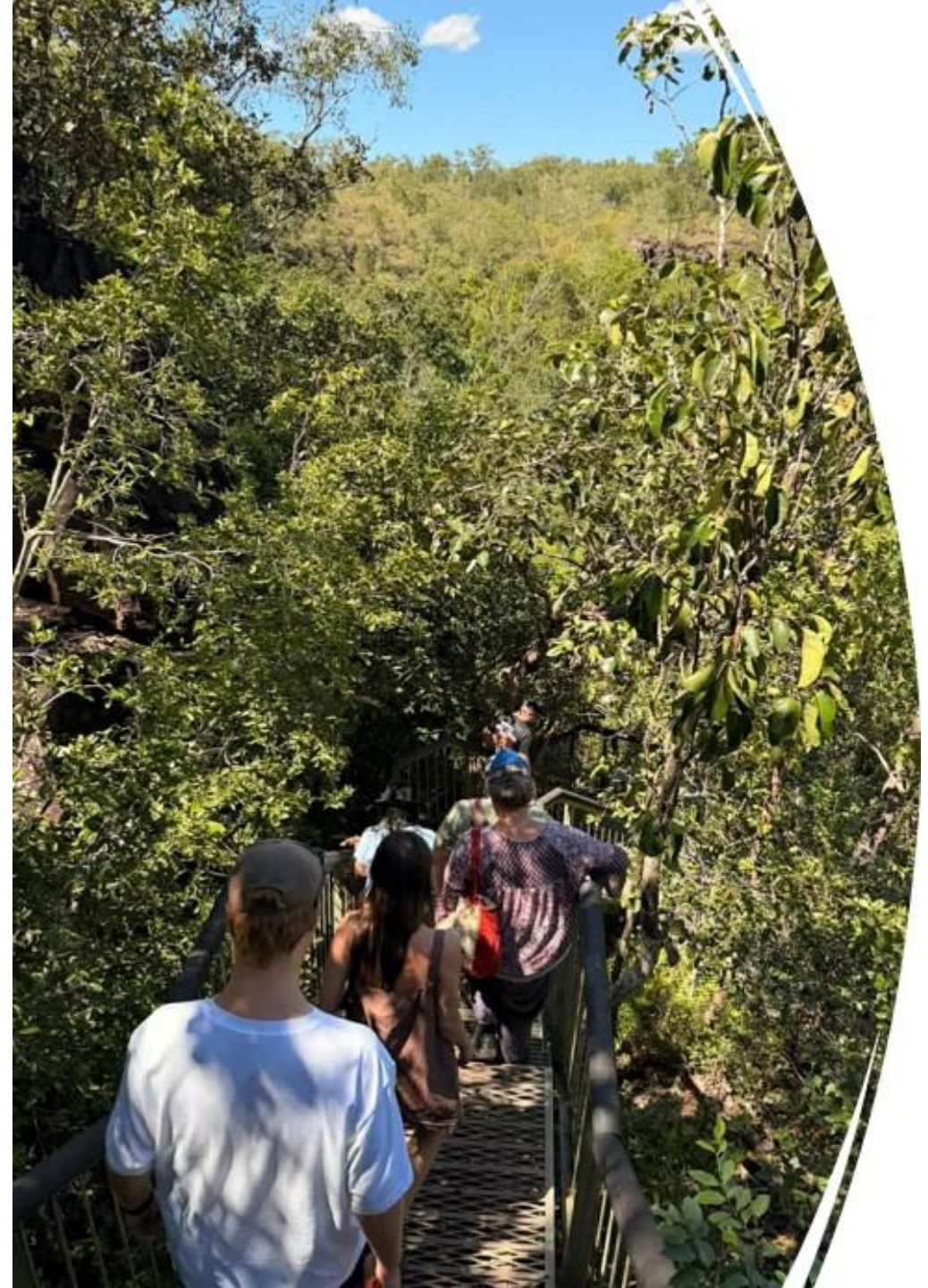
Savannah / Gulf Region

- Of the 36 sites identified, 13% are open or partially open.
- Nitmiluk – Gorge precinct open, assessment and repairs required for Gorge walkways and bridges. Southern Rockhole access being assessed currently. Baruwei loop walk open.
- Leliyn – campground open, water levels need to lower to open loop walk and lower plunge pool for crocodile surveys. Anticipated opening in May.
- Sweetwater/Longhole walks. Bridges require repairs at Upper Pools – likely a late April opening.
- Elsey – scheduled for reopening of key sites in April.
- VRD parks – scheduled for reopening in April.
- Jatbula Trail requires further assessment before an opening date can be estimated.



Top End Region

- Of the 47 sites identified, 46% are open with Florence Falls passing its safety checks and welcoming visitors on Sunday 5 May 2026.
- Most other sites in Litchfield are anticipated for opening in May or June, as water levels remain too high for assessment and crocodile surveys.
- Wangi Falls sustained major damage is yet to be fully assessed. The crocodile fence and boardwalk infrastructure repairs are the priority.
- Other Parks and Reserves across the Top End are scheduled for reopening in June, or sooner if water levels recede quickly enough to undertake inspections and carry out any necessary repair works.
- Garig Gunak Barlu National Park received major damage in both TC Fina and Narelle events. Assessments have been undertaken and plans for repair works are being developed. The road access was heavily impacted by fallen trees and is anticipated to be opened for access in late June or July.
- The parks in the Daly district was assessed Wednesday 8 April, with significant water still standing.



Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Overview

- \$12.4 million disaster assistance activated
- Jointly funded by Australian & NT Governments
- Support for small businesses and non-profit organisations impacted by severe weather and flooding
- Delivered under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)

Available Grants

Small Business Recovery Grants

- Up to \$10,000 per eligible business
- Supports recovery from direct disaster impacts

Non-profit Asset Assistance Grants

- For organisations with significant asset damage
- Available where commercial finance is not accessible

Eligible Areas

Katherine | Coomalie | Litchfield | Roper Gulf
Victoria Daly | West Daly | West Arnhem
Belyuen | Wagait Shire | Greater Darwin
(Uninc.) | Cox–Daly (Uninc.) | Murrakai–Douglas
Daly (Uninc.)

Program Delivery

Administered by Department of Trade,
Business and Asian Relations

Enquiries: 1800 193 111

Further details available via NT Government
business grant webpages or email
Business.Programs@nt.gov.au

We want to hear from you!
QR code link to survey

