

# ≡ 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

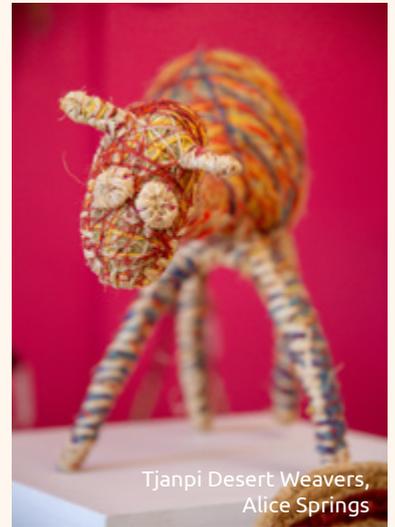
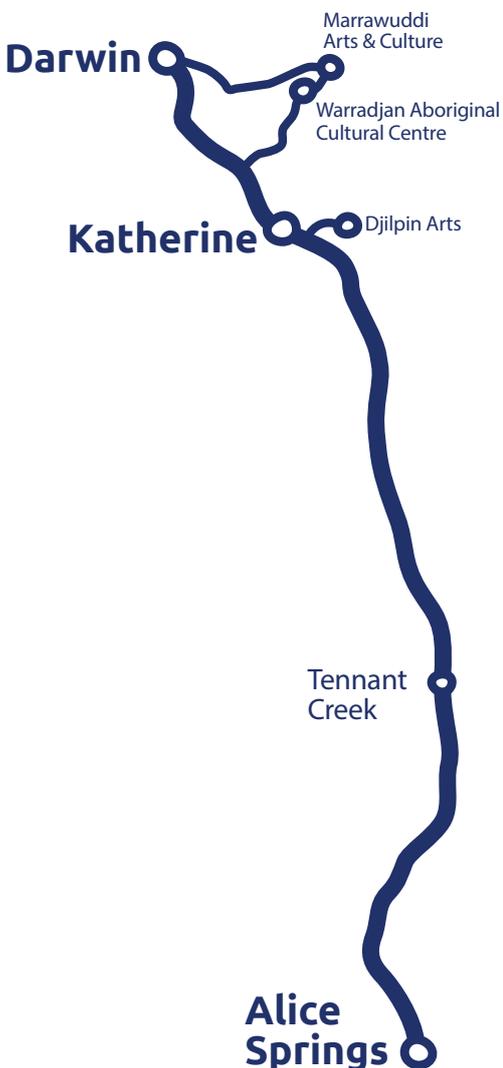
# Alice Springs to Darwin

## 7 Days on the Territory Art Trail



**START**  
Alice  
Springs

**END**  
Darwin



Tjanpi Desert Weavers,  
Alice Springs



Araluen Cultural Precinct,  
Alice Springs

Road tripping along the Territory Art Trails is an exciting opportunity to immerse in the oldest living culture on Earth.

The canvas of the Northern Territory is as vibrant as it is vast. As it unfurls before you on the 1500km drive from Alice Springs to Darwin, there is an urge to connect to the land, its people and their culture and traditions.

Aboriginal art centres and galleries across the regions of Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, Kakadu, Darwin and the Tiwi Islands present a unique and authentic journey into Australia's Indigenous past and present, where the pictures paint a thousand stories.

### DAY 1 AND 2: ALICE SPRINGS

The **Araluen Cultural Precinct**, in the heart of Alice Springs (Mparntwe), is recommended as your first acquaintance to the region's art and culture. A large-scale mural and sculpture garden, featuring the impressive three-metre-high Yeperenye caterpillar, greet guests on arrival. Inside the gallery you'll be introduced to Australian Aboriginal art through an eclectic display of Central Australia and Western Desert artworks from Araluen's 1000-plus regional collection.

Next visit **Tjanpi Desert Weavers**. Tjanpi specialises in fibre art, bringing together the work of more than 400 women artists across the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Lands. Here you'll discover genuinely unique and joyful baskets, jewellery and sculptures created from a quirky fusion of natural native fibres and brightly dyed materials.

The next feel-good stop is **Tangentyere Artists**. The centre focuses on the creations of Town Camp Artists, which brings with it a mix of traditional and contemporary pieces. Back in the town's centre, the Todd Mall is brimming with local artwork, from public art lining the walls and footpaths to the myriad of galleries.



