

≡ Territory ≡ Art Trails





Territory Art Trails

The Northern Territory is defined by its vibrant arts, cultural heritage and creative industries born out of its unique history and diversity – being home to some of the oldest continuing living cultures on earth.

Cultural and artistic expression is very much a part of the NT's identity and the arts sector is much more than meets the eye. From cultural festivals by the sea to desert choirs and bustling Aboriginal art fairs, the NT celebrates Aboriginal culture and art as fundamental to our identity and welcomes a diversity of cultures from around the globe that also play an intrinsic part in the Territory's character, economy and appeal.

The energy and vision of artists and residents from across the diverse regional and remote communities that make up the Territory are what makes it such a distinctive and vibrant place to visit and live.

Take a journey along the Art Trails of the Northern Territory to see where you end up. Be inspired from the following suggested itineraries or create your own experience >>>

Cover images

Top: Djilpin Arts, Beswick

Lower Left: Mimi Aboriginal Arts and Crafts, Katherine

Lower Right: Colourful pots of Hermannsburg

This image: Arlpwe Art and Culture Centre, Ali Curung





Djilpin Arts, Beswick



Maruku Arts, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park



Darwin Festival



Ubirr, Kakadu National Park



Dyed Pandanus, Kakadu

ROCK ART SITES

You can find some of Australia’s most significant and ancient Aboriginal cultural rock art sites around the Northern Territory – some areas are easily accessible to many visitors, others are more remote and many remain undiscovered to this day (by Western culture). National parks across the NT work with the traditional owners to protect these sites – considered some of the most well-preserved Indigenous artworks in the world.

ABORIGINAL ART CENTRES AND GALLERIES

Scattered throughout the Territory are art centres and galleries offering the sale of some of the best Indigenous and non-Indigenous works in the world including unique and contemporary pieces. To ensure that we are supporting best practice, only art centres and galleries that are accredited through the Indigenous Arts Code and/or accredited through relevant organisations featured on the Art Trails, so you can feel secure, knowing that you are buying art in an ethical way and are supporting the artist and/or the local Aboriginal community when purchasing art work.

ART AND CULTURAL TOURS

Art features prominently across the NT in all shapes and forms from contemporary music, theatre and dance to Aboriginal art, carving and textiles, and can be accessed and experienced through our tourism industry. Get hands on with art and culture in the Northern Territory through the many different day and extended tours.

ART AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

There is lots to celebrate within the creative arts industry, and we love a good festival here in the Territory. From music, culture and public art to a combination of all three – there is an event that will make you want to come back year after year. Make sure you check out the full **festival and events calendar** so you can add on to your Northern Territory Art Trail!

DISCOVERING THE ART TRAILS OF THE TERRITORY

Discover your Territory Art Trail by road, and self-drive your way around the NT. The Northern Territory is a great place for a road trip holiday with plenty to do between stops, excellent road conditions and lots of opportunities to discover some magical spots. Travel on unsealed roads is to be expected throughout the Northern Territory so please remember to drive safely, whether you are hiring a car, or using your own. Some roads require 4WD or high clearance vehicles only.

You can check the local road report **here**. Many art centres are located within Aboriginal communities and may have strict entry policies, or require you to obtain a permit. Please ensure you contact the relevant permits office in advance. Information on drive holidays in the Northern Territory can be found on our **website**. During certain seasons some art centres and tours are not open or available, please ensure you contact the centre or tour provider and make arrangements well in advance. Please respect the rules and regulations of each Aboriginal community when entering.

Important things to remember



Support the ethical sale of authentic Aboriginal art only



Call ahead when visiting remote art centres



Photography – always ask, be sure it is not a sacred site



Respect the culture, land and people



Ensure you apply for permits on Aboriginal land in advance

Darwin & surrounds

3 Day Art Trail

Darwin Street Art Festival, Darwin

Darwin Festival, Darwin

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin



Darwin is the Northern Territory's epicentre and a melting pot of the region's best art and culture. It will surprise and delight you with a plethora of art and cultural activities right at your accommodation doorstep. From galleries, street art adorning buildings, festivals and events – there's never a dull moment in this dazzling tropical city.

The Tiwi Islands are just a quick flight or a two and half hour ferry ride to the north of Darwin. Tiwi has a bustling, strong and vibrant community, which is famous for its art. Every year the Tiwi Islands Footy Grand Final & Art Sale attracts thousands of visitors and is an explosion of sport and culture.

DAY 1: DARWIN

Spend the day in and around Darwin and stop in at a few art centres and galleries like **Aboriginal Bush Traders** on the Esplanade in Darwin City where you can grab a coffee and wander through the retail space. Aboriginal Bush Traders is a cultural hub selling a range of art, craft, fashion and beauty products and bush foods from all over the NT. Whilst you are still in the city area, head to Smith Street Mall to take a look through **Paul Arnold's photography gallery**. Paul is a unique NT character that possesses an amazing talent to portray some of the NT's simplest landscapes into spectacular art. The way he captures movement in his still imagery is nothing short of amazing, and the way he has evolved his products and business over time is commendable.

