



Tourism NT

Low Season Top End Famil

October 2025



Different in every sense



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Important information

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the below important information prior to your arrival into the Northern Territory (NT).

Accommodation

It is routine for hotels in Australia to ask for a credit card imprint on check-in as a security deposit. Please check as times differ between accommodation operators but generally check-in time is 14:00 on the day of arrival and check-out time is 10:00 on the day of departure. Guests may be permitted to check in earlier or check out later subject to room availability at operator's discretion.

Water

Please ensure you drink approximately 1 litre of water per person per hour for every hour you are in the sun. At certain times of the year, the Northern Territory can get very hot especially during the summer months with the Red Centre reaching dry temperatures well over 40 degrees Celsius and the Top End being extremely humid. Heat stroke and general dehydration is very common but can also be easily avoided. It is recommended that if you are travelling in a remote area, to be well equipped and ensuring you are carrying plenty of spare water.

Communications and Mobile Coverage

Large sections of the Northern Territory are without mobile phone coverage. You will have full coverage in most areas in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy, Jabiru and Yulara (Ayers Rock).

If travelling for extended periods in remote areas, hiring a satellite phone is worthwhile. For a normal holiday this is usually not necessary.

If calling overseas from Australia, you will need to dial 0011 then the country code. In many countries 00 is sufficient and this has caused confusion in the past.

In an emergency, please dial 000 or 112 from your mobile phone. Please note that this number will connect through to the operator even when you do not have telephone or internet coverage.

Clothing

Please ensure you bring loose comfortable clothing and wear sturdy walking shoes on any active tours. It is recommended you bring a small backpack to carry a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and at least two water bottles.

Climate

The Top End has a tropical climate, with two distinct seasons: the Wet Season and the Dry Season. From May to October, it's the Dry Season, with average daytime temperatures around 33°C. We recommend checking a weather app closer to departure to see what temperatures you can expect during your visit.

Packing List

- Summer clothes (T-shirts, shorts, dresses etc.)
- A hat or cap
- Slightly warmer clothes for the evenings/early mornings
- Active wear / comfortable clothes for hiking and active tours
- Closed walking shoes / trainers
- Sandals / light shoes
- Light towel
- Swimmers
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses

Acknowledgement

Tourism and Events NT respectfully acknowledges the First Nations people of this country and recognise their continuing connection to their lands, waters, and communities. We pay our respects to the Aboriginal cultures, and their leaders past, present and emerging.

First Nations Culture in the Northern Territory

Australia's Northern Territory offers a rich and genuine experience and a journey to the heart and soul of Australia.

Aboriginal Australians are the oldest living culture in the world which includes more than 250 nations, each with their own languages that have survived more than 65,000-years that includes a rich history of life, love, adversity, and countless challenges. They are bonded through a shared connection to their ancestral lands and communities that crisscross across the wide Australian landscape. Each clan has its own cultural practices, protocols, language, law, ceremonial songs, and dances.

Aboriginal knowledge, law and spirituality are framed by the philosophy that everyone and everything – the land, people, past, present and the future – are interconnected, creating a complex system of cultural and familial responsibilities, obligations, and kinship.

The Northern Territory is a place of rich Aboriginal traditions and cultures – where old stories continue to be re-told as new stories emerge.

From 65,000-year-old rock art to the fresh sounds of rapper, Baker Boy, and the exciting new art practices that have emerged in recent years – Aboriginal people and culture is the backbone of the Northern Territory. It will always be here.

Respecting culture, laws, and protocol

- Don't be shy, say hello.
- Be curious, ask and listen to language and culture; it shows appreciation and willingness to learn.
- Seek permission from the Aboriginal Traditional Owners before going anywhere 'off track'.
- Don't be shy to ask where you should not go.
- Dress respectfully and appropriately.
- Ask for the consent of the person/people before taking their photo.

Whose country are you on?

First Nations refer to their homelands as 'Country' including the trees, the animals, waterways and seas to which they are connected. A person's Country is their identity and includes complex laws that govern all things from your birth to your death; your extended family and cultural/familial relationships, your place in the universe, your songs and ceremonial responsibilities, your Dreaming tracks and stories, and language.

Whose Country am I on?

The Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) provides a map of Indigenous Australian language groups and is a good starting point for identifying the Traditional Owners of a particular Country. It's important to note the map provides general boundaries of larger groupings of people and is a guide only; further research into specific Traditional Owner groups is recommended in addition to the AIATSIS map. Some land council websites contain additional information about Traditional Owner groups and Language groups:

- Tiwi Land Council: tiwilandcouncil.com
- Central Land Council: clc.org.au/aboriginal-languages-of-central-australia

The map is available at: aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia

Referring to Aboriginal Peoples in writing

- Aboriginal peoples
- Aboriginal man/woman/child
- Aboriginal Elder
- First Nations
- First Australians

Trip itinerary

DAY 1: Arrival in Darwin



Welcome to Australia's Northern Territory!

Depending on your arrival time – typically either during the night or about midday – you may already have some time to explore Darwin. Please note that this itinerary reflects the ATPAP famil itinerary, which has been tailor-made for this group.

Accommodation and experiences can easily be substituted to suit different preferences or budgets.

Getting from the airport is straightforward, with taxis and Uber readily available. Alternatively, you can pre-arrange an airport transfer, with drivers meeting guests at the baggage carousel.

- **Darwin Limousines**
W: www.darwinlimousines.com
- **Grand Touring**
W: <https://grandtouringnt.com.au/tourism/>

Accommodation:

Darwin CBD is approximately a 15 to 20-minute drive from the airport. We stayed at the Hilton Darwin, which is well located near the Waterfront Precinct, the Esplanade and the CBD. The CBD itself is compact, and most key attractions can be reached on foot within 10 - 20 minutes.

- **Vibe Hotel Darwin Waterfront**
W: Vibe Hotel Darwin Waterfront - Official Website

6.00 pm **Dinner at the Darwin Trailer Boat Club**

Take a taxi out to the Trailer Boat Club, close to Mindil Beach where you have a relaxed, no-frills dinner by the beach with some of Darwin's best sunset views!

Located right on the waterfront at Fannie Bay, the Darwin Trailer Boat Club is the city's oldest seaside club and a favourite spot for locals and visitors alike. With stunning sunset views, a relaxed tropical atmosphere, and great food and drinks, it's the perfect place to unwind after a day of exploring. The club welcomes visitors — whether you're there for a meal, a cool drink by the water, or to watch the boats come and go from the marina.

After dinner take a taxi or Uber back to the hotel where the evening ends.

Darwin Trailer Boat Club
W: www.dtbc.com.au

Alternative hotel options:

- **Hilton Darwin**
[Hilton Darwin](#)
A great alternative to staying at the Waterfront precinct. The Hilton Darwin is extremely conveniently located at in the CBD, yet close to the waterfront. It's a great hotel with a fantastic breakfast buffet. Smith Street Mall, Mitchell Street and the Waterfront precinct are all located in easy walking distance from the hotel.
- **Adina Apartment Hotels Darwin Waterfront:**
[Adina Apartment Hotels | Darwin Waterfront - Unforgettable Top End Stays](#)
The Adina Apartment Hotel share the same building as the Vibe Hotel. They are located in the Darwin Waterfront precinct, one of the most convenient spots in the city. Restaurants, Stokes Hill Wharf, and other attractions are all on your doorstep.
- **Mercure Darwin Airport Resort:** [Mercure Darwin Airport Resort Hotel | Lagoon Pool | ALL - ALL](#)
A great choice for guests arriving late at night, as the hotel is just 400 metres from the airport terminal and offers shuttle services. Ideal for the first or last night of your trip. The Mercure section of the resort has been newly refurbished.

Day 2: Darwin



Breakfast After a restful night's sleep, enjoy a delicious breakfast at the hotel. Breakfast at the Hilton Darwin is available from 6.00 am onwards.

10.15 am **Walk to 00Seven Jetski Adventures – 1-hour Casino Royale Tour**
It's an easy under 10-minute walk from the hotel to Dock 1 jetty, where the tour starts from. Wear casual clothes with your swim suit underneath and bring sunscreen, a towel, your phone, sunglasses and a hat/cap.