Mimi Aboriginal Arts & Crafts, Katherine



Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Cultural Centre, Tennant Creek



Djilpin Arts, Beswick

### DAY 3: TENNANT CREEK

Five-hundred kilometres north of Alice Springs in Tennant Creek (Jurnkkurakurr), **Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre** is a place of cultural significance. The cultural centre is located next to a sacred site for the Warumungu people, and is shaped like the goanna after which it is named. It features work from local artists, touring exhibitions and a modern museum showcasing the area's Indigenous stories through displays of plants, wildlife and traditional artefacts. The centre also offers cultural tours.



Cultural tour at Nyinkka Nyunyu

### DAY 4: BESWICK AND KATHERINE

Before you reach Katherine, take a 60km detour along the Central Arnhem Road to discover the distinctive art on offer at Beswick (Wugularr) at **Djilpin Arts**. Djilpin Arts is overflowing with fibre art, hand-cut didgeridus, paintings, carvings, jewellery and textiles. Local artists are on-hand to explain traditional stories and techniques behind significant works by community elders in the incredible collection at the cultural centre. Cultural tours are also available from the centre that take you out bush with a local as your guide, you can also visit the area's spectacular secluded swimming holes. If it all sounds like too much to pack into one day, accommodation is available at **Djakanimba Pavilions** – a work of art in their own right, located right beside the art centre.

Back on the road, it's only around 100km to Katherine, where the **Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts & Culture Centre** is your next stop. A hub for local art, in Godinymayin's exhibition spaces you will find everything from photography to textile arts and local landscapes.

In the centre of Katherine there's more art from around the region and beyond at **Mimi Aboriginal Arts and Crafts**. Don't forget to book in a cultural experience with Manual at **Top Didj Cultural Experience**. Before you skip town, take in the incredible street art featuring portraits of local Indigenous identities.



Marrawuddi Gallery, Jabiru



Warradjan Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Kakadu



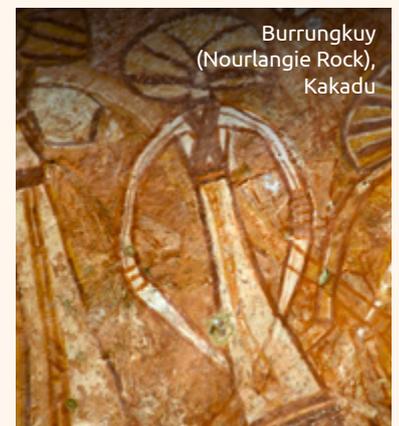
Street Art, Darwin



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



Aboriginal Bush Traders, Darwin



Burrungkuy (Nourlangie Rock), Kakadu

## DAY 5 AND 6: KAKADU & SURROUNDS

Ancient rock art is synonymous with Kakadu National Park, and inside the Heritage-listed park's art centres there's even more to discover. Detouring from the Stuart Highway and entering the southern part of Kakadu, you'll find the **Warradjan Cultural Centre**. Learn the tribal elder stories from the Bininj Traditional Owners of the area, and take home some hand-crafted authentic local made arts and crafts from the shop.

While in this area, make sure you pop into Burrungkuy art site (formally Nourlangie). There is a collection of sites including Burrungkuy, Kuwarddewardde Lookout and Anbangbang shelter. The rock art galleries depict life for the local Aboriginal people through the changing times. You will be able to see a lot of environmental and social elements in the paintings, as well as important creation stories.

Following the Kakadu Highway to Jabiru, **Marrawuddi Gallery** has found a new home in the town's old bakery. Visitors are greeted by a striking mural painted by local and interstate artists which mirrors what you'll find inside the vibrant community art centre.

Take a tour or drive your way to Ubirr to explore some of the world's most outstanding Aboriginal rock art. There is a variety of rock art styles on display including X-ray paintings, contact art and creation stories.

## DAY 7: DARWIN

From Kakadu the drive back to Darwin should take around 3 hours. Once in Darwin, start your Top End art quest at **Aboriginal Bush Traders**, housed in the historic 1925 Lyons Cottage. Here you'll find an eclectic mix of the NT's best regional art all under one roof. Exhibitions focusing on a particular artist or community rotate through the gallery space every six weeks. The adjoining bush-tucker café will introduce you to local superfoods like Kakadu plum, lemon myrtle, quandong, desert lime and wild rosella.

While visiting Darwin, make sure to stop in at a few of the art galleries around town to check out the latest exhibitions. For more Aboriginal art exhibitions, head to **Outstation Gallery** in Parap Village and remember to check the **Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory** – home to the annual exhibition of Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.





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

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