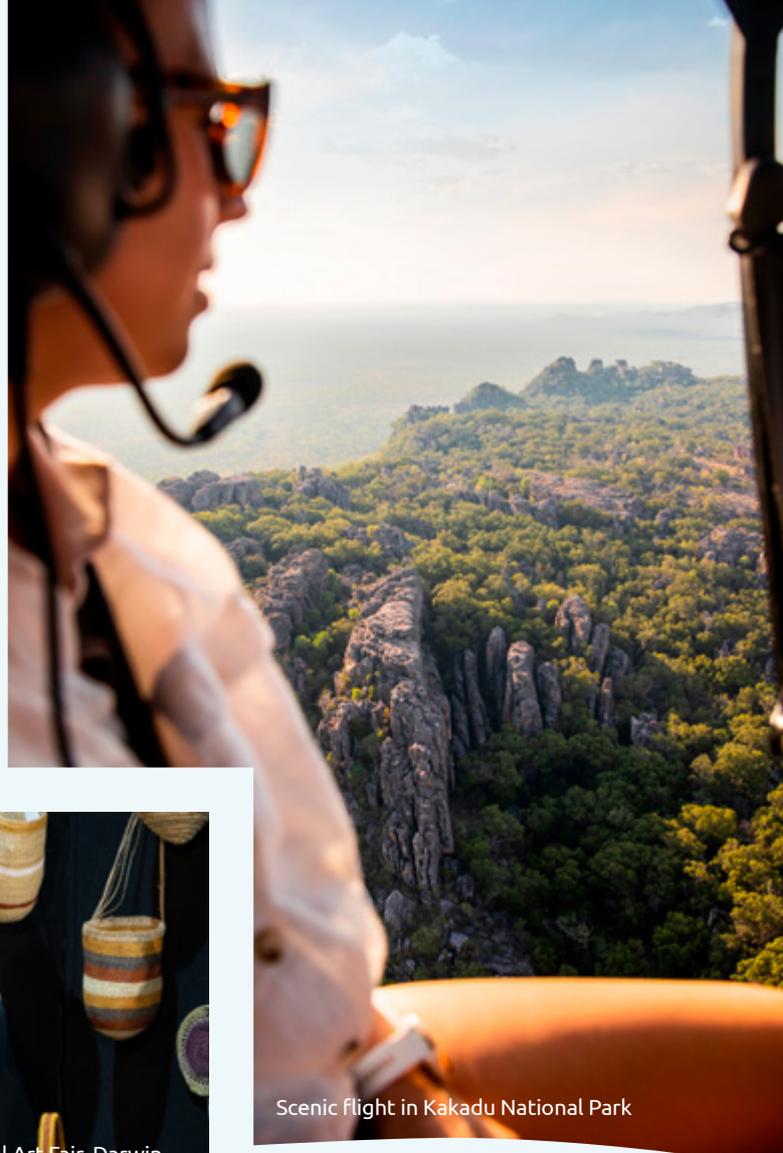
Check out the **Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory**. The museum has some extraordinary exhibitions on display throughout the year as well as an interesting visual interpretation of Cyclone Tracy and the past Territory Lifestyle.

Aboriginal Bush Traders, Darwin





Tiwi Art Sale, Bathurst Island



Scenic flight in Kakadu National Park



Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin

DAY 2: TIWI ISLANDS

Exploring outside of Darwin, venture over to the Tiwi Islands aboard the Sealink Ferry on the **Tiwi by Design tour**. A full day experience gives you a great introduction to some unique and traditional art of the Tiwi people. This casual walking tour will visit an art gallery where you will meet the artists, be officially welcomed to country with a smoking ceremony and totem dance and get hands on with a screen printing workshop.



DAY 3: DARWIN

You would have noticed as you walk, cycle or scoot around the streets of Darwin there is a huge array of brightly coloured street art adorning the buildings and laneways in the city. These significant art works have some fantastic stories behind them so make sure you download the Darwin Street Art app to learn more about the art work and artist. Check out the contemporary visual arts scene and current exhibitions at **Darwin Visual Arts** the **Northern Centre for Contemporary Art** and **Outstation art gallery** in Parap.

If time really isn't on your side, but you would love to get a sneak peak of Kakadu, we highly recommend a helicopter tour with **Airborne Solutions**. From Darwin, you will overfly the Adelaide and Mary River Wetlands before stopping off at an exclusive rock art site where you have time to explore the gallery in your own time before heading off upstream to admire a birds-eye-view of the remarkable escarpment country of Kakadu and Arnhem Land.



Outstation Gallery, Parap



Darwin Festival



NT Travelling Film Festival,
Nitmiluk National Park



Barunga Festival



Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair



Darwin Street Art
Festival



Tiwi Islands
Grand Final and Art Sale

Festivals to look out for while you are in the Top End

NT Travelling Film Festival	17 Apr 2021	Telstra NATSIAA	Aug 2021 – TBC
Darwin Street Art Festival	20 May – 30 Sep 2021	National Indigenous Music Awards NIMA	Aug 2021 – TBC
Barunga Festival	11 – 13 Jun 2021	Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair	6 – 8 Aug 2021
Darwin Fringe Festival	2 – 11 Jul 2021	Freedom Day Festival	27-29 Aug 2021
Garma Festival	31 Jul – 2 Aug 2021	Kakadu National Park ranger program	May – Sep TBC
Darwin Festival	5 - 22 Aug 2021	Tiwi Islands AFL Grand Final and Art Sale	Mar 2022 TBC