Casino Royale Tour:

Experience Darwin from the water on the thrilling Casino Royale Tour with 00Seven Jet Ski Adventures. This one-hour guided ride takes you along the city's stunning coastline, past tropical beaches and landmarks, with an exhilarating run in front of Mindil Beach Casino Resort. It's a fun and unique way to take in the sights while enjoying the freedom of skimming across the Top End's turquoise waters.

00Seven Jetski Adventures

W: [00SEVEN Adventures | Jet Ski Tours | Darwin, Northern Territory](#)

1.15 pm **Lunch at Snapper Rocks**
After your exciting Jet Ski adventure, walk back to the hotel, have a shower and freshen up before walking next door to the hotel for a lovely lunch at Snapper Rocks restaurant. It's a well-known restaurant with fresh typical Top End ingredients and Asian fusion cuisine.

After your delicious lunch, you'll have a bit of time to rest or swim before heading out for the Sail Darwin Sunset Cruise. Go for a swim in the pool, explore the city or just relax in your room.

4.45 pm Walk over to our Sail Darwin Sunset cruise

Take another easy stroll down back to Dock 1 at Stokes Hill Wharf for the sunset cruise with Sail Darwin.

5.00 pm Sail Darwin – Champagne Sunset Cruise

Feel the wind and revel in the silence as we cut the motors and set the sails for an unforgettable 3-hour tropical sunset cruise on the magnificent Darwin Harbour. Authentic sailing aboard Sundancer, a 50ft ocean-going luxury catamaran designed for ultimate enjoyment and safety in tropical waters. Catering for small or large groups, our Sunset Sail offers a truly genuine sailing experience aboard a spacious comfortable vessel. With over 100 square metres of deck space there's plenty of room to spread out in the shade of the sails, or if our warm weather gets too much retreat to the fully air-conditioned saloon- complete with espresso coffee machine!

Includes Sparkling Wine & delicious tapas/BBQ dinner served throughout the evening. BYO other drinks, plenty of icy-cold eskies on board.

Sail Darwin

W: www.saildarwin.com.au

8.00 pm Return from the cruise

Your first day in the Territory concludes after the return from the sunset cruise. Time to get some rest as your Top End adventure begins tomorrow morning!

Overnight: Vibe Hotel Darwin Waterfront

W: [Vibe Hotel Darwin Waterfront - Official Website](http://www.vibehotel.com.au)

Alternative sunset cruise companies:

- **Darwin Harbour Cruise – Charles Darwin Sunset Cruise:** [Charles Darwin Sunset Cruise - Darwin Harbour Cruises](#)
Ideal for older clients, this cruise is on a large, stable boat with mostly indoor seating. It features a big seafood buffet, and drinks are available to purchase at the bar.
- **Cape Adieu – Sunset Cruises:** [Harbour Cruises | Cape Adieu](#)
A more gourmet seafood dinner experience on a sailing boat, with premium NT spirits, cocktails, wine and soft drinks included.
- **Sea Darwin – Fish 'n' Chips Sunset Cruise:** [Darwin Sunset Cruise](#)
It's the perfect cruise, especially travelling with children since it's only 1.5 hours long. The boat used is a smaller, fast boat that travels quickly to the perfect spots at Darwin Harbour to watch the sunset. One drink is included as well as a fresh portion of Fish & Chips, which will be picked up on the way at Cullen Bay. A great experience and delicious food.

Day 3: Darwin via Litchfield to Nitmiluk National Park

Please note: For our group adventure, we chartered a vehicle with a knowledgeable driver/guide from **Offroad Dreaming**, a well-established, family-run Top End business. Offroad Dreaming can also be contacted for private charter options for your clients.

Alternatively, clients may choose to hire a vehicle and recreate a similar itinerary, noting that some minor adjustments would be required.

6.30 am Breakfast

After a good night's sleep, enjoy a scrumptious breakfast. Time to pack up and be ready to leave after breakfast to start the Top End adventure.

7.30 am Pick up by Offroad Dreaming for departure to Litchfield & Nitmiluk National Parks

Meet your Offroad Dreaming guide and driver for the next few days as you journey through Litchfield, Nitmiluk and Kakadu National Parks.

Departing Darwin today, you'll head into the wilderness of Litchfield National Park, where your Offroad Dreaming guide will introduce you to some of the park's iconic highlights, including the Magnetic Termite Mounds and Buley Rockhole.

12.00 pm Picnic lunch en-route

Enjoy a picnic lunch around midday before making your way to Katherine and Nitmiluk National Park, where we stay tonight.

Offroad Dreaming

T: 08 8931 2021

W: www.offroaddreaming.com.au

3.00 pm Arrival and check-in at Cicada Lodge

You will be welcomed with a glass of bubbly for check-in at the beautiful terrace of Cicada Lodge. Enjoy the tranquil setting of Cicada Lodge and relax in your room or by the pool after this morning's adventures.

Cicada Lodge is a unique luxury lodge overlooking the Katherine River within the Nitmiluk National Park. Open all year round, the Lodge has been designed to provide a base from which guests can take part in an experience that very few get the chance to do, Cicada Lodge gives the opportunity to explore the cultural and natural landscapes of Nitmiluk and Kakadu National Parks, lands of the Jawoyn people. With experienced guides, immerse yourself in these ancient and authentic terrains and cultures. This may include ancient rock art sites, learning ancient Indigenous crafts and skills, or swimming in private and pristine waterholes accessible only by helicopter.

4.00 pm Walk to Nitmiluk boat jetty for Nabilil Dreaming sunset dinner cruise

Considered the jewel in the crown of the Nitmiluk experience, this is a must-do experience for your stay in Nitmiluk. Sit back, relax, and be transported to a spiritual world of Jawoyn culture and history in tranquil surroundings.

Discover the stories and ways of the Jawoyn people against the magnificent backdrop of Nitmiluk Gorge. As the colours change with the setting sun and the night sky emerges, you will enjoy a candlelit, fine dining experience prepared by your chef on board and delivered by attentive wait staff.

Your delectable three course meal features fresh, local, Australian produce cooked on board and served with a complimentary glass of sparkling wine.

8.30 pm Return to Cicada Lodge

After this stunning sunset cruise, we take the short walk back from the jetty to the lodge. Retire for the night or relax with a last drink at the lodge before the bar closes at 9.00 pm.

Overnight: Nitmiluk Tours & Cicada Lodge

W: www.cicadalodge.com.au / www.nitmiluktours.com.au

Alternative tour operators – for private charters and scheduled tours:

- *Cyaround Australia:* [Cyaround Australia Tours](#)
- *Ethical Adventures:* [eco tours from Darwin | Small Group Personal Tours - ethical adventures](#)
- *Autopia Tours:* [Darwin Tours from \\$99](#)

Alternative vehicle rental options:

- *Thrifty Car Rental:* [Car Hire Australia | Thrifty Car Rental Australia](#)
- *Adventure Rentals:* [Adventure Rentals Australia Adventure Rentals NT | 4WD Hire Bookings Online](#)
- *thl – maui | Britz | Apollo camper rentals:* [Motorhome & Campervan Hire | Apollo Campervans AU](#)

Day 4: Nitmiluk to Kakadu National Park

7.30 am Breakfast at Cicada Lodge

After a lovely night in the amazing Cicada Lodge room, enjoy a delicious breakfast at Cicada Lodge. Be packed and ready to leave after breakfast by **8.30 am**.

9.00 am Dalabon Aboriginal Cultural Experience

Experience the rich traditions of Aboriginal culture near Katherine with an immersive visit to Dalabon Aboriginal Cultural Experiences. Meet Manuel Pamkal and hear stories about his life and the traditions and way of life of the Dalabon people. Learn how to light a fire, throw a spear and gain a deeper understanding of Country and culture. Spending time with Manuel is a truly special experience.

11.00 am Departure to Leilyn (Edith Falls) and Kakadu National Park

After the cultural experience at Dalabon, you'll leave Katherine and make your way to Edith Falls, with a stop for a possible short swim and a picnic lunch.

12.30 am Refreshment rest stop at Leilyn, swim and picnic lunch

Stop at Edith Falls for around an hour, allowing time to enjoy a packed lunch and perhaps cool off with a swim in the waterhole. It's a beautiful spot to relax and take in the natural surroundings. Aim to depart by around 2pm at the latest to continue to Cooinda Lodge.

4.30 am **Arrival and check in at Cooinda Lodge**

On arrival, check in at your home for the next two nights and settle into the new Outback Retreat glamping tents. After a full day of travel, you'll have some time to relax before dinner.

7.00 pm **Dinner at Cooinda Lodge**

Enjoy a relaxed dinner at Mimis Restaurant at the lodge — a perfect way to round off a big day.

Overnight **Cooinda Lodge**

W: www.kakadutourism.com

Day 5: Kakadu National Park

7.00 am **Breakfast**

Enjoy a delicious breakfast at Cooinda Lodge before the day begins.

8.00 am **Departure from Cooinda Lodge and drive to Burrungkuy (Nourlangie)**

8.45 am **Burrungkuy Rock Art**

The first stop today is **Burrungkuy (Nourlangie)**, where you'll explore remarkable Aboriginal rock art with your guide. Time permitting, follow the walking track around the site to see additional ancient rock paintings and take in the dramatic landscapes, which reveal the cultural and environmental significance of this special place.

11.00 am **Kakadu Air 30-minute scenic flight**

After the walk, head to Jabiru Aerodrome to prepare for your scenic flight over the stunning Kakadu National Park. The flight operates in small fixed-wing aircraft, offering incredible views of the vast and varied landscape below.

Take in sweeping aerial views of the World Heritage-listed Kakadu National Park on a 30-minute scenic flight departing from Jabiru. From the air, you'll see ancient escarpments, winding river systems and landscapes shaped by more than 1.8 billion years of continuous erosion.

Highlights include The Archway, the Arnhem Land escarpment, East Alligator Valley, Mikinj Valley Billabongs and the Magela floodplains. Throughout the flight, enjoy both recorded and live commentary from your pilot as you travel over these spectacular ancient lands.

Kakadu Air Services

W: www.kakaduai.com.au

1.00 pm

Lunch at Bark Hut Inn

Stop for a classic Territory pub lunch before continuing on to Darwin. The Bark Hut Inn is a true Top End icon, located between Darwin and Kakadu National Park. Originally built in the 1980s as a rest stop for buffalo hunters, it has evolved into a much-loved outback pub and roadhouse, known for its rustic charm, hearty meals and welcoming atmosphere. Enjoy a cold drink, a relaxed lunch, or simply take in a little piece of Northern Territory history and character before continuing your journey.

4.00 pm

Arrival in Darwin and check in at Courtyard by Marriott

On arrival in Darwin, bid your Offroad Dreaming guide farewell and check into your hotel for the night. Enjoy some free time to relax, unwind by the hotel pool, or head out in search of souvenirs before gathering for your final dinner together.

7.00 pm

Dinner at Charlie's of Darwin

Take a short stroll through the city to Charlie's of Darwin. Along the way, you can explore Darwin's laneways, known for their vibrant street art and colourful murals.

Charlie's of Darwin is also home to Darwin Distilling Co., making it the perfect place to begin with a gin tasting featuring three of their signature gins. Crafted with uniquely Territorian botanicals, each gin offers a distinct Northern Territory flavour.

A hidden gem tucked away in the city laneways; Charlie's of Darwin offers a unique dining and distilling experience. As home to Darwin's first gin distillery, the venue shows native botanicals and local flavours, with a rooftop bar and intimate indoor dining spaces. The modern Australian menu highlights fresh, seasonal produce, and whether you're stopping in for a handcrafted gin, creative cocktail or a full dining experience, Charlie's delivers a relaxed yet stylish Top End vibe.

Charlie's of Darwin

W: www.charliesofdarwin.com.au

Overnight:

Courtyard by Marriott

W: [Courtyard by Marriott Darwin | Hotel with Modern Rooms & Flexible Workspaces](#)

Day 7: Departure



Breakfast:

Enjoy a final breakfast at the Courtyard by Marriott before beginning your journey home. The latest check-out time is 12.00 pm.

We hope you enjoyed your time in the Top End!

Thank you for visiting Australia's Northern Territory!

For more information on the NT please, visit our website northernterritory.com

Tourism and Events NT's Online Image Gallery

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mediagallery.tourismandeventsnt.com.au

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*Registration typically takes around one business day to be